



Vice President and General Counsel

The mission of St. Lawrence University is to provide an inspiring and demanding undergraduate education in the liberal arts to students selected for their seriousness of purpose and intellectual promise.

ABOUT ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Ranked 57th among national liberal arts colleges by *US News and World Report*, [St. Lawrence University](#) is a vibrant, collaborative community of learners who value thought and action. Students tap their full potential as they embrace the natural environment, engage with global challenges, and experience the relevance and adventure of a liberal arts education in a complex and changing world. St. Lawrence University inspires students and prepares them to be critical and creative thinkers; to find a compass for their lives and careers; and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity, and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global.

St. Lawrence is a nationally recognized, independent, private, non-denominational, predominantly undergraduate university serving 2,400 students and is the oldest continuously coeducational institution of higher learning in New York State. The University has a long record of delivering highly personalized and meaningful college experiences for motivated students from all backgrounds, exposing them to new opportunities; developing a holistic sense of self; and providing a path toward independence, personal and professional resilience and nimbleness, preparation for global citizenship, and intellectual breadth. The powerful student experience produces impactful and fiercely committed alumni and contributes to a strong sense of community for Laurentians both on campus and beyond.

A St. Lawrence education combines traditional liberal arts curricula with some more professionally oriented courses of study, including masters-level programming in leadership and undergraduate programs in business in the liberal arts and public health, among others. St. Lawrence is known nationally among liberal arts peers for its strength in international programs, focus on research-based and experiential learning, and educational approach that bridges students' academic lives and their co-curricular activities to prepare them to be thoughtful, productive global citizens. To this end, St. Lawrence offers a number of community-based learning courses, as well as collaborative living and learning environments, beginning with the residential First-Year Program in which all students participate.

LEADERSHIP

Kathryn A. Morris became the 19th president of St. Lawrence University on July 1, 2021.

President Morris has dedicated her life to higher education and chose to become a professor because she understood the impact of teaching and mentoring on students' lives. She arrived at St. Lawrence following a distinguished career at Butler University, where she had most recently served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for eight years. Prior to her time as provost, President Morris served as a professor of psychology and was chair of that department at Butler. Her areas of expertise include social psychology, the psychology of gender, methodology, and statistics.

She earned both her master's and Ph.D. degrees in social psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and her bachelor's degree in psychology from Gettysburg College. She has served as a member of the board of trustees at her undergraduate alma mater since 2015.

LOCATION

St. Lawrence considers its location one of its greatest assets. Canton, New York, is a rural community and regional business and government center with a population of 7,000 in the St. Lawrence River Valley. In the heart of New York State's North Country, the region is characterized by several small cities, numerous farms, many villages, and four colleges within 10 miles; clean air and open landscapes; and friendly, self-sufficient, communities. Canton sits between the Adirondack Park, the largest state park in the United States and the site of the University's nationally recognized Adirondack Semester, and the Canadian-U.S. border that is the St. Lawrence River. It is in close proximity to U.S. cities such as Burlington, VT; Syracuse, NY; and the Adirondack region's center of sports and recreation, the Olympic Village of Lake Placid, NY. The major Canadian cities and cultural centers of Ottawa and Montreal are nearby, with Ottawa the closest city to the University. As a result, St. Lawrence is the American liberal arts college closest to the capital of a foreign nation, and the Canadian studies program takes full advantage of proximity for international and intercultural learning.

THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

The newly created role of Vice President and General Counsel is a university-wide position that reports directly to the President and is a member of the Senior Staff. They will serve as the chief legal officer for the University, overseeing and managing the provision of all legal services to St. Lawrence University to protect its legal rights and to maintain its operations within the limits prescribed by law. The inaugural General Counsel will be called upon to provide strategic guidance, consultation, and support to the President, senior administrators, and trustees on a comprehensive range of legal and associated issues involved in carrying out the mission of the institution. The General Counsel will also serve as Secretary of the University.

Primary responsibilities:

- Advise the President and Senior Staff and other University personnel on matters related to policy, compliance, and legal issues, including, but not limited to, contracts, labor, employment and personnel, academic matters, student life, athletics, non-discrimination, intellectual property, and gifts and bequests.
- Conduct research and analysis on a variety of legal issues including assisting in the development and implementation of the University's policies and procedures, recommending new ones, as needed, and revising existing ones, as appropriate.
- Responsible for the delivery and management of all institutional legal services, including analyzing laws, rules, regulations, and proposed legislation; resolving litigation; managing outside counsel performing legal services for the University; and reviewing all significant transactions and contracts.
- Oversee and direct the document retention policies of the University, consistent with Board of Trustees policies and guidelines.
- Represent the University or its officials in formal legal proceedings or manage outside counsel in such matters.
- Review and establish standards for University contracts and proposals.
- Duties as Secretary of the University, including matters of governance, and Board meetings and communication.
- Other duties as assigned.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following:

- Understanding and appreciation of academic mission, current issues in higher education, and shared governance in an academic setting.
- Successful management and administrative experience, with a proven ability to work cooperatively and collegially.
- Demonstrated capacity for sound legal analysis and reasoning, problem solving, and legal research skills.
- Cross-cultural abilities to build relationships and work effectively with diverse groups of students, colleagues, and community members and commitment to building a diverse and inclusive community that supports members of all backgrounds.
- Ability to develop creative solutions to complicated and sensitive problems.

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- Intellectual and conceptual flexibility and creativity, with the ability to interpret, present, write, and speak.
 - Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, with attention to detail, timeliness, and the institution-wide context of decisions.
 - Excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills that facilitate a cohesive, team-oriented, working environment.
 - A high degree of flexibility and unquestionable integrity.

Minimum qualifications:

- Juris Doctorate from an American Bar Association accredited law school.
- Member in good standing of the New York bar or membership in good standing of another state bar and admission to the New York bar within six months of employment.
- Knowledge of issues related to higher education law, including, but not limited to, nonprofit governance; statutory and regulatory compliance; Titles VI, VII, and IX; VAWA; and the Clery Act.
- Ten years of work experience.

Preferred qualifications:

- Previous experience in the field of higher education law, including familiarity with AAUP guidelines and NCAA rules.
- Leadership role in campus law office or firm serving higher education clients.
- Significant experience advising and supporting governing and advisory boards.

All offers of employment are contingent upon the finalist successfully passing a background (including criminal records) check.

CONTACTS

The search process is currently underway and will continue until the position is filled. Nominations, inquiries, and expressions of interest should be forwarded, in confidence, to:



Susan VanGilder, Managing Director
Kamilah Allen, Senior Associate
Storbeck Search
StLawrenceGC@storbecksearch.com

The University is committed to and seeks diversity among its faculty, staff and students. Such a commitment ensures an atmosphere that is diverse and complex in ways that are intellectually and socially enriching for the entire campus community. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups, as well as from individuals with experience teaching or working in a multicultural environment, are encouraged. St. Lawrence University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For additional information about St. Lawrence, please visit <http://www.stlawu.edu>.