University of Tennessee Law School Dean Thomas Galligan Selected as Eighth President

Colby-Sawyer College recently announced that Thomas C. Galligan Jr., dean and professor of law at the University of Tennessee College of Law, has been selected by the Board of Trustees as the college’s eighth president. Galligan will assume the presidency of Colby-Sawyer on August 1.

Galligan has been dean at the University of Tennessee College of Law since 1998, where he is responsible for the college’s leadership, management and operation. During his tenure as dean, he has also taught torts and admiralty as professor of law. Prior to joining the University of Tennessee, Galligan served as professor of law from 1986 to 1998 at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University. He earned his L.L.M. degree from Columbia University Law School, J.D. from the University of Puget Sound (now Seattle University) School of Law, and an A.B. in political science from Stanford University.

“Tom Galligan has already captured the imagination of the campus community with his energy, intelligence and clear capacity to continue the marvelous momentum so evident at the college,” said Board of Trustees Chairman Anne Winton Black ’73, ’75. “He has been a successful dean of a very fine law college at the University of Tennessee, and he will bring these myriad interests and talents for college management, strategic planning and fund-raising to Colby-Sawyer. He will be a highly visible president, who through collegiality, leadership and careful nurturing will sustain and enhance the distinctive character of the Colby-Sawyer College experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.”

President-elect Galligan views the presidency of Colby-Sawyer College as a challenge and an opportunity, as well as a logical progression for his career. “There is a natural link between liberal arts education and the law,” he said. “Legal education involves and requires a knowledge of history, government, philosophy, sociology, communications, language, science, analytical reasoning, psychology and more.” Colby-Sawyer’s history and tradition as a comprehensive liberal arts college appealed to him, and he is impressed by the college’s “dynamic sense of momentum, commitment to the quality of students’ academic experiences, and pervasive spirit of collaboration.”

Throughout his career in academe, the president-elect has combined his passion for teaching, scholarship and community service. As dean, he has remained a “committed classroom teacher” which allows him to know the institution better and to “engage in students’ intellectual experience.” In addition to holding two endowed professorships at the University of Tennessee and Louisiana State University, he was selected by law students as their favorite professor in six academic years.

President-elect Galligan has written or co-written 12 books and dozens of book chapters and articles on legal issues. He received the 1996-97 John Minor Wisdom Award for Excellence in Legal Scholarship for an article he co-authored in the Tulane Law Review and the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Stephen J. Victory Memorial Award for Best Scholarly Article in the Louisiana Bar Journal. He was also honored with the George H. Boldt Scholarship from 1979 through 1981, the 1979 Lawless Memorial Scholarship, West Hornbook Awards from 1979 through 1981, and with numerous American Jurisprudence Awards.

“I have strived to make contributions to my discipline and to my teaching through my scholarship,” he said. “My writing has always made me a better teacher and my teaching has made me a better scholar.”

He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for several organizations that provide legal services and aid to communities in Tennessee and has served on a Knoxville Bar Association committee that seeks opportunities for minorities. He is also a former member of the American Association of American Law Schools Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure and chair of the American Bar Association’s Legal Education Technology Committee. He’s been involved in campus planning and faculty governance and the Student Affairs Council, as well as fund-raising for local schools.

“My community work over the years has made me both a better citizen of my academic community and, hopefully, a better citizen of my larger community,” he said. President-elect Galligan is married to Susan Stokes Galligan and has three daughters and one son.

Community Invited to Open Reception for Juried Student Exhibition of Artwork

The Fine and Performing Arts Department will feature more than 400 pieces of student artwork in the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition. The work of more than 100 student artists will be featured in the show, including media such as ceramics, photography, graphic design, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

The opening reception will take place on Thursday, March 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

Numerous New London businesses and individuals support the show each year through a number of art awards. The awards will be presented to students from 7:30 to 8 p.m. The exhibition will continue through Wednesday, April 12.

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For more information about Colby-Sawyer College’s community events visit www.colby-sawyer.edu/currents/events.html