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Contact: Corinna Wilson corinnawilson500@wilson500.com (717) 979-3407

Michael J. Hussey Named Widener Law Commonwealth Interim Dean

Harrisburg, PA (June 3, 2020) – Widener University Commonwealth School of Law today announced that Michael J. Hussey has been named interim dean.

Hussey replaces Christian A. Johnson, who has stepped down from the top job to teach full time at the law school.

He will assume his new position on July 1.

Previously the associate dean for academic affairs, Hussey is also an associate professor of law at Widener Law Commonwealth and co-director of its Business Advising Program.

“I am honored to have been named interim dean,” Hussey said. “These are uncertain times; the COVID-19 virus is an ongoing threat and as a community we continue to grapple with racism and violence. I am committed to continuing the good work of Widener University and the law school in training lawyers with a heightened sense of service and justice and convening conversations about and inspiring action on the most important issues of our times.”

While Widener Law Commonwealth has not yet announced its final plans for the fall semester, Hussey said that the law school intends to provide as much on-campus teaching as it can while meeting all applicable health guidelines. In addition, he said there will be remote options available for those who are unable to come to campus for health reasons. Summer classes are being taught online, as was the second half of the spring semester.

As interim dean, Hussey will continue to teach and write in the areas of taxation, business organizations, wills, trusts, and estate planning. He will also stay involved with the law school’s Business Advising Program, which he founded.

Hussey is the faculty director of the law school’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides tax preparation services low-to moderate-income taxpayers and serves on the Money in Your Pocket committee, which coordinates VITA sites in the Harrisburg

area. He said he plans to continue this work, as well. He is also on the United Way of the Capital Region's board of directors.

"My work with VITA has been some of the most satisfying of my life," Hussey said. "I've helped hundreds of students learn about tax preparation and give back to the community, and have gotten more than \$4,000,000 in refunds for working families and some of our most vulnerable seniors."

Hussey obtained both his undergraduate and law degrees from St. Louis University, graduating summa cum laude for the former and magna cum laude for the latter. He also has an LLM, Taxation from the Washington University School of Law. He practiced law at firms in St. Louis and Belleville, IL. He has been named Widener Law Commonwealth's teacher of the year award and was recognized as one of the Harrisburg area's "40 Under 40" by the Central Penn Business Journal.

"Dean Hussey has demonstrated his deep commitment to our students, and has a unique set of skills and exactly the right experience to take on the senior administrative role at the law school," said Johnson. "He is an experienced corporate counsel, has taught here for 16 years, and has been engaged in one way or another in virtually every aspect of Widener Law Commonwealth. I look forward to supporting him and have the highest confidence in his abilities to lead us forward."

A head shot of [Hussey](#) is available online.

Widener University Commonwealth Law School is the Pennsylvania capital's only law school, with three specialized centers of legal scholarship through its Law & Government Institute, Environmental Law and Sustainability Center, and Business Advising Program and a Central Pennsylvania Civil Law Clinic. Widener Law Commonwealth offers an exceptional learning experience that is personal, practical, and professional. Visit commonwealthlaw.widener.edu for more information.

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