Back to school

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LAW BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

When classes for the 2015-16 school year start next month and in September for one, the nine law schools in Illinois will welcome 12 instructors either new to the school or in different roles.

Two schools — DePaul University College of Law and University of Illinois College of Law — have new deans, while two others have interim deans: Mark W. Cordes at Northern Illinois University College of Law and Geoffrey R. Stone at University of Chicago Law School.

Other than Dean Jennifer L. Rosato Perea, DePaul has no new faculty. Nor do Southern Illinois University College of Law or The John Marshall Law School.

The Daily Law Bulletin spoke with new or resituated faculty at each of the other six schools.

IIT Chicago-Kent

Joining the tech-focused IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law is Seth Oranburg, a visiting assistant professor who will teach legal writing.

“My mentor recommended I apply to Chicago-Kent because it has a great legal writing program and does a great job placing its visiting professors in tenure-track positions,” said Oranburg, 31, who earned his J.D. at the University of Chicago in 2011 and spent the past year teaching at Florida State University College of Law.

Prior to that, he practiced at firms in Washington, D.C., and Silicon Valley, first handling antitrust litigation and then venture capital transactions and mergers and acquisitions.

“I really enjoy helping students learn about corporate practice because it expands their job prospects and helps them understand client needs,” he said.

Oranburg is also working on an article about the impact of crowdfunding laws on corporate behavior.

Also starting at the school next month is Dan Katz from Michigan State University College of Law.

Loyola

Anna High’s academic career has taken her from her home country of Australia to University of Oxford to Marquette University Law School and now to Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she is a distinguished visiting scholar in residence.
“I’ve found teaching to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my academic career to date,” said High, 32, who will teach criminal law.

“The chance to teach first-years while enjoying the support of Loyola’s faculty is something that I’m really looking forward to.”

High earned three legal degrees at Oxford, including a Master of Philosophy in Law in 2010 and a Ph.D. in law in 2012.

In the mid-2000s, High clerked at three firms in China and she is now writing a book about regulations of China’s child welfare organizations.

“I was really excited to make the move to Loyola,” she said. “It’s got a fabulous China program as well as leading expertise in child law, so it’s a good fit for my scholarly agenda.”

Northern Illinois University

Daniel McConkie spent eight years as a prosecutor in California, first with the state and then with the federal government. He brings that experience to Northern Illinois University College of Law as an assistant professor of law teaching criminal procedure, criminal law and ethics.

“I was very interested going to a school that was encouraging its graduates to work as criminal law practitioners — and not just to think about criminal law but to do it,” said McConkie, 36, who earned his J.D. at Stanford Law School in 2004.

Along with his teaching, McConkie will design a new seminar on plea bargaining.

Joining him as new faculty members are David Rosenfeld, who will teach securities laws and business-related courses, and Genevieve Tokic, teaching courses in tax and international business.

Northwestern University

When Candice Player told her contracts professor at Harvard Law School that she wanted to be a law professor, he told her to find a school that will “roll out the red carpet.”

“And by ‘roll out the red carpet,’ he didn’t mean that they lavish anything expensive on you,” said Player, 34, who earned her J.D. in 2009 and then a Ph.D. in 2013 at Harvard in ethics and health policy.

The professor meant that the school should be excited about Player’s work and want her to succeed.

“I really felt that at Northwestern,” she said.

An assistant professor of law, Player will teach law and bioethics, adding to Northwestern University School of Law’s growth in the STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
An East Coast transplant living in Chicago for the first time, one of Player’s goals is to expand her professional network “to find ways to integrate what we’re doing in the classroom with what happens outside of the law school” — such as inviting practitioners to lecture or arranging opportunities for students to observe trials.

Those interested can reach her at candice.player@law.northwestern.edu.

Also starting at Northwestern is intellectual-property professor David L. Schwartz, previously of IIT Chicago-Kent.

**University of Chicago**

After two years at University of Chicago Law School as a teaching fellow and lecturer in law, John Rappaport enters the new school year as an assistant professor of law teaching criminal procedure, evidence and a seminar about the causes of crime.

“I’m really excited to teach substantive courses in my area and to get a chance to work with upperclassmen after teaching 1Ls for two years,” said Rappaport, 35, who earned his J.D. at Harvard in 2006. “I love 1Ls, but I think the mix will be good.”

As a capital habeas lawyer at the federal public defender’s office in Los Angeles, he did exclusively post-conviction work.

“It exposed me to a huge variety of substantive issues that can come up in criminal cases and helped me understand how they all fit together,” he said. “It gave me a bird’s-eye view.”

Also joining the law school are Daniele Hemel, who will teach tax and administrative law, and Genevieve Lakier, who earned a Ph.D. in anthropology at the university last year.

**University of Illinois**

Growing up in Lake Forest and Northbrook, Celine Murphy was attracted to U. of I. as the state’s “flagship institution,” she said.

She achieved her dream in 2012 when she became an associate professor of philosophy, joining the law school two years later with a courtesy appointment.

As of June, Murphy, 40, is tenured with the law school.

Murphy — who earned her Ph.D. in philosophy in 2004 at the University of North Carolina — teaches jurisprudence, philosophy of law and courses involving risk regulation.

“What I am interested in and what a lot of my courses look at is the place of law in both mitigating and preparing communities for dealing with potential disruptions and the place of law in the aftermath of disruption,” she said, such as wars or natural disasters.

Joining the law school as its new dean is Vikram Amar, formerly an associate dean at the University of California, Davis, School of Law.