

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL

POLICY ON APPOINTMENT AND RETENTION OF LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING FACULTY

Approved by the faculty-12/10/2009

Subject to the Policies of the Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) and of the University at Buffalo, the Law Faculty adopts the following policy for appointment and retention of members of the Legal Research and Writing (R&W) faculty.

1. **General.** Instructors of Research and Writing shall be appointed to the position of Lecturer. On the terms provided below, the appointment shall be to indefinitely renewable long-term contracts.
2. **Initial Appointment.** Searches for R&W faculty shall be initiated by the Dean, in consultation with the Vice Dean for Legal Skills. The Dean may appoint a committee of one or more Faculty Members, as defined in Faculty Bylaws, Section III(A), including the Vice Dean for Legal Skills, to conduct the search. The Dean shall make the initial appointment after securing the advice of the Academic Policy and Program Committee (APPC). The APPC may delegate this function to a subcommittee. The initial term of appointment shall be two years.
3. **First Reappointment.** Before the end of the second year of the initial appointment, the Vice Dean for Legal Skills shall present to the Dean a recommendation on reappointment. If the position of Vice Dean for Legal Skills is vacant, the recommendation on reappointment shall be prepared by the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. If that position is vacant, the recommendation shall be prepared by a Faculty Member appointed by the Dean.

The standard for a favorable recommendation shall be that the candidate, upon evidence before the Vice Dean, has demonstrated the ability and promise that led to his or her initial appointment, and shall be based primarily on the quality of teaching. The Dean shall consider the Vice Dean's recommendation, and the materials on which it is based, in determining whether to make the reappointment. In his or her discretion, the Dean may refer the recommendation and any supporting documents to the APPC to obtain additional advice. It is expected that if a candidate has demonstrated good teaching ability and effective implementation of the R&W Program objectives, the initial appointment shall be renewed, absent unusual circumstances.

The term of the first reappointment shall be three years. SUNY policy currently limits term contracts to a maximum of three years. Should university policy change to allow for contracts of longer terms, the faculty shall consider extending R&W contracts to terms of five years.

4. **Subsequent Reappointments.** Reappointment to subsequent three-year contracts shall proceed in the same manner as the first reappointment. It is expected that if a candidate has demonstrated good teaching ability and effective implementation of the R&W Program objectives, absent unusual circumstances, the appointment will be renewed for an additional three-year term.