



*Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.*  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*Office of the Provost*

May 27, 2022

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jason P. Nance as the new Judge James Noel Dean of the Dedman School of Law effective August 10, 2022. Please read more about his appointment [here](#).

Nance joins SMU from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he is associate dean for research and faculty development and professor of law. Previously at UF Law, he served as associate dean for academic and faculty affairs, as an associate director of the Center for the Study of Race and Relations, and as an associate director for education and law at the Center on Children and Families. During his time as associate dean, Nance played a critical role in orchestrating UF Law's significant rise in the US News rankings to its current position at #21.

As professor of law, he taught education law, torts and remedies. He oversaw the continued development and implementation of the Introduction to Lawyering and the Legal Profession Program, then directed the program designed to help first-year law students develop key competencies to become effective lawyers.

The Dedman School of Law aspires both to maintain its long-standing top status in the region and to rise significantly in the national rankings. Throughout the interview process, campus stakeholders responded enthusiastically both to Jason's experience and to his vision for the law school.

Dedman Law has tremendous faculty and staff who have for years trained and supported the placement of our students in meaningful and impactful careers. Under Dean Nance's leadership, we are well-positioned to advance Dedman Law's well-earned reputation within the legal and business communities and to expand our impact in line with SMU's aspirations for even greater academic excellence.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the search process. I would also like to thank the members of the search committee, chaired by Matt Myers, dean of the Cox School of Business. Finally, thanks to Tom Mayo for serving as *ad interim* Dean of the Dedman School of Law until Jason's arrival in August.

Congratulations and welcome, Dean Nance!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Lobo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

**World Changers Shaped Here**