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May It Please the Campus Lawyers Leading Higher Education

By Patricia E. Salkin

May it Please the Campus traces the history of lawyer campus presidents from the 1700s to present, exploring dozens of topics such as: where lawyer presidents went to law school; the percentage of lawyer presidents serving at public, private, community, HBCUs, and religiously affiliated institutions; geographic concentrations of campuses led by lawyers, women lawyer presidents, pathways to the presidency for lawyers, commonalities in backgrounds, and more. Author Patricia E. Salkin, J.D., Ph.D. explores reasons for an exponential increase in lawyers serving as campus leaders examining the growth of legal education and myriad legal and regulatory issues confronting higher education.

“Salkin demonstrates that lawyers’ skillsets make them particularly well equipped to handle the dynamic challenges facing university and college presidents. She also shows variances among types of schools, career paths, race, and sex, thereby revealing where legal training is most salient and, arguably, correlates with success as a candidate and a serving president. Salkin has assembled a broad database, enhanced with scholarly references, participant quotes, and relevant anecdotes to illustrate key points. It is comprehensive, exploring the wide range of factors bearing on leadership challenges in higher education. This is a valuable addition to the literature, and an especially helpful guide to those exploring leadership roles or participating in selection of leaders in our country’s colleges and universities.”

—Timothy Fisher, Professor of Law and former Dean,
University of Connecticut School of Law

*“Dr. Salkin’s important book is original, engaging, provocative, comprehensive, and data driven. It’s a must read for anyone who cares about academic leadership and the future of higher education at a time when the only constants are accelerating change, daunting (often unexpected) crises, and proliferating regulation and legal challenges. Dr. Salkin provides us an invaluable resource for finding the right kind of lawyers who have the Swiss-army-knife type professional tool kit and temperament to handle the myriad demands of academic administrative jobs. More broadly, given its historical sweep and insightful analysis of ample data, *May It Please the Campus* could soon become an essential guide for how to think about, refresh, and improve every facet of talent acquisition in academic settings.”*

—Nick Allard, Founding Dean, Jacksonville University College of Law,
Former President and Dean, Brooklyn Law School

Patricia E. Salkin, J.D., Ph.D. is the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the Graduate and Professional Division of Touro University. She is the former Dean of the Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center and previously served as Associate Dean, Director of the Government Law Center and the Raymond & Ella Smith Distinguished Professor of Law at Albany Law School. Salkin is a member of the ABA House of Delegates and Past Chair of the State and Local Government Law Section.