

Office of the President
December 15, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN OF
THE J. DAVID ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mary J. Davis as Dean of the J. David Rosenberg College of Law, effective January 1, 2021.

Background: In the Fall of 2020, Provost David Blackwell commenced a search for a permanent Dean of the J. David Rosenberg College of Law. A search committee composed of administrators, a dean, faculty, staff and students conducted the search to identify qualified candidates for the position. Professor Davis emerged as the preferred candidate.

Davis earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor from the Wake Forest University School of Law. She has been a full-time faculty member at the University of Kentucky (UK) since 1991 and has served in various leadership roles within the Rosenberg College of Law, including associate dean for administration and faculty development; associate dean for academic affairs; and interim dean since July 2019.

Davis has contributed to the profession on the state, regional, national and international levels through service as a visiting professor at four law schools, author of multiple books, including a leading casebook on Products Liability, several book chapters, and many articles, including publications in top law reviews. Her work on federal preemption of state products liability laws has been cited by the United States Supreme Court.

During her tenure at UK, Davis' distinguished accomplishments have been honored in numerous ways, including through receipt of the College of Law Outstanding Teacher award, election to the American Law Institute, initiation into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and appointment as Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____