

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty of Law (faculty, staff, students); President's Leadership Team; Senate; Campus Council; USC and SOGS Executive; Affiliated University College Presidents

From: Florentine Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Date: April 14, 2025

Re: **Leadership Appointment: Dean, Faculty of Law**

On behalf of Western's Board of Governors, President Alan Shepard, and the Faculty of Law Selection Committee, I am delighted to announce that **Mohamed F. Khimji** has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Law for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2025.

An accomplished scholar, experienced academic leader, and a former faculty member at Western Law, Mohamed returns to Western from Queen's University, where he currently holds the David Allgood Professorship in Business Law. Over the past decade, Mohamed has served in several key leadership roles, including Interim Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), Associate Dean (Academic Policy) and as Director of the Queen's Business Law Program. Mohamed brings a strong record of academic leadership, teaching and research in corporate and commercial law, as well as deep experience in curriculum development, alumni engagement and strategic planning.

Throughout his career, Mohamed has established a reputation for his collaborative leadership style and commitment to inclusive education. His leadership has been shaped by his lived experience as a first-generation university graduate and internationally trained lawyer. At Queen's, he led initiatives to support Black and Indigenous applicants, developed mentorship programs for first-generation students, and partnered with community organizations to broaden access and opportunity.

As Associate Dean (Academic Policy), he helped launch new academic initiatives, mentored junior faculty and played a key role in preparing the faculty to respond to the emergence of generative AI technologies. As Director of the Queen's Business Law Program, he nurtured a supportive environment that helped students excel, significantly expanded alumni engagement and helped raise the national profile of the school's business law curriculum and research.

An influential scholar in corporate and commercial law, Mohamed's work has shaped legal thinking in areas ranging from the conceptualizing of property rights in financial assets to the evolution of secured lending regimes. His recent projects on music law, including an innovative

course exploring legal and business issues in the music industry through the lens of pop culture – *Law (Taylor’s Version)* – have received national media attention and showcased his creativity and ability to connect legal education to contemporary issues. Mohamed has also contributed to public scholarship and outreach through speaking engagements with the legal profession, alumni communities and cultural organizations.

Mohamed’s return to Western comes at an exciting time, as Western Law embarks on the implementation of its new 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. Mohamed is well positioned to lead the faculty in advancing its key priorities, including enhancing student experience, supporting faculty renewal, strengthening research impact and deepening community and alumni engagement.

I’d like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Selection Committee for their role and collaborative efforts over the past several months: **Penny Pexman** (Vice-President Research), **Kaleigh Campbell** (graduate student), **Claire Houston** (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law), **Jason Neyers** (Professor, Faculty of Law), **Valerie Oosterveld** (Professor, Faculty of Law), **Zoë Sinel** (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law), **Sarah Abdul-Jalil** (JD student), **Erin Rankin Nash** (Alumna, Western University), **Michael Kim** (Dean, Faculty of Music), **Rachel Forrester-Jones** (Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences), **Tracy Isaacs** (Professor, Faculty of Arts and Humanities) and **Michele Pegg** (Director of Operations, Faculty of Law).

I am also deeply grateful to Andrew Botterell for his service as Acting Dean since July 1, 2024. He previously served as Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, from 2019–2022 and Associate Dean, Academic, from 2023–2024. As Acting Dean, Andrew provided steady leadership and ensured a smooth transition for the faculty. He played a key role in advancing the early implementation of Western Law’s Strategic Plan, which sets priorities to enhance research, attract top talent and strengthen the faculty’s reputation as a hub of legal scholarship. His commitment to stability and improvement has helped advance faculty engagement and strengthened the Community Legal Services Clinic, deepening Western Law’s impact on students and the broader community.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to Erika Chamberlain for her exceptional leadership over two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Law. Her decade of service has left an enduring legacy of innovation, excellence and student-centered growth.