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7th Circuit judge establishing chambers at law school

Karen Sloan

June 03, 2010

Students and faculty at Indiana University Maurer School of Law–Bloomington are getting a new neighbor: U.S. Court of Appeals Judge David Hamilton.

Hamilton, who was appointed to the 7th Circuit by President Obama last year, announced Thursday that he is moving his chambers to the law school's campus from a federal courthouse in Indianapolis. Hamilton, a Bloomington native and Yale Law School graduate, will be one the few sitting judges in the country with chambers at a law school. Among them are Ralph Winter and Guido Calabresi, both senior judges on the 2d Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. They maintain offices at Yale Law School, where Calabresi was dean and Winter is an alumnus who used to teach there.

Hamilton has taught a clinic on federal courts at the law school, is an emeritus member of its board of visitors and sits on the board of its Center for Constitutional Democracy.

"We are delighted that Judge Hamilton is becoming even more integrated into the law school community," Dean Lauren Robel said in a prepared statement. "His presence at the school will enable him to carry out his judicial responsibilities while exposing students to the widest possible array of professional opportunities."

Hamilton and Robel are in talks about how students can benefit by the judge's presence. His new chambers are slated to open by the end of the year.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to participate in life at the law school," Hamilton said. "I'm sure that there will be many learning opportunities in both directions."

Before his appointment to the 7th Circuit, Hamilton was a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

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