

SEARCH PROFILE:

GENERAL COUNSEL



IONA
UNIVERSITY

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Iona University, a nationally recognized independent liberal arts college serving over 3,700 students in Westchester County, N.Y., invites inquiries, nominations and applications for its next General Counsel. The General Counsel is a key member of President Seamus Carey's executive leadership team, is responsible for the legal operations of Iona University and provides legal services to the University on a broad range of business, academic and statutory issues while supporting the University in its strategic goals and initiatives. The General Counsel is expected to take office in Fall 2024 or soon thereafter.

Founded in 1940, Iona is a Catholic institution inspired by the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Congregation of Christian Brothers. The University's

45-acre New Rochelle campus and 28-acre Bronxville campus are both just 20 miles north of Midtown Manhattan. Since 2019, new student enrollment is up over 40 percent, and Iona recently announced its largest incoming freshman class in nearly a decade.

The General Counsel will join an institution with impressive momentum, an innovative spirit and an aspirational culture. As the University shapes its ambitious goals for the future – strategically aligning its planning for academic programs, enrollment management, development, communications and marketing – this key position provides a significant opportunity for experienced and inspiring leadership.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Since taking the helm as the ninth president of Iona on July 1, 2019, Seamus Carey, Ph.D., has been a transformative force in higher education. Renowned for his innovative approach, Carey has charted a course of dynamic growth and expanded opportunities, both academically and in service to others around the world.

He is also highly experienced. Before joining Iona, Carey served as president of Transylvania University in Kentucky for five years; dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Sacred Heart University for four years; and chairman of the philosophy department at Manhattan College, where he taught for nine years.

Since joining Iona, he has made transformational changes, including transitioning from a college to a university; acquiring a new campus in Bronxville, N.Y., and partnering with NewYork-Presbyterian to develop a premier new school of health sciences. He has also established a new Iona Ireland campus, transformed

facilities in New Rochelle and initiated the highly successful Gaels Go Further Mentoring program to connect Iona students and alumni. Most recently, Carey's leadership also led to the establishment of the Gabelli Center for Teaching & Learning, further positioning Iona as a leader in Catholic education and pedagogical innovation.

A Bronx native and first-generation college student, Carey earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy and a Master of Arts from Fordham University, with a bachelor's degree from Vassar College.

The president's senior leadership team, meanwhile, is comprised of highly effective leaders, educators and scholars who contribute to strategic planning efforts to enhance retention and expand faculty development. The leadership team is deeply committed to diversity and works to ensure student success at Iona.

ABOUT IONA UNIVERSITY

Iona is where innovation meets opportunity. Here, students are encouraged to see beyond their horizons, find their passions and forge their own paths.

Founded in 1940, Iona is a Catholic institution inspired by the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Congregation of Christian Brothers. With a total enrollment of over 3,700 students and an alumni base of over 50,000 around the world, Iona prides itself on its academic excellence and commitment to service, justice, opportunity, diversity and the transformative power of education.

Iona's 45-acre New Rochelle campus and 28-acre Bronxville campus are both just 20 miles north of Midtown Manhattan in Westchester County, N.Y. Connecting to its Irish legacy, Iona also opened a new campus in County Mayo, Ireland, in May 2024, located on the historic 400-acre Westport House Estate.

Iona recently announced its largest incoming freshman class in nearly a decade. Driven in part by new academic programs coupled with greater possibilities for students to "Learn Outside the Lines" of the classroom, new student enrollment is up over 40 percent since 2019.



ABOUT IONA UNIVERSITY (CONT.)

Among numerous national rankings, The Princeton Review included Iona in its 2024 “Best 389 Colleges” nationwide. In addition, The Wall Street Journal ranked Iona as the #66 Best College in America for 2024, including the #8 best Catholic college in the nation and #1 for student experience in New York. Iona also tied Yale as the #4 most recommended college in the Northeast by students in the 2024 WSJ rankings.

Iona students enjoy small class sizes, engaged professors and a wide array of undergraduate and graduate programs across three schools: the School of Arts & Science, LaPenta School of Business and the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences. In addition, the Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation offers dynamic degree programs and is available to all students across academic disciplines. Iona is also highly accredited. Notably, the LaPenta School of Business is accredited by AACSB International, a prestigious recognition awarded to just 6 percent of business schools worldwide.

Meanwhile, the newly launched Gabelli Center for Teaching & Learning reinforces Iona’s core commitment to academic excellence by sharpening its focus on the fundamentals of education: teaching and learning. One such initiative is AI@Iona, an institutional effort to stimulate, support and coordinate faculty and student understanding of the rapidly evolving capabilities of artificial intelligence in the classroom, the workplace and the wider world. A foundational component of the Gabelli Center is the sponsorship of student scholarships to promote careers in Catholic education.

FACILITIES

New buildings and facilities, completely renovated classrooms and simulation labs and comprehensive technology and equipment upgrades have been a critical component of Iona’s success.

Iona’s main campus is located in New Rochelle, N.Y. It is home to the School of Arts & Science; the LaPenta School of Business; the Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation; the Hynes Athletics Center; and Iona’s main administrative offices and student support services. The newly established Gabelli Center for Teaching & Learning will also be centralized in a completely renovated facility in New Rochelle, creating a vibrant meeting space for collaboration, innovation and professional development. Opening

Outside of the classroom, Iona boasts 24 Division I varsity sports. Iona is especially renowned for its men’s basketball program, the winningest team in the New York-metropolitan area for more than a quarter-century, with a league record 14 MAAC tournament titles and 16 NCAA tournament appearances.

Iona students can also join over 80 student clubs and leadership organizations spanning an array of interests, including active fraternities and sororities. Iona also has a robust club sports program, including 16 new teams and a championship esports team, plus a thriving performing arts program and wide range of service-learning opportunities both locally and around the world.

Members of the Iona community are known as Gaels, who are people with Irish-Gaelic ancestry. Notable Iona alumni include Alfred F. Kelly Jr., former chairman and CEO of Visa Inc.; Margaret C. Timoney, CEO of HEINEKEN USA; Thomas J. Baldwin, CEO of Benihana; Gregory C. Cairo, CEO of Le Creuset USA; Robert Greifeld, former CEO of Nasdaq; and musician Don McLean, most famous for his song “American Pie.”

On July 1, 2022, Iona officially changed its status from College to University, reflecting the growth of its academic programs and the prestige of an Iona education.



Spring 2025, Iona is also revamping its student union, including a brand-new dining hall and lounge space spanning two floors adjacent to the Murphy Green in the heart of campus.

Located less than four miles from New Rochelle, Iona’s new 28-acre campus in Bronxville, N.Y., is home to the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences and the state-of-the-art Kelly Center for Health Sciences. Additionally, Iona Bronxville boasts ample spaces for students interested in performing arts, athletics and other scholarly areas to pursue and develop their interests.



LOCATION

Iona University offers the best of both worlds – a bucolic suburban setting conveniently located just outside of New York City.

The surrounding City of New Rochelle has a population of approximately 80,000. New Rochelle is serviced by the Amtrak and Metro North commuter rail station, the second busiest commuter railroad in North America, offering service between New York City and northern suburbs in New York and Connecticut.

The Village of Bronxville, meanwhile, located just a mile from the Iona campus, is a charming village with a walkable town, locally owned cafes and restaurants, arts and more. The Picture House – with locations in

Bronxville and Pelham – frequently screens the latest in cinema as well as independent and arthouse films. For those wishing to explore, trains to Manhattan run frequently from the Bronxville Metro-North Station.

Both New Rochelle and Bronxville offer a myriad of activities: theaters, parks, beaches, dining, nightlife, and cultural events. There are also many great opportunities to explore and access greater Westchester County and New York City. Manhattan, just a quick train ride away, is the hub of international finance, arts, sports and communication. You will have access to endless recreational and cultural offerings, right at your doorstep.



THE OPPORTUNITY

As a key member of the President's Cabinet, the General Counsel is the chief legal officer of the University and will contribute to the resolution of many of the most important issues that affect Iona. The General Counsel also provides direct advice and counsel to the Board of Trustees on legal issues, governance, and related topics.

The General Counsel is responsible for the legal operations of Iona University and provides legal services to the University on a broad range of

business, academic and statutory issues, while supporting the University in its strategic goals and initiatives. Areas of responsibility will include labor and employment, commercial litigation, business transactions and contracts, university governance, student life, intellectual property, immigration, real estate, and gifts and estates. The General Counsel interacts routinely with senior level administrators, Board members, staff, students, and faculty.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Demonstrates an understanding and appreciation of the mission of Iona University in working with all members of the Iona community.
- Oversees compliance with, and reviews and recommends appropriate amendments to, the University's by-laws.
- Reviews and prepares a wide variety of contracts including real estate contracts and leases, equipment leases, affiliation agreements for student clinical training, consulting contracts for independent contractors, licensing agreements, vendor contracts, and grant agreements.
- Counsels and participates in all aspects of the employment process including hiring, discipline and termination of employees, as well as representing the University in employment claims before state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Provides advice and support in matters involving students, including code of conduct issues.
- Reviews proposed changes to University policies and procedures and is responsible for creating new policies and procedures on an as needed basis.
- Reviews various federal, state and local laws applicable to University operations and provides guidance to the President and the Board of Trustees in order to ensure compliance.
- Provides assistance with the purchase, sale and lease of real estate and is responsible for all other real estate matters such as property tax and environmental issues.
- Hires and manages outside counsel where appropriate.
- Negotiates all letters of engagement and retainer agreements and reviews and approves all legal bills.
- Defends the University against claims and grievances before administrative agencies and assists in developing litigation strategy and overseeing outside counsel.
- Administers University's responses to subpoenas, record requests and other production of documents related to students, staff and faculty as directed.
- Reviews and updates the University grievance policies and protocols.
- Provides counsel to University administrators on various federal, state, and local compliance issues, including the Clery Act, Title IX and related state laws, immigration and visa matters, and various employment mandates set forth in federal, state, and local law.

QUALIFICATIONS

- JD and license to practice law in the State of New York.
- Minimum of 10 years legal experience.
- Knowledge and appreciation of higher education, shared and board governance is required.
- Demonstrated success within a complex organization.
- Excellent management, organizational and legal skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication, problem-solving and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently, consistently follow through and take ownership of projects.
- Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality, and demonstrate discretion, diplomacy, good judgement, and tact. It is important this candidate be collaborative and flexible, with excellent social skills, innovative thinking, and a strong work ethic.





THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The search for Iona University's next General Counsel is being assisted by Maya Ranchod Kirkhope at Academic Search. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to IonaGeneralCounsel@academicsearch.org.

Applications should consist of a detailed letter of interest that describes the candidate's interest and alignment with the agenda for leadership, and a current curriculum vitae, sent as separate PDFs.

The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications in late September and will review applications as they are received. Though applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled, only those materials received by October 3, 2024 are assured full consideration.

Iona University values and celebrates diversity and is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all of our employees and does not tolerate discrimination based on any legally protected characteristic under applicable federal, state, or local laws. As an equal opportunity employer, Iona University encourages applications from qualified candidates who reflect the wider world in which we live, and in particular from historically underrepresented groups.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Iona University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

