

# Re: Request for Comment - Forbes

Colombo, John D <jcolombo@illinois.edu>

Fri 4/13/2018 8:59 AM

To: Jessie Fox <Jessie.Fox@openthebooks.com>;

Hi Jessie.

The increase in salary was due to my taking the position of Interim Dean at the College of Law for the 2014-2015 academic year (from July 2014 through August 2015). The \$333,446 salary was for the 14 months (roughly, I think it may have been 14 ½ months, but I'm not sure) I was Interim Dean of the College while the College undertook a search for a new permanent Dean. My salary as Interim Dean was roughly equal to the departing Dean's salary. You can check these numbers by comparing the academic year salary for Bruce P. Smith, the Dean of the College of Law through June 2014 to my salary as Interim Dean in 2014-2015. At the time I took the Interim Dean position, I was 58 years old. I had always planned to retire at age 60, and after serving 15 months as Interim Dean, I spent the balance of the 2015-2016 year as an active faculty member (during which time, by the way, my salary reverted to my \$248,000 faculty salary), then retired at age 60 and 1 month, in May of 2016.

And if you want, you can interview any of the members of the College of Law faculty who were around in 2014 and ask them if I wanted the Interim Dean job. I think you will find the answer was an emphatic "no." Call Professor Andy Leipold, Bob Lawless, Kenworthy Bilz, Eric Freyfogle (now also retired), Jamelle Sharpe (who was Associate Dean at the time), or anyone else there at the time if you need confirmation. I did the job as a service to the College, and I would hope that Forbes would correctly report this background, or at least check with legal counsel about the consequences of NOT accurately reporting it.

John C.

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**From:** Jessie Fox <Jessie.Fox@openthebooks.com>

**Date:** Friday, April 13, 2018 at 7:40 AM

**To:** "Colombo, John D" <jcolombo@illinois.edu>

**Subject:** Request for Comment - Forbes

Hi John,

My name is Jessie Fox, and I'm conducting research for a columnist at Forbes. For the editorial, I looked through recent Illinois higher education salary data and 2017 SURS pension data. I noticed that your salary at the University of Illinois increased from \$248,855 (2014) to \$333,446 (2015). Then, in 2017, you received a \$193,164 annual pension payout. Was there a reason for the salary increase you received? I know our readers would appreciate hearing from you with any comment or clarity around the salary increase.

I'll do my best to include your comment in the editorial as soon as you get back to me. Thank you in advanced.

Best,

**Jessie Fox**

**Communications Specialist | 734.904.7070**



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