

Board Meeting
July 19, 2018

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Chicago was established in 1965 and currently serves a diverse student body of over 30,500 within its fifteen colleges and schools, but without the benefit of a law school or program in legal education;

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Chicago is one of the few public research universities designated with the highest Research 1 classification by the Carnegie Foundation that does not have a law school;

WHEREAS, The John Marshall Law School, named after the fourth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, is an independent law school located in Chicago, Illinois, and established in 1899 by a small group of distinguished lawyers who believed in the noble principle that admission to the law school should not be determined by arbitrary and discriminatory factors such as racial origin or religious affiliation;

WHEREAS, a natural alignment exists between the public mission of the University of Illinois at Chicago and The John Marshall Law School's commitment to provide access and opportunity to students from underserved communities and to help fill the justice gap for citizens in the Chicago area;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is the third largest city and one of very few major cities in the United States without a public law school to serve the educational needs of a large constituency for whom private education may not be an option;

WHEREAS, earlier discussions of a permanent relationship between the University of Illinois at Chicago and The John Marshall Law School began in 1998 and concluded in 2001, and legal education at the University of Illinois at Chicago has remained of critical importance to the overall academic program both in the ability to train legal practitioners and in the development of multidisciplinary programs needed to serve its students' needs;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Board of Trustees authorized the University of Illinois at Chicago to conduct informal preliminary discussions and directed the University to undertake a financial assessment prepared by an outside entity to determine feasibility and whether both institutions' goals could be met through the acquisition of The John Marshall Law School;

WHEREAS, the results of this external study and the sixteen-month period of internal review and due diligence of eleven joint committees and several public town halls at both institutions have resulted in positive and nearly unanimous recommendations to proceed with the establishment of The UIC John Marshall Law School;

WHEREAS, the University Senates Conference, a statutory body representing the faculties of the three universities, has provided its support of the establishment of the UIC John Marshall Law School to the Board of Trustees through the

President in accordance with the Formation of New Units as defined in the University of Illinois *Statutes*;

WHEREAS, the establishment of the UIC John Marshall Law School will be the first and only public law school in Chicago, and would provide access and opportunities to students and faculty in a wide range of interdisciplinary programs of law with the disciplinary strengths of UIC, including health sciences, engineering and technology, urban planning, public administration, the social sciences, and business; and,

WHEREAS, the UIC John Marshall Law School will become the sixteenth college and school reporting to the University of Illinois at Chicago and will be governed under the University of Illinois *Statutes, the General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedures*, and the Board of Trustees policies and directives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois hereby endorses the union with and acquisition of The John Marshall Law School. Such endorsement is made with the following understanding:

- 1) The establishment of the UIC John Marshall Law School as set forth in the board item contained in this meeting agenda;
- 2) The establishment of the UIC John Marshall Law School is subject to review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and the American Bar Association; and,
- 3) Through the delegation of authority as set forth in the board item contained in this meeting agenda, the Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller will negotiate and execute an Asset Transfer Agreement, together with an Interim Implementation Agreement and

other necessary documents incidental to the University's acquisition of The John Marshall Law School and the establishment of the UIC John Marshall Law School.