UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI VACATES ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE STATUS
OF DR. JENNIFER S. BARD

BARD REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY

May 8, 2017, CINCINNATI – A settlement agreement was reached over the weekend between Dr. Jennifer S. Bard and the University of Cincinnati. The agreement vacates the University’s decision to place Bard on administrative leave – the outcome she sought for the unjustified damage to her reputation.

Dean Bard agreed to withdraw her claims for the violation of her Constitutional rights and for breach of contract. In return the University is granting her two years of academic leave, at her full Dean’s salary, while she retains her tenured professor position in the UC College of Law, with a secondary appointment in the UC College of Medicine. Today Bard resigned her position as Dean because the University failed to support her when a small faction of the faculty resisted her efforts to establish responsible fiscal policies.

Interim Provost Landgren had earlier told a gathering of faculty, staff, and students that, regarding the administrative leave, “there were no skeletons”, she had done “nothing illegal”, there were “no financial” issues and there were no “ethical or moral issues regarding the Dean’s departure.” He also stated that there was “no smoking gun” that led to the decision.

According to Marjorie Berman, partner at Krantz & Berman LLP, New York, Bard’s lead attorney, “This settlement demonstrates that Landgren had no basis whatsoever to place Bard on administrative leave and his doing so was wholly unjustified and completely inappropriate. Dean Bard did what the University asked of her in a professional manner with the support of students, alumni, donors, and many faculty and staff. We are pleased that the University annulled the leave so as to begin to undo the needless damage they caused to her reputation.”

During her time at the school, Dean Bard raised the law school’s rankings, increased enrollment, applications, donor engagement, employment, diversity and bar passage rates while maintaining high academic standards. She structured a $15 Million gift, the largest in the law school’s history, which added three full-time clinical faculty members. Her accomplishments as Dean brought praise, as well as a monetary bonus from the Provost who hired her.
The settlement affords Bard the opportunity to re-engage with her research and writing, as well as to pursue other administrative options in academia during her two-year academic leave.

“This is an exciting time to be engaged in health law and I look forward to the opportunities that this academic leave provides for me to contribute to the national conversation” said Bard. “I wish much success to all our students, alumni, faculty and staff and to Verna Williams as she takes over the reins of the College of Law.” “It is an honor to be on the faculty of this historic law and medical school.”

In addition to Marjorie Berman, Dean Bard is represented in this matter by R. Gary Winters of McCaslin, Imbus & McCaslin, LPA of Cincinnati. “I am grateful for the skill, professionalism and commitment demonstrated by my legal team” said Bard.