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'Putting people in the right spots' at John Marshall

SPOTLIGHT: LEONARD AMARI

Job: President, board of trustees, [John Marshall Law School](#), as of Sept. 14.

Vitals: 65 years old; bachelor's degree in political science, Northern Illinois University, 1964; law degree, [John Marshall Law School](#), 1968; teacher, John Marshall, 1968-74; partner, Lupel & Amari law firm, 1974-86; general counsel, Cook County assessor's office, 1982-87; partner, Amari & Locallo, 1987 to present.



Strong suit: Leading organizations and fundraising. "I am good at building consensus and putting people in the right spots," he says.

Résumé gap: First academic leadership role.

Track record: Raised money for Thomas Hynes' state Senate campaign and served as president of several organizations, including the Illinois State Bar Assn. and Italian American Political Coalition.

Job one: Build a new building, improve the school's ranking and maintain a bar passage rate above the state average.

Obstacles: Recruiting and retaining faculty and ensuring the school has enough money to provide tuition assistance. "Law school tuition is quite high," says Lewis Collens, president emeritus of the Illinois Institute of Technology and its Chicago-Kent College of Law. "And raising money is always a challenge."

The plan: Plugging experts into the right places, including delegating other trustees to oversee various tasks. He's hired a development director to help kick off the school's first capital campaign in more than 20 years and an external PR person to help promote the school.

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