

Federal judge named law school dean

By **RACHEL MILLER**
NEWS ASSISTANT

Judge Deaneel Reece Tacha is a woman of many passions. From civic work to academia, she has conquered both the collegiate and judiciary world, during her time as a circuit judge for the U.S. 10th Court of Appeals and associate dean at the University of Kansas School of Law. But when asked about the other adorations in her

life, Judge Tacha lit up.

"Right this moment, I am celebrating the first birthday of my third grandchild. I have four grandchildren and four children," Tacha said. Deep devotion was recognizable in her voice as she continued. "I intend to keep a very strong commitment to my family even while I am very strongly committed to the Pepperdine Law School."

As a lifelong professional devo-

tee, Tacha has been involved both nationally and internationally on various projects. Though, in regards to her relocation to Malibu, she explained that becoming acquainted with her new surroundings and fellow colleagues will be the newest challenge. But she will always have her family in her heart and mind.

Tacha's recent appointment follows a nine-month nationwide search to replace former School of

Law Dean Kenneth W. Starr, who was named president of Baylor University in June 2010. Provost Darryl Tippens explained in a press release that Tacha's appointment has the University ecstatic about the experience and enthusiasm that she will bring to her new role.

"We interviewed several excellent internal and external candidates for the position," Tippens noted. "Judge Tacha emerged as the person best positioned to have

an immediate positive impact on our school and the University. Not only is she a respected jurist and legal scholar; she is experienced in academic administration having served as the chief academic officer of a major American university. Pepperdine is fortunate Judge Tacha has agreed to commit her energy, enthusiasm, and intellect to our University."

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JUDGE TACHA