

*Washburn University
School of Law*

Alumni Awards





Welcome

LUCKY DEFRIES, '78

Past chair, board of governnors

Remarks

JEFF JACKSON, BBA '89, jd '92

Interim Dean, Washburn University School of Law

DR. JULIANN MAZACHEK

President, Washburn University

2023 Awards Presentation

LUCKY DEFRIES, '78

Thank you to our Awards Committee

ZACK REYNOLDS, '82, *chair*

DEENA HYSON BAILEY, '97

LUCKY DEFRIES, '78

NATALIE HAAG, '85

LAURA ICE, '84

JOHN SHOEMAKER, '04

2023 Awards Recipients



GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) AWARD

Julie Covell, jd '13

Julie Covell is a graduate of the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Washburn University School of Law. Prior to attending law school, Covell worked as a high school teacher first in Manhattan, Kansas, and then in Puyallup, Washington. While in law school, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Washburn Law Journal and worked as a Research Assistant and a Teaching Assistant. She also clerked for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Topeka and interned for the Honorable David J. Waxse at the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

During the summer before her 3L year, Covell interned with the National Labor Relations Board. Following graduation, she joined the Board as an Honors Attorney. After completing a year of rotations through offices at the Board's headquarters in Washington, D.C., she returned to Kansas and the Board's Overland Park Subregional Office. As a Senior Field Attorney in Region 14, she regularly handles the investigation and litigation of complex charges filed in the Region. Covell has served as Region 14's Bankruptcy Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. In addition to conducting several presentations about the National Labor Relations Act for external groups and members of the bar, she has led internal training for Board employees on legal writing and investigatory techniques. As an alumna, Covell has enjoyed meeting with prospective and current law school students to talk about why she chose to attend Washburn University School of Law, why she would make that same choice again if given the opportunity, and why they should consider a career in public service.



GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) AWARD

Angel Romero, ba '10, jd '13

Starting his post-secondary education at Washburn, Angel Romero earned his bachelor of arts in political science and leadership studies certificate from Washburn University in 2010, continuing straight into law school, he completed his juris doctor in 2013. While at Washburn, Romero was a member of the Washburn Student Government Association, Mortar Board, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Sagamore Honor Society, and College Republicans. He was a student ambassador, resident assistant, and AmeriCorps Bonner Leader.

After graduating from law school, Romero worked as a data analyst for the Kansas Board of Regents. In 2015, he joined the United Way of Greater Topeka (now known as United Way of Kaw Valley) where he works as the Vice President of Resource Development. Romero is the Chair of the Topeka Association of Fundraising Professionals Board of Directors, and serves on the boards of the Kansas Association for Youth Alumni Network, Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomy League, and the Washburn University Board of Regents. He has previously served on the boards of Forge Young Professionals, Shawnee County Crime Stoppers, Topeka Civic Theatre, and Momentum 2022.

In 2022, Romero was named to the Leadership Kansas class of 2022. In 2018, he received the Topeka Emerging Leader Award, the Outstanding Young Professional in Fundraising Award, and the Outstanding Commitment to the Students of the Washburn Leadership Institute Award. In 2017 he was named the Washburn University Graduate of the Last Decade. He is a 2011 Honoree of Greater Topeka's 20 Under 40, and a member of the 2010 class of Leadership Greater Topeka.



HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Professor Michael Kaye

Professor Michael Kaye received his bachelor of arts degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1963. He would later go on to earn his juris doctor from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1966. As the former director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy at Washburn University School of Law, Professor Kaye taught Trial Advocacy, Criminal Procedure, and is the coach of the Trial Advocacy Team. He began his teaching career at Washburn Law in 1979 and retired from the Law School in 2016.

A long serving educator, his experience extends far beyond the classroom as well. He was a longtime NITA advocacy teacher and taught at NITA's Teacher Training Program in Harvard School of Law. He has also served as the NITA Program Director.

Professor Kaye is an experienced public defender, was in private practice in California, and studied at the Comparative Law Institute in Grenoble, France. He was a Visiting Professor of Law at Whittier College School of Law in 1990-91. He was elected as President for the 3rd Judicial District Criminal Defense Bar during the 2001-02 year.



HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

The Honorable Sarah Warner

A native of Kansas, Judge Sarah Warner grew up in Pittsburg. She earned her undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas and later attended law school in Michigan, graduating magna cum laude. After serving as the sole chambers attorney of the chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, she became a partner with Thompson Warner PA in Lawrence, Kan., where she worked until her appointment to the Court of Appeals in 2019. She served as President of the Kansas Bar Association from 2018-19, having previously served on the KBA Board of Governors from 2015-18 and as Young Lawyers Section President from 2014-15. She is a member of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, the National Association of Women Judges, and the ABA Appellate Judges Section. And since 2021, she has chaired the Kansas Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices in Eviction Proceedings. Judge Warner has taught Conflict of Laws at Washburn since 2009 and Appellate Practice, a course she designed, since 2017. Over the course of the last 15 years, she has had the opportunity to work with hundreds of law students at Washburn and was named Washburn University School of Law's Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2018, 2020, and 2022.



LEGACY FAMILY

The McEntire Family

**Richard McEntire, '31, jd '34*

James McEntire, ba '73, jd '77

Joann Corpstein, jd '88

Helen "Lizzy" McEntire, jd '22

***Richard McEntire, '31, jd '34**

Remaining in Topeka his entire life, Richard McEntire graduated from Washburn University School of Law in 1934. After law school, he became a partner in the firm of Claussen and McEntire in Topeka, specializing in motor carrier work before the Kansas Corporation Commission. McEntire was named a United States Commissioner for the District of Kansas in 1935. He was later appointed a special attorney by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), where he presided over the proration of the vast Hugoton, Kansas, gas fields.

McEntire also served on the executive committee and on the special gas committee of the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners. He was secretary to the Kansas Day Club from 1939-45 and later served as an adviser to U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snyder at the World Bank and Monetary Fund Conference in Paris. His work was instrumental in the implementation of a Canadian extradition treaty, which ended fraudulent securities offers by promoters of Canadian mining ventures. He became vice chairman of the SEC in 1950. He resigned from the SEC in 1953 to pursue the private practice of law. He passed away in 1958.

James McEntire, ba '73, jd '77

With more than four decades of experience practicing law, James McEntire is currently a member of the firm of Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe, L.L.C. He graduated from Washburn University in 1973 and Washburn School of Law receiving his Juris

**Deceased*

LEGACY FAMILY (CONT.)

Doctor in 1976. His practice primarily focuses on the areas of divorce, child custody and support, and related family law matters. He is a member of the American, Kansas, and Topeka Bar Associations, and the Family Law Committee of the Topeka Bar Association. He clerked for Judge John Rees of the Kansas Court of Appeals before joining the Sloan Law Firm in 1978 where he has remained ever since. He is an adjunct professor in the criminal justice department at Washburn. He is a past president of the Topeka Kiwanis Club and past president of the Topeka Kiwanis Foundation. Jim served as a TBA Director for four years and currently serves as the Secretary.

Joann Corpstein, jd '88

Joann Corpstein's first career was in nursing. After graduating from the University of Saint Mary, she worked as a critical care nurse and a traveling nurse. In 1988, Corpstein graduated from Washburn University School of Law and began her legal career in regulatory banking, as in-house counsel for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, then the United States Treasury's Office of Thrift Supervision.

Corpstein transitioned her legal career to focus on issues facing the elderly and long-term care. She served as general counsel for the Kansas Department on Aging for nine years. Currently, she is the Director of Compliance for Midland Care Connection. Among other things, she is responsible for the corporate compliance and risk management programs. Corpstein has been asked to present at numerous state and national conferences on health care law topics.

Corpstein is a member of the American Health Law Association and the American Health Information Management Association.

Helen "Lizzy" McEntire, jd '22

A third-generation Washburn Law graduate, Lizzy McEntire is committed to practicing law in Kansas. During her time as a student, she received countless scholarships including the Justice Alex M. Fromme Memorial Scholarship Award, intended for a student who is committed to practicing law in Kansas. As an editor for the Washburn Journal, she was also honored with a GNIP-GNOP Award for Best Note for her article, A Proposed Solution to the Kansas Wage Gap: Why Salary History Inquiries Perpetuate Disparate Pay Along Racial and Gender Lines. Following graduation, she joined Husch Blackwell in Kansas City where she is currently practicing.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Honorable Steven Hornbaker, ba '70, jd '73

Judge Steven Hornbaker was a lawyer for 27 years for the firm Harper, Hornbaker, Abbott, Opat and Altenhofen in Junction City, Kan. Hornbaker was appointed district judge serving in Geary County in 2000. The 8th Judicial District is composed of Dickinson, Geary, Marion, and Morris counties. In 2018 he was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court of the Judicial Education Advisory Committee. The committee recommends and organizes education and training for Kansas appellate judges, district judges and district magistrate judges. Judge Hornbaker retired in 2021 after more than 21 years of service.

Judge Hornbaker served leadership roles in many organizations including Kansas Trial Lawyers (President 1985), American Board of Trial Advocates (President Kansas Chpt. 1993), ABOTA Advocate (lead counsel on over 75 jury trials), Martindell-Hubble, AV Rating, Kansas Bar Association Member (1973-present, American Bar Association, Washburn Law School Board of Governors (2 terms), and was admitted to the US Supreme Court in 1985. He has one son, Andy, and has been happily married to Sue (Swanson) Hornbaker for 46 years.

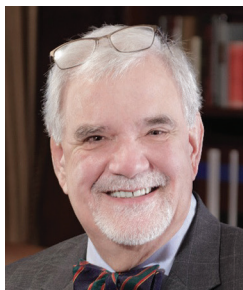


LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Marcia (Harley) Johnston, ba '71, jd '74

During the years Marcia (Harley) Johnston attended law school, few women were pursuing their juris doctor. There were only four women in her graduating class and she became the first woman to represent the school in the National Moot Court Competition and was a member of the team that won the local and Regional Jessup International Moot Court Competitions.

Following graduation, Johnston began a private practice with fellow classmate Jane Werholtz in Topeka, in which they practiced together until 1977. Gravitating toward areas of business law, particularly tax law, led to her becoming a senior tax counsel in-house at a major natural gas and pipeline company in Houston. Marriage and a subsequent move to Calgary, Alberta, followed in 1981. Upon her completion of becoming a Canadian citizen and passing two law school final exams, Johnston was admitted to the Law Society of Alberta. She switched her practice to corporate securities law, with an emphasis on oil and gas corporation clients. In 1985 she ceased membership as a Kansas lawyer and became a sole practitioner in Calgary and developed a boutique securities practice which grew to 9 lawyers by 2000 and merged with Gowling Lafleur Henderson, one of Canada's largest national law firms with over 700 lawyers in 2000. In 2004 Marcia received the honor of being designated a Queen's Counsel, Learned in the Law, for the Province of Alberta, an honorary title granted by the Lieutenant.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Honorable J. Thomas Marten, ba '73, jd '76, H'18

The Honorable J. Thomas Marten received his bachelor of arts and juris doctor both from Washburn University. After graduation, Judge Marten served as law clerk to retired Associate Justice Tom C. Clark of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. He then spent 19 years practicing law, with an emphasis in litigation, in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas, including 14 years as a member of Bremyer & Wise, P.A. in McPherson, Kansas. Judge Marten was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Kansas by President Bill Clinton in 1996, the judgeship was once held by his great uncle, the late Judge Delmas Hill. He served as Chief Judge of the District of Kansas from April 2014 until May 2017. He took senior status in May 2017, and retired from the bench in 2021.

Judge Marten has served on the Advisory Board of the Sedona Conference and has completed terms on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association. He has taught trial advocacy at various programs and workshops throughout the United States including Harvard Law, Wichita State University, the Department of Justice Trial Advocacy center, National University of Ireland, Galway, and has been a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars throughout the country. He served on the Judicial Conference of the United States Advisory Committee for the Federal Rules of Evidence during the last few years of his judgeship. He is a founding member of the Wesley E. Brown American Inn of Court in Wichita. He served on the Washburn School of Law Board of Governors, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the law school's Alumni Association, and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law by Washburn University.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW
Alumni Association

1729 SW MacVicar Ave
Topeka, KS 66604
785.670.4483