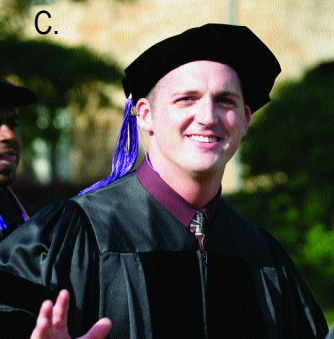




The Class of *2004 Celebrates*



Above : Graduation Procession to Lee Arena

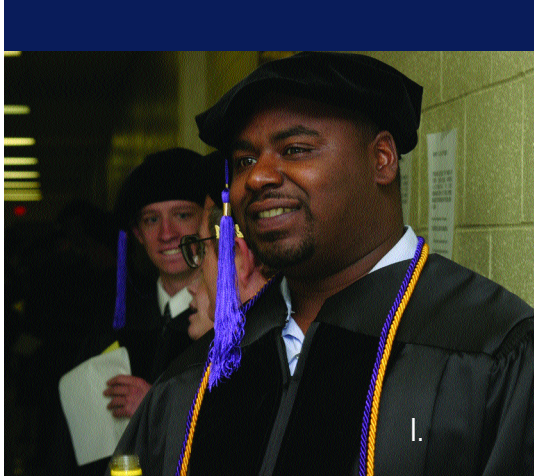




G.



H.



I.



J.



K.

Above: Chris Kellogg and Magdalena

- A. Rebecca Zepick and Tiana McElroy
- B. Prof. Linda Elrod
- C. Bradley Rhodd
- D. Jazz band at the graduation reception
- E. Judge Paul L. Brady '56, Xermona Brady and Dean Dennis Honabach
- F. Lori Church and Monica Cloud
- G. Rehba Haynes, Valarie Jones, Tanner Heble, Laura Lewis and Jamie Karasek
- H. Bret Holder and son Jet
- I. Greg Parker
- J. Phonesyvanh Sounakhen
- K. Prof. David Ryan
- L. Graduation reception at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center



L.

Graduation '04...

The Honorable Paul L. Brady '56, a distinguished alumnus and civil rights leader, delivered a stirring commencement address at the Washburn University School of Law graduation ceremony on May 15, 2004, in Lee Arena. Judge Brady spoke to the 148 law graduates about the need to reaffirm our commitment to "equal justice under the law": "It is significant that you begin your careers in the law at the time Washburn celebrates 100 years of excellence in legal education and at a time that marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. The decision, which was a momentous event in the history of American law, remains an enduring symbol of equality and the law.

It is, therefore, fitting that at this time we reaffirm our commitment to equal justice under the law and reflect on the promise of the Brown decision, one of the most important rulings ever made by the Supreme Court."

Judge Brady, who earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Washburn University, was intimately involved in the

Brown case: His Aunt Lucinda Todd was the first parent to sign on as a plaintiff in Brown. Brady shared his recollections of the case and its impact on his life: "I sat in on most of those early meetings, and highly impressed with the dedication of the small group, I joined their cause. Being part of an effort to right a terrible wrong, I was inspired to become a lawyer. I was here in law school when the decision was handed down. It was a time of great joy and elation—a new day. The future appeared bright with the concept of equality as a self-evident truth written into law."

After graduation from Washburn Law in 1956, Brady opened a private law practice in Chicago, IL. In 1968, he became the first African-American attorney at the Federal Power Commission, and

four years later he became the first African-American federal administrative law judge. He retired from the bench in 1997. In recognition of his accomplishments, Judge Brady was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame. Today he serves as Chairman of the Bass Reeves Education Foundation, which works with young students to promote a better understanding of the legal system and advance the cause of justice. The foundation is named for his uncle, Bass Reeves, a former slave, who was appointed U.S. deputy marshal in 1875 and became the first African-American to serve as a federal enforcement officer on the western frontier. The history of Judge

Brady's remarkable family can be found in his book "A Certain Blindness", which chronicle's his family's quest for the promise of America.

In his closing remarks, Judge Brady called on the new graduates to accept their special responsibility as legal professionals to advance the cause of social justice:

"I urge you, Class of 2004, to take your professional oaths with the utmost

seriousness, and as officers of the court, act courageously to advance the law and the cause of justice. In the words of Justice Cardozo, 'not merely the justice that one receives when his rights are determined by the law as it is, but the justice to which the law in its making should conform.'"

"You are exceptional people who have extraordinary talents and abilities. Use your education and talents to have an exceedingly meaningful life in the law—not only to realize your personal ambitions, but also to benefit others and contribute to a more fair and just society. Washburn, as it celebrates 100 years of excellence in legal education, has done all it can to make you good lawyers, good professionals—the type we can all be proud of. The rest is up to you."



The Honorable Paul L. Brady '56