

A New Home for Washburn Law

Our history has earned it. Our future is calling for it.

\$1 Million Gift Boosts Campaign

In October, the School of Law received a generous \$1 million contribution to the building campaign — the single largest gift to date. With this gift, the campaign has now topped the \$5 million mark.

“This gift is a profound investment in the people who will study and teach in the new building for decades to come,” said Thomas Romig, dean, Washburn University School of Law.

“We are so very fortunate to have such strong supporters who share our vision for Washburn Law’s future,” said Patrick Mikesic, executive director of development and alumni relations, law school. “We are honored to accept this gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, knowing that it is a reflection of our alumni’s connection to their alma mater and a commitment to its future.”

To date the campaign has garnered support from alumni and friends across the country — recent graduates and those who are well established in their careers — as well as faculty and staff. Together, our gifts will build a new home for all of us — students, alumni, professors, staff, friends — past, present, and future. A place worthy of the Washburn Law name — and yours.

We are determined to create a powerful new space for Washburn University School of Law. A prominent, prestigious home that defines campus. The *ideal* place, here in the capital city.

This project, though, reaches far beyond the building itself. It’s about the people who go *into* it, and the accomplishments that will come *out* of it.

Building on our storied past, this facility will fortify our teaching, stimulate our students, energize recruiting, and engage alumni. It will optimize everything we do. These are the goals we’ve been tenaciously pursuing since 1903: Practical Skills, Recruitment, Community, Innovation, Reputation. If we want to keep raising the bar, a new space is absolutely essential.

Washburn University President Jerry Farley and the Board of Regents have pledged to match our \$20 million campaign goal. Together, our gifts can build a new home for all of us.

Practical skills

Graduates will gain deeper practical experience and become even more employable.

Today’s legal education is all about hands-on training and small, skills-based seminars. Not surprisingly, 90 percent of our 2015 graduates participated in experiential learning of some kind.

Our new building is designed entirely around this practical focus. The Centers for Excellence will finally have a proper home, forming an in-house law firm with the *Washburn Law Journal* and Washburn Law Clinic. We’ll also double our courtrooms, making it considerably easier to schedule Moot Court and more. Perhaps the chief difference is the roughly 50-percent increase in classrooms, with flexible areas for large groups and small break-outs alike.



Having the right *kinds* of spaces ensures that when our students graduate, they are well-versed attorneys who contribute right out of the gate.

Recruitment

We'll draw *more* of the same high-caliber students and faculty.

In a recruitment climate that has never been more competitive, the facility matters. A lot.

Our new home will offer about 50 percent more real estate. Group study rooms will go from two to at least 10; classrooms from 10 to at least 15.

Then there's the story the numbers don't tell. The space comes alive with expansive ceilings, pockets for working privately, and spots for teaming up. An airy, sun-washed commons will be the heart our building has never had, with a central stairway to tie people together.

This will be a home that accurately mirrors the spirit of the law school — and that prospective students and faculty won't want to leave.

Community

We'll enliven connections among students, faculty, alumni, and area lawyers.

In our new building, all roads lead to a two-story, light-drenched commons, including a dedicated student zone. An upgraded



“When I started on the faculty full time in 1973, we had a 40:1 student-to-faculty ratio. We've been able to change that ratio so that it is 9.6:1, which means we have the opportunity to offer many more specialty courses. We need small teaching areas in which students can do direct and cross-examinations of witnesses and take depositions. And that's something the new building will have.”

Jim Concannon, Professor and Former Dean



“Millennials are looking for so many more technological advances in a school setting, and investing in a new building that will fulfill capacity needs for the next 50 years is more cost-effective than renovating the current structure. The tools need to be integrated into the building itself. Video conferencing, webinars, whiteboards — these technologies make for a richer, more inspiring student experience.”

Sunee Mickle, '06, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas



“The new design has more study nooks where the students can hang out, read, prepare, talk. I think what you'll see with the new building, and with that additional space, is that students will spend more time at the law school. That will give them more of an opportunity to interact with their law professors and the other students. And that's what builds the community.”

David Pierce, '77, Professor

Ideal Place

The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law



version of The Pit, the space comes complete with café, lounge, and access to the Washburn Law Library and Law Clinic. This student hub will be a stage for impromptu debates that are crucial to practical preparation.

The facility will also act as a much-needed home base for the area legal community. Two courtrooms and a generous lobby will provide sufficient space to host even the most celebrated Washburn Law alumni and attorneys.

This will be a place where people and ideas come together. That's great news for student and faculty success, the kinship on campus, and the Topeka community.

Innovation

Technology will empower dynamic, interactive learning.

For 46 years, our building has served us well. It's where we unveiled our groundbreaking WashLaw database, and our first-in-the-region Law Clinic. But to keep turning out practice-ready lawyers, we need to innovate once more.

The new building will be rife with connectivity. When students sit down to study, individual power stations for their devices will be close at hand. In classrooms, computers will seamlessly talk to electronic whiteboards, so students can engage with content, professors, and one another. Where there were once large lecture halls with chairs anchored forward, smart classrooms will adapt for small-group work and class-wide collaboration.

It's modern legal teaching *and* learning come to life.

Reputation

Our name will grow even stronger, with rising rankings and status.

Washburn Law jumped 25 positions in the 2015 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, for the second highest increase in the country. *The Princeton Review* has chosen us as one of its Best Law Schools nationally for four years running.

Still, the reason we've stayed ahead is because the Washburn Law nation is always pushing for *better*. So how do we make our ties to the law school count even more?

New, thoughtful buildings increase status, plain and simple. Applications swell, talent pools deepen, visibility grows, and rankings climb. Those gains aren't a hollow victory. They happen naturally, because modern spaces make everything else possible — practical training, recruitment, collaboration, and innovation.

Join the build

This is our charge: Build a home that's worthy of Washburn Law. A place for its 7,000-plus amazing alumni, and all of those to follow.

Aside from our people, our building is the number one message we put out in the world. A project of this scope is a loud-and-clear commitment from Washburn Law and its legions: "We've earned it. We're worth it. There are brilliant things to come."

Support the new building

GiveToWashburn.org/campaign/lawschool

BUILDING <i>By the Numbers</i>	
<u>THE EXISTING</u>	<u>THE NEW</u>
1969 building that's falling behind our competitors	\$40 million facility with modern functionality needed to compete
10 classrooms	15 or more classrooms
Classroom for 25-90 students ; rooms inflexible for contemporary teaching	Classroom for ~25-150 students ; rooms adaptable for smaller, interactive courses
2 group study rooms	10 or more group study rooms
1 courtroom – appellate only	2 courtrooms – appellate and trial
No space for the 6 Centers for Excellence	Ample space for the 6 Centers for Excellence



"Having a building where students feel comfortable — where they can grow and learn — is a good thing. When students come visit us, we want them to see there's a new building that's exciting, polished, and

clean. We need to grow with the times because it can be a really good recruiting tool for us to show that our facilities are state of the art."

Preston Nicholson, Director of Admissions



"The new building is something that translates into employment opportunities, greater name recognition, an improvement in rankings. That's been proven. And all these are things that I

think our students really richly deserve. There are things that we can achieve with the new building that we can't do at the moment. Ranking is one of them — which, incidentally, helps our graduates."

Freddy Sourgens, Associate Professor

Why not renovate?

Since the facility's 1969 unveiling, our courses — and faculty and staff — have more than tripled. The building underwent renovations in 1977, 1992, and 2004, plus countless makeshift changes since. But it's no longer big enough, or modern enough, for all that we have become.

Before forming this plan, we conducted an exhaustive three-year review. The conclusion: **An overhaul would actually be more expensive than the new building.** With the build plan, the former facility can find new life as an extension of Washburn University proper.