

Bianchino Technology Center Dedication



Bernie Bianchino '74 came home to the Washburn University School of Law in

October. The occasion was the dedication of the new Robinson Courtroom & Bianchino Technology Center. A generous gift from Mr. Bianchino and his wife Marilyn, Overland Park, KS, made the state-of-the-art technology center possible.

Mr. Bianchino is well aware of the wonders of technology and how necessary it is for tomorrow's lawyers to understand and use it. "Much of my career was focused in the area of communications," Mr. Bianchino said. "My years at Washburn prepared me well, and I want to be sure that today's students are equally ready to practice law in the 21st century. Marilyn and I are happy to see how this new technology center has taken shape."

Mr. Bianchino was senior attorney for the U.S. Department of Energy until 1978, then was counsel for Exxon Corporation for the next eight years. He joined U.S. Sprint as Vice President - Law in 1986. After eight years in that position, he spent one year as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Qwest Communications in Denver before joining Sprint PCS in 1995 as Chief Business Development Officer. From 1995 until June 2000, he was Chief Business Development Officer for Sprint PCS in Kansas City, Missouri. Prior to retirement, Mr. Bianchino was also Chief Executive Officer of Pegaso PCS in Mexico City.

Washburn Law students are getting great benefit from the Bianchino Technology Center. Its components include

- Flat-screen display monitors at the judge's bench, counsel tables, and witness stand to assist with the viewing of evidence;
- An attorney's podium containing a control panel touchscreen, flat-screen display, and document camera to assist with the presentation of evidence;
- A SmartBoard to assist with jury viewing of evidence;
- Video cameras in the courtroom and attached robing/jury deliberation room to provide recording and viewing of proceedings.

The Center also incorporates technology for video conferencing and remote broadcasts, digital court reporting, and electronic legal research.

Students in Trial Advocacy classes are learning how to present evidence persuasively with modern computer technology and graphics. Videotaping equipment records students' performances of mock trial exercises for critiquing by Trial Advocacy instructors.



Dean Dennis R. Honabach with Bernie Bianchino '74

Hands-on instruction with the various technological systems is increasing students' comfort with the use of these tools.

"Bernie and Marilyn Bianchino are giving our students a 'head start' as they prepare for their law careers," said Dean Dennis Honabach. "No other law school in the country can match the hands-on experience our students are receiving in the use of equipment like that available in the most sophisticated courtrooms."

Mr. Bianchino has been equally generous in giving of his time and expertise to Washburn Law. He has been a member of the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors since 1990, and he is president during 2002-2003.

As part of the installation of technology, the courtroom was modified to be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. New carpeting, drapes, and darkening shades were installed. Generous donations from more than 80 individuals and groups provided for the re-upholstering of seating in the gallery and jury box.

Ahrens Genomic Tort Symposium

Science and the law are forever intersecting. The mapping of the genome will create unique legal problems. Fifty-two attended the Ahrens Advanced Tort Symposium at Washburn University School of Law in September and considered some of these problems. The educational program was made possible by the Ahrens Chair in Tort Law created in 1986 by the Wichita law firm of Michaud, Cordry, Michaud, Hutton and Hutton. Gerald Michaud is a 1951 graduate of Washburn Law and one of the nation's leading attorneys in Tort Law. Faculty for the Ahrens Symposium comprised 11 leading practitioners and scholars with expertise in genomic torts from the United States and abroad. They were:

- David W. Brooks '85, partner, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Kansas City, Missouri
- Professor Roger Brownsword, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
- Professor Heidi Li Feldman, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC
- Stephen F. Fink, partner, Thompson & Knight, Dallas, Texas
- Dean Dennis R. Honabach, Washburn University School of Law
- Victoria M. Kumorowski, MDiv, Washburn Law '75, Associate Director Pastoral Services, Trumbull Memorial Hospital, Warren, Ohio
- Kurt A. Level, Senior Counsel, Employment Law Group, Koch Industries, Inc., Wichita, Kansas
- Gerald L. Michaud '51, of Counsel, Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Wichita, Kansas
- Dean David Partlett, Washington and Lee University School of Law, Lexington, Virginia
- Thomas Redick, partner, Gallop, Johnson & Newman, St. Louis, Missouri
- Professor William J. Rich, Washburn University School of Law

have legal obligation to tell the patient? And does the patient have a legal obligation to inform her sisters? Should companies be able to test employees for genetic "defects" and then use their findings to either deny employment or assign employees with "defective" genes to the least hazardous work areas?

Symposium presentations and responses will be published in Volume 42 of the Washburn Law Journal.