

Washburn Adjunct Professors

PROFILES

For many years, Washburn University School of Law has relied heavily on its adjunct faculty members to help round out law student's legal education. Full-time faculty provide excellent instruction on theory for law students, but it is the adjunct faculty that help instill practical, real world experience. Highlighted here are just a few of the adjuncts who have graced the halls of Washburn Law. There are many other numerous adjuncts who have given their time to Washburn Law, but due to space limitations, we could not mention them all.



The Honorable Bob Abbott '60

Attorney for the Department of Army in Stockton, CA; partner in the firm of Harper, Hornbaker & Abbott in Junction City, KS; Judge

with the Kansas Court of Appeals; ultimately, Justice with the Kansas Supreme Court and Adjunct Professor of Legal Ethics for thirteen years at Washburn Law. This describes the career of Justice Bob Abbott. From his teaching career, Abbott most enjoyed working with students and felt it was a great opportunity to tie the law to legal ethics. A perfect fit considering Abbott adamantly believes in "equal justice for all."

Abbott encourages students to "study, listen and be prepared. Have respect for the law and for the profession." While in law school Abbott participated in the *Washburn Law Journal* which he attributes to making him a much better writer. Something he has used extensively in his illustrious career. Abbott has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association in 1998, and the Adjunct Professor of the Year Award in 1983. He also served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1975 to 1987.

After twenty-seven years on the bench, Abbott retired and considers himself the current "head fisherman, jet ski director and boat captain at the Abbott lake house." He plans to travel to as many places as possible and fully enjoy his retirement. ■

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Pat Baker '79

Pat Baker enrolled at Washburn Law as a non-traditional student and a mother of four children. "Fellow non-traditional student mothers understood peanut butter on

your outlines," said Baker. She was part of a group who returned to school after being out of academia for some time. "It was the best support group in the world," said Baker. Being a non-traditional student and feeling a great deal of support from faculty and fellow students encouraged Baker to give back to Washburn by becoming an adjunct professor.

Baker was an adjunct during the 80's and 90's and will be back at Washburn Law in the fall of 2005. She taught Public Education Law and will be teaching the same course again. Baker is currently Deputy Executive Director/General Counsel of the Kansas Association of School Boards. She provides legal services to 300 local school boards and provides management services to the School Board Association. It is easy to understand that Baker believes in "Education, education, education for everyone. It is the one absolute essential to preserve democracy. Preserving individual rights in an increasingly repressive society," states Baker.

Baker loves what she is doing, and despite thinking law school would be boring, after a few years, she is still at it and finds it constantly changing and evolving. "I still love it and don't plan to change," she said. ■



Terri Lynn Savy Bezek '86

An uncle (Richard Martin '72) and a cousin (Leigh Hood '82) helped Terri Bezek decide to attend Washburn Law. Relationships with

fellow students and faculty members including Professors Bruce Levine, Linda Elrod and Jim Concannon became fond memories. Participating in the *Washburn Law Journal* by writing a Comment and then serving as Notes Editor helped hone her research and writing skills, which would serve her well in her chosen career path. All this encouraged and propelled Bezek to teach Conflict of Laws from 1997 to 2001.

"Teaching Conflict of Laws was one of the few opportunities to integrate many aspects of law school courses – different substantive areas, constitutional law and civil procedure — into one class and to give students the opportunity to view the law through a much broader spectrum than many other classes allow," said Bezek. She was awarded the Adjunct of the Year Award in 1999, 2001 and 2002.

As Director of Central Staff for the Kansas Court of Appeals, Bezek is responsible for training and supervising the Central Research Staff of fifteen attorneys and three secretaries. During law school Bezek clerked for judges at the Shawnee County District Court. After graduation she worked two years as law clerk for the Honorable Earl E. O'Connor, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of Kansas. In 1988 she joined McAnany, Van Cleave and Phillips in Kansas City and in 1995 joined the Kansas Court of Appeals.

A final word to students and current lawyers, "Work hard, respect yourselves and others, act honestly and always strive to make the legal system the best it can be." Bezek believes that law school needs to instill the attitude in all students of the importance to vigilantly develop and maintain their integrity and credibility. "Regardless of whether you graduated at the top of your class, you will not succeed and you will damage the system if you do not maintain your integrity and credibility as an attorney." ■



The Honorable Terry L. Bullock

The Honorable Terry L. Bullock may be one of the longest running adjunct faculty members at Washburn Law. For thirty-two

years, Bullock has taught Ethics and Professional Responsibility at Washburn Law. "Chief Judge J. Richard Foth taught Ethics and asked me to help. I agreed to do so for one semester in 1974 . . . and here I am, thirty-two years later," says Bullock. The one thing Bullock enjoys the most and the one thing that is the most challenging for him as an adjunct are the students. However, passing along to students what he has learned in his forty-one years at the bar is something Judge Bullock believes is very important and worthwhile.

To students, Bullock gives this advice, "If your motive is to learn how to help people either stay out of, or negotiate through, the troubles of this life, then we have much to offer." And he believes the most important thing to gain from a legal education is the ability to analyze and solve problems. It is also important to have a strong character, to be well disciplined and to be well motivated.

Bullock is currently a trial judge for the State of Kansas, sitting in Topeka. He became a District Judge in 1976 and was Chief Judge of the Third District from 1995 to 2000. Recently at the Kansas Bar Association Annual Meeting in June 2005, Bullock received the Courageous Attorney Award for displaying exceptional courage in the face of adversity, after his decision on state public school funding thrust him into the public eye.

Although not a Washburn Law alum, Bullock has devoted many years to Washburn Law and its students. He received the Adjunct of the Year Award in 1991, 1994, 1998 and 2005. Bullock's mentors included the late Judge A.K. Staveley, the late Philip Buzick, the late Judge E. Newton Vickers '50 and the late Chief Judge J. Richard Foth. "They taught me the craft and the values of a noble profession which I cherish," said Bullock. Traits he continues to pass on to current law school students. ■



Stephen W. Cavanaugh '80

Stephen Cavanaugh graduated from Washburn University in 1971 with a B.A. and went to work in Kansas City and then in Denver for several food companies. In 1976 he decided to come back to Topeka and attend law school. "Washburn Law has a presence in Topeka with the District Court, U.S. District Court, Kansas Court of Appeals and the Kansas Supreme Court," said Cavanaugh, which is why he returned to Washburn for law school. After serving as a law clerk during law school with the firm of Fisher, Ralston, Ochs & Heck P.A., he was hired as an Associate Attorney after graduation. That firm is now known as Cavanaugh, Smith and Lemon P.A. where Cavanaugh is President, majority shareholder and managing shareholder.

In 1989 Cavanaugh had the opportunity to begin teaching as an adjunct in Trial Techniques. The reason he wanted to teach? "I am of the strong belief that we all must give back to our community, and Washburn is part of that community. I believe that I owe the law school something for the opportunities it created for me." Cavanaugh helped expand and develop that course into Pretrial Advocacy and Trial Advocacy. He taught for ten years from 1987 to 1997 and again in 2001. "I particularly enjoyed it when I could teach Pretrial Advocacy in the fall and keep the same students the spring semester for Trial Advocacy," said Cavanaugh. He went on to say, "I was always impressed by the professionalism and effort that the students put into the class and the trials that were held at the conclusion of the semester."

Cavanaugh has enjoyed the relationships he has made over the years with students in his class and believes an adjunct can draw on their many experiences as a practicing lawyer, bringing unique insights to the subject matter being taught.

"People skills coupled with high ethical standards and personal integrity have been extremely important to me in my career. I would encourage students and young lawyers to work hard and fiercely protect their personal integrity and ethical reputation. No client or cause will ever be important enough to place one's reputation or license at risk. Remember, just because you have the right to do something, does not necessarily mean that doing it will be in the best interest of their clients. You must always temper your legal approach with common sense," states Cavanaugh. ■



S. Lucky DeFries '78

An entire career working in the area of state and local taxation gave Lucky DeFries the specialized niche to teach the State and Local Tax course at Washburn Law. Since 1980, DeFries has taught this course as lecturer and adjunct, and enjoyed every minute of it. Recently he team-taught with Mark Burghart. Because schools cannot have enough full-time faculty to teach every course needed, DeFries feels the "opportunity to offer something to the school and students interested in pursuing a career in tax law, is a rewarding experience and well worth the extra time in addition to your full-time job."

DeFries started his career with the Kansas Department of Revenue as a staff attorney. He practiced with Ralston & Frieden for two years then joined Coffman, DeFries, & Nothern (formerly Schroeder, Heeney, Griff & Coffman) in 1985. While in law school, DeFries interned for Jim Slattery '75. He not only learned a great deal during the internship, but he credits Slattery with helping him secure a job at the Department of Revenue which DeFries feels shaped his entire career in state and local tax.

DeFries served on the Topeka Legal Aid Society Board and has given many hours of pro bono service to those in need. He believes everyone should be afforded the opportunity for equal access to the law and gives those clients the same attention and time that he would give a Fortune 100 corporation. He also has been involved with the Topeka Bar Association's Ethics and Grievance Committee for fifteen years and serves as its Chair. DeFries enjoys the opportunity to help attorneys who may need assistance to avoid finding themselves in a situation where they might violate ethical obligations.

DeFries believes being an attorney is a noble profession and encourages students who are interested in the law to pursue it as a career. "The best way for us to assure that the legal profession will remain an honorable one is for committed individuals who are dedicated to upholding the integrity of the profession to pursue a legal career," states DeFries. He believes it is very important for students to leave law school with not only a thorough knowledge of the law but also a very clear understanding of how important it is that they demonstrate integrity and honesty. "If at the end of one's legal career your honesty and integrity are intact, you will have done well and been a credit to your profession," said DeFries.

In law school Professor John Kuether gave DeFries guidance when he was not devoting the time necessary and attention to his studies. For that he has always been grateful. DeFries said, "Washburn afforded me the platform for which I was able to launch a very enjoyable, satisfying and successful legal career. Trying to make sure other students have those same opportunities is something all of us should try and help facilitate." ■

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Larry Dimmit '68

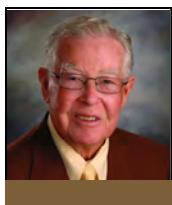
Larry Dimmitt spent twenty-six years working in the telecommunications industry, predominantly with Southwestern Bell. Being asked to teach

Telecommunications Law at Washburn Law was a perfect fit. "The Dean asked me to teach and I thought it would be a rewarding experience and I was right. I enjoyed the challenge of trying to keep up with ever-changing developments in the telecommunication field," said Dimmitt. One of Dimmitt's biggest challenges while teaching was in 1996. Class started in January and then in February, Congress passed the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. That Act greatly changed telecommunications especially regarding competition. "I had to scramble to learn about the new law so I could share it with my students," recalls Dimmitt. He has taught Telecommunications Law for ten years at Washburn.

Attending classes in trailers was common for Dimmitt who graduated one year before the new law building was completed. While in law school he served as Associate Editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*. After graduation Dimmitt began his career with Southwestern Bell in Topeka. He was transferred to St. Louis then joined the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and moved to New York. In 1979, he returned to Southwestern Bell in St. Louis and eventually returned to Topeka. He retired in 1994. "I think it is extremely important in today's corporate environment for attorneys to lead the way in promoting high business ethics," states Dimmitt.

Dimmitt believes sharing personal law experiences with students is important. "I believe law students need to be encouraged to learn how to resolve controversies, not just engage in them. Sometimes I think attorneys could stress this aspect of the practice more," said Dimmitt. His final words of encouragement, "For students, study hard in law school because it will pay off in the future. For practicing attorneys, analyze legal issues in the broadest way possible so you can figure out the best way to represent your clients."

Dimmitt recently stepped down from being an adjunct in order to focus on community service activities, of which he is involved in many, and to enjoy more time with family and friends. ■



Charles S. Fisher Jr. '51

A respect for adjunct faculty is what compelled Charles Fisher to join the adjunct faculty at Washburn Law. "I had such

respect for adjunct faculty and was honored to be asked to join them," said Fisher. For approximately thirteen years, Fisher taught Evidence and Trial Practice. "Keeping students challenged and interested were the most challenging aspects of teaching," claimed Fisher. He believes it was very important to keep the respect of students and a challenge to keep ahead of them. Being able to add valuable practical experience to the classroom is something he thoroughly enjoyed.

Fisher is retired from the firm of Fisher, Cavanaugh, Smith & Lemon P.A. in Topeka where he practiced until 2003. He also served as Topeka City Attorney from 1957 to 1958. Fisher believes that "total preparation and integrity" are the keys to being a good lawyer. He often told students "A degree does not of itself make a qualified lawyer. A passion for the profession and for integrity is essential." During law school, Fisher participated in debate and moot court which he feels largely contributed to his career as a litigator.

During law school Fisher received a scholarship which helped him when his GI bill ran out. He believes it is important to give back to Washburn Law because "some great kids need the help, in addition to the fact that Washburn has a legacy of excellence and it continues to grow."

Fisher, now retired, enjoys spending his time with family, hunting and fishing. ■

"Keeping students challenged and interested were the most challenging aspects of teaching."

– Charles S. Fisher Jr.

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Beth Foerster '84

Professor Michael Barbara asked George McCullough of McCullough, Wareheim & LaBunker PA to be a guest speaker to his Employment Relations class.

Because McCullough had just retired, Beth Foerster was asked to speak in his place. After speaking to his class, Barbara said she should consider being an adjunct professor. Jeff Cooper '85 was teaching Workers Compensation and asked Foerster if she would like to share the load of teaching the course since both had busy law practices. They have co-taught ever since; however, Foerster has taught the summer course by herself since 2000.

Foerster is a partner/shareholder in the McCullough, Wareheim & LaBunker law firm, where currently all the partners in the firm are Washburn Law grads. Foerster said, "An important part of being an adjunct is not only to provide students with an advocate's viewpoint, but also to provide the historical context of Workers Compensation Law." She tries to keep students ahead of the public policy trends in Workers Compensation Law and illustrating concepts in class. Foerster believes it is important that Workers Compensation law be taught by an adjunct because workers compensation concepts can evolve through public policy. "Knowledge of the law by itself is not enough. The tools of the advocacy and technological resources and input from practitioners are vital to the understanding and practice of law. Washburn provides the tools in addition to the law," states Foerster.

Foerster works mainly in the area of Workers Compensation and is licensed to practice in Kansas, the U.S. District Court of Kansas, the Tenth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. Foerster believes Workers Compensation is a reality of modern industrial life that affects every one of us as an employer, employee or family member of someone who has been hurt. "I enjoy helping people get the treatment they need when they get hurt and a resolution of the claim as allowed by law," said Foerster. She has also been blessed with the ability to converse in Spanish. "As the Hispanic population in the state has increased, there has been a need for assistance for on-the-job injuries for Spanish speaking workers, and I am pleased to be able to provide that assistance."

Foerster and her husband Kent Foerster '89, are proud parents of daughters Kelly and Anna. ■



Michael Francis '75

Michael Francis was drawn to Washburn Law as a student by the good reputation of the law clinic. Later in his last semester of law school he was named outstanding

legal intern. So it comes as no surprise that Francis returned to Washburn Law to teach Trial Advocacy and Advanced Trial Advocacy. In the early years it was called "practice court." His adjuncting career began when he filled in for Mark Bennett who had a conflict one night in his class. The following year, Francis was asked to teach, and he has remained an adjunct on and off for over twenty-five years.

Francis enjoys teaching and watching students grow toward their chosen careers. He also enjoys reading published articles by his previous students. "These courses give me the opportunity to stay in touch with current trial trends and techniques and, what has surprised me, is that there is a tremendous amount that we can learn from students as well," said Francis. He feels that the most important thing to instill in students is that one day they will appear in court and not only must lawyers abide by legal ethics but they must also observe rules of civility toward the court, counsel, parties and witnesses.

After graduation Francis served as Assistant County Attorney in Geary County. Six months later the County Attorney resigned and he was appointed as his replacement. Four years later Francis returned to Topeka and practiced with the firm of Davis and Bennett then later joined Sloan, Listrom, Eisenbarth, Sloan and Glassman where he became partner. In 2002 he left the firm to begin his current solo practice in Topeka where he shares offices with Randy Baird '73.

Francis remarked, "I am amazed to see the great quality of students who pass through the doors of the school and hopefully I can help them in some way. Teaching is a way I can give back to the community that helped me in my professional career. Washburn gave me a wonderful base upon which to build, I have had the benefit and why not share it with others," claims Francis. ■



Gerald Goodell '58

You could say Gerald Goodell followed in his fathers footsteps. His father, Lester Goodell, graduated from Washburn Law in 1925 and also served as an adjunct professor

in Evidence several years before his death.

Gerald Goodell began teaching in 1963 and served as an adjunct professor in Mortgages for three to four years and has served the rest of the time teaching Trial Practice. Goodell likes teaching Trial Practice, "You can see an immediate impact on your students," he said of the class. He has spent twenty-five years assisting students and "giving them practical skills that they do not receive from regular faculty," said Goodell. He believes it is important to teach as an adjunct to assure the law school graduates lawyers who will continue to provide quality service to their clients.

Goodell is currently Of Counsel with the law firm of Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer LLP. He began in 1958 as an Associate, became partner in 1963 and Of Counsel in 2003. He hopes to continue in this capacity as long as his health will let him. During Goodell's many years in practice he believes you must establish a relationship with lawyers and judges where you practice. "Show that your word is the most important part of your character and that your reputation and honesty are the most important things you can have as an attorney," said Goodell.

Goodell believes in the public defender system and legal aide. He chaired a committee of the Kansas Bar Association over thirty years ago to establish a statewide Public Defender System. They were successful in getting the law changed to allow the system which is now in operation in most of the areas of Kansas.

Goodell has served as Past President of the Washburn Law School Association and the Washburn Law School Foundation, he is a recipient of the Washburn Law School Association Distinguished Service Award in 1982 and received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Washburn Law in 2002. ■



The Honorable Jan W. Leuenberger '61

"One of the most interesting things I have learned is that you can never stop learning," said Judge Leuenberger. That belief is one

reason he decided to teach at Washburn Law. Leuenberger felt honored when Professor Robinson asked him to teach Negotiation and Settlement and agreed to teach. At that time the most challenging thing was the lack of textbooks and teaching materials. "Negotiation and Settlement was just evolving as a new discipline," said Leuenberger. Being prepared was very important to Judge Leuenberger. "Students want some insight about the practical side of what you are teaching. They want not only the theory but how it is used in real life," he said. He also taught Business Law to Washburn undergraduate students. Between the two classes, Leuenberger taught for a total of twenty-nine years.

Leuenberger was in private practice either with partners or in solo practice for thirty-four years. In 1995, he was appointed as Shawnee County District Court Judge by Governor Graves. "Knowing I had as good of a legal education as I could have obtained anywhere in the country, it allowed me to pursue a practice and judgeship with confidence," said Leuenberger. He feels it is important to give back to the school which has given him the opportunity to advance in his chosen career. "By giving back you continue to learn and you continue to grow as an individual," said Leuenberger

Leuenberger has had several mentors over the years. "The professors who made you work and think because I learned the discipline to practice law. Others are former partners Ralph Glenn '26 and Bud Cornish '48 for how to apply the discipline and Judge George Templar '27 who showed extraordinary judicial temperament," said Leuenberger. ■



Brian J. Molline '66

Brian Moline received the Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award in 2003. For over twenty years, Moline taught Juvenile Law, Trial Techniques, Legal History and

Insurance Law. His favorite is Legal History. "I believe it is important that law students have an appreciation of the rich and exciting heritage of their chosen field and an appreciation of the important public role of lawyers," said Moline. Moline likes the opportunity to add a real world dimension to the study of law, which he can do as an adjunct professor. "I gain as much or more from my teaching as my students. I gain knowledge and fresh insight every session. Teaching forces the instructor to stay ahead of your students in subject matter and stay abreast of developments and trends. It is the ultimate CLE," he said.

Moline has spent most of his career between state government service and Kansas Legal Services, a public-interest law firm he co-founded in 1978. Moline currently serves as Chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). He was appointed to the KCC by Governor Bill Graves on December 16, 1998 and was reappointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in March 2002 and elected Chair by the three-member Commission on May 5, 2003. He served as general counsel to the KCC from 1979 to 1985 and also from 1991 to 1995.

Moline has served as Executive Director of Kansas Legal Services for both Topeka and Wichita. He believes strongly in civil liberties, equal access to justice and protection of the minority point of view. It is no surprise he believes the most important thing students take away from their legal education is, "Commitment to equal access to justice and the obligation of lawyers to defend unpopular persons and causes." ■



Marty Snyder

Marty Snyder has taught Pretrial Advocacy every year since 1989 at Washburn Law. She has also taught in the Legal Assistants program at Washburn University since

the summer of 1989. A course she would love to teach but has not yet is Professional Responsibility. "It is something that I love and believe in, and have a large collection of interesting 'war stories,'" states Synder. Very true since she worked ten years as the Deputy Disciplinary Administrator for the Kansas Supreme Court.

Snyder currently is Assistant Attorney General in the Litigation Division where she has served for the past three years. She served in that same capacity from 1990 to 1993. Snyder was in private practice from 1982 to 1990.

Snyder received the Adjunct Professor of the Year Award from Washburn Law in 1992. She said, "A love of learning never ends and I hope to continue to mix practicing and teaching law." Snyder believes adjuncts are important because they have something valuable to offer and the ability to communicate it in an effective way that encourages professional development. "The students are extremely bright and keep me on my toes. I enjoy the challenge as well as watching their self-confidence and competence grow," is what she enjoys most. The most important thing she wants students to take away is, "Have a lifetime love of learning and a desire to use your education and license to make a positive difference."

Though Snyder is not a Washburn Law alum, she has devoted many years to the legal education of Washburn Law students. One of her mentors, Robert Stephen, told her, "Having a position as a public servant combines a great deal of power and discretionary authority. It is important to use them with judgment and respect." Snyder certainly has lived up to those words. ■

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“Have a lifetime love of learning and a desire to use your education and license to make a positive difference.”

— Marty Snyder



Jeffrey L. Ungerer ‘82

Jeff Ungerer received his accounting degree from Washburn University and was Assistant Professor of Taxation at Washburn University in the business school

while he attended Washburn Law. After graduating from law school, Ungerer became an adjunct professor at the law school, teaching Estate and Gift Tax. “The challenge to teaching is always how to keep learning fun and how to help students learn and retain more information,” said Ungerer. Keeping up on current law and teaching techniques is critical to him.

Ungerer is General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer at MRV, Inc, a real estate development group. He oversees the legal and financial operations of MRV and negotiates terms for purchase/sale/lease and oversees development activity. Prior to joining MRV, Ungerer was a partner in the Newbery & Ungerer firm for over seven years. He was in solo practice three years prior to Newbery & Ungerer and was partner in the law firm of Davis Unrein from 1987 to 1990.

Ungerer appreciates the ability to integrate tax into business and business into law. Ungerer believes several things, “Being right is not always the same as winning/succeeding. Advocacy in trials is completely different than advocacy in business transactions. The art is using law as a tool not a weapon. A law degree and license to practice are privileges to make a difference while earning a living; always keep learning. And patience and perseverance are both crucial qualities. Never give up on using the law to help people” said Ungerer. ■

“Being right is not always the same as winning/succeeding.”

— Jeffery L. Ungerer

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Karen C. Wittman '91

For six years, Karen Wittman was a forensic chemist with the Pinellas County, FL, forensic laboratory. She did lab work and taught police officers how to package and handle forensic evidence

and to investigate clandestine laboratories. She was an expert witness in more than forty trials. Wittman then decided to attend law school, knowing that having a law degree with a forensic chemistry degree she could accomplish more. Wittman has served as Assistant District Attorney, Assistant Attorney General for the Kansas Racing Commission in charge of litigation, Kansas Insurance Department Fraud Unit, Assistant Attorney General Fraud Unit of Workers Compensation and currently as Senior Assistant District Attorney. Wittman is in charge of all traffic offenses occurring in the Third Judicial District of Kansas.

Wittman noticed Washburn Law's curriculum was lacking in courses dealing with scientific issues in the courtroom. In the mid 90's, more cases were making the news and scientific evidence was becoming more and more in the spotlight. After doing some research, she proposed a course entitled Forensic Science and the Law for students who had already taken Evidence. The course focused on criminal issues, specifically scientific topics that a new lawyer might be faced with upon graduation. She taught for a number of years. Wittman also speaks at various seminar classes at the law school since she has stopped teaching the course. She also is an adjunct faculty member of Florida International University in Miami, FL, where she teaches From Crime Scene to Courtroom, for forensic chemistry majors.

One of Wittman's mentors was Bill Ossmann '77, her first supervising attorney at the District Attorney's office. Ossmann helped focus her ability to use common sense in dealing with people and handling cases in a fair and just manner. "He gave me many opportunities to expand my legal career. I think he has always believed I could do things that I didn't otherwise believe I could do. I am very grateful to him," said Wittman. "I see myself as a career prosecutor. I am in hopes that I will be able to continue to expand my ability to teach the legal aspects of forensic science." Wittman said it is rewarding to see her students succeed in their careers from skills they learned in law school. Wittman said, "I want my students

to walk away from the course having an understanding of their job and their duty to the court, not a theoretical perspective, but a hands-on prospective. I really enjoy what I do. I hope my enthusiasm for being a litigator in my duty as a prosecutor inspires others to pursue those types of careers." ■



Tom Wright '64

When Tom Wright was in law school, lawyers hung out at the courthouse watching trials, learning real life skills. Wright believes being an adjunct is a more efficient method to teaching. "Students learn the basic principles of advocacy in the academic sense. A good adjunct places this learning in the context of everyday practice," said Wright. As a Trial Advocacy adjunct, he teaches in the National Institute for Trial Advocacy method of teaching which he believes is a step forward in Trial Advocacy teaching. Wright said, "It forces you to look at how trial practice is done by others and makes you think about your own firmly entrenched habits."

Wright is a partner in the law firm of Wright, Henson, Clark, Hutton, Mudrick, & Gragson in Topeka, Kansas. He chose to attend Washburn because Topeka was the state capital. Wright stayed in Topeka after graduating from law school because he felt it was important to live and practice in a city with an active University. He believes Washburn is an asset to Kansas and it is important for alumni to give back to the school not only financially but also by getting the word out about Washburn Law. "Washburn has a feeling of collegiality among the faculty that extends to its students and a history of taking care of its own," said Wright.

Wright firmly believes students need to recognize and understand that they must continue to learn even beyond law school. "There are many times in and out of court when it is best to keep your mouth closed. It is much easier to learn when you lose. When a lawyer wins, he or she attributes it to great natural intelligence and skill. When he or she loses, there is more likely meaningful introspection. If you practice in the courtroom you will get a lot of chances for introspection over time," states Wright. Along the same line, he feels that "we have all become too committed to one point of view politically. Feel passionately that compromise is not necessarily failure."

Wright encourages students by pointing out, "There are still rewards in private practice. There is a bit of freedom of expression available to those independent souls who provide fee for service law." ■