Dean John E. Howe,
Lincoln, Neb., former dean of Washburn University School of Law, died Feb. 4, 2007, at the age of 88. Howe joined Washburn Law in 1959, at the age of 40, to serve as dean.

Howe received his LL.B in 1943 from the University of Kentucky School of Law. Immediately after graduation he completed an LL.M. from the University of Michigan and began private practice in a small law office in Kentucky. After two and a half years, Howe moved to Creighton in 1946 to teach property and commercial law courses.

After six years at Creighton, Howe accepted a position at St. Louis University where he taught property law and eventually, Howe became Associate Dean. After seven years at St. Louis University, he joined Washburn Law in 1959 as dean. Howe served as dean until 1970, the third longest serving dean in Washburn Law’s history. Not only did Howe serve the law school in an administrative capacity, which was ultimately tested during the 1966 tornado that destroyed the law school, but he served as educator, fundraiser, and overall Washburn Law enthusiast.

Upon becoming dean, Howe immediately focused his attention on legal writing. Before the end of his first year the Law Review Board produced an intramural journal, which became the Washburn Law Journal.

Howe’s tenure as dean included the turbulent years at Washburn Law after the tornado of 1966 hit the Washburn campus. Carnegie, the building which housed the law school was destroyed. Howe helped move thousands of law books to storage to preserve them. He also relocated the administrative office of the law school to his basement and ran the law school from his home. After the tornado hit campus, University President John Henderson charged Howe with raising money to build a new building. In an instant, Howe’s priority for the next several years became fundraising for a new law school. Taking the lead and working with law school alumni, Howe raised $1.2 million, and in 1969 the new building opened its doors for the fall semester.

Howe continued to serve as dean of Washburn Law until 1970 when he stepped down but remained on the faculty as Professor until 1978. From 1978 to 1981 he taught part-time, teaching Water Law. Howe was an emeriti faculty member of Washburn and was designated a distinguished professor of law prior to his retirement. In 1970, Howe received the Honorary Life Member Award from the Washburn Law School Association and served as executive secretary of the Washburn Law School Association from 1970 to 1978. Howe and his wife, Marggy, established the John and Marggy Howe Endowed Fund, an unrestricted fund to benefit the School of Law. Memorials may be directed to the John and Marggy Howe Endowed Fund.

1930’s

his family to Sublette, Kan., in order to help his father farm, and was elected the Haskell County Attorney. In 1955, he returned to Tacoma where he was a partner in the law firm of Eisenhower Carlson until his retirement in 1985.

Cecil M. Miller ’39, Largo, Fla., died March 1, 2007, at the age of 95. Miller was a graduate of Kansas State University and Washburn Law. He practiced in Kansas from 1939 to 1941 and worked 31 years as a special agent with the FBI, serving as an agent and/or supervisory agent in bureaus throughout the east coast.

1940’s

The Honorable Harold S. Herd ’42, Coldwater, Kan., died April 23, 2007, at the age of 88. Justice Herd attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan., for two years, then transferred to Washburn University to study law. He received his B.A. in 1940 and J.D. in 1942 from Washburn Law.

Justice Herd then joined the war effort, serving in the Pacific Theater as a naval officer on the USS Rio Grande and USS Cache. He left the Navy as a Lieutenant in 1946 and returned to his hometown to practice law. He maintained his private law practice in Coldwater until 1979. During the 1950s, he served as mayor of Coldwater, Comanche County Attorney, and then Coldwater City Attorney. In 1964, he ran for and won election to the Kansas State Senate as a Democrat and was Senate Minority Leader from 1969 to 1973. In 1979, Herd was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court and served on the Court until 1993. Upon retiring from the Kansas Supreme Court, Justice Herd became a Distinguished Jurist in Residence at Washburn Law, teaching constitutional history until 2002, when he retired to his home in Coldwater.

Justice Herd served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors; the Kansas Committee for the Humanities; Executive Council of the Kansas Bar, and President of the SW Kansas Bar Association. His honors include: Who’s Who in America; Who’s Who in American Law; and Who’s Who in American Bench and Bar. Herd was a Fellow in the American and Kansas Bar Foundations. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas Bar Association in 1991, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association in 1995. Herd received special recognition from Kansas high school teachers for his constant efforts in helping students understand the U. S. Constitution. Memorials may be directed to The Honorable Harold S. Herd Scholarship Fund.

Lyman G. Friedman ’43, Charleston, W.Va., died Dec. 1, 2006, at the age of 88. After being a sole practitioner in Kansas City, Friedman became a special attorney in the office of chief counsel for the Internal Revenue Service in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1950. In 1958, he went to Washington D.C. to join Wenchel, Schulman & Manning and became a partner in 1962. Friedman joined Williams & Connolly in 1978, where he handled tax matters for high-profile sports and entertainment figures and worked at the firm until he was in his 80s.
Roy L. Bulkley ’49, Topeka, Kan., died April 4, 2007, at the age of 85. Bulkley received his A.B. from Baker University in 1943. After serving in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, he entered Washburn Law, and received his LL.B in 1949. He was admitted to the Kansas Bar and began private practice of law. In 1950, Bulkley was elected judge of the Court of Topeka, the youngest to serve in the office at that time, and served two terms. In November 1954, he was elected Shawnee County Attorney and served one term. Bulkley was regional council for the Small Business Administration until his retirement. He received recognition for 50 years of practice from the Kansas Bar Association.

1950’s

Lewis E. Nugen ’50, Wellington, Kan., died May 28, 2007, at the age of 87. Nugen began private practice in Wellington after graduation. He served as a probate judge, and as Sumner County Attorney, then returned to private practice. He continued practicing law until the age of 82.

James E. Benfer Jr. ’53, died April 21, 2007, at the age of 78. Benfer received his B.A. in Political Science in 1950 from Washburn University and graduated from Washburn Law in 1953. He was admitted to practice in the State of Kansas and before the United States Supreme Court. He was a member of the Topeka and Kansas Bar Associations.

David R. Gilman ’57, Mission, Kan., died March 6, 2007, at the age of 76. Gilman served two tours in the U.S. Navy, including service aboard the USS Boxer. He graduated from Washburn Law in 1957. Gilman began his practice in 1958 in Overland Park, Kan., where he practiced for 48 years. Gilman was a member of the Johnson County and Kansas Bar Associations, the Kansas Trial Lawyer’s Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

1960’s

James W. Hervey ’60, Durant, Okla., died January 11, 2007, at the age of 72. Originally from Wichita, Kan., his decision to pursue a law degree was based solely on his desire to become an FBI Agent. As a special agent of the FBI, he was stationed in Washington, D.C., New Orleans, La., Jackson, Miss., Baltimore, Md., and Dover, Del. He later worked for Bell Labs in Whippany, N.J. before accepting a position as general security manager for Southwestern Bell in Oklahoma. He retired in 1991.

Harold Henderson ’61, Eureka, Kan., died Jan. 16, 2007, at the age of 74. In 1953 Henderson joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany until his discharge in 1955. He graduated from Washburn Law in 1961. He
spent two years as a judge in Salina. In 1974, he moved to Eureka to work for Hibbard Abstract, which he then purchased, creating The Title Co. and The Closing Co., which he operated until his death.

1970’s

Mary A. Schneider ’70, San Diego, Calif., died Jan. 25, 2007, at the age of 63. Schneider earned a B.B.A. from Washburn University, graduating summa cum laude, and a M.S. from Kansas State University. She graduated from Washburn Law in 1970 at the top of her class, and was the first woman to serve as editor of the Washburn Law Journal. Schneider taught briefly at Washburn Law and practiced law in Great Bend, Kan., before joining the office of the U.S. Attorney in Kansas City, Mo. After living in Charlotte, N.C. from 1980-1982, she returned to Kansas City and became a law clerk for Judge D. Brook Bartlett. She rejoined the U.S. Attorneys office in Kansas City as an assistant U.S. district attorney in 1983, where she served as chief of the Criminal Division for several years. In 1988, Schneider moved to San Diego, Calif., where she was appointed an assistant U.S. district attorney for the Southern District of California and was serving in the Appellate Division of that office at the time of her retirement in 1999. She was a member of the Kansas, Missouri and California bars.

Gary C. Hagan ’74, Wichita, Kan., died March 27, 2007, at the age of 68. Hagan received his undergraduate degree from Washburn University and graduated from Washburn Law in 1974 after which he engaged in private practice. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1960 to 1963.

Lt. Col. Robert L. Kennedy Sr. ’77, Lenexa, Kan., died March 17, 2007, at the age of 82. In 1942, Kennedy enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Air Corps, graduating from Aerial Navigation School in March 1944, as a second lieutenant. In 1970, he retired from the USAF as a Lieutenant Colonel with 27.5 years of service. After retirement Kennedy obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Washburn University and was admitted to the Kansas Bar in 1977. In 1980, he moved to Kansas City, Kan., and helped form the Holbrook & Ellis law firm, now Holbrook & Osborn of Overland Park, Kan. Kennedy continued in the practice of law until 2006.