Each semester, Washburn Law is fortunate to have numerous speakers at the law school. Most speak over the lunch hour to groups of students and faculty. Speakers are invited to the law school by various student groups, faculty members and other law school departments. Washburn Law appreciates all speakers who take time out of their busy schedule to provide a variety of expertise and insight in their respective field of practice or business.

The Washburn Business Law Society hosted Kyle Steadman ’95, Foulston Siefkin, Jan. 25, 2007. Steadman discussed medical malpractice and litigation which included tips such as understanding the case better than your opponent, learning pattern instructions, practicing writing to tell a story, and not being afraid to fail.


As part of the Capital Punishment Seminar taught by Rebecca Woodman ’87, Ray Krone spoke on the death penalty, Jan. 29, 2007. Krone was sentenced to death and later exonerated. Krone spent more than a decade in prison, some of it on death row, before DNA testing cleared his name. He is the 100th former death row inmate freed because of innocence since the reinstatement of capital punishment in the United States in 1976. He was the twelfth death row inmate whose innocence has been proven through post conviction DNA testing. Prior to his arrest, Krone had no previous criminal record, had been honorably discharged from the military, and had worked in the postal service for seven years.

The Asian American Law Student Association hosted Ron Thornburgh, Kansas Secretary of State, Feb. 1, 2007, who discussed leadership.

The Black Law Student Association and the Professional Development Office hosted Deryl W. Winn ’86, a shareholder in McAnany, Van Cleave
& Phillips, P.A. and Joyce McCray Pearson ’89, director of the law library and associate professor of law at the University of Kansas School of Law, Feb. 19, 2007. Their discussion titled “It’s My Prerogative,” focused on their experiences as minority practitioners in two contexts – large firm practice and a non-traditional legal career.


The Jewish Law Society hosted Rabbi Michael Merdinger, March 28, 2007. Rabbi Merdinger discussed “Law and Morality.” He challenged students to be both stewards of morality and legal advocates, but explained that there is no simple solution to this everyday dilemma. Merdinger has practiced both as a lawyer and a rabbi.


The Center for Excellence in Advocacy hosted **Julie Green**, associate professor of Art, Oregon State University, April 2, 2007. Green is currently completing an essay on the ritual of the final meal for U.S. death row inmates. Her paintings, videos and installations have been included in over 50 group exhibitions. The Center for Excellence in Advocacy co-sponsored Green’s exhibit at the Mulvane Art Museum on campus.

The International Law Society hosted **Dr. Bob Beatty**, April 4, 2007. Beatty discussed the international law tribunal that recently tried the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

The Federalist Society hosted **Chief Judge Danelle Reece Tacha**, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, April 4, 2007. Tacha discussed her recent area of research: the differences in male and female judges’ jurisprudence. She also discussed how she became a judge and the confirmation process, as well as what she looks for in a law clerk.


The Children and Family Law Center hosted **Art Thompson**, dispute resolution coordinator with the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration; **Bill Ebert**, solo practitioner and Washburn Law adjunct; and **Sherri Keller**, court services officer, April 16, 2007. They discussed mediation and case management.

The Sports and Entertainment Law Society hosted **Michael Glazier**, a former NCAA staff member, April 17, 2007. Glazier discussed how he created a special niche in sports law by representing universities and athletic departments in disputes regarding compliance and various issues.