The 106th Washburn University School of Law Commencement was held on the evening of Saturday, May 14, in Lee Arena, on the Washburn campus. The Kansas Territorial Pipes and Drums, Topeka, led the processional with Professor Myrl L. Duncan, J.S.D., as grand marshal. Speakers at commencement were: Dean Thomas J. Romig; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Alex Glashausser; Maryam Fakhradeen, ’11, president of the Washburn Student Bar Association; and Winton Hinkle, ’68, president of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association. Presentation of the Honorary Doctor of Law degree was made by Washburn University Board of Regents Chairwoman The Honorable Christel E. Marquardt, ’74.

Richard “Dick” Hite, ’53, was the 2011 recipient of the Honorary Degree. Hite also gave the commencement address to the Class of 2011. Conferring of degrees was led by Jerry B. Farley, Ph.D., president of Washburn University. A champagne reception at Memorial Union to congratulate the graduates followed commencement.

Each academic year, the graduating class votes to honor a member of the faculty as the William O. Douglas Outstanding Professor of the Year. Professor Reginald “Reggie” Robinson received this award. The Adjunct Professor of the Year was C. William “Bill” Ossmann, ’77.

As special guests, two members from the law school class of 1951 participated in the ceremony.

During the May commencement, 143 students graduated, with 48 receiving Certificates of Concentration in one or more of the following areas: advocacy, business and transactional law, estate planning, family law, international and comparative law, law and government, natural resources law, and tax law.
Certificates earned and Pro Bono Honors are indicated by italics. List includes December 2010 graduates.

Brock R. Abbey
Jeffery Scott Adam
Eli Hunter Allen
Whitney Blake Ambuter
Family Law
Courtney J. Archdekin
Paige Renee Asmann
Riley Wilson Baber
Aaron Royal Bailey
Ashley Elizabeth Ballweg
Sherri Lynn Becker
Raymond Oliver Bergmeier
Elizabeth Emma Bernhart
Alex Bezu
Distinguished Pro Bono Honors
Tax Law
Brian Laverne Bina
Business and Transactional Law
Alexandra Elizabeth-Marie Blasi
J.D./M.B.A.
Business and Transactional Law
Abigail C. Boudewyns
Natural Resources Law
DeeDrá Rochelle Branson
Advocacy
Jordan Alan Brewer
James M. Bristow
Skyler Eugene Burks
Jill M. Carlson
Brian Keith Carr
Advocacy
Distinguished Pro Bono Honors
James Clark
Patrick J. Collins
Caleb S. Cottam
Business and Transactional Law
Laura Nichole Kathryn Coughlin
James Nathan Crutchley
Jennifer Ann Danenberg
Leon James Davis
Advocacy
Angela Christine DeBusk
Sean D. Delpech
Michael D. Ditch, Jr.
Business and Transactional Law
Ashley Danielle Dopita
Law and Government
Daryl René Dowdell
Family Law
Michael C. Duma
Cody DeWayne Edwards
Joel Walter Ensey
Maryam S. Fakhradeen
David Christopher Fall
Estate Planning
Tax Law
Kristie Ann Fall
Family Law
Tyler James Feeney
Stephanie Anne Ferry
Grant Michael Flynn
Sam Foreman
Business and Transactional Law
Stephen Nathanael Freeland
Lee Germundson
Clayton Reed Gibson
Valerie Danelle Glenn
Aaron J. Good
Vincent Granado
Amy Jean Greiner
Tax Law
Amanda Rose Haas
Coleman Lee Hambleton
Natural Resources Law
Kurt Michael Helgesen
Justin David Hocking
Business and Transactional Law
Ashley Renee Holm
International and Comparative Law
Clay Michael Houser
Natural Resources Law
Craig Allen Jackson
Business and Transactional Law
Kristen Marie Jarboe
Douglas Lee Johns
December 2010
Graduates

Front row, left to right: Angela Christine DeBusk, Hanh Hong Thi Vu, Carol Longenecker Schmidt, Cody DeWayne Edwards, Jeffery Scott Adam, Eli Hunter Allen, and Dustin Lee Kirk.


LEGACIES

Robert Patrick Mills  
Business and Transactional Law  
International and Comparative Law  
Mehboobali W. Mohammed Pirali  
Nicholas D. Moore  
Levi Morris  
Michael Robert Neeley  
Joshua V.C. Nicolay  
Terence A. Oben  
Daniel Schwind Oberhelman  
Nicholas Edward Page  
Steven Craig Paschang  
Michael Joshua Patton  
John Edward Pearce  
Jacob Lynn Porter  
Natural Resources Law  
Stephanie Briana Poyer  
International and Comparative Law  
Natural Resources Law  
Uriah J. Price  
Natural Resources Law  

Michael David Quinn  
Stephen Joseph Randtke  
Elizabeth Faye Rauch  
Andrew Joseph Rector  
Adam Charles Renner  
Timothy David Resner  
Morgan L. Richards  
Sara Elizabeth Priddy Rogness  
C. David Rouner  
Business and Transactional Law  
Ernesto A. Sánchez, Jr.  
Rebecca Jean Sanders  
Estate Planning  
Tax Law  
Krista Deann Turner Schultz  
Samuel Devin Seward  
Brock Patrick Shannon  
Tax Law  
Robert Joseph Shelli  
Stacey Lynn Sheon  

Sandra M. Sigler  
Business and Transactional Law  
Calli Jo Danielle Simnitt  
Marie Christine Skogen  
Advocacy  
John Wesley Smith  
Jonathan M. Snyder  
Business and Transactional Law  
Sydney Mieko Snyder  
Advocacy  
Erin Heather Sommer  
Samara LouAnn Stemple  
Family Law  
Kimberly Renae Streit  
Family Law  
Angela Gaye Tatro  
Pamela Bishop Taylor  
Vaibhav Trivedi  
Kori Chyrone Trussell  
Eric Von Turner

Raymond Bergmeier, with aunt and uncle  
Kay, ’80, and Larry, ’73, Rute

Jordan Brewer and father,  
Jeff Brewer, ’82
Monique Marie Chartier McElwee and husband Jacob McElwee, ’05

Michael C. Duma and father
John M. Duma, ’81

Michael Joshua Patton with parents
Cindy, ’79, and Joe, ’77, Patton

Charion Latrese Vaughn
Advocacy
Rachel Erin Verhage
Jonathan Edward Voegeli
Kel Michael Vrana
Advocacy
Hanh Hong Thi Vu
Christopher Russell Walker
Business and Transactional Law
Thomas Joseph Webb
International and Comparative Law
Heather Lynn Wheeler
Melinda B. Wicks
Family Law
Kathlyn Elizabeth Wilson
Amanda Marie Wilwert
Victoria Winterberg
Alexander Louis Wulff
Shawn Philip Yancy
Advocacy
Jonathan A. Zadina
BIANCHINO AND HITE RECEIVE
Honorary Degrees
May 14, 2011

The honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition Washburn University bestows. Candidates for this degree generally have significant ties to the state of Kansas or to Washburn University through birth, residence, education, service, or notable achievement.

BERNARD A. BIANCHINO, ’74
Honorary Doctor of Public Service

Bernie Bianchino graduated from Bishop Miege High School in Shawnee Mission, Kan. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Washburn University in 1970 and a juris doctor from Washburn Law in 1974. He was a member of Kappa Sigma and the Sagamore men’s honor society. He was a defensive lineman on the Washburn football team and was on the Dean’s Honor Roll.

Bianchino has worked for the Atomic Energy Commission (which merged into the Department of Energy), Exxon Corporation, Sprint, US Sprint, Sprint PCS, Qwest Communications, Pegaso PCS, and OnFiber Communications. In 2000 he led negotiations for Sprint’s $200 million expansion in the Mexico City-based Pegaso PCS and was selected to serve as the company’s chief executive officer. Pegaso PCS provided wireless and wireline telecommunications to four of the largest cities in Mexico. He was counsel to the Bryan Cave law firm, a position he left to form Jaguar Telecom LLC, where he serves as the president and CEO. He is also a director at Digital Ally Inc. of Overland Park, Kan., and is chairman of the compensation and strategic planning committees and a member of the audit committee.

Bianchino was an alumni fellow for Washburn University School of Law in 2000, and received the President’s Award from Washburn in 2002, the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Alumni Association in 2004, and the Distinguished Service Award from Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association in 2007. He has served as a trustee of the Washburn University Foundation since 1992 and was chairman of the board from 2008 until 2010. He was on the Washburn University School of Law Board of Governors from 1993 to 2003 and served as vice president, president and past president. He was a member and president of the Washburn Law School Foundation and an advisor to the law school’s Business and Transactional Law Center.

He has supported many important projects and initiatives at Washburn, including the Bianchino Technology Center at the School of Law, Theodore E. Dyck Employment Law Scholarship, and Anthony B. Bianchino Law Scholarship. Bianchino has been a loyal supporter of Washburn University since his graduation from law school.
Richard C. “Dick” Hite received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas in 1950 and a law degree from Washburn Law in 1953, where he was a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity.

He joined the U.S. Air Force on an ROTC commission and served three years as a judge advocate. After leaving the military, Hite worked for USF&G Insurance before joining the Wichita law firm of Kahrs, Nelson, Fanning, Hite & Kellogg LLP in 1960. In 2000, he founded the firm of Hite, Fanning & Honeyman LLP, which focuses on product liability and general business defense litigation. During his professional career he has worked to bring uniformity to state laws and cooperation among state legislators as past president and executive committee chairman of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. He is past state chairman and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was chairman of the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

Hite has been a member of the Wichita, Kansas, and American bar associations and remains active in the International Association of Defense Counsel, Kansas Association of Defense Counsel, and National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. He is a fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Bar Association.

His community service includes chairmanships on boards of directors of the United Way of the Plains, Via Christi Regional Medical Center, and the Via Christi Health System. Hite received the William Kahrs Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel, the Phil Lewis Medal of Distinction from the Kansas Bar Association, and the Howard C. Kline Distinguished Service Award from the Wichita Bar Association.

Hite has been a Washburn University Foundation trustee emeriti since 1986, served as the Law School Alumni Association president-elect, president, and past president from 1988 to 1994, and was a member of the Board of Governors from 1983 to 1994. He was instrumental in securing the Koch Scholarship gift and led the law school fundraising Campaign 2000. In 1995, he established an endowed fund and gives annually to the Richard C. Hite Endowment for Faculty Development and Support in the School of Law. He was an alumni fellow for Washburn University School of Law in 2008, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007 from the School of Law Alumni Association, and the School of Law Distinguished Service Award in 1994.