

DEAN
Thomas J. Romig

When Washburn Law developed its oil and gas curriculum nearly a quarter of a century ago, David Pierce, '77, Norman R. Pozez Endowed Chair in Business and Transactional Law, fostered a first-rate program that remains at the top of its class today. Although much broader in scope and size than its 1989 archetype, the program has never lost its focus to serve the needs of the oil and gas industry as well as the academic needs of our students who choose to pursue that area of law. We are proud to have established a program that offers a complete curriculum, including essential practical experience, to ensure our graduates can address, not just popular trends, but the modern-day issues that comprise all of oil and gas law.

With that in mind, we've taken the next logical step by establishing the Oil and Gas Law Center at Washburn University School of Law with Professor Pierce as the Center director. By creating the Center, Washburn Law formally establishes itself as a national leader in oil and gas law, and as such, will expand and deepen its oil and gas-related academic initiatives and scholarship. The Center will also help distinguish us from the few other law schools that have a multi-course oil and gas curriculum. The Center creates an organizational structure that signifies Washburn's institutional commitment to the oil and gas law discipline, which will assist us in attracting prospective students to the program; obtaining grants to support Center activities; and attracting adjunct professors and practitioners to assist in providing oil and gas law instruction. Our cover story on page 26 features the new Center and Professor Pierce's philosophy of taking a positive and balanced approach to the curriculum.

Another exciting accolade we received this spring was the ranking of our Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Program. The program is ranked 11th among all law schools in the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2014 Best Graduate Schools ranking. Our program was the only law school speciality program in Kansas and the Kansas City metro area to receive a national ranking for 2014. I invite you to read more law school news, beginning on page 10.

Sincerely,



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