



150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University

On Oct. 26, 2013, at White Concert Hall, Washburn University and Washburn University Foundation launched the public phase of 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, a multifaceted \$100 million campaign to raise funds for scholarships, faculty and programs, learning spaces, and annual giving. Jerry Farley, president of the University, and JuliAnn Mazachek, president of Washburn University Foundation, announced plans to raise an additional \$20 million to match a \$20 million commitment from the University to create a new law school building.

Constructed after the 1966 tornado, the current structure has undergone numerous additions and renovations to improve the educational experience and program offerings for students. Much has changed in legal education in the decades since the school was built. Today, legal education requires specialized programs, collaborative spaces, enhanced technology, and teaching resources.

The new facility will anchor the southeast corner of campus at 21st Street and Washburn Avenue. The three-level building will complement existing campus architecture and create a modern learning environment that aligns with the needs of the school and the university.

The building will include flexible, diverse classroom configurations to accommodate 20-person seminars and larger lecture courses. Common spaces, study rooms, and collaborative work areas will be accessible throughout the facility. An appellate courtroom will provide symposium and classroom space for up to 170 people, and a second courtroom will facilitate hands-on training. The building also will expand capacity for the Centers for Excellence, the Law Clinic, the Law Library, student organizations, and community legal activities.

“Washburn Law is indeed a signature program of the university,” Farley said. “Our national reputation is closely tied to the success of Washburn Law and the achievements of our alumni. In order to retain and strengthen that



competitive edge, we must move forward and invest in future generations of our law students.”

Thomas Romig, dean, Washburn University School of Law, agreed. “We must stay ahead of the curve of the changing requirements of lawyers. A new law building will position Washburn Law as one of the premier venues in legal education. That will help us strengthen our national reputation and attract the most highly talented students and faculty for many years to come.”

Paul Hoferer, ’75, is chair of the School of Law development committee, president of the Board of Governors, and a retired executive from Burlington Northern Santa Fe. He and his wife, Jeanne, bba ’80, president of the Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees, have donated \$250,000 toward building the new

law school in addition to their long-standing contributions to scholarships and other initiatives.

“Washburn opened doors for us,” he said. “Now it is our turn to do the same for future generations of law students. Our support of a new facility is an investment in the future, our way of giving back to a university that gave us so much.”

Mazachek added: “We have so many generous donors and friends who have supported the law school through the years, and we hope we can count on their continued investment. Only with alumni support can Washburn Law take this next bold step for future students.”

For more information on this project and how you can help move Washburn Law forward, contact Joel Lauer at 785.670.1702 or Martin Ahrens at 785.670.2781 or visit givetowashburn.org/campaign/washburn-law.

George, '77, and Theresa Barton Make \$500,000 Gift

George Barton's first legal work was in middle school as a helper at his grandfather's corporate law firm in Kansas City, Mo., creating the early impetus for a career culminating in the establishment of the Law Offices of George A. Barton, P.C. in his hometown.

Barton, '77, has focused much of his practice on representing thousands of mineral interest owners in royalty underpayment cases against coal, oil, gas, and natural gas producers, including the successful trial and appeal of numerous royalty underpayment producers. He has represented clients in complex litigation cases in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, and Oklahoma.

A former executive editor of the *Washburn Law Journal* and a 2011 Alumni Fellow, Barton credits his legal education at Washburn with preparing him well for a rewarding litigation career. In appreciation, he and his wife, Theresa, have committed a \$500,000 gift to help build the new law school facility.

"I think Washburn Law is a terrific institution that provides one of the best educations you can get," Barton said. "After I graduated, I realized I was well-equipped to meet the challenges of being an attorney in Kansas City. Theresa and I wanted to contribute back."

Barton said Washburn Law faculty strived to engage students in the classroom, inspiring them to learn the subject matter in preparation for their legal careers. Courtroom instruction was especially important to Barton, whose professional positions with other law firms before establishing his own practice were all focused on litigation.

Referencing Washburn Law's national reputation for excellence, Barton said, "The school has been blessed with long-term faculty who focus on students' success and uphold high-quality standards. A new building will be a terrific boost for the law school and will provide faculty with the tools and enhanced educational spaces needed to teach in today's legal environment."



Barton said a new building will aid recruitment efforts by creating an innovative, inviting environment that complements the law school's student-centered, practice-ready teaching focus.

"There is a legitimate need to build a new facility, and the design concepts look wonderful," he said.

Barton was recognized as an Alumni Fellow for his distinguished career in October 2011. While on campus to receive his award, he presented a Lunch & Learn session titled "The Practical and Legal Aspects of Class Action Litigation," which was sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Advocacy and the Business and Transactional Law Center. He also was a visiting advocate at Washburn Law in 2006.

Creating and maintaining innovative spaces, including building a new law school facility, is a significant part of 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University. To support the law school building, please visit givetowashburn.org/LawSchool.



Berkleys Back Building with \$100,000 Gift

Three generations of Berkleys from Downs, Kan., obtained degrees from Washburn University School of Law and collectively were sworn in at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., with a large contingent comprising faculty and alumni in 2008. Now the Berkleys have made a combined contribution of \$100,000 to support the campaign for a new law school building in appreciation of the education they received.

Although each Berkley's experience differed by the decade, they all have found their legal foundation a valuable component of their successful careers in banking at the State Bank of Downs and a small law firm.

Paul, '56, who earned an accounting degree at the University of Kansas, worked as a certified public accountant in Topeka before following in his brother's footsteps to attend Washburn Law. **Bill, bba '72, jd '75**, knew he would join his father at the bank and thought a law degree would bolster his business background.

"Banking is a highly regulated industry, so knowing and understanding the law gave our bank a definite competitive advantage," Bill said.

Influenced by his father and grandfather, **Brandon, '03**, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance at the University of Kansas and started law school at Washburn in January a few months after graduation.

"I value my experience at Washburn," said Brandon, who is president of Berkley Bank, a branch of the State Bank of Downs, in Denver, Colo. "It's the most important education that I received, and the skills I learned are invaluable."

During his time at Washburn Law, Bill benefited from

business law and tax classes and also enjoyed Law Clinic experiences that enabled him to work with Leavenworth prisoners and Veterans Administration Hospital patients, as well as opportunities to interact with professors outside of class. Brandon enjoyed the classroom experience and the mock appellate arguments in the courtroom.

Paul earned his degree in a building heavily damaged by the 1966 tornado, and Bill studied in the new facility that replaced it. Describing his experience nearly 30 years later, Brandon said, "While the courtroom in the Law School was really nice, the building needed updating and lacked interior and exterior appeal."

Though all the Berkleys were more focused on legal concepts and supplemental activities than structural considerations as students, they believe a new law school building (see story on pages 30-31) will complement instruction and attract high-quality recruits.

"An older building might keep some people from choosing Washburn if they can attend school in a better-equipped facility elsewhere," Bill said. "We think it's important to give back to an institution that has given us so much, and we think a new law school building will keep Washburn strong and able to grow in the national academic rankings."

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