Feature Story
Innovative and Interactive Teaching and Learning
DEAN’S LETTER

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”
— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1706-1790)

Education has changed greatly in recent years, and law school teaching is no different. In this issue of the Washburn Lawyer, you will read about innovative and interactive programs that are being implemented at Washburn Law to enhance student learning:

- Two professors are using a flipped classroom technique, where students prepare for class by watching a recorded lecture; class time is then devoted to interactive discussion as a class and in small groups.
- Several faculty members incorporate audio, visual, and hands-on learning methods to help students learn and retain knowledge, skills, and values.
- Other professors require students to write bar exam essays on class topics, replace textbooks with primary documents needed to walk through a transaction from start to finish, or bring practitioners into the classroom to work through real-world problems.

Professor Rory Bahadur exemplifies our emphasis on quality teaching that puts students first. This fall we celebrated Rory’s selection by the authors of What the Best Law Teachers Do (Harvard University Press, 2013) as one of the top 26 law teachers in the United States.

While our law school building has served us well since 1969, high-quality teaching and innovative methods of instruction require a modern and flexible learning environment. Smaller, more flexible teaching spaces are needed to assist faculty members in preparing graduates who are practice-ready.

On October 26, we officially launched our campaign to fund a new School of Law. Our campaign for $34.5 million includes $20 million for the new building, $6 million for students, $6 million for faculty and programs, and $2.5 million for annual giving, and is a part of Washburn University’s bold vision for future generations. Details can be found on pages 30-31.

The university’s campaign, 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, was launched at the same time, and is a $100 million initiative to support scholarships, faculty development and programs, campus spaces, and annual giving.

Adapting current teaching methods that give students the opportunity to engage in active learning helps us take the “best and brightest” students and turn them into graduates who are well-educated and ready to practice the day they leave Washburn Law. Your support of the law school continues to make this goal a reality.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. ROMIG
Dean and Professor of Law

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Alumni Association

It’s been a busy year so far! In the past nine months, our team of President Jerry Farley, Dean Tom Romig, Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, and I have visited 11 different cities providing our law alumni an update on the plans for the new law school building. It’s always encouraging to get out on the road and hear from those of you outside Topeka about your careers and how your experience at Washburn Law makes a difference. Also, I appreciate the time and effort of our campaign leadership and the alumni support staff in arranging alumni events.

On October 5, we hosted alumni from across the state for the Dean’s Circle dinner at the Hilton President Kansas City. Dean Romig gave an update on activities at the law school, introduced faculty members present, gave an update on the building campaign, and acknowledged campaign donors in attendance. George, ’77, and Theresa Barton were recognized as the largest donors to the campaign to date.

More than 400 Washburn alumni and friends gathered on campus to celebrate the kickoff of 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University on the evening of October 26. The campaign goal is to raise $100 million for scholarships, faculty and programs, annual giving, and spaces. An additional $20 million will be raised through a separate campaign for a new law school building. The $40 million law school building project will be funded by $20 million in private gifts to be matched by $20 million from the university. We are fortunate that President Farley and the Washburn Regents have recognized the importance of the law school to the university with their pledge to fund half the building costs. I’m happy to report that fundraising efforts are underway, and we are thankful for the generosity of alumni who have already pledged gifts to the campaign.

If you have had the opportunity to read Professor Jim Concannon’s history of Washburn University School of Law, you know that our law alumni and faculty have a history of supporting the law school in times of need. This is a pivotal moment in our history. More than ever, we need your support. When the new law school building is the crown jewel of the campus on the corner of 21st Street and Washburn Avenue, we will all be proud that we stepped forward to assure a solid future for Washburn Law!

PAUL R. HOFERER, ’75
President, Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association

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.
The entering class of 2013 came from across the United States, spanning from California to South Carolina; New Jersey to Oregon. Fifty-nine percent are Kansans. Fifteen percent are minorities. They represent 47 different undergraduate schools. The top feeder school this year was the University of Kansas with 16 undergraduates. Washburn University was the second-largest feeder school with 15 graduates, while 10 graduates came from Kansas State University, followed by three students each from Fort Hays State, Pittsburg State, and Wichita State. Both Baker and Benedictine provided two graduates each.

Washburn University School of Law leads its peers in student satisfaction, according to a new Law School Survey of Student Engagement. This year’s survey reflects more than 28,000 responses received from law students at 98 different schools.

The survey sought student evaluations of four specific categories — learning to think like a lawyer, student-faculty interaction, student advising, and law school environment. Washburn Law scored higher than the collective scores of all participating law schools in every category. Additionally, our “overall satisfaction” rate among 1Ls was 3.64 (on a scale of 1-4), compared with 3.24 among all schools surveyed this year.

According to the survey results, the majority of students would choose to attend Washburn Law again. Students ranked the school high in the areas of diverse perspectives in class and out; transferring concepts from class to class; encouraging the ethical practice of law; developing legal research skills; happiness with faculty, administration, staff, and other students; computing technology; and library assistance.

Students were given the opportunity to provide anonymous written comments. Following are a couple of quotes from Washburn Law students reinforcing the survey’s results.

“The atmosphere is so conducive to learning and everyone — faculty, staff, and students — is so friendly and helpful. The faculty is very knowledgeable and has great practical experience, which is a huge plus because we learn what we’re going to actually encounter after school, not just what theory applies to a certain topic. Law school is tough, but I wouldn’t want to go anywhere else.”

“Washburn Law has done an incredible job of providing an environment that cultivates learning, promotes open communication, and fosters relationships between students and faculty.”
Washburn University School of Law will be offering a Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) degree beginning with the fall 2014 semester. The program is designed for individuals engaged in professional work who may benefit from formal exposure to the study of law and whose professional interests do not require admission to the bar. The program will be offered to full- and part-time students, making it opportune for those making career changes or wanting to advance their existing professional positions.

Prospective students will come from a wide range of parallel professions, including accounting, business, children and family services, criminal justice, environmental studies, government, health care, human resources, journalism, library services, oil and gas, and real estate development, as well as tribal officials. The program provides a legal background that will complement the professional interests of the participants, strengthen their ability to interact effectively with the legal community, and provide professional certification of these accomplishments.

Organization of the curriculum, built upon a framework of Centers for Excellence and certificate programs, provides a professional curriculum in the following career paths: Business and Transactional, Children and Family, Tax or Estate Planning, Government, Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Criminal Justice.

A full-time student will be able to complete this program within a single academic year. Part-time students must complete all credit hours needed for the degree within four calendar years beginning with the first semester after enrollment. Costs per credit hour for the M.S.L. students are the same as those for J.D. students.

The law school has received American Bar Association acquiescence to ensure that the proposed program does not detract from the existing J.D. program. The ABA does not accredit or assess Masters’ level programs. The program has been approved by the Washburn University Board of Regents and the Kansas Board of Regents. A request for approval is pending before the Higher Learning Commission.

Learn more about the program at washburnlaw.edu/MSL
Foreign-trained lawyers will have the opportunity to pursue an LL.M. in Global Legal Studies at Washburn Law beginning with the fall 2014 semester. The program will provide the substantive training and skills required in a global legal market.

The full-time LL.M. program, in addition to offering the usual career paths, will prepare students to work with or across from U.S. counsel in a variety of transactions or disputes.

Three broad areas or “tracks” will be offered, with specialization in corporate and commercial law; public law; or legal analysis, writing, and advocacy. Washburn Law’s faculty program director will work with students to select courses consistent with their individual interests and objectives. Students will have the opportunity to take classes alongside students enrolled in the J.D. program and develop lasting relationships with future American lawyers.

Students will be required to show proficiency in English and have a first-level law degree from a non-U.S. law school or faculty of law.

Cost for the 2014-15 academic year is projected at $27,000. Unlike some other programs, which are based on per-credit-hour charges, students will pay tuition on a flat-rate basis. All LL.M. students must complete 24 credit hours in classroom courses but may also enroll in a maximum of six additional credits during the academic year at no additional cost beyond the required 24 credits.

Completion of an LL.M. from Washburn will come with eligibility to take the bar exam in several states, including New York and California.

More about the program can be found at washburnlaw.edu/LLM
Washburn University and the School of Law recognized U.S. Constitution Day on September 17, 2013. Washburn University School of Law, the Center for Law and Government, and the Center for Excellence in Advocacy hosted the Kansas Court of Appeals on Tuesday, September 17, 2013, for a special U.S. Constitution Day session in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center.

Judges Thomas E. Malone, G. Joseph Pierron Jr., and Stephen D. Hill, ’75, heard oral arguments on several cases. Washburn Law students were able to observe the oral arguments as part of their Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing courses.

An evening Constitution Day presentation by Professor Bill Rich, “The Gettysburg Address: Lincoln’s Framework for a New American Constitution,” was held at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center on the Washburn campus.

Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address highlighted the importance of equality, liberty, national unity, and democracy. With respect to each of these topics, our original constitutional text had been found wanting, and resulting conflicts gave rise to the Civil War. Professor Rich described some of those early conflicts along with the Civil War Amendments to the Constitution that addressed them. He also discussed ongoing struggles over the interpretation and implementation of this “new Constitution.”

This event was part of Washburn University’s yearlong commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court decision. Washburn is proud to honor the contributions of our alumni, faculty, students, and the greater Topeka community that have expanded, and will continue to expand, our understanding and appreciation for the principles of this watershed moment in the American civil rights movement.
International and Comparative Law Center

This fall, Washburn Law launched a new International and Comparative Law Center. Nancy G. Maxwell, professor of law, and Craig Martin, associate professor of law, serve as the Center’s co-directors.

International and comparative law programs are increasingly important to a modern law school curriculum. The Center will complement the already robust and growing international and comparative law program at Washburn Law. There are at least nine faculty members who are currently teaching and engaging in scholarship in areas that have a significant international or comparative law component.

Washburn Law offers a number of international and comparative law courses, which are the basis for the current International and Comparative Law Certificate. In addition, Washburn Law has a robust study abroad program, currently conducted through Maastricht (Netherlands) University and the University of the West Indies. Washburn Law faculty members teach international and comparative law courses as part of the study abroad program in Barbados.

Look for more information about the International and Comparative Law Center in the next issue of the Washburn Lawyer.

PROFESSOR JAMES R. AHRENS REMEMBERED

Professor James R. Ahrens, who taught at the law school from 1948 to 1988, passed away quietly on his 94th birthday, Friday, June 7, 2013, surrounded by family.

During his tenure, Professor Ahrens designed the Washburn Law Institute and served as the faculty advisor for the Washburn Moot Court Team, taking teams to National Finals. He initiated comparative law programs specifically for Yugoslavia and England. Professor Ahrens was named Washburn Distinguished Professor of Law and received honors including a law school endowment in tort law in his name.

Professor James Concannon observes in his history of Washburn Law: “Few people demonstrated greater commitment to the school than Professor Ahrens. Until the size of the graduating classes became too large, Ahrens and his first wife Geri annually hosted a brunch at their home for graduating seniors. They regularly attended student social functions and dances. Throughout his lengthy retirement, he regularly attended class reunions of his former students and other law school events.”

When he retired, Professor Ahrens’ message to students was, “Pay less attention to exam-taking techniques. Learn your rules and know when to apply them. Be willing to spend a lot of time synthesizing them. Have a check list of every rule of law. After one course, you have 20 pages of law, and then you memorize them. The way to heavenly bliss in the law is a lot of work!”
An enthusiastic group of attorneys was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court in a Swearing-In ceremony on Monday, April 1, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

Hosting the alumni at the event were Dean Thomas Romig, Washburn University School of Law; President Jerry Farley, Washburn University; Judyanne Somers, director of Alumni Services for Washburn Law; Joel Lauer and Martin Ahrens, Washburn University Foundation; and Paul Hoferer, ’75, Topeka, president of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association.

After the ceremony, conducted by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, the group was honored to have Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, and Anthony M. Kennedy join them for photos and congratulatory remarks.

New admittees and their families and guests were later joined by several alumni in the D.C. area for a luncheon at Charlie Palmer Steak with guest speaker William K. Suter, former clerk of the United States Supreme Court. Participants also toured the U.S. Capitol and attended an alumni reception at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

The next Supreme Court Swearing-In for Washburn Law alumni is scheduled for March 9, 2015. Please mark your calendars to join us for a very special event.

“The biggest highlight for me was meeting Justices Kennedy, Ginsburg, and Scalia. They were all very warm and engaging, and I appreciated the considerable amount of time they spent with us as a group and individually. The Swearing-In ceremony was also incredible. Sitting in the courtroom and having Chief Justice Roberts acknowledge me as my name was called is something I will never forget. I also enjoyed connecting with other Washburn alumni and faculty. The entire experience was first rate.”

Jason Geier, ’00

“The honor of being sworn in before the United States Supreme Court will remain as one of the best moments of my legal career. The entire experience was magnified by Washburn Law’s access that allowed us to meet and speak with the justices after the ceremony.”

Jacqie Spradling, ’91

“The Swearing-In ceremony at the Supreme Court is one of the most memorable occasions of my legal career. Rarely am I overwhelmed with awe and emotion, and this was one of those few occasions. It was very special that three of the justices took the time to come to greet our group personally, making the occasion even more special. I would highly recommend to all Washburn Law alumni to take advantage of this opportunity the next time it becomes available.”

Samantha Chechele, ’88
Clinic Intern
Sara Ehret Makes a Difference for Family
“I really feel that Sara Ehret went above and beyond to help us reach our goals! She knew that this matter was very dear in our hearts and really kept this in mind at all times. In the end, I truly felt that this case was just as important to her as it was for us. She really helped our family to be complete, and for that she will always have a special place in our hearts!”

– Client

Sara Ehret, a third-year law student from New London, Mo., made an immeasurable difference in the lives of five people: a family of four that for the first time considers itself complete and, surprisingly, her own life.

When Ehret was investigating which law school would be the best fit for her, the choice of Washburn University School of Law was relatively easy, primarily because of the live clinic opportunity. Last summer, she enrolled in Washburn Law Clinic with the goal of acquiring the ever-desirable practical experience that most employers seek. She practiced in family and immigration law, and she expected to handle divorce and child custody cases. The unforeseen case dear to her heart was a step-parent adoption.

The client wanted to adopt her stepson, a young boy whose life she had helped mold for the past five years and who called her mom. In fact, she was the only mom he had ever known. His dream was to have the same last name as his mom, dad, and little brother.

Ehret embarked on the case in mid-June and worked on it through its conclusion toward the end of August. She conferred numerous hours with the adoptive mom, who was very involved in the process and didn’t want any surprises.

Ehret felt strongly that it was important to meet the child whose interests she would be representing, the “star of the show” as she called him. To make him feel as comfortable as possible, she met him at Baskin-Robbins for some ice cream. He was quiet but did ask Ehret questions.

One of the first issues Ehret faced was interpreting the Kansas adoption statute. The statute was clearly written for a stepfather adoption, not a stepmother adoption. Ehret had to interpret the statute to apply the intent of the law and make sense of the various provisions.

In addition, Ehret had to research recent case law to determine when consent of the biological mother is required in a step-parent adoption. If the biological parents were married, attempted to marry, or their marriage was voided for some other reason, the mother’s consent is required unless she failed to assume the duties of a parent for the last two years. On the other hand, if paternity was established by genetic testing, grounds for granting the adoption without parental consent are much broader.

Ehret spent a plethora of time researching and drafting a trial brief. In the process of many revisions, she learned the statute thoroughly.

“Clinic may not teach you all the answers, but it will definitely teach you where to look for the answers. All of the professors have a really good way of letting you find the answer,” said Ehret. “It is the one class I have taken where you can still have a safety net. It is walking with rails, and eventually you can take them off.”

As his stepmom took the stand to establish that she was qualified as a fit parent, the little boy cheered her on and gave her a thumbs up.

The judge granted the adoption that day.

It was a hard case for Ehret to close as she became close to the family. She said it was important to have a strong support network with a case that pulls on your emotions. She leaned on her own family to help her through the case.

After the conclusion, she called her dad. His words to her: “You wanted this for so long, and today you became a lawyer.”
Professor Rory Bahadur has been named one of only 26 “best law teachers” in the United States. Bahadur is featured prominently in What the Best Law Teachers Do (Harvard University Press, 2013). Bahadur was one of 250 law professors nominated for this book project, which entailed two years of evaluations and classroom observation of his teaching.

“The selection was really important to me professionally,” said Professor Bahadur. “There are many aspects to being a law professor apart from teaching, but teaching is the part I love, and it was good to know, based on the comments in the book, that my students appreciated my effort.”

“I am lucky to be at a school that values and encourages good teaching,” Bahadur said.

Professor Bahadur joined the Washburn Law faculty in 2007. He currently teaches Torts, Civil Procedure, Admiralty and Maritime Law, and Federal Courts and presents nationally and internationally on teaching methods and techniques. He was voted Professor of the Year at Washburn in 2010 and 2012 and is the National Academic Curriculum Consultant for the American Bar Association’s Council on Legal Education Opportunity.

Prior to joining Washburn Law, Professor Bahadur practiced admiralty and maritime law in south Florida; taught torts, admiralty, and maritime law; and was the director of Academic Support at St. Thomas University School of Law. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Arts from the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2003, where he graduated summa cum laude and first in his class.

“Washburn Law considers itself lucky to have Professor Bahadur in its ranks,” said Dean Thomas J. Romig.
Select Faculty Scholarship

Aïda M. Alaka
“Legal Drafting: Translating the Deal into a Contract,” Legal Analysis & Writing Workshop IV, Free University of Tbilisi School of Law, October 9-11, 2013 (with Tonya Kowalski).

Tonya Kowalski.
“Legal Writing Curriculum & Course Design,” Legal Analysis & Writing Workshop III, Free University of Tbilisi School of Law, January 21-23, 2013 (with Tonya Kowalski).

Rory Bahadur
National Academic Curriculum Consultant, Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), American Bar Association Division, 2013-

Linda Henry Elrod, ’72


William E. Foster
“Overview of the general U.S. policies concerning international taxation,” Commercial Law Week, National Center for Commercial Law, Free University, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, May 18, 2013.


Alex Glashausser


“The International Torts, Extraterritorial Distortion,” Chuo University Comparative Law Institute, Tokyo, Japan, July 1, 2013.

Emily Grant

Patricia L. Judd

L. Ali Khan

Tonya Kowalski

“Legal Drafting: Translating the Deal into a Contract,” Legal Analysis & Writing Workshop IV, Free University of Tbilisi School of Law, October 9-11, 2013 (with Aïda Alaka).

“Legal Writing Curriculum & Course Design,” Legal Analysis & Writing Workshop III, Free University of Tbilisi School of Law, January 21-23, 2013 (with Aïda Alaka).

Craig Martin

憲法第九条改正: 法律的な議論」、大阪大学大学院法学研究科、教授研究会、2013年8月1日。

“Amending Article 9 of the Constitution: A Legal Argument,” Osaka University Graduate School of Law and Politics faculty presentation, Osaka, Japan, August 1, 2013.


Joseph P. Mastrosimone


Lori A. McMillan

David E. Pierce


“Basic Oil and Gas Ownership Principles, Introductory Oil & Gas Law for the Kansas Lawyer,” Wichita Bar Association, Wichita, February 8, 2013.


Mary Kreiner Ramirez


“The international fight against money laundering,” Commercial Law Week, National Center for Commercial Law, Free University, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, May 14, 2013.
Washburn Law students had the opportunity to learn about practicing law in southwest Kansas and to meet potential employers and mentors.

The Professional Development and Alumni Offices at Washburn University School of Law traveled to Dodge City on Sept. 5-6, 2013, to participate in the Southwest Kansas Bar Association (SWKBA) Annual Meeting. SWKBA sponsored students to attend by organizing an information meeting with young attorneys, pairing students with senior “host” attorneys, and paying for lodging and meals.

Many attorneys were available to talk about the benefits of practicing in this area of the state, the type of work available, the clients, the income potential, cost of living, lifestyles, and other topics. Following the panel presentation, students were invited to dinner with members of the SWKBA. Students interviewed with several potential employers and attended a continuing legal education program on Friday.

“This was an effort to highlight and promote Washburn Law students seeking summer or permanent employment in southwest Kansas,” said Margann Bennett, director of Professional Development at Washburn Law.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT PRACTICING LAW IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS

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PROFESSOR TONYA KOWALSKI SERVES AS SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE IN INDIA

Professor Tonya Kowalski served as a Scholar in Residence at Symbiosis International University Law School in Pune, Maharashtra, India, from July 17 to August 20, 2013.

Kowalski taught legal analysis and mooting skills to the first-year class, gave guest lectures to second-year and LL.M. students, and presented a faculty seminar and workshops.


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Kowalski taught legal analysis and mooting skills to the first-year class, gave guest lectures to second-year and LL.M. students, and presented a faculty seminar and workshops.

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school since the date of our last publication.

Donald F. Kresie, ’48
Topeka, on August 31, 2013, age 93

John A. Bausch, ’50.
Topeka, on March 3, 2013, age 88

Davis S. Carson, ’50
Tulsa, Okla., on March 5, 2013, age 90

George W. Probasco, ’51.
Topeka, on July 14, 2013, age 87

Donald O. Concannon, ’52
Hugoton, Kan., on March 9, 2013, age 85

Bill D. Strange, ’52
Grove, Okla., on May 4, 2013, age 84

Edward F. Wiegers, ’57
Marysville, Kan., on June 28, 2013, age 80

Philip J. Saia, ’60
Pittsburg, Kan., on September 1, 2013, age 82

Jack N. Turner, ’61
Wichita, on April 15, 2013, age 81

Lieutenant Colonel Fred M. Sims, USAF (Ret.), ’62
Mililani, Hawaii, age 75

Daniel J. High, ’63
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on May 24, 2013, age 74

Robert L. Reed, ’66
Topeka, on May 22, 2013, age 82

Edwin H. Bideau, ’75
Chanute, Kan., on September 8, 2013, age 62

Bruce E. Wasinger, ’77
Austin, Texas, on April 20, 2013, age 61

Charles I. Prather, ’77
McPherson, Kan., on June 27, 2013, age 67

Jon S. Womack, ’80
Wichita, on March 28, 2013, age 59

James R. Spring, ’82
Winfield, Kan., on August 18, 2013, age 57

Joyce Danziger, ’83
West Harrison, N.Y., on April 22, 2013, age 63

Paul R. West, ’84.
St. Joseph, Mo., on May 17, 2013, age 55

Doris Kathleen “Kathy” Lewis, ’85
Peoria, Ill., on March 11, 2013, age 73

Craig S. Kendall, ’91
Rogers, Ark., on May 4, 2013, age 54
1946  Gordon K. , ‘46, and Margaret Lowry, Valley Falls, Kan., celebrated their 72nd anniversary in June. Gordon also celebrated his 95th birthday in July.

1969  Ronald G. Wilson, ’69, Phoenix, Ariz., is a partner at Morris, Hall & Kinghorn.

1970  John C. Roberts, ’70, Plevna, Kan., was honored with the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL) President’s Award. The President’s Award recognizes a member of the IMGL who has selflessly contributed significant time and energy to this organization and advancing its mission.

1975  Lawrence G. Karns, ’75, Topeka, has joined the Kansas Department of Labor, Topeka, as director of workers compensation. The Honorable Randall E. McGrath, ’75, Lawrence, Kan., is a retired municipal court judge. He recently published the book Lessons Learned, Recollections and Reflections on Criminal Defense.

1976  Keith R. Fevurly, ’76, Centennial, Colo., is an attorney, financial planner, and senior lecturer of finance at Metropolitan State University, Denver. He is also an adjunct associate professor at Webster University and authored the book Plan Your Financial Future.

1977  Nola Foulston, ’77, Wichita, received the 2013 Children’s Champions Award from Child Start for her dedicated contribution to helping children.

1978  Thane R. Hodson, ’78, Denver, Colo., joined the staff of Butler Snow, which has more than 260 attorneys from 16 offices globally.

1979  Scott R. Condray, ’79, Concordia, Kan., is a municipal judge for the city of Belleville.

1980  The Honorable John B. Klenda, ’80, McPherson, Kan., was appointed as the district judge in the 9th Judicial District by Gov. Sam Brownback.

1981  The Honorable Lee W. Fowler, ’81, Cottonwood Falls, Kan., has been appointed to the Kansas Sentencing Commission by Chief Justice Lawton R. Nuss. Judge Fowler has served as a district judge since 1997 in the 5th Judicial District, which includes Lyon and Chase counties.

1982  Mary Ann Gerrard, ’82, Madison, Wis., is president of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation.

1983  Lori M. Callahan, ’83, Australia, has been named general manager, claims, for Allianz Australia. Allianz Group is the largest and oldest insurer in the world.

1984  Kevin R. Davis, ’84, Topeka, has joined Security Benefit Corp. as director of governmental affairs and counsel.

Class Actions

washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions

Updates submitted as of Sept. 30, 2013

17 Class Actions
Legacy of Justice Foundation from July 2013 to June 2014. Larry L. Miller, ’84, Alliance, Neb., owns a law practice in Alliance and previously worked as the city’s attorney and as deputy county attorney for Box Butte and Cheyenne counties in Nebraska.

Bradley D. Thornton, ’84, Clear Lake, Iowa, is a reverend at the First Congregational Church in Clear Lake.

1985 William M. Kehr, ’85, Derby, Kan., has been named secretary of the Kansas Municipal Judges Association.

Timothy G. Givan, ’85, Hutchinson, Kan., vice president and trust officer in the Personal Trust Services division of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, was awarded the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers (ICB), a subsidiary of the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers (ICB), a subsidiary of the American Bankers Association in Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Nancy Moritz, ’85, Topeka, was nominated by President Barack Obama to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. She has served as a Kansas Supreme Court justice since 2011.

Jerry H. Schemmel, ’85, Littleton, Colo., served as the interim baseball coach at Colorado Christian University during the summer. He is the Colorado Rockies radio announcer and voice of Colorado State University football.

1987 Kevin J. Arnell, ’87, Wichita, was named a managing partner at the law firm Foulston Siefkin. He has been with the firm since 1987 and a partner since 1992.

1988 Gregory D. Keith, ’88, Wichita, has been elected president of the Kansas Municipal Judges Association.

Sean Scally, ’88, Valdosta, Ga., is program coordinator at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

1989 Marcos A. Mendoza, ’89, Austin, Texas, has been named assistant director of legal and regulatory affairs with the Texas Association of School Boards, Inc. (TASB), the third-party administrator for the TASB Risk Management Fund, the second largest self-insured school fund in the United States. He is completing his LL.M. degree in Insurance at the University of Connecticut School of Law.

1991 Mark A. Kahrs, ’91, Wichita, was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in November 2012. His committee assignments include Appropriations, General Government, Budget, and Judiciary.

M. Kristine Savage, ’91, Topeka, was honored by Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Criminal Defense: Non-White-Collar and Criminal Defense: White Collar.


Jeanie L. Schainost, ’92, Garnett, Kan., has been elected as president of the Anderson County Bar Association.

Margaret “Peggy” White, ’92, Council Grove, Kan., was appointed as Morris County District Magistrate Judge. Judge White also has been the White City attorney and municipal court judge for the city of Council Grove.

1993 Katherine L. Kirk, ’93, Lawrence, Kan., has been selected by her peers to serve as the 2013-14 treasurer and Eagles Chair for the Kansas Association for Justice.

1994 S. Douglas Mackay, ’94, Arkansas City, Kan., is general counsel and director of Human Resources at Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC, Arkansas City, Kan.

Tony Mattivi, ’94, Topeka, is an assistant U.S. attorney.

Lynn S. McCreary, ’94, Elm Grove, Wis., was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel of Fiserv Inc.

1995 The Honorable Mary F. Weir, ’95, Kansas City, Mo., is associate circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit, which covers Jackson County in Missouri.


1997 Susan C. Hascall, ’97, Pittsburgh, Pa., is an assistant professor of law at Duquesne University. She was elected chair of the African law section of the Association of American Law Schools.

Terry D. Holdren, ’97, Manhattan, Kan., has been named executive director/CEO of Kansas Farm Bureau, Manhattan.

Michael A. Millett, ’97, Overland Park, Kan., is a criminal defense attorney focusing on misdemeanor and felony criminal cases in federal, state, municipal, juvenile, and appellate courts in the State of Kansas. He was a member of Moot Court Council at Washburn Law.

1998 Patricia A. Blankenship, ’98, Wichita, has been elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Amy E. Burns-Brooke, ’98, Topeka, is the president of Junior Achievement of Kansas Inc. She works as the in-house legal counsel and director of marketing and development for Family Service & Guidance Center.

Stacy G. Friend Bell, ’98, Helotes, Texas, is the...
assistant county attorney in Kerr County, Texas.

Paula N. Johnson, ’98, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Energy Bar Association for a three-year term. Paula is a former president of the Midwest Chapter of the Energy Bar Association, from 2011 to 2012.

The Honorable Faith A. Maughan, ’98, Wichita, has been named president-elect of the Kansas Municipal Judges Association.

Jennifer L. Williams, ’98, Plano, Texas, is a published author. In addition to being a practicing attorney, she writes crime fiction novels. Her first novel, A Murder Among Friends, was published in April 2013. She published her second novel, Highland Games Murder, in August 2013.

1999 Kevin N. Berens, ’99, St. Francis, Kan., was appointed to a two-year term on the Kansas Sentencing Commission.

Sabrina Standifer, ’99, joined the Law Offices of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chartered, as of Counsel in the Wichita office.


2001 Michael J. Fleming, ’01, Leawood, Kan., has been selected by his peers to serve a third term as the Kansas Association for Justice’s 2013-14 legislative chair.

Samuel M. Wendt, ’01, Leawood, Kan., is an associate at the firm of Wendt Goss, P.C. Wendt was recently accepted into the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, which includes less than 1 percent of all practicing attorneys in the United States. Membership is exclusive to lawyers who have secured multi-million-dollar awards, verdicts, and settlements for their clients.

2003 Elizabeth K. Bell, ’03, Manhattan, Kan., received a Kansas Bar Association Pro Bono Certificate of Appreciation at the annual KBA Awards Dinner held in June.

2004 Reagan C. Cussimanio, ’04, Topeka, is director of governmental relations for the American Cancer Society.

Zachary J. Anshutz, ’05, Overbrook, Kan., was promoted to assistant commissioner of the Kansas Insurance Commission.

Michael J. Burbach, ’05, Overland Park, Kan., is assistant vice president and assistant general counsel at Security Benefit Corp.

Brian R. Carman, ’05, Wichita, has been named a member of Stinson, Laowell & Wilson.

Peter E. Goss, ’05, Leawood, Kan., is an associate at the firm of Wendt Goss, P.C.

Meghan M. Houtsma, ’05, Syracuse, N.Y., was inducted into Baker University’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Houtsma was Baker’s top golfer for four years.

Courtney H. Mikesic-Stoppel, ’05, Kansas City, Mo., is an associate with the law firm Kramer and Frank, P.C.

Jennifer R. Sourk, ’05, Topeka, was promoted to director of the Kansas Insurance Department’s consumer assistance division. She is a member of the Washburn University Board of Regents.

2006 Jason T. Gray, ’06, Falls Church, Va., is a senior associate at the firm Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer and Pembroke P.C.
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Matthew J. Richardson, ’10, Colorado Springs, Colo., is an associate at the Law Office of Edward Zorn in Fort Morgan, Colo.

2011 Brian L. Bina, ’11, McPherson, Kan., has been appointed as interim McPherson city prosecutor.
Michelle C. Le, ’11, San Antonio, Texas, is an associate with Ketterman Rowland & Westlund.
Sandra M. Sigler, ’11, Denver, Colo., has started her own practice, Sigler Law Office LLC.

2012 Richard L. Budden, ’12, Wichita, is a law clerk for The Honorable J. Thomas Marten for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, Wichita.
Chelsea K. Good, ’12, Kansas City, Mo., is vice president of Government and Industry Affairs for the Livestock Marketing Association.
J. Harden, ’12, Topeka, is legislative director for Kansas House Speaker Ray Merrick.
Lauren P. Hill, ’12, Leawood, Kan., is an associate with the Lee’s Summit, Mo., firm of Cameron Hoorfar, P.C.
Kelly A. Navinsky-Wenzl, ’12, Marysville, Kan., has joined Bolton & McNish, LLC.
Madeleine J. Rogers, ’12, Topeka, has joined Woner Glenn Reeder & Girard, P.A.
Rebecca F. Sisk, ’12, Wichita, joined the law firm Joseph Hollander & Craft LLC, where she practices family law.
Nikolas S. Stoffel, ’12, Denver, Colo., is an attorney in the Energy and Infrastructure Group at Holland & Hart LLP.
Katy E. Tompkins, ’12, Wichita, has joined McDonald Tinker Law Firm, P.A.

Jennifer M. Cocking, ’13, Atchison, Kan., is a research attorney for the Honorable Lawton R. Nuss, Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.
Jill R. Gillett, ’13, Fredonia, Kan., is a partner in the Gillett Law Office. She is also an assistant attorney for Montgomery County.
Anna M. Jumpponen, ’13, Salina, Kan., has joined the Saline County Attorney’s Office as an assistant county attorney.
Zachary D. Schultz, ’13, Garden City, Kan., has joined Schultz Law Office, P.A., as an associate.
Melissa A. Tucker Pope, ’13, Wichita, has joined the Law Office of Jennifer L. Stultz LLC as an associate.
Mitchell L. Walter, ’13, Wichita, has joined the firm Gilmore and Bell as an associate.
The annual Dean’s Circle Dinner and cocktail reception was held October 5, 2013, at the Hilton President Kansas City. Supporters of Washburn Law, including alumni, faculty, and friends, enjoyed a wonderful evening of conversation and entertainment. Attendees heard updates on the law school from Dean Thomas Romig. Other speakers included Dr. Jerry Farley, president of Washburn University; Paul Hoferer, ’75, president, Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association and chair, Law School Development Committee; and Jeanne Hoferer, chair, Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees. Paul Hoferer and Dean Romig recognized a number of key donors who have contributed to the law school campaign.

After dinner and the program, attendees danced and listened to the live music of BaliRoot.

Members of the Dean’s Circle give $1,000 or more annually to Washburn University School of Law. They are invited to the Dean’s Circle Dinner and also receive special invitations for premier events and programs throughout the year.

For more information about becoming a member of the Dean’s Circle, contact Joel Lauer in the Law School Advancement Office at 785.670.1702.

What you would find instead are primary documents needed for students to walk through a transaction from start to finish. The documents, which include a Letter of Intent, Escrow Agreement, and a Credit Agreement, were specifically created for the class. Students begin with a discussion of the reasons for the transaction and work from there to the closing checklist. Because law students need to be “practice-ready” after graduation, innovative and interactive practical teaching methods that offer experiential opportunities address this need.

Taking a step back in time, Washburn Law classrooms from the late 1960s were furnished with a podium and a chalkboard, with a professor speaking to a large lecture class. Law schools across the country had a uniform model of teaching that was intended to address the American Bar Association’s accreditation standards, which were designed to achieve quality in the legal education system. Conformity was the standard fare being offered at law schools, with an emphasis on teaching theory over practical skills.

Fast forward to 2013 at Washburn Law and you will find smaller class sizes with professors engaging in small group discussion of advanced theory and technique, and students interacting with practicing lawyers and drafting legal memoranda for the law clinic at the Free University of Tbilisi, in the Republic of Georgia. Passive learning is being replaced with active learning by professors who are rethinking their approach to teaching law. This type of learning requires different classrooms than those currently in use at the law school.

Domestic law schools have been dealing with decreased enrollment and increased competition. Cookie-cutter teaching methods are being replaced by innovative and interactive programs to attract the best and brightest students who want to learn from more than just a textbook and a lecture.

Programs like Professor Westbrook’s are finding their way into Washburn Law classrooms and receiving a positive student response. Lectures and note-taking are still fundamental to teaching and learning, but they are being complemented by fresher approaches that speak to the skills students need to apply the substantive law they learn in class.
**THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM**

One innovative teaching method being used in education is the flipped classroom, where active learning occurs in the classroom and passive learning becomes an outside activity performed by the student using technology. In the classroom, students get to roll up their sleeves and work through an exercise using advanced legal analysis and practical skills. The flipped classroom applies the concept of not only knowing but doing.

**Business Associations**

Professor Lori McMillan uses the flipped classroom approach in her Business Associations class by posting blogs and videos to present the core class concepts. For example, liability rules are summarized on the blog and supplemented with a video that she created. Prior to class, students are asked to review the blog and video.

Advantages to students include being able to do the prep work at their own pace, on their own schedule, and as many times as needed to understand the concepts. Students with a learning disability or who speak English as their second language easily adapt to using the online resources. As a result, students come to class with a better understanding of the course material and are excited to learn.

In a traditional lecture, students interpret what they think they hear and may miss important points for various reasons, whereas a video can be stopped, re-started, and reviewed as many times as needed. The video clips are less than 10 minutes, compared to using 15 minutes of class time to present the material.

In the first hour of her flipped classroom, McMillan supplements the materials on her blog and video to flesh them out. During the second half of class, students apply what they’ve learned.

The first part of the Business Associations course is agency law, which is not the “sexiest part of law by any stretch” according to McMillan. She had never seen a class as excited about agency as the one she had in the fall 2013 semester with the flipped approach. Coincidentally, the high-profile Jackson v. AEG case surrounding singer Michael Jackson’s death was being decided at the same time. Students explored this case as they were learning agency law.

For one month, students divided into two legal teams representing the Jackson family and sports and entertainment promoter AEG and spent their time fact-finding. They applied the agency rule to determine if somebody is an agent, sorted out the facts, determined the pros and cons, took a vote as the jury, and determined that Dr. Conrad Murray, Jackson’s personal physician, was an agent of AEG.

The students were able to follow the proceedings, review testimony, and ultimately had close to the same findings as the real jury. They took real world facts as they were unfolding and applied the laws. The flipped classroom allowed McMillan to guide and correct the students’ arguments and witness their application first-hand.

McMillan said students perceive the pre-work as beneficial, as opposed to it being busy work or a time-waster, which is sometimes a misconception of the flipped classroom.

During a recent Business Associations class, students were introduced to a limited liability corporation (LLC) operating agreement. In the first hour of class, McMillan asked students to get into small groups to discuss how an LLC differs from a corporation. Students compared what they had previously learned about corporations with new LLC material that McMillan presented in her blog and video. In the second hour of class, students shared the answers they gathered.

In a flipped classroom, students experience active learning that offers a true value for their education and will make them practice-ready.

Visit McMillan’s blogs at
- wubusinessassociations.blogspot.com/
- mcmillanlawandeconomics.blogspot.com/
- wuincometax.blogspot.com/
Initially a skeptic of flipped classrooms, Associate Professor Andrea J. Boyack, assistant director of the Business and Transactional Law Center, questioned its concept.

“If there are things we are doing in the classroom that can be moved out of the classroom, then why are we doing them in the classroom at all?” she wondered.

Boyack discovered that the flipped classroom aligned with her teaching theory by incorporating a number of exercises that simulate practical skills needed after graduation in addition to knowledge of legal doctrine.

Boyack found that if she could do some things for the students prior to class through videos or other targeted assignments, then she could free up class time and spend it with the students engaged in learning activities. Her low-tech video development utilizes PowerPoint to create the visuals, and her narration is recorded by library staff, then posted on the class video website. Last semester, she applied the flipped approach for the first time in her Contracts I class, using six online videos.

Targeted assignments are posted by Boyack on TWEN, an online courseware site, for students to complete prior to class. One assignment, Dear Student Lawyer (akin to Dear Abby) letters, is used to analyze a hypothetical situation and write a reply to address or solve the problem. Boyack reads the letters during class and provides verbal and written feedback. She selects the best answers (匿名ously) for a newsletter, which has created an unofficial competition among the students.

“I thought I understood this material until I started trying to explain it,” is a comment often heard from students. “These exercises help students get to the next level to be able to understand and articulate what they’ve learned, not just restating the concepts of law,” explained Boyack.

Another type of targeted assignment that Boyack provides is reading a fact scenario and asking the students to analyze it. Then when students get to class, they are prepared to engage in group discussion. Preparing before class also allows students more time to absorb and analyze the facts rather than doing a quick reading at the beginning of class. Boyack wants to ensure that “their time in person is legitimately valuable to be there.”

Boyack’s flipped approach assigns a fair amount of prep work and then puts students into groups or their ‘firm’ during class time. She is able to move around from group to group observing their interaction and identifying problem spots. When the small groups reconvene as one, she provides observations of the groups’ conversations and shares solutions. For example, she might suggest what they could have done differently, how they might look at their decision from a different perspective, or how their approach may actually benefit the opposition instead of their own client.

This flipped classroom turns passive listeners into active learners.

HANDS-ON INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Bar Exam Practice Essay
Professor Westbrook, who also teaches Business Associations, uses a hands-on interactive approach to learning in her classroom. Much of the material covered in her course is tested in the essay portion of state bar exams. Rather than fight against the fact that a number of students are in the class because it is a "bar class," and not because of their interest in business law, the class embraces the chance to help the students understand the bar exam and how it relates to what and how they study in law school.

Five times during the semester, students practice writing bar exam essays. Before the first practice essay, members of the Washburn Law bar review staff visit the class to talk about the scope of bar exams and techniques for writing bar exam essays. Then, after completing a particular business association topic (e.g., agency, partnership, or entity formation), the students practice writing a bar essay on that topic. Each student completes the essay in a blue book in 23 minutes (simulating bar exam conditions), then exchanges with another student in his or her assigned group. The students use the model answer and an essay-specific grading checklist to review each other’s answers, then provide feedback to their classmate.

The students understand that these are not “unit tests” for the topics. The differences among what they need to know for law school exams, for the bar, and for practice are discussed in detail. Completing the essays multiple times during the semester serves to demystify the bar exam essays, helping students think about the test and how it relates to their law school studies and law practice. In addition, the students show significant improvement in how they present their answers during the course of the semester (such as using headings and making positive statements of the rule).

Practice-Oriented Exercises
The class also requires the students to draft and learn about actual documents for business associations-related practice. For example, using the American Bar Association model third-party legal opinion, the students draft and then negotiate a legal opinion based on a model transaction document created for the class.

Students are also required to review and negotiate the transfer provisions of an LLC agreement. In addition, the class teaches students how to set up a corporation and an LLC in Kansas: reviewing the state statutes, using the Secretary of State’s website to check name availability, drafting and filing the articles of incorporation or articles of organization, and drafting bylaws and operating agreements.
INTERACTIVE STUDENT AND LAWYER INTERCESSION COURSES

Since January 2012, Washburn Law has offered a course that includes law students and lawyers as attendees. The Mineral Title Examination intersession course is an intensive three-day program. David E. Pierce, Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law and Professor of Law, organized the course and was assisted by 20 practicing lawyers who specialize in oil and gas law and title examination.

Mineral Title Examination is administered like a Continuing Legal Education course, using multiple instructors and offering coffee and lunch breaks, to keep the students engaged in the learning process throughout the day. To help cover the costs associated with the CLE format, the course is opened for limited enrollment to lawyers. The lawyers are able to obtain high-quality CLE instruction while using their CLE dollars to make it possible for students to enjoy the CLE format without additional charge.

The course focuses on the waning yet essential skill of examining title to oil and gas interests from the original government grant up to the present. No oil and gas well is drilled, nor revenue check issued, until the lawyer conducts an examination of title, identifies defects, and passes on the curative actions taken to perfect title. With oil and gas development expanding in the U.S., the demand for lawyers competent in title examination is also growing.

In 2013 and 2014, Washburn Law subscribed to a service provided by one of the register of deeds offices in a county with extensive oil and gas development. This allowed students online access to the various index and document books lawyers use to create a chain of title, examine the relevant documents in the chain, determine ownership, and identify title issues that need to be addressed. This service is used by the practitioners, working with students in small groups, to demonstrate the actual title examination process and the array of issues lawyers confront when examining title.

Students worked through an actual title that one of the instructors had previously examined. During the process, the students identified a chain of title but immediately observed a number of issues that required judgment in the application of existing law, and often required a business decision by the client. Students had the opportunity to observe firsthand that preparing a title opinion requires a high level of legal analysis and often results in a difference of opinion in the interpretation of existing law.

One benefit for students and instructors is the discourse that takes place among the practitioners. The
Washburn Law continues to experiment with innovative and interactive ways to deliver legal education to its students.

course format allows them to discuss, and often debate, the finer points of title examination based upon their decades of experience. These debates are often triggered by a student question.

By providing the practitioners with a structured topical course design, they are able to share their collective knowledge on many topics and discuss the skills they have developed to deal with issues. Each practitioner provides a sample of a title opinion and discusses their philosophy supporting their particular format, procedure, and practices. Evaluations completed by lawyers and law students revealed this is one of the most unique and valuable benefits of the course.

An accidental innovation provided by this course is the insight gained through the practitioner discourse. This is made possible by careful analysis of the relevant topics, and an orderly presentation of the foundational material, followed by identification of the resolved and unresolved issues. Because the practitioners have to deal with the unresolved issues on a daily basis, they are able to discuss and defend the varying approaches and rationales they developed to deal with uncertainty.

The combined CLE/classroom format works well with a compressed course schedule. For example, Professor Pierce opened his Drafting Contracts and Conveyances course, taught last summer, to practicing lawyers. The course was offered in 90-minute classes for eight evenings over two consecutive weeks. The course was divided into four sessions on contract drafting and four sessions on drafting conveyances. Lawyers could take one or both of the four-session packages for CLE credit.

The third experiment in combined student/lawyer classes was conducted with the new Oil and Gas Conservation Law and Practice course offered over a three-day period as a summer/fall intersession course in Wichita. It was presented with the Kansas Corporation Commission, the agency that administers the oil and gas regulatory system in Kansas. The format and CLE offering was similar to the Mineral Title Examination course. This course was also a success and received high marks from the lawyers and students who attended.

These three courses have one thing in common: they are skills-intensive courses designed to teach lawyers and students how to engage in a particular type of legal practice. They go beyond merely acquiring knowledge of substantive legal concepts by demonstrating how that knowledge must be marshaled to achieve a client’s goals.

For example, in the Mineral Title Examination course one must have a firm grasp of property law. The skill involved in title examination is learning how to identify, assemble, and manage the information that must be evaluated so substantive property law concepts can be applied to arrive at a conclusion: who owns what. This process also demonstrates the relevance of a student’s property studies by demonstrating how lawyers must apply property concepts with precision to effectively advise their clients.

The Drafting Contracts and Conveyances course takes all the substantive principles learned in contracts and property and teaches how to structure and word documents to put the law to work for a client.

The Oil and Gas Conservation Law and Practice course takes the student into the inner workings of the administrative agency charged with regulating the exploration and production of oil and gas. The skills learned address how to effectively represent an oil and gas client before the administrative agency that controls all of the client’s development activities. During this course, students were instructed by all of the lawyers who routinely practice before the Oil and Gas Conservation Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission. They were also instructed by the lawyers and technical staff that compose the Commission, including the three Commissioners.

Bringing law students and lawyer-students together in a learning environment has proven to be beneficial for everyone involved.
INTERACTIVE LEARNING VIA TECHNOLOGY

Technology entered the classroom during this past decade as professors supplemented their lectures with PowerPoint presentations and class web pages and provided students with class material online.

Associate Professor Craig Martin has turned to blogging as a tool to interact with his students. He uses a "course blog" for both Public International Law and the Law of Armed Conflict (wulaw-loac.blogspot.com/) as a means of encouraging students to become more familiar with current world events that relate to issues discussed in the classroom.

The blogs are designed to provide short summaries of issues, with links to news stories and a brief explanation of how they relate to issues under discussion in the classroom. The blogs are designed to provide short summaries of issues, with links to news stories and a brief explanation of how they relate to issues under discussion in the classroom.

The format, being closer to what students are likely to consume on the Internet in their free time, and employing graphics and video as well as text, is designed to be more attractive than a dry TWEN site, or similar portal, for class information. Students are invited and encouraged, through the use of participation marks, to engage in discussion on the blog sites.

The format, being closer to what students are likely to consume on the Internet in their free time, and employing graphics and video as well as text, is designed to be more attractive than a dry TWEN site, or similar portal, for class information. Students are invited and encouraged, through the use of participation marks, to engage in discussion on the blog sites.

In 2012, the process resulted in a landmark property law decision of the Constitutional Court in which the judges recognized the contribution of the Washburn Law students to their decision.

Faculty from the Washburn Law Center for Business and Transactional Law are discussing ways this model might be extended to work at the new Commercial Law Clinic at Free University.

The Washburn Law program grew out of a U.S. State Department grant. Such programs engage students in research, open the door for serious study of comparative constitutional law, and help to address problems associated with limited legal research facilities in a country such as Georgia.

Hybrid Learning

The Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing for the Government Client course is innovative in its design and delivery, as it is one of the first “hybrid” online/in-person classes offered at the law school. The class meets in person two to three times each semester, but the majority of the coursework is completed through Desire2Learn (D2L), Washburn University’s online learning management system.

D2L allows students to share resources, and review and edit others’ work products. Additionally, this format accommodates class auditors’ schedules, because they can complete much of the course at their own pace, in their own time.

Typical writing tasks of government attorneys are the course’s focus. Assignments include drafting a letter responding to citizens’ requests for information, a memo evaluating a client’s liability, and legislation and policy. Writing tips and techniques that will help sharpen writing skills for any type of work also are taught in the course.

Professor Katharine Jackson, who teaches the course, is an attorney with more than 10 years of experience working with government clients. “Although a large portion of the coursework is done independently, the class is also highly interactive,” she notes. The in-person meetings involve in-class exercises, individual and group discussions, and collaborative projects.
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 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.
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 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.”

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.
Fleshers’ Planned Gift to Extend Longtime Support of Washburn Law

Jack Flesher, ’72, can trace his connection to Washburn University School of Law back to when he was growing up in Topeka a couple of blocks from the Washburn campus. As a teenager, he would make his way to campus, to the area where the Washburn Law building now stands, and teach himself to play golf. “And that explains why I can’t chip or putt very well,” he said.

More than 50 years later, he and his wife, Kathryn, consider the law school an important part of their lives and have helped establish what could be the beginning of a family tradition. Two of their four children have Washburn Law degrees, and in May 2013, their oldest granddaughter graduated from the law school. With eight grandchildren, they hope to see more family ties to Washburn Law.

“Washburn has always been a big part of our lives, and we hope it will continue to be in the future,” Jack said.

Committed to supporting the future of Washburn Law, the Fleshers recently decided to establish a gift annuity, which will benefit the law school as part of 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University. Their gift will make an impact on generations of Washburn Law students to come.

Flesher said they made their gift in honor of the superb law education that he, their children, and their granddaughter received from Washburn Law.

“Given our long history with Washburn, we were proud to be able to make a significant contribution to Washburn University School of Law,” he said.

Flesher received his bachelor of business administration in accounting from Washburn in 1964 while working at Goodyear and later earned his Juris Doctor while working as an Internal Revenue Service agent in Topeka.

He has practiced law since 1974 as a partner/member of the Wichita law firm of Bever Dye, L.C., practicing primarily in the areas of taxation law, nonprofit organizations law, tax and estate planning, and wills and trusts. Flesher is among eight Washburn Law alumni at Bever Dye. During the last three decades, the focus of his practice on charitable organizations law has gradually increased to the point that, today, it is most of what he does. He has served as a member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors since 2012.

Flesher said the couple’s continued interest in the law school can be attributed to the solid education he received and the career path it has provided him.

“It is important to us to support Washburn Law because it has played such a significant role in my career and in our family’s lives,” he said.

Scholarships provide a pathway to success for every student, regardless of field or finances, and reinforce what is at the heart of Washburn University School of Law — to provide a world-class legal education. To support scholarships and 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, please visit givetowashburn.org/LawSchool.
Many Washburn University School of Law students benefit from privately funded scholarships established by benefactors and firms such as Bever Dye, LC, based in Wichita. In 2008, the firm’s partners established the Bever Dye, LC Law Scholarship to assist students with their legal education at Washburn Law.

The firm has provided legal counseling and representation to individuals and businesses throughout the region for more than 70 years. The firm specializes in taxation, estate planning, trusts, employee benefits, real estate, business and commercial transactions, charitable planning, and organizations. Bever Dye, LC has several Washburn University School of Law alumni who know firsthand how valuable a scholarship can be in successfully balancing rigorous coursework with financial obligations.

“We wanted to establish a scholarship fund to support students the same way other people helped us when we were attending law school. Becoming a lawyer is an expensive, intense endeavor. As a firm, we like knowing that our contribution makes it more feasible for someone else to pursue this rewarding profession,” said Bob Hughes, ’82, a lawyer with Bever Dye.

Jack McTernan, a 3L from Glendale, Ariz., said the Bever Dye scholarship enables him to focus on classes to support an eventual career path toward estate planning. “It helps to not be distracted by a 9-to-5 job, and it’s easier to pick classes since I’m not constrained by a full work schedule,” he said.

McTernan chose Washburn University in part because of the resources offered to students, not only through scholarships but also through accessible professors and a commitment to ensuring student success, including initial 1L meetings that candidly discussed positive ways to cope with inevitable stressors.

“I think Washburn does a good job of placing realistic expectations on students, and my professors as a whole have been constructive and respectful,” said McTernan. “Law school has given me a lot of fuel for self-growth. I’ve been impressed with my Washburn education, and I’m grateful for the scholarship assistance that helped relax my financial concerns.”

Scholarships provide a pathway to success for every student, regardless of field or finances, and reinforce what is at the heart of Washburn University School of Law — to provide a world-class legal education. To support scholarships and 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, please visit givetowashburn.org/LawSchool.
Alan Dunaway’s parents are musicians, so while his decision to obtain an undergraduate degree in music wasn’t surprising, his eventual management career at JetBlue Airways was serendipitous. Although he enjoyed his various roles at JetBlue, he kept landing on the idea of attending law school.

Still pondering his plans, the married father of three made a lateral move to another department to work for a director he admired. When that director left JetBlue a few months later, Dunaway said, “I realized the time was right to not worry so much about attaching myself to someone else’s star but to pursue my own dream. My kids were getting older, and the window of opportunity was closing.”

Able to fly for free, Dunaway visited law school recruitment events across the country. He sought out Washburn University School of Law representatives on the recommendation of a co-worker (who had attended Washburn as an undergraduate).

“I needed a place that would be good for my family, not just me,” Dunaway said. “Topeka was very affordable and offered a quality of life that made Washburn a good fit for us.”

At 34, he and his wife, Laura, bought a house west of campus. While his children attended Whitson Elementary School, Dunaway benefited from courses taught by professors at Washburn Law.

“They went out of their way to make sure I was learning what I was supposed to learn, that I had a support system, and that I could get real-life experience to take advantage of career opportunities when I graduated,” he said.

As a student, Dunaway was involved in the Tax and Estate Planning Association and the J. Reuben Clark Society while serving as a Westlaw student representative and a Washburn Law student ambassador.

Dunaway, who graduated in 2010, works as in-house counsel and litigator for Basic Research, a diet supplement company in Salt Lake City, and gives annually to the Dean’s Circle fund through the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) program, which enables graduates to help shape Washburn Law for future students. Every Graduate of the Last Decade is granted access to join the Dean’s Circle for a gift of $100 times the number of years since graduation.

“It’s my turn to give back — as often and as much as I can,” he said. “It’s rewarding to know that I’m helping students and, in turn, our society as Washburn produces high-quality legal representatives for our communities. Every dollar helps.”

Annual giving helps sustain Washburn Law’s focus and is the foundation of everything we do. It helps us meet immediate needs and gives us the flexibility to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. To support annual giving and 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, please visit give.towashburn.org/LawSchool.
C. Michael Lennen, ’74, Topeka, was honored as the Washburn University Alumni Fellow from the law school on September 13, 2013. Lennen is a member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors.

Sponsored by the Washburn University deans and the Alumni Association, the Alumni Fellows program recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their career fields. The Alumni Fellows program brings successful alumni to campus to meet with students, faculty, and other alumni, and to share their expertise.

Lennen is of counsel with the Law Offices of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock and Kennedy, Chtd.

The Syracuse, Kan., native and Topeka resident has had a successful career in law spanning nearly 40 years, including more than 20 years with his current firm.

Lennen has served in his current capacity since 2012 and previously was a shareholder and director with the firm’s Wichita office from 1987 to 2007. He worked for five years as vice president of regulatory affairs at Westar Energy before returning to the firm.

His positions prior to Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock and Kennedy include chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission from 1983 to 1987, secretary of the Kansas Department of Revenue from 1979 to 1983, administrative assistant to Congresswoman Martha Keyes from 1976 to 1979, and law clerk for The Honorable Frank G. Theis from 1974 to 1976.

Lennen is past president of the Topeka Symphony, a position he has held since 2010, and vice chairman of the Kansas Health Foundation, among several service endeavors.
Athletes Transition from Sports to Law

By Jennifer Lauber, Washburn Review

Former Washburn athletes Bobby Chipman and Marty Pfannenstiel have decided to bring their “game” to a new arena, Washburn Law. Already familiar with the term “practice,” these first-year law students are tackling new concepts with the same drive and skills that first brought them success playing sports.

Marty Pfannenstiel played linebacker for the Washburn football team from 2007 to 2011. Bobby Chipman played forward for the Washburn basketball team from 2009 to 2013. As student athletes, each was named to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) Academic Honor Roll.

Chipman received calls from agents to play overseas but instead decided to focus on a law career. He relied on the reputation of Washburn Law to help make his decision.

“I’ve been around Washburn my whole life. My dad is the basketball coach, and I’ve always been concerned about the basketball team, but I’ve always heard the law school is great,” Chipman said. “I’ve heard from plenty of family and friends who have said it’s a great place.”

Pfannenstiel, a native of Silver Lake, did not grow up around Washburn but knew of its reputation. Curious about law for years, it wasn’t until last summer, while working for an insurance firm, that co-workers successfully persuaded him to try. He took the LSAT in June, applied to Washburn Law, and before he knew it, was handing his boss a two-week notice.

“It was a drastic change in my life,” Pfannenstiel said. “Law school is definitely more time consuming and a lot more demanding, but much more interesting because I have a desire to learn about the law.”

Chipman also admits law school is a definite change but said as an athlete he has learned how to push things to the limit. “Just like with sports, you have to be able to prepare, practice, and defeat,” Chipman said.

And of course competition comes into play. Chipman explained how students are ranked in law school. Grading is dependent on the performance of others in addition to your own.

“In basketball you learn to be competitive and give it your best every time … to make sure that you give your team the best chance to win,” Chipman said. “Just like here at law school, you’ve got to study, work your hardest, and give yourself the best chance you can to get the highest grade.”

According to Chipman, being a college athlete was like having two jobs: working hard on the court or field to help the team win while also working hard in the classroom to obtain the desired degree. Now he works just as hard for law school.

“Law school is like having two full-time jobs only it’s the same one,” Chipman said. “You’ve got to really learn how to manage your time well, and that’s something that carries over from being a student athlete into law school.”

In addition to good time management, stress management is essential for success.

Pfannenstiel understands the level of stress first-year law students can experience but said playing football has equipped him to better handle it. One of the best stress relievers for him is exercise, which helps the rest of his day go better. Despite a busy schedule, he attempts to keep the early morning workout routine carried over from his football career. Pfannenstiel also loves to play a round of golf when time allows, which isn’t much these days.

“Law school really cut into my golf game,” Pfannenstiel said with a grin.

Chipman also likes to play golf when he finds the time. He is currently a graduate assistant basketball coach for the Washburn Ichabods and recently played on an alumni team in a scrimmage against this year’s team.

As Washburn undergraduate students, both studied accounting and hope to obtain CPA certification in the future. Chipman is working toward the dual degree program at Washburn Law, which will also earn him an M.B.A.

Chipman says he can see himself working for a law firm someday, preferably in business transactions or tax law, while Pfannenstiel hopes to work in the insurance field. Whether they eventually decide to practice law or not, both agree a law school education is beneficial for any career. Halfway through their first year, both are already impressed
Marty Pfannenstiel was a linebacker for the Washburn Ichabods from 2007 to 2011. Bobby Chipman played forward for the Washburn basketball team from 2009 to 2013.

Marty Pfannenstiel, standing, and Bobby Chipman, seated.

with how Washburn Law has positively changed the way they think, read, and comprehend.

And write. Pfannenstiel said writing is one of the most important aspects of law school, and he is impressed with the reputation of Washburn’s legal writing program. He also finds the structured study groups for 1L students very beneficial.

“Everybody has questions,” Pfannenstiel said. “I don’t know if many other law schools do this, but it helps everybody get adjusted that first year.”

Although these former Ichabod athletes aren’t in the same study group, they consider themselves part of the same “team” with the same goal: giving their best as Washburn Law students just like they once did for their respective sports teams.

Pfannenstiel is happy with his decision to go to law school and said he would absolutely recommend it to other athletes.

“It definitely can’t hurt you,” Chipman said. “All you are going to do is expand your knowledge and horizons.”

For more information about Washburn Athletics, visit wusports.com
Alumni Association Awards

The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors presented its annual awards at the Washburn Law luncheon at the Kansas Bar Association’s annual meeting.

[1] Professor Gregory J. Pease
[3] Nola Tedesco Foulston, ’77
[6] Congressman Dennis W. Moore, ’70
[7] Ronald E. Wurtz, ’73
Honorary Life Membership

The Honorary Life Membership is awarded annually to a non-graduate. The recipient of this honor is someone who has provided an exemplary service to their profession, community, and Washburn University School of Law.

Professor Gregory J. Pease graduated *cum laude* from Wichita State University with bachelor’s degrees in English and psychology in 1964. He studied philosophy at the University of Illinois before entering law school. He received his law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1970 and upon graduation served as a law clerk to the Honorable Oliver Seth, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Prior to joining Washburn Law faculty, he taught at the Ohio Northern University (ONU) Claude W. Pettit College of Law in Ada, Ohio. At ONU, he was an assistant dean and also the faculty advisor for the law review.

Professor Pease taught at Washburn Law for 37 years and served as a member of the Admissions Committee for many years. He has been a repeat recipient of the William O. Douglas Professor of the Year teaching award presented at spring commencement for the law school. He authored chapter 59 of the 2000 Supplement for *Vernon’s Kansas Statutes Annotated*, and his teaching responsibilities have included Decedents’ Estates, Trusts and Future Interests, Property I, and Law and Literature. He retired from Washburn Law after the 2013 spring semester.

Professor Pease will now have more time to enjoy hunting, fishing, music, and reading. With his retirement, he will be able to enjoy the 4Gs — gardening, guitar, grandkids (he and his wife, Joan, have two children and four grandchildren), and golf. He has fond memories of playing golf with Professors Ray Spring and John Kuether. One thing he will miss in retirement is Professor Linda “Cricket” Elrod’s chocolate chip cookies.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed on graduates of Washburn Law who have distinguished themselves and brought recognition to the school through their service to Washburn Law, the legal profession, their community, or public service.

The Honorable C. William “Bill” Ossmann, ’77, was appointed District Court judge in Shawnee County, Kansas, in August 2012. Prior, he was the chief litigation attorney for the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services for a few months, following a similar position with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services that he began in November 1997.

Judge Ossmann’s early experience included work as a guardian *ad litem* with the Shawnee County juvenile court. He was a criminal prosecutor from 1978 to 1993 and worked with the Kansas Department of Agriculture as a special assistant attorney general from 1993 to 1997.

Judge Ossmann received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Kansas State University and his law degree from Washburn Law. He received a master’s in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

The Kansas County and District Attorney’s Association selected him as Prosecutor of the Year in 1990. He is active as a master in the Sam A. Crow Inn of the American Inns of Court and a Life Member of the Washburn Law Alumni Association.

Judge Ossmann has served as chairperson of the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board. He has been active in the Topeka community, participating in the 1991 Leadership Greater Topeka class.

Judge Ossmann frequently teaches for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) trial skills and deposition skills programs in Chicago and Colorado. He has served as program director for NITA Public Service Lawyers programs in Topeka and Hays, Kan. As an adjunct professor at Washburn University School of Law, he teaches trial skills, depositions, and cross examination. He was selected as Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013.

In 2009, the Kansas Bar Association presented Judge Ossmann with its Distinguished Government Service Award. He and his wife, Catherine, live on a ranch west of Topeka.
Lifetime Achievement Awards
The Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed on graduates whose careers have been highly distinguished, and whose achievements and contributions are widely recognized as significant and outstanding in their field of endeavor, whether it be in the practice of law, the judiciary, business, public service, education, or otherwise. While all graduates of the law school will be eligible for consideration, in general those nominated should be persons whose professional careers have been substantially completed, and who clearly will represent the very best and most accomplished of the law school’s many outstanding graduates.

Nola Tedesco Foulston, ’77, a native of Lake Mahopac, N.Y., received a bachelor’s degree in 1972 from Fort Hays State University, attended the University of Kansas Graduate School, and earned her Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in December 1976. In 2013, she retired after 24 years as the elected district attorney to join the Wichita law firm of Hutton & Hutton LLC as a trial attorney who specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice, and complex tort litigation.

Foulston was admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas in 1977, is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of Kansas, and holds the privilege of admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. She began as an assistant district attorney in Wichita, from 1977 to 1981, and until 1989 she practiced civil law.

In 1989, Foulston was sworn in as district attorney for the 18th Judicial District of Kansas, Sedgwick County. She is well known for her tough stand on crime. In 2012, she was awarded the prestigious American Bar Association Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award.

Prominent cases in which Foulston has been involved in prosecuting include the 1990 murder of Nancy Shoemaker; the Reginald and Jonathan Carr brothers’ murder spree of 2000; the BTK serial killer Dennis Rader in 2005; prosecution of Scott Roeder for the killing of Dr. George Tiller in 2009; and, importantly, serving as co-counsel in 2006 before the U.S. Supreme Court in Michael Marsh v. State of Kansas, which upheld the constitutionality of the Kansas death penalty law.

Foulston enjoys the privilege of being an AV rated Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™, which are an objective indicator of a lawyer’s high ethical standards and professional ability.

Dr. Max M. Halley, ’66, was born in Bremerhaven, Germany, and came to America in 1935. He grew up in western New York and, at age 17, enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Army Specialized Reserve Program and then as special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps, earning the rank of warrant officer.

After his military service, Dr. Halley earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard College in 1949 and an M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1953. In 1959, Dr. Halley moved with his family from New Orleans to Topeka, where he began his medical practice. He served as chief of surgery at Stormont-Vail Hospital.

While practicing surgery, Dr. Halley attended Washburn Law and received his Juris Doctor, cum laude, in 1966 and was admitted to the Kansas Bar. He used his legal education to teach legal issues to physicians and to promote better understanding between the professions. He taught Medical Evidence at Washburn Law.

Dr. Halley published more than 50 journal articles and several book chapters, dealing with professional liability and tort reform, as well as medical ethics and surgical topics. He was a founder of the Institute for Healthcare and Law to further study medical-legal issues.

Dr. Halley has been and continues to be involved with Washburn University School of Law through the mentor program. He and his wife, Jo, established a trust to create the Fowks-Halley-Van Petten Chair of Dispute Resolution, along with the Robert J. Fowks Fund at the law school. They also created a scholarship to help single mothers attend the Washburn University nursing program.

Dr. Halley married Josephine Ann “Jo” Van Petten in 1954, after she graduated from KU School of Nursing. They have five children, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, one step-granddaughter, and two step-great-granddaughters. Among the five children are two physicians, one social worker, and two lawyers, practicing in Topeka, Kansas City, Connecticut, Ohio, and California.
Mark V. Heitz, '77, attended Washburn University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1974, a Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 1977, and an Honorary Doctorate of Law in 2001. While attending Washburn Law, Heitz became a law clerk for the Kansas Insurance Commissioner and began his nearly 40 year career in the insurance industry. In 1981 he joined the legal staff at Security Benefit Group, where he led their governmental relations efforts in Washington, D.C., and Topeka. He was heavily involved in the rewriting of the federal income tax code for the life insurance industry, working closely with the Senate Finance Committee and its chairman, Senator Bob Dole, ’52. From 1984 to 1986, he worked for CGF Industries and helped consummate 14 acquisitions. Heitz joined the Board of Directors of American Investors Life Insurance Company (AIL) in June 1986 and became a founding director of AmVestors Financial Corporation, the parent company of AIL, in August 1986. In October 1986 he became president of AIL and in December 1986 he also became president of AmVestors, beginning a 25-year career with these entities. He retired at the end of 2011 and continued in a consulting role for Aviva USA through the end of 2013. Heitz has served on the Washburn Board of Regents, the Washburn University Foundation, and the Washburn Law Alumni Association Board of Governors. Heitz and his wife, Lisa, reside in Miramar Beach, Fla., and also maintain a home in Topeka.

Congressman Dennis W. Moore, ’70, graduated from the University of Kansas in 1967. Following in the footsteps of his father, C.W. (Warner) Moore, ’50, Dennis received his law degree from Washburn Law. After service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Reserve, Congressman Moore started his legal career as an assistant attorney general for the State of Kansas. He entered private legal practice in Johnson County in 1973. In 1976, Moore was elected district attorney in Johnson County and was re-elected twice, serving a total of 12 years. During his tenure, he earned the reputation as a tough but fair prosecutor. Congressman Moore was elected in 1998 to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Third District of Kansas, where he served six terms. As a member of the Center Aisle Caucus, a group formed to bring more civility and bipartisanship to Congress, Moore developed a reputation as someone who would reach across the aisle to develop common-sense solutions to issues. The January 24, 2000, issue of Roll Call featured Congressman Moore in the article “Who’s Part of the Next Generation of Hill Leaders.” Congressman Moore has made presentations to the political science department at Washburn University and was the graduation speaker for commencement at Washburn Law in May 2008. He resides in Lenexa with his wife, Stephene, a registered nurse. They have seven children and eight grandchildren.

Ronald E. Wurtz, ’73, received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Washburn University in 1970 and is a 1973 graduate of Washburn University School of Law. Early in his career, Wurtz served as a Shawnee County assistant district attorney. He was the chief public defender in Shawnee County from 1979 to 1994 and then chief of the Death Penalty Defense Unit of the Kansas State Public Defender System until 1998. Wurtz served as an assistant federal public defender, first assistant, and acting federal defender for the District of Kansas from 1998 until his retirement in 2013. Wurtz served as a U.S. Air Force judge advocate, retiring in 1997 after 22 years of active and reserve service. He has been an adjunct professor at Washburn Law, a mentor to law students and a supporter of the law school, delivering the commencement address to Washburn Law graduates in 1995. Wurtz received the Kansas Bar Association Outstanding Service Award for his many contributions to the KBA and the legal profession. Wurtz has been admitted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. This accomplished group recognizes excellence in trial lawyers, and membership is by invitation only to persons who have distinguished themselves in trial practice for at least 15 years and who are recognized leaders in their local communities. The college looks for lawyers who are considered by other lawyers and judges to be the best in their states or provinces, whose ethical and moral standards are the highest, and who share the intangible quality of collegiality.
With storm clouds looming in the western sky, 72 golfers participated in the 2013 golf tournament at the Firekeeper Golf Course in Mayetta, Kan. The threatening weather held off long enough for all to finish and make a quick retreat home.

The Washburn Law Alumni Association thanks the golfers and the 20 hole sponsors. Ten law students were able to play due to the generosity of our alumni. The golf committee was chaired again by John Jurcyk, ’84, Fairway, Kan. The net proceeds of $5,200 will go to unrestricted law school scholarships.

Stan Hazlett, disciplinary administrator for the State of Kansas, presented the Ethics and Discipline CLE.
Upcoming Events

MAY 2014
17 Commencement
20 Phoenix – Alumni Reception
30 Issues in Aviation Law CLE

JUNE 2014
6 Topeka - Admitted Student BBQ
13 Junior Intellectual Property Scholars’ Association Workshop
14 Topeka – Washburn Law Alumni Association Board of Governors Meeting
26-27 Selected Topics CLE

JULY 2014
15 Seattle – Alumni Reception
24 Lindsborg, Kan. – Kansas Women Attorneys Association Reception
30 Denver – Alumni Reception
31 Colorado Springs, Colo. – Alumni Reception

SEPTEMBER 2014
5 Dodge City, Kan. - Southwest Kansas Bar Association Annual Meeting Reception
19 Topeka – Washburn Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting
26 Lawrence, Kan. – Washburn Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament
27 Kansas City, Mo. – Washburn Law Alumni Association BOG Meeting
27 Kansas City, Mo. – Dean’s Circle Dinner

NOVEMBER 2014
11 Colby, Kan. – Alumni Reception
12 Hays, Kan. – Alumni Reception
13 Salina, Kan. – Alumni Reception

All events on Washburn University campus unless noted otherwise.

WashburnLaw.edu/events