

# One Graduate's Challenge

*Encouraging classmates to support the new law school facility.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

**Ann Frigon, '80**, looks back at her time spent as a student at Washburn University School of Law with fond memories.

"I graduated in 1980, and it was just a special time in my life," said Frigon. "I met some close friends, and we all went on to have good careers. Our time at Washburn Law prepared us well for that."

Frigon recently made a pledge to the law school building fund in honor of her family and her late ex-husband, **Donald Frigon, '78**. Donald passed away in September 2014.

The two were high school sweethearts who both majored in political science at the University of Kansas before pursuing their law degrees at Washburn Law. After graduating law school, Donald worked at a law firm with his father and brother, both Washburn Law graduates, before going out on his own.

"Washburn Law and the degrees we received there gave us something extra in life, and I want to pay it back," she said.

Frigon, a registered principal at Preferred Investments, Inc./LPL Financial in Dodge City, Kan., didn't go on to practice law after taking the bar, but she felt her law degree gave her an advantage she wouldn't have had otherwise.

"My law degree helped me stand out — as a woman, especially — to help give me an edge over others as I started out in my career," said Frigon. "As a woman in the 1980s with a law degree, it very much helped me to advance."

The pride she holds from receiving her juris doctor is also why she wanted her contribution to the school to be partially in her maiden name, Hastings, to honor her family.

"Neither one of my parents graduated from college," said Frigon, "So it was a really big deal that I not only graduated from college, but that I also went on to get a law degree."

Frigon knows making updates to the law school is crucial for Washburn Law to continue to provide the quality education

she received. She's hoping her gift to the school encourages her Washburn Law classmates to support the school and this building project.

"We had a really neat class with a great group of people. A lot of us have done really well for ourselves over the years. I'm absolutely challenging them to support future students and Washburn Law's continued greatness.

"It's funny, looking back. We were all poor in law school, and we were poor together for three long years. The misery, joy, and heartache — we did it all together. Since then, we've all been through a lot in life, but we've survived this long. It would be great to see everyone giving back."



Photo submitted