

Optimism for the Future

As I begin my tenure as the chair of the Board of Governors, there are signs everywhere we look that the best is yet to come for Washburn University School of Law. Whether it is the national recognition many of our programs continue to receive, the progress of our Law School building campaign, the continued strength of our faculty and administration, the diversity of our student body or the arrival of Dean Carla Pratt, optimism for what the future holds should be shared by all of us. While many of us are well aware of what distinguishes Washburn Law School, we need to spread the word so the Washburn Law School story is known well beyond the borders of Kansas.

Thanks to our excellent faculty and staff, Washburn continues to attract national recognition. Our Family Law, Business Law, and Trial Advocacy Programs have received A ratings from preLaw Magazine and our Government Law program has been ranked No. 3 in the country by preLaw Magazine for full time Government and Public Interest Employment. Our Legal Writing program is ranked in the top 20 by US News and World Report's 2020 edition. This continues a trend of top 20 rankings for that program, dating back several years.

When Dean Carla Pratt began her tenure as dean, she arrived with high expectations and a list of initiatives of what she wanted to begin working on. One of the first that she has addressed is the first of its kind, the Third Year Anywhere™ program, and news of this initiative has gained national attention in publications such as Law.com and National Jurist.

Significant progress continues to be made with respect to the fundraising efforts associated with the Law School building which will be constructed on the Southeast corner of the campus. The new Law School building when complete, will provide a fitting home for the high quality and innovative programs and instruction which characterize the Washburn Law School experience.

We continue to try and identify new and better ways to connect with our alumni, and our alumni staff is doing an excellent job of scheduling events throughout the country which provide an opportunity for our alumni to gather, remain connected and be updated on everything that is taking place at the Law School. I would particularly encourage all alumni to attend our Alumni Awards Recognition Dinner which will be held on Oct. 5. This is an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary achievements of our graduates.

Finally, I would like to thank my good friend Jim Slattery for his exceptional service as board chair over the last two years. Jim's career has personified what can be accomplished when one capitalizes on the foundation provided by having attended Washburn Law School. It is a privilege to serve as board chair, and I look forward to connecting with many of you during the next two years and encourage all of you to stay connected and attend as many programs and events as possible. Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,


S. Lucky DeFries, '78
Chair, Washburn University School of Law
Alumni Association Board of Governors



The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors was first created in 1952. Our mission is to promote the interests of the Law School by engaging our alumni through service to the Law School and the Association, participating in alumni events and programs, remaining connected, and assisting to further scholarship funding. Appointments run July through June.

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