

# Business & Transactional Law Center

This fall has been a busy and successful time for the Washburn Law Business and Transactional Center. In September the Center sponsored "Globalization at a Crossroads: Recent Developments in International Business Law." Speakers for this panel included former Congressman Jim Slattery '75, Prof. Ali Khan and Adjunct Prof. Benoit Swinnen. Prof. Khan reviewed recent trade controversies surrounding genetically modified foods. Slattery discussed potential remedies available to victims of unfair international trade practices. Prof. Swinnen outlined the pitfalls of the accidental international trade transaction via Internet communication. Students were not only able to attend the conference, but Slattery agreed to meet with a small group of students over lunch to discuss opportunities in international business transactions. Additionally, students were able to attend an informal reception for all conference participants. The Center will continue to look for opportunities to enrich the educational experience of students in the area of international law, and intends to sponsor conferences like this one on a regular basis.

In November the Center sponsored the "Annual Institute on Professional Responsibility for Business and Transactional Law." Prof. David Pierce '77 recruited a nationally known scholar on this topic, Prof. John Dzienkowski, the John Redditt Professor of State and Local Government at the University of Texas. Frank Ross '78, of

Polsinelli Shalton & Welte, addressed the best practices for counsel faced with issues relating to multiple parties in business transactions. Prof. Sheila Reynolds participated in panel discussions on this topic and on recent developments arising from the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as recent amendments to the Model Rules of Professional responsibility.

Students had the opportunity to discuss ethical issues facing business and transactional attorneys with Prof. Dzienkowski at an informal lunch and at a dinner at Prof. Pierce's home. Prof. Dzienkowski also presented his most recent scholarly work to the faculty for discussion and questions.

Alumni have continued to support the Center during its early stages. A number of alums have offered

monetary support, and others have offered support by participating in various activities. For example, we continue to have experienced attorneys visit with our students to educate them about the opportunities and challenges facing business and transactional lawyers. Usually this occurs within the context of informal lunches that give students access to expertise and experience. Indeed, the Center's goal is to create sufficient energy so that students want to study more rather than less.



**Professor John Dzienkowski,  
Professor Sheila Reynolds and Frank Ross '78**



**Professor Steve Ramirez**





**Annual Institute on Professional Responsibility for Business and Transactional Law**

In the upcoming semester, the Center will sponsor a major conference entitled “Brown in the Business Sector,” which will celebrate and focus on the progress of corporate America in dealing with issues of diversity since the modern era of race relations commenced with the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954. The *Brown* decision was driven by Washburn graduates, and the law school is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Brown*. This program is an extension of that celebration. In conjunction with this event, the Center will sponsor an annual institute for corporate counsel addressing employment law issues. More information will follow, but suffice it to say that these programs also benefit from tremendous support from our alumni in the business and transactional arena.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you wish to participate in any Center activities, please do not hesitate to contact Professor Steven Ramirez, director of the Business and Transactional Law Center, at [steven.ramirez@washburn.edu](mailto:steven.ramirez@washburn.edu).



**Professor Ali Khan**