

## Advocacy Scholar in Residence

Professor Paul J. Zwier II from Emory Law School was the 2005 Washburn Advocacy Scholar in Residence, March 14-18, 2005. Zwier presented a public lecture titled "The Supreme Court's Struggle To Control Civil Juries: The Place of Retribution in Awarding Punitive Damages." Recently in a series of landmark decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court put nationwide limits on jurors who award punitive damages in civil cases. The Court decided that due process requires judges to review and sometimes recalculate the amounts of money awarded by jurors as punitive damages. Departing from 200 years of common law jurisprudence that juries' punitive damage awards should be overturned only if they are "grossly excessive" and unsupported by evidence, the Court now requires full review of these awards, thus often preventing juries in civil cases from meting out financial retribution when they find outrageously wrongful conduct.

Zwier contends the Court's current attitude toward punitive damages severely weakens the underlying purpose of these jury-awarded damages: to punish the wrongdoer. Zwier examined the Supreme Court's recent case law and discussed the important role punitive damages play in expressing community moral sentiment and in curbing the excesses of the markets.

Zwier is one of the nation's most distinguished professors of advocacy and skills training and is Emory Law School's Professor of Law and Director of the Advocacy Skills Program. He earned a bachelor's degree from Calvin College in 1976, a J.D. from Pepperdine University in 1979, and an L.L.M. from Temple University in 1981. He was Professor of Law at The University of Tennessee Law School and named Director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution in

1999. Before that, he was at the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law, where he was a Professor of Law and former Director of the Lawyering Skills Program for eighteen years. Zwier is the Director of Education for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and has taught in NITA's Harvard Teachers' Training Conference, an institute designed to assist trial advocacy teachers in becoming more accomplished.

### DALLAS



## Alumni Receptions

The Washburn Law School Alumni Association held alumni events recently in Wichita, Hays, Denver, Vail, Kansas City, Dallas and Houston. The event in Wichita was held at the new CityArts building and was a great location and to view local art. In Hays, the law firm of Glassman, Bird, Braun and Schwartz hosted the event at their stunning office, an old church building which they have renovated. The firm consists entirely of Washburn Law alumni. In Denver, alum David Byssee '75 was gracious enough to host a reception at his home. In Vail, a Washburn Law alumni reception was held at the Kansas Bar Association meeting. The Washburn Law alumni luncheon also took place in Vail. For the first time, a family picnic and barbeque was held at the Kansas City Zoo for area alums and their children. Children and parents alike had a great time. For the first time a reception was held in conjunction with the Kansas Women Attorneys Association Annual Meeting in Lindsborg. Over 80 alumnae attended the reception held at Lindsborg's landmark establishment — "Ol Stuga". In Dallas, alumni attended a Frisco RoughRiders baseball game and in Houston, Sue Jean White '80, graciously hosted a reception for alumni in her home.

Washburn Law continues to hold alumni events in Kansas and throughout the U.S. If you are interested in hosting an alumni event or would like us to hold an event in your area, please contact the law school alumni office at 785-670-1011.



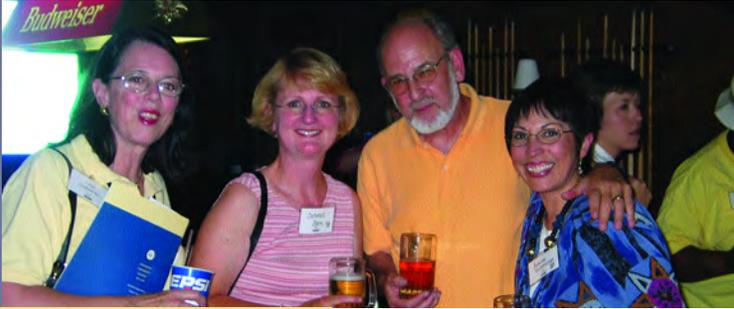
### HAYS



### HOUSTON



### VAIL



**LINDSBORG**



**DENVER**



**K.C. ZOO**



**WICHITA**

## Career Services New Name

The Office of Career Services and Continuing Legal Education will now be known as the Professional Development Office. For many years, the office has provided career planning and continuing legal education services to both students and alumni. Those services will still be provided; however, the new name will encompass both functions and promote a more professional image. According to Director of Professional Development, Margann Bennett:

*"This isn't just about having a shorter name. I hope the new name suggests that our office is a place where both students and alumni are welcome to use available resources and services throughout their careers. We are here not only to help students chart a course for their careers, which continue to develop before and after graduation, but also to assist alumni when they make changes in their careers. In addition, I hope the new name will differentiate our goals and services from*

*whatever students may have experienced in undergraduate school. As Judge Bullock emphasizes when he greets incoming first-years, students enter the legal profession the day they start law school. The new name is just a small reminder that they've entered a serious profession."*

Along with the name change the Professional Development Office is planning a new programming series to address issues students will face in their day-to-day professional lives. Included in this series will be seminars discussing diversity, law-firm management, and professional conduct issues. The office is also busy coordinating the Fall On-Campus Interview Program and several student seminars focusing on career planning and options, resumes, interviews and networking.

Two major programs being planned are the Mock Interview Program and the Law School Mentor Program. Both programs rely on support from area alumni and friends of the school and have received very positive reviews from students and volunteers alike.

The Mock Interview Program provides second and third year students the opportunity to practice interviewing and receive feedback to improve their skills. Students are encouraged to prepare for their mock interviews in the same way they would prepare for a real interview by researching the interviewer, preparing questions and updating their resumes. They are also encouraged to dress "business formal" to most simulate an actual interview experience. The program was held September 6-9, 2005.

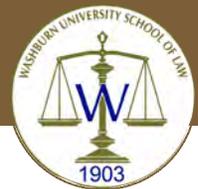
The Law School Mentor Program is a relatively new program that is run in conjunction with the Washburn Law Alumni Office. The program matches area alumni and friends of the school with first-year students giving the students a connection to the community and a resource for discussing issues related to their career. The program also provides an excellent opportunity for alumni/volunteers to connect with the School of Law and interact with students at a level they prefer. Mentors are assigned a student in August and the program officially kicks-off with a reception in mid-September. If you are interested in being a mentor, contact Professional Development, the law school Alumni Office, or complete the Mentor Registration form found at [www.washburnlaw.edu/career/mentor](http://www.washburnlaw.edu/career/mentor).

If you or your organization would like to partner with the Professional Development Office for any of these programs, please contact Margann Bennett at [margann.bennett@washburn.edu](mailto:margann.bennett@washburn.edu)

# Dallas Alumni Event



L to R: Carol Dumler, Dwight Dumler '93 and Martin Ahrens



# Alumni Reception in Vail



L to R: Peggy Martin, Bud Cowan '74, Prof. Linda Elrod '72 and Jeff DeGraffenreid '92

