



Kuckelman, '90, Named Alumni Fellow

School of Law Honoree

Michael Kuckelman, BBA

'86 and JD '90, was honored as Washburn University's Alumni Fellow for Washburn Law during the Fellows Luncheon on Nov. 14, 2014, at Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center.

While at Washburn he was a member of Alpha Delta fraternity, Inter-fraternity Council, Student Council, Moot Court Council, and Order of Barristers, and was editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

A native of Atchison, Kan., and resident of Olathe, Kan., Kuckelman is a partner at Kuckelman Torline Kirkland and Lewis specializing in commercial and personal injury law. He was previously an attorney at Blackwell Sanders and was a member of the plaintiffs' executive committee appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to litigate the 9/11 World Trade Center cases.

Kuckelman is a member of the Kansas, Missouri, New York, U.S. Supreme Court, and Supreme Court of England and Wales bars. His community service includes the Catholic Education Foundation Board, Maur Hill-Mount Academy Board of Directors, and Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Over the years, he has assisted several families with adoptions and does the work pro bono because he believes in uniting parents with children.

Williams (*cont. from page 14*)

It's also important to build rapport with other attorneys when practicing in rural areas or as a solo practitioner. Williams believes that you need someone to fall back on, that you call and say, "here's my situation, I'm kind of concerned about this, and have I done something wrong?" and get a second opinion.

For Williams, Joel Meineke was that resource. When Williams was practicing in Linden, Kan., Meineke was a solo practitioner in Topeka and shared with Williams "what you don't seem to realize is you're a member

of the biggest firm in Kansas. All solo practitioners. If we were a firm, we would be the biggest firm in Kansas. We do everything, and there's someone who can answer any question. I don't know a solo out there that wouldn't try to help and be reasonable with you, just like you're expected to do as time goes by."

Almost every summer for the past 10 years, Williams has spent a week at the Law School serving as an ITAP faculty member. ITAP is a total immersion trial skills course in which students spend entire

days learning and practicing trial skills. Williams, along with other faculty, coaches and mentors students in the finer points of trial advocacy. A noteworthy result of the week is that the ITAP students learn the importance of becoming thoughtful, credible, professional, energetic, and compassionate advocates — essential skills that will serve them well in their careers.

"Simply put, he is an outstanding teacher, alum, colleague, and good friend," said Kaye.