

Give and Take

Martin Pringle offers \$50,000 as a nod to its Washburn lawyers, oil and gas practice.

Martin Pringle. Those two words show up time and again in Washburn Law's history. The Wichita and Kansas City firm appears in the titles of expert speakers, the clerkship plans of students, and the career destinations of alumni. Of course, there are scores of attorneys behind the firm — 48, to be exact. And nearly a third of them are Washburn Law graduates.

In 2015, Martin Pringle made yet another meaningful showing, investing \$50,000 in the law school's people and programs. For **Jeff Kennedy, '84** — one of the firm's 15 Washburn lawyers — this year's gift was “a no-brainer.”

“We have always relied very heavily on Washburn Law and KU Law for our lawyers,” Kennedy, former managing partner, said. “We know how expensive law school can be. We thought this was a way we could really help students.”

To that end, Martin Pringle created a \$45,000 endowed (or income-generating) scholarship fund to foster students who hope to practice in the Wichita or Kansas City areas.

“We know this gift will keep on giving. If we did something short of an endowed fund, at some point the funds would be gone, and that's just not as long-term a gift as we wanted to make.”

The remaining \$5,000 will drive studies in oil and gas law — a shared passion between the firm and the law school. Martin Pringle has had a significant oil and gas practice since its 1951 inception. Thanks to Professor David Pierce's nationally revered program, Washburn Law has been hailed as a pioneer in the field for 26 years.

“David Pierce has done a magnificent job with the Oil and Gas Law Center,” Kennedy said. “For a long time, there wasn't a great deal of interest in oil and gas law. David changed that. We have eight people who focus on oil and gas matters, and more than half of them are from Washburn Law.”

The bond between the law school and the firm is as natural as they come. Washburn Law arms the next generation of attorneys with specialized skills. Martin Pringle steps up as a mentor and supporter, and often hires graduates. While the gift is an investment in one sense, it's also a tribute to that long-standing alliance.

“Our relationship with Washburn Law is very important to us. And that was really the reason for the gift,” Kennedy said. “Maybe that will help us with our recruiting efforts. But overall, it's just a recognition that we need to give back.”

From Left: Top — Richard Stevens, '07; Terry Mann, '86; George Bruce, '80; and Dennis Wetta, '91. Bottom — Matt Spahn, '13; Lisa McPherson, '94; Jeff Kennedy, '84; Robert Moody, '14; and Greg Drumright, '02. Not Pictured — Scott Burrus, '13; David Jack, '10; Lora Jennings, '05; Brent Mitchell, '92; Terry Torline, '87; and Scott Tschudy, '84.

