

WASHBURN LAWYER

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Magazine | Winter 2015

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WASHBURN LAWYER

We welcome your suggestions about this publication. Please write, phone, email, or visit our website. Letters to the editor and news of jobs and honors are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime phone number. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.

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A New Day in the Law School

Washburn Law is turning a corner. You can feel it throughout the law school — the unmistakable mix of energy and anticipation. We are enthusiastically embracing the future possibilities in legal education

For years, legal education has been moving away from big lectures, and toward hands-on learning. This isn't news to us. We've long focused on smaller, interactive classes, and practical programs such as the Washburn Law Clinic and our Centers for Excellence. But our building and internal structures limit what we can do.

That's why we're reenergizing our campaign for a new building (page 12). We need modern spaces to accommodate constant interaction and skills-based education for the way we teach law today. The new facility will build on our talents, enabling us to have more prepared students, more engaged faculty, a stronger alumni community, and an excellent reputation for Washburn Law.

On the staffing front, recent hires have invigorated an already-stellar team with their new perspectives and ideas (page 28). This includes new faces in Admissions, Alumni Relations, and Professional Development. We're also realigning two of our departments to make them work smarter — and work together. Development and Alumni Relations are now one cohesive unit, making it easier for you to learn what's happening at Washburn Law and how you can be a part of it.

Rest assured, at the core of every change we're making is the goal of an even better law school.

In life, there are moments that define everything to follow. This is one of those times for Washburn Law. We are happy to have you on board for what lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Romig
Dean and Professor of Law
Washburn University School of Law

Stay Connected

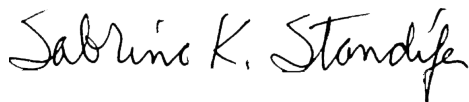
Are you currently a member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association? Are you sure? I know that seems like a strange question, but I have talked to graduates who thought they were a member, but actually were not. If you have renewed your membership or joined the Alumni Association, you should have received a membership card. We are all busy, and it is easy to let a membership lapse by forgetting to pay your annual dues. Please take a moment to confirm your current status. Becoming a member of the Alumni Association offers many benefits to both you and our Law School.

As an Association member, you will have access to the Online Alumni Directory and will receive the *Washburn Law Journal* and the *Washburn Lawyer* magazine. In addition, the Alumni Association has obtained member discounts from national hotel chains, car-rental agencies, UPS, and various retailers, as well as attractions in the Kansas City area.

Your dues allow the Alumni Association and the Law School to provide opportunities for alumni as well as current students. Dues enable the Alumni Association to sponsor alumni gatherings across the United States and honor our graduates at the Alumni Awards Recognition Dinner. Your dues help provide a Welcome Picnic for new students and their families, refreshments and snacks to students during finals, and replacements for outdated items at the Law School, such as the furniture in the common areas.

Being part of the Alumni Association allows you to cultivate a meaningful, lifelong relationship with our school and with your fellow alumni. If you haven't already, I encourage you to join the Alumni Association.

Sincerely,



Sabrina Standifer, '99
President
Washburn University School of Law
Alumni Association



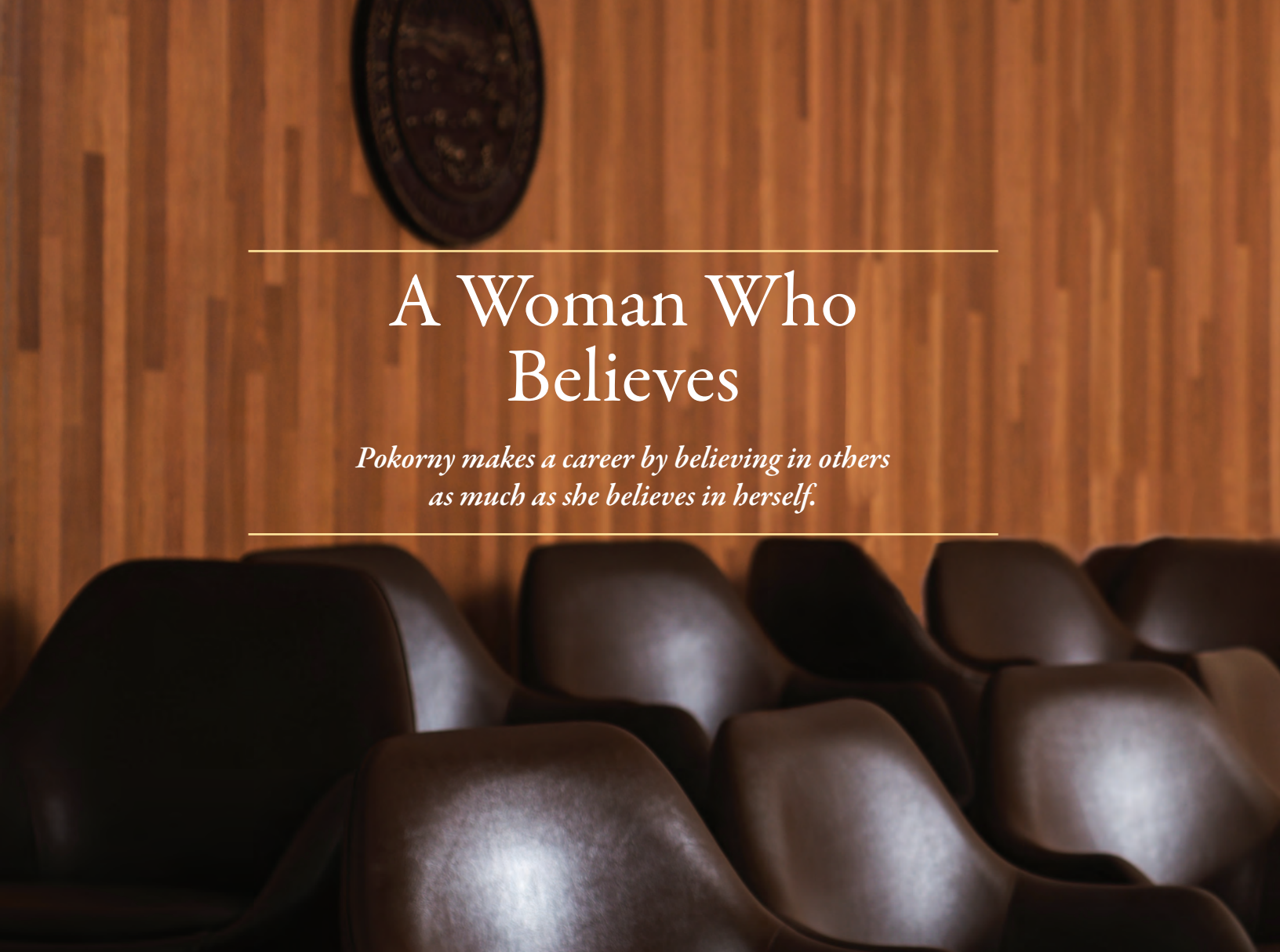
The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors was first created in 1952. Our mission is to promote the interests of the Law School by engaging our alumni through service to the Law School and the Association, participating in alumni events and programs, remaining connected,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

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A Woman Who Believes

Pokorny makes a career by believing in others as much as she believes in herself.

The Honorable Sally Pokorny, BA '75 and JD '78, has heard “no” before. Plenty of times, actually. *No, you can't be a county attorney. Nobody's going to hire a woman lawyer. You'll never become a judge.*

Throughout her career, she's been told her plans were impossible. She's gone ahead and done them all anyway.

No matter how many naysayers stood in her way, Pokorny believed in herself because there was no good reason *not* to. Not because she's from small-town Independence, Kansas (population: 9,483). Certainly not because she's a woman.

“In some ways, I think it's genetic. You're just born with a core that says, ‘I don't have to believe you; I can believe myself.’ I had good parents who never told me that there was something I *couldn't* do,” Pokorny, Douglas County District Court Judge, said.

“They always told me I was smart, and I could do whatever I wanted to do if I worked hard enough. So I believed them, and continued to believe them even when other people said they were wrong.”

Belief in herself

Pokorny's confidence and tenacity have carried her through every phase of her 37-year career, even the daunting ones. They saw her through her post as Shawnee County assistant district attorney, her tenure as assistant and then county attorney in Montgomery County, and her 21 years of private practice in Independence — all at a time when “law firms were not real welcoming to women who wanted to be trial attorneys.” They sustained her in 2006, when she uprooted her life and moved to Lawrence, to be closer to her grown sons.

But even the strongest person sometimes needs a champion. In those moments, Pokorny turns to her steadfast supporters, Washburn Law alumnae **Linda Parks, BA '79 and JD '83**;



Kathy Webb, '83; Laura Ice, '84; and Sally Shattuck, BA '76 and JD '79. Besides sharing an alma mater, the five friends all had a hand in founding the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, which dates back to 1994.

These are the colleagues who pushed Pokorny to put her name in for district court judge in 2008. According to Parks — managing partner at Hite, Fanning & Honeyman L.L.P. in Wichita — that empowerment is exactly why they established KWAA. The group aims to fight discriminatory policies against women lawyers, fill more spots in statewide attorney groups, and boost the number of Kansas women known as “partner” and “judge.”

“I was the first president of the organization. She was one of the first board members. We all came together as like-minded people who wanted to help women in the law,” said Parks, who was the only woman lawyer at her firm for 11 years.

“She has probably the best judicial temperament of anyone I’ve observed. I admire her courage. But even with that, I think

Judge Pokorny would tell you it helped to have an organization like KWAA. People say, ‘Why does there have to be a women attorneys organization?’ It’s because we come together and say to people like Sally, ‘You can do it.’ That’s why those organizations are important.”

The group, by that measure, is an unqualified success. Pokorny was appointed judge by then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius in December 2008.

Belief in the next generation

In the spirit of the organization, Pokorny relentlessly passes on the message her parents gave her: Women can be whatever they want to be.

That attitude might be more needed than ever. Even in these presumably progressive times, a quarter of the 31 Kansas district courts consist solely of male judges. Only three have a female majority. Pokorny’s district is one of them.

"I spend a lot of time telling people they can do whatever it is that they said they wanted to do," said Pokorny, who regularly doles out advice and letters of recommendation to aspiring attorneys.

"I remember one woman from Independence who said, 'I had talked to several people about just moving to New York City. And you were the only one who said, "Wow, that sounds like a great idea! That would be so much fun. You'll be just fine." Nobody else said that to me. So I decided to believe you.' And that's exactly what happened. She had a great time, and she was just fine."

"I am always willing to help. And the reason is because so many people in my life have helped me."

Pokorny's efforts haven't gone unnoticed. In July 2015, KWAA awarded her the prestigious Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Achievement Award, named for the first woman admitted to practice law in Kansas. The honor declares that she's a trailblazer, paving the way for women in law to follow.

"She's willing to go the extra mile. She'll go to the wall and kick it down," Parks said. "Talk about somebody who leads by example. She's the poster child for saying to young women, 'You can do it.' She did it the hard way, by going out on her own."

Belief in her community

After seven years on the bench and half her life as an attorney, Pokorny has found a common thread through every case — criminal and domestic. People just need someone to hear them out. No more, no less.

"I like the fact that at the end of the day, I really feel like I have helped people. Many people, they just want somebody to listen to their story, and I think I'm a good listener. My court reporter laughs and says, 'Almost everybody you send to jail looks at you and says, "Thank you." I think part of it is, nobody's ever listened to them."

Pokorny's approach speaks to what she hopes to accomplish, as a judge and as a person.

"I am always willing to help. And the reason is because so many people in my life have helped me," said Pokorny, singling out everyone from Professor Jim Concannon and **Professor Linda Elrod, BA '69 and JD '72**, to friend Patti McCormick, a marketing consultant who has voluntarily promoted Pokorny since 1995.

"I just have a hard time turning down anybody who would say, 'I think you can help me.' Because we're all in this together in life."

KWAA Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Award



Beginning in 1999, KWAA has presented the Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Achievement Award to a member

who has achieved professional excellence in her field. Of the 16 recipients, 10 of those women are Washburn Law alumnae.

Washburn Law Winners

1999

The Honorable Christel E. Marquardt, '74

2000

Linda Parks, BA '79, JD '83

2001

The Honorable Marla Luckert, BA '77, JD '80

2004

Lori Callahan, BBA '80, JD '83

2008

Nancy Ogle, '91

2009

Laura Ice, '84

2010

Patricia Hamilton, BA '83, JD '87

2013

Sally Shattuck, BA '76, JD '79

2014

Cathy Reeder, AA '79, JD '82

2015

The Honorable Sally Pokorny, BA '75, JD '78

A Supreme Achievement

U.S. Supreme Court cites Pollvogt's work in historic ruling.

June 26, 2015. It was one of the biggest days of Associate Professor Susannah Pollvogt's career — decades in the making. It managed to come as a complete surprise.

On that date, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its landmark 5-4 decision to legalize same-sex marriage. The outcome was huge news for Pollvogt, whose work has included marriage equality, in one way or another, for 20 years. But it turns out the ruling was just the beginning.

"We're all anticipating: Is today the day we get the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision? And then they issue it, and everybody's reading and reading and reading," Pollvogt said. "Then a friend texted me and said, 'Oh my God. The Court cited your brief.'"

Pollvogt teamed up with Catherine Smith (DU Law) and Tanya Washington (Georgia State Law) on the amicus curiae brief, a work contributed by a "friend of the Court" to advise on a case. For months, they crafted their argument that same-sex marriage bans deny children key legal, social, and economic rights. The trio submitted the brief in March 2015. Then they waited.

Not until June 26 did they find out — along with the rest of the country — that their work had made the cut. A record 149 briefs were filed, but fewer than 10 were cited in the majority opinion, Pollvogt's among them.

"I was shocked, because of the number of briefs filed. And I just felt incredibly proud. I felt like the motive for the three of us was really to have people think about the impact of discrimination of this type on kids," she said.

"There is a whole industry for filing amicus briefs. You've got these tony, East Coast, white-shoe law firms working on these. And this was literally three law professors writing on their laptops."

It's been an exhilarating, gratifying ride for Pollvogt personally. But she finds it just as thrilling to know what her students might take from the achievement.



Meet Susannah Pollvogt

Joined Washburn Law

August 2014

Titles

- Associate Professor
- Director, Academic Skills and Bar Passage

Courses

- Constitutional Law I
- Legal Analysis in Context — Torts
- Mastering Legal Analysis

Why Washburn Law

"I do academic support and bar passage work, and I'm very, very passionate about that work. And I really felt like the law school met me at the same level of passion, in terms of being extremely student-centered."

"I think one of the most powerful messages coming out of this experience is that the quality of your writing matters," she said. "Lawyers have a chance to make a difference, and we should all be very proud of that. It's a tremendous privilege."

Self-Made Mentor

Augustine makes it his mission to guide Turney to, and through, Washburn Law.

When **The Honorable Patrick Augustine, BA '77 and JD '85**, met **J. Bo Turney, '14**, it was pure happenstance. They weren't family. They weren't working together. They simply had mutual friends, and wound up at the same table at a Denver restaurant.

Despite the age difference of 30-odd years, and the fact that they had been strangers hours before, Augustine saw something promising in Turney, then a college junior.

"I just felt that he would make a great attorney. Especially when I started to see some of his written stuff," Augustine said. "I just go, 'Gosh, with his passion, speaking skills, writing, and desire to change what he perceived to be social injustices, let's give it a try and see if I can't push him in the law school direction.'"

It wasn't because they're carbon copies. Augustine, a judge since 1997, is calm and intentional, even-keeled and self-assured. Turney is gregarious and energetic, and enthusiastic about everything from politics and writing to cars and computers.

Augustine had been a mentor before. Due to plain old logistics, he hadn't mentored a Washburn Law student — in spite of his fervent allegiance to his alma mater. But over time, Turney became that student.

The two kept in touch through Turney's junior and senior years, with Augustine critiquing papers and proposing next steps. The possibilities ranged from a master's in computer science to a career in public service. But the discussion always came

back to the law. When application time rolled around, Turney considered six law schools, Washburn Law included.

"Once I got him on campus, once he met with the people I lined him up to talk to, and once he just got the feel, I felt that he would make the right decision," Augustine said with a smile.

Turney did make the "right" decision, attributing most of it to Augustine's influence. They touched base weekly throughout Turney's first year at Washburn Law. Through calls and emails and crises of confidence, Augustine acted as adviser and sounding board, at times gently asking and encouraging, at other times prodding and challenging.

"First and foremost, there's a sense of grounding that I've gotten from the help that he's given," Turney said. "I would immediately go to, 'There's no way I'm going to understand this. This is way too complicated.' He knows me very well. So he can say, 'Stop. It's just like this. It's just like that.' And then I'd say, 'Oh, that makes sense. That's not so hard, is it?'"

As Turney settled in, the communications eased up. More than just finding his way, he was thriving. Augustine lists off Turney's accomplishments with pride: He served as a teaching assistant. He dove into Moot Court. He shined as a student ambassador. Augustine was dead-on about Turney's writing skills; he won top paper in three courses, plus top brief in Moot Court.

"When you have somebody who knows the folks there, you come into a school with a sense of camaraderie," Turney said. "Having met the professors ahead of time, having the study groups set up right off the bat. Not just through Patrick, but I had a support structure built in. And that is really meaningful for a first-year."

Post-graduation, Turney has forged a path all his own. While Augustine has had three jobs in 30 years, Turney has four jobs right now — different roles to feed his interests and keep him engaged. He's priming students for the bar exam as director of legal education for The BARBRI Group. He's developing safety and loss-management policies and procedures for Tolin Mechanical, and clocking in at the Topeka firm of **Pedro Irigonegaray, '73**, "to get my chops." Most interesting of all, he has transformed from student to bar preparation coach.

Become a Mentor

To learn about mentoring a 1L at Washburn Law, contact:

Tammy King, Director
Professional Development Office
tammy.king1@washburn.edu | 785.670.1703

Share a Prospect

To pass along the name of a potential Washburn Law recruit, contact:

Preston Nicholson
Director, Admissions Office
preston.nicholson@washburn.edu | 785.670.1706



Even now, with Turney flourishing, the mentoring continues. Augustine is nudging him toward academia, envisioning him as a legal analysis, research, and writing professor. Augustine, it seems, is just as invested in Turney's career as his own.

Turney has followed suit. Merely one year out of school, he is mentoring a 1L through the program. For first-years not lucky enough to stumble on a mentor, the program offers that vital connection. Since 2003, the Professional Development Office has matched 856 students with a coach and confidant.

"For us, on our end, it's nice to be able to reflect and help and look back fondly," Turney said. "And on their end, hopefully it'll make their lives easier."

It's a sentiment Augustine couldn't agree with more.

"It's just a matter of paying it forward. I had great people helping me, and if I could smooth the way for other people behind me, it's just going to make things better."



Law Meets Tech

2015 Alumni Fellow Hewett blends law and technology for great results.

It's hard to overestimate the value of foresight — seeing what's coming long before anyone else can. It's what turns ordinary people into business phenoms. **Jeff Hewett, '95**, seems to have the gift. Well before computers arrived in every home and office, before students ditched notepads in favor of laptops, Hewett could foresee the ways technology would make day-to-day tasks easier. He came to Washburn Law with a bachelor's in computer science, and a plan to marry his knack for computers with a solid understanding of the law.

Two decades later, that's just what he's done. In 2004, Hewett founded Granite Legal Systems — a legal software and discovery services company — and began building it from the ground up. Fast-forward to today, and CEO Hewett now manages 22 employees, in both Houston (where he's based)

and New York. Granite simplifies life for pharmaceutical, medical-device, and energy companies by sorting through masses of legal information and making it usable.

"The legal industry has a specific terminology and language that is used. The technology industry has specific terms and language that they use," Hewett said. "Being able to translate between the two and to effectively communicate with lawyers, I think, has been key to the success."

Hewett's fluency in both languages has earned him a niche in the market — and a spot as Washburn Law's 2015 Alumni Fellow. The Washburn University Alumni Fellows program annually honors graduates who have made a splash in their respective fields, including one from Washburn Law.

“I was surprised to receive recognition for where we are now, because we still have a lot further to go,” Hewett, who’s active with alumni in Houston, said. “But I was appreciative of the law school recognizing the progress that we’ve made so far.”

When Hewett returned to campus Nov. 12 and 13 to share his wisdom with students, he had a lot to say — about growing a business, staying true to your mission, and the absolute importance of people. These are lessons he’s been collecting since his law school days.

Back then, Hewett became fast friends with classmate **Terence O’Malley, ’95**. The two bonded over an interest in media, even founding the Communications Law Society together. Before long, they were collaborating on an epic first project right after graduation from Washburn Law: a death penalty case.

“I was working for a lawyer who had a huge, monstrous criminal law case with some 14,000 pages of surveillance transcribed. And I was basically given the task of trying to figure out how to manage that,” said O’Malley, principal shareholder of The O’Malley Law Firm in Kansas City, Mo. “I knew that Jeff knew how to do those things. He helped me essentially make sense out of these thousands of pages of documents — organize them, categorize them, cross-reference them.”



O’Malley saw Hewett’s ingenuity from the start.

“He was always helping me to organize my notes and introduce me to new software. From the moment he got to law school, really, he was just very much focused on how digital technology was going to revolutionize the practice of law,” O’Malley said.

“He is running a thriving company, and he is really proof positive of what a legal education can do, even if you don’t actively practice the law. In that regard, I think he stands out as a person who really went after his dreams, but did it his own way.”

Even though he knew from the outset what his goal was, Hewett didn’t just leap without planning. He did the legwork. He cut his teeth by opening a Houston office for Austin company InfoEdge Technology, using software he learned at Washburn Law. Then he racked up seven years with Baker Robbins & Company (now HBR CONSULTING), a leading legal technology consultant. Including law school, he spent a grand total of 13 years laying the groundwork for Granite.

In a field that’s hyperfocused on speed, his patience is refreshing.

“We’re 11 years into Granite. I call us the tortoise of the industry; we’re slow and steady,” Hewett said.

“It took me a long time to start my company. I had to know that I had a source of revenue to fund a software development project, and confidence in the idea that it would be successful and would be useful in the marketplace. I knew what we wanted to do, and we have remained focused on providing those services. We have varied very little from our initial mission, and I think that has served us well.”

When Hewett made his way to campus in November, it was with all that experience in his back pocket. The heart of his message to students was clear: Whatever your title, people come first.

“Our first client that Granite ever had is still our client. The approaches that have helped us maintain our relationships with our clients are the same approaches that law students would use in a legal environment as well. It’s about people. It’s not just about marketing and services; it’s about the personal relationships you develop and how you maintain those.”

A New Home for Washburn Law

Our history has earned it. Our future is calling for it.

\$1 Million Gift Boosts Campaign

In October, the School of Law received a generous \$1 million contribution to the building campaign — the single largest gift to date. With this gift, the campaign has now topped the \$5 million mark.

“This gift is a profound investment in the people who will study and teach in the new building for decades to come,” said Thomas Romig, dean, Washburn University School of Law.

“We are so very fortunate to have such strong supporters who share our vision for Washburn Law’s future,” said Patrick Mikesic, executive director of development and alumni relations, law school. “We are honored to accept this gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, knowing that it is a reflection of our alumni’s connection to their alma mater and a commitment to its future.”

To date the campaign has garnered support from alumni and friends across the country — recent graduates and those who are well established in their careers — as well as faculty and staff. Together, our gifts will build a new home for all of us — students, alumni, professors, staff, friends — past, present, and future. A place worthy of the Washburn Law name — and yours.

We are determined to create a powerful new space for Washburn University School of Law. A prominent, prestigious home that defines campus. The *ideal* place, here in the capital city.

This project, though, reaches far beyond the building itself. It’s about the people who go *into* it, and the accomplishments that will come *out* of it.

Building on our storied past, this facility will fortify our teaching, stimulate our students, energize recruiting, and engage alumni. It will optimize everything we do. These are the goals we’ve been tenaciously pursuing since 1903: Practical Skills, Recruitment, Community, Innovation, Reputation. If we want to keep raising the bar, a new space is absolutely essential.

Washburn University President Jerry Farley and the Board of Regents have pledged to match our \$20 million campaign goal. Together, our gifts can build a new home for all of us.

Practical skills

Graduates will gain deeper practical experience and become even more employable.

Today’s legal education is all about hands-on training and small, skills-based seminars. Not surprisingly, 90 percent of our 2015 graduates participated in experiential learning of some kind.

Our new building is designed entirely around this practical focus. The Centers for Excellence will finally have a proper home, forming an in-house law firm with the *Washburn Law Journal* and Washburn Law Clinic. We’ll also double our courtrooms, making it considerably easier to schedule Moot Court and more. Perhaps the chief difference is the roughly 50-percent increase in classrooms, with flexible areas for large groups and small break-outs alike.



Having the right *kinds* of spaces ensures that when our students graduate, they are well-versed attorneys who contribute right out of the gate.

Recruitment

We'll draw *more* of the same high-caliber students and faculty.

In a recruitment climate that has never been more competitive, the facility matters. A lot.

Our new home will offer about 50 percent more real estate. Group study rooms will go from two to at least 10; classrooms from 10 to at least 15.

Then there's the story the numbers don't tell. The space comes alive with expansive ceilings, pockets for working privately, and spots for teaming up. An airy, sun-washed commons will be the heart our building has never had, with a central stairway to tie people together.

This will be a home that accurately mirrors the spirit of the law school — and that prospective students and faculty won't want to leave.

Community

We'll enliven connections among students, faculty, alumni, and area lawyers.

In our new building, all roads lead to a two-story, light-drenched commons, including a dedicated student zone. An upgraded



"When I started on the faculty full time in 1973, we had a 40:1 student-to-faculty ratio. We've been able to change that ratio so that it is 9.6:1, which means we have the opportunity to offer many more specialty courses. We need small teaching areas in which students can do direct and cross-examinations of witnesses and take depositions. And that's something the new building will have."

Jim Concannon, Professor and Former Dean



"Millennials are looking for so many more technological advances in a school setting, and investing in a new building that will fulfill capacity needs for the next 50 years is more cost-effective than renovating the current structure. The tools need to be integrated into the building itself. Video conferencing, webinars, whiteboards — these technologies make for a richer, more inspiring student experience."

Sunee Mickle, '06, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas



"The new design has more study nooks where the students can hang out, read, prepare, talk. I think what you'll see with the new building, and with that additional space, is that students will spend more time at the law school. That will give them more of an opportunity to interact with their law professors and the other students. And that's what builds the community."

David Pierce, '77, Professor

Ideal Place

The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law



version of The Pit, the space comes complete with café, lounge, and access to the Washburn Law Library and Law Clinic. This student hub will be a stage for impromptu debates that are crucial to practical preparation.

The facility will also act as a much-needed home base for the area legal community. Two courtrooms and a generous lobby will provide sufficient space to host even the most celebrated Washburn Law alumni and attorneys.

This will be a place where people and ideas come together. That's great news for student and faculty success, the kinship on campus, and the Topeka community.

Innovation

Technology will empower dynamic, interactive learning.

For 46 years, our building has served us well. It's where we unveiled our groundbreaking WashLaw database, and our first-in-the-region Law Clinic. But to keep turning out practice-ready lawyers, we need to innovate once more.

The new building will be rife with connectivity. When students sit down to study, individual power stations for their devices will be close at hand. In classrooms, computers will seamlessly talk to electronic whiteboards, so students can engage with content, professors, and one another. Where there were once large lecture halls with chairs anchored forward, smart classrooms will adapt for small-group work and class-wide collaboration.

It's modern legal teaching *and* learning come to life.

Reputation

Our name will grow even stronger, with rising rankings and status.

Washburn Law jumped 25 positions in the 2015 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, for the second highest increase in the country. *The Princeton Review* has chosen us as one of its Best Law Schools nationally for four years running.

Still, the reason we've stayed ahead is because the Washburn Law nation is always pushing for *better*. So how do we make our ties to the law school count even more?

New, thoughtful buildings increase status, plain and simple. Applications swell, talent pools deepen, visibility grows, and rankings climb. Those gains aren't a hollow victory. They happen naturally, because modern spaces make everything else possible — practical training, recruitment, collaboration, and innovation.

Join the build

This is our charge: Build a home that's worthy of Washburn Law. A place for its 7,000-plus amazing alumni, and all of those to follow.

Aside from our people, our building is the number one message we put out in the world. A project of this scope is a loud-and-clear commitment from Washburn Law and its legions: "We've earned it. We're worth it. There are brilliant things to come."

Support the new building

GiveToWashburn.org/campaign/lawschool

BUILDING <i>By the Numbers</i>	
THE EXISTING	THE NEW
1969 building that's falling behind our competitors	\$40 million facility with modern functionality needed to compete
10 classrooms	15 or more classrooms
Classroom for 25-90 students; rooms inflexible for contemporary teaching	Classroom for ~25-150 students; rooms adaptable for smaller, interactive courses
2 group study rooms	10 or more group study rooms
1 courtroom – appellate only	2 courtrooms – appellate and trial
No space for the 6 Centers for Excellence	Ample space for the 6 Centers for Excellence



"Having a building where students feel comfortable — where they can grow and learn — is a good thing. When students come visit us, we want them to see there's a new building that's exciting, polished, and clean. We need to grow with the times because it can be a really good recruiting tool for us to show that our facilities are state of the art."

Preston Nicholson, Director of Admissions



"The new building is something that translates into employment opportunities, greater name recognition, an improvement in rankings. That's been proven. And all these are things that I think our students really richly deserve. There are things that we can achieve with the new building that we can't do at the moment. Ranking is one of them — which, incidentally, helps our graduates."

Freddy Sourgens, Associate Professor

Why not renovate?

Since the facility's 1969 unveiling, our courses — and faculty and staff — have more than tripled. The building underwent renovations in 1977, 1992, and 2004, plus countless makeshift changes since. But it's no longer big enough, or modern enough, for all that we have become.

Before forming this plan, we conducted an exhaustive three-year review. The conclusion: **An overhaul would actually be more expensive than the new building.** With the build plan, the former facility can find new life as an extension of Washburn University proper.

In Practice

For Jim Slattery, a \$250,000 building donation is the practical choice.

It's not uncommon for lawyers to go into politics. However, running for state office during your first year of law school is almost unheard of. But that's exactly what **Jim Slattery, BS '70 and JD '74**, did. He was just 23 years old while managing his campaign for the Kansas legislature — on top of juggling a full course load and his National Guard obligations. But he knocked on doors, day and night, canvassing the Topeka community in 1972. It worked. So began a political career that went national and lasted more than 20 years.

Slattery, you see, is not much for theory. The six-term U.S. congressman is all about practice — going out and doing the thing you want to see happen. That's precisely why he loved Washburn Law.

“One thing that is unique about Washburn Law is that they do a wonderful job of teaching the law with a practical application. The faculty always focuses on the basics, like doing the hard work necessary to be prepared to advocate for your client. This means knowing the facts and applicable law,” Slattery, partner in D.C. law firm Wiley Rein LLP, said.

He has applied that same practical approach throughout his career. When he didn't like what was happening with interest rates, inflation, and the national debt in the 1980s, he ran for U.S. Congress so he could change it. Post-political career, when he was troubled by the conflict in the Middle East and its potential nuclear implications, he traveled to Iran as part of an ongoing faith-based dialogue.

There was little question how Slattery would respond to Ideal Place, Washburn Law's campaign for a new building. He and wife Linda made a \$250,000 gift, because from his perspective, the law school needs it.

“The existing law school building was just a couple years old when I enrolled. The facility, at that time, was very nice. But that was 40 years ago. The needs of the students have fundamentally changed, given the reliance upon technology and the different methods of research today,” he said.



“The Washburn Law community will make a very powerful statement with this new building. We will make it clear that alumni are committed to ensuring that Washburn Law is a world-class institution. Linda and I support this project because we believe in the law school's ongoing mission: training lawyers to pursue justice. That's really what the new building is all about.”

For Slattery, nothing could be more practical than that.

Building Up, Paying Back

Jack Focht's \$100,200 building gift is a thank-you for his remarkable career.

With 55 years as a practicing attorney to his name, it's no wonder **Jack Focht, '60**, has some stories to tell. They range from one of his most interesting cases (pursuing — and winning — a first-degree murder conviction without the victim's body) to one of the highest compliments he's received (a high school student recently telling him he looks two decades younger than his 81 years). He even earned an Outstanding Citizen Award in 1976 for helping nab the Holiday Inn sniper in Wichita.

"I went home and talked to my wife, who also spent a semester at Washburn Law, and I said, 'You know, we've both been very fortunate in the practice of law. We've both done very well. I owe a lot to Washburn Law for where I am, and I'd like to repay that.'"

He's not done, by any means. Focht is still actively engaged in the practice of law as special counsel with Foulston Siefkin in Wichita.

Suffice it to say, he has been an active participant and leader in the Kansas legal profession. Along the way, he's witnessed firsthand how the profession has evolved in the last half century — and how the Washburn Law building has aged since opening in 1969.

"I've kept in tune with the changes that are going on in the education of law students," Focht said. "Then sitting in a law firm this big and seeing new associates come in every year — the technology just amazes me. The world has changed, so law school education has to change with it."

Those changes are exactly what prompted Focht, and wife (and fellow lawyer) Gloria Farha Flentje, to support Washburn Law's Ideal Place building campaign. The \$100,200 gift is their largest ever. Focht already gives his time and money to a laundry list of

deserving charities — most notably Kansas Appleseed, which helps citizens who need legal support and advocacy. A noble cause, to be sure. Yet something about the building project kept tugging at him.

"I went home and talked to my wife, who also spent a semester at Washburn Law, and I said, 'You know, we've been very fortunate in the practice of law. We've both done very well. I owe a lot to Washburn Law for where I am, and I'd like to repay that.'"

Service is a given, as far as Focht is concerned — led by one simple, guiding credo: To whom much is given, much is required. It's an idea he encourages fellow alumni to think about.

"Look at what you got as a result of your law school education — the opportunities that it provided you. And search your soul for whether or not you have an obligation to repay some of that by making it available for young people who are coming along."



A Big Gift, a Bit at a Time

Katie McClure gives \$10,000 the same way she grew her career — month by month.

In 1999, when **Katie McClure, '02**, was fresh out of college, she packed up her life, left her family in Colorado, and made the trek to Topeka and Washburn Law. It was a gutsy move, considering she didn't know a soul in Kansas, and had not a single connection to rely on.

Now, 16 years later, it seems McClure has nothing but connections to Washburn Law. Her first job? Working for fellow alum Matt Busch, who posted the position on the Law School's website. Her niche in workers' compensation and social security disability? Sparked in that first role, where she learned the ins and outs of the field. She has since parlayed her expertise into a 10-year career at Denver firm Sawaya, Rose, McClure & Wilhite, P.C. — where her name is on the door.

"I think that's really led to where I am with my job and with what I've been able to do — my ties with Washburn Law. And still today, there are probably 20 attorneys I can think of off the top of my head who all graduated from Washburn Law who I network with in the Denver area."

McClure didn't want to wait to start putting something back into the Law School, given what she's gotten out of it. Her solution: A recurring monthly gift to the Ideal Place building campaign.

In five years — the same amount of time it took her to make partner at her law firm — she will have given \$10,000 to help build her alma mater's new home. It's a substantial yet manageable contribution for a young professional.

"It's a recurring gift that they charge my credit card every month. It really makes it easy, so I don't need to be sending in a payment. And if I'm going to be giving to an organization, I really want to give to an organization that I have emotional ties to," McClure said.

"I think by going forward and having a new building, that's really telling the community, telling other law schools, telling future students: 'We are growing. What we're doing is working. We are going to strive to be even more successful and accomplish even more things than we've done in the past.' So I think it's a great thing."



WAYS TO GIVE *Recurring Gift*

What it is

A larger donation through smaller, regular gifts (yearly, monthly, etc.)

How it works

- Automated withdrawal from your bank account
- Automated charge to your credit card
- Manual billing

Perfect for

- Young alumni
- Anyone who wants to spread a gift over months or years

Benefits

- Easy
- Tax deductible
- Incredibly beneficial for Washburn Law

To Give

GiveToWashburn.org/lawschool

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.



A Look Ahead

Students tackle career planning with alumni help.

On the face of it, **Jim Nickolas, JD candidate '17**, and **Merideth Hogan, BA '13** and **JD candidate '16**, don't have much in common, other than being students at Washburn Law. Nickolas, a retired Army Colonel of 28 years, is working toward a new career, with an illustrious one already concluded. Hogan, meanwhile, came to law school straight from Washburn undergrad, and is prepping for her first professional position at the end of this, her 3L year. Yet, the two found themselves in the same spot this past summer, counting on alumni to help steer their course.

In July and August, Washburn Law's Professional Development Office (PDO) invited former students and area professionals to share career insights with tomorrow's graduates. The interest in the Guest Professional Program was overwhelming. Over just nine days, 47 students flocked to the PDO to hear job-search advice, score resume reviews, and — maybe more than anything else — listen to the stories of people who've already lived it. The students met individually with one of 10 guest professionals (nine of whom were Washburn Law alumni).

Nickolas and Hogan each conferred with alumna **Kate Duncan Butler, '13**, now a research attorney with the Kansas Court of Appeals in Topeka. Only two years out of law school, Butler knows just what they're going through. The former English teacher, a writer and editor at heart, jumped at the chance to be of service.

"I really love doing resume review and cover letters, and that is the weirdest hobby to have. I was like, 'Sign me up, just tell me when you need me,'" Butler said. "I think that job search and resume building is a hard skill for people to learn. And so for me, it was an important niche thing I care about that I could fill, and to help these students be able to get jobs."

For Nickolas, a West Point and U.S. Army War College graduate, the meeting was a fact-finding mission. A second-generation American whose family hails from Greece, he sees the law as a continuation of his military service — another chance to repay the opportunities given to his parents and grandparents. As a 1L, he's new to all of it: the jargon, the hunt for internships, and the different fields available to attorneys.





“I have no idea, really, how I want to practice or what area I’m interested in, so gathering as much information as possible — especially early on — is important,” Nickolas said.

“Because I’ve had an extensive prior career, a lot of the professionals found that interesting. She went over my resume and helped me translate some of that Army activity into understandable text for lawyers.”

“That was one thing that made me choose Washburn Law: the network of graduates and the affinity they have for helping future graduates. I was hoping to get the benefit of the wisdom of those who have graduated before me.”

Hogan, on the other hand, was already in the thick of it — applying for positions, honing her cover letters, prepping for interviews. With graduation looming, she had many of the particulars in order, including an impressive resume noting activities such as Habitat for Humanity and volunteer income tax clinics. In Butler, she found a like mind, not to mention a great example. While Hogan was working to secure a position as a judge’s research attorney, Butler already had that very job. It was a happy and fruitful coincidence.

“I think she gave me a lot of really great pointers for the interviews. And I think maybe because our personalities are very similar and she’s already in the real world, it fortified my courage to go out and apply for these jobs, and try to seek the best opportunity for myself,” Hogan said.

“I felt like her advice was particularly useful, maybe just because she was a woman advising another female student who wanted to get into the same career path.”

Since the program’s end, big things have been in the works. Nickolas has been interviewing for summer 2016 internships, taking every chance to learn about jobs that might suit his vast skills. Hogan has done exactly what she set out to do. She accepted a position as a research attorney with the Kansas Court of Appeals. One of the people she was excited to share the news with? You guessed it: Butler. The two will even be working in the same building, starting August 2016.

When asked whether they’d recommend programs like these to alumni and students, all three answered “yes” without reservation.

“Wholeheartedly. If students haven’t, they need to go and talk to someone who is a recent graduate — if for no other reason than to find out what opportunities are out there, and learn through their experience what to expect,” Nickolas said.

“That was one thing that made me choose Washburn Law: the network of graduates and the affinity they have for helping future graduates. I was hoping to get the benefit of the wisdom of those who have graduated before me.”

Guide Washburn Law Students

To share your career experience and help students at the same time, contact:

Tammy King, Director
Professional Development Office
tammy.king1@washburn.edu
785.670.1703

Question & Answer

2015 graduate Ilaria shares what life is like in law school today, and as a new alumna.

With law school ending just six months ago, **Gabrielle Ilaria, BA '11 and JD '15**, has vivid feelings about it all. First, there's the elation at having survived it — "Man, was it hard," she says, despite finishing top 10 in a class of 120. Then, understandably, there's the pride in belonging to an exclusive society of sorts. "Law school is a unique thing, in that once you've been through it, now you're part of this club where it's like, 'I know exactly what you've been through; I went through that, too.'"

With so much hard work behind her, there's sheer joy about the road ahead. In November, Ilaria kicked off her career as an associate at Polsinelli's Kansas City office, building on summer internships in her 1L and 2L years. There, she'll make her way in litigation.

This is a snapshot of Ilaria's story, in her own words.

What made you decide to go to law school? "It was always in the back of my mind. But then I went to school, and I majored in psychology — and I loved psychology. I was going to grad school in psychology. That was the game plan.

"I studied abroad, and they didn't have psychology credits, so I just took these general credits. One of them was European Law. And the teacher told me, 'You should think about law school, because you're the top student in my class.'

"So when I got back, I looked into schools and took tours. It was like, 'Oh my God, I think I'm doing this!' I just did a complete one-eighty in my mind. I'm very glad I made that choice. It feels like the right fit for me."

The Polsinelli Perspective

With 240 lawyers in Kansas City alone, Polsinelli wisely matches each summer associate with two mentors. **Anthony Springfield, BA '99 and JD '02**, filled one of those roles during Gabrielle Ilaria's 1L internship. A shareholder, Springfield has been with the firm since 2002, so he knows what to look for in future colleagues.

"I think she's a dedicated worker, and very bright. I'm looking forward to her getting started," Springfield said, a few weeks before Ilaria's first day. "I think Washburn Law gives you an excellent legal education. It provides the background and the necessary skills that allow you to hit the ground running."

Why Washburn Law? "It was almost the same reason why I picked Washburn undergrad over other universities, because it had this personal feel. When you take a tour, you feel like they actually want you there, and people are going to help you.

"I didn't have one mentor; I had a lot. I had at least four professors really looking out for me — people who I could contact today and if I needed a favor, they would do it."

What's one practical lesson you learned in law school? "Washburn Law encourages collaboration. It's not this dog-eat-dog world where students are making sure other students can't succeed. Law school is naturally competitive. And I think Washburn Law tries to emphasize collaboration with tools such as the study group program, which groups about five 1Ls with an older student leader. Study group was a key part of my success and got me in a group mindset.

"That's more real-world. I'm at a firm now — you have to get along with a bunch of people who have very different personalities than you do, and were taught to do things a different way. And you have to work together to get things done. So for me, it was just more life training to think like that."

How did you land your first internship at Polsinelli?

"They interviewed me, and we just had this great conversation. We just seemed to be on the same page about our goals and how we wanted our work experience to go. It was great because getting a paid internship your 1L summer — that's basically the goal of 1L year. The fact that I got that, it was just amazing. I was on cloud nine."

How was it working with alum Anthony Springfield at your internship?

"He was the person who would take me to lunch and say, 'How's everything going? Are you getting enough assignments? Are people being receptive toward you?' And then if you had a problem, he was there to straight-talk it with you. He would be honest about what he was hearing around the firm, as far as if I was doing good work, or if I needed to change something. He was very supportive."

What drew you to Polsinelli? "I had a good experience there. They told me the good and the bad; I never felt like they were sugarcoating things. The attorneys were very honest with me about their workload. The women attorneys were very honest with me about the culture of the firm and being in the profession. I felt like I could really succeed there."



Unstoppable

2L Moore faces new lands and languages, and never backs down.

To date, the story of **Alosha Moore, BA '13 and JD candidate '17**, has been nothing short of epic. His saga has stretched across three continents, netted him multiple families, and meant starting over more than once. Growing up in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Moore didn't consider his childhood harrowing or traumatic, even though he called an orphanage home until age 9.

"Looking back from this perspective, it was a lot harsher to grow up over there. I remember when we would get in trouble, sometimes they would withhold food. Sometimes it wasn't a big deal because you were so hungry that you'd almost rather not eat, because it would just make you hungrier," Moore said.

"But it was just life. It wasn't harsh at the time."

That matter-of-fact mindset is characteristic of Moore. He deals with what is — grappling mightily at times, sure — but marching on all the same. That's how he handled his adoption and relocation to the United States, leaving behind people

who "weren't even friends at that point; they were family." It's also how he responded when, due to Russia's lack of medical technology, he slowly lost his sight to glaucoma by 7 years old.

Moore, as he puts it, *happens to be* blind. The fact that could so easily define him — serve as the big, bold title of his life's tale — is, instead, a footnote.

"I've heard lots of people say, 'I forget you're blind.' And it's because it's just not something that's forefront to me. In a lot of ways, having that vision loss was more of a blessing. Because I never would have been able to afford, on my own, getting into college," he said, noting his National Federation of the Blind scholarships.

That's not to say it was easy for Moore to embrace such a positive outlook. Adopted by a Wichita family in 1998, he knew he was fortunate. Still, with so much change swirling around him (learning English, grasping braille, absorbing a new way of life), the adjustment was rough.

"I was a rambunctious, crazy kid. And I think a lot of it was because of the difference in culture. Back in Russia, you literally had to struggle to survive. It took a while for that mentality to go away. So here, when people aren't struggling and you still are, you're a lot more amped up than you need to be."

But Moore refused to be boxed in by his circumstances. He has taken on horse training, bronc riding, surfing. Washburn Law, which he "heard so many good things about since seventh grade," was the ultimate task on his list.

In typical fashion, Moore addresses the extraordinary demands of law school without complaint, managing braille, screen readers, and notetakers. He also finally relented and got a guide dog, Frosty, who has offered him not just independence, but a newfound ease.

"It was one of those sit-down-with-myself moments, saying, 'If I want other people to take me seriously, I've got to do something, because I can't have my life revolving around other people's schedules,'" he said.

"People are just so much more receptive and open with Frosty. To me, that's been huge, because I was so shy."



Alosha Moore chats with **Pedro Irigonegaray, '73**, after a Lunch and Learn.



With Frosty in tow, Moore has come alive in a way he never knew possible. Between his coursework and positions as vice president of the Pro Bono Society, treasurer of the Washburn Business Law Society, and rep-at-large for the Washburn Student Bar Association, the law school community has become his surrogate family, “where no one even hesitated to accept me.”

He has continued branching out. In January 2015, he made his first solo trip, to a Berkeley Law workshop on international humanitarian law. By summer, he shattered his comfort zone altogether, venturing to Sydney, Australia, for an internship in refugee law.

Each move is part of a calculated plan: first, a foot in the door with the U.S. Department of State, then a career in international human rights, including international adoption. His purpose is simple: To help children who desperately need it, like he once did.

Professor Rory Bahadur, for one, thinks it’s an ideal match. Originally from Trinidad, Bahadur instantly related to Moore’s global perspective.

“He does things not because of how they would look or because of what other people would think, but because it’s what needs to be done,” Bahadur said. “And when you’re thinking about international adoptions, there’s so much political and bureaucratic red tape that he would be the perfect one to not be dissuaded, but just continue persevering for the benefit of the adoptee.”

Moore has gone from a shy kid in survival mode to an outgoing, driven law student who has conquered two languages and three countries. At this point in his story, he seems pretty well unstoppable.

“I feel like I’m one of the very few exceptions who has been raised by a village. So sometimes I just can’t help being amazed at where I’ve gotten. It’s been such a huge interaction with so many people, and it’s just such a huge blessing.”

Alumni Events

Dean's Circle Dinner

Sept. 19, 2015

Left – The Honorable Christel Marquardt, '74, Peggy Cowan, and Bud Cowan, '74. Top Right – Dan Heijtminek, '76, and Julie Heijtminek. Bottom Right – Michelle Slinkard and Duston Slinkard, '03.



Class of 1975 40th Reunion

Oct. 23-24, 2015



Class of 1985 30th Reunion

Oct. 9-10, 2015



Grand Homecoming

Oct. 23-24, 2015

Washburn University President Jerry Farley, The Honorable Bob Dole, '52, as Grand Marshal of the Homecoming parade, and Susan Farley.



DC Alumni event

Sept. 30, 2015

Top – Kursten Andrea Phelps, '10, and Bryan Walker, '10.
Bottom – Jason Gray, '06, Joseph Konrade, and Stuart Haney, '83.



Tulsa Alumni event

Oct. 8, 2015

Top – Courtney Kelley, '15, and Professor David Pierce, '77.
Bottom – President Jerry Farley and The Honorable Joe Morris, '47, co-host.



News Briefs

Introducing New Staff



Preston Nicholson took on the role of director of admissions in May 2015. Nicholson comes to Washburn Law from Drake University Law School, where he was associate director of admission and financial aid. Alumni can contact him

with prospective law school students or to volunteer at recruiting events.

preston.nicholson@washburn.edu

785.670.1706



Karli Davis stepped in as director of alumni relations in July 2015. A Washburn undergraduate alumna and one-time Washburn Law student, Davis went on to work in communications for more than a decade, last serving as UMKC Law's director

of communications. Graduates can look to her for information on alumni events and staying connected to the law school.

karli.davis@washburn.edu

785.670.2013



Rachel Schafer became assistant director of admissions in July 2015, and works alongside Nicholson on recruiting and admittance. In her former positions, Schafer specialized in academic

advising and student services, at both the University of Texas at Arlington and Kansas State University's

Global Campus.

rachel.schafer@washburn.edu

785.670.2685



Tammy King joined Washburn Law as its director of professional development and pro bono in September 2015. King most recently acted as assistant dean for career development at Creighton University School of Law. With student and alumni

careers as her top priority, King helps graduates with job searching and marketability.

tammy.king1@washburn.edu

785.670.1703

The Oil and Gas Law Center: Today and Tomorrow

For students to understand the oil and gas industry, they have to go where it all happens. For years, **Professor David Pierce, '77**, director of the Oil and Gas Law Center, has been finding a way to get them there.

Over the last school year, select oil and gas students ventured to sites in Colorado, Alaska, and even Colombia for educational institutes. The Center relies on alumni support, as well as the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, to make those treks possible.

When it's not possible to take students to the industry, Pierce brings the industry to them — with an impressive breadth of speakers and content. An astounding 100-plus practitioners combine to teach the law school's oil and gas curriculum.

Given the proper resources, Pierce and his associate director, Freddy Sourgens, have their next moves already in mind. Namely, 1) to ramp up the number of students who can do educational travel, and 2) to add another faculty member, and therefore, more programming. In both cases, the demand is certainly there.

Though the Center was formally established in 2013, Pierce has been growing and guiding the program since 1989. His efforts have paid off, building one of the most extensive and recognizable oil and gas programs in the country — and a go-to source for industry hires.

Learn more:

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Oil and Gas Law Center
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News Briefs

Study Abroad: Law Across the Globe

Nearly 3,000 miles separate Washburn Law from Cave Hill, Barbados. Roughly 4,600 lie between Topeka and the Dutch city of Maastricht. But that distance isn't stopping students from making the trip. More than 70 students have taken part in the law school's current study abroad partnerships, according to Tonya Kowalski, director of international legal programs.

Established in 2010, the Barbados program is a six-week summer opportunity in conjunction with The University of the West Indies — one of only a handful of Caribbean law schools. The Netherlands program, founded in 2006, is a semester-long exchange at Maastricht University, where almost 45 percent of the student population is international. Both partnerships give students an immersive look at how attorneys practice abroad.

International travel isn't new to Washburn Law, with study abroad programs dating back to 1968. What's more, nearly

every tenured or tenure-track faculty member has worked, studied, or lived in another country.

With student travel clearly a priority, faculty and staff work to uncover every possible scholarship source. More support, of course, means more students can afford to participate. For those who take the plunge — most of whom have never before left the country — the time away offers cultural literacy skills and a different legal perspective. Those takeaways make students better prepared to practice, wherever their careers lead them.

Learn more:
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The LL.M. Program: A Bigger World

The program may be new, but the LL.M. in Global Legal Studies has already opened up a broader world at Washburn Law. In less than two years, the law school has become a home away from home to LL.M. students from Tanzania, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Headed by Professor Lori McMillan, the program launched in fall 2014. The one-year curriculum prepares foreign-trained attorneys to practice law stateside or with U.S. lawyers.

These students are already accomplished professionals in their own right, in everything from academia to courtroom practice. While one of this year's scholars plans to apply her new skills back home in Taiwan, another — a professor from Saudi Arabia — sees the degree as a stepping-stone to an SJD program. Meanwhile, the Congolese student has temporarily

put his study on hold. A former presidential spokesperson in his home country, he was recently recalled for government service. As for the law school's first LL.M. graduate, he's prepping for the Uniform Bar Exam, and making plans for his wife and child to join him in the United States from Tanzania.

The LL.M. students work alongside JD candidates in courses, study groups, and the like. While they earn a degree that will further their careers, they also bring a decidedly international element to the halls of Washburn Law.

Learn more:
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Class Actions

The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school since July 1, 2015. Update your address at alumni@washburnlaw.edu and submit your news at washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions.

1956 *The Honorable Paul L. Brady, '56*, Atlanta, Ga., was inducted into the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame. Brady was the first African-American appointed a federal administrative law judge, according to the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum website.

1973 *John Caton, '73*, Hutchinson, Kan., was elected president of the Kansas School Attorneys Association at the association's annual meeting.

Jan M. Hamilton, '73, Topeka, has received the 2015 Robert L. Gernon Award for Outstanding Service to Continuing Legal Education in Kansas from the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission.

1974 *The Honorable Stephen R. Tatum, '74*, Olathe, Kan., has received the Community Outreach and Education Award from the Kansas District Judges' Association. Tatum, who retired in 2013, is a temporary judge in the criminal courts and serves on the Johnson County Criminal Justice Advisory board.

1975 *Terry E. Beck, '75*, Topeka, joined the Washburn University Board of Regents as an appointee of the Shawnee County Commission. Beck manages his own law practice in Topeka. He also has served as president of the Sertoma Foundation and governor of the Kansas District Sertoma, and serves on the Third Judicial District Nominating Commission.

J. Patrick Hyland, '75, Veneta, Ore., is starting a private practice in clinical mental health counseling.

1976 *Dan Rector, '76*, Monument, Colo., was the featured lecturer at a seminar on Oct. 7, 2015, in Novi, Mich., before The Military and Veteran's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan annual meeting on this topic: The Veteran's Benefit No One Knows About: TSGLI.

1978 *The Honorable Sally D. Pokorny, '78*, Lawrence, Kan., was the recipient of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA) Jennie Mitchell Kellogg Achievement Award. Pokorny was appointed to the 7th Judicial District Court by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2009. She is currently serving on the Kansas Bar Association Board of Governors, and is a former president of the Kansas Bar Foundation, and former president of the Lawrence Judge Hugh Means Inn of Court.

1979 *Paul T. Maricle, '79*, Denver, Colo., has joined Coan Payton & Payne's Denver office. Prior to joining CP2, Maricle practiced with a Denver boutique law firm specializing in aviation law, government contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and other areas. Before that, he practiced at Holland & Hart and Rossi & Maricle.

1980 *William W. Sneed, '80*, Topeka, was reappointed to the Washburn University Board of Regents. Sneed has served on the nine-member Washburn board since July 2011. He is currently chair of the board.

1984 *Laura L. Ice, '84*, Wichita, is serving as president of the Kansas Bar Foundation for 2015-16.

1985 *Natalie G. Haag, '85*, Topeka, was elected to the 21-member board of directors of the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs. Haag serves as general counsel of Capitol Federal Savings Bank. She is president of the Kansas Bar Association, vice president of the board of directors for the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, and the 2nd Congressional District attorney representative on the Supreme Court nominating committee.

1987 *The Honorable Brad E. Avery, '87*, Topeka, has joined Patterson Legal Group in a counsel position. Avery, who was an administrative law judge and assistant director for the Division of Workers Compensation for the state of Kansas for 20 years, will practice in the area of workers compensation, employment law, and general litigation.

1988 *Gregory L. Shevlin, '88*, Belleville, Ill., has been elected to the board of directors of the Illinois Bar Foundation for a 2-year term. Shevlin is a partner at Cook Ysursa Bartholomew Brauer & Shevlin.

1989 *Natalie Camacho Mendoza, '89*, Boise, Idaho, was appointed by Boise Mayor David Bieter and confirmed by the Boise City Council to serve as the director of the Office of Police Oversight. The office promotes public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of Boise police and law enforcement through unbiased investigations of citizen complaints, independent review of police actions, policy recommendations, and on-going public outreach. She will take on these duties as well as continue her work in private practice at Camacho Mendoza Law, Boise and Nampa, Idaho.

**Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.*

1999 *Natasha K. Riffel-Kuhlmann, '99*, Wichita, is now with Kahrs Law Offices, P.A.

Kerry L. Wasinger, '99, Hays, Kan., is the new general counsel executive assistant to the president of Fort Hays State University.

2001 *Denise D. Riemann, '01*, Waltham, Mass., was listed in the first edition of Corporate IP Stars, a list honoring in-house attorneys worldwide who have demonstrated an exceptional capacity for the strategic management and protection of their company's most valued intellectual property assets.

2005 *Brett Flachsbarth, '05*, Topeka, director of unemployment insurance at the Kansas Department of Labor, received the Unemployment Insurance Integrity Award at the National UI Issues Conference in San Diego, Calif.

Jennifer R. Sourk, '05, Topeka, was reappointed to the Washburn University Board of Regents. Sourk has served on the nine-member Washburn board since July 2011.

2006 *Charles F. Kitt, '06*, Topeka, has been named chief prosecutor for the City of Topeka.

2007 *Molly E. McMurray Gordon, '07*, Wichita, has joined Wichita State University the Office of General Counsel as assistant general counsel.

2008 *Moji Fanimokun, '08*, Wichita, has joined Realtors of South Central Kansas.

2010 *Jeremy S. O'Neil, '10*, Valdez, Alaska, was selected as the new Providence Valdez Medical Center (PVMC) administrator. In the nearly four years he has lived in Valdez, Alaska, he has served PVMC in multiple capacities, including finance manager, interim administrator, finance director, interim director counseling center, and assistant administrator.

Kursten, A. Phelps, '10, Washington, D.C., is the new Managing Attorney for the Greater Washington, D.C. office of the Tahirih Justice Center. Tahirih Justice Center is a national, non-profit organization that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence by elevating their voices in communities, courts, and Congress to create a world where women and girls enjoy equality and live in safety and with dignity.

Mandi J. Stephenson, '10, Kingman, Kan., is now with Stephenson Law Office, LLC.

Bryan L. Walker, '10, Arlington, Va., has joined the law firm of Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan, LLP, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis. Walker is remotely working for them as an associate patent attorney located in Arlington, Va. He also works alongside fellow alumni *Darin McCollum, '10*, and *Pete Hoeller, '05*.

Sarah E. Washburn, '10, Topeka, has joined the Kansas Highway Patrol as staff attorney.

2011 *Stephanie A. Pruet, '11*, Kansas City, Mo., has joined Evans & Dixon LLC.

Amanda W. Wilwert, '11, Lawrence, Kan., has joined Foulston Siefkin, LLP, Topeka, as an associate.

Shawn P. Yancy, '11, Topeka, was elected to board of directors for National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. for a 3-year term.

2012 *BJ Harden, '12*, Topeka, former aide to House Speaker Ray Merrick, has returned to the Speaker's staff as deputy chief of staff/policy.

Joslyn M. Kusiak, '12, Independence, Kan., has joined Kelly Law Office where she handles civil disputes, collection matters, estate planning, and administration.

Ty A. Patton, '12, Wichita, has joined McCurdy Auction, LLC, as general counsel.

2013 *Christina J. Hansen, '13*, Wichita, has joined Stinson Leonard Street LLP.

Leslie A. Klaassen, '13, Hutchinson, Kan., has joined Gilliland & Hayes.

Brendan P. Lykins, '13, Topeka, is the Kansas Bar Association Young Lawyer Section 2015-16 Pro Bono Chair.

Laura E. Poschen, '13, Wichita, has joined Ward Law Offices, LLC.

Angel Romero, '13, Topeka, is the senior director of resource development for the United Way of Greater Topeka.

Melissa A. Tucker Pope, '13, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

2014 *Jessica A. Brunken, '14*, Wichita, is an associate with DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

Robert J. Moody, '14, Wichita, was honored as the Wichita Urban Professionals Man of the Year at the Dreamchasers event.

2015 *Dylan M. Dinkla, '15*, Des Moines, Iowa, has joined Security National Trust as a trust officer. In his role as trust officer, he will be responsible for advising new and existing clientele on matters regarding estate planning and trust administration.

Alexander P. Gentry, '15, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

Courtney L. Kelley, '15, Tulsa, Okla., is an associate with Hall Estill. Kelley will practice primarily in energy and natural resources.

Jason G. McIlrath, '15, Wichita, is an associate at Cameron Law Office, P.A.

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from July 1, 2015 through November 12, 2015.

John W. Newhart, '48,
Saint Joseph, Mo., on August 31, 2015, at age 94

Paul K. Clayton, '51,
Sun Lakes, Ariz., on April 21, 2015, at age 90

Albert P. Kovac, '51,
Kansas City, Kan., on October 3, 2015, at age 89

Simon P. Roth, '51,
Hays, Kan., on July 17, 2015, at age 88

James M. Caplinger, '53,
Topeka, on June 28, 2015, at age 86

Phillip U. Leon, '58,
Wichita, on August 17, 2015, at age 84

John B. Towner, '58,
Pittsburg, Kan., on July 28, 2015, at age 84

Jorge Soto-Marrero, '60,
Kissimmee, Fla., on February 17, 2015, at age 85

Wayne W. Grindol, '62,
Jewell, Kan., on July 21, 2015, at age 92

Roger R. Viets, '63,
Jackson, Wyo., on September 26, 2015, at age 78

William J. Birch, '64,
Topeka, on June 27, 2015, at age 81

The Honorable Kay E. McFarland, '64,
Topeka, on August 18, 2015, at age 80

Philip E. Winter, '70,
Admire, Kan., on July 2, 2015, at age 71

Edna E. Hodges, '73,
Grantville, Kan., on July 23, 2015, at age 77

Anthony J. Kotich, '73,
Topeka, on October 20, 2015, at age 69

Leonard M. Robinson, '74,
Eskridge, Kan., on August 22, 2015, at age 71

Ronald P. Roerig, '77,
Emporia, Kan., on October 9, 2015, at age 67

The Honorable Micheal A. Ireland, '81,
Holton, Kan., on August 29, 2015, at age 66

John L. Swarts, '84,
Fort Scott, Kan., on March 23, 2015, at age 74

Lloyd D. Hull, '85,
Topeka, on October 7, 2015, at age 66

Ellen M. Tracy, '92,
Topeka, on October 2, 2015, at age 79

Jeffery P. Gleave, '93,
Monroe, Utah, on October 19, 2015, at age 62



Remembering The Honorable Kay McFarland, '64

Former Kansas Supreme Court Justice **Kay McFarland, '64**, passed away on Aug. 18, 2015. She was 80. Justice McFarland was the Court's first female member and its only female chief justice. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court in 1977, she was the first woman elected as a Shawnee County District Court Judge.

McFarland was named a Washburn University School of Law Alumni Fellow in 2006. In 2006, she received the Washburn Law Distinguished Alumni Award, followed by the Washburn Law Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. In 2009, Washburn University conferred on her an honorary degree of doctor of law.



Join the Alumni Association

Now is a great time to join your Washburn Law Alumni Association. We've added additional benefits, including local and national discounts, and you gain access to our alumni directory. Not only does your membership provide benefits to you, but it also supports quality programs for all Washburn Law alumni and students. The Alumni Association is your organization, and we strive to promote the interests of Washburn Law 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.

SAVE

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association members can take advantage of new deals and discounts, which will be included in your membership packet.

STAY INFORMED

Receive the latest news and information on what is happening at Washburn Law and with alumni across the country.

CONNECT

Your Alumni Association membership allows us to facilitate more meaningful lifelong relationships within the Washburn Law family. Because of your membership, we are able to offer a variety of services and events.



washburnlaw.edu/alumni
store.washburnlaw.edu





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Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2016

- 13 Washburn Wednesday
in KC, Topeka, & Wichita
- 19 PDO Mentor/Mentee Reception

FEBRUARY 2016

- 10 Washburn Wednesday in KC, Topeka, & Wichita
- 20 Alumni Reception in Phoenix
- 21 Alumni Reception in Tucson

MARCH 2016

- 9 Washburn Wednesday in KC, Topeka, & Wichita

APRIL 2016

- 13 Washburn Wednesday in KC, Topeka, & Wichita
- 27 Alumni Reception in Chicago

All events on Washburn University campus unless noted otherwise.
washburnlaw.edu/events

