



We  
Need  
You...



## Brown V. Board of Education

### To be a Law School Mentor

This Fall, the Career Services Office and Alumni Relations Office are launching the Law School Mentor Program. The program is designed to give first-year students a connection to the community and a resource for discussing issues related to their career. The program also provides an excellent opportunity for area alumni to re-connect with the Law School and interact with students at a level they prefer. Students are informed that the program is not meant to be a placement effort for future employment. For the program to be a success, we need area alumni and friends of the school to volunteer to mentor a first-year student.

The amount of time required to participate in the program is flexible. We merely ask that mentors make at least one substantive contact with the assigned student. Of course, it is perfectly appropriate and we encourage you to invite your assigned student to lunch, for an office visit, to accompany you to court and/or to participate in other pertinent learning experiences.

Mentors will be assigned a student soon after the first semester begins this Fall. We ask that mentors make the initial contact; however, we are tentatively planning receptions for students and their mentors to get acquainted in Kansas City and in Topeka.

If you are interested in participating in the Law School Mentor Program, please complete and mail the post-card insert regarding the program found inside *The Washburn Lawyer*. If you have questions regarding the program, please contact Margann Bennett, Director of Career Services and Continuing Legal Education, or Julie Elliott, Alumni Coordinator.

Groups around the country will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education* on May 17, 2004. It is especially appropriate that Washburn University School of Law bring together a diverse group of practitioners and scholars to discuss the case, its implications and its legacy. From filing to final arguments, Washburn Law graduates played vital roles in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Three Washburn Law graduates originally filed the case, two graduates represented the Topeka School Board at trial, and another graduate, an Assistant Attorney General, argued on behalf of the state before the Supreme Court. Unanimously condemning segregation in public schools, the decision in *Brown* marked a profound turning point in the nation's commitment to racial equality. After 50 years, it continues to generate controversy over the transformation it brought about and the promises it left unfulfilled.

Washburn University School of Law invites you to join the discussion of these issues at the *Brown v. Board of Education Revisited: 50th Anniversary Symposium* on November 1, 2003. If you would like more information or are interested in attending, please contact Margann Bennett or Donna Vilander at 785-221-1184.

## Recent Board Elections

Rita Bicknell '95, was recently elected to the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors to serve a two-year term. Elected board members were announced at the annual Board of Governors meeting held during the Kansas Bar Association's annual meeting this June in Wichita, Kansas. Ms. Bicknell is a 1981 graduate of Washburn University and has a masters from Pittsburg State University. Rita is an associate in the W.L. Phalen Law Office in Pittsburg, Kansas. She is a member of the KBA, and Crawford County Bar Association, and has been admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar in May 2002.

Other board members who were re-elected to serve another two-year term were: The Hon. J. Patrick Brazil '62, Nancy Caplinger '85, Stephen Cavanaugh '80, Jane Holt '85, Matthew Hesse '85, Winton Hinkle '68, Paul Hoferer '75, Laura Ice '84, Terry Kramer '68, The Hon. Greg Waller '73, and Teri Wilford Wood '78.



## Foulston Siefkin Lecture

Dean Mark A. Sargent, Villanova University School of Law, presented the 25th Annual Foulston Siefkin Lecture in Washburn Law's Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center on February 21, 2003. Dean Sargent's lecture, "Lawyers in the Perfect Storm: Sarbanes-Oxley §. 307 and Corporate Lawyering Post Enron," will be the lead article in the Fall 2003 issue of Washburn Law Journal. Dean Sargent also spoke to faculty on "The Legal Dimensions of the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Roman Catholic Church."

Dean Sargent outlined factors that led to the recent failure of Enron and other large corporations and discussed legislation enacted to prevent such failures in the future. He went on to address the impact of new legislation on attorneys involved in corporate governance.

The Foulston Siefkin Lecture has been sponsored since 1978 by Foulston Siefkin LLP, Wichita, to enrich the quality of education at Washburn University School of Law. The lecture series brings a prominent legal scholar to Washburn Law to challenge and enhance the legal thinking of students, faculty, and readers of the Washburn Law Journal.

Mark Sargent has been dean of the Villanova University School of Law since 1997. He teaches courses in business organizations, securities regulation and the law of investment management and has published extensively in these fields. He previously was on the faculty of schools of law at the University of Maryland, Southern Methodist University, American University, and the University of Baltimore. Prior to teaching, he practiced corporate and securities law with the Boston firm of Csaplár & Bok.



Moot Court team I to r:  
LeAnn Cramer '04, Eric Bidwell '03,  
Professor Myrl Duncan and Tiffany Tant '03

## Moot Court Team

The Washburn University School of Law team of Eric Bidwell '03, Leann Cramer '04, and Tiffany Tant '03 participated in the 15th National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition held February 20-22, 2003, at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York. Attracting more than 65 teams from around the United States and Canada, the event is among the largest national competitions in the United States.

The Washburn Law team advanced to the quarterfinal round on the strength of its written brief and oral performances. The Washburn Law faculty awarded the team the 2003 Faculty Brief Award, given to the competition team that has written the top brief.

In addition, Tiffany Tant received Second Best Oralist honors in Round I, Eric Bidwell received Second Best Oralist honors in Round II, and Leann Cramer received Best Oralist honors on the second day of the Competition in Round III.