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From the



DEAN

Dean Dennis R. Honabach

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The end of the academic year traditionally marks a time for reflection, for looking back and taking pride in all of the law school community's accomplishments. This year is no exception. We celebrate the graduation of another class of new attorneys. We note substantial progress toward establishing our Centers as benchmarks of excellence and innovation in legal education. We acknowledge the numerous alumni and other speakers and visitors who contributed their time to share skills and expertise with participating students. Indeed, it has been a year of growth and positive change.

This past year, however, has been especially memorable for our law school in other ways. In September we launched our three-year Centennial celebration — a time during which we will follow the activities of the Class of 2006, the first entering class of our second century. We began our celebration with an opening reception in Topeka. Throughout the year we held numerous events — in Denver; Washington, D.C.; Phoenix; Kansas City; Dallas; Albuquerque; Wichita; Dodge City; Chicago; Garden City; Hays and Salina — to bring our alumni together to celebrate the first century of our law school. And we capped off the year's Centennial activities with a spectacular gala in March. I doubt any of the nearly 500 alumni and friends who attended will forget the emotion in Senator Dole's keynote address as he reflected on his days at the law school and the importance of his Washburn Law education to his career. This, our first Centennial year, has left no doubt about the rich history of our law school. We look forward to continuing the celebration over the next two years.

*This past year was also special for the School of Law — and for our nation — in another way. Along with the rest of the country, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's momentous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. As Judge Paul Brady '56, our commencement speaker and honorary degree honoree, made clear, our law school bears a unique connection to that important decision. We can be proud that long before many law schools embraced the importance of diversity, our law school established a policy of inclusiveness. And as the profiles that you will read in this issue's special story about the diversity of our alumni make clear, Washburn Law alumni have contributed mightily to helping our nation realize the benefits of a truly multiracial, multicultural community. At the same time, as Judge Brady reminded us all, the work of implementing *Brown* is far from complete. Indeed, in some ways we have lost ground. Meeting the challenge of *Brown* will not be easy. But I can assure you that our law school remains steadfastly committed to achieving the courageous promise of *Brown*.*

*Sincerely,
Dennis*