



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Some argue that law schools should teach theory, maintaining that new lawyers can acquire the practical knowledge they will need during their early years in practice. Others contend that law schools should focus their efforts on ensuring that graduates leave law school with at least some modicum of real world training. Theory, they argue, is interesting to academics, but not much help to a client in need of help. To some degree, I admit, either approach can succeed.

Great law schools, however, teach both theory and lawyering skills. At Washburn Law we have always recognized the importance of both theory and skills. Indeed, as many of you have told me during our meetings, our law school's commitment to ensuring that our graduates can apply theory in a skillful way is what has distinguished Washburn Law for many years! In part our success is a tribute to our full-time faculty. Whether teaching in the classroom or the clinic, they have consistently emphasized the importance of both theory and lawyering skills.

*Equally important, however, have been the contributions made by the many judges and practicing lawyers who over the years have brought the world of practice to the classroom. Over the years, these judges and lawyers have enriched our classrooms. They have added depth to our curriculum, and helped our students understand the importance of honing their lawyering skills. They have also brought home the importance of ethical behavior and civility in practice in ways that we who do not practice on a regular basis can not. There is no way that we can adequately compensate any adjunct professor for the many crucial contributions he or she makes to the education of our students. In this issue of *The Washburn Lawyer*, however, we attempt to recognize the important role they have played and continue to play in making Washburn Law the great law school it is. I suspect as you read about them, you will recall more than a few moments of your law school days!*

Sincerely,

*Dennis R. Honabach
Dean*

