



Duke Dupree,  
Washburn Law School Association

*A recent Law School alum asked me “Why should I join the law school alumni association and pay dues; what’s in it for me?” Young, eager and ready to succeed in his practice, he saw little value in joining the Washburn Law School Association. I answered him, but his question stayed with me. And as I started speaking at this year’s graduation luncheon, given by the Washburn Law School Association for the graduates, their families and friends, I decided to repeat with minor changes my answer to that question.*

*Over forty percent of those recently graduating from Washburn University School of Law received financial assistance because of alumni. In the three years that the Class of 2005 attended law school, alumni provided \$2,750,000 in scholarships and financial aid and provided over 3,000 hours assisting in the students’ legal education. The Class of 2005 began their legal education at a law school ranked in the 4<sup>th</sup> tier; they graduated from a law school that is in the upper part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier ranking. That help, that assistance was provided by Washburn Law alumni who cared, who had pride in their law school, and who desired to help others.*

*Continually helping to improve Washburn Law is what the Washburn Law School Association is all about. We can take pride in what has been accomplished, but 3<sup>rd</sup> tier — we can do better. No individual, no class can accomplish what we alumni can do together.*

*It has and it always will take three things to make a great law school æ qualified students, a dedicated, highly qualified and motivated faculty, and strong alumni support. We have the qualified students (check out their LSAT scores and undergraduate grades). We have a dedicated, qualified and motivated faculty. What we need is the support of each and every Washburn lawyer.*

*No matter what your practice, no matter what career path you chose, no matter what your accomplishments and achievements, it happened because of your legal education. It all began with your graduation from Washburn University School of Law. In May 2006 Washburn Law will graduate its 100<sup>th</sup> class. Become a member of the Association and assist in the many ways necessary to make the next century at Washburn Law even better.*

*Sincerely,*

*Duke*