

Planned Giving

Ethelyn L. Oser was born April 2, 1906, in Burlingame, Kansas three years after Washburn University School of Law opened in Topeka.

Oser graduated from Burlingame High School in 1925. She married A. N. Oser that same year and they began farming southwest of Osage City, Kansas. They worked together on their farm for more than fifty years until they retired and moved to Osage City. Ethelyn and A.N. enjoyed more than 65 years of marriage until A. N.'s death February 22, 1990.



Frederick W. "Rick" Godderz '69, a well known and respected attorney knew Mr. and Mrs. Oser for many years. Ethelyn had been a client for almost twenty-five years prior to her death. Although she was involved with various community organizations including the local Methodist Church, she was still a very private individual. Godderz enjoyed his professional and personal friendship with Ethelyn.

Both the Oser and Godderz families have been in the same Osage City and Burlingame area for several generations dating back to the mid to late 1800's. So it was not surprising that when Rick and Ethelyn got together for their "attorney-client" meetings they often would involve larger discussions on other matters than the initial reason for their meeting.

Oser was always very appreciative of any gesture or assistance extended to her by her friends or neighbors and was a much respected person in Osage City. She and A.N. assisted in their community and through their efforts and astute management of their finances they accumulated a sizeable estate at the time of their deaths.

Though Ethelyn and A.N. had no children and neither of them had completed any formal schooling beyond high school, they both considered education vitally important.

Ethelyn Oser did not like to discuss her finances or the size of her estate. However, she was certain how her estate was to be distributed. From her personal and professional friendship with Godderz, and her belief in higher education, the Ethelyn Oser Law Scholarship Fund has been established and will help young students by providing educational opportunities at Washburn University School of Law.

If you are thinking about giving back to Washburn Law please contact:

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