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Dean Search – A Successful Ending; A New Beginning

Washburn University President Jerry Farley last August created a 13-member Dean Search Committee, and assigned it the task of conducting a national search to find suitable candidates to serve as Washburn University School of Law's next Dean. Co-chaired by Professor Nancy Maxwell and Bernie Bianchino '74, the committee was comprised of law school faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other representatives from Washburn University.

The committee began its work quickly, and with one goal in mind, to find outstanding Dean candidates. Co-Chair Maxwell said early on in the process that the committee's task was to present President Farley with a list of such outstanding candidates that he would have a difficult time selecting the best one from the list. The committee received and reviewed over 80 nominations and more than 25 applications from highly qualified people around the world, conducted extensive reference checks, and invited 16 applicants to participate in off-campus screening interviews. After much deliberation and spirited debate, in mid-November it presented President Farley with a list of four applicants who were brought on-campus for extensive (three day) interviews. Following the on-campus interviews, Thomas J. Romig, Major General, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army (Ret.) and current Deputy Chief Counsel, Operations at the Federal Aviation Administration, was selected to be the new Dean of Washburn University School of Law. I had the opportunity to become acquainted with all of the candidates during the search process, and I heartily endorse the selection of Romig as the new Dean.

Romig, a 1970 graduate of Kansas State University and a 1980 graduate of Santa Clara University Law School, had a distinguished legal career in the military. From October 2001 through October 2005 he was the Major General, Judge Advocate General of the Army, in Washington, D.C.

The selection of Romig as Dean creates an exciting opportunity for Washburn University School of Law. His talents, proven leadership abilities, and strategic vision will have an immediate impact and will help position Washburn University School of Law to obtain the national reputation that it deserves.

Bill Rich has served as Interim Dean throughout the search process, and will continue to serve as Interim Dean until Romig arrives in July. Under Rich's capable leadership, Washburn University School of Law has continued to improve and grow.

On behalf of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association, thank you Dean Search Committee members and Interim Dean Rich for jobs well done, and welcome aboard Dean Romig.

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