



Romig Selected as New Law School Dean

Thomas J. Romig, Major General, US Army, retired, has been appointed dean of Washburn University School of Law, effective July 1, 2007.

“Tom has demonstrated an exemplary level of leadership and brings to Washburn a new level of expertise,” said President Jerry Farley. “I’m confident with Thomas’ broad intellectual interests, thoughtful academic temperament and his enthusiasm about the new challenge, he will capitalize upon the many strengths of the School of Law.”

Interim Dean Bill Rich of the law school adds, “Faculty, staff, students, and alumni who met with Tom Romig share that enthusiasm, and look forward to working with him in years to come.”

A native of Manhattan, Kan., Romig has served since 2005 as deputy chief counsel for operations for the Federal Aviation Administration. In this key executive position within the FAA legal department, he supervised nine multi-disciplinary

regional counsel offices and the Aeronautical Center Counsel Office and was responsible for airport and environmental matters and personnel and labor law function.

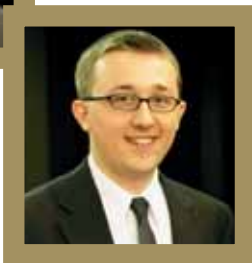
Prior to joining the FAA, Romig served four years as the 36th Judge Advocate General of the Army. He led and supervised an organization of more than 9,000 personnel comprised of 5,000 active and reserve military and civilian attorneys and more than 4,000 paralegal and support personnel spread throughout 328 separate offices in 22 countries. He oversaw a world-wide legal practice including civil and criminal litigation, international law, administrative law, labor and employment law, environmental law, claims and ethics compliance.

Romig’s other military positions included Chief of Army Civil Law and Litigation and Chief of Military Law and Operations both in Washington, D.C. His military legal assignments included Chief of Planning for the JAG Corps; Chief Legal Officer for Army Air Defense forces in Europe; and Chief Legal Officer for US Army V Corps and US Army forces in the Balkans; and prosecuting felony and misdemeanor criminal cases; and teaching international law at the Judge Advocate General’s School, Charlottesville, Va.

He received a bachelor of science degree in social sciences from Kansas State University and was commissioned through the Army ROTC program. While serving as a military intelligence officer, he was selected for the Army Fully Funded Law School program and graduated from the Santa Clara University School of Law in 1980.



Matt Ballard '07



Zach Chaffee-McClure '07

Moot Court Competition Team

The Washburn Law team of Matt Ballard '07 and Zach Chaffee-McClure '07, won the Regional competition of the National Moot Court Competition, Nov. 11, 2006, in Lawrence, Kan. Ballard and Chaffee-McClure defeated UMKC in the Quarterfinals, a second UMKC team in the Semifinals, and Creighton in the Finals to take the Regional Championship. Prior to that they beat KU in the first match and then triumphed over St. Louis in the second match.

Chaffee-McClure was also named best oral advocate of the competition.



Serving as Interim Dean

When Bill Rich carefully hung his 2006 calendar in his office, he did so in anticipation of his return to full-time teaching at the beginning of the fall

semester. As associate dean for academic affairs for the past two years, soon it would be time to refocus his attention toward the classroom and additional scholarly endeavors.

As happens often in life, Rich's plans changed when he was called to consider taking a slight and perhaps bumpier detour before continuing the well-planned journey back into teaching. On Aug. 1, 2006, Rich assumed the duties of interim dean after Dean Dennis R. Honabach accepted the position of dean of Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Ky.

As interim dean, Rich has worked to promote the development of joint degree programs with both the School of Business and the department of social work. He also renewed the emphasis on the Business and Transactional Law Center, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, the Children and Family Law Center, and the Washburn Law Clinic. Above all his accomplishments since accepting the interim dean duties, Rich has provided strong leadership to ensure the School of Law continues on course.

Rich's stable leadership has ensured a smooth transition as July 1 approaches with the arrival of the new dean, Thomas J. Romig. Washburn University President Jerry B. Farley is one of many who are grateful for Rich's commitment to Washburn Law.

"It is such a great pleasure to work with Bill. The transition to a new dean can be traumatic, but when Bill agreed to serve I knew that everything would go smoothly, and more importantly, the School of Law would continue to advance," said Farley.

Ronald L. Wasserstein, vice president for academic affairs, agreed.

"Bill Rich has demonstrated extraordinary leadership as interim dean. Bill's calm and thoughtful manner has earned great respect. He is trusted deeply by everyone. The result is an outstanding environment in the School of Law that contributed mightily to the successful dean search, and to the continued efforts to prepare for the ABA accreditation site visit. Washburn University and its School of Law owe Bill a great debt of gratitude. I feel a deep personal sense of gratitude and appreciation as well. Thank you, Bill," Wasserstein said.

Within the walls of Washburn Law, faculty members appreciate Rich's willingness to postpone his plans—yet again—for the future of the law school. This was not Rich's first experience as interim dean. When former Dean Carl Monk took a sabbatical, Rich served as acting dean from July through December 1985, thus it seemed natural that Rich would take the reins once again.

"He had to put much of his scholarly agenda on hold when he agreed for a second time to be associate dean in 2004 for two years. He literally was counting the days until he could return to full-time teaching and research when we needed him to be interim dean. His commitment to the institution meant he could not say, 'no,'" said Distinguished Professor James M. Concannon.

"Bill enjoys the widespread respect of faculty, students, and staff, which has enabled him to carry the law school community forward during this interim period of filling the dean's position," said Professor Sheila Reynolds. "Bill has said he looks forward to returning to full-time teaching and scholarly writing; he has sacrificed those personal ambitions to continue to serve the administrative needs of the law school in this important transition period. We have been well served by his willingness to do so," Reynolds concluded.

Linda Henry Elrod, Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law, has appreciated Rich's leadership style. "I think all of the faculty members appreciate Bill stepping up to lead the law school this year. Bill shows respect for everyone's opinions and leads in a calm, deliberative manner."

"Bill has the confidence of the faculty because of his integrity and his repeated personal sacrifices for the good of the law school," said Professor Nancy G. Maxwell. "For example, Bill continued to teach a full load for this fall semester, in addition to taking on the responsibilities of being the acting dean. Bill also did not take the position of acting dean to be a 'seat warmer.' He set out an ambitious agenda for himself and the faculty for his one-year term as dean, which he shared with the faculty in August. This transparent and open leadership style has resulted in significant cohesion and cooperation among the faculty members. We are deeply indebted to his selflessness and dedication to Washburn University School of Law," she added.

Professor Alex Glashausser became associate dean for academic affairs at the law school prior to Rich becoming interim dean. For Glashausser, the transition to his new duties was made a bit easier knowing his predecessor would be sitting within footsteps of his new office.

"I approached my new job with some trepidation about the unknown, but with the comfort of knowing that Bill, my predecessor, would be in the building," Glashausser explained. "When it turned out that he would be not only in the building but next door, and that I would be working with him on day-to-day matters, I was thrilled. He has been a mentor for me and a leader for the school; his mix of warmth, intelligence, and experience has benefited us all. Happily, he will still be in the building next year!"

The word "mentor" is used often to illustrate Rich's commitment to the law school and to students, staff and faculty.

"I have learned so much from Bill," said Kelly Lynn Anders, associate dean for student affairs. "He has been a great mentor."

From faculty, to staff, to students, to campus administration, all agree Rich's teamwork approach and consensus-building skills are exactly what Washburn Law needed during this time of transition.

"He has such great judgment and the ability to make everyone with whom he works feel included. As we traveled around the country visiting alumni and friends he had instant rapport partially because he had so many alumni in his classes. All had fond memories of Professor Rich. What more could any of us want than to be remembered for the impact we had on students' lives? Bill will leave a lasting legacy for what he has contributed to Washburn Law during his career," Farley concluded.

By Vicki Estes
Public Information Director
Washburn University School of Law

Washburn Law Alumni Association 1st Annual Golf Tournament

The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association held its 1st Annual golf tournament, Aug. 25, 2006, at the Shawnee Country Club, Topeka, Kan. For its first year, the event was a success. Thirty-three alumni and friends played in the scramble. After the tournament, a BBQ lunch and ethics CLE, presented by L.J. Leatherman '92, was provided for the participants.

The first place team consisted of Duke Dupre '73, Prof. Rob Rhee, Bernie Bianchino '74, and Mike Harder. Steve Cooper '73, David Breiner '06, Dan Crow '93, and Dana Brewer '77 took second place honors. Longest drive went to Brenda Head '92, longest putt went to Matthew Bergmann '05, and closest to the pin went to Tom Henderson '75.

A special thank you to hole sponsors: Duke '73 & Helen '76 Dupre; Cavanaugh Smith & Lemon PA; Wallace Saunders Austin Brown & Enochs; and Sunflower Marketing.

The golf committee, consisting of Rita Bicknell '95, The Hon. Pat Brazil '62, Rich Enochs '63, Steve Cavanaugh '80, and Kathy Webb '83, are already working on the tournament for next year which is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2007, at Falcon Lakes Golf Course in Basehor, Kansas. Mark your calendars now and plan to play.

Rita Bicknell, chair of the golf committee said, "If everyone who played last year brings another person or enters a 4 person team to play in 2007, this tournament will quickly grow into the type of event we envision. This is a chance to get together with friends and fellow law school grads, have fun on a great golf course, and support the law school alumni association. Please join us and help make our 2nd annual golf tournament a huge success!"

Proceeds from the tournament go into an unrestricted fund for law scholarships.

