

DEAN
Thomas J. Romig

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Having completed my first year as dean of Washburn University School of Law, it is apparent to me that the support of our alumni is critical to the success of Washburn Law. Alumni like you assist us by serving as speakers, adjunct professors, mentors, and judges for competition teams, as well as supporting our law school in numerous other ways.

We had a great year, and this issue of the *Washburn Lawyer* will give you a brief recap of the programs Washburn Law has been involved with over the past 12 months, and an indication of what is to come.

In October, we hosted our symposium on Humanizing Legal Education with nearly 100 law professors and deans from 40 law schools and three countries. In March, we had our American Bar Association/American Association of Law Schools accreditation site visit. Although we have not received the official report yet, it was clear that the seven-member team was very impressed with our students, our programs, our dedicated staff and faculty, and our alumni they met. In short, they liked what they saw at Washburn University School of Law.

In April, we hosted a very successful Writing to Win Symposium on Plain Language Jury Instructions. This symposium included judges, justices, and practitioners from across the country. Also in April, we had 29 alumni and two professors participate in a U.S. Supreme Court swearing-in ceremony in Washington, D.C. Coverage of this exciting event begins on page 30. In May, we held the 103rd commencement of Washburn University School of Law, with 148 graduates joining the ranks of our 6,600 alumni around the world. The commencement speaker was one of our distinguished alumni, **Congressman Dennis Moore, '70**. During the year, our Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing (LARW) program was ranked in the top 30 in the

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nation for the second year in a row, and at the end of the academic year our Moot Court Program was ranked 27th in the nation. As I said, it was a great year!

I look forward to the opportunities the coming year brings, and I am confident this next year will be even better than last year. A small glimpse of the year includes the launch of our newest Center for Excellence: the Center for Law and Government. Inaugural events for this Center include hosting the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces on October 21, and a symposium on the Rule of Law and the Global War on Terrorism that will assemble a nationally-recognized group of participants on November 13 and 14. There is much to look forward to as we prepare for an exciting and event-filled year. With your continued support, we will shine the light on the excellence of Washburn University School of Law.



Thomas J. Romig