

DEAN
Thomas J. Romig

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In our feature story in this issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*, we share with you our redesigned pro bono program. The program encourages students to understand and embrace their future professional obligations by providing legal services to those with limited means. Whenever a Washburn Law graduate succeeds or helps others succeed, as in our pro bono work, it reflects on the value of what we do here each and every day. I hope you will read more about the celebration and some of the pro bono projects involving alumni, beginning on page 30.

Also in this issue is our annual Donor Honor Roll, highlighting those who provided financial support during this past fiscal year to improve the law school in countless ways. Our sincere thank you goes out to these donors for their support.

Washburn Law welcomed an impressive class of 151 students this fall. Applications rose 25% over the previous year. With the benefit of scholarships, we were able to increase the published LSAT scores of the incoming class by two points from a year ago.

Speaking of scholarships, we are facing an immense challenge — recruiting the best and brightest students while also ensuring that their debt load does not hinder them from pursuing their desired professional opportunities. As the competition among law schools continues to heighten, the need for additional funding remains a constant challenge.

To address this need, we have launched the “Students First” Scholarship Campaign, a strategy to improve the academic credentials of incoming classes. During 2009-10, Washburn Law awarded scholarships in excess of \$1.8 million. It is projected that another \$200,000 to \$300,000 is needed for next year to remain competitive with our scholarships. The time is right for us to take this step forward. We know this can be possible with your assistance.

Alumni support comes in a variety of ways. Each time you mentor a law student, attend a program, provide a lecture in your area of expertise, join us for an alumni reception in your community, or make a financial contribution — you are contributing to our law school. Another area where your help can be invaluable is in assisting our students and recent graduates in finding jobs. Our professional development staff works tirelessly on their behalf, but particularly in these challenging times, it would be helpful if you would please keep them in mind whenever opportunities are available within your organization.

This fall featured yet another slate of impressive events at the law school. Our four Centers for Excellence continue to enrich our students’ law school experience. The Business and Transactional Law Center and the *Washburn Law Journal* sponsored “The Future Course of Oil and Gas Jurisprudence II” in October. The Center for Law and Government and the Center for Excellence in Advocacy hosted the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in late September. Read more about these and many other events at the law school in this issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*.

As you can see, the life of the law school continues to be busy and exciting. Your support and commitment to our law school is, as it always has been, indispensable to our success. By working together, we will share the pride, shape our future, and shine the light on Washburn Law.

Sincerely,



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