



# Center for LAW and GOVERNMENT



2013-2014

As its primary focus, the Center for Law and Government provides superior legal education to prepare highly qualified public servants for a broad range of careers associated with local, state, and federal government.



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

REGGIE  
ROBINSON

### *BROWN v. BOARD AT 60: Looking Back - Looking Forward Symposium*

Among the true hallmarks of Washburn University's School of Law are the deep commitment to public service that a remarkably broad slice of its students embrace, and the impressive institutional investment the school makes to ensure that those students are well-prepared to embark upon successful and meaningful public service careers. The Center for Law and Government is a tangible manifestation of that institutional support, and I am pleased to report that the Center enjoyed a thoroughly productive 2013-2014 academic year.

Throughout the academic year, the Center sponsored programs that provided its students learning opportunities from professionals engaged in a broad range of topics that bear on the issues, challenges, and opportunities that lie at the intersection of law, government, and public policy. The *Brown v. Board at 60 Symposium* was a true highlight. But additional Center program topics ranged from contemporary controversies regarding

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In February, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Center for Law and Government convened a symposium that explored and critically considered both the contemporaneous impact of that momentous decision and its continuing relevance. We gathered a distinguished set of panelists from across the country to reflect on those important issues in three distinct sessions.

First, the symposium provided a rare opportunity to consider this landmark case through a local lens. In considering the *Life of Brown*, one group of presenters examined local Topeka history as it played out during the time of the *Brown* litigation, and also considered the effort to desegregate Kansas

*(Brown - continued on page 2)*



*(Front row) symposium panelists: Cheryl Brown Henderson, Shirley A. Hill, Abel A. Bartley, and William Yeomans. (Back row) Juan F. Perea, Ted Shaw, Preston Green III, Cedric Merlin Powell, Chris Hansen, Joseph Zima, and Jack Alexander. Not pictured: Deborah L. Dandridge and The Honorable Dan Biles, '78.*



## Director

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Kansas voting laws, to difficult policy matters around the business of health care law, the “whys” and “hows” of using a legal education as a basis for a lobbying career, and an opportunity to understand complex issues surrounding the Federal farm legislation. In addition, the Center continues to engage students as they pursue the Certificate in Law and Government.

## *Brown v. Board at 60*

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public schools after the decision. Issues surrounding the re-opening of the *Brown* case in 1979 were also examined.

The impact of the *Brown* decision has been broad and profound. It was, however, fundamentally, a case about education. The symposium’s second group of presenters offered papers that considered the current state of the American educational system in light of social, economic, and legal developments that have unfolded since *Brown*. These speakers placed special emphasis on current school funding issues, along with the social and cultural factors that contribute to *de facto* segregation.

Finally, our third group of distinguished presenters used the



*Washburn Law students who attended the symposium events included Robert Moody, '14; Maurice Brewer, '14; Hiwot Berihun, '14; and Isabella Gichiri, '14.*



*Following the symposium, presenters and attendees visited Washburn’s Mulvane Art Museum for a special viewing of the exhibit *Contemporary Reflections: Brown v. Board After Sixty Years*.*

prism of recent Supreme Court decisions on marriage, voting rights, employment, and affirmative action to examine how the Roberts Court’s approach to those contemporary questions compares and contrasts with the approach so powerfully embodied by the Warren Court’s decision in *Brown*.

In addition to the panel presentations, the symposium’s events included a tour of a special exhibit at Washburn’s Mulvane Museum – *Contemporary Reflections: Brown v. Board After Sixty Years*, and a reception at the *Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site* (pictured below).



This successful symposium would not have been possible without the co-sponsorship of *Washburn Law Journal* and the Black Law Student Association. In addition, Professors Myrl Duncan, Bill Rich, and David Rubenstein were indispensable partners. A special thank you, as well, goes to Shawn Leisinger and Donna Vilander.

This symposium provided the Center with a valuable opportunity to convene a lively set of conversations around important topics of broad concern. We will continue to identify those opportunities in the years ahead.



*Pictured is one of the dolls used by Dr. Kenneth Clark in his famous doll study relating to segregation in the schools.*

*Washburn Law Journal*, volume 53, issue 3 (summer 2014), was dedicated to the topic of this symposium, and articles written by the participants are featured. Visit: <http://washburnlaw.edu/publications/wlj/issues/53-3.html>

## 2013-2014 CENTER EVENTS

September 12, 2013 – Lunch & Learn - Alumni Fellow **C. Michael Lennen, '74**, an attorney with Morris, Laing, Evans Brock & Kennedy, Chtd.



*Michael Lennen, '74*

October 7, 2013 - Lunch & Learn - Reflections on a Career in the Law: From the Governor's Office to the Corporate Boardroom, presented by **Natalie Haag, '85**, vice president and general counsel at Capitol Federal Financial, Inc.



*Natalie Haag, '85*

October 21, 2013 – Lunch & Learn - Voters in Limbo: The Profound Impact of New Voter Registration Rules in Kansas, presented by **Professor Reggie Robinson**, co-sponsored with the Black Law Student Association.



*Whitney Damron, '87*

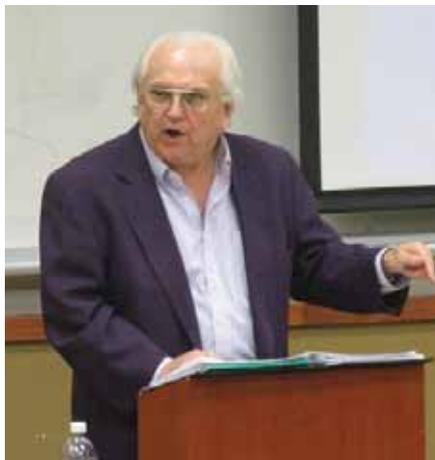
October 23, 2013 – Lunch & Learn - Lawyer as Lobbyist, presented by **Whitney Damron, '87**, an attorney and lobbyist at Whitney B. Damron, P.A.



*Jeff Ellis, '77*

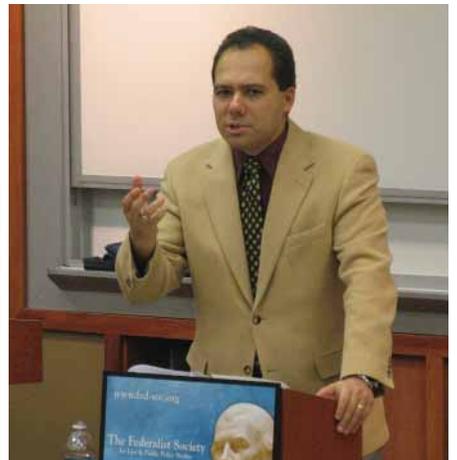
November 11, 2013 – Lunch & Learn - The Business of Health Care Law, presented by **Jeff Ellis, '77**, a healthcare consulting principal with PYA.

November 25, 2013 – Lunch & Learn - Farm Bill, presented by **Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh**, a professor of Agricultural Economics at KSU, co-sponsored with the Agricultural Law Society.



*Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh*

November 26, 2013 – The Federalist Society - Health Care Reform, a debate between **Ilya Shapiro**, Cato Institute, and Washburn Law professors **Bill Rich**, **Craig Martin**, and **David Rubenstein**.



*Ilya Shapiro*

March 27, 2014 – Annual Blue Tie Soiree, co-sponsored with the Washburn Law Democrats.

## PROFESSOR ROBINSON - BEYOND CENTER EVENTS

### Media Interviews

Quoted, "Law Professor Says 'Dual Elections' a Real Possibility This Year," *Lawrence Journal-World*, February 17, 2014.

Quoted, "Speaker Argues Recent Court Rulings Detrimental to Voter's Rights," *The Kansas State Collegian*, September 18, 2013.

### Presentations

"Update on Election and Voting Law Issues," 2014 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, June 27, 2014.

Panel Moderator, "Race and Education Today," *Brown v. Board* at 60: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, February 27, 2014.

"Supreme Court Reconsiders Voting Rights Act: Broken Law or Broken Promise?," Dorothy L. Thompson Civil Rights Lecture Series, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, September 17, 2013.

### Professional Service

Member, National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) Panel: Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D.C. Selected in the spring by NAPA as one of six National Academy Fellows who is currently conducting an independent assessment of the management and policies of the Justice Department's Civil Rights

Division, particularly the Voting Section.

Chair, Governor's Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Topeka, Kansas. The advisory group, the existence of which is required by federal juvenile justice law, is also responsible for the distribution of federal juvenile justice grant dollars across the state. Robinson has served as chair since being appointed in 2010 by Governor Mark Parkinson.

Board Member, Capitol Federal Financial Inc., 2012-.

Chair, Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, 2011-2013.

## About Us

The Center for Law and Government provides our students expanded opportunities for public service. Washburn Law is ideally situated to offer law students unique and varied opportunities to learn about lawmaking, judicial decision-making, administrative law, and the regulatory process, given its proximity to the State capitol, the Kansas Judicial Center, the Frank Carlson Federal Courthouse, and numerous state agencies.

As its primary focus, the Center provides superior legal education to prepare highly qualified public servants for a broad range of careers associated with the local, state, and federal government. Courses such as Legislation, Administrative Law, Local Government, and State and Local Taxation serve as the Center's initial core curriculum.



**David Rubenstein**  
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