



Brown v. Board of Education Revisited:



Groups around the country will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education* on May 17, 2004. On November 1, 2003, it was especially appropriate that Washburn University School of Law held this symposium that brought together a diverse group of practitioners and scholars to discuss the case, its implications and its legacy. From filing to final arguments, Washburn Law graduates played vital roles in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The case was originally filed by three Washburn Law graduates: two graduates represented the Topeka School Board at trial and another graduate, an assistant attorney general, argued on behalf of the state before the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, spirited discussion ensued in both legal and non-legal communities in Topeka. The decision in *Brown* and its consequences continue to be controversial. Ninety-eight people attended the *Brown* Symposium, which was held in the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus. Attendees included not only attorneys but also many representatives from the public and community interested in the discussion.



Centennial Celebration

The Law School launched its Centennial Celebration with a Kick-off Reception on September 18, 2003 at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. Guest speakers included Bill Bunten '56, who entered law school 50 years ago; Carolyn Adams '81, who entered law school 25 years ago; and Sunee Mickle, who is a first-year law student. History boards placed throughout the room showed highlights in history from each decade the school has existed. Alumni spent the evening reminiscing about their time at law school and took time to look through old photos and yearbooks with enthusiasm and laughter. Historical information can be viewed on the website at www.washburnlaw.edu/centennial.



December Graduates

The December graduates held their recognition ceremony and reception at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 6, in the Washburn Room of Memorial Union. Twenty-eight students graduated this December and celebrated with family, friends and faculty during the evening event. Jackie Williams '71, former U.S. Attorney for the district of Kansas, was guest speaker for the ceremony.



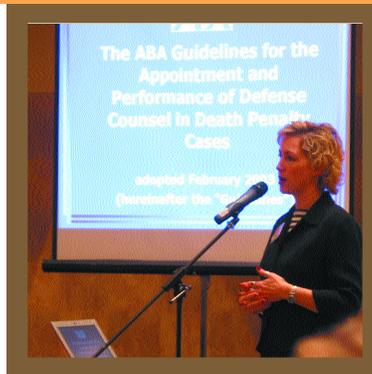
Reunion

Alumni who graduated in years that ended in either a 3 or an 8 celebrated their law school reunion on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Events for the day included two CLE seminars, a golf tournament at the Shawnee Country Club, a Washburn University football game and a reunion dinner for all of the classes. More than 80 people attended the cocktail reception and dinner and had a great time with other classmates. Don Rupert '76, who was presented the Washburn University Alumni Fellow Award for the School of Law, also attended the reunion dinner.



Alumni Fellow Award

Donald W. Rupert '76 received the Washburn University Alumni Fellow Award for the School of Law on October 24, 2003. Rupert is a partner in the Chicago office of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, a multinational law firm with more than 1,300 attorneys in seven time zones who advise many of the world's largest commercial and financial institutions, multi-lateral organizations and national governments. Rupert's 27-year career has centered on intellectual property law with an emphasis on complex technology matters, including patent, copyright and trademark infringement. The Alumni Fellow Award recognizes distinguished alumni who have achieved notable success in their chosen career fields.



National Capital Defense and Mitigation Skills Training Conference

For the first time, Washburn University School of Law presented a three-day training conference that focused on important aspects of capital defense— including the new American Bar Association Guidelines for the Defense of Capital Cases, on November 6-8, 2003. More than 75 people from several states attended the seminar, including those in the areas of social work, mental health and the legal profession.

Representing a defendant in a capital case is among the greatest challenges confronting a lawyer. Capital defense lawyering demands exhaustive, and exhausting, legal and factual preparation under painful pressure with great risk and potentially grim and irrevocable consequences. The lawyer in a capital case must be able to work effectively as a team player with other lawyers and staff, the client, social workers, psychologists, educators, physicians, and the mitigation specialist.

Experts on mental retardation and mental health examined recent developments in these fields in light of recent Supreme Court decisions. Nationally recognized authorities on mitigation practice discussed effective techniques for developing and presenting the mitigation case. Experienced trial and appellate capital defenders from the region lectured on trial techniques, trial and penalty phase strategies, and appellate issues for successful death penalty defense. Attendees also heard from keynote guest Joseph Amrine, who was convicted of murder and served 17 years on death row in Missouri. After numerous appeals and the recantation of testimony by three witnesses, he obtained release from prison. Last summer, the state announced that it will not pursue retrial.