

Business & Transactional Law Center



Professor Steve Ramirez



The Washburn Business & Transactional Law Center had another successful semester this fall, and continues to gain momentum.

For example, the Center has institutionalized its Lunch and Learn series. This innovative program provides students with the sophisticated perspective and practical insights of successful business and transactional law practitioners. Last semester the Center brought into the Law School alumni with a wide range of experience levels in franchise law, securities law and business planning. In addition, the center arranged to have experienced practitioners visit our business and transaction law classes and interface with students regarding cutting edge issues in business and transactional practice. One of our visitors, alum Bryon Koepke '00, an in-house counsel at Caterpillar, Inc., also visited with students about his experience in the Georgetown University Master of Laws Program in Securities Law. Another alum, Sue Jean White '80, shared her experiences as General Counsel of Shell Chemical Company, regarding issues related to Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

Students savor these sessions, and participation rates for these programs are very high. Regardless of what their professors say, it means much more when students hear seasoned attorneys tell them the same thing or approach the same issue from a different perspective.

The Center has also maintained its commitment to presenting thematic programs designed to highlight timely issues of interest to students, scholars and practitioners of business and transactional law. This fall the topic was white collar crime and the program was entitled *Enron Three Years Later: A White Collar Crime Scorecard*. The keynote speaker for this program was Mary Jo White, former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and currently the Chair of the litigation group at Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP. She provided a broad overview of recent developments in the white collar crime and spoke on a panel addressing trial strategies for white collar cases in the post-Enron environment. Other panelists included Jeffrey Morris, who



L to R: Professor Michael Kaye, Jeffrey Morris, Keith Drill '87, Mary Jo White, Frank Bowman and Professor Steve Ramirez

recently helped try the white collar case against former Westar Energy CEO David Wittig, and Washburn alum Keith Drill '87, who concentrates his practice in white collar crime. Professor Michael Kaye, Director of the Washburn Law Center for Excellence in Advocacy moderated this panel.

In addition to these outstanding practitioners, the program included a panel of nationally known scholars entitled *Red Hot Issues in White Collar Crime*, who presented articles that will be published in the Washburn Law Journal. Scholars



L to R:
Professor Mary Ramirez, Frank Bowman,
Ellen Podgor, Stuart Green and
Kathleen Brickey

Bryon Koepke '00



participating in this panel include: Frank Bowman, the M. Dale Palmer Professor of Law at Indiana University School of Law; Kathleen F. Brickey, the James Carr Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence at Washington University; Stuart Green, the Louis B. Porterie Professor of Law and Director of the Pugh Institute for Justice at Louisiana State University; Ellen S. Podgor, Professor of Law at Georgia State University; and Professor William K. Black, the Director of the Institute for Fraud Studies at the University of Texas. Washburn Law Professor Mary Ramirez moderated this panel. The Center owes a debt of gratitude to all of the Washburn Law students who helped shuttle all of these outstanding scholars to and from the airport.

The final element of the Center's program on White Collar Crime was a recent developments CLE in Kansas City. This panel was moderated by Washburn Law's Professor Ellen Byers and included a combination of scholars and practitioners. Like each of the white collar crime panels, this panel was open to all Washburn Law students.

Each of these panels illustrate common themes regarding the mission of the center. The Center first and foremost seeks to enrich the educational experience of Washburn Law students. In order to fulfill this primary goal the Center leverages resources and expertise of alumni. The Center seeks to give students access to the most sophisticated thinking regarding business and transactional law.

If you wish to learn more about the Center, or if you would like to volunteer, contact Director, Professor Steven Ramirez at 785-231-1010 ext. 1668 or steven.ramirez@washburn.edu