



# ADMISSIONS

*efforts strong in*

# DIVERSITY RECRUITING

It is the law school's mission to attract a qualified and diverse student body that reflects demographic, cultural, and ideological diversity.

Washburn Law continues to maintain its efforts to attract minority students and has explored new approaches to recruiting and retaining those students. With a minority first-year student enrollment of 15.6 percent in the fall 2008 entering class, it appears that the activities in which faculty, staff, and students work together are proving successful in attracting minority students to Washburn.

The law school continues its focus on providing financial awards to attract a qualified, diverse student body. The Polsinelli Diversity Scholarship provides \$7,500 annually for three years to one incoming minority student. This amount is matched by Washburn. With the establishment of this fund in 2006, the \$15,000 package has enhanced our ability to attract a diverse student population. The law school also encourages minority applicants to apply for the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund.

Washburn Law actively supports the Continuing Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) program with annual membership contributions, advertising in its publications, and participating in the annual Summer Institute. Faculty and staff interview and recruit students each year at a CLEO site. CLEO participants admitted

to Washburn are offered scholarships to ease their financial burden. In addition to recruiting at CLEO, Washburn Law actively recruits students at the Native American Law Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The law school also hires seasonal recruiters to work as admissions representatives, with an emphasis on attending minority-related events and visiting historically black colleges and universities. These recruiters have been minorities who recently graduated from Washburn Law. Recruiters from the law school participate at the Big 12 Conference for minority students as well.

The Admissions Office maintains a strong working relationship with the ethnic law student organizations. Washburn Law students representing the Asian American Law Student Association (AALSA), Black Law Student Association (BLSA), Hispanic American Law Student Association (HALSA), and Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) contact prospective applicants by e-mail or telephone and encourage campus visits. The Admissions Office collaborates with these organizations to help co-sponsor minority on-campus recruiting events, such as College Diversity Day.

Alumni, faculty, and students of the law school participate in recruiting and post-admission retention efforts to ensure an incoming class that includes under-represented groups, particularly racial and ethnic minorities.

*by Karla Whitaker, Director of Admissions*