

JENIFER L. LUCAS
Giving Back



Jenifer L. Lucas, '75, began her professional career in what was at the time a traditional female profession—teaching. Her path took a turn when she enrolled in Washburn Law and found that the law was her passion. Only 15 women were in her graduating class. Lucas, along with her friend, **The Honorable Christel Marquardt, '74**, knew they were paving new ground in Topeka's legal community and beyond.

After graduation, Lucas worked as the Kansas Corporation Commission's assistant general counsel, then later at Cities Service Company's offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. In each of these positions, Lucas faced the challenges of being in the rough and tumble world of oil and gas law as the sole woman attorney. Lucas was appointed as the public member and the only female member of the Oklahoma State Board of Public Accountancy. Since 1996, she has been living in Washington, D.C., as an advisory attorney for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which handles oil and gas pipeline regulation.

Lucas remains grateful for the generous scholarships and the other support she received throughout law school. For that reason, she served from 1985 to 1993 on the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors, in addition to providing financial support to the law school's annual fund. Lucas also assists her alma mater by serving as a contact for students and graduates wanting to work

in the nation's capital. Lucas readily acknowledges that the quality of her Washburn Law education prepared her for the competitive arena where she now thrives.

Lucas' longtime involvement in Kappa Alpha Theta, an international women's fraternity, has earned her numerous awards. Most of her closest friends are Thetas, especially those who were members of her 1963 pledge class. Among those she counts as friends are Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law **Linda Henry Elrod, ba '69**, and **jd '72**, and Washburn University's Director of Affirmative Action Carol Lyon Vogel, ba '67.

Washburn Law is a special place that provides more than an excellent legal education. It provides a rigorous academic program in a nurturing and supportive setting. This combination of personal relationships and professional growth provided Lucas with a unique Washburn experience. Because of this, the majority of her will provides the establishment of the Jenifer L. Lucas Law Scholarship. She wants future generations of women, especially those who are changing careers, to benefit from the same outstanding Washburn education she enjoyed.

Alumni and friends who are interested in joining Lucas in shining the light on Washburn Law through trusts, estates, and other planned gifts are encouraged to contact Martin Ahrens, advancement and planned giving officer, Washburn University School of Law, at (785) 670-2781 or mahrens@wea.org.