

## WASHBURN LAW ALUMNI

# Practicing and Living Abroad

Washburn Law is proud of our far-reaching exposure outside the United States. Our overseas alumni live throughout the world.

- Africa – Republic of Namibia and South Africa
- Asia – Afghanistan, Japan (3), Qatar, South Korea (2), and Taiwan
- Australia – New South Wales
- North America – Canada (4)
- Europe – Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, United Kingdom (2)
- U.S. territories of American Samoa, Grenada, Guam (2), and the Virgin Islands.

If you (or someone you know) live(s) overseas, please share the news with the Alumni Services office. Here are some alumni reflections on subjects ranging from law school favorite memories to more present day aspects of professional life. We hope you enjoy reading about this diverse group of Washburn Law graduates.

### LORI CALLAHAN, '83

*General Manager, Third Party and Liability Claims  
Allianz Insurance Company  
Sydney, Australia*

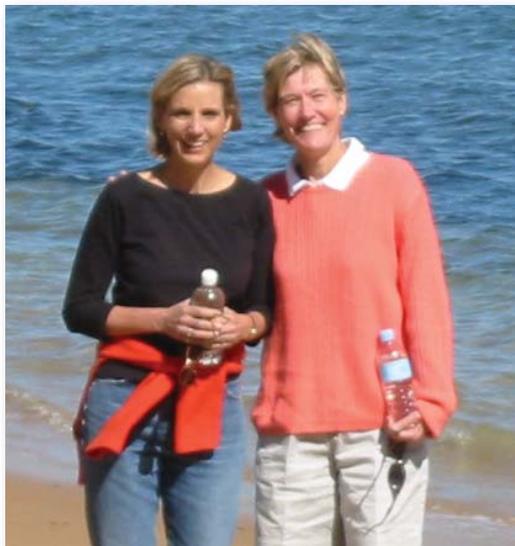
**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** One of my first positions after law school was as general counsel and vice president of claims for KaMMCO, the Kansas Medical Society's malpractice insurance company in Topeka. I also headed up the claims committee for an international medical malpractice insurance association.

Once in Australia, I practiced law with a firm that specialized in advice to the insurance industry and insurance defense litigation. Before getting my Australian license to practice law, I could practice on my Kansas license, if each time I appeared in court, I "sought leave" from the court to address the court. I then moved to a larger firm heading up its insurance claims division and practicing law.

For the past six years, I've been the general manager for Public

and Product Liability, Professional Indemnity Claims, Directors and Officers, and Personal Injury Motor Vehicle claims for Allianz Insurance Company for Australia and New Zealand. In the United States, Allianz is known as Fireman's Fund. Our company is the second largest insurer in the world and the third largest in Australia.

Allianz needed someone who had both legal practice experience and insurance company experience. At KaMMCO, I had a staff of five. Today, I have over 300 staff and manage \$1.5 billion. Because Australians are as down to earth and pragmatic as midwesterners, my approach clicked with the people at Allianz. I am referred to as "Lori from Kansas." My colleagues notice whenever Kansas is mentioned in the *Sydney Morning Herald* or *Australian Financial Review*. In fact, Governor Kathleen Sebelius was recently mentioned in the *Australian Financial Review*.



*Lori Callahan, '83, (left) with Carol Foreman, '80, (right) Kansas Deputy Secretary of Administration, during her visit to Sydney.*

### WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?

When I worked as a research attorney for Justice Harold Herd, '42, he

**ENGLEBERT AKONG, '96***Managing Partner**Akong Law**Buea, Southwest Cameroon, Africa*

**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** In October 1996, I was sworn in as a practicing attorney in Minnesota. As a result, I was admitted directly into the Cameroon Bar Association and subsequently licensed to practice before the Cameroon Supreme Court and the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

believed deeply in the rule of law. Living in Australia, I've had the opportunity to work with the president of the British Commonwealth Law Association, which represents lawyers in all of the Commonwealth countries, many whom have lost their lives fighting to ensure there is justice in the world. Attorneys hold the ability to preserve the rule of law and to seek justice in all things — the day-to-day as well as the big issues.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** First, the Women's Legal Forum provided networking and development. Secondly, the accessibility, knowledge and idealism of my professors whose voices I still hear in my head as I write on a legal topic, ponder a choice of law issue, or explain torts to my managing director. And, finally the people I sat next to on my very first day of class at Washburn Law remain my very best friends.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?** Washburn provides an excellent legal education that served me exceptionally well. Eighty-five percent of my staff are lawyers, and proudly I share with you: my Washburn education compares with the best! Washburn gave me the foundation for understanding the value of a practical approach to legal issues; how to resolve disputes so that both sides feel they have won; how to look for innovative resolution strategies; and how

**WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?** Having patience and the interest to continue learning is essential.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** I enjoyed the Black Law Student Association's meetings and bake sales.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?** It is never too late to seek your goals.

**PERSONAL NOTE:** I plan to return to the United States in June to attend the Minnesota State Bar Association's annual conference and get some needed CLE requirements.

"thinking like a lawyer" solves not only business issues, but legal issues as well.

**HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE TO OTHERS WHERE YOU ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL?**

Most Australians have little knowledge of Kansas; however, a surprising number know about the state's association with the aircraft industry. Washburn stood out for its excellent faculty, practical experiences teaching model, and commitment to ensuring students are truly learning to think like lawyers, not just learning the law. Washburn, in my opinion, cared about me as an individual. If its students do well, they will do well as alumni. Isn't that one of the best endorsements for a law school?

**PERSONAL NOTES:**

Since I live at the beach, my work commute is taking a ferry across Sydney Harbour. We love having our Kansas and Washburn friends visit. And, we share important sight-seeing tips, such as seeing the view over the harbour from the coffee shop on Level 14 of the Supreme Court building while checking out the barristers in their wigs, or catching a glimpse of Russell Crowe's home from the deck of the Manly Ferry. I plan to attend the Kansas Women Attorneys 20th Anniversary Conference this July in Lindsborg that my dear friend, **Linda Parks, '83**, is chairing. Two Australian women lawyers are joining me on my return trip to Kansas.

**EVAN CHANG, '95**

*Barrister & Solicitor  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?**

Currently I have a solo practice in Toronto. For about 10 years, I was self employed as a litigator in family and criminal law. I worked for a senior counsel for several years after obtaining my license to practice law in Ontario.

**WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?** The benefits one receives in law school are directly related to whatever he or she puts into it. Results are usually rewarded after significant effort.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** I remember being “called on” in class since I had never experienced before the Socratic method of teaching.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?** Get involved. Stay involved. Participate in different organizations within the law school and use all those resources offered to you, especially the career center and the law library. The clinic program is a great way to connect with the real world, too.

**PERSONAL NOTE ON LIFE AS A WASHBURN STUDENT:** During my second year at Washburn, I transferred to the University of Calgary Law School in Alberta, but later returned to Topeka to complete the juris doctorate. I was able to complete two law degrees in a span of four years; consequently, I got the benefit of studying law in a comparative Canadian-American perspective.

**SCOTT CURRY-SUMNER, '97**

*Maastricht University Law Professor  
The Netherlands*



**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** My current position was obtained through a colleague of my husband. It started as a part time job teaching Common Law Systems to Dutch students studying European Law. After my first semester, I was approached to help design a new three-year law school, the Maastricht

University European Law School (English Language Track). It was to be the first transnational legal program in Europe taught in English. We put together a plan for the first two years, and hoped to get 15 to 20 students for the first year. Seventy showed up. Enrollment doubled the second year, and we're now in the third year and going strong. Our students come from all over the world, including the United States. I'm currently responsible for several foundation courses in the first year, and continue to teach Common Law Systems in the second year of the traditional Dutch track of the program.

This academic year, I'm working with some colleagues I practiced with in Kansas and also with the Washburn Law faculty to initiate a new exchange program with Maastricht. In addition to our students studying at Washburn for a semester, we're also setting up a few internships with Kansas law firms and governmental agencies for our students from Maastricht. I'm excited about the exchange, and think it will be great for both universities.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** I really enjoyed Client Counseling. As a result of that experience, last year I brought the Client Counseling competition to The Netherlands. A first year team in our program beat out our master's law students to win the national competition, and I was able to accompany them to Bangalore, India for the international competition. I'm looking forward to this year's competition in Las Vegas.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?** I never imagined while I was in school that one day I would be where I am, doing what I'm doing. My advice to current law students is to live your life as though it were given to you to live. Don't spend it doing something you can't get excited about. If you love what you're doing, the rewards will follow.

**PATRICIA DAVIS, '84**

*Senior Editor for Her Highness Sheikha Mozah,  
First Lady of Qatar  
Doha, Qatar, Asia*



**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** After almost 20 years in Washington, D.C., I got an intriguing offer in late 2003. I had been doing political strategy and policy communications for Congress and the Clinton Administration when I was approached about becoming a communications consultant for Qatar's

national education reform effort. It was post-September 11 and I knew very little about the Arab world, but I picked up and moved to the Persian Gulf.

Qatar is one of the wealthiest countries in the world due to its massive oil and gas reserves. Even in this depressed world economy, it has almost unlimited resources for social projects. Her Highness Sheikha Mozah, Qatar's First Lady, was the moving force behind the education reform effort. In the Middle East, it's uncommon to see a woman in such a visible role, so

it was clear that both she and her husband the Emir (King) were progressive and enlightened leaders.

In July 2005, I shifted to a \$10 billion project to build a premier medical and research center, another project driven by Her Highness. After three years as the public relations director, I was planning to come home when I learned that Her Highness was looking for a speechwriter. I have written speeches for political leaders throughout my career, both in the U.S. and the Middle East, so it seemed like a great fit. Since April 2008, I have served as senior editor in the Office of Her Highness.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?**

A law school education is a tremendous asset even if you don't intend to practice law. Critical thinking skills and the ability to conduct research will serve you well, no matter what path you take. My interest was always in the political/policy arena so I started working with the Kansas Legislature in my third year of school. I didn't need to be a lawyer to qualify for some of the positions I've held, but having a law degree has opened doors for me at every turn.

**MARCIA JOHNSTON, '74**

*Solo Practitioner  
Cochrane, Alberta, Canada*



**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?**

My road to the present is based on an accumulation of 35 years of practice. As a fifth-generation native of Topeka, I (formerly Marcia Lee Heil, later Marcia Lee Harley) graduated in December 1973. With private practice jobs being unavailable for women at any Topeka law

firm, my classmate **Jane B. McAllister, '74** (formerly Jane B. Werholtz), and I started our own firm, Harley & Werholtz. I practiced in Topeka for four years before spending the next couple of years in Wichita. Houston was my next stop, working as an in-house tax lawyer at a major oil company.

After marrying a Canadian in 1981 and moving to Calgary, my initial goal was to find in-house employment with an oil company and continue to practice United States tax law while learning Canadian tax law. I discovered several roadblocks along the way. I needed to become a Canadian citizen, (to be a subject of Queen Elizabeth II), pass the final exams in three law courses, take the Alberta bar exam and "article" for a year in order to be admitted to the Law Society of Alberta. One is required to live in the country for at least three years as a "landed immigrant" before applying for citizenship. I was admitted to the Law Society of Alberta in 1985.

The following years became a whirlwind of events. After three years in a medium-sized firm, I went in-house with an oil company, which went into receivership, resulting in the two founders and myself being fired. In 1986, I set up as a sole practitioner with four public oil and gas companies as clients, as well as a

new start-up company by the remaining officers of my former employer. By 1991, I hired my first associate, and eight years later we had a four partner/eight associate securities boutique. In 2000, my firm merged with the Calgary office of a large national Canadian law firm. I felt that my younger partners and associates had taken the boutique as far as we could go, as some of the larger clients met resistance from brokers in Toronto and New York for using a small, local firm for multi-million dollar financings. I became a partner of a 700+ firm but this environment simply didn't feel quite right.

In 2004, I was hired as vice president of legal and corporate affairs, general counsel, and corporate secretary of JED Oil, Inc., — that is, until JED went into creditors' protection, which resulted in my termination in January of this year. I have once again become a sole practitioner, still serving JED as general counsel and secretary, as well as doing corporate and securities law for other previous clients.

### JOYCE LEE, '99

*General Counsel*

*Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems, Inc.  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Photo by Char Woodman, www.bigbluebox.ca



**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems, Inc. (DRAS) is an engineering firm located in Calgary, Alberta. DRAS is the leading integrity management provider in North America, with clients around the globe. 2008 marked the second consecutive year that DRAS placed in the

annual Profit 100 ranking of Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies.

I am responsible for all legal matters concerning DRAS, including corporate/commercial, litigation, intellectual property, employment law, and privacy law matters.

Before joining DRAS, I was a crown counsel with Alberta Justice. (Crown Counsel are attorneys that represent "the Crown," Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of

I was very honored to receive Letters Patent as a Queen's Counsel (Q.C.) from Queen Elizabeth II in January 2006. In this day and age, this is an honorary designation granted for service to the profession and the community.

**WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?** The importance of listening carefully. Think before speaking. Professional courtesies. The values of peer support, especially those willing to mentor, and being a mentor yourself.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** Moot Court and some fun bridge games in the student lounge. I do, however, remember that there remained a thinly-disguised bias against women.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?** Washburn provides an academically excellent experience. Endure it — it's worth it.

Canada). I received solid experience in litigation matters, regularly appeared before the Courts, and adjudicated matters as a taxation officer. I have taken further training in the alternative dispute resolution methods of collaborative law, mediation, and arbitration.

**WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?** Nothing is what it seems. Ask lots of questions. Remember that there are two sides to every story. Have confidence in your own abilities.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?**

- Engaging in deep conversations with **James M. Gannon, '99**. (James Gannon is of counsel with the Kansas Court of Appeals.)
- A delicious Thanksgiving dinner hosted by **Alex J. Solorio, '99**, and his spouse, Cynthia Sans. (Alejandro "Alex" J. Solorio is a partner at the Kansas City firm of Garcia, Solorio & Avilia, LLC.)
- Soaking up everything I could from the brilliant minds of Professor Steven Ramirez (currently teaching at the Loyola University School of Law, Chicago) and Professor **David E. Pierce, '77**, on the Washburn faculty.
- The late Professor **Raymond Spring, '59**, is a true

**SHELDON MOSS, '93**  
*Patent and Trademark Attorney*  
*Taiyo, Nakajima & Kato Law Firm*  
*Tokyo, Japan*



**HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR POSITION?** I have been in my present position since 2002. The firm's headquarters are here in Tokyo, but we also have a branch office in Alexandria, Va. My responsibilities are to obtain patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for our Japanese clients regarding inventions that were originally invented in Japan.

After graduating from Washburn Law in 1993, I passed the Kansas bar and worked briefly at a Topeka law firm in insurance defense litigation. Since the majority of the cases involved bodily injuries, I was exposed to

inspiration. I took his Criminal Law class in my first year. Even though his health was declining, Professor Spring continued to teach. I was very saddened to learn of his passing.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?**

Honesty and integrity are everything. Protect your reputation zealously. Always be candid, respectful, and polite with the honorable members of the bench. Be courteous with your colleagues at the bar. Take courses that interest you. Seek out classmates that share a similar work ethic. Washburn is a terrific law school for practical "hands on" clinical experience. Enroll in the Law Clinic.

**HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE TO OTHERS WHERE YOU ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL?** Calgary, Alberta is the "Houston of the North." When I discovered that Professor **David E. Pierce, '77**, served as the Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at my local law school, I applied to Washburn. Even though I was accepted at several American law schools, I chose Washburn due to this "Calgary connection." My intent was to study law at both American and Canadian law schools, thereby making me a more valuable candidate.

numerous expert witnesses in the medical field. These scientific aspects intrigued me greatly. During 1995-96, I earned a Washburn undergraduate chemistry degree. The summer of 2000 was spent at Tokyo's RIKEN Brain Science Institute doing neuroscience research as part of my dissertation project. By 2001, I had completed my M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Kansas. Chicago became my home for one year while working as a patent attorney. During that time, I registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office prior to moving to Japan.

Because of Japan's longstanding commitment to basic and applied scientific research in both the public and private sectors, there is extensive intellectual property activity in Japan. As a result, I have found that my background in law and science has been quite useful here.

Having previous exposure to Japan during graduate school, working in Japan was a natural career choice. After doing extensive internet research on various Japanese patent law firms, I sent an unsolicited letter and resume to Taiyo, and pleasantly, within a few weeks, I had accepted employment with that firm.

**WHAT IS A VALUABLE LESSON FROM LAW SCHOOL?** I received a solid background in critical and analytical reasoning.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL MEMORIES?** Relaxing between classes in the "pit" with classmates is definitely a good memory. I heard, however, that the pit was filled in, which is sad, but understandable.

**CAN YOU SHARE SOME WORDS OF WISDOM FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WASHBURN?**

For law school, time management is everything. If done successfully, you'll have plenty of time for study, sleep, family, friends, and fun. Without it, you'll mostly find yourself in catch-up mode and increasingly stressed-out as final exams approach. Washburn Law is a smaller-sized law school with an outstanding faculty and laid back atmosphere.