

JOHN ELLIOTT SHAMBERG
1913 - 2009

Giving Back

John Elliott Shamberg, ba '34, and jd '37, was born July 15, 1913, in Fremont, Neb., and was raised in Hutchinson, Kan. John earned both his bachelor's degree in political science and his juris doctor from Washburn. He joined the Kansas City, Kan., firm of Cohen, Schnider & Weinstein in 1949, and was soon named as a partner. The firm today is known as Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman, Chartered. John was one of the premier civil trial attorneys in the nation. During the period 1983-2000, he was named in every edition of *The Best Lawyers in America (Civil Litigation)*.

In 1989, he received the highest honor conferred by the Kansas Bar Association, the Distinguished Service Award. Also in 1989, he was the first recipient of the Kansas Trial Lawyer Association's Art Hodgson Award. In 1997, the Kansas Bar Association awarded him the KBA 60-year pin for 60 years of practice. Also in 1997, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association conferred on him the "Dean of the Trial Bar Award." To be considered for this award, an attorney must have been in practice for 30 years and be distinguished by his accomplishments and his reputation in the profession. John Shamberg was the first Kansas attorney to receive this award.

In 2000, he received the Justinian Award for Professional Excellence, the highest honor granted by the Johnson County Bar Association. The award is given to an attorney who has exemplified integrity, service to the



community, service to the legal profession, and professional qualities of warmth, friendliness, and camaraderie.

John Shamberg was, throughout his distinguished life, an enthusiastic and generous supporter of our law school. He spearheaded the entire fundraising campaign to rebuild

the School of Law after the 1966 tornado. John served as President of the Law School Alumni Association from 1965-69. He was on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Excellence in Advocacy from 2006 until his death. John received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association in 1970. In 1984, he was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Law from Washburn University.

"John Shamberg was a tremendous supporter and advocate of Washburn University School of Law," said Dean Thomas J. Romig. "His legacy at Washburn Law will continue to benefit the law school and our students for many years to come. We mourn the loss of such a great friend."

Shamberg passed away July 9, 2009, in Prairie Village, Kansas. He will be missed by all of us at the law school and by the many Washburn Law alumni and friends across the country.

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

John D. and Sameta B. Kemp Law Scholarship



John D. Kemp, '74, recipient of the 2003 Washburn University Honorary Doctor of Law degree, is the epitome of a person with an energetic, positive upbeat personality. His career is one of remarkable successes. John has served as Chief Executive

Officer of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Very Special Arts, and Half the Planet Foundation. He has served as general counsel and vice president of development for the National Easter Seal Society. Currently John is a principal in the Washington, D.C., firm of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville PC.

You might not know that John has a challenging physical disability unless you saw him motoring to his next

appointment in his electric powered chair. John was born with no arms below the elbows and no legs below the knees.

With the establishment of the John D. and Sameta B. Kemp Law Scholarship, law students with disabilities will be assisted. Kemp said, "Each of us is an advocate. Each of us has many different ways we can serve. Commit to making something good and productive and meaningful happen every day." John and Sameta's scholarship will assure that young Washburn attorneys will continue to do just that.

"John Kemp is an inspiration to us all," said Dean Thomas J. Romig. "Because of the scholarship he and Sameta created, law students with disabilities will have opportunities they might not otherwise have had."

Elwood Slover Law Emergency Fund



Philip M. Knighton, '71, is currently an "inactive" lawyer after 38 years of practice. He and his wife, Chris Dilts Knighton, now devote their time to geological prospecting. Knighton's final year of law school was a stressful time. He worked weekends at the State Highway Department Research Lab, late afternoon hours inspecting pier borings for new buildings, making coffee at 5:00 a.m. in

the student lounge, teaching evening geology courses at Washburn, and managing the Washburn Law Clinic during the day.

Among all these other responsibilities, Knighton was enrolled as a full-time student. Around the middle of his final year of law school, Knighton realized he would be lacking about \$700 to \$900 to finish the last semester. With a bit of trepidation, he approached Dean John E. Howe, inquiring if an emergency fund was available for special circumstances. Knighton was advised there was an ad hoc "slush fund" for this purpose, so he made his request to Assistant Dean Elwood Slover, who assured him that the committee would review it. The following day, Slover presented Knighton with a certified check, with the explanation that it was a non-interest bearing loan. No papers were signed; it was verbally agreed that he would pay the money back at his earliest opportunity.

After graduation and passing the bar, Knighton set up a law practice in Wichita, specializing in oil and gas regulatory law. When he returned to campus in the fall to attend a seminar, Knighton was pleased that he could repay the loan. When asked to whom the check should be made payable, Slover simply replied, "Oh, just make it out to Elwood Slover." At that moment, Knighton realized it was a one-person committee who provided this critical source of funds. Knighton thanked him enthusiastically; he never forgot the kindness shown to him when he really needed it.

Knighton believes having this emergency financial support is essential for third-year law students. In gratitude, the fund is named after Assistant Dean Elwood Slover. Knighton is making the appeal to other graduates, who may also have experienced this unique generosity, in the hope of increasing its contributions. Repayment and the continuity of this fund rest solely on the sense of honor of the recipients.

"The Elwood Slover Law Emergency Fund will enable third-year law students who encounter financial hardship to finish law school," said Dean Thomas J. Romig. "Philip Knighton's generosity in starting this fund has created a lasting legacy to the kindness and charitableness of Dean Slover."

If you would like to provide financial assistance, please contact Joel Lauer, director of advancement, at (785) 670-1702 or jlauer@wea.org.