



50th  
Anniversary

# WASHBURN LAW JOURNAL



*Richard Hayse, '69, and The Honorable John Flannagan, '64, at the Washburn Law Journal 50th Anniversary Banquet*



*Volume 3: Dave Fromme, '65, business manager, and John Flannagan, '64, notes editor*



*The Honorable D. Keith Anderson, '67, visits with James Ahrens, retired Washburn Law professor.*



*Volume 6 board of editors: Jerry Levy, '67, notes editor; Clarence Koch, '67, research editor; Philip Egan, '67, business manager; Dale Paulsen, '67, comments editor; Larry Meeker, '67, editor-in-chief; and Keith Anderson, '67, associate editor*

# OBITER DICTUM

## 'REMARKS BY THE WAY'

The first editor-in-chief of the *Washburn Law Journal*, **Lowell F. Hahn, '61**, used this title for his column in Volume 1, stating, “This, it is felt, accurately describes the intended purpose of these notes, presently and in future issues—*to inform our good subscribers of incidental occurrences and information which could not be conveyed in any other manner—‘remarks by the way.’* Therefore, *Obiter Dictum.*”



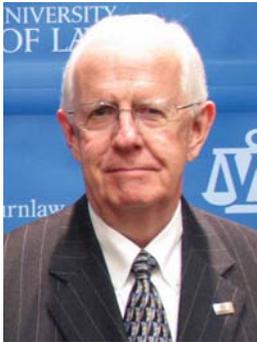
*Lowell Hahn, '61, provided an overview of the Law Journal's beginnings at its 50th anniversary celebration banquet on April 16.*

The *Obiter Dictum* title continued through Volume 32. Hahn highlighted the beginnings of the *Law Journal* at its 50th anniversary celebration banquet on April 16, 2011.

Remarks from past editors gave an overview through the decades. **Winton M. Hinkle, '68**, discussed how the June 1966 tornado, which destroyed the law school building, impacted the journal. **George A. Barton, '77**, talked about the critical importance of good legal writing, and **Terry Mann, '86**, provided insight on how good writing is the key factor to a successful practice. **Mary Lynch Matthews, '91**, gave an overview of the *Journal's* move into the digital age, and **Robin K. Carlson, '04**, talked about the special issues produced by the Volume 43 staff related to the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and the law school centennial.



For more information, photos, and video of the event see: [washburnlaw.edu/wlj/50thanniversary](http://washburnlaw.edu/wlj/50thanniversary).



*Winton  
Hinkle, '68*



*George  
Barton, '77*



*Terry  
Mann, '86*



*Mary Lynch  
Matthews, '91*



*Robin  
Carlson, '04*



*Dona Morris and The Honorable Joseph Morris, '47, visit with  
Professor David Pierce, '77, and Theresa Barton.*



*Washburn University School of Law following the tornado of 1966.  
The Washburn Law Journal editor's desk in the  
forefront is still in use in the Journal office today.*



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

**John F. Kuether Memorial Faculty Awards**

To provide an incentive for excellence and to recognize exemplary student writing, the Washburn University School of Law faculty established the Best Note and Best Comment awards. In 1999, the awards were named in memory of Professor John F. Kuether, faculty advisor to the *Washburn Law Journal* from 1987 through 1999. The Hinkle Law Firm LLC, of Wichita, has generously established a fund that helps sponsor the John F. Kuether Memorial Faculty Award. Recipients of the awards have their names engraved on a plaque permanently displayed at Washburn University School of Law.



*Michael C. Duma*  
Best Comment



*Jacqueline M. Blaesi-Freed*  
and *Andrew T. Newcomer*  
Best Note (tie)

**John D. Ensley Memorial Award  
for Excellence in Legal Writing**

Washburn University School of Law presents the John D. Ensley Scholarship for Excellence in Legal Writing semi-annually to the student who writes the top memorandum in the *Washburn Law Journal* write-on competition held each spring and fall semester. The award memorializes **John D.**

**Ensley, '83**, whose experience on the *Law Journal* made him a careful practitioner of the craft of legal writing.



*Robert J. Rojas, Fall 2010, and*  
*Robert Fitzgerald, Spring 2010*

**The Free Society of GNIP-GNOP**

The Free Society of GNIP-GNOP had its first meeting in 1947. Its members were nine Washburn Law graduates who were also members of the Kansas Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta social fraternity at Washburn. Although all members did not graduate in the same class, due in large measure to their military service during World War II, they and their spouses have gathered annually at various locations throughout the United States since 1947. It was at one of the mid-year meetings that the members decided to establish a cash award to benefit Washburn University School of Law. GNIP-GNOP stands for one of the group's favorite pastimes. It spells "ping-pong" in reverse.



*Jacob L. Porter, Best Note, and*  
*Andrew D. Holder, Best Comment*

GNIP-GNOP presented its first award to a law professor who had, in their judgment, been the outstanding law school teacher during that year. They abandoned this practice, however, because the members resided in several states and concluded it was, as a practical matter, impossible for them to know and determine who the outstanding teacher was for the year. Accordingly, they decided to grant two awards each year to student writers on the *Washburn Law Journal*.

The editor-in-chief and other *Law Journal* editors select what they consider to be the three best notes and three best comments. These are sent to all GNIP-GNOP members who determine the winner in each category. A substantial cash award goes to each winner.

Erosion by the sands of time has reduced the number of original GNIP-GNOP members from nine to three. In 2009, GNIP-GNOP was expanded to include the following 1977 Washburn University School of Law graduates and former editors of the *Washburn Law Journal*: **George L. Barton, The Honorable Rebecca W. Crotty, Patty Riley, H. Reed Walker, and Professor David Pierce.**