

Ideal Place

The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law

More than a Career

A doorway to endless possibilities.

By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07

Opportunity. It's a word you'll hear frequently when talking about Washburn University School of Law with **Kevin Arnel**, '87. A frequent supporter of Washburn Law, Arnel recently made a pledge to the law school building fund — a way he hopes to repay the school for the many opportunities he has received as a student and an alumnus.

"This pledge is a way for me to give back a little and thank the law school that's given me so much over my professional career," said Arnel.

Arnel joined Foulston Siefkin LLP, in Wichita, in 1987 after graduation. He became a partner in 1992 and then assumed the role of managing partner in 2013. Looking back, he described how the education he received at Washburn Law helped prepare him for his future.

"Washburn Law opened up the doors to so many professional opportunities," said Arnel. "From job offers coming in right after school to opportunities after becoming a lawyer and helping me grow in my career. I'm grateful to Washburn Law, and I hope to make sure that others have the same chances that I've had."

While he has encouraged a few other Washburn Law graduates to give back to the school, Arnel has tried to tread lightly so as not to make anyone feel obligated. However, the example he's setting hasn't gone unnoticed; several others from Foulston Siefkin have already joined him in making a pledge.

"Ultimately, I'd like to see us add to the firm's existing scholarships for the law school," said Arnel. "I hope we can help pay for one of the rooms in the new building and be able to provide a nice place for future students to learn."

According to Arnel, pursuing a law degree gave him more than just a career path.

"The legal profession provides so many opportunities," said Arnel. "There are opportunities to serve clients and the community. Working in tax and corporate law, I enjoy



Photo by Jeff Tuttle

getting the chance to learn about different people and the businesses they operate. I enjoy getting the chance to help them solve their problems."

Helping future students succeed and helping to advance the Washburn Law tradition of providing a high-quality legal education is a priority for Arnel.

"The possibilities that are available to those who do well in law school are endless," said Arnel. "You can use the degree to do so many things. And we've been so fortunate. The education that we received from Washburn Law and the opportunities we've had over the years have been wonderful. I would love to see others get those opportunities as well, and that's why I give back."