

# WASHBURN LAWYER

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Magazine | Fall 2016

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 2



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# Off to a Great Start



## WASHBURN LAWYER

We welcome your suggestions about this publication. Please write, phone, email, or visit our website. Letters to the editor and news of jobs and honors are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime phone number. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.

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In late August, we welcomed 301 students back to campus. This year, as in the past, we have exceptionally bright and hard-working students who will become well-educated, practice-ready legal professionals when they graduate and venture out into their chosen career paths.

We also are extremely pleased to have Gillian Chadwick, associate professor of law, and Burke Griggs, visiting associate professor of law, join the Washburn Law faculty. They bring great expertise and energy to the Law School. I hope you will have the opportunity to meet them when you're on campus. You can read more about them on page 26 of the magazine.

In this issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*, you will see once again the diverse career paths open to Washburn Law alumni, and the amazing things they accomplish in their chosen fields – from corporate general counsel to filmmaker to managing partner in a well-known Wichita, Kansas, law firm. Like so many others, they attribute much of their success to the education they received at Washburn Law.

On pages 22 and 23, you will read about six outstanding individuals who have had a lasting impact on Washburn Law. At a special dinner during Alumni Weekend, we honored **Earl Hatcher, JD '23 and H '69 (posthumous); Cynthia Heath, BA '71; The Honorable Edward Larson; The Honorable J. Thomas Martin, BA '73 and JD '76; Lynette Petty, '87; and Frank Ross, Jr., '78** for their outstanding service to the legal profession and to Washburn Law.

This issue also features our 2016 Alumni Fellow, **Natalie Haag, '85**, who has had an impressive career that includes working in both the government and the private sectors.

We expect this to be another outstanding year for our students and faculty. We encourage you to visit campus and share your experiences and talents with our students.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Romig  
Dean and Professor of Law  
Washburn University School of Law

# Building on Momentum

Rarely have we experienced such an exciting time to be associated with Washburn University School of Law. I am excited to be starting my tenure as chair of the Board of Governors in the midst of this fantastic confluence of events.

We have an incredibly talented, dedicated board who are all committed to doing everything we can to support the law school and build on the progress made over the last few years. My predecessor, **Sabrina Standifer, '99**, did a great job as chair to maintain a focus on the students, faculty, and facilities of Washburn Law in order to maintain the world-class education available through our alma mater. Our law school has seen its ranking increase significantly. In fact, in the 2017 edition of U.S. News & World Report we saw a 16-place jump — the largest increase of any law school in Kansas and in the region and the fourth largest in the nation. The enthusiastic support of our alumni network has played a big hand in achieving this success.

Our alumni efforts to raise scholarship money have paid off in an impressive new class of first-year law students. It is fun to see how excited these outstanding new students are as they start their study of the law. It encourages me to grow our alumni support for scholarships so we have the financial resources to attract top-tier students.

Another exciting development is the progress being made toward construction of a new law school building on Washburn's campus. This project is key to maintaining the momentum Washburn Law has experienced in recent years. Top-of-the-line facilities will be an important factor in attracting the best and brightest students and faculty to join our law school. I can assure you the faculty and administration of the law school and President Farley are all committed to the new building. We are grateful for the vote of support taken by the Washburn University Board of Regents.

We still have a ways to go in making this project a reality. But such a leap forward for Washburn Law only happens once in a lifetime. With the unanimous support of the Board of Governors, I look forward to working with our dedicated alumni to raise the resources necessary to commence construction on our new building in the near future.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I invite your comments and suggestions about how we can better serve the Washburn Law community. Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Jim Slattery, '75  
Chair  
Washburn University School of Law  
Alumni Association Board of Governors



The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors was first created in 1952. Our mission is to promote the interests of the Law School by engaging our alumni through service to the Law School and the Association, participating in alumni events and programs, remaining connected, and assisting to further scholarship funding. Appointments run July through June.

#### 2016-2017 Board of Governors

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# Fueling Their Passion for Speed

*Splitting their time practicing law  
and practicing burnouts .*

*By Chris Marshall, BA '09*

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Photo by David Tejada

A bucket list typically consists of once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

But once **Dave Byassee, BA '67** and **JD '75**, got his first taste of racing, he knew the thrill would bring him back many times over.

The Denver-based attorney has served as a paratrooper in the Marines and pilot in Vietnam, sat near Jay Leno at the Kentucky Derby, and vacationed everywhere from Cabo to Monaco, but nothing quite compares to the thrill of sitting in the driver's seat of a racecar.

One driving experience led to another, and before Byassee knew it, he was hauling his own car to all areas of the country to compete in races.

Lawyer and racecar driver may seem like an unlikely combination, but he's not the only Ichabod who splits time practicing law and practicing burnouts. Three Washburn University School of Law alumni who know what it's like to race from the courtroom to the office and from the start line to the finish line recently shared what fuels their passion for racing.

## *Experience of a lifetime*

The latest trip was a mid-July drive to Laguna Seca Raceway in Salinas, Calif. While on the road with his brother/crew chief and a trailer hauling his Porsche Boxster, Byassee took a brief break from his navigational duties to reflect on how it all began.

"About 20 years ago, I was at a law firm that was Chicago-based," Byassee said. "One of the partners said, 'Hey, I want you to go with us to take a client to a Richard Petty Driving Experience in Las Vegas.' So, I went, and that got the blood flowing, and that's why I am where I am today."

Although Byassee said the Petty experience mostly consisted of beginner-level instruction, it served as a gateway for more classes on various forms of racing. Now, Byassee's the one doing the instructing.

In addition to serving as the counsel for Jackson Kelly PLLC in Denver, Colo., Byassee said he races eight or nine times a year and is on the track nearly every weekend teaching performance driving for the Porsche Club of America.

Byassee's wife, Anne Smith Myers, has qualified for her racing license and retired from the practice of law in 2014, allowing her to frequently join him on his cross-country adventures. For Byassee's California trip, she was flying in later in the weekend to spend time in Monterey and visit wine country.

It's just the latest in a long list of adventures the couple has enjoyed together. High-profile races like the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Monte Carlo Grand Prix have already been checked off the list. The next race in their sights is the Indy 500.

Their do-as-we-please attitude led to a fitting name for the team Byassee competes on.

"We've got a team of guys — they're not as old as I am," he said. "But they're all doing things on their bucket lists, and so we named the racing team Bucket List Racing, because racing was on all the bucket lists at one time."

Byassee said he plans to join his wife in retirement after this year, 26 years after retiring from the military to practice law. He said his racing days may soon be over too, but there are other things to look forward to on the horizon.

"I'm 72 years old, so I'm not gonna do this forever," Byassee said. "I don't know what will happen then. I'll probably spend more time with my five grandkids."

## Changing gears

Ever since she was a teenager, **Sabrina Standifer, '99**, knew she wanted to race cars. The decision to become a lawyer took a little more time.

The Wichita resident used to sneak away from home to race at the local drag strip and compete in street competitions. Considering the illegal nature of the street races, and the fact that her parents didn't find out until she turned 21, Standifer never could have imagined she would one day work as an attorney in the same city.

"That was the thing to do back then," she said. "We'd go down Douglas and South Seneca on Friday and Saturday nights. There were certain streets where the races took place because there wasn't any traffic. You'd go down with your car, make arrangements, and then go race."

Standifer first made a living in computer training before switching things up and serving two terms as a state representative. It wasn't until she sat on a panel with Washburn Law professor Charlene L. Smith that Standifer decided to try her hand at law school. She was editor in chief of the *Washburn Law Journal* and graduated *magna cum laude*.

"I obviously could've run for re-election again," she said. "I usually do things backward."



Photo submitted

No matter what professional endeavor Standifer was pursuing, racing was always in the back of her mind. After graduating, her passion for the sport swelled. She and her husband, Duane Hawkes, flew to Florida to have a dragster built that Standifer still races today.

“It’s a completely different kind of racing than what I’d done before,” she said. “You have to do the burnout completely different for a dragster as opposed to a door car, and dragsters leave the starting line much harder. It’s like being shot out of a cannon.”

Her best time to date is 7.97 seconds at 175 mph in the quarter-mile.

Standifer and her husband are currently building a second, street-legal racecar. The couple has enjoyed spending their marriage tinkering with the cars and traveling the country for races. The engines in both cars are currently under repair, but Standifer said she hopes to be racing again toward the end of the season. Her race experience includes trips to Dallas, Texas, Tulsa, Okla., Oklahoma City, Okla., Heartland Park in Topeka, Great Bend, Kan., and, of course, the track in Wichita.

Even when she’s on the road, Standifer has found a way to keep up with her work at Morris Laing, where she practices in real estate, business, and employment.

“My workload has gotten to the point where I still need to work even at the races,” she said. “So we bought a motor home a few years ago that I can go in and work between races. It’s almost as if I’m in the office. The only hard part is being on a phone call with all the cars running outside.”

Although Standifer’s work as a legal professional is a far cry from her dodgy street racing experiences, she recognizes there are similar mindsets between her two passions.

“You have to focus on your own race,” she said. “You can’t worry about what the other person’s doing in the other lane. One of the biggest keys to winning is consistency. A lot of it is showing up, being prepared, and doing the work ahead of time. So those things do cross over.”

### *A great escape*

Although he’s technically retired from racing, **Ed Nichols, BBA ’64** and **JD ’71**, still makes regular trips outside of town to take laps in his Porsche.

“I just go out there and play now,” he said of his visits to the High Plains Raceway, located about an hour away from his

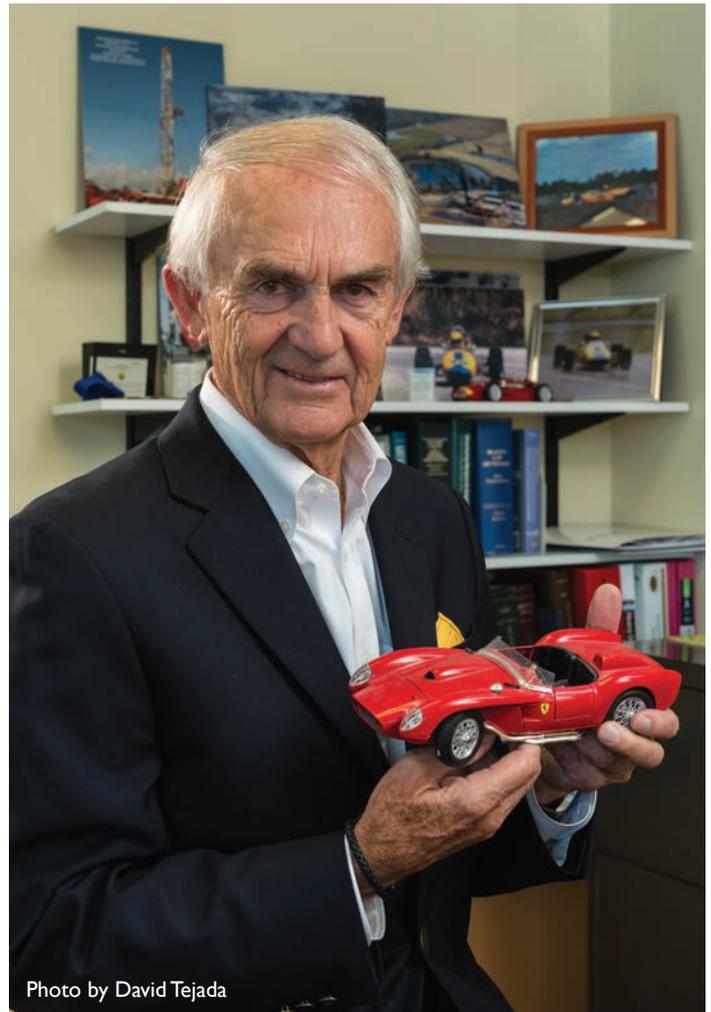


Photo by David Tejada



Photo submitted

Denver, Colo., home. “There’s a lot of elevation changes. It’s a great sports car track.”

While he may race for fun now, that wasn’t always the case during his 20+ year competitive career. Nichols said he had 14 cars at one point, including a Brabham BT21, an Alfa LDS Formula One car, Formula Libre and Formula B cars, and his favorite, a Lotus Elan.

“I didn’t race to race, I raced to win,” Nichols said. “When you get on the track, you forget about everything else. Practicing law can get pretty intense, so one of the great things about racing is there’s so much focus on what your car can do, I’ve found it’s a great escape.”

His racing career started in Topeka shortly after he finished law school. But as he began taking the sport more seriously, and developed a desire to ski, Nichols and his late wife, **Karen Nichols, BA ’80 and JD ’83**, made the move to Colorado.

“We went there, and I got more into racing and bought a car,” he said. “Then Karen decided she wanted to race, so that cost me again. One thing led to another, and at one point, we had a team with three mechanics and a rig to haul four cars.”

The couple traveled together often as Nichols competed in a national campaign with vintage cars, highlighted by trips to Florida and the Road America course in Wisconsin. But as

much as he’s raced, Nichols has put in many more miles for his legal career. He served as CEO of Three Forks, Inc. and Gulfstar Energy, Inc. and was the counsel for several public and private companies in the U.S., Europe and the Far East. Today, he works as counsel for several financial transaction companies.

The younger of the couple’s two sons, **John Nichols, JD candidate ’17**, currently attends Washburn Law. Ed makes regular visits back to campus and attends Washburn football games when his schedule allows it.

At this point, John is the only family member who doesn’t race, but if he spends enough time listening to his father describe the rush it provides, he might someday be tempted.

“It’s like temporarily taking a vacation,” Ed said. “There’s a relationship there between law and racing. It’s just a fantastic release. They’re both intense, but racing’s a different kind of intense.”

## *Museum home to historic hardware*

The NASCAR and NHRA halls of fame are both filled wall to wall with artifacts and memorabilia documenting their respective histories.

One thing you won’t find in either venue is the organization’s first trophy. That’s because they’re both located in Chapman at the Kansas Auto Racing Museum.

**Doug Thompson, ’78**, an Abilene native who founded the museum, has fielded several requests to give the trophies up, but the answer is always no.

“I always say I won’t loan it out, because I’d never get it back,” Thompson said. “They’d want to keep it, and being a lawyer, I know my chances of winning a lawsuit against the NASCAR Museum in Charlotte are slim.”

Thompson said his museum is the rightful place for both trophies, not just because the winners gave him the awards, but because they’re both Kansans.

“A lot of people don’t realize the incredible racing background and history Kansas has,” said Thompson, who has a racing history of his own that dates back to the 1960s, before he even had a license to drive.

Throughout his time at Washburn Law, Thompson said he’d race every night of the weekend and even some weeknights as a form of supplemental income.

Now, he’s found a way to satisfy both his enjoyment for racing and practicing law, splitting his time between running the museum and working as a municipal judge



Photo submitted

in Abilene, Kan., and county counselor for Dickinson County.

“It’s because of Washburn Law that a lot of these things happened,” Thompson said.

# Alumni Fellow

*Alumni Fellow Haag's legal career runs the gamut.*

*By Shalyn Murphy, BA '09*



Photo by Doug Stremel

As general counsel and executive vice president of Capitol Federal Savings Bank, **Natalie Haag, '85**, fields questions involving securities law, banking regulations, and human resources on a daily basis. With 700 employees and more than 40 locations in Kansas and Missouri, the bank draws upon her experience in both government and private sector law while offering Haag, a self-declared learning addict, an ever-growing list of topics to study. And the job seems to be a perfect fit, though Haag's original career aspirations involved higher office.

As a teenager watching the Watergate hearings unfold, Haag paid special attention to the president's general counsel and saw the country needed hard-working, honest women in government. She decided she would obtain a law degree and work her way to becoming the first female president of the United States. But as she moved from undergraduate to law school, negative headlines regarding the Iran-Contra scandal made her reconsider her career aspiration.

"The more I learned about politics, I wondered who in their right mind would want to be president of the United States," Haag said. "But by that time, I was enamored with the practice of law. So in a way, the politicians talked me into law and out of the oval office."

Before tackling the banking industry, Haag's career ran the gamut from legislative, governmental affairs, corporate, constitutional, civil litigation, and criminal prosecution with a nine-year stint at Security Benefit Corporation, seven years in government for the State of Kansas, and 10 years practicing law in Topeka, Wichita, and Cowley County.

At Security Benefit, Haag honed her love of governmental affairs and mastered many complex areas of business law as the second vice president, director of governmental affairs and assistant general counsel, but she points to her time serving as general counsel to former Kansas Gov. Bill Graves as a pivotal moment in her career. The position gave Haag the opportunity to broaden her perspective on the real world application of law while serving as

the governor's appointee on varied committees regarding emergency response, Native American relations, payment center oversight, and school safety.

"That was the first time I recognized that my law degree was worth more than simply the practice of law. It was a degree in thinking, applying logic, and seeing solutions in everything," Haag said.

Through all her career moves, Haag looked for opportunities that would allow the flexibility a family requires. Haag and her husband, Ken Metz, have logged many hours in support of their kids, Maggie Metz, 23, and Zeke Metz, 16, at swim meets, 4-H events, and school functions over the years.

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"To be honored in this way is quite humbling because I didn't do anything extraordinary. With such a solid educational foundation, it was easy to enjoy a variety of employment opportunities. It is a great honor to be recognized for just using my good education to do things I enjoy in both my profession and my community."

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Haag recently completed a term as Kansas Bar Association president, where she relished the opportunity to connect with lawyers across the state while attending local bar association meetings. She experienced a particularly meaningful milestone during a recent meeting of the Wichita Bar Association.

"For the first time in my history as a lawyer, everyone at the head table — officers, national, state, and local — were all women. It was very exciting to realize we had reached that stage," Haag said.

Haag credits her parents, dairy farmers in Holton, for instilling in her the ability to work hard and the duty to serve her community. Those traits become apparent through the way she dedicates her time and efforts in groups like the Kansas Bar Association, Supreme Court Nominating Commission, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Kansas Humanities Council, Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Topeka

Bar Association, and the Missouri Valley Swimming LSC among many others.

Following her passions, Haag has spent most of the last 20 years on the KBA legislative committee and the KBA diversity committee, working to ensure Kansas remains a good place to practice law and the courts adequately reflect the people they serve.

"I've been very active in bar associations because the law has given me a wonderful occupation and great opportunities," Haag said. "It's about promoting our third branch of government and protecting the rights and independence of our bar. I want to give back to the bar that has given me so much."

Haag's efforts have been recognized by her peers and colleagues with the YWCA Woman of Excellence Award in 2016, the Topeka Bar Association Newton Vickers Professionalism Award in 2013, the Kansas Bar Association Outstanding Service Award in 2008, and the Security Benefit Living the Values Community Service Award in 2007.

After earning a bachelor of science degree at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., enrolling at Washburn University School of Law seemed like the natural choice, though Haag said she was so intimidated by the professors she was too scared to speak up in class for the first year. Going from intimidated student to alumni fellow was unexpected for Haag.

"This recognition actually stunned me," said Haag. "Washburn Law has so many outstanding alums that I have always felt like just one of the average graduates. To be honored in this way is quite humbling because I didn't do anything extraordinary. With such a solid educational foundation, it was easy to enjoy a variety of employment opportunities. It is a great honor to be recognized for just using my good education to do things I enjoy in both my profession and my community."

Looking back at her time at Washburn Law fondly, Haag is eager to offer advice and encouragement to current law students.

"Raise your hand and ask questions. Stop thinking that a law degree qualifies you for a single job. Law school will teach you the most important skill in the world — how to think — while building your business, management, and organizational skills. You will have many opportunities, so look broadly."

# In Pursuit of a Dream

*From Venezuela to Washington, D.C., Avellan is living her dream.*

by Kathy Busch | [kbusch@wufoundation.org](mailto:kbusch@wufoundation.org)

At the young age of three, **Norah Avellan, '15**, found herself fleeing her native country, Venezuela, with her mother, twin sister, and older brother. With a mere two hundred dollars and the clothes they were wearing, Norah's mother, Eleanora, took her family to Houston, Texas, leaving behind a dangerous life and an abusive marriage.

From her earliest years, Avellan remembers her mother's words and how determined she was to show her children how to live by them. "My mom has two tenants that she lives by: the first is to always pick yourself up by your bootstraps, and the second is to educate yourself as best you can," Avellan said.

In the ensuing years, her mother did just that. "My mother is amazing. Every morning she drove us across Houston to the best public schools in the city, and then she juggled three jobs for food and gas."

The path to fulfilling Avellan's educational goals was always clear — she wanted to go to law school and practice law like her mother had in South America. Avellan, who admits she is her own worst critic, completed her undergraduate work at the University of Texas at Austin and began preparing for her next big step — law school. At the time, Washburn Law wasn't even on her radar. Avellan had dreams of going to a prestigious school in the northeast and pass the New York bar exam.

At the time, **Jay Vanier, '87**, who through the years had become a close family friend, urged Avellan to consider Washburn Law. Avellan remembers Vanier telling her if she attended Washburn she would be ready to practice the day she graduated, something Avellan wouldn't fully understand the value of until after graduation.

"Norah is bright, talented, and politically savvy. When she decided to go to law school, I suggested she really consider Washburn," said Vanier. "I had such an amazing experience there. I wouldn't have traded those years for anything. I wanted Norah to get that same great education, the same opportunities."

At Vanier's urging, Avellan applied and was accepted. Without a lot of conviction, but trusting Vanier's advice, Avellan and her twin sister, Andrea, made the trip to Topeka for orientation a

few weeks before the semester began. Remembering her first impression, Avellan laughingly said, "When we drove around Topeka, I said 'No way.' I was used to a big city like Houston." She went to orientation and still was not sold on the idea of coming to a small institution in the Midwest. It was a chance encounter with three Washburn Law students that was the turning point. Avellan remembers **Brian Cox, '13**, **Michael Fowler, '14**, and **Eloy Gallegos, '13**, introducing themselves and inviting her and her sister to join them for dinner.

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"Washburn Law was the right fit for me. It gave me the opportunity to build strong professional relationships with my professors, lifelong friendships, and the confidence to take on challenging opportunities."

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"They were so upbeat about Washburn Law and the opportunities they had," she said. "I was really impressed with their openness, passion, and enthusiasm." They later became close friends and remain so today.

One hurdle remained. She visited a school she had been accepted to in the northeast and recalls walking through the library. "The atmosphere was very different," she said. "The librarian was shushing everyone. No one spoke or reached out to me. I walked away more conflicted than ever about what was truly important."

Returning home, Avellan called Dean Thomas Romig and asked to talk to some of the "toughest" professors on the faculty. That led to a conversation with Amy Deen Westbrook, co-director of the Center for Business and Transactional Law, a conversation that eventually helped Avellan choose Washburn Law.

"Washburn Law was the right fit for me," Avellan said. "It gave me the opportunity to build strong professional relationships with my professors, lifelong friendships, and the confidence to take on challenging opportunities. I graduated a more improved version of myself, professionally and personally, because of my time at Washburn Law."

“It wasn’t always easy; there were many times in the thick of studies when I knew my goal but doubted how to get there,” Avellan said. In those times, she turned to Rory Bahadur, professor of law, for advice. “Professor Bahadur really went above and beyond for me. He always knew when I needed a little encouragement, but never missed a moment to toughen me up by challenging me in a classroom full of people. I know I’m not alone when I say he is a great professor and an even greater person.”

Initially, Bahadur had some reservations about Avellan’s chosen course of study. “She had such an intense, almost pained, look on her face,” he said. “I thought to myself, ‘She may be one of those students who isn’t grasping the materials. She’s struggling.’” It wasn’t until Avellan came to his office and shared with him her doubt about law school being the right path for her that he understood. What he had mistaken for struggling was actually Avellan’s incredibly deep thinking and soul searching.

From that point on, Bahadur came to realize Avellan was an extremely bright, driven young woman. “She is so determined. She has a really clear sense of what she needs to do to succeed,” he said. “Norah has a passion, a sense of justice that’s infectious. She really is a force of nature.”

That passion, that determination led Avellan, then a 3L, to land a prestigious internship at the White House under the Obama administration, her first real glimpse into the inner workings of a presidency. “I worked alongside interns from some of the top-rated schools in the country, and I always felt as well prepared, if not more so, than others, and because of that I was proud to say I was a Washburn Law student.

“It was very humbling to see so many people from all walks of life willing to work together to serve their country. I learned so much during my time there, but mostly, I took away a strong belief that as Americans we should care less about party affiliation and more about showing the rest of the world the true power of an inclusive democracy.”

With her law degree under her belt, Avellan tackled the New York bar exam, passed it on her first try, and landed a wealth investment management position with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. in Washington, D.C.

“When a recruiter contacted me, I knew it was a less traditional track after law school but it’s what God put in my path, and I’ve learned to trust his work through me. At this stage in my career, it’s perfect. I get to take a more holistic

approach with my clients and their fiduciary needs, and I really enjoy that.”

And the future? “Right now, I’m where I need to be. Someday, I would like to return to Kansas to serve the people and the state,” said Avellan. “Kansas came into my life in such an unexpected way. I am very proud and grateful for all that it gave me.”



Photo by Dupont Photographers



Photo by Brandi Simons

## The Ideal Atmosphere

*Solid advice from a long-time friend led Donald Fahrny to Washburn Law's campus.*

*by Chris Marshall, BA '09*

After graduating from Oklahoma State University, **Donald Fahrny, JD candidate '18**, wasn't sure what was next.

The political science major had considered going to law school, but without ever venturing further into Kansas than Wichita, Washburn wasn't on his radar.

Then he talked to **Tim Daniel, '87**, a long-time family friend who, in many ways, sees a past version of himself when he looks at Fahrny.

Like Daniel, Fahrny grew up in a small Oklahoma community, applied for law school in his late 20s, and only needed to visit Washburn once to determine that's where he wanted to be.

Like Daniel, Fahrny couldn't be happier with his decision.

"It's not what you'd generally expect given the perceived atmosphere of law schools," Fahrny said. "Washburn has a very unique, accommodating, welcoming staff. He commented it would be like that, and he wasn't wrong."

After initially weighing options in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana for his graduate studies, the Drumright, Okla., native said the sense of community and professors' open-door policies made it clear Washburn was the right choice.

"I like being at a smaller school," he said. "Coming to a bigger town but going to a smaller school is a very interesting shift in the scheme of things. It's been everything I was expecting and beyond."

The fact that Fahrny, now a 2L, has settled into an ideal atmosphere in law school is satisfying to Daniel as well.

"I told Donald, 'I'm not trying to influence you, but go take a look for yourself.'" Daniel said. "There's nothing old men like to do more than to give young men advice. They love it when it works for them, too."

Part of why Daniel gave such a glowing review of the school is because he has his own collection of memories on campus. After teaching for 11 years, Daniel came to Washburn at the age of 28, one year younger than Fahrny was at the time he applied.

"I owe Washburn a great deal," Daniel said. "I came in as an unemployed schoolteacher and left a lawyer. When I was there, I said 'God willing, if I make it through law school and pass the bar, I will never complain about my job.' That's one promise I've always kept. It's a wonderful way to make a living."

After graduating 28 years ago, Daniel opened his solo practice in Drumright and has worked as a jack-of-all-trades lawyer there ever since. He credits much of his success to the lessons he learned at Washburn and had a feeling Fahrny would reap similar benefits if he headed north to Topeka.

"I told Donald his experience in 2015 would be the same as mine was in the 80s," he said. "There's a sense that if you're accepted, they make a commitment to you."

Recommendations like Daniel's aren't uncommon at Washburn Law. In fact, they're one of the most prevalent ways the school finds prospective students.

Preston Nicholson, admissions director of Washburn Law, said that was more evident than ever entering the current semester.

"Of those who applied for fall 2016, more than half had indicated they heard of Washburn through word of mouth," he said. "Of those, 29 percent said they heard about the school through an alum — the highest percentage of any group."

Nicholson said the best way for alumni to connect students with Washburn is to contact the admissions office, and have the applicant reach out as well.

"If students come through an alum referral, we can waive the application fee," he said. "We also invite the alum to come along when students tour campus so both parties can get the most accurate information available."

Nicholson said common selling points for the school include its nationally recognized legal writing and government law programs, value in tuition, and scholarship opportunities. The fact that alumni have experienced all of this firsthand explains why they're so quick to recommend Washburn to others.

Daniel, for example, remains thankful for the complete education he received, especially working in a community where he takes on cases from just about anyone who walks in the door.

"I do everything from complex litigation to helping illiterate people read a form," he said. "It's small-town law. When people ask what I do, I tell them, 'I help people with problems they can't resolve themselves.'"

Fahrny is taking steps to ensure he becomes similarly well-versed in a variety of subjects. During summer break, he took his first trip outside the country for a six-week session in Barbados, which consisted of courses comparing the legal environment of the Caribbean to the United States.

On campus, Fahrny is a member of the AAJ Trial Team and the Agricultural Law Society. His educational opportunities, both in Topeka and abroad, have given him all the more reason to be pleased with his Washburn experience — and perhaps one day provide a recommendation of his own.

"Absolutely, Washburn is an undiscovered gem," he said. "I'd recommend it to anybody. Studying law might be an individual thing, and it has to be right for you, but as far as Washburn, I'd definitely recommend it."



Photo submitted

## Question & Answer

*Global Head of Product Management for UBS Trusts & Foundations describes life and work on the other side of the world.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

Even with today's advanced technology, **John Shoemaker, '04**, insists that face-to-face communication is still the best way to get the job done. So when he joined UBS Wealth Planning in 2010, he and his wife, Kelli, moved from Topeka to Switzerland to be closer to his team. Recently, however, UBS' focus has shifted to the Asia-Pacific region, necessitating a move from Zurich to Singapore to be closer to the "developing markets."

While relocating internationally multiple times in six years might fill some individuals with anxiety, Shoemaker takes it as just another facet of the job. He also has a good friend in a former Washburn University School of Law professor who has encouraged and supported him throughout his global pursuits.

Here, Shoemaker shares how his Washburn Law "family" has continued to nurture his career over the years, as well as some of the challenges he's encountered in his time abroad.

**First things first, what made you decide to go to Washburn Law?** I have wanted to be a lawyer for as long as I can remember, but two rather closely connected reasons led me to Washburn Law: the non-traditional student emphasis and proximity to home. I knew I would be working full time, and I wanted to be able to continue my improvisational and acting pursuits while also having an opportunity to excel at school.

**How did Washburn Law prepare you for working internationally?** Washburn Law provides high-quality academics with translatable skills across many different industries. I believe you don't go to law school to learn a trade — you go to train your brain to think critically. You learn to deconstruct things and put them back together in a more efficient manner, and that's a skill you can use in any area of the law.

Washburn Law also opened doors to many friendships that have led me down this international path. In fact, Peter and Deborah Cotorceanu are the main reason I am where I am today. Peter was my legal research and writing and Trust Law professor at Washburn Law and without his support and confidence in me (especially through the deaths of my parents and my eventual move to join him in Switzerland), I would never have had the opportunities I have received. Deborah has been a tremendous friend to Kelli and me and has taught us much about adapting to challenging circumstances. They are a shining example of the Washburn Law family looking after its own.

#### **What drives your passion for global practice?**

I have a fascination with the development of global fiduciary law, and I love the duality of what I do. It's a field which has several hundred years of well-developed, jurisdictional-specific law, but it is constantly breaking new ground globally. I get the opportunity to both learn and shape new developments. The automatic exchange of information regime is a perfect example. I feel very proud of UBS' global role in leading the developing approach to demand accountability in justifying the legitimate purposes for wealth planning structuring. When you take the time to learn various global systems and ensure strong data protections, transparency to government entities does not need to create any sense of fear among clients.

**What challenges have you experienced working abroad?** Language is obviously a big barrier, more so in Switzerland, but even in Singapore, Singlish can be challenging to understand. Taxes are also incredibly complicated and paperwork intensive for American expats.

One of the biggest challenges has been facing discrimination for the first time in my life. I see how it feels to be different as an outsider and what it's like to struggle to adjust to a new culture. It gives me a better understanding of the problems created by very simple day-to-day discriminations. All Americans would benefit from traveling and seeing this phenomenon first-hand.

Working abroad has also taught me the benefits of assimilation. Kelli and I have worked hard to change our behaviors and acclimate to the cultures in which we have lived. I think that is respectful, and I have seen other expats struggle because they want the local system to adapt to them.

I also don't know if we'll ever get used to the constantly humid, 90-degree days of Singapore. We definitely miss the changing seasons of Zurich and Topeka.

**Do you have any tips for adapting to different cities and cultures?** First, learn the language. You owe the effort to those around you. Next, embrace the culture. Participate in festivals, community events and make little changes to your American lifestyle. Finally, remember that people are people. Despite what you may have seen or read in the news, the biggest lesson I have learned is that people around the world are not that different from one another.

**Zurich, Switzerland; Singapore — what's next?** I love what I do, and I've settled into a nice little niche in a developing area of the law. I foresee a lot of work in the APAC region for many years to come with tax amnesties and international exchange of information, but there are many opportunities coming up in Central and South America as well. I would also love to get into teaching at some point in the future. It's a way of passing experiences to the next generation of attorneys and honoring those who did the same for me.



From Left: Former Professor Peter Cotorceanu, **John Shoemaker, '04**, Kelli Shoemaker, and Deborah Cotorceanu. Photo submitted.

## Giving Back Can't Wait

*Covel knows firsthand how scholarships make a law degree possible.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

Before attending Washburn University School of Law, **Julie Covel, '13**, was a teacher. Deciding to change direction and go back to school mid-career was a big decision, but even more so because she already had a family.

"It was a huge financial decision to leave work and go to school full time," said Covel. "From the moment I was accepted at Washburn Law, they were committed to making it financially possible for me. I know Washburn Law alumni made that possible."

Now, a graduate with a blossoming career with the National Labor Relations Board in Overland Park, Kan., Covel is doing her part to give back by taking advantage of the Dean's Circle Giving Program. Membership in the Dean's Circle requires an annual giving level of at least \$1,000. The program, however, allows recent graduates to make smaller gifts — \$100 for each year since graduation.

In Covel's eyes, it's an excellent program to get new graduates in the habit of giving back to the law school.

"It's easy to say, 'I just graduated. I have a lot of debt. Giving back needs to wait,'" explained Covel. "Once I started giving, I realized I could give more. As you grow in your career, it becomes easier to grow your contributions to the school."

The Dean's Circle was something Covel knew she wanted to participate in before she had graduated.

"I had the opportunity to attend the Dean's Circle dinner as a third-year student while serving as the *Washburn Law Journal* editor-in-chief," said Covel. "I liked that it was a way to stay in touch with the school, as well as the faculty and other graduates. I decided to make it my goal to be able to give enough money every year so I could participate in the Dean's Circle events. In some ways, it's motivated me to give more."

Giving back is very important to Covel, as she understands firsthand how the scholarships provided by alumni gifts can make a huge difference in the lives of students.



Photo by Ann Dean

"It's easy to say, 'I just graduated. I have a lot of debt. Giving back needs to wait.' Once I started giving, I realized I could give more. As you grow in your career, it becomes easier to grow your contributions to the school."

"It was a huge relief that I didn't have to worry about the financial implications of going back to school," said Covel.

"The scholarships I received made it easier to focus on my studies and take advantage of the variety of opportunities that the law school provides — like internships, externships, and working on the *Washburn Law Journal*. Those experiences have been invaluable as I've gone into practice and work for the federal government. Every student who comes after me should have that same opportunity, and if I can play a part in that, then I will."

# One Graduate's Challenge

*Encouraging classmates to support the new law school facility.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

**Ann Frigon, '80**, looks back at her time spent as a student at Washburn University School of Law with fond memories.

"I graduated in 1980, and it was just a special time in my life," said Frigon. "I met some close friends, and we all went on to have good careers. Our time at Washburn Law prepared us well for that."

Frigon recently made a pledge to the law school building fund in honor of her family and her late ex-husband, **Donald Frigon, '78**. Donald passed away in September 2014.

The two were high school sweethearts who both majored in political science at the University of Kansas before pursuing their law degrees at Washburn Law. After graduating law school, Donald worked at a law firm with his father and brother, both Washburn Law graduates, before going out on his own.

"Washburn Law and the degrees we received there gave us something extra in life, and I want to pay it back," she said.

Frigon, a registered principal at Preferred Investments, Inc./LPL Financial in Dodge City, Kan., didn't go on to practice law after taking the bar, but she felt her law degree gave her an advantage she wouldn't have had otherwise.

"My law degree helped me stand out — as a woman, especially — to help give me an edge over others as I started out in my career," said Frigon. "As a woman in the 1980s with a law degree, it very much helped me to advance."

The pride she holds from receiving her juris doctor is also why she wanted her contribution to the school to be partially in her maiden name, Hastings, to honor her family.

"Neither one of my parents graduated from college," said Frigon, "So it was a really big deal that I not only graduated from college, but that I also went on to get a law degree."

Frigon knows making updates to the law school is crucial for Washburn Law to continue to provide the quality education

she received. She's hoping her gift to the school encourages her Washburn Law classmates to support the school and this building project.

"We had a really neat class with a great group of people. A lot of us have done really well for ourselves over the years. I'm absolutely challenging them to support future students and Washburn Law's continued greatness.

"It's funny, looking back. We were all poor in law school, and we were poor together for three long years. The misery, joy, and heartache — we did it all together. Since then, we've all been through a lot in life, but we've survived this long. It would be great to see everyone giving back."



Photo submitted

## 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.”

# The Ideal Place

I hope you enjoy reading these inspiring stories about our alumni. As we revel in the exceptional dedication of the Washburn Law community to the success of the school, I want to give you an update on our progress and celebrate the rejuvenation of *Ideal Place*: The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law.

The \$40 million *Ideal Place* campaign was launched just three short years ago with the commitment from Washburn University President Jerry Farley and the Board of Regents of \$20 million toward completion of the new law school building. This unprecedented investment by the University ensures the remaining \$20 million raised throughout the campaign will effectively double the impact of each gift and demonstrates the importance of this project and the University's commitment to its success. Additionally, the Washburn Law Alumni Association Board of Governors reaffirmed their commitment to this project and its role as the cornerstone on the Washburn campus.

To date, \$5.6 million has been raised from more than 300 alumni and friends, including more than \$2 million in a little over one year. To build on this renewed momentum, Dean Thomas Romig, our staff, faculty, and alumni volunteers continue to engage more of our loyal alumni as we bring their passionate support for Washburn Law together with this transformative project. We look forward to sharing more good

news and discussing your individual role in the success of the campaign in the near future.

However, this project is not just a "building project." It is not just about new, or bigger. *Ideal Place* is about what has occurred and continues to occur inside the building. The new law building will help us further strengthen our national reputation and attract the most highly talented students and faculty. Vibrant and flexible spaces to teach and work mean a more productive environment for faculty, students, and staff, and a deeper and more connected student experience. Most importantly, you will have a new home that appropriately represents the exceptionally talented students, faculty, and alumni who make up the Washburn Law family.

On behalf of Washburn University School of Law, I thank our generous donors, whose respect and generosity toward our institution help make it great. We look forward to visiting with you soon.

Regards,



Patrick Mikesic  
Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations –  
Law School





Wes Miller directs actor Corbin Bernsen who starred as the attorney Joseph Harrington, in Miller's film, *Prayer Never Fails*. Photo submitted.

## Center Stage

*Trading the courtroom for the big screen.*

by Kathy Busch | [kbusch@wufoundation.org](mailto:kbusch@wufoundation.org)

With his newest film, *Atone*, in production, **Lawrence Williamson, '03**, who now goes by his professional name, Wes Miller, feels he has finally stretched his muscles as a writer, director, and filmmaker. For Miller, *Atone* is like trying a case on his own for the first time as compared to an earlier film was more like trying a case in the Law Clinic. “For the first time, I really felt like I knew what I was doing,” Miller said. “Like my other works, *Atone* combines what is dear to my heart — faith and law. But this time, I found a maturity of voice. It just feels right.”

A standout cornerback at Lambuth University, Jackson, Tenn., Miller, had dreams of a professional football career. In his junior year of college Miller had to make a tough decision – pursue his love of football or find a path that would provide a stable life for his soon-to-be-born son.

“I was really at a crossroads in my life,” Miller said. “I knew I had to make a monumental decision. I considered pre-law or film production. The film production classes were full, so I went the law route. At that point, my grades weren’t great.”

I approached one of my professors about the possibility of attending law school following graduation. He told me I would have to really improve my grades to have a shot at law school. And, if I did, he would write a letter of recommendation.”

So, intent on raising his GPA, Miller buckled down, and his grades reflected his new found commitment to academic success. During his senior year, he began putting together his top 10 list of law schools to consider. The first nine slots were filled, and then Miller read about Washburn Law and added it to his list. He remembers telling his mother, Linda Williamson Jackson, “Wouldn’t it be funny if I ended up in Topeka, Kansas?” Her response? “Would you really consider moving to Kansas?”

As it turns out, the decision was an easy one. “It was the visit to Washburn Law that did it,” Miller said. “I knew immediately this was the environment I was looking for. The classes were small. It was a place that emphasized not just learning the law, but also the practical application. And so, Washburn Law it was.”

Three years later, degree in hand and graduating in the top 11 percent in his class, Miller, a single parent, began a career as a trial lawyer. Throughout his eight plus years of practicing law, Miller litigated cases involving employment discrimination, civil rights protection, consumer protection, and class actions. “For me, a case was never just a case,” Miller said. “It was the opportunity to help someone, to make a difference. I fought hard for my clients. I won my share of cases. But losing a case was hard – the disappointment in the face of a client was difficult to see.”

In 2008, Miller began to realize that law was not, perhaps, his final stop. “I’ve always been enamored of the law,” he said. “I’ve always considered it a platform to make a difference, to take a stand. But I began to do some soul searching and praying and wondered if this was where God intended me to be.”

It was a 2010 federal criminal case that proved to be the turning point in Miller’s career. After a long fought case and a verdict he hadn’t anticipated, Miller took some time to reflect on his career and his future. “That case took a lot out. I was emotionally drained,” he said. “But it allowed me to realize that the law was not my final calling. I have always had two loves – law and film. I used to binge watch episodes of *The Practice* and *The Verdict* in law school. For me, the two crafts overlap. They’re both about storytelling.” And a long period of prayer began.



Wes Miller, center, with actor Clifton Davis and Emmy-nominated actress Lynn Whitfield. Davis starred as Michael Brown in the film *Prayer Never Fails*. Whitfield played the role of Brown’s sister, Loral. Photo submitted.

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“It was the visit to Washburn Law that did it. I knew immediately this was the environment I was looking for. The classes were small. It was a place that emphasized not just learning the law, but also the practical application. And so, Washburn Law it was.”

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So, with a leap of faith, Miller moved to Orlando, Fla., at the urging of two Washburn law classmates, **Carlus Haynes, '02**, and **Brad Laurent, '03**, who had opened a practice in Orlando. Miller knew one thing for sure. His films would reflect his deep faith and his love of the law. In 2013, Miller’s first screenplay, *Beyond Justice*, was produced. He lost creative control of the project, but he built lasting relationships and learned the business of film. In 2015, Miller directed *Lily Grace*.

*Prayer Never Fails*, Miller’s third film, explores the issue of prayer in schools. It debuted in 2016 in the AMC movie theater in Ocoee, Florida, and across the state. It will be released worldwide in January 2017.

What’s next for Miller? He has two more films in development – *A River Runs Red* and *KINGdom*, about Martin Luther King Jr.’s last days in Memphis. “I’m still developing my skills. I haven’t quite located that complete competency yet,” he said. “But I look forward to telling these stories and then, we’ll see. But I know I’m where I belong.”

# Recognizing Excellence

*Six join ranks of past honorees.*

by Kathy Busch | [kbusch@wufoundation.org](mailto:kbusch@wufoundation.org)

Six individuals joined the prestigious rank of Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association award recipients at the Oct. 1, 2016, alumni awards dinner.

## *Lifetime Achievement*

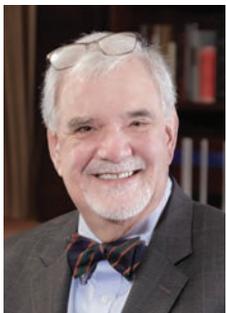


**Earl Hatcher, JD '23 and H '69 (posthumous)**

“Our family is very excited about this honor you are bestowing on our grandfather. He held Washburn in high esteem his entire life and worked tirelessly helping it through tough times. Our grandfather’s daughter, four grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren

and 18 great great grandchildren will remember this award and keep it close to our hearts for the rest of our lives. Those of us who knew Earl Hatcher personally know what a special person he was. You would never know his accomplishments by talking to him. He was a very humble man.” (Steve Jones, Grandson)

Earl Hatcher graduated with honors from Washburn Law, and the following year he joined the faculty and took a leading role in raising funds for a new law school following the 1966 tornado. He spent 11 years on the Kansas Supreme Court as the Court reporter and wrote several hundred opinions for the Court that encompass more than three volumes. His Hatcher’s Digest was used for more than three decades as a great reference for attorneys throughout the State of Kansas. He spent three years in charge of the Kansas Bar Examiner’s office located on the Washburn campus. He was Alf Landon’s campaign manager during Landon’s run for president.



**The Honorable J. Thomas Marten, BA '73 and JD '76**

“In reading about this award, I was a little chagrined to learn that recipients should be well along in their professional careers. It is humbling to even be considered for a Lifetime Achievement Award, and those who receive it understand it bestows an

obligation to continue to do the best work one can. For me, every day is still an adventure, and the best parts of it are still

out there. Washburn, both the undergraduate school and the law school, are much more than repositories of knowledge. The faculty encourages fresh perspectives, innovation, and, most important, the desire to make a positive difference. So, in a very real sense, this award belongs to Washburn.”

Chief Judge Tom Marten, a native Kansan, was appointed to the bench in 1996, and was appointed Chief Judge of the District of Kansas in 2014. After serving as law clerk to retired Associate Justice Tom C. Clark of the United States Supreme Court, he spent 19 years practicing law in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas, including 14 years as a member of Bremyer & Wise, P.A. in McPherson, Kansas. Judge Marten is a founding member of the Wesley E. Brown Inn of Court, a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences, and has taught trial advocacy at Harvard Law School for more than 25 years.



**Frank Ross, Jr., JD '78**

“I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Washburn Law School Alumni Association with the Lifetime Achievement Award. To the extent I’ve achieved anything in life, I hope it’s been to be considered by my family and friends as a good husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend.

If along the way, it also happened that others thought me to be a good lawyer for our law firm’s clients and a good partner to my law firm colleagues that would have been more than I ever could have hoped for. My years at Washburn were memorable and special years, where I learned about the law but maybe more about the selfless commitment it takes to be a lawyer. I am so grateful for this honor and offer my great thanks to the Alumni Association for even thinking that I was deserving of such a special recognition.”

After graduating from Kansas State University in 1975, Ross earned his juris doctor from the Washburn University School of Law in 1978. He took his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. As a Washburn Law student, Ross was the recipient of the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, was assistant editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*, and a member of the Washburn Moot Court Council. He also served on the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors. Ross is currently

chair of Polsinelli's Business Department and has led the department's growth from 30 attorneys in 1998 to more than 375 professionals in 2016, serving clients across the nation.

## *Distinguished Service*



### **Lynette Petty, JD '87**

“What an incredible honor to be recognized by the institution that has given me so much opportunity. As I reflect on the students I have served, the clients who have benefitted from the hard work and advocacy of our Law Clinic interns, and the dedication of our staff and faculty to guide

students down the path to professional service, I feel proud to be a part of the Washburn tradition and fulfilled by the success of all our efforts.”

Lynette Petty began her career as a teacher for 12 years before graduating *cum laude* from Washburn University School of Law in 1987. She joined the faculty in 1992 and dedicated the last 24 years of her career to preparing law students to be effective and empathetic lawyers. While at the Law Clinic, she practiced in the areas of social security disability, family law, juvenile law, and immigration law. She served as the assistant dean for accommodations, ensuring equal access for all students to a top-notch legal education at Washburn. Prior to joining the Washburn Law faculty, Petty was a staff attorney, then assistant managing attorney and project director at Kansas Legal Services.

## *Honorary Life Membership*



### **Cynthia Heath, BA '71**

“The selection as an Honorary Life Member of the Washburn School of Law Alumni Association is so unexpected and such a wonderful honor. Washburn Law has always been my adopted law school. Of course, the primary reason is because my husband, David Heath, was a graduate. The other

reasons are because I believe the Law School is a hallmark of Washburn University, the best law school in Kansas, and one of the outstanding law schools in the Midwest. Our teaching law school provides legal writing skills, clinical experiences, and other opportunities that result in well-prepared attorneys for our profession. I am humbled and delighted to be recognized

in this way by the Board of Governors of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association.”

After graduating from Washburn University with a degree in history, Heath taught and coached at Topeka West High School, Topeka. She earned a master's degree from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., and a juris doctor from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. After working at a St. Louis law firm, Heath went to work for Emerson Electric, where she serves as vice president for executive compensation. She met her late husband, **David Heath, BA '70 and JD '76**, at Washburn. They were long-time supporters of Washburn Law, and she has continued this support. Heath has served as a Washburn University Foundation trustee since 2007 and as a director since 2009. She currently serves as the chair of the trustees. She also chaired the Washburn Women's Venture Partners from 2008 to 2015. She received the Alumni Association's 2013 Monroe Award and was inducted into the Washburn Hall of Fame in 2013.



### **The Honorable Edward Larson**

“What an incredible honor to be recognized by the institution that has given me so much opportunity. As I reflect on the students I have served, the clients who have benefitted from the hard work and advocacy of our Law Clinic interns, and the dedication of our staff and faculty to guide

students down the path to professional service, I feel proud to be a part of the Washburn tradition and fulfilled by the success of all our efforts.”

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, the Honorable Edward Larson graduated from the University of Kansas Law School in 1960, after which he practiced law and served as a municipal judge in Hays, Kan. In 1987, he was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals and then tapped for the Kansas Supreme Court in 1995. He retired in 2002. Larson has worked with Washburn Law's Oil and Gas Law Center for Excellence since its inception. He has taught the Mineral Title Examination course for many years. He continues to mentor Washburn Law graduates and has served in many capacities with Washburn Law faculty on numerous professional boards and committees.

# Alumni Events

## Dean's Circle Dinner

Aug. 27, 2016

Top Left – Alan Dunaway, '10, Ward Loyd, '68, and Susie Loyd. Middle – Susan Farley, Francine Cobb, and Marck Cobb, '89. Top Right – Kathleen Rich, The Honorable Tom Marten, BA '73 and JD '76, Larry Gurney, BBA '81 and JD '84, and Annette Gurney, BA '80 and JD '83. Bottom Left – John Hamilton, '65, Bud Cowen, '74, and Tanya Hamilton. Bottom Right – Curry Sexton, JD Candidate '19, The Honorable Pat Brazil, '62, and Char Brazil. Photos by Ann Dean



## Western Kansas Alumni Events

Aug. 10-17, 2016

Left – James Dodge, '98, and Christine Larson, '09, in Liberal, Kan. Right – David Rebein, BA '77, Ann Frigon, '80, Beth Love, and The Honorable Daniel Love, '76, in Dodge City, Kan.



## Alumni Weekend

Sept. 30- Oct. 1, 2016

*2016 Golf Classic tournament:* Top Left – Marc White, '96, Jennifer Berger, '93, Alan Alderson, '74, Tom Henderson, '75. Middle – Chelsea Good, '12  
Right – Dan Reynolds, '10, Cameron Willcott, '10, Blake Robinson, '10, and Craig Robinson, '79. Bottom Right – Mike Kolich, BS '05 and JD '15, Tim Laughlin, JD Candidate '18, and Roger Luedke, '15. Photos by Jeremy Wangler



*Washburn Law tours and class receptions:* Left – Sunee Mickle, '06, and Jennifer Hays, '06. Middle – Margaret Freeburg, '91. Right – Front row: The Honorable Douglas Witteman, '91, Lori Yockers, '91, Tamara Hicks, '91, Teresa Machicao-Hopkins, '91, Paula Rank, '91, Back Row: Gary White, BBA '88 and JD '91, James Hopkins, '91, Matt Tills, '91, Tim Keck, BBA '88 and JD '91, and Chis Moss, '91. Photos by Martin Wisneski



*All-Class Reunion Dinner and Alumni Awards:* Top Left – Frank Caro, '83, Melanie Caro, BA '81 and JD '85, and The Honorable Eric Melgren, '85. Top Middle – Professor Linda Elrod, BA '69 and JD '72, Don Cooper, '90, and Martha Cooper, '89 Right – Pam DeFries, B ED '83, Lucky DeFries, '78, and Cynthia Heath, BA '71. Bottom Left – The Honorable Sam Crow, '52, and Dave Heinemann, '73. Bottom Middle – The Honorable Edward Larson and The Honorable Nancy Moritz, BBA '82 and JD '85. Photos by Martin Wisneski



# News Briefs

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## *Two New Faces on Faculty*



Gillian Chadwick, associate professor of law, Clinic, came to Washburn Law from Georgetown University Law Center in the Domestic Violence Clinic where she was a clinical teaching fellow.

Prior to that, she was the director of Survivor Services at Ayuda in the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, where she supervised legal and social services staff and represented immigrant victims of gender-based violence in domestic violence, domestic relations, and immigration matters in Washington, D.C.

Chadwick is admitted to the bars in the District of Columbia and Maryland. She is a graduate of American University Washington College of Law, where she was a Public Interest/Public Service Scholar, and the University of Maryland, where she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

[gillian.chadwick@washburn.edu](mailto:gillian.chadwick@washburn.edu)  
785-670-1675



Burke Griggs joined the Washburn Law faculty in 2016 as a visiting associate professor. He teaches property law and natural resources law.

Prior to joining the faculty, Griggs practiced water law in both the public and private sectors.

As an assistant attorney general, he represented the State of Kansas in federal and interstate water matters. He also served as lead counsel for Kansas in the negotiations over the Kickapoo Tribe reserved water rights settlement. He has advised Kansas' natural resources agencies on matters of water law and policy. He worked in private practice at Stevens & Brand, LLP, in Lawrence, Kansas, from 2006 to 2008.

Griggs is admitted to practice in Kansas, the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

[burke.griggs@washburn.edu](mailto:burke.griggs@washburn.edu)  
785-670-1666

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## *One of a Kind: Washburn's Junior Legal Writing Scholarship Workshop*

Washburn Law is one of only a handful of schools nationwide with a full-time tenure-track legal writing faculty. Classes are small and are taught by professors dedicated to legal writing as one of their primary fields for teaching, scholarship, and service.

Washburn's approach led Associate Professors Emily Grant and Joe Mastrosimone in 2014 to organize a Junior Legal Writing Scholarship Workshop, the only one offered outside a national organization. For the third summer in a row, junior legal writing professors from across the country assembled at Washburn to receive feedback and input on scholarly projects from Washburn faculty and other workshop participants.

"Given that many law schools do not offer tenure for legal writing professors, there is little support or encouragement for their scholarship," said Grant. "This workshop is designed to help those professors with their scholarly projects, perhaps in an effort to encourage increased status at their own schools or elsewhere."

Participants submit their papers prior to the workshop, and then Grant and Mastrosimone circulate the submissions for

review by all participants. The workshop itself is an intense six hours of discussion, input, and suggestions for each other's scholarship submission.

Workshop participant Cara Cunningham, assistant professor of law, Detroit Mercy Law, Detroit, Mich., said, "Workshops like this help scholars develop their thoughts and improve their written work product. This workshop, however, was special. Imagine the impact of having eight legal writing experts assemble and review your work in a very supportive and collegial environment. I think I can speak for all of the authors when I say we were inspired by the insights of others and by their encouragement. The workshop made a significant difference to my publication, and it also fostered the pride I feel in our national legal writing community."

Mastrosimone views the forum as another avenue to gain national recognition for Washburn Law. "This workshop gives us an opportunity to showcase Washburn Law's legal writing program and our institution's support for us and for the scholarship of the discipline in general."

# News Briefs

## *New Partnership: Accelerated Program Benefits Students*

Washburn Law and Baker University entered into a new partnership in September, launching the new Law Early Admission Program (LEAP), which will allow academically talented and highly motivated undergraduate students at Baker to matriculate to Washburn Law after three years.

LEAP is a 3+3 model that was developed to reduce the students' total legal education costs. The program also will allow these students to enter the job market earlier and develop relationships with Washburn Law professors while they are still enrolled in Baker's undergraduate programs. The compacted timeframe will help expand opportunities for students who want to study abroad or participate in summer or semester-long internships and other clinical practicums.

"Washburn Law has always had outstanding Baker students," said Romig. "This program will be great for both Baker University and Washburn University School of Law, but the real winners in this program will be the outstanding Baker



From Left: Chuck Buntun; Lynne Murray, president, Baker University; **Bill Buntun**, BA '53, Baker University, **JD '56**, Washburn Law; and Dean Thomas Romig attend a press conference in Baldwin City, Kan., announcing the new partnership between the two institutions.

University students who will have the opportunity to accelerate their undergraduate studies in order to begin legal studies with the goal of becoming a successful lawyer and having a career in law."

## *Internship: Opening the Door to Big-city Practice*



**Taher Kameli, '96**, still remembers his first months at Washburn Law in 1993. Coming to Topeka from New York City, speaking English as a second language, and adapting to law school, Kameli at times

felt overwhelmed.

"Many days I seriously wanted to quit," he said. "At one point, I went to Professor Nancy Maxwell, and she encouraged me to stay. She let me know her door was always open if I needed to talk. Honestly, she is the reason I stayed and finished my law degree."

At the time of his graduation, many of his classmates wanted to practice law in a bigger city, but getting a job with a big firm in a large city was very difficult. Kameli made the leap and moved to Chicago, establishing Kameli & Associates, P.C., with a focus on U.S. corporate, employment, and immigration law.

Fast forward 20 years. Kameli decided to offer a summer internship to give Washburn Law students the opportunity to experience first-hand practicing law in a major city. **Matthew Adams, JD candidate '19**, jumped at the chance.

"This was an awesome opportunity," said Adams. "It was a chance to work in a major metropolitan area with a law firm established by a Washburn Law alum. I didn't realize until I started working with Taher how broad based immigration law really is. I am really interested in corporate and transactional law so being able to work on management agreements, investor agreement, and negotiations was amazing."

"Taher was great to work with. I left the internship realizing how supportive Washburn Law alumni are of students like me. You never know where the next opportunity will come from."

Learn more:

Tammy King, director, professional development office  
tammy.king1@washburn.edu  
785.670.1703

# Class Actions

*The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school since April 6, 2016, through September 15, 2016. Update your address by emailing [alumni@washburnlaw.edu](mailto:alumni@washburnlaw.edu) and submit your news at [washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions](http://washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions).*

## 1951

**Tom H. Foulds**, Edmonds, Wash., recently received the Gerhard Letzing Public Justice Award from the Washington State Association for Justice. After 48 years of practicing law in Washington State, he closed his office on Dec. 31, 2015.

## 1954

**Ralph Larson**, Lindsborg, Kan., received the French Legion of Honor award for his service during World War II. He practiced law in Topeka until 2010 and was recognized as the oldest practicing attorney in Kansas.

## 1960

**Jack Focht**, Wichita, received the Kansas Appleseed Champion of Justice Award in April for his hard work and dedication.

## 1962

**Jerry E. Norton**, River Forest, Ill., was elected to a three-year term on the Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

## 1972

**The Honorable Benjamin L. Burgess**, Wichita, received the 2016 Wichita Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Professor Linda D. Elrod**, Topeka, received the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka Justice Kay McFarland Award in June.

## 1973

**Pedro L. Irigonegaray**, Topeka, has become a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

**Otis W. Morrow**, Arkansas City, Kan., was recognized with a Kansas Bar Association Professionalism Award. The Professionalism Award is given to an attorney who has practiced law for more than 10 years who, by his or her conduct, honesty, integrity, and courtesy, best exemplifies, represents, and encourages other lawyers to follow the highest standards of the legal profession.

## 1977

**Daryl V. Craft**, Lawrence, Kan., executive vice president for BOK Financial Private Bank, has been named to the 2016 class of Leadership Kansas. Leadership Kansas is one of the oldest and most prestigious statewide leadership programs in the country. Established at the encouragement of former Kansas Gov. Robert Bennett, and supported and administered by the Kansas Chamber, the program is entering its fifth decade of educating and motivating Kansas leaders from across the state.

**William C. Rein**, Larned, Kan., has been appointed superintendent of Larned State Hospital. Rein previously served as the agency's chief counsel and most recently as commissioner of Behavioral Health Services for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, a position that includes oversight of hospital operations as well as administration of the state's behavioral health programs.

## 1979

**Paul T. Maricle**, Denver, Colo., was installed as the new German honorary consul for Colorado in a small ceremony at the Consulate General in Los Angeles, Calif. As honorary consul, Maricle will be responsible for helping to encourage networking between the state of Colorado and Germany, facilitating business opportunities and cultural exchange. In addition, he will be able to offer assistance to U.S. and German citizens in some legal and consular issues related to Germany, though he is not authorized to provide all services such as issuing visas.

## 1981

**The Honorable Janet M. Hornberg**, Belleville, Ill., is an associate judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit.

**The Honorable Glenn R. Braun**, Hays, Kan., has become chief judge of the 23rd Judicial District for a two-year term.

## 1982

**Daniel L. Doyle**, Kansas City, Kan., recently established the firm of Doyle & Associates LLC in Kansas City, Kan. The firm specializes in workers compensation and retaliation against those seeking workers compensation benefits. Previously, Doyle was a partner at Sanders Warren & Russell LLP, Overland Park, Kan.

**Kim T. Parker**, Wichita, received a 2016 Wichita Bar Association's President's Award.

\*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.

## 1984

**The Honorable Jeffrey D. Dewey**, Wichita, was appointed as a judge in the 18th Judicial District.

**Wm. Scott Hesse**, Topeka, has been named Maple Hill, Kan., city attorney.

## 1985

**The Honorable Daniel D. Creitz**, Iola, Kan., was reappointed as the chief judge of the 31st Judicial District.

**Christine M.T. Ladner**, Salina, Kan., has joined the Saline County Attorney's Office.

### **The Honorable Evelyn Z. Wilson**,

Topeka, received the Topeka Bar Association's Honorable E. Newton Vickers Professionalism Award. She is chief judge for the 3rd Judicial District in Shawnee County. Prior to her appointment to the bench in 2004, Judge Wilson spent 19 years in private practice, including as a partner in Wright, Henson, Clark and Baker (formerly Davis, Wright, Unrein, Hummer and McCallister). Judge Wilson serves as a member of the board of directors of Bethany College and also is an active member of numerous law-related organizations including the American Judges Association, and the American, Kansas, and Topeka Bar Associations. She served as the TBA president from 2004-05.

## 1987

**Melissa L. Ness**, Topeka, president and founder of Connections Unlimited, Inc., was recently elected to the board of trustees for Baker University.

## 1991

**Randy D. Gordon**, Dallas, Texas, was recognized in the annual Chambers USA Americas Leading Lawyers for Business publication.

**Timothy E. Keck**, Topeka, was named secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. Keck has served as interim secretary for the state aging and disability department since January.

**Marshall S. Honeyman**, Overland Park, Kan., has joined Erise IP.

**Michael W. Riley**, Topeka, has joined BOK Financial as senior vice president and personal trust team leader. Riley will manage the Topeka office, leading a team of seven experienced trust officers and support staff. Additionally, he will be responsible for managing key relationships in the Topeka market, and will direct the sales and marketing efforts for the market while maintaining compliance oversight. Riley has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry, working directly with high net worth individuals, families, and businesses to manage and preserve their wealth.

**Kris Savage**, Topeka, was named Best Lawyers' Topeka Lawyer of the Year for Criminal Defense: White Collar. Additionally, she was honored for her expertise in General Practice Criminal Defense.

**Dennis P. Wetta**, Wichita, received a 2016 President's Award from the Wichita Bar Association.

## 1992

**Professor Jeffrey D. Jackson**, Topeka, is the Washburn University School of Law interim director for the Center for Excellence in Advocacy.

**Ronald L. Schneider**, Topeka, has joined Scott, Quinlan, Willard, Barnes & Keeshan as an associate.

**Channel P. Townsley**, Wichita, has joined O'Hara & O'Hara.

## 1994

**Wayne J. Chipman**, Springfield, Mo., has been appointed to the position of executive vice president for advancement at Drury University.

## 1997

**Tricia M. Oldridge**, Wichita, is with the Sedgwick County Conflicts Office.

## 1998

**David A. Bohm**, Raleigh, N.C., is the director of development at Campbell Law School.

## 1999

**Candace M. Gayoso**, Baxter Springs, Kan., was named Galena's new city attorney. Gayoso is also the city attorney for Weir, Kan., and the municipal court judge in Arcadia, Kan. She is an adjunct professor at Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, Mo.

## 2000

**Thomas E. Beall**, Topeka, serves as acting U.S. attorney for the District of Kansas. Beall will be in charge of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas, which comprises approximately 50 assistant U.S. attorneys and 50 support staff members working in offices in Topeka, Kansas City, Kan., and Wichita.

**Shelley H. King**, Lawrence, Kan., is now corporate counsel for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in Topeka.

## 2001

**Jay Sizemore**, Wichita, has joined Brad Pistotnik Law, PA.

\*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.

## 2003

**Jennifer Conkling Bates**, Topeka, has joined the Appellate Courts of Kansas as the chief deputy clerk.

## 2004

**Teri C. Adam**, Phoenix, Ariz. has joined Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law as the director of employee relations.

**Robin K. Carlson**, Kansas City, Mo., was presented the Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Volunteer Attorney Project award at the 2016 Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's 2016 Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference. Carlson is a partner with Stinson Leonard Street.

**Morgan B. Koon**, Wichita, was a recipient of the Wichita Business Journal 40 Under 40 Award.

## 2005

**Meghan M. Houtsma**, Garden City, Kan., has been sworn in as a new district magistrate judge in the 25th Judicial District.

**Kimbra D. Caywood McCarthy**, San Jose, Calif., has been hired as an assistant city manager for Redwood City, Calif., and will oversee Redwood City's newly-formed administrative services department.

**Courtney H. Mikesic**, Kansas City, Kan., will be sworn in January 2017 as Kansas district court judge of the 29th Judicial District, Wyandotte County. She leaves her position as the managing attorney for the Kansas City office of Kramer & Frank, P.C.

**Mandee L. Schauf**, Wichita, received a 2016 Wichita Bar Association President's Award.

## 2006

**Lucas P. Bell**, Springfield, Ill., has been named executive vice president of Illinois Realtors.

**Melissa L. Castillo**, Kansas City, Mo., has joined the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor as deputy chief counsel of the Chicago office of the chief counsel, Kansas City sub-office. She joined OPLA in May 2009 as an assistant chief counsel in Kansas City, Mo. Prior to joining OPLA, she worked as an attorney in the private sector specializing in immigration law, having begun her legal career as a judicial law clerk for the Executive Office for Immigration Review in Orlando, Fla. Castillo is also an adjunct professor of immigration law at Washburn University School of Law.

**Megan K. Walawender**, Lenexa, Kan., is now associate general counsel at The University of Kansas.

**Michelle K. Moe Witte**, Wichita, has been ranked among the state's top labor and employment litigation attorneys by Chambers USA.

**Angel R. Zimmerman**, Topeka, was honored for her work and impact in the Topeka community as part of the Third Annual Women of Influence event sponsored by GO Topeka Entrepreneurial & Minority Business Development.

## 2007

**John Paul D. Washburn**, Topeka, is the Topeka Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors treasurer. Washburn operates Washburn Law Office, LLC., and the Washburn Mediation Company, LLC.

## 2008

**Charlie Ault-Duell**, Salina, Kan., was elected to a three-year term on the Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

**Lisa K. Garza**, Kansas City, Mo., is the project director for Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Prior to joining Legal Aid, she worked as a staff attorney for Kansas Legal Services from 2008 - 2016.

**Daniel E. Lawrence**, Wichita, is a recipient of the Wichita Business Journal 40 Under 40 Award.

**Eric M. Pauly**, Wichita, was named partner at Foulston Siefkin LLP.

## 2009

**Samuel A. Green**, Topeka, has become a partner in the law firm of Fisher, Patterson, Sayler & Smith. Green focuses on civil litigation defense.

**Rafael M. Mendez**, Bentonville, Ark., was elected to a three-year term on the Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

**Callie R. Pippin Raitinger**, Kansas City, Kan., is an associate attorney at Graves Garrett. Prior to joining Graves Garrett, she worked as an associate at Waits, Brownlee, Berger, Hoop, and Johnston. She also served as a law clerk to the Hon. David M. Byrn, Circuit Court of Jackson County, Mo., for five years.

## 2010

**Daniel S. Heinz**, Lawrence, Kan., has joined Crow & Associates, Leavenworth, Kan.

**Sean T. Pribyl**, Washington, D.C., has joined Blank Rome LLP as an associate in the firm's Maritime and International Trade group. Prior to joining Blank Rome, Pribyl served for nearly six years as a U.S. Coast Guard officer and attorney.

**Lisa S. Tse**, Bellevue, Wash., has joined Advantage Legal Group.

## 2011

**Hanh H. Vu-Peck**, Wichita, has joined the Sedgwick County Public Defender's Office.

## 2012

**Jack W. Arnold Jr.**, San Jose, Calif., has joined Xilinx, Inc. as a global corporate compliance specialist.

\*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.

**Josh, and Courtney Boehm**, Hillsboro, Kan., opened their own law office. Their independent practice is called Cottonwood Law Group.

**Lisa M. Brown**, Topeka, is the Topeka Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors president-elect. Brown is an associate at Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer, LLP.

**Ian M. Clark**, Wichita, has joined Ariagno, Kerns, Mank & White, L.L.C.

**Joslyn M. Kusiak**, Independence, Kan., has joined Kelly & Kusiak Law Office LLC.

**Christopher M. Napolitano**, Kansas City, Mo., has joined Ensz & Jester, P.C.

**LeTiffany O. Obozele**, Topeka, is the Topeka Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors social chair. Obozele works as an assistant attorney general in the Sexually Violent Predator Unit at the Office of the Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

**Jason Pollock**, Basehor, Kan., is the 2016-17 Topeka Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors secretary. Pollock serves as a staff attorney for the Kansas Department of Transportation, dealing primarily with real property acquisitions and property related litigation.

*\*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.*

## 2013

**Kendra D. Hanson**, Des Moines, Iowa, is an associate at Fredrikson & Byron.

**Chandler L. Maxon**, Des Moines, Iowa, has joined Fredrikson & Byron.

**Joshua T. Mortensen**, Kansas City, Mo., recently accepted a position in Garmin International's legal department as corporate counsel. Mortensen is active in the Kansas City Marathon and Garmin Marathon committees.

## 2014

**Michael L. Fessinger**, Wichita, is now with the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office.

**Isabella Gichiri**, Wichita, has joined the Textron Aviation's Legal Department.

**Nicholas B. Kenney**, Kansas City, Mo., has joined Husch, Blackwell, LLP.

**Christopher W. Lyon**, Hays, Kan., was selected to serve as the Hays Municipal Court prosecutor, effective Sept. 1, 2016.

**Robert J. Moody**, Wichita, received a 2016 Wichita Bar Association's President's Award.

## 2015

**Michael A. Dunbar**, Lawrence, Kan., is an associate at Ronald W. Nelson, PA.

**Jennifer L. Harper**, Wellington, is a deputy county attorney for Sumner County.

**Gabrielle B. Ilaria**, Olathe, Kan., has joined the litigations team at Polsinelli PC, Kansas City, Mo.

**Megan M. Metzinger**, Lee's Summit, Mo., has joined the Stange Law Firm, PC.

**Cecilia J. Nuby**, Kansas City, Mo., is the managing attorney of Cecilia Nuby & Associates, LLC.

## 2016

**Tori Chundak**, Topeka, has joined the Tenopir & Huerter Law Firm.

**Jorge M. De Hoyos**, Topeka, is now litigation manager at Kansas Counties Association Multiline Pool.

**Jeffrey A. Norris**, Salina, Kan., has joined the law firm of Clark, Mize & Linville, Chartered. Norris will practice primarily in the areas of estate planning, business law, and real estate.

**Daniel J. Wernert**, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

# In Memoriam

*Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from April 6, 2016, through September 15, 2016.*

**Gordon K. Lowry, '46**,  
Valley Falls, Kan., on September 5, 2016, at age 98

**Allen P. Mitchem, '47**,  
Denver, Colo., on August 3, 2016, at age 97

**Elvin D. Perkins, '48**,  
Emporia, Kan., on February 20, 2016, at age 93

**Meyer M. Ueoka, '49**,  
Wailuku, Hawaii, on August 26, 2016, at age 96

**Clifford F. Jones, '51**,  
Topeka, on April 13, 2016, at age 93

**Edward B. O'Hara, '52**,  
Lakewood, Fla., on July 15, 2016, at age 90

**Robert J. Roth, '55,**  
Wichita, on March 8, 2016, at  
age 87

**John M. Tomanek, '57,**  
Phoenix, Ariz., on April 27, 2016,  
at age 87

**Floyd E. Gehrt, '59,**  
Topeka, on June 27, 2016, at  
age 86

**Norris D. Walter, '59,**  
Chandler, Ariz., on May 12, 2016,  
at age 85

**James E. Kirk, '60,**  
Albuquerque, N.M., on August 3,  
2016, at age 80

**James R. Ward, '62,**  
Estes Park, Colo., on August 21,  
2016, at age 79

**John V. Black, '63,**  
Pratt, Kan., on August 20, 2016,  
at age 79

**Adrian M. Farver, '63,**  
Little River, Kan., on May 3, 2016,  
at age 81

**Tom R. Van Sickle, '66,**  
Sedona, Ariz., on July 3, 2016, at  
age 79

**Ernest E. Brown, '67,**  
Garden City, Kan., on June 8,  
2016, at age 74

**Richard D. Heeney, '69,**  
Marysville, Kan., on April 29, 2016,  
at age 84

**Lyle R. Howard, '70,**  
Jenks, Okla., on February 17, 2016,  
at age 70

**Richard T. Martin, '71,**  
Topeka, on July 24, 2016, at age  
73

**William R. Vincent, '71,**  
Topeka, on May 26, 2016, at age  
70

**Leonard J. Dix, '71,**  
Stockton, Kan., on July 25, 2015,  
at age 72

**Michael L. DeBacker, '73,**  
Maumee, Ohio, on April 28, 2016,  
at age 69

**Donald S. Hayward, '74,**  
Topeka, on July 21, 2016, at age  
70

**Bruce W. Barefield, '76,**  
Minneapolis, Kan., on May 30,  
2016, at age of 67

**Mark C. Whitney, '77,**  
Norton, Kan., on May 3, 2016, at  
age 65

**Alice M. Fitzgerald, '79,**  
Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 26,  
2016, at age 77

**Gregory E. Saindon, '79,**  
Ellis, Kan., on January 12, 2016, at  
age 64

**Terry S. Stephens, '90,**  
Wichita, on July 22, 2016, at age  
64

**Mohammed A. Abdelaziz, '15,**  
San Antonio, Texas, on August 9,  
2016, at age 25

## Remembering Mohammed Abdelaziz

**Mohammed Abdelaziz, '15,** died on June 9, 2016. He was 25.

Born in San Antonio, he was a Palestinian American. He attended the American School of Palestine in Ramallah as a child and returned to San Antonio when he was 16. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas at San Antonio before coming to Washburn Law.

During his time at Washburn Law, Abdelaziz made quite an impression on the faculty. Lori McMillan, professor of law, remembers him as a passionate student, eager to understand the nuances of business law. "Mohammed often spoke of his desire to improve the image of Muslims in America," she said. "He wanted to

normalize how people thought of Muslims. He had plans to start a non-profit organization that would operate a residential camp for kids. His dream was to bring Jewish children from the West Bank and Palestinian kids together for the summer. The camp would be a place where they could spend the summer together, get to know each other as individuals, and be removed from the struggles of war and strife."

Alex Glashausser, professor of law, said, "He taught me what it feels like not to have a home and not to be fully embraced in the place you grew up, which for him was around Jerusalem."

The Washburn Law chapter of Phi Alpha Delta held a memorial service for Abdelaziz on Sept. 9, 2016.



# Join the Alumni Association

[washburnlaw.edu/alumni](http://washburnlaw.edu/alumni) | [store.washburnlaw.edu](http://store.washburnlaw.edu)

Now is a great time to join your Washburn Law Alumni Association. We've added additional benefits, including local and national discounts, and you gain access to our alumni directory. Not only does your membership provide benefits to you, but it also supports quality programs for all Washburn Law alumni and students. The Alumni Association is your organization, and we strive to promote the interests of Washburn Law by engaging our alumni through service to the Law School and the Association, participating in alumni events and programs, remaining connected and assisting to further scholarship funding.

## SAVE

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association members can take advantage of new deals and discounts, which will be included in your membership packet.

## STAY INFORMED

Receive the latest news and information on what is happening at Washburn Law and with alumni across the country.

## CONNECT

Your Alumni Association membership allows us to facilitate more meaningful lifelong relationships within the Washburn Law family. Because of your membership, we are able to offer a variety of services and events.

# SAVE *the* DATE

## U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In

**WHO:** Washburn Law alumni and friends

**WHAT:** U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In trip

**WHEN:** April 3, 2017

**WHERE:** Washington, D.C.

For your convenience, a group rate and room block has been reserved at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center for \$349 a night. To reserve your room, please call 202.737.2200.

[Washburnlaw.edu/swearingin](http://Washburnlaw.edu/swearingin) | Be on the look out for more details in the coming months.

## Upcoming Events

[washburnlaw.edu/events](http://washburnlaw.edu/events)

### DECEMBER 2016

- 2 First Friday Law Firm Visits in Kansas City
- 7 Alumni Reception in Springfield, Mo.
- 9 After Hours in Topeka
- 12 Holiday Party in Wichita
- 13 Holiday Party in Kansas City
- 16 Commencement

### JANUARY 2017

- 6 First Friday Law Firm Visits in Wichita
- 11 Washburn Wednesday in Kansas City & Wichita
- 13 After Hours in Topeka

### FEBRUARY 2017

- 3 First Friday Law Firm Visits in Topeka
- 7 Alumni & Admissions Joint Reception in Kansas City
- 8 Washburn Wednesday in Kansas City & Wichita
- 10 After Hours in Topeka
- 18 Alumni Reception in Phoenix
- 19 Alumni Reception in Tucson
- 21 Alumni & Admissions Joint Reception in Wichita

### MARCH 2017

- 3 First Friday Law Firm Visits in Kansas City
- 8 Washburn Wednesday in Kansas City & Wichita
- 10 After Hours in Topeka

### APRIL 2017

- 3 U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In
- 7 First Friday Law Firm Visits in Wichita
- 11 Alumni Reception in Houston
- 12 Alumni Reception in Dallas
- 12 Washburn Wednesday in Kansas City & Wichita
- 14 After Hours in Topeka