

# Dean Romig to step down in June

*Romig will stay at Washburn Law as a member of the faculty following this year.*

*By Sarah Towle, BA '07 | stowle@wualumni.org*

Thomas J. Romig, Dean of the Washburn University School of Law, announced at the annual Dean's Circle Dinner for donors that he will step down from his role as Dean in June 2018 at the end of the academic year. Romig joined the Washburn School of Law in 2007 after a distinguished career with the U.S. Army and the Federal Aviation Administration. Following this year, Romig is planning to stay on at Washburn Law as a member of the faculty.

"Dean Romig has been an inspiring leader for the law school and has helped increase the reputation and visibility of the school during his tenure," said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. "This is no small feat since the school was already a highly respected institution in the Kansas legal community when he joined the School of Law almost 11 years ago."

Romig built on the School's reputation, Farley said, and used his national contacts to bring national-level courts to Topeka to hear cases. He also established three joint degree programs with other schools within Washburn and expanded the summer study abroad program. Students can now study in the Caribbean, Germany, Spain, England, and the Netherlands. Romig recently signed an agreement for a program with Osaka University in Japan.

"Dean Romig has been an inspiring leader for the law school and has helped increase the reputation and visibility of the school during his tenure."

*-Jerry Farley, president,  
Washburn University*

"One of his most recent accomplishments was the establishment of an agricultural law program that has proven to be quite important," Farley said. "This program is a vital component of the Rural Legal Practice Initiative, which is a partnership with Kansas State University – an initiative aimed at addressing the dramatic shortage of lawyers in rural Kansas."

During his tenure, Romig has built the vision for the future of the Law School's programs and facilities, including developing the plan for a new Law School building that will meet the high standards of a 21st century legal education, according to JuliAnn Mazachek, vice president for academic affairs at Washburn.



"Dean Romig attracted some of the best and brightest faculty members from across the country to join Washburn Law, creating a faculty complement well positioned to serve the profession and the next generations of legal students at Washburn," she said.

Additionally, Romig oversaw the development of three new Centers of Excellence, with many of the initiatives and programs in the School of Law receiving national recognition.

"Dean Romig's reputation and legal credentials added prestige to our school, and under his leadership, law school rankings improved, resulting in recognition from numerous highly regarded publications," said **Paul Hoferer, '75**, Washburn University Board of Regents member and Washburn University Foundation director.

The Washburn University School of Law has been honored nationally for the exceptional quality of its legal writing program, practical training, and trial advocacy program during his tenure. Washburn Law was ranked 15th nationally in Legal Writing in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Grad Schools, 2018 edition. The *National Jurist* in 2017 named Washburn Law as one of the nation's "Best Schools for Practical Training." Washburn Law's trial advocacy program was ranked among the top 16 law schools in the nation by *preLaw* magazine, winter 2017.

A national search for the dean position began earlier this fall.