

# News Briefs

## *Recent Graduates Break Record*

Bar exam results from the February exam began arriving this spring. 12 of the 16 graduates from the December class of 2022 sat for the exam. Washburn University School of Law was pleased to learn that all 12 of those students passed their bar exam. This was the first time in school history that recent graduates recorded a 100% pass rate. It's an unprecedented accomplishment as the National Conference of Bar Examiners shared a 1.5 points average decrease compared to the February of 2022 results. **Dean Jeffrey D. Jackson, BBA '89, JD, '92,** shared the news first at an alumni event in Dallas in April as he was finding out the news in real time.

“We have been working diligently over the past year to improve our bar pass rate following a slump in scores,” said Jackson. “But a 100% pass rate exceeded even our hopes!”



Photo by Ryan Purcell

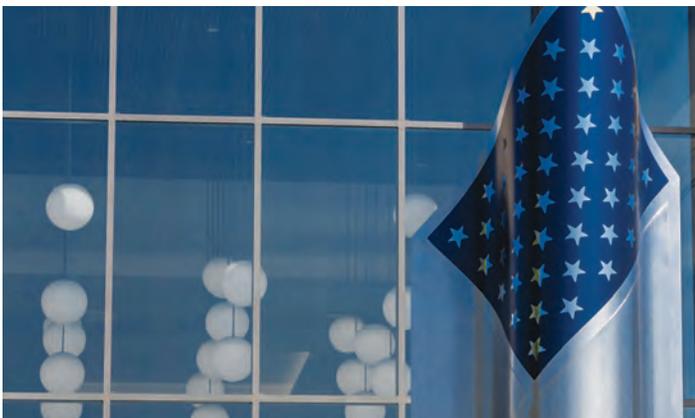
Congratulations to the students on their hard work and justly earned success.”

During his time as interim dean, Jackson has worked to implement a new program that would provide BARBRI exam preparation for each student moving forward. The December class was the first to benefit from this partnership which was made possible with the support of the University administration. In the future, the cost of the exam preparation will be included as part of each student's tuition and fees.

## *Law Building Opening*

After a historic fundraising campaign, the new home to Washburn University School of Law will officially open during a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m., Friday, July 21. All alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends are invited to attend the ceremony at the location of our new \$33 million, 65,000 square foot home on the southeast corner of Washburn University's campus. The opening of this magnificent, state-of-the-art facility is the beginning of a new

chapter in Washburn Law history. The new home will be the region's premier site for legal education and will serve countless Washburn Law students for generations to come. Washburn University and the School of Law would like to extend our gratitude to more than 1,000 alumni and friends of the law school whose dedication and enthusiasm helped turn the dreams of a new home into a reality.



Photos by Jeremy Wangler

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## *Luckert receives honorary doctor of law*

Hon. Marla Luckert, BA '77, JD '80, received an honorary doctor of law from the Washburn University School of Law on May 13, 2023. She was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in 2002 and became chief justice in 2019. Luckert's law career started after graduation with Topeka firm Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer with a general litigation and health law practice. In 1992, she was appointed a judge of the 3rd Judicial District of Kansas and she became chief judge of the district in 2000. Luckert has served as president of the Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas District Judges Association, the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, the Topeka Bar Association, the Sam A. Crow Inn of Court, and the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka. She has earned several awards for achievement, service or professionalism from those and similar organizations. She has helped the School of Law as an adjunct professor, lecturer, mentor, and more.



Photo by Jeremy Wangler

## *Nationwide Dean's Search Announced*

Washburn University will conduct a national search for the next dean of the Washburn University School of Law beginning this fall. A committee consisting of law school faculty, alumni, students, and university representatives will be appointed to lead the search, and the process is expected to conclude during the spring 2024 semester. Washburn University and the School of Law are committed to finding

a strong candidate to lead the distinguished law school forward. **Professor Jeffrey D. Jackson, BBA '89, JD, '92**, has passionately served as interim dean of Washburn University School of Law since June 2022 and will continue in this important role until a permanent dean is named. The law school community is grateful for Jackson's commitment and enthusiasm while serving in the interim role.

## *Third-Year-Anywhere Program Top in Innovation*

Washburn Law's Third Year Anywhere® program makes Washburn one of the top law schools in the country for student innovation and development, according to Bloomberg Law.

A leader among research platforms providing comprehensive legal information and analysis for the legal profession, Bloomberg Law this year conducted a competitive process to identify the most innovative law schools in U.S. legal education. Washburn Law's Third Year Anywhere® enrollment option was judged to be one of the top eight programs in the category of "student innovation and development," putting

Washburn Law among a group of schools that were found to be best for "pioneering student development in ways that improve the law school experience and foster career readiness."

Washburn Law's Third Year Anywhere® program allows a select group of students to spend their final year of law school anywhere in the country, or the world, working in an externship position under the supervision of a lawyer and conducting their courses online. This experience provides a head start on entering practice in the area of law and jurisdiction in which they intend to work after graduation.