

WASHBURN LAWYER

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Magazine | Spring 2023

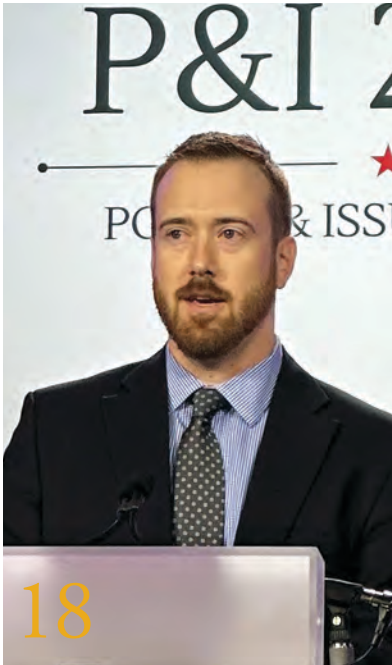


Table of Contents



Features

- 4 Alumni Spotlight | Candice Alcaraz**
Recently elected, **Judge Candice Alcaraz, '16**, is bringing a fresh perspective to the courtroom. As the first Black female judge elected in Wyandotte County, she's already breaking down barriers and making an impact on her community.
- 6 Family First | Francessa Montes-Williams and Eric N. Williams**
After meeting during their time as students at the law school, **Francessa Montes-Williams, '01**, and **Eric N. Williams, '01**, built their legal careers together, ultimately becoming the only husband-and-wife team of judges in the state of Kansas.
- 9 Student Spotlight | Elizabeth Ngatia**
A series of decisions and chance led **Elizabeth Ngatia, BA '23**, and her family to Kansas from Mombasa, Kenya. She graduated this spring from Washburn University. With a bachelor's degree in hand, she enters the law school as part of the University's Law School Early Admissions Program.
- 11 Modern Impact | Maxwell E. Kautsch**
Maxwell E. Kautsch, '03, helps modernize the Kansas Open Records Act by winning a case in the Kansas Supreme Court. The quicker and more efficient solution to the request for public records streamlines a long-outdated process.
- 12 Continuing the Legacy | Monte L. Miller and Chase L. Miller**
Second- and third-generation Washburn University School of Law graduates, **Monte L. Miller, BS '81, JD '84**, and **Chase L. Miller, BA '12, JD '15**, continue the family law legacy while continuing to serve their community of Emporia, Kansas. Their dedication in and out of the courtroom reflects an inherited dedication to serving others that runs in the family.
- 15 Focusing on Service | Timothy M. Belsan**
Entering a career in public service, **Timothy M. Belsan, '09**, has always been focused on helping the greatest number of people possible. He spent 10 years with the Department of Justice, earning countless awards, before joining the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a relatively new U.S. government agency.



In This Issue

- 2 Dean's Letter
- 3 Alumni Association Chair's Letter
- 26 News Briefs
- 28 Legacy Graduates
- 29 Golden Reunion
- 30 Class Actions
- 32 In Memoriam

16 Q & A | Kathleen Lynch

Creating a non-traditional courtroom experience allows **Judge Kathleen Lynch, '92**, to have an even bigger impact on her community. Her experience and focus has made her an advocate for mental health, helping those in her courtroom to feel at ease during difficult times.

18 An Unexpected Career | Daniel S. Creitz

After becoming the first attorney employed by a health center in the state of Kansas, **Daniel S. Creitz, '13**, serves his community through his work. Earlier this year, he was honored with the Geiger Gibson Emerging Leaders Award, celebrating young leaders and their work. He carries on a legacy of leadership set by his father, **Daniel D. Creitz, '85**.

20 Law in Common | Tony W. Mattivi and Mary E. Mattivi

Meeting at Washburn University School of Law was only the first step in **Director Tony W. Mattivi, '94**, and **Judge Mary E. Mattivi, '94**, future together. Now, after nearly 30 years of marriage, they have each cultivated respectable careers while balancing family and other obligations.

22 Faculty Spotlight | Ronald Wurtz

Fifty years after receiving his law degree, **Ronald Wurtz, BA '70, JD '73**, shares his passion for his work as a visiting professor and supervisor of the criminal defense section of the Washburn Law Clinic. His gratitude for the scholarships he received while at Washburn has impacted his career and led him to share his knowledge and experience with current students.

23 Legal Legacy | Dennis White and Kennedy White

A Holton, Kansas, firm is celebrating its 60th anniversary with the second- and third-generation, **Dennis White, '84**, and **Kennedy White, BBA '16, JD '19**, at the helm. White Law Office/Title Abstract Co., Inc. has become a full family business.

24 A Storied Career | Jan Hamilton

Chapter 13 trustee in Topeka, **Jan Hamilton, BA '70, JD '73**, has retired after 24 years. From working as a part-time disc jockey as a law student to receiving an award for his work on *Hamilton v. Lanning*, he had an incredible career in the legal field.