

A Bright Future Ahead



Hello, everyone:

What a wonderful feeling to be writing to you for the first time from our new home! I know many of you have been with us on this journey from the beginning. The time finally came, and we have wrapped up our first semester on the corner of 21st Street and Washburn Ave. We remain thankful to those alumni and friends who made this dream a reality. If you have not made it to see the incredible new space for yourself, I invite you back to campus to take a tour and see it firsthand.

This past summer, we held the grand opening event for Robert J. Dole Hall. As you'll see throughout this edition of the magazine, the state-of-the-art building is providing the best opportunity for our students to be successful. Each classroom is equipped for lectures to be recorded or viewed via Zoom, an enhancement for every course but particularly beneficial to our Third Year Anywhere program. Two courtrooms provide ample opportunities for our students to gain real-world experience, as does the new Washburn Law Clinic. Numerous study spaces throughout allow students to find a quiet spot to study. And as an added bonus, the natural light throughout the entire space enriches the learning environment and offers a wonderful setting for events, countless of which have already taken place since the grand opening.

The numbers emphasize the advantages of the new hall as well. This semester saw an increase in enrolled 1L students and transfers. I expect this growth in enrollment to endure as we continue to expand recruiting areas and share the vision of Washburn University School of Law. We have a reputation for producing practice-ready lawyers and we will continue to build that reputation and spread the word.

More good news has come from this semester, too. The two most recent bar exam results have reflected some of the highest pass rates in recent memory. If you recall in previous communications, we began an initiative where all students would be equipped with Barbri test prep. It is now part of their tuition and each student has the test prep materials at their hands in time to prepare for that next step in their career as attorneys. Their success is the reason we do what we do, and I am ecstatic to see this initiative produce such success.

One final update worth noting in this edition is that of the new dean's search. It has been my pleasure to lead the Law School during this pivotal time in our history. To ensure that the Law School is set up for continued success, Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn president, is leading a national search for our next permanent dean. As we have already shared, this confidential search is being conducted by a search firm, Anthem Executive. Because of the nature of a confidential search, it may seem as though information is sparse, but you should expect to hear more about the process soon.

As you can see, it has once again been an exciting semester at the Law School. But what is even more exciting is the future of our beloved alma mater. I am confident that we will remain on a positive trajectory. As we look ahead to the future, I invite you to reach out to me if you have any questions. I will always stand by my statement: This is your law school, and I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrey D. Jackson, BBA '89, JD '92
Interim Dean, Washburn University School of Law

WASHBURN LAWYER

We welcome your suggestions about this publication. Letters to the editor and news of jobs and honors are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime phone number.

Write to:

Washburn University School of Law
Alumni Relations
1729 SW MacVicar Ave. | Topeka, KS 66604
Telephone: 785.670.1011
Email: alumni@washburnlaw.edu
Web: wualumni.org

Editor

Dannie Harris-Cooper
Communications & Engagement Specialist

Writers & Contributors

Annie Flachsbarth
Dannie Harris-Cooper
Angela Lutz
Patrick Mikesic
Brad Porter
Jensen Simons
Sarah Towle
Jeremy Wangler

Designer

Michelle Eckersley
Graphics & Marketing Specialist

Photographers

Nick Krug
Earl Richardson
Doug Stremel
Jeremy Wangler

Law Alumni Association Staff

Patrick Mikesic
Executive Director of Development and
Alumni Relations

Anne McInerney
Assistant Director of Development and
Alumni Relations

The Washburn Lawyer is published by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation.