

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from April 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023.

James Concannon, III, professor emeritus, Topeka, on June 17, 2023, at age 75.

Graydon Luthey, '54, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 18, 2023, at age 92

Calvin McMillan, BA '53, JD '58, Wichita, on April 6, 2023, at age 92

Delano Lewis, Sr., JD '63, H '00, Las Cruces, New Mexico on Aug. 2, 2023 at age 84.

John Sutherland, BA '61, JD '64, Topeka, on April 22, 2023, at age 84

Adam Alfred, '71, Centennial, Colorado, on April 22, 2023, at age 80

Jeffrey Smith, BA '70, JD '72, Leicester, Vermont, on May 7, 2023, at age 79

Douglas Wright, BA '70, JD '73, Topeka, on July 27, 2023, at age 74

O.J. Connell, III, '74, El Dorado, Kansas, on Aug. 10, 2023, at age 80

David Hall, '76, Anthony, Kansas, on March 31, 2023, at age 74

Wanetta "Kay" Adam, '76, Centennial, Colorado, on April 9, 2023, at age 80

Michael Jackson, '80, Topeka, on May 23, 2023, at age 74

Harold Fanshier, BA '71, BBA '78, JD '81, Arlington, Texas, on July 16, 2023, at age 75

Richard Sanborn, '81, Derby, Kansas, on Aug. 15, 2023, at age 69

Christopher Costello, '82, Marion, Kansas, on July 13, 2023, at age 67

Richard Pearce, '91, Centralia, Kansas, on Sept. 25, 2023, at age 76

Remembering James Concannon, III

In Memoriam by Michael C. Manning, JD '77, H '07



James Concannon with Michael C. Manning, '77. Photo by Earl Richardson

As our law school continues through its second 120 years, it is unlikely it or we will ever know another professor or dean who contributes as much to its students, its legacy, and to our profession as did Jim Concannon. For nearly 50 years, he taught us, inspired us, and then sent us forth into the profession he revered and was born to enhance with his unique gifts. He became the longest serving dean and longest serving professor, served 25 years as a renowned delegate to the National Uniform Law Commission, and devoted himself to his dear Melissa.

Jim's earliest history revealed that he was born to the Bar. He was a Summerfield Scholar at KU, matriculating to its law

school, and graduating second in the class of 1971. Just a year later Jim discovered his passion for teaching law. Fifty years ago, Jim became a full-time law professor.

Jim's dedication to Washburn Law, its students, and his profession was inexhaustible. He became dean in 1988 and guided the school to great prominence. Jim's deanship was a great gift to Washburn Law. In 1994, the National Jurist ranked Washburn Law as first in the nation for student satisfaction with faculty and two years later as the second-best law school in overall student satisfaction. Then, in 2003, Jim published his 756-page 100-year history of our law school. Many colleagues expressed sincere appreciation for his leadership during the time they worked for him.

Jim never pandered for praise or awards – praises and awards followed him and found him. In 1997, he received the Kansas Supreme Court citation for contributions to the judiciary. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from KU Law. The next year the Supreme Court awarded Jim its prestigious Justice Award. In 2017, the Kansas Bar Association conferred its Distinguished Service Award. But, there will never be enough awards or recognitions to adequately recognize the vast, enduring, and enhancing impact Jim had on our profession or the lawyers he inspired, educated, and entertained. All law professors know their field, but few are true masters. And far fewer are both masters of their field and have the gift Jim had of reaching into the souls of his students with wisdom and wit as he ignited a passion for excellence and ethics.

Remembering Ambassador Delano Lewis, Sr.



Delano Lewis, Sr., JD '63, H '00, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died on Aug. 2, 2023. He was 84. Lewis was a former president of National Public Radio and U.S. Ambassador to South Africa.

Lewis was born in Arkansas City, Kansas, and grew up in a segregated community, becoming interested in civil rights law at an early age.

After graduating from Washburn University School of Law in 1963, he would go on to hold positions in the Justice Department and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, kicking off an extensive career in Washington, D.C. During his time in Washington, he also served as a legislative assistant to Sen. Edward Brooke, the first Black senator popularly elected, and later worked on the staff of Del. Walter Fauntroy, D.C.'s representative in the House.

After 10 years in government, Lewis would later go on to become CEO of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company in 1990. Following his time there, he would become the president of NPR, the first Black person to hold the position. He retired from NPR in 1998.

Lewis would not stay retired for long, and in 1999, he accepted the position to be the next ambassador to the Republic of South Africa. He continued in this role until 2001.

A longtime friend to the Law School, Lewis and his wife, Gayle, established the Delano and Gayle Lewis Endowed Law Scholarship. He also contributed to the Brown v. Board Legacy Fund for the new building project.

