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John E. Howe joined Washburn Law in 1959, to serve as dean of Washburn University

School of Law. He left St. Louis Law school after seven years where he had served both as faculty and Associate Dean. The yearning to become Dean is what made Howe gravitate to Washburn Law. In fact, the dean at St. Louis offered his deanship to Howe if he would stay. However, being the consummate gentleman that Howe is, he

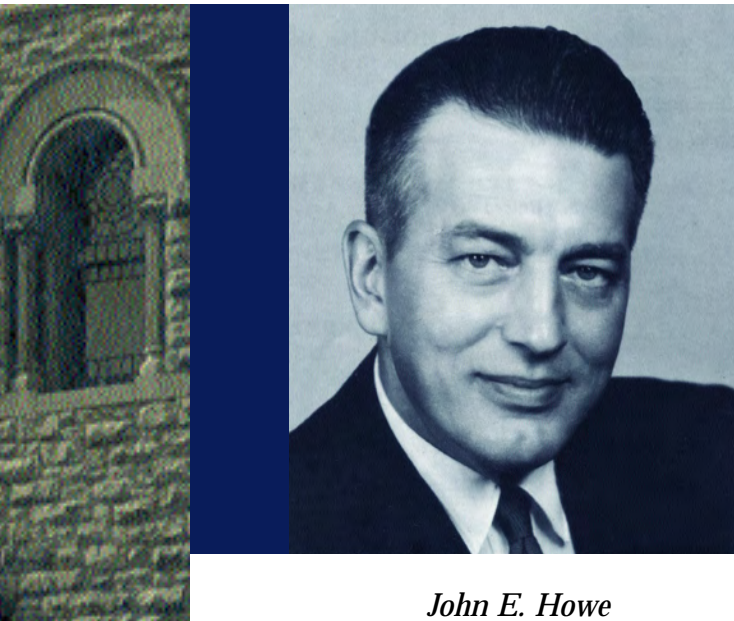
told him “no.” He did not want him to give up his deanship. Howe joined Washburn Law and served as dean until 1970, the third longest serving dean at Washburn Law. And how fortunate it was for Washburn Law. Not only did he serve in an administrative capacity,

which was ultimately tested during the 1966 tornado that destroyed the law school, but he served as educator, cheerleader, fundraiser, and overall Washburn Law enthusiast.

After Howe graduated from law school at Kentucky he began his career as an associate in a small law office in Kentucky. It was a general practice firm, as were so

many small firms in the small communities. He handled everything from divorce to murder cases. During law school Howe thought he would like to teach law. He knew, however, he would need hands-on, practical experience before he could walk into the classroom. After two and a half years at the small firm, Howe contacted John Hervey at the ABA. Howe said he was interested in teaching at a law school and asked what schools he should consider. Hervey suggested Creighton and that is where Howe ended up. While a faculty member at Creighton Howe taught Property and some Commercial courses.

The Importance of *ADJUNCT* PROFESSORS



John E. Howe

After six years at Creighton, Howe received a phone call from his former law school dean at Kentucky. He asked if Howe would be interested in joining him at St. Louis University. It was a great opportunity, and Howe accepted. While at St. Louis, Howe taught Property Law, one of his favorite courses. Eventually Howe became Associate Dean at St. Louis.

Howe yearned to be more than Associate Dean, so when Washburn University School of Law had an opening for their dean, he applied for and accepted the position. When he joined Washburn Law, there were only seven full-time faculty members and twenty-two practicing members. Practicing members, or part-time faculty as they were referred to at that time, were practicing attorneys or judges. Those part-time faculty are now referred to as adjunct faculty. "At the time, money was scarce, and the only way to supplement your curriculum was to use as many part-time faculty as possible," said Howe.

"As I remember, I think the entire yearly budget for the law school was \$100,000 when I started. You couldn't have too many full-time faculty on payroll. The part-time faculty helped tremendously to enhance our course offerings," said Howe. "The budget was so small, that when I arrived, there wasn't even a mimeograph machine. I had to go out and buy one with my own money for the school," Howe remem-

bers. Although part-time faculty were a benefit to the school, they certainly created obstacles in scheduling classes. "Since they were practicing attorneys and judges, you had to work around their schedules and they told you when they could and could not teach," remembers Howe. "At the time when I first arrived and the beginning of my tenure as dean, most core classes were held in the morning and taught by full-time faculty. Since most students worked, the afternoons were left free and the part-time faculty taught mostly in the evening." Keeping part-time faculty was difficult. "Many of the young men who were practicing taught part-time to supplement their

income while they were starting their practice. Once their practice grew, they didn't need the extra income, and didn't have the time, so they would quit teaching," said Howe.

At that time in the early 60's, many law schools depended on part-time faculty. Howe recalls that at the larger state funded schools, most of the faculty were full-time.

However, smaller schools who did not receive state money had to rely on part-time faculty to help teach the courses. "Part-time faculty bring to the classroom active practice problems. They have a more practical aspect which is helpful to the students," said Howe. "Full-time faculty just couldn't provide that angle. Most full-time faculty started teaching right out of law school, or like me, only practiced for several years. That isn't enough to know or

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understand the practical aspects of practicing law. Part-time faculty added a dimension of practice full-time faculty could not.” Howe believes some of the part-time faculty would have decided to teach full-time if the pay had been better.

Even though money was scarce at the law school, Howe used the full-time and part-time faculty to the best of his ability. Full-time faculty would teach the first year core courses to build the foundation for law students. Part-time faculty would teach courses that second and third year law students would take. Those courses incorporated more of the practical aspects of law. The benefits of having a large part-time faculty proved to be both good and bad. “The big benefit of part-time faculty was the financial aspect. They were also engaged in the practice of law which enhanced the student’s legal education. However, on the other end of the spectrum, it was difficulty to schedule classes. It was hard to evaluate each part-time faculty member since they were only around during the evening and it was hard to keep them interested in teaching for long periods of time,” recalls Howe.



Philip Lewis '36



Jack Quinlan '51



Charles Fisher '51



Gene McKinney '54

Howe remembers fondly that the part-time faculty during his tenure as dean were terrific. Both full-time and part-time faculty got along well together. He remembers those who taught during his entire tenure at the law school, including Philip Lewis '35, David Prager, Jack Quinlan '51 and Charles Fisher '51. “Phil Lewis was an excellent teacher. He thought like a student. He could explain anything to the students and make them understand the concept. I never saw anyone who could relate to the students like he could,” said Howe. Others who served as part-time faculty during Howe’s tenure with many years of service included: Allen Gerye '57, Clarence Gideon '56, Lester Goodell '25, Byron Gray, Lloyd Hall, Justice Schuyler Jackson, Howard Jones '28, Harold Schroeder '47, Roy Bartlett '49, Albert Martin, Gerald Goodell '58, Gene McKinney '54, William Treadway and Harry Craig. Others who began their part-time teaching career during the end of Howe’s tenure and continued to teach included: Herbert Marshall '43, Lou Eisenbarth '54, Austin Nothern '64, Wayne Stratton '58, Charles Henson and The Honorable Beryl Johnson, to name a few.

Howe's tenure as dean took him through the turbulent years at Washburn Law after the tornado hit the campus in 1966. He remembers with detail the effects of the tornado and the damage to the school. Then University President, John Henderson, asked Howe if he wanted to rebuild Carnegie, or have a new law building. After an emergency faculty meeting at Howe's home, the faculty decided to ask for a new building. When Howe told Henderson their decision, Henderson replied, "Well then, get busy raising money. We have our hands full with the other buildings." That statement quickly set in motion Howe's priorities for the next several years.

Howe called alum Harold Fatzner '33 and told him they needed to rally the alumni to raise money for a new building. Fatzner along with John Shamberger '37 and many other alumni spent the next year fundraising for the new law school building. Together they raised \$1.2 million for the law school. "I remember driving all over that year, talking to alumni and asking for donations to help rebuild the law school," said Howe.

"The alumni really pulled together and worked hard to come to the aid of the law school. It was a great thing." In 1969, the new building opened up its doors for the fall semester. "We spent three years in trailers on the University campus. During this time, some of the part-time faculty used their offices or offices of friends to hold their classes. Since classrooms were scarce, that was a big help to the school," said Howe.



Howard Jones '28



Roy Bartlett '49



William Treadway

"I think I am the only dean whose deanship saw the law school in three locations; Carnegie, the trailers and the new school," said Howe. His deanship also saw the number of full-time faculty range from seven to nine members and part-time faculty range from thirteen to twenty-two.

Howe continued to serve as dean of Washburn Law until he stepped down in 1970. "That was long enough, I don't believe that a dean should stay any longer, it's time to step down and let someone else take the reins and lead the school," said Howe. "I turned in my resignation in 1969, but Phil Lewis encouraged me to stay for one more year. Phil told me 'you worked hard to get this new building for the law school, you should stay for at least one more year to enjoy it'," Howe remembers. Howe ultimately stayed for one more year. After stepping down as dean, Howe remained on the faculty as a Professor until 1978. From 1978 to 1981 he taught part-time, teaching Water Law. A course he suggested the law school add to the curriculum. "When I became a part-time faculty member, then I could tell them when I wanted to teach," Howe said with a grin. After many years serving as dean and scheduling around part-time faculty, Howe was finally on the other side. He could now have some one schedule around his time. A point he made with a large smile on his face.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Washburn Law. Both the full-time and part-time faculty were great to work with; I have many fond memories of my time at Washburn Law," stated Howe.

Dean Howe and his wife Margaret continue to live in Topeka and remain wonderful ambassadors of Washburn Law.