

# Michael Manning Keynote Speaker

Michael Manning '77 has had a storybook career. Two popular books describing his work as lead counsel for cases of national significance prove that.

The first of these books, *Inside Job*, relates to litigation against New York mob-related money broker Mario Renda. In 1984, the FDIC chose Manning to head its litigation against Renda. Under his leadership, successful civil and criminal prosecutions were carried out in New York, Florida, Kansas, California, and Hawaii.

In 1989, Manning was lead counsel in MDL-834--the notorious Lincoln Savings/Charles Keating cases. The largest commercial litigation in U.S. history at that time, the Keating cases involved over 51,000,000 pages of documents and over 600 depositions. Manning's team collected nearly \$300 million and coordinated dozens of related criminal and administrative matters. *Trust Me* is the story of those cases.

In October 2002, the Washburn Alumni Association named Manning an Alumni Fellow. The Fellows program recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and invites them back to Washburn to interact with students and faculty in the classroom and other academic settings.

During his visit, Manning was keynote speaker at the dedication of the new Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center. An expert on the use of technology in the courtroom, Manning described how computer-age technology has made it possible to have "paperless trials." He noted that the Bianchino Technology Center put Washburn Law on the educational cutting edge. "Students who use the state-of-the-art technology here will be well prepared to meet the challenges of 21st century litigation," he said.



In addition to his presentation at the dedication ceremony, Mr. Manning talked informally with students and faculty, sharing insights about current law practice and his vision for the future of the legal profession.

Manning credits Washburn University School of Law for setting him on the right career path. "The law school provided me with a great basis for a career in litigation," he said. His first job after law school was with Kansas City-based Morrison and Hecker, a firm that stresses the same important principles he learned at Washburn, dedication and loyalty to the client. "They gave me great training as a young litigation associate, and I was put on some very exciting cases that turned out well for our clients," he recalled.

"One of my venerated senior partners told me, 'The best way to develop new work for new clients is to do good work, cost effectively, for your old clients.' He was right." Today, Manning is lead partner for Stinson Morrison Hecker's Phoenix office.

Manning has received numerous other honors during his career. In 1994, National Law Journal included him in its triennial selection of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." *GQ* Magazine described him as "a passionate, outspoken, crusading, relentless, righteous workaholic with a brilliant legal mind."

In addition to his professional work, Manning is active in local, state, and national organizations. He is a board member and past president of the FBI Citizens Academy; chairman of the advisory board of LIFE TEEN, INC., a Phoenix-based charity which, through spiritual development, helps teens cope with the special challenges they face; and board member of the Make A Wish Foundation of Central & Southern Arizona.



# Two alumni appointed to Kansas Supreme Court

Governor Bill Graves has announced the appointments of Judge Marla J. Luckert '80 and Judge Robert L. Gernon '69, to the Kansas Supreme Court. Both will be sworn in on January 13, 2003. With the appointment of both Luckert and Gernon, Washburn University School of Law alumni will occupy 5 of the 7 seats on the Kansas Supreme Court.



## Judge Marla J. Luckert '80

1993, Luckert was a Law School Adjunct Professor. Luckert was a former partner in Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer L.L.P. in Topeka.

In 1993 Luckert was selected as a Washburn University Alumni Fellow. Luckert has served on the Kansas Bar Association Board of Governors as President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, District 5 Representative and young lawyers section President. In 1990 the KBA honored her with an Outstanding Service Award. Luckert received the YWCA Woman of Excellence Award in 1996.

Luckert is only the second woman appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court. The first woman appointed, Chief Justice Kay McFarland '64, is also a graduate of Washburn University School of Law.

Luckert was a Shawnee County District Court Judge since 1992; and has been Chief Judge of the 3rd Judicial District since 2000. In 1985 and 1991-

## Judge Robert Gernon '69



Gernon has been a member of the Kansas Court of Appeals since 1988 when he was appointed by Governor Mike Hayden. From 1979-1988 Gernon was a judge in the 22nd Judicial District, which included two terms as the district's administrative judge from 1981 until he was appointed to the Court of Appeals. Gernon was in private practice from 1970-1979 and was Brown County Attorney and County Counselor from 1971-1975.

Gernon received the KBA Outstanding Service Award in 1991 and was awarded the KBA Professionalism Award in 2001. He has served on the KBA Continuing

Legal Education Committee and on the Kansas District Judges Executive Committee when he was a trial judge. Gernon was past chair of the KBA Public Information Committee. He currently serves as a liaison from the Court of Appeals to the District Judges' Association. He has been a member of the KBA committee on Professionalism and the KDJA Legislative Committee.