

Washburn University School of Law alumni have served in the judiciary throughout the United States and the world. The following are a few of those judges who daily adjudicate cases and provide the best solution to the issue at hand. Many of our alumni could easily be included in this issue, however, due to space constraints, a cross section of the many Washburn Law alumni in the judiciary have been highlighted. Many other judges are highlighted in the feature article 100 Years of Washburn Law in the Judiciary on page 4. To every Washburn Law judge throughout the world, may your dedication, commitment and service to your community continue to be respected and appreciated by all who know you and come before you in your courtroom.

## Washburn Judiciary Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Adrian J. Allen '54**

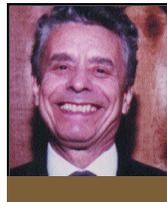
As a Kansas Senior Judge, Judge Adrian Allen carries out assignments in a number of Northeast Kansas district courts. He served

as a full-time judge of the Shawnee County District Court from 1971 until his retirement in 1993. His most memorable case, he said, involved the collection of Kansas income tax on military retirement pay. The issue at stake was the legality of Kansas income tax on military pay. Military retirees thought that it was unfair that retirement pay of judges was exempt from taxation while military retirees had to pay taxes. The class action suit came to Judge Allen instead of the appropriate agent (Kansas Code allows the appeal of Kansas income tax to the Kansas Department of Revenue). Judge Allen ruled against the claimants because of a lack of jurisdiction. The Kansas Supreme Court affirmed his decision. The US Supreme Court reversed the decision, but stated the claimants should have followed the correct procedures in Kansas Code.

Judge Allen decided to attend Washburn Law after taking a career path test administered by Washburn University. The test confirmed the belief Judge Allen already had; a legal career would be best. Legal careers run in Judge Allen's family, his grandfather had been a lawyer and a judge in Linn County, Kansas and was also on the Kansas Supreme Court.

Of his legal career, Judge Allen says it has engendered a deep and abiding respect for the United States judicial system. "I believe it is the best court system." That belief has made Judge Allen a passionate advocate for the preservation of the judicial system."

Judge Allen serves on the board of the local American Cancer Society. He previously was a member of the board of the American Red Cross for 30 years and just recently became involved in helping institute a Marine ROTC program at Topeka High School, Topeka, Kansas, where he graduated.



The Honorable  
**Michael A. Barbara '53**

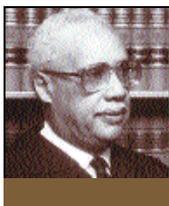
Judge Barbara has viewed the justice system from several sides--as a practicing lawyer from 1953 to 1967, as judge for the Third Judicial District of Kansas from 1967 to 1980 and as Secretary of Corrections for the State of Kansas from 1983 to 1985. He was chief counsel for the Kansas Tax Commission from 1958 to 1960. This broad perspective on the law made Judge Barbara a valued member of the Washburn University School of Law faculty for 17 years--1980-1997. He taught Evidence, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.

In addition to numerous papers in professional journals, his books include the *Kansas Criminal Law Handbook* published by the Kansas Bar Association, *Kansas Judges Benchbook on Evidence Objections*, and *Kansas Evidence Objections with Evidentiary Foundations*.

His many honors include the Kansas Trial Judge of the Year Award in 1976 from the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, the Presidential Award for outstanding contributions by an individual in the area of corrections from the Kansas Corrections Association, the Award for Outstanding Service from the Kansas Bar Association, the Distinguished Service Award from Washburn Law School Association,

recognition as William O. Douglas Outstanding Professor 1988-89 from Washburn University School of Law and the Phil Lewis Medal of distinction from the Kansas Bar Association.

Judge Barbara currently serves as Senior District Judge of Kansas, taking cases on assignment from the Kansas Supreme Court. He also lectures at Kansas Bar Association seminars and annual meetings and at Kansas Judges Conference and seminars.



The Honorable  
**Paul Lawrence  
Brady '56**

During his distinguished career, retired Federal Judge Paul Brady, Atlanta, was a trail blazer for African

American attorneys. A private practice attorney in Chicago for eleven years following his graduation from Washburn Law, he was named attorney for the Federal Power Commission in 1968. The first African American attorney employed by the Commission, he was honored for his work as supervisory trial attorney with the Commission's highest award for outstanding performance.

A life member of the NAACP, Judge Brady received national recognition for organizing government lawyers in a Volunteer Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, DC.

In 1972, he was named a Federal Administrative Law Judge, the first African American to receive such an appointment. During the last six years of his 25-year tenure, Judge Brady presided as chief judge of the Atlanta regional office. In his honor, a library-conference room in the Sam Nunn Federal Office Building was designated the Brady Conference Room.

In addition to his judicial work, Judge Brady has written *A Certain Blindness*, a book detailing his own story and his family's quest for the promise of America in the context of American history. A second book, *Bass Reeves: United States Deputy Marshall - His Life and Legacy*, is about his great uncle, who was the first African American federal law officer to serve on the western frontier.



The Honorable  
**J. Patrick Brazil '62**

When he retired as chief judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals in January 2001,

Judge Brazil left knowing that cases before the court would be heard promptly and fairly. A member of the Court of Appeals for ten years, Judge Brazil assumed the administrative duties of chief judge in 1995 with concerns that a heavy backlog of cases delayed justice and threatened Kansans' right to a low-cost appeal. He made reducing that backlog, brought about by new criminal sentencing guidelines that took effect in 1993, his top priority. Under his leadership, the time before arguments are heard was reduced from as much as eighteen months, in some cases, to as little as two months. The Kansas Bar Association honored Judge Brazil with its Outstanding Service Award in 1994.

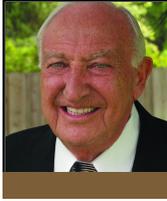
Judge Brazil continues to hear cases as a senior judge taking assignments from the court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. He is also associated with Associates in Dispute Resolution doing mediation and arbitration.

Earlier in his career, Judge Brazil practiced law in Pratt and Eureka and was a judge in the Kansas 13th Judicial District from 1972 to 1985.

He is past president of the Kansas District Judges Association, a founding member of the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission, secretary of the National Conference of Chief Justices of Intermediate Courts of Appeals and serves as a member of the commission on Judicial Qualifications. He is a member of the Sam A. Crow Inn of Court and serves on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors.

Reflecting his commitment to his profession, Judge Brazil said: "I urge law students and young lawyers to always remember that the law is first and foremost a profession, not a business; all lawyers owe it to the profession, to their clients and to themselves to always conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner."





The Honorable  
**Marion Walter  
Chipman '48**

It is a long way from a sod house in rural Graham County, Kansas, to St. Petersburg, Florida. Retired Judge Marion Chipman made the lifelong journey in style.

Educated in a one-room elementary school and a rural Kansas high school, at Fort Hays State College, and at Washburn University School of Law, Judge Chipman was admitted to practice law in Kansas in 1948 and before the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court in 1975.

He served two terms as Graham County attorney and was chosen as the first county counselor of Johnson County, Kansas. He practiced for 32 years, earning a statewide reputation as both a trial and appellate attorney and was frequently consulted by other attorneys to assist in complex litigation.

"At age 60, I decided, at the suggestion of friends, to submit my name to the nominating committee for possible appointment to the district court bench," he said. He recalls the committee's interview: "Justice Prager asked me, 'Marion, why do you want to be a judge?' I gave the answer, 'It's inside workin' and there ain't no heavy liftin'!' The serious atmosphere dissolved into one of hilarity." After more questions, he was selected as one of three applicants whose names were forwarded to Governor John Carlin, who appointed him a judge for the 10th Judicial District of Kansas in 1980.

Following mandatory retirement at age 70, Judge Chipman served as a Kansas Senior Judge, trying cases in many Kansas counties and serving as a judge pro tem of the Kansas Court of Appeals and justice pro tem of the Kansas Supreme Court. He also operated an arbitration and mediation practice in the Kansas City area before moving to Florida in 2000.



The Honorable  
**John Edwards  
Conway '63**

"I don't think there is a better job for a trial lawyer than being a federal district judge." Judge Conway speaks from experience, when he makes that statement. He has been a judge of the United States District Court in New Mexico since 1986 and was chief judge from 1994 to 2000. Under his leadership, a new courthouse was constructed and the court became one of the most computer literate courts in the country.

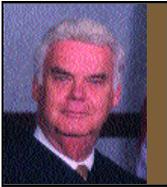
"A few years ago I tried a drug case that involved 100,000 pounds of marijuana. The trial went on for six months and was the longest trial in the history of New Mexico," Judge Conway said. "I am sentencing 300-400 people a year, and most of them are drug cases. It is very discouraging. The New Mexico District Court has the third highest criminal caseload among the 94 federal district courts."

In addition to his work in New Mexico, Judge Conway was appointed last year by Chief Justice Rehnquist to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court in Washington, DC. The court hears only cases against foreign agents. Judge Conway goes to Washington for a week every two months to hear cases, but he anticipates that work may increase.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Conway practiced in Santa Fe and Alamogordo and served in the New Mexico State Senate where he was minority leader for eight years.



# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Sam A. Crow '52**

Sam Crow, Senior U.S. District Court Judge, recalls with modesty his admission to Washburn University

School of Law in 1949. "This was just after World War II," he explained. "Law schools were thirsty for people, particularly those who would receive the GI bill. There weren't any admission tests, so really, I just went to Washburn to enroll, enrolled, and went through on the GI bill." He chose Washburn on the recommendation of his father, who told him it was one of the best law schools in the nation and that it would be more practical in its teaching approach.

Judge Crow found his father was right, and he has put his practical education to good use. Following graduation, he joined the firm of Rooney, Dickinson, Prager & Crow in 1953 in Topeka. "We practiced general law, and we never turned down a client who had a cause, regardless of whether we would be paid or not. If the case had any merit, we took it," he said.

Then the military called, and Judge Crow returned to active duty in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG). "I got a lot of trial experience there, everything from AWOL to murder," he said.

Several more years of practice in Topeka followed before he was named a magistrate judge in 1975. In 1981 President Reagan appointed him to the federal bench. He served first in Wichita and has been in Topeka for the past eleven years.

Judge Crow's devotion to his work and the people he serves is evident when he speaks of judges in general: "We love our country, we love the courts, we love the procedure that's followed.... We devote our lives to the legal protection of people," he said.

Judge Crow served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1994-1998.



The Honorable  
**Donna Kay  
Dixon '84**

As the only district court judge in Roseau County, Minnesota, Judge Dixon presides over all criminal,

civil, juvenile, probate and family matters that come before the court. Her work challenges her to make difficult and painful decisions. "I am currently presiding over a first degree murder case in which the defendant is fourteen years old," Judge Dixon said. "The decision to certify this juvenile as an adult was the most difficult decision I have had to make."

Because of her previous work as a public defender and now as judge, she is acutely aware of the needs of children and passionate about helping them. "All children have the right to a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment," Judge Dixon said. "I am appalled at the number of children who do not have these basic needs. The State of Minnesota, through implementation of innovative programs, is attempting to address this issue."

Judge Dixon came to the bench in 2001 following stints as city prosecutor in Wichita and Olathe, Kansas, as an assistant city attorney in Olathe, as an attorney in private practice in Warroad, Minnesota and as an assistant public defender for the State of Minnesota.

Outside her career, Judge Dixon's passion is hockey. "With a son and daughter both playing youth hockey, I'm a 'hockey mom' from October through April," she said. That is quite a change for a woman who grew up in Kansas and never saw a hockey game until she moved to Minnesota in 1994.

# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Muriel E. Harris '76**

Judge Harris has been a judge for the 29th Judicial District of Kansas in Wyandotte County (Kansas City) since 1988. Prior to becoming a district court judge, Judge Harris was a Special Prosecutor Wyandotte County District Attorney, Assistant City Attorney in Roeland Park and also had a solo practice.

She recalled that she chose Washburn University School of Law because she anticipated practicing law in the Kansas City area and a Kansas school seemed a practical choice. "My father, James Yates '51, was a Washburn Law School graduate, and I, therefore, had sentimental reasons also," she said.

Her choice was a wise one. She found Washburn's location in the capitol city made it convenient to utilize state government resources. She made valuable acquaintances and developed resources for her subsequent solo practice and judicial career. "I took advantage of the internship program and worked a summer and one semester in the district attorney's office in Wyandotte county.... The experience of meeting the actual individuals I would later be working with was invaluable," Judge Harris said.

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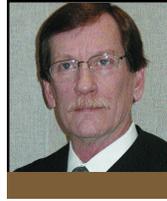
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**“As a lawyer,  
honesty and  
integrity  
will always  
pay dividends.”**

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-Judge Helsper



The Honorable  
**William H.  
Helsper '73**

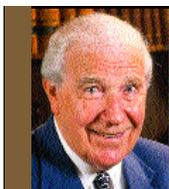
As Chief U.S. Administration Law Judge in the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Social Security Administration in Fort Worth, Texas, Judge Helsper is responsible for the hearing and disposition of more than 5,000 cases a year by a group of eight other judges. The Office of Hearings and Appeals, which serves most of west Texas, primarily adjudicates cases concerning individual claims for Social Security disability benefits. "The proceedings are non-adversarial in nature and the decisions may be further appealed through the U.S. Courts," Judge Helsper said.

Judge Helsper has spent his professional career in public service. Upon graduation from Washburn Law, he became a staff attorney with the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC, where he served until 1982. That year he was appointed an Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration. Assignments with the Social Security Administration have taken him to Huntington, West Virginia, and Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth, Texas. He has been chief judge in the Fort Worth office since 1992.

In that position, he is concerned that due process be carried out. "I have witnessed, on far too many occasions, a failure to provide individuals fair and timely disposition of their claims, owing to faults on both sides of the bench," Judge Helsper said. "Playing 'fast and loose' with matters which directly affect the lives of the public is not what we, who are involved in the practice of administrative law, consider 'public service.'"

As a lawyer, administrator and judge, Helsper has come to recognize certain truths. He summarizes:

- "As a lawyer, honesty and integrity will always pay dividends."
- "As an administrator, one has to pick causes very carefully."
- "As a judge, never lose sight of the forest for the trees."



The Honorable  
**Harold S. Herd '42**

During fourteen years as a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, Harold

Herd published 487 opinions. He took a keen interest in cases involving the rights of litigants in the mineral law field and was recognized throughout the state and in many parts of the country as an expert on oil and gas law.

Justice Herd is a native Kansan. Reared on a farm southwest of Coldwater in Commanche County, he returned to his home community from Washburn University School of Law in 1942 to practice with his father-in-law until called to active duty in the U.S. Navy on December 7, 1942. Four years later he returned to the Coldwater practice, where he did primarily trial work. He recalled: "...I was pretty lucky. I didn't try my cases well, but I won them.... I began to try to improve the quality of my technique...so when I became prosecutor, I thought this might be a way to do that."

Always interested in public service, he was mayor of Coldwater from 1950 until 1954 and served as Commanche County attorney from 1954-58. He was a member of the Kansas Senate for two terms--1964 to 1972. Justice Herd lost his bid for re-election in 1972, due in part, he said, to his support of presidential candidate George McGovern, who was unpopular in Herd's senatorial district. Governor John Carlin named him to the Supreme Court in 1979.

Justice Herd's contribution to the legal community extends beyond the bills he introduced and the opinions he wrote as a justice. He worked with high school teachers and students to bring the constitution to life for youth and produced two videotapes titled "Lessons in Liberty." In July of 1993, Justice Herd became the first Distinguished Jurist in Residence at Washburn University School of Law. He taught U.S. Constitutional History and Kansas Constitutional Law 1995-96 and served as advisor to Washburn's Constitutional Law moot court team.



The Honorable  
**Steven L. Hornbaker '73**

Steven Hornbaker brought the experiences of twenty-seven years in the practice of law in civil litigation in

Junction City, Kansas, to the bench when he was appointed district judge for Division IV of the Eighth Judicial District of Kansas in 2000. Stressing fairness, tolerance, and humility as the traits of a good judge, he takes his duties very seriously. "Even small cases are important to the litigants and they should all be treated seriously," Judge Hornbaker said. He also is passionate about upholding constitutional rights.

Judge Hornbaker is active in several professional organizations. He writes and teaches in continuing education programs offered by the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Kansas Bar Association. Hornbaker previously served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1988 until 1998. He recently was promoted to rank of Advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates, having had over 50 civil jury trials tried to conclusion.

Asked what words of encouragement he would offer to law students and up-and-coming lawyers, Judge Hornbaker replied: "A law degree will allow you the privilege of practicing law, but it is not a license to make money. Enjoy the ride."

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“Even small cases are important to the litigants and they should all be treated seriously.”

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-Judge Hornbaker



The Honorable  
**Fred S. Jackson '60**

Being a judge is not the way to win popularity contests. Rather, as Judge Jackson points out, “Judges must have the courage to make the decision which is appropriate to the law and the facts of the particular case even though that decision will obviously be unpopular.”

Judge Jackson should know. He was a district judge in Shawnee County, Kansas, for nineteen years. Since his retirement in 1999, he has been a senior judge, working approximately 40 percent of the time hearing cases assigned by the Kansas Supreme Court in various judicial districts. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Jackson was an assistant county attorney from 1960-61 and then worked in private practice from 1961-80.

Among his most memorable cases was litigation related to the liability of tobacco companies in failing to advise the public in a timely manner about the hazards of smoking. “Those cases involved a great many parties and lawyers and some unique legal issues,” he said.

During his years on the bench, Judge Jackson has come to identify patience as a prime virtue for a judge. “Judges must be patient and listen to the views of all parties to litigation as they try to arrive at an appropriate decision,” he said. Judge Jackson should have a good sense of the judiciary, his father, Schuyler W. Jackson, was dean of Washburn Law School for about ten years, then became a Kansas Supreme Court Justice from 1958 to 1964.

Judge Jackson describes the practice of law as a rewarding career and one of service to the community. “Lawyers are in a unique position to provide help to many sectors of society in resolving and settling controversies. There is an enormous variety of ways in which members of the legal profession can be of service to all elements of society,” he said.

As for the judiciary, he is a strong supporter of the non-partisan selection of judges. “It is important to maintain an independent judiciary--one of the cornerstones of our democracy,” he said.

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The Honorable  
**Debra McReynolds-Farm '98**

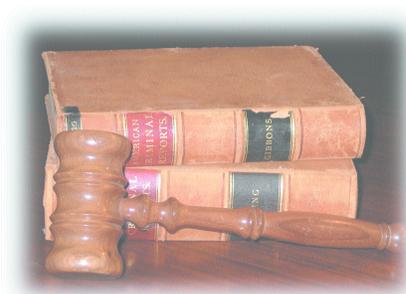
As an administrative law judge with the Idaho Department of Labor, Judge McReynolds-Farm hears unemployment appeals, employer tax cases and federal wage and hour disputes.

Her most challenging cases, however, involve discrimination and harassment.

“The 'wronged' party really does feel wronged and often they have a legitimate reason to feel that way,” she said. “However, it does not always mean there is a cause of action. Making them feel as if they have had their day in court and helping them to move forward even though that is all that can be done is very difficult.”

Judge McReynolds-Farm believes the ability to be and stay objective is the most important trait for someone in her position or for any judge. “It is a bit like taking the bar exam every day. It is important to stay focused on the law and the facts no matter how impassioned, angry, ruthless, self-righteous and disappointed the parties may be in (or with) each other. ...I am trying to ensure that everyone follows the rules and is fair in the employment context,” she said.

Judge McReynolds-Farm came to her present position following four years as a staff attorney with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and a year as specialist assistant attorney general with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. “In both positions, I was given opportunities to represent the agency in one way or another with regard to employment issues. With that experience and a good education, it was an almost natural progression to my present work,” she said.



# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Joseph W. Morris '47**

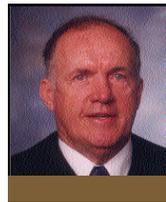
Judge Morris has a long and varied career in the law.

Since 1984, he has been a member of the board and shareholder of Gable & Gotwals, a law firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Earlier positions include vice president and general counsel of Shell Oil Company, general counsel of Amerada Petroleum Corporation and chief judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. He is a former dean of the College of Law at the University of Tulsa, where he was also an adjunct professor of law for twenty years.

During the past fifteen to twenty years, Judge Morris has spent approximately ninety percent of his time on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) matters. He has chaired or served as an arbitrator in significant commercial arbitrations throughout the United States and in Australia, England and the United Arab Emirates. In approximately two-thirds of the cases, he was panel chairman or the sole arbitrator. He also has substantial experience as a mediator, a ministerial neutral and a court-appointed settlement judge. In 1991, he taught ADR at the International Development Law Institute in Rome.

He recently served as Special Master for "In re: Copeley Pharmaceutical, Inc., 'Albuterol' Products Liability Litigation," a mass tort class action case.

Judge Morris's many memberships include the National Panel of Distinguished Neutrals, the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Appeal Panel of the Legal Program of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, New York. He serves on the American Arbitration Association's Energy Panel and its Complex Case Panel of Arbitrators. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Transactional Arbitration of the Center for American and International Law. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America.



The Honorable  
**Maurice "Buck"  
O'Keefe '53**

At age 74, retired Judge Maurice O'Keefe, Atchison, Kansas, advises young lawyers

to work hard in their profession but keep a balance in their family and social life. "It is not necessary to be brilliant to be a successful lawyer. Being well prepared and persistent are just as important as intellect. My lifelong motto that I profess to my seven children is NEVER GIVE UP," he said.

Judge O'Keefe practiced law in his home town of Atchison for 25 years before being appointed to the Kansas judiciary in 1981. "Those years as a trial attorney uniquely qualified me to assume the judgeship. Probably the most important trait of a judge is being fair. It is also important to be even tempered and relate to people on their own level," he said.

"One thing I've learned as a lawyer and judge is to understand human nature. All kinds of people pass before you in a courtroom. Because I was a judge in a fairly small county, I handled all types of cases. The most unusual was a murder case involving a sex slave situation. Child custody cases were the most difficult decisions. Sometimes both parents seemed to be good parents, and sometimes neither parent seemed fit. I agonized over custody cases the most. But whatever the case, life was never boring."

Since his retirement in 1996, Judge O'Keefe has continued a limited law practice from his home office.

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“NEVER  
GIVE UP.”

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-Judge O'Keefe

# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Nancy E. Parrish '85**

Public school teacher, private practice attorney, state senator, member of the Kansas State Board of Tax Appeals, Secretary of Revenue for the State of Kansas, Shawnee County Juvenile Court guardian ad litem (attorney for the best interest of the child).

Judge Parrish of Topeka held all of those posts leading up to her current position as judge of Division 14 of the Third Judicial District of Kansas. She also chairs the Kansas Supreme Court's Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee, serves on the executive board of the Kansas District Judges Association and is a member of the Kansas Judicial Council PIK (Pattern Instruction Kansas) Advisory Committee.

To accomplish all this, Judge Parrish draws on her people skills, the trait she identifies as most important for being a judge. "Judges must treat all parties to a case with respect, possess an ability to listen and process information and maintain an even temperament," she said.

Judge Parrish finds her work challenging and enjoyable as she remembers some unique and difficult cases. "Some of my most memorable cases were domestic relations cases in which 'custody' of animals was at issue. The 'abused' talking parrot who was indulged by one spouse with beer was a classic," she recalled. "One of the more significant cases was a declaratory judgment action brought by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas against the Attorney General to determine whether Blue Cross Blue Shield was a non-profit corporation."

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The Honorable  
**Jay Don  
Reynolds '66**

As a Marine Corps officer-lawyer in the 1960s, Jay Don Reynolds saw duty in Virginia, Rhode Island, California, Okinawa, Vietnam, and Japan. Then he came back to Kansas. He took a position with a Dodge City law firm and commenced practice in Cimarron in the fall of 1969. His career in public service began in January 1971, when he was sworn in as Gray County Attorney, a position he held for six years. In 1972, he was appointed municipal judge of Scott City, and in 1977 he filled an unexpired term as an associate district judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District of Kansas. Later, he became a district judge and, finally, chief judge before retiring in 2001.

Judge Reynolds notes that, along the way, he learned a great deal about human emotions and behavior. He cites four points as being of particular interest:

- When dealing with the legal controversies of people, there is almost always a governing emotional undercurrent that must be addressed and considered before a good resolution can result;
- The carrier of anger toward another is more burdened than the target;
- A compromise is usually more effective and just than a verdict; and
- Antisocial conduct is fueled by poor self-esteem.

That final point has become one of his greatest concerns. "Society must recognize that our children are our greatest natural resource and parents are the stewards of that resource. As stewards, parents must be held accountable and responsible, but they must also be given authority and education. If we can put space stations in orbit, why can we not teach parents how to nurture and rear a child with sufficient self-esteem to resist gangs, mood- and mind-altering substances and other negative and destructive influences?" he asks. He then adds: "Legislative solutions to social problems are stillborn without adequate public funding."



The Honorable  
**Keith L. Roberts '80**

Judge Roberts worked in many courtrooms in his 20-plus years as an attorney and judge. None are more memorable than the one in a climate-controlled tent at Prince Sultan Air Base, where he presided over the first two cases tried in Saudi Arabia following the 1991 Gulf War. One involved the theft of personal items from an airman, and the second involved procurement fraud. He arrived in Saudi Arabia at midday when the temperature was 125°, an experience that sparked the thought, "I'm not in Kansas anymore," in the Syracuse, Kansas, native.

Judge Roberts, commissioned as an Air Force officer through the Washburn University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, entered active duty as a Judge Advocate in 1981. Military assignments took him to Georgia, Germany, Alabama, Cuba and Washington, DC.

He joined the White House Office of Administration, Office of the General Counsel, in 2002. "We provide legal advice on a broad range of legal areas such as government agency law, employment and EEO law, ethics, contracting and procurement law, fiscal law, records management and information disclosure including the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act," Judge Roberts said.

During his international travels, Judge Roberts gained a great appreciation of "all the wonderful things we have in the U.S., especially our freedoms. And, I learned that good old-fashioned values such as honesty and hard work, that are so common to those of us from Kansas, are quickly recognized and appreciated by others," he said.



The Honorable  
**Keith Sanborn '50**

Keith Sanborn's career in Sedgwick County (Wichita) Kansas, followed his dream: county attorney, district attorney and finally District Court judge. Now retired, Judge Sanborn performs many marriages. "I had a wonderful career. It's a wonderful life," he said.

Throughout his career, Judge Sanborn followed the principles he describes as important for all judges. He gave fair consideration to all litigants, striving to insure justice was done for everyone. And, along the way, he saw and learned many things. He summarized some of the most interesting and important:

- Most people try to do the right thing most of the time,
- People in the community will help you do your job if you ask,
- Protect trial by jury with your very being.

It is that final point that causes him great concern. "The Constitution and Bill of Rights are under attack in the name of security," he said. "They must be protected by lawyers and judges if our freedom is to endure."

And of his law school alma mater he said, "A Washburn legal education fits graduates to resolve real problems of real people in the real world. Students should study hard, revere the profession of law and protect the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution to all."

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“Protect trial  
by jury with your  
very being.”

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-Judge Sanborn



The Honorable  
**Edward Paul  
Schneeberger '73**

Judge Schneeberger came to his position as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security

Administration through a nationwide competition. Some 1,600 attorneys filed applications and references, completed a written test, and were interviewed. "The test reminded me of the bar exam," he recalled. Only 60 applicants made the cut and were placed on an eligibility list. "I waited over two years before I was called for a final interview and ultimately assigned to Downey, California," Judge Schneeberger said.

Although Judge Schneeberger says there is not much glamour in adjudicating disability cases, he is committed to serving the people who come before him. "We serve an area including South Central Los Angeles, Watts, Compton, and other places that have gained at least a pretty tough reputation. Hence, many of the cases I hear are for persons who qualify, by income and resources, for welfare. However, it is encouraging that our government has programs to try to help those who are unable to work," he said.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, he served in the Air Force as a Judge Advocate for four years after graduation. He then returned to Leavenworth and practiced law for twenty years.

"I did not realize it at the time, but Washburn University School of Law gave me a sound legal education," Judge Schneeberger said. "I have been able to compete successfully in the legal profession in military law, private practice, and the judicial area."

Judge Schneeberger enjoys participating in activities and programs that support and encourage young people. He urges students and others with an interest in the legal profession to talk with someone in the profession about the nature, challenges and rewards of a legal career. "I try to be available to young people to answer such questions," he said.



The Honorable  
**William Neil  
Shepherd '67**

Judge Shepherd has spent many years helping children and families. Judge Shepherd served as Sacramento County's first Child Support Commissioner from June 1993 until he semi-retired and began working a reduced case load in March 2002. In addition to his child support duties, he also served as the primary back up for the three family law courts.

After graduation Judge Shepherd served as a Judge Advocate General in the Air Force until 1972. He then went to work as a prosecutor for the Sacramento County District Attorneys office. In 1973, he started his own firm practicing first in general then family law until his appointment as Child Support Commissioner in 1993.

Judge Shepherd said "I have learned that you can't help all of the people all the time, but you can help some of the people some of the time." Living by that motto, Judge Shepherd strives to better the lives of children, whose parents are involved in family law matters.

Judge Shepherd tells students to "work and study hard every day" and gives lawyers 3 rules he believes you should live by, they are "first, do the best job you possibly can for your client; second, get the money and third don't put the second rule before the first rule."

Judge Shepherd has received the Child Support Commissioner of the Year and National Child Support Judicial Officer of the Year awards. He is currently a certified family law specialist and a member of the California Bar Association.

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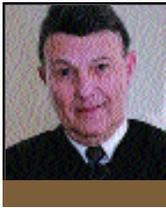
“...work and study  
hard every day.”

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-Judge Shepherd

# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Edward A.  
Simons '65**

Judge Simons saw a lot during his 25 years on the bench—fifteen years as a judge on the Denver County Court (six and one-half years as chief judge) and 10 years on the Denver District Court. He retired in June 2000. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Simons entered private practice in Golden, Colorado after graduation and later worked as a Deputy District Attorney in Denver. In 1970 he became Administrative Assistant for Congressman Mike McKeivitt in Washington, DC, heading up offices in Denver and D.C. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado for several years.

Some of Judge Simons cases still haunt him. “I will always remember the senseless case of a squeaky clean, 30-year-old man who became enraged with the antics of another driver on the road,” Judge Simons said. “This fellow, without even a traffic ticket to his name, shot a gun through the window of the other vehicle, killing the passenger. After trial, I was required to sentence him to life imprisonment, without the possibility of parole.”

Judge Simons points to the need for honesty in the legal profession and the courts as one of his passions. “I’ve tried to figure out how to promote honesty in the courtroom and among the young lawyers in particular,” he said. “For example, hardly a criminal case goes by without lies from the witness stand. More young lawyers than in the past don’t have any compunction against dishonesty outside the courtroom to get ahead.”

Nevertheless, Judge Simons found his career challenging and fulfilling, and he views a law degree as a stepping stone to many opportunities. “The study of law opens the door to so many careers. If you can stop once in a while to ‘smell the flowers,’ a career based on the law is almost guaranteed to provide many more good times than bad,” he said.



The Honorable  
**James B. Stewart '78**

Maintaining and improving public confidence in the judiciary are issues of concern and importance for Judge James Stewart of the Circuit Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Knox County, Illinois, located in Galesburg. With seventeen years on the circuit court bench, first as an associate judge and since 1996 as a circuit judge, he believes involving members of the public in judicial proceedings is a practical method of accomplishing that goal.

Judge Stewart supports a number of programs that involve community volunteers assisting the judiciary. He encouraged formation of a Victim’s Impact Panel to bring citizens victimized by drunk drivers into the criminal process to instruct violators in the consequences of their drunk driving. He encouraged formation of one of Illinois’ first CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) programs to represent the interests of abused and neglected children in Knox County. And, he encouraged and assisted in the development of a countywide community service program that involves not-for-profit corporations, governmental entities and churches in providing community service opportunities for young people and nonviolent offenders.

“Not only do these organizations involve citizens in the work of the judiciary, but they also set up a system of court watchers that monitor the work of the court system and serve as a link to the community in keeping the community informed of the job we do and the problems that afflict the area,” Judge Stewart said.

Judge Stewart came to the bench following a career as partner in a general practice law firm. “It is important for young attorneys to link in some way to a law firm where they can be guided by more experienced hands. They must be observant and accept the advice of older, more experienced practitioners in order to develop and grow professionally,” he said.

# Dedication to Justice



The Honorable  
**Charles A. Stokes '82**

As a student at Washburn University School of Law, Judge Stokes never considered or imagined that most--or even any--of his law career would be spent in the judiciary. Indeed, it didn't even cross his mind during the first few years after his graduation while he rented office space in Dallas taking mostly business and collection cases.

Nevertheless, he is now Judge Charles Stokes of the 68th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas. He came to the civil district court bench at the urging, encouragement and recommendation of friends and other elected officials who persuaded him to run for election. Judge Stokes served two years as a municipal judge in Garland prior to being elected.

Judge Stokes feels strongly about the need to preserve the right to trial by jury because it is one of the great founding principles of this country. "Jurors collectively have a tremendous ability to get to the substance and truth of a matter," he said.

After presiding over approximately 400 jury trials and 2,000 bench trials, Judge Stokes said it is difficult to pick one or a few cases as being most memorable or unique. "Commercial cases seem to be the most challenging from a legal standpoint. Jury trials with pro se parties are the most difficult and unique challenge," he said.

His advice to students and young attorneys: "Have faith in yourself. Don't set limits on what you want to do or accomplish," said Judge Stokes, who never expected to be a judge.

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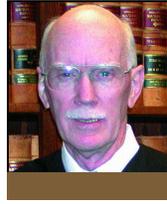
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“Have faith in yourself. Don't set limits on what to do or accomplish.”

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-Judge Stokes



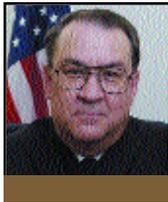
The Honorable  
**Harold Robert Towslee '71**

Judge Towslee has been judge for the 335th Judicial District Court of Texas since its inception in 1983. First appointed by the Governor, he has been re-elected every four years since, four out of five times in unopposed elections.

The court serves four central Texas counties, with jurisdiction in all felony criminal cases, family law matters, civil matters, cases involving title to land, election contest cases and juvenile matters. Judge Towslee brings what he believes is the most important trait for a judge to the bench: patience. "A judge should be a good listener," he said. "Let witnesses and lawyers have their say. In my opinion, they will be more satisfied with the outcome if they feel that they have had their 'day in court.'" He also states, "Your reputation is the most valuable asset you have, protect it at all cost."

He finds cases involving children of great concern. "Children who are victims of crime... victims of divorce... victims of negligent parents--these cases are so sad.... I am physically and emotionally drained whenever I finish a trial involving children. I would love to somehow protect children from the damage public trials cause."

And yet, other cases are even more difficult: capital murder cases. Judge Towslee has tried two such cases, one involving the death of six individuals including four small children. In both cases, he was impressed with the quality of the work and the effort put forth by prosecution and defense lawyers. "Much of their work involved legal research, trial strategy, witness interviewing and preparation outside the courtroom," he said. "Lawyers have a tremendous responsibility to see that the jury gets all the information it needs to make the right decision in this life or death situation."

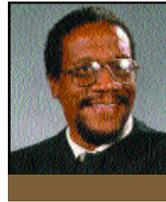


The Honorable  
**James R. Van  
Orsdol '73**

Colonel James Van Orsdol is chief judge of the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC. Nine senior active-duty judge advocates and four reserve judge advocates comprise the court, which has largely mandatory first-level appellate jurisdiction over convictions by courts-martial in the Air Force. They review convictions for both errors of law and fact. The court has the power to reduce or set aside any finding of guilt and to approve or reduce any sentence as it determines appropriate. The court generally sits as three-judge panels. Judge Van Orsdol designates the panels and appoints senior judges to preside in each. Between 450 and 500 cases are received annually.

Judge Van Orsdol began his military career in 1973, following participation in the Reserve Officer Training Corps during his years at Washburn University School of Law. His assignments have involved nine years in Europe and three years in Asia. During one assignment, he was legal officer to the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, with subordinate legal offices in almost all of the 19 NATO nations. "I have worked with attorneys from many countries and compared their legal systems with ours," Judge Van Orsdol said. "Although legal systems can vary widely, I have found attorneys around the world are quite similar in their analysis of issues and logical approach to problem solving."

"We have established that the United States and the U.S. armed forces can help spread the values of democracy and fundamental concepts of fairness and due process through outreach programs in Africa, Asia and eastern Europe. I suggest we must continue to...expand these efforts and help bring faith in the law to many in what have been virtually lawless societies," Judge Van Orsdol said.



The Honorable  
**Gregory L.  
Waller '72**

Judge Waller is a good listener. He uses that skill daily as judge for Division 5 of the 18th Judicial District of Kansas located in Wichita. Judge Waller was appointed to the bench in 1993 and has been elected thereafter. His passion, he said, is "justice for all people."

Both civil and criminal cases hold Judge Waller's interest. "People never cease to amaze me," he said.

"Washburn University School of Law provided a strong foundation for my legal pursuits," Judge Waller noted. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced with the Wichita law firm of G. Edmond Hayes; was partner in Hayes & Waller, also in Wichita; and was assistant district attorney in Wichita from 1975 until 1993.

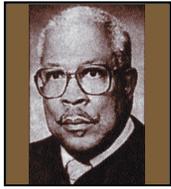
"I would encourage prospective students to choose Washburn because it provides a high quality legal education at an affordable price. The School has long enjoyed a reputation of providing its graduates with a good practical education," Judge Waller said.

And, he offers words of wisdom, gleaned from personal experience, to students and up-and-coming young lawyers: "Always strive for the best. Life will inevitably throw stumbling blocks in your path, but none that can't be overcome."



## homage to...

*The following are several deceased alumni who have been members of the judiciary. Many others who also have served in the judiciary are included in the feature article on page 4 and in the In Memoriam section on page 46. Others have been highlighted and mentioned in previous magazines. We regret due to space constraints, we are not able to mention all who have passed.*

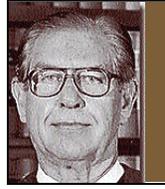


The Honorable  
**Sherman A. Parks '55**

Sherman Parks 1924-1996, served as a judge on the Kansas State Court of Appeals from 1977 until his retirement in 1987. He was the first African-American appellate judge in Kansas and the highest ranking African-American judicial officer in the state.

Judge Parks' distinguished law career included terms as assistant county attorney for Shawnee County and in Kansas state government as assistant to the attorney general assigned to the Alcohol Beverage Control Division, assistant attorney general, and chief counsel for the secretary of state's office.

Long interested in education, Judge Parks was a member and chairman of the Washburn University Board of Regents. He was an adjunct assistant professor on the Washburn University School of Law faculty and a member of the Board of Governors of the Washburn Law School Association. He received the Washburn Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 1987 and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Washburn Law in 1990.



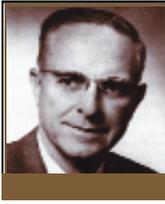
The Honorable  
**Dale E. Saffels '49**

Dale Saffels was a judge of the U.S. District Court, District of Kansas, from 1979 and continued to hear cases as a Senior Judge until his death in November 2002. Speaking at his memorial service, Michael Hegarty, one of his former law clerks and a long-time friend, recalled four of Judge Saffels' finest traits: Christian faith, love of family, friendship, and fidelity to his oath.

Judge Saffels' career was one marked by public service. As a young man during World War II, he was a major in the U.S. Army Signal Corps before completing his education at Emporia State University and Washburn University School of Law. Upon graduation, he entered private practice in Garden City in 1949 and two years later was elected county attorney of Finney County, Kansas, a position he held for four years. For the next eight years, he served in the Kansas House of Representatives, the last two years as minority leader before winning the Democrat Party's nomination for Governor in 1962. He was a member of the Kansas Corporation Commission from 1967-1975, serving as chairman from 1968-1975. He was in private practice in Wichita when President Jimmy Carter nominated him to the federal bench in 1979.

Judge Saffels' fidelity to his oath was well known. "Not only did Judge Saffels believe that the law should be administered impartially, but also that it must be done expeditiously. If ever a person lived by the motto that justice delayed is justice denied, it was Judge Saffels," Mr. Hegarty said. "He always carried a big case load. Even after he became a senior judge (in 1990), which meant he could reduce his case load if he wanted, he kept the same busy docket as an active judge. He had an outstanding work ethic."

Judge Saffels served from 1974-1975 and 1977 to 1982 on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors. He was awarded the first annual alumnus of the year award by the students of Washburn Law School in 1983 and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association in 1987.



The Honorable  
**George Templar '27**

George Templar 1901-1988, a Republican, was nominated to be United States District

Judge for the District of Kansas in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, a Democrat. He served until taking senior status in 1974. He later served as a district judge in Kansas and in other districts needing judicial assistance and by assignment on the Court of Appeals in the 7th, 9th, and 10th circuits.

To finance his college and law school education in the 1920s, Judge Templar worked full time as a motorcycle policeman with the City of Topeka.

After graduating cum laude from Washburn University School of Law, he returned to his native Cowley County, Kansas. He practiced law there with only one interruption until his appointment as a federal district judge. That interruption was for brief service as United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, a position he resigned to run for the Republican nomination for governor.

Although his bid for governor was unsuccessful, Judge Templar served terms in the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate.

He was a member of the Board of Governors of Washburn University School of Law, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the School and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association. Other honors included Fellowship in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, an Award of Merit from Southwestern College, the Medal of Honor from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Award of Merit from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.



The Honorable  
**Mary R. Schowengerdt '57**

Mary Schowengerdt 1930-1990 received her law degree cum laude from Washburn University School of Law in 1957. She engaged in the general practice of law in Topeka from 1957 to 1974, becoming a partner in Irwin, Irwin and Schowengerdt in 1966. She was legislative counsel from 1965-1976 before becoming an associate district judge, probate division for the third judicial district, Shawnee County, Kansas.

Judge Schowengerdt was a member of the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1974-75 and 1977-83, serving as vice-president, president elect and president. She also was a member of Board of Trustees, United Campus Ministry at Washburn from 1958-1965; she was president in 1964. Judge Schowengerdt was recognized by Washburn University as the 1980 Monroe Award recipient.

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“We must forever  
realize that the  
time is always  
ripe to  
do right.”

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-Nelson Mandela

