

A “Goodell Example” of Giving for Future Generations of Students

Gerald Goodell's past and present reflect his commitment to the legal profession, the Washburn University School of Law and his community. A 1958 graduate of Washburn Law, Mr. Goodell has named the School of Law as owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

“Washburn University School of Law is celebrating 100 years of excellence in legal education. I feel it is important for all alumni of the School of Law to make gifts that will sustain that excellence for future generations. A gift of life insurance was a good way for me to help build the endowment of the School of Law for its second century. I hope that all of us who have benefited from the fine education we received here, will consider what we can do to ensure the School's continuing growth,” Mr. Goodell said.

A career of leadership

Mr. Goodell is now of counsel to the prominent Topeka law firm of Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer L.L.P. He has been recognized for the excellence of his professional service specializing in real estate law in The Best Lawyers in America. He has served as counsel to the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Topeka, the Menninger Clinic, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, numerous real estate clients and the Heartland Community Bankers Association.

In addition, Mr. Goodell has contributed countless hours to professional and community organizations. He has served as president of the Kansas Bar Association, Topeka Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Foundation. Mr. Goodell served on the Shawnee County District Judicial Nominating Committee and currently serves on the Kansas Board of Law Examiners and the Kansas Judicial Council. His board memberships have included the Shawnee County Cancer Society, the Kansas and Shawnee County Mental Health Associations, Mount Hope Cemetery Company and the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

From keyboard to courtroom

A native Topekan, Mr. Goodell knew of Washburn from childhood, making his decision to attend the University a natural one. “I began piano lessons at the age of four and when I transferred to Washburn during my freshman year, I continued to play the trombone to earn extra

money for school expenses. Although I graduated with a business degree, music—particularly jazz—is still an important part of my life.”

*Gifts of time, talent, and treasure
“I've always felt a responsibility to give the best I possibly can to my clients, my profession and my community,”*

Mr. Goodell said. “I learned that from my parents, and I've tried to fulfill that responsibility throughout my life.”



Mr. Goodell's commitment to Washburn University and the School of Law is evident in his many gifts of time, talent and treasure. Taking a hands-on approach to preparing the next generation of lawyers, he has taught Trial Techniques and Real Estate Mortgages and participated in numerous professional panels at Washburn Law. He has served as president of the Washburn Alumni Association, the Washburn Law School Foundation and the Law School Board of Governors. In recognition of the superior performance and service of this dedicated professional, Washburn University in 2002 bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree on Mr. Goodell.

Jerry and his wife Sue have established an endowed fund, the Gerald L. & Sue Goodell Scholarship at Washburn Law. His firm also contributes to the annual Lester M. Goodell Moot Court Award in memory of his father.

“My years of involvement with Washburn University School of Law—as a student, an alumnus, a teacher, and a contributor—helped shape my life and make me the man I am today. I'm happy that, over the years, my wife and I have been able to create a scholarship and support the School's endowment,” Mr. Goodell said.

Alumni and friends who are interested in joining Mr. Goodell in building the future of Washburn Law through trust, estate and other planned gifts are encouraged to contact:

*Martin Ahrens, Director of Development
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