

Washburn University School of Law has a rich tradition of educating a diverse student body. It therefore comes as no surprise that Washburn Law alumni who come from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and life experiences have distinguished themselves in their legal careers. From large law firms and governmental entities to business and political leadership, our graduates have become recognized for their service.



Gloria Angus-Bolds '89

Gloria Angus-Bolds admits she had never heard of Washburn Law before visiting the campus the summer before entering law school. In fact, she was committed to attending a law school back home in Louisiana. "But after visiting Washburn Law, Washburn students, faculty and staff, and touring the community, I immediately changed my mind," said Angus-Bolds. "The attrition rate, class size and diversity of the student body were among the factors that attracted me to Washburn."

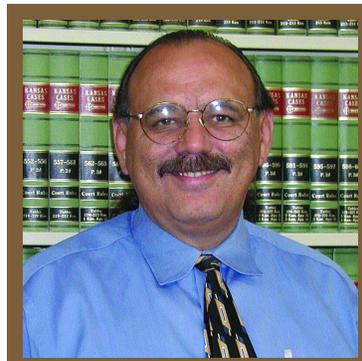
Angus-Bolds is now the Executive Counsel for the Louisiana Department of Labor. Her numerous job responsibilities include providing legal advice and consultation on Labor Department issues and services and serving as the department's legislative liaison. "The most important aspect of being Executive Counsel...is I have the tremendous responsibility to assist in developing and applying labor law in the interest of the public," said Angus-Bolds.

She previously worked for the state of Louisiana as an Assistant Attorney General, where she defended state agencies in workers compensation and employer liability claims. She also represented the Office of Risk Management in sec-

ond injury claims. These experiences are a great asset in her current position.

In addition to her strong interest in labor law, Angus-Bolds is committed to improving the Louisiana Public School System. A single mother of a ten-year-old daughter, Meagan, she finds time to serve as PTA president.

Today, Angus-Bolds is happy to encourage prospective law students to consider Washburn Law. "I am an example that Washburn will prepare you to practice law anywhere," she said. She also encourages her fellow alumni to give back to Washburn Law so others may benefit. "It's important to give to Washburn to insure other women and minority students are afforded the same opportunity I was given."



Byron M. Cerrillo '84

Byron Cerrillo's goal prior to entering law school was to be a public defender. Today, Cerrillo is Chief Attorney for the Johnson County Public Defender's office. "I am doing exactly what I want to do as a lawyer," said Cerrillo.



Bart A. Chavez '85

Prior to joining the Johnson County P.D.'s office in 1993, Cerrillo had worked in the Shawnee County P.D. office since 1987. Ron Wurtz '73, Shawnee County's former Chief Public Defender, was a great mentor to Cerrillo. "He taught me, in his quiet way, to become a voice to be heard, one must be committed to the law as well as to [one's] clients to be an effective advocate. He led by example," said Cerrillo.

In addition to handling a full caseload, Cerrillo supervises the employees in the office: thirteen attorneys, four legal assistants, three secretaries and two investigators. He takes great pride in his staff, particularly the support staff. "When handling a high volume of cases, an attorney is only as good as the support staff."

Looking back on his experiences at Washburn Law, Cerrillo fondly recalls the friendships he made and the school's great professors, especially Judge Michael Barbara '53. "He taught me to think in a logical manner," said Cerrillo. He also remembers serving on the admission committee as a senior, and admits deciding who should or should not be admitted to the law school was a "hardening experience." But it's an experience that has served him well in his current job. "Little did I know at that time that I would be making similar decisions about lawyers wanting employment with the (public defender's) office," said Cerrillo.

Although he has been out of law school and practicing law for two decades, Cerrillo believes lawyers are always students. "No matter how long one has been practicing law, it is imperative to learn something new every day," said Cerrillo.

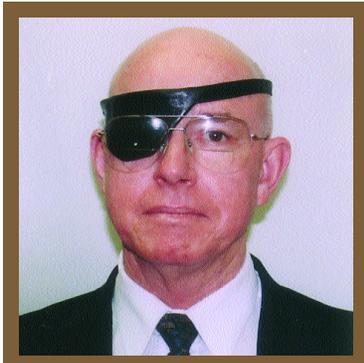
When Bart Chavez decided to open his own law practice in 1992, he intended to do securities or tax work. It seemed like a natural transition: He had spent five years outside the legal profession working in insurance and securities, and knew the arts of managing money, investing and selling. But when Chavez began seeing "client after client who could not speak English," he decided to dust off his Spanish-speaking skills, which he had not used for twenty years. Slowly but surely, his practice evolved to meet the needs of his clients, who were part of the growing population of immigrants in Iowa and Nebraska.

Today, Chavez is a full-time immigration attorney in Omaha, NE. His practice has grown into a twelve-person organization that handles the entire spectrum of immigration law, including family and employment-based immigration, deportation and removal defense, political asylum and visa-consular processing. "My trial work is primarily before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Federal Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit," said Chavez.

Chavez truly enjoys his work, although he admits law can be a difficult and demanding profession that requires him to work upwards of sixty hours per week. "The greatest lesson I have learned, however, is what tremendous desire can do if you truly want to succeed in your chosen career or profession," said Chavez. "I still feel like I have so much to accomplish and need to do before I am satisfied."

Chavez is currently preparing for what he believes will be "a legislative change of great magnitude," referring to several proposals before Congress that would legalize millions of undocumented immigrants in this country. "This could have a tremendous impact on the way I conduct business," said Chavez.

Indeed, Chavez understands the business side of his profession, thanks to the years he spent in the business world. But he is also passionate about the law and is grateful for the legal education he received at Washburn Law. "What I have always found to be the case is that I was provided with as good or better tools to succeed in this profession than many of my colleagues," said Chavez.



Don M. Haggerty '88

Don Haggerty entered law school, as a forty-one year-old rancher with a masters degree in agriculture. A self-described "refugee of the disaster in American agriculture during the 1980s," Haggerty temporarily left behind the family ranching business in Bryan County, OK, and came to Washburn Law to chart a new career path.

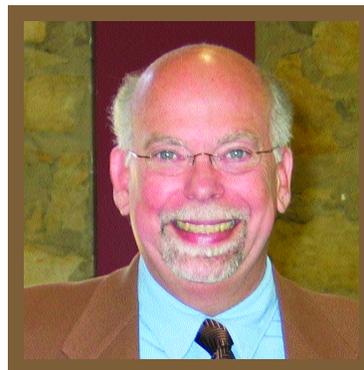
After graduating and passing the Oklahoma bar, Haggerty and his wife, a legal assistant, opened a private law office in Durant, OK. In time, Haggerty also managed to re-establish the family ranching business in Bryan County, OK. But it was the new family business of law that sparked the interest of Haggerty's two sons. In 1997, Haggerty's eldest son joined the law firm, and his youngest son is in law school today. "As a result of my choosing a career as an attorney, both my sons have made similar choices," said Haggerty.

As a law student, Haggerty knew he wanted a career in litigation, so he participated in the Law Clinic. "My experience in law clinic was my initiation into the world of arguing a client's case to a court," said Haggerty. "As I recall, I was so nervous that I could hardly speak to the judge presiding at my case, but the training I received...contributed to my successes in the beginning of my career."

In fact, within ten months of receiving his law license, Haggerty was appointed to represent an accused murderer in a death penalty case. "Quite honestly, I did not have a clue what I was doing," admitted Haggerty. "But thanks to my training at Washburn Law, I did know where to look." That trial ended up being the longest

trial in Bryan County history, but in the end, the jury acquitted Haggerty's client.

At age fifty-nine, Haggerty has no plans to retire, although he anticipates decreasing his practice in the future so he can take a more active role in the family ranching business. "I expect I will continue in the private practice of law as long as I am able to represent my clients in accordance with the oath I took when I was sworn in as an attorney," said Haggerty.



Pedro L. Irigonegaray '73

On Jan. 13, 1961, Pedro Irigonegaray and his mother left their home in Havana, Cuba, on an American Airlines flight to Miami. They left behind Pedro's two younger sisters, his father, their extended family and friends. "It was an extremely sad and frightening day," recalls Irigonegaray, who was only twelve years old at the time. "We didn't know when we would see each other again."

Fortunately, after several months and shortly before the Bay of Pigs invasion, Irigonegaray's immediate family was reunited in the United States. Eventually, the family settled in Topeka, KS, where Irigonegaray attended public school and would later attend Washburn Law. But they never forgot the price they had paid for their freedom. "My family left behind extended family, friends and property to enjoy freedom in the United States," said Irigonegaray.

More than four decades later, the example of his family's courage and their intense desire to seek the freedoms available in the United States

an Alumni Salute...



Phillip U. Leon '58

Phillip Leon applied to numerous law schools; however, Washburn University School of Law was the only school that accepted him. And he is glad they did. Leon liked Washburn Law not only because of its reasonable tuition and excellent reputation, but because the education he received made it possible to have a successful career. Leon adds, "I was the second Hispanic to graduate from Washburn Law, but the first Hispanic to stay and practice in the U.S. I am proud to have graduated from Washburn Law."

After graduating from law school, Leon went to work for a local attorney, George Hasty, in Wichita. He worked three years for Hasty, then decided to open a solo practice in Wichita. He is proud that his successful practice allowed him to educate his children. Five of his six children have gone on to receive college degrees. In fact, one son, David Leon, is a 1991 graduate of Washburn Law who also practices in Wichita.

Leon believes honesty, hard work and trustworthiness are key attributes for any attorney and he continues to pass that information along to new attorneys and those contemplating attending law school. Leon believes the most important aspect of being a lawyer is serving the bar and helping his clients to the best of his ability. "Work hard and be responsible, and you will be a great lawyer," said Leon.

Leon founded the Pan American Golf Association in Kansas in 1969, and helped found the Kansas City chapter in the early 1970s. He was the first elected National President of the Association who was not from Texas. During Governor Robert Docking's term, Leon was appointed to the Kansas Arts Commission serving as its second President. He has also served as a civil rights examiner and a municipal court judge.

still resonates in Irigonegaray's life. Now a successful lawyer in private practice, Irigonegaray remains keenly aware that freedom must be protected. "Our courts are the guardians of freedom for all of us. It is true that when we limit others' freedom, we limit our own. Conversely, when we protect the freedom of others, we protect our own as well," said Irigonegaray.

Earlier this year, he was invited by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations to attend The Nation and Immigration conference in Havana. The conference's objective is to begin normalizing relationships between Cuba and exiles like Irigonegaray. This would mark Irigonegaray's third trip to Cuba since emigrating to the U.S. While there, he will also have an opportunity to visit relatives and speak with law students at the University of Havana about the merits of democracy.

Irigonegaray hopes someday Cuban exiles like himself will be able to reunite with their family and friends in Cuba. But for now, he is pleased to have this opportunity to visit.

an Alumni Salute...



Delano E. Lewis, Sr. '63

In 1963, Delano Lewis began his career in the federal government, first as an attorney with the Department of Justice and later with the EEOC. He then became Associate Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Nigeria and Country Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Uganda. He was Legislative Assistant to Senator Edward W. Brook of Massachusetts and Chief of Staff for Delegate Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia. All in the first ten years.

His career in the telecommunication industry began in 1973, when he left his government position to join C&P Telephone Company, a subsidiary of AT&T. Lewis was recruited and hired by Ralph W. Frey, who was C&P Telephone's General Manager. Lewis describes Frey as "the most significant mentor" he has had. "For almost ten years, I reported directly to Ralph Frey in a number of important executive positions," said Lewis. "Upon Ralph Frey's retirement as Vice President and General Manager, he recommended I succeed him in that position."

Lewis remained with C&P Telephone Company until 1984, when he joined Bell Atlantic (now Verizon). In 1994, he retired from Bell as President and CEO of the company's District of Columbia operations. His retirement was short-lived, however. That same year he was asked to become President and CEO of National Public Radio (NPR) in Washington, DC, and thus began career number three.

After five years with NPR, Lewis retired to live in New Mexico. His retirement was interrupted four months later by a phone call from the White House. "I was called by Vice President Al

Gore, seeking my interest in a presidential nomination for an ambassadorship to the Republic of South Africa," recalled Lewis. In June 1999, President Clinton nominated Lewis for the ambassadorship, and the Senate confirmed him that November. After attempting to retire twice, Lewis was embarking on a new career as a diplomat.

In July 2001, Lewis retired from diplomatic service, and now resides in New Mexico. He continues to advocate on issues about which he remains passionate: education, mental health, foreign affairs and the arts. He serves on several boards of directors and chairs the board of a family-owned restaurant business. This fall, the retired lawyer, business leader, not-for-profit executive and diplomat will assume the presidency of Constituency For Africa, a not-for-profit organization.

"The choices for careers are without limit," Lewis tells law students and new lawyers. "The law degree is a solid foundation for not only careers in the law but for careers in business, government and community service." Or, if you're Delano Lewis, all of the above.



Joyce A. McCray Pearson '89

Joyce McCray Pearson is Director of the University of Kansas Wheat Law Library and Associate Professor of Law, but her career as a law librarian began at Washburn Law. "I am sure if I had not gone to Washburn, I would not be in the position I am today," said Pearson.



Cheryl Mann McIntosh '92

Although she was married with three children when she entered Washburn Law, Pearson made time to participate in a number of law school activities, including the Black Law Students Association and the Law Clinic. She also served as a Westlaw student representative and worked in the law library. "All of those experiences shaped my career and helped me form lifelong friendships and contacts," said Pearson.

Prior to joining the staff of the KU Wheat Law Library, Pearson worked as a reference librarian at the University of Louisville Law Library under library director David Ensign '82, a fellow Washburn Law alumnus. In 1994, she was hired by KU as an electronic services librarian, and was promoted to Associate Director of the Law Library in 1995. Two years later, she was promoted to Director. As Library Director, Pearson supervises and manages all aspects of the law library, including the budget, collection development and endowment development. She also teaches Law and Literature, Advanced Legal Research, Introduction to Legal Information Management, and Law Library Administration.

It is perhaps not surprising that Pearson includes working in the law library among her fondest memories of her days at Washburn Law. "Virgie Smith in the library was a great mentor and a "mother figure" while I was in law school," said Pearson. She is also grateful to Professors Christensen, Smith and Griffin for their mentorship. "In fact, all of my professors mentored me in one way or another," said Pearson.

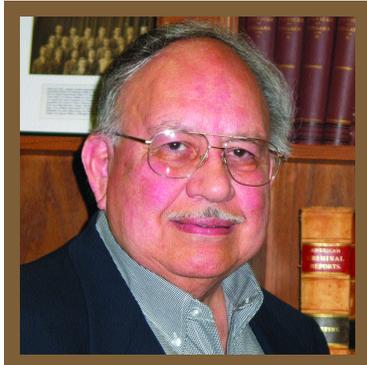
Now it is Pearson who does the mentoring. "I am passionate about encouraging students in law school," said Pearson. "I try to make all students feel important in law school, especially those who struggle academically....I think I have a special calling to do a little hand-holding and encouraging."

Cheryl McIntosh has chosen to blend her legal skills with her commitment to alternative medicine. She works as a Benefits Authorizer for the Social Security Administration in Kansas City, a Legal Advisor to an alternative medicine healing academy, and an Alternative Medicine Practitioner. "I like the freedom that the law allows you to practice in a manner that best suits your personality, talent and inclination," said McIntosh.

Over the years, McIntosh has used that freedom to explore a number of areas. She has worked in the legal division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, served as legal counsel and Human Resources Director for a computer consulting company and a large medical practice, and worked as a program leader for a leadership training organization. "My law degree has opened doors and provided me with opportunities and experiences I would not otherwise have had," said McIntosh.

Some of McIntosh's fondest memories of her law school days include "any class taught by Professors Levine...and Griffin," whom she describes as "brilliant, compassionate and wise men." She also remembers serving on the admissions committee and as an officer in the Black Law Students Association. "The experience was a lesson in personal integrity and responsibility and a demonstration of the serious responsibility of seeing how your actions and decisions directly and indirectly impact others," recalls McIntosh.

Although McIntosh has chosen not to have a traditional practice, she appreciates her law school education. "All of my training and all I learned in the traditional practice of law has been invaluable," said McIntosh. She highly recommends Washburn Law to prospective students because of the school's small class size, outstanding library and, perhaps most important, a faculty and staff she knows is "absolutely committed to your success."



Manuel "Manie" Mendoza '58

Manie Mendoza graduated from Baker University in 1954 with a degree in business administration, but he could not find suitable employment. "At that time, in the early '50s, it was not easy for Mexican-Americans to find a job," recalls Mendoza. "So I decided to go to law school."

Ironically, the first thing the new Washburn Law student had to do was find a job to support himself and help pay tuition. Mendoza worked three jobs during school, including a full-time job managing a mental health ward at Topeka State Hospital. He worked the overnight shift, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., then attended law classes all morning. Fortunately, he could study on the job and prepare for the next day's classes. In the afternoons, he would deliver groceries for a local grocer, and once a week he would fulfill his Army Reserve duties as an instructor. "Generally, this arrangement worked out pretty well", said Mendoza, although he was invariably a few minutes late for his 8 a.m. civil procedures class. "The trick of it was that I didn't sleep too much," joked Mendoza.

After graduating from Washburn Law in 1958, Mendoza began what would become a life-long career with State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. He was Senior Counsel in the legal section of the auto claims department when he retired from the company more than four decades later. His legal career would influence two of his children, Marcos '89 and Lisa '84, to follow in his footsteps and graduate from Washburn Law.

Mendoza and his wife now reside in

Bloomington, Illinois. Although retired, they remain very active in politics and in the ACLU. Mendoza also serves on the McLean County Jail Committee, to be a "voice for prisoners" and ensure they are not mistreated. Over the years, he has also remained loyal to Washburn Law. "It's important to give to Washburn. It's allowed my kids to go to school. It has given us the opportunity to live the life we wanted."



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Paul M. Ueoka '74

Born and raised on the island of Maui, Paul Ueoka came to the mainland for his education at the urging of his parents who believed "that a college experience away from Hawaii was an education in and of itself." Ueoka graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1971 and from Washburn Law in 1974.

Ueoka chose Washburn for several reasons. His uncle Meyer Ueoka '49 and cousin Arthur Ueoka '62 were Washburn Law graduates. In addition, he was especially aware that Washburn Law offered a very solid legal education at a reasonable price. Ueoka applied and said, "I was flattered that I was promptly accepted. Further, the acceptance was very friendly and they seemed genuinely interested in having me as a student." Because reasonable tuition was important to Ueoka when he was a student, he continues to give to the law school, "in hopes that Washburn will continue to keep the tuition at a reasonable level for prospective students who may not qualify for financial aid, but have other financial difficulties."

an Alumni Salute...

Ueoka fondly remembers Professor Treadway's sense of humor, Dean Spring's quick and ever-present friendly smile and Professor Fowk's "comic mannerisms, facial expressions, and interesting anecdotes about people relating to his lessons in civil procedure." He especially remembers professors being sensitive to the difficulties some students encountered in trying to learn the various principles of law.

After graduation, Ueoka joined his uncle's law firm in Maui and stayed there for eleven years, becoming a partner after only three years. He worked hard and built a solid practice. In 1985, Ueoka joined the Carlsmith Ball law firm as a partner, the oldest and largest law firm in the State of Hawaii. Although Carlsmith has offices throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Basin, including Guam, Saipan and Los Angeles, Ueoka has been able to practice in the Maui office for the past nineteen years. "Maui has always been my home and I have been fortunate enough to live and practice here, thanks in no small part to Washburn Law," said Ueoka.

Rather than specialize, Ueoka finds it interesting to be proficient in multiple areas and feels it is often an advantage. "I was fortunate enough to begin my career in my uncle's law firm that engaged in general practice, I was forced to become well-versed in many areas of the law. Having working knowledge in multiple areas, I am often able to provide advice on issues that the client had not considered," said Ueoka.

Ueoka has practiced in Maui for over thirty years and plans to continue delivering the highest quality of legal service possible to his clients. He encourages potential students to seriously consider Washburn Law where they will receive a "solid, high quality legal education in a friendly environment." Ueoka said, "The solid record and strong support of Washburn Law alumni is a clear indication of the quality of the law school and its faculty and staff."



Susana L. Valdovinos '88

When Susana L. Valdovinos came to Washburn Law in 1984, it was not as a law student but as an employee. She was hired to establish the mediation component of the Law Clinic. While working on the project, then-Clinic Director Bill Piatt persuaded her to consider going to law school. "I agreed to take the LSAT knowing I would not pass it, which would show (Piatt) I really didn't have what it took to be a lawyer," admits Valdovinos. "Not only did I pass the LSAT, but the law school also awarded me a President's Scholarship to fund my legal education, while keeping my job as Mediation Specialist at the Clinic. It was an opportunity I could not pass."

Her law degree would, in turn, lead to new opportunities. She taught law as a Visiting Professor at Washburn and Texas Tech law schools and then as an Assistant Professor at Whittier Law School. She also served as an Assistant County Counselor, where she was responsible for compliance with civil rights laws and reporting to the EEOC. "This was an area of the law I found intriguing, challenging and rewarding enough that when the opportunity arose for me to devote full-time to it at Kansas State University, I decided to make the move."

Today, as Associate Director of Affirmative Action for Kansas State University, Valdovinos is responsible for ensuring the university complies with federal, local and internal rules regarding equal employment opportunity and affirmative action, and investigating and resolving complaints of civil rights violations.

an Alumni Salute...

Valdovinos is passionate about eradicating unfair treatment to disadvantaged groups in education and employment. "I believe the constitutional basis of this country mandates equal treatment to all regardless of their beliefs, their physical or their cultural attributes," said Valdovinos.

She is equally passionate in her support of Washburn Law and praises the quality education she received as a law student and that her husband, Professor Michael Kaye, and the other Washburn faculty provide today. "As a faculty wife, I have really not left Washburn. I still feel part of the law school community," said Valdovinos.

As to her future, Valdovinos remains open to new experiences and opportunities: "Wherever the journey takes me!"



Eva M. Whitmire '84

Although Eva Whitmire has not practiced law in over fourteen years, her experience as a practicing attorney and the education she received at Washburn Law, prepared her well for her career choices. Whitmire attended Washburn Law because of its reputation for teaching and theory, as well as its reputation for being an excellent law school. Whitmire said the strong encouragement she received from Professor John Lundgren and fellow students while she was at law school was invaluable.

Whitmire's biggest mentors, however, were her mother and maternal grandmother who taught her "use common sense, get as much education as possible and treat others as you would want to be treated." In dealing with clients in her multiple positions with SRS, Whitmire believes that candor, compassion and willingness to negotiate wherever possible are the most important things to keep in mind. Things she learned both from law school and her mother and grandmother.

Whitmire currently is Executive Director of SRS for the Kansas City Area. She has been at SRS since 1970 in varying capacities; as an income maintenance worker, quality control reviewer, SRS attorney, child support enforcement attorney and social service program administrator. She has been the Executive Director since 1992. Between 1984-1985 she left SRS to serve as Assistant County Attorney for Reno County.

Whitmire participated in the Washburn Law Clinic and was active in BLSA during school. Whitmire said, "Clinic was invaluable because it gave me practical experience and BLSA gave me the opportunity to network with other minority students." Some words of wisdom Whitmire passes on, "one cannot rely on a degree only, one must also perform at a high level. And one of the most interesting things I have learned is that common sense is not common."

Whitmire will retire from SRS in June 2004 and plans on increasing her time volunteering, traveling and spending more time gardening.

