

This section focuses on alumni who are having early career successes that the pioneer alumnae could have only dreamed of decades ago. These are alumni whose careers bear watching as they quickly maneuver through the public and private world to conquer the challenges that lie ahead and to encourage others to do the same.

## The Next Generation Recent Grads on the Move



**Patrice M. Brown '97**

For the past year, Patrice Brown has served as Associate General Counsel for Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS), where she is responsible for managing the claims and litigation department. She also handles labor and employment matters and manages the outside counsel that represents KCS.

Brown enjoys her work, and has learned one of the most important skills a lawyer can bring to the job is the ability to listen. "Listen to what people are telling you. As lawyers, our jobs are not always to speak," said Brown. Brown's ability to listen to and advise the executive staff and other departments on labor, employment and personal injury issues have served her well at KCS.

Although she has only been with KCS for a year, Brown was familiar with the company before she was hired. That's because KCS is a client of the law firm she came from, McAnany, VanCleave & Phillips, where she and fellow Washburn Law alum Carl Gallagher '81 handled KCS' employment matters. "They (KCS) made me an offer I could not refuse," said Brown.

Brown is grateful for the support she's received from colleagues like Gallagher, who she says has

had "the greatest influence on my career by believing in me." She also credits several of the law professors she had at Washburn Law for being "excellent role models." "They showed me how to be the type of lawyer I am today," said Brown.

Brown chose Washburn over other law schools on the advice of several alumni. Now she encourages prospective students to consider Washburn Law. "If you want hands-on experience and easy access to excellent professors, Washburn Law is the place to be."

When she's not working, you're likely to find Brown in a pair of running shoes. She is an avid runner, who completed her first marathon last fall in Chicago. ■



**Michael Gayoso, Jr. '99**

Michael Gayoso loves being a criminal defense attorney. "There is nothing greater than walking into the courtroom and advocating for your client," said Gayoso.

His passion for criminal law and trial advocacy began in law school, where he was "prepared for courtroom battle" by Professor Michael Kaye. "Although my technique was far from polished, (Professor Kaye) did not give up on me, and taught me the necessary skills of being a strong advocate."

# Recent Grads ...

Gayoso also learned a lot from Billy Rork '79, a criminal defense attorney in Topeka. Gayoso was in his second semester at Washburn Law when he began working for Rork. By the time he graduated from law school, Gayoso had already experienced the excitement of working on a number of high-profile cases and having his first published opinion in the Kansas Supreme Court. He became an associate with Rork's law firm after graduation. Less than a year later, Gayoso argued his first case before the Kansas Supreme Court.

"I owe a great deal of my success as an attorney to those two people (Rork and Kaye)," said Gayoso. "Their influence and knowledge helped me to become the attorney I am today."

In July 2000, Gayoso and his wife and law partner, Candace Brewster '99, opened their own law office in Girard, KS. They met as students at Washburn Law. "Our law firm has grown tremendously over the last four years," said Gayoso. "We have decided that practicing law in southeast Kansas is perfect for us."

Gayoso is also active in the bar, and currently serves as president of the Crawford County Bar Association. He has also been involved in the planning and training of the 11th Judicial District Drug Court Program. In April, Gayoso was appointed to the Kansas Lottery Commission, where he will serve until March 2007.

"Having a law degree from Washburn has opened doors for me that I would not otherwise be able to access," said Gayoso. ■



## Taher Kameli '96

Taher Kameli remembers feeling lost during his second week as a student at Washburn Law. "I had no clue what was going on. I was not able to understand any of the subjects." He turned to Professor Nancy Maxwell for help. She sat him down and explained in detail "the ins and outs of studying law." Kameli credits Maxwell with helping him throughout his three years in law school. "She is a very unique professor, and we are honored to have her as a member of the (Washburn Law) faculty."

Today, Kameli uses his legal skills to help others. He has three law offices in the Chicago area and one in Dubai, U.A.E. His firm concentrates in the areas of immigration law, international business law, medical malpractice and appellate practice. He believes that what distinguishes his firm is his commitment to his clients. "My associates and I always try to be advocates for our clients. Many attorneys are good lawyers, but good lawyers are not always advocates for their clients' cause," said Kameli.

Kameli is especially passionate about immigration law and defending those "who have entered the U.S. to work and create new jobs." He questions a system that "desires to deport and separate [immigrants] from their U.S. citizen spouse and children because of minor convictions on their record."

Kameli encourages law students and new lawyers to remember that the client is in your office because he or she has a problem. "So listen to them attentively, and make sure the client understands that you will do everything in your power under the rules of law and ethics to assist them."

When Kameli is not practicing law, he teaches business law classes at Aurora University, located in nearby Aurora, Illinois. ■



### Jack H. Kim '95

Jack Kim's position as Director of Legislative Programs for Sierra Health Services, a diversified health care company Nevada, requires him to wear many hats. He lobbies before the Nevada Legislature and state regulatory agencies, coordinates Sierra's efforts to implement new legislative and regulatory requirements, works on the company's political action committee, and serves as a resource for state legislators and regulators on matters pertaining to health care and workers compensation insurance.

It is a demanding job, but one that Kim was well-prepared to undertake, in part because of the education he received at Washburn Law. "My Washburn Law education has given me the tools to excel in the legal field, corporate field and the government/legislative field," said Kim.

Prior to joining Sierra Health Services, Kim was in private practice representing employers, insurance companies and casinos in various employer-related proceedings, including administrative hearings before Nevada regulatory agencies and state and federal courts. In fact, one of Sierra's subsidiaries was a client of Kim's former law firm. "My responsibilities now include representing all of Sierra's subsidiaries in Nevada," said Kim.

Since graduating from law school, Kim has been fortunate to work with two individuals who became mentors. At his first law firm there was a retired judge who took Kim under his wing. "He taught me the nuts and bolts of practicing law," said Kim. In his current position with Sierra, Kim relies on the guidance and insight of his boss, the Executive Vice President of Government Affairs. "She has been both a mentor and a friend to me."

As much as Kim enjoys his job, he also knows that "there is a lot more in life than work." "When I was in law school and starting my career after law school, I lived to work," said Kim. Now he takes a more balanced approach to work and his personal life, and spends much of his free time outdoors biking, hiking and camping. His advice? "Don't live to work, but work so you can live and experience life." ■

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You're Invited

If you graduated in a class that ended in either a 4 or a 9, this is your reunion!  
Plan to join your classmates at the reunion weekend:

W Reunion Weekend

October 15 & 16, 2004  
(see PAGE 63)