

# Washburn Alumni PROFILES

Not everyone goes to law school to become a lawyer. Although the majority of graduates head off to the “traditional” practice of law, many Washburn Law alums have found their degrees invaluable in “non-traditional” legal careers. The alumni featured on the following pages are using their Washburn degrees in a wide variety of interesting ways from ecumenical services to CEO’s. It is clear to see from these examples that a legal education from Washburn Law prepares our graduates for whatever career path they choose.



## **Ben Blair '65**

Attending law school was not in Ben Blair’s original plans. He moved to Topeka after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley so his first wife could finish her degree at KU. Blair decided to use his extra time and attend law school. He never intended to practice law, but thought the advanced education would be useful.

Blair landed the position of General Manager for the Lake Sherwood Development in Topeka, Kansas, while attending Washburn Law. This was the beginning of Blair’s career in real estate. After law school he purchased a small real estate brokerage company which became Griffith & Blair Inc. Blair recently sold his ownership in what eventually became Coldwell Banker Griffith & Blair; however he still is an associate broker for the firm. Blair currently is Owner and President of Kansas Development and Investment Co, Inc., a company engaged in real estate management, investments and development. Blair is currently working on a development project in Grand Lake, Colorado, a 54 lot, single family, residential development.

Blair said his law school experience has helped him during his career. “Law teaches you about life and business and controversy. It teaches you about patience and tolerance, about fairness and order. Every course I took gave me useful tools and knowledge,” said Blair. He also believes that graduating and passing the bar opens doors you may have never dreamed possible.

During his career in Topeka, Blair has had the opportunity to be President of the Washburn Endowment Association and served on the Washburn University Board of Regents, where he was Chair for two years. Blair helped form Crisis

Topeka in the 1980’s and is currently active in Go Topeka. He also served as the President of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce. In 1997 Blair received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Realtors, their highest award.

Blair believes the most rewarding part of his career comes from providing important services to people, employment opportunities and the privilege of being a leader in the Topeka community and the realtor community worldwide. Blair has certainly left his mark in the Topeka community with his years of commitment and service. ■



## **Thomas Corcoran '79**

At age 40, Corcoran took the biggest risk of his life and decided to venture out on his own and start his own company.

In 1991 along with his business partner Hervey Feldman, he started FelCor Lodging. For three years, Corcoran did not receive a paycheck. “However, as I look back on the last thirteen years at FelCor I see a company that is truly unique with a culture that I hope is one that is appreciated and enjoyed by all of our employees. Sometimes the culture of a company says more about the company and its people than a lot of other measurements,” said Corcoran.

Corcoran is President and Chief Executive Officer of FelCor Lodging and Trust. FelCor is the second largest public hotel real estate investment trust (REIT) with a market capitalization of \$3.3 billion with approximately 150 hotels. FelCor has been public for more than ten years. Corcoran worked for Brock Hotel Corporation after graduating from law school. Bob Brock, also a lawyer, believed the best education for individuals entering the business world was to obtain a law degree. While at Brock Hotel Corporation, Corcoran negotiated locations for Chuck E Cheese restaurants,

where his law degree proved helpful in negotiations. In 1982 Brock moved his company to Dallas, Corcoran followed and became President and later CEO in 1984. During this time Corcoran was involved in major restructuring of the company.

Corcoran acknowledges that book learning provides a foundation to ones success. However he said, “the other important aspect is the willingness to work hard. I have never considered myself one of the brightest people but few will ever outwork me, I never give up and I love a challenge when people say it cannot be done. You just keep thinking of what your goals are, adjust to the changing environment, develop a strategy and just do it.”

Corcoran knew he wanted to work in the hospitality business after law school. “There is no aspect of work that I can think of where a law degree would not be a positive influence. Most importantly you should do something you like doing and remember each day you wake up, you should want to go to work because it’s fun and fulfilling. Washburn Law provides a foundation for its graduates to be contributors to society in whatever manner they have chosen,” said Corcoran.

Even though Corcoran admits both financial success and freedom provides him with more options, he also confirms money does not buy happiness. “My wife and three children mean more to me than all the successes.” ■



## Debra Ingram '86

Debra Ingram never presumes or assumes anything. She has set up political action committees, has successfully raised money politically and for non-

profits, written scripts for television commercials and has mastered public speaking. A combination that provided her the tools for her current position. Ingram is Vice President of Marketing and Leadership Giving at the Tulsa Area United Way. She oversees public and media relations for the organization, development of all campaign materials including print, advertising, television and broadcast commercials and annual promotional videos. Ingram oversees the solicitation and development of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, donors who contribute \$10,000 or more a year or give to the United Way Endowment.

Prior to the Tulsa United Way, Ingram left law school believing she would return to her home town and practice law with her brother Otis Morrow '73, also a Washburn Law graduate.

Personal circumstances changed her career direction. Ingram went to work for the Trust Department of a bank in Ponca City, Oklahoma. She then spent four years with the Oklahoma Bankers Association overseeing their Trust area, the communication department and worked as a lobbyist at the state and national levels. She then moved to Tulsa taking a job with Sunoco, Inc, as a lobbyist overseeing the lobbying efforts in a seven-state area.

Ingram believes every class in law school provided her with much needed information. “During those darkest nights when you feel you simply can’t go on, write one more word, read one more page. If you don’t think you will ever practice law anyway, don’t give up. Simply having that diploma grants you the stature and respect by others and provides you a way of thinking that others simply do not possess,” said Ingram. She encourages students to keep an open mind about what they can do. “Don’t look at it as having chosen a different career than what you had or dreamed of before you entered law school – think of it as a way to be better in whatever you want to be,” said Ingram.

Ingram enjoyed her time at Washburn Law and appreciated the faculty and availability of their time. “Because someone before me gave to Washburn, I had the opportunity to go to a first-class school without going into debt for life. I owe that to those who follow me.”

Ingram is proud of the fact that during her career she has been able to create law by successful lobbying. She has learned to communicate better, persuade better and win graciously. She sees herself continuing in the non-profit sector. “You don’t get rich financially but you are helping make the world a better place – as idealistic as that sounds, it makes me happy,” said Ingram. ■

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– Debra Ingram

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## Rev. Victoria Kumorowski '75

From private practice, to the bench, to Chaplain, to Pastor, then to Associate Director of Pastoral Care for Forum Health. Victoria Kumorowski's back-

ground is well rounded. While on the bench, Kumorowski became interested in the legal, judicial and ethical issues raised by recent advances in reproductive and genetic technology. While writing a thesis, she realized there were major spiritual issues underlying those issues. After leaving the bench, Kumorowski changed careers, eventually landing where she is today. Kumorowski said, "my legal background and my interest in bioethics have greatly enhanced my work as a chaplain. It has also helped me to understand many of the major issues now facing patients, family members, health care providers and major health care systems."

Kumorowski currently helps patients, family members, and staff process major emotional and spiritual issues, including end-of-life issues. She is called in to help facilitate the decision making process. Her law degree and background have helped her discern and discuss those underlying issues. Kumorowski supervises ten volunteer chaplains at two different hospitals. She sits on two ethics committees. Kumorowski advocates the use of bioethics mediation to help resolve conflicts as they arise within our system. She believes this new type of mediation could greatly benefit patient's family members, staff and health care systems throughout the county.

Kumorowski would like to eventually teach on a graduate level. "I enjoy listening and exchanging thoughts and ideas with others. I also enjoy writing and exploring legal, medical, ethical and spiritual issues. In my current position I try to ask questions that will challenge and will help empower others to think for themselves," said Kumorowski.

Kumorowski believes bioethics is a nontraditional career students may want to consider. Recent advances in reproductive and genetic technology have raised significant legal, medical and ethical issues. Kumorowski believes these issues arise in every area of the law ranging from family law to criminal and corporate law. The position of a bioethics mediator requires someone who is familiar with the legal and ethical principles associated with healthcare. A career option perfect for someone with a law degree and one that fit perfectly for Kumorowski. ■



## William Kurtis '66

The Topeka tornado of 1966 was the turning point in Bill Kurtis' life and career. The words "For Gods sake, take cover," will forever be etched in the minds of Topekans who

lived through the tornado. Kurtis worked at WIBW TV while attending Washburn Law. He was on the air when the tornado hit and he covered the tornado for 24 hours. He is credited with saving many lives. Although Kurtis had already secured a job after graduation with a law firm in Wichita, he chose to continue in television. Kurtis believes it was his calling, and as he assessed his talents and skills, opted for a career where he saw a changing profession with unlimited potential.

That turned out to be the decision of a lifetime. Kurtis has had a remarkable 40 years as a reporter and documentarian. He has been a local anchor, national correspondent, major network anchor, created his own Production Company and has been executive producer of some of A&E's highest rated shows. Kurtis is founder and Executive Director of Kurtis Productions. He produces programs for A&E including *Investigative Reports*, *American Justice* and *Cold Case Files*. Kurtis believes his law degree gives him better insight into producing legal and investigative programs and also gives him respect from attorneys, judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers when working on these programs. His law degree was certainly a benefit when he began his career. Kurtis was one of only about three investigative reporters at the time who had a law degree. He covered national stories of Richard Speck, Charles Manson and Angela Davis to name a few. Kurtis believes his law degree gave him a huge advantage over other reporters.

While in law school Kurtis participated in Moot Court, something he credits with teaching him to research, make oral arguments and present his case. Kurtis credits Professor James Ahrens, who worked with the moot court team, with instilling those qualities and helping him hone those skills. Kurtis' comment, "See Professor Ahrens, I really was listening."

Kurtis has enjoyed every aspect of his career. He has traveled internationally, covered wars, handled environmental issues and been an investigative reporter. He is proud his company has produced over 1,000 shows with a legal connection. Kurtis encourages individuals to "assess your talents and desires and decide what you want to do. Don't

# PROFILES . . .

always do what is expected, do what is in your heart and what your calling is.”

In his spare time, Kurtis is active in renovating and saving small town communities like Sedan, Kansas, where he is very concerned about the environment and saving native grasses. A new project is his involvement with organic food and grass fed beef. He has created a company and hopes to educate the public on its health benefits. Kurtis recently published his newest book *The Death Penalty on Trial: Crisis in American Justice*. “I wrote the book in terms laymen can understand but based on law,” said Kurtis who has tried throughout his career to take the legal ease out of legal matters, and make it understandable to everyone.

In 40 years of service, Kurtis remains as strong a reporter as ever, creating investigative reports and documentaries, geared to the nation as a whole. And through it all, remains committed to his ideals and is thankful for the circumstances and opportunities which led him to a wonderful career. ■



## Andrew Marquardt '92

A self described “serial entrepreneur”, Andrew Marquardt has been very successful. He has started three staffing companies and invests in real

estate. Marquardt is Founder, President and CEO of Advantage Tech, Inc, in Lenexa, Kansas, an IT staffing and consulting business.

After a short stint in the “traditional law” arena, Marquardt worked for Polsinelli in Kansas City, served as a municipal judge in Roeland Park for two years and had a law practice with his mother, Washburn Law alumnae The Honorable Christel Marquardt '74. Then Marquardt decided to change the direction of his career. After having children, Marquardt decided in order to have a successful litigation practice, he would need to continue to put in too many hours away from his family. In 1997 he incorporated his IT staffing and consulting business Advantage Tech and discontinued his practice of law.

Marquardt continues to learn from interactions with many people and organizations, but feels his law degree and the education he received during law school has been tremendously advantageous for his current career. “Everything from how to incorporate, deal with personnel issues, handle collections and work with other professionals was touched upon in some way during my law school

experience,” said Marquardt. He believes it was the very best “liberal arts” education he could ever receive.

Marquardt believes people appreciate and respect the dedication a person puts forth in obtaining a law degree, and regardless of where you work, you will always be able to draw on your legal education and have a competitive advantage over those without a law degree. He encourages individuals to get a law degree even if they don't plan on practicing “traditional law”.

Being self employed allows Marquardt time to be active in community activities and organizations. Marquardt is involved in raising funds for many Kansas City area charities who do not receive any national funding. “Owning my own business and thereby controlling my schedule, which consequently allows me to spend more time with my family, is by far the most rewarding aspect of my career,” said Marquardt. ■



## Joseph McClymond '52

A true child of the depression, Joseph McClymond did not have many options for pursuing a college education.

McClymond chose to attend Washburn which allowed him to live at home and work while attending school as he earned a B.A. in 1949. Economics also dictated his attendance at Washburn Law. McClymond attended classes in the morning and worked in the afternoons as a surveyor for the City of Topeka to support himself and pay tuition. He married and had the first of his three children before he graduated from law school in 1952. McClymond remembers having a lot of respect for Dean Jackson and on many occasions recounted how the Dean had influenced his study of the law.

After graduation McClymond was offered the opportunity to practice with two well established law firms in Kansas. McClymond recalls, “they apparently expected I would have supplemental income to sustain myself while working up to a living wage.” Unable to live off prestige, McClymond took a job with Continental Oil Company in their legal department in Houston, Texas. A decision which ultimately started his illustrious oil career.

# PROFILES . . .

In 1959, McClymond left Continental and took the position as head of the Land Department of Ibex, an independent oil and gas producer in Breckinridge, Texas. In the early 60's, Ibex started a separate oil and gas company called Petroleum Corporation of Texas (Petco) with McClymond as President. Petco was active in the exploration and production of oil and gas as well as acquisition of producing properties and minerals.

In 1984 most of the producing oil and gas assets of Petco were sold to Damson Oil. This was an intense sale and negotiation with countless contract revisions for weeks on end. With his law degree, McClymond was able to make decisions on the spot concerning contract revisions. After closing the deal, McClymond and his partners took great pride that the sale of an independent oil company from a very small town in west Texas made the front page of the Wall Street Journal.

After 1985, McClymond squeezed business into two to three hours in the morning and spent the rest of his time enjoying his ranch or the lake. McClymond was still known as one of the best contract people around and continued to review and interpret contracts for many who asked for help.

McClymond loved to learn and had a passion for higher education. He believes his law degree was the single most important and beneficial career choice he made and the opportunities he was afforded were a direct result of his education. McClymond said, "Every person has something to teach, some more, some less and not all positive. We should all be open to those opportunities to learn from others regardless of their position, station in life or what we think of the individual." McClymond's success was a direct result of his philosophy. ■

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– Carol Duffy McDowell

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## Carol Duffy McDowell '75

Carol Duffy McDowell lobbies for clients who range from professional to not-for-profit, trade organizations, large corporations and individuals; one

at a time. McDowell is a professional lobbyist, political design and communications consultant and independent contractor. "I am privileged and grateful to be compensated for work I do well, have a passion for and believe benefits my state," said McDowell.

During law school McDowell worked fulltime. During her last year in law school, she was Executive Director of the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association. She left school for one semester to work on a U.S. Senate campaign for alumnus Jim Slattery '75. Currently McDowell represents Tallgrass Ranchers, citizens organized in their opposition to the industrial wind development of the Kansas Flint Hills.

McDowell remembers during law school that her class was the first to have more than one or two women. "There were about a dozen of us, but our presence was controversial. They converted a janitors room on the classroom level into a ladies room (and some of us became lifetime best friends)," said McDowell. She remembers the faculty being very supportive, encouraging and enriching her life intellectually, personally and professionally.

McDowell has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Eastern Europe and she admits having many opportunities to move permanently from Kansas. "For good reasons, but to my surprise, I am still here," she claims. Every week McDowell talks to people who grew up in Kansas and have built successful careers in New York, Texas, Los Angeles or Miami and now want to find a way to return to Kansas. McDowell admits, "I understand and have learned increasingly to value and appreciate the opportunity to live and work in Kansas." As a fifth generation Kansan, the state is lucky to have McDowell remain here and continue working for fellow Kansans in a career she truly loves. ■

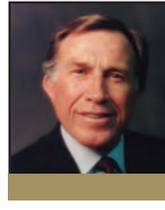
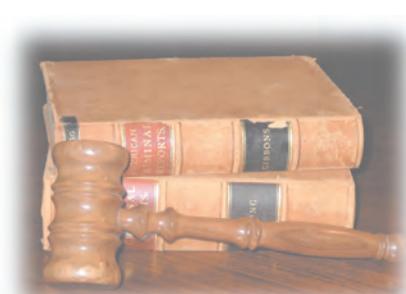


## Norman Pozez '80

“No matter what career you ultimately pursue, a legal education is invaluable,” says Norman Pozez. Pozez believes in that statement and has demonstrated it in his personal career. Pozez attended

Washburn Law because he wanted to work at Payless ShoeSource while attending law school. This was a natural choice for Pozez, whose father was one of the founders of Payless ShoeSource, not to mention his most influential mentor. Pozez knew he would graduate from law school and pursue a business career rather than a law career since he thought business to be more exciting. Pozez worked for Payless as Regional Director of Real Estate and Construction after graduating from law school. He left Payless and went to Ratner Companies, a privately held hair-care services company with over 900 locations in the United States where he was Chief Operating Officer. Pozez then decided to start his own company. He is currently Chairman of Uniwest Group LLC, a general contractor and commercial brokerage and property management company with offices in four states; and Chairman of Fidelity and Trust Financial Corporation, a commercial bank and residential mortgage company in Washington, DC.

During law school, Pozez participated in the law clinic with Professor Michael Kaye. Pozez credits Kaye with teaching and training him to speak publicly and be quick on his feet. Pozez believes Washburn Law is an “extraordinary” law school and he encourages prospective students to attend. “Although Washburn is a lesser-known, mid-western school, it has faculty and programs that exceed your expectations,” said Pozez. Pozez encourages current students to seize the opportunity to take electives that focus on their areas of interest which may benefit them after graduation. Pozez did and has proven how successful that can be. ■



## Ron Richey '51

Ronald Richey attended Washburn and received both his B.A. in 1949 and his J.D. in 1951. While in law school, Richey’s most influential mentor was adjunct Professor Paul

Wise. Shortly after graduation, Wise contacted Richey to see if he would like to become an attorney for the Kansas Insurance Department. At that time, Wise was Deputy Insurance Commissioner. Richey quickly accepted the offer, noting the pay was higher than what he was making at Dean Allen’s law firm.

Later Richey joined Wise at the American Mutual Insurance Alliance as head of the legislative division. He had worked for Wise for seven years when he was contacted by John Singletary, Founder and Chairman of Globe Life and Accident. Richey joined Globe Life in 1964 as Vice President and General Counsel. In 1970, he was elected Executive Vice President. After the death of John Singletary, Richey was elected Chairman and Chief Executive Officer serving in that capacity until 1980 when Globe Life was purchased by Torchmark Corporation.

At that time, Richey was then named Chief Executive Officer of Globe and Director of Torchmark. In April 1982, Richey was elected President of Torchmark Corporation. He became President and Chief Executive Officer of Torchmark in 1985 and in 1986 was elected Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Richey now is retired from Torchmark. He served on Torchmark’s Board of Directors until April 2004.

Richey has served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors, the Washburn Endowment Association Board of Trustees, was honored in 1992 by the Washburn Law School Association with their Distinguished Service Award and received a Distinguished Service Award from Washburn University in 1993. The Wall Street Transcript recognized Richey as the Outstanding Insurance Executive in the industry each year from 1985 to 1991.

Richey had an illustrious career, one which he gives much credit to his Professor, Paul Wise for not only his encouragement but also for the opportunities he helped provide. Richey said, “as you can see, the genesis of my insurance career is my contact with Paul Wise at Washburn Law.” ■



## Jerry Schemmel '85

The Voice of the Denver Nuggets. If you follow the team, you know that voice is Jerry Schemmel. He has been the voice of the Denver Nuggets since 1992. If you remember the crash of flight 232 from Denver to Chicago in 1989, you may know the face of Jerry Schemmel. Schemmel was one of the passengers who survived the crash. In that flight, 112 of 296 people aboard the flight died that day after an in-flight explosion crippled the plane and forced it to crash land in Sioux City, Iowa. Schemmel subsequently wrote a book, published in 1996, titled *Chosen to Live*, which chronicles the crash of flight 232 and the effects it had on his life.

Whether you know Schemmel by voice or sight, you know his commitment to his passions. Of the over 1,000 NBA games since he started broadcasting, Schemmel has never taken a night off and has been thoroughly prepared for each and every game. Something he contributes to attending law school. Schemmel said, "law school is simply a huge commitment, there is no way to cut corners and get by. The law school experience taught me that the same thing applies to just about anything in life. If you want to be great at something, it takes commitment, hard work and sacrifice. The commitment in law school to study and prepare has greatly contributed to my success as a broadcaster."

"My law degree is one of my prized possessions and has opened many doors for me in both sports administration and sports casting fields," said Schemmel. He received his undergraduate degree in communications from Washburn and wanted to pursue a sports casting career. Jobs were scarce at the time, so Schemmel chose to attend law school, realizing he would ultimately pursue his passion in sports casting. During law school, Schemmel participated in moot court and believes it helped prepare him for broadcasting. "A lot of preparation is needed and then a strong delivery to make it work," claims Schemmel.

Schemmel encourages anyone to attend law school, especially at Washburn Law where he felt a family atmosphere; where faculty and staff care about the student and the person. He says "follow your OWN dreams and aspirations and pursue a career you want to pursue, not because others do it or think you should, do it because YOU want to do it. Your law degree can never be taken away, follow your interests, whether in law or not, and your success will follow."

Surviving the plane crash taught Schemmel that life is very precious and we all need to try and live life to its fullest every single day. He also learned life is about relationships, not money, possessions or popularity. Schemmel is active in several charities in Denver. He rode a bicycle across the United States in 2003 and 2004 as a fundraiser for two Denver area charities. His efforts have raised a total of \$225,000. Schemmel is making the most of his education, passion for sports and his second chance to live a very fulfilling life. ■

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“...follow your OWN  
dreams and aspirations  
and pursue a career you  
want to pursue,  
not because others do  
it or think you should,  
do it because YOU  
want to do it.”

– Jerry Schemmel

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# PROFILES . . .



## Susan Tucker '92

Susan Tucker admits she likes to stretch the limits on how to do things.

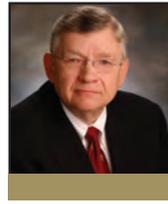
That sums up her career

and how she arrived in her current position. Tucker attended Washburn Law after passing her CPA exam and receiving a Masters Degree from Northwest Missouri State University. Tucker maintained a CPA practice while attending law school. After graduating from Washburn Law, she accepted a position in the worldwide headquarters of Payless ShoeSource, in Topeka, KS. Tucker wanted a career where she could use her law degree in conjunction with her CPA and MBA degree. "Payless is a wonderful opportunity to use everything together," said Tucker.

Tucker is currently Director of HR Services at Payless ShoeSource. She helped build a "one-stop-shop" for Associates at Payless, combining both Human Resources and Finance, delivering Payroll and Benefits to over 30,000 Associates worldwide. Tucker believes working in a corporate environment is "living and breathing your legal education." Tucker relates that many laws regulate what Payless provides to its Associates and how those laws impact those Associates. "Decisions are made, processes are developed and systems are put in place that must be in compliance with our legal system. The combination of business and legal training has provided me with the foundation to help our company be successful. It is a very dynamic usage of a law degree," said Tucker.

Prior to Payless, Tucker worked at a CPA firm in Topeka then as a controller for a construction company. She then was a self-employed CPA before and during law school. Tucker also taught accounting and finance law at Peru State College in Peru Nebraska before moving to Topeka.

Tucker passes along this advice, "law school will teach you what is necessary to understand our legal system. It is up to you how you decide to use the knowledge. Do not limit yourself when you begin to look at careers you can pursue with your legal education, it is truly limitless. It is just one tool in your toolbox, use all your tools, in combination with what you enjoy to realize your fullest potential." ■



## Dr. Howard Ward '79

Challenging interactions between the medical profession and the legal profession were interesting enough to convince Dr. Howard Ward to

enroll in law school after practicing medicine for six years. "At the time there were interactions between the two professions involving not only medical malpractice but difficult responsibilities where medical science and the law were not on the same page. This overlap between the two professions was of great interest to me," said Ward.

Ward fondly remembers Professor Fowks, who not only encouraged Ward to enroll in law school but gave him useful advice to persevere through law school. Ward believes having knowledge of torts, contracts and legal procedure have been very beneficial in his medical career and believes a legal education is a valuable asset in almost any occupation.

Ward has practiced medicine for 36 years specializing in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology. He helped found, develop and grow the Cotton O'Neil Clinic in Topeka, Kansas, serving as the principal recruiter during its first decade. However, Ward feels his greatest contribution is in patient care, particularly in oncology, by assisting his patients and their families through very difficult and sometimes fatal illnesses.

By having a law degree to compliment his medical degree, Ward has been able to review many medical malpractice cases, serve as an expert witness, participate in medical malpractice screening panels and be involved in many medical staff hearings. Ward believes strongly that "a legal education is a valuable asset in almost any occupation and I encourage everyone to complete their legal education, as its usefulness in other fields will be come more apparent later."

After 36 years in medical practice, Ward is beginning to reduce his workload to transition into retirement. He has been privileged to serve in leadership positions in the medical field, however, he is looking forward to spending more time with family, travel and hobbies. ■

# PROFILES . . .



## Ron Whitten '77

Ron Whitten, lawyer turned writer, editor, golf course critic and golf course designer and owner. Since the age of seventeen Whitten wanted to design golf courses. After graduating in 1972 from the University of Nebraska, the chance of getting into golf course architecture was tough due to the recession. Whitten had previously thought about attending law school, so he moved to Topeka and attended Washburn Law two years later.

Known for his sketches and caricatures of professors during law school, Whitten participated in the law clinic, which he believes to be the best training anyone could possibly have for actual trial work. With an interest in criminal and trial work, he worked for twelve years as an attorney in private practice, as assistant district attorney for Gene Olander '63 and city prosecutor for Topeka.

While practicing law Whitten continued to keep golf course architecture as a hobby. Whitten wrote a book *The Golf Course*, and had it published in 1981. *Golf Digest* became interested in his writing and from 1984 to 1990, Whitten wrote for the magazine part-time. In 1990 *Golf Digest* hired him full-time, and he gave up the practice of law. Whitten is currently the architecture editor for *Golf Digest* magazine.

Whitten credits his success as a writer to his law degree which taught him to develop an analytical thought process and the patience to thoroughly research a subject. He encourages students to “dream big and have patience.”

During his career, Whitten has had the opportunity to play golf with Jack Nicklaus, Donald Trump, Ben Crenshaw, Phil Mickelson and many other professionals. Although he has never met Tiger Woods, he does have Tiger's first golf design from a contest entry Tiger sent to Whitten when he was eleven years old in response to the first Armchair Architect contest Whitten has periodically conducted for *Golf Digest*.

“I was perfectly happy practicing law, but feel very fortunate to be one of the few who were able to turn a hobby into a second profession. I have a dream job with a national golf magazine, what's not to like about that,” said Whitten. ■



## Jane Whitehead '84

“Follow your passion – don't just do what others expect of you. Dare to think differently and act on it.” Words that Jayne Whitehead believes in. Those words were reinforced by one of Whitehead's mentors in law school, Professor Bruce Levine. During her time in law school, Professor Levine told Whitehead that just because you have a law degree does not mean you have to practice law. Those words of advice were important and encouraging to Whitehead, especially since most of her classmates were headed in the direction of practicing law.

At the time, Whitehead knew even though she was getting her law degree that she wanted to pursue a career in higher education. Most likely as a history professor. That didn't happen, but she did end up in higher education in a different capacity. Whitehead is Vice President of University Advancement, at Miami University. Prior to this position she served as Associate Vice President for Development and Campaign Director at the University of Florida and was Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development at the University of Missouri.

Currently, Whitehead oversees fundraising and alumni programs at Miami University. She manages a staff of over eighty with a budget of over \$5 million, bringing in annual revenues around \$25 million a year. Her office supports 150,000 alumni. Whitehead received her start working in University advancement while at Washburn coordinating telemarketing programs and campaign events. Her other mentor Chuck Engel '85 provided her those opportunities, ones which ultimately ended up setting the stage for her career.

Whitehead strongly believes in higher education and loves that she is a catalyst for philanthropic gifts which have a great impact on institutions of higher education. She is grateful Professor Levine supported and encouraged her to use her law degree in a different manner than most. ■