



## December Graduates

Thirty-four law school students graduated in December. A recognition ceremony was held Dec. 3, 2005, in their honor at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center on campus. Justice Harold Herd '42, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Washburn Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors member, Steve Cavanaugh '80, welcomed the students into the Washburn Law School Alumni Association and told them of the great history of the school and successful reputation of other graduates. After the recognition ceremony, students, family, friends and faculty attended a reception in the graduates honor.

## Professional Development – News

Thinking of a career change? Let the Washburn Law Professional Development Office help you. You may access job postings at <http://washburnlaw.edu/career> and click on "Employment Opportunities". As with many on-line job posting sites, our site is password protected so only Washburn Law students and alumni may access to the information. To obtain the password, contact the Professional Development Office at 785-670-1184. In addition, Margann Bennett, Director of Professional Development, is available to discuss your career plans, help you identify career resources and review your resume.

If you are an employer looking to post an open position the Professional Development Office can help you as well. Log-on to their site at <http://washburnlaw.edu/career>, click on "Employer Services," and complete the job-posting form.



Ruth Graham '80 and Jill Michaux '82

## Bankruptcy Law Reform: What Every Family Lawyer Needs To Know

The Children and Family Law Center sponsored a continuing legal education program on Bankruptcy Law Reform, which was held Nov. 4, 2005. The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 went into effect Oct. 17, 2005. The numerous changes include pitfalls for the family law practitioner in drafting property settlement agreements. This CLE discussed the important changes of interest to family lawyers, including discussion of the new definition for a "domestic support obligation," exemptions, priorities and new rules for dischargeability. In addition, it discussed changing rules for lawyers who advise clients about bankruptcy.

Presenting was Jill Michaux '82, who practices with the firm of Neis & Michaux, P.A., of Topeka, Kan. Michaux graduated with Dean's Honors and has had her own law practice since graduating from Washburn Law. She is board certified in consumer bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification. She is a founding member and former Director of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, is past President of the Kansas Bar Association Bankruptcy and Insolvency Section and a Director of the Topeka Area Bankruptcy Council.

Also presenting was Ruth Graham '80, a sole practitioner in Topeka, Kan. working primarily in bankruptcy and probate. Graham is Past President of the Topeka Bar Association and the Bankruptcy Section of the Kansas Bar Association. She currently serves on The Board of Directors of the Topeka Area Bankruptcy Council.



Dean Honabach, Dr. Jerry Farley and Winton Hinkle '68

## Washburn Law School Association Alumni Awards

The Washburn Law School Association held its annual awards presentation in conjunction with the Dean's Circle Dinner in October. These awards are typically presented at the Kansas Bar Association's Annual Meeting during the Washburn Law luncheon, but due to varying circumstances, award winners were unable to attend that meeting, which was held in June 2005.

Awards given each year by the Washburn Law School Association are the Honorary Life Member Award which goes to a non-alum; the Distinguished Service Award; and new this year, the Distinguished Alumni Award, both of which go to Washburn Law alumni. The Distinguished Service Award goes to an alum who has provided an abundance of service to Washburn Law. The Distinguished Alumni Award goes to an alum who has distinguished him or herself in their career.

Winton Hinkle '68, a member of the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors, made the award presentations on behalf of the Washburn

Law School Alumni Association. The Honorary Life Member Award was awarded to **Dr. Jerry Farley**, President of Washburn University, for his unwavering support of the School of Law. The

Distinguished Service Award was awarded to **James R. Roth '66** for his support and service to not only Washburn Law but also to Washburn University as a Regent.

The newly created Distinguished Alumni Award was awarded to the late **Justice Robert L. Gernon '69** for his endless support of Washburn Law and his dedication to his profession. During the presentation of Gernon's award, Hinkle noted that, unfortunately, Justice Gernon left us all too soon. However, Justice Gernon had received confirmation before he passed away that he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Hinkle read aloud a letter he received, dated March 23, 2005, from Gernon regarding the award he had been selected to receive:

*Dear Winton:*

*I received your letter and I was moved beyond measure at the honor that Washburn is willing to bestow on me. There are not enough thanks for me to give you.*

*My goal of course, is to be there at the (KBA) meeting so that I can thank you in person. Whether I achieve that goal is another matter, but that is my intended goal.*

*Please express to everyone my thanks, my gratitude and my love to the Association for this event.*

*Sincerely,  
Robert L. Gernon,  
Kansas Supreme Court*

Gernon's Distinguished Alumni Award was accepted posthumously on his behalf by his two daughters, Rebecca and Kristin.



Winton Hinkle '68, James R. Roth '66 and Dean Honabach



Dr. Jerry Farley, Neil Cohen, Kristen Gernon, Rebecca Gernon, Marc Wilson and Dean Honabach



## Alumni Fellow Award

Chief Justice Kay McFarland '64, received the Washburn University Alumni Fellow Award for the School of Law on Oct. 14, 2005. The Alumni Fellow Award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers. Fellows are invited back to campus to interact directly with students and faculty. Justice McFarland received the Alumni Fellows Award at a luncheon that day, as other members of the Kansas Supreme Court looked on. Prior to the awards luncheon, McFarland addressed a group of law school students in Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center at the law school. She spoke to the group about her career, how she ultimately arrived in the position of Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court and her many firsts and obstacles she encountered as a woman not only in the private practice of law, but also in the court system. McFarland's remarks were given with a good dose of humor. The audience was intrigued by her accomplishments and were equally entertained by her wit and sense of humor.

Justice McFarland has held the position of Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court since 1995. She is the first woman to serve in that capacity. In fact, her career has been a remarkable series of "firsts." Following law school, she was in private practice in Topeka until 1971, when she challenged the incumbent judge of the Shawnee County probate and juvenile courts and won the election. She was the first woman elected to a judgeship in Shawnee County. She delivered the court reforms pledged in her campaign and reduced serious juvenile offenses by more than half in the two years she held the office. In 1973, she became Judge of the newly created Fifth Division of the District Court in Topeka, thereby becoming the first woman to be a District Judge in the history of Kansas. She was appointed by the governor to be a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court in 1977, and she remained the only woman to hold that office until the appointment of Justice Marla Luckert in January 2003.



Professor Nancy Maxwell, Justice Eric Rosen and Dean Honabach

## Justice Eric Rosen '84

Justice Eric Rosen joined the ranks of the Kansas Supreme Court Nov. 18, 2005, when he was officially sworn in. The Washburn Law School Alumni Association hosted a reception in his honor at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center on Washburn's campus Dec. 8, 2005. Many Topeka area alumni, lawyers and members of the Kansas Judiciary attended the reception to honor Justice Rosen on his past accomplishments and to wish him well in his new position. Justice Rosen was surrounded by his family members at the reception including his wife Libby; parents Irwin and Betty Rosen and sons Mark and Tom, among other family members. Justice Rosen's addition to the Kansas Supreme Court places four Washburn University School of Law alumni on the bench of the Kansas Supreme Court out of the seven seats. Other alumni sitting on the Kansas Supreme Court include Chief Justice Kay McFarland '64, Justice Marla Luckert '80 and Justice Donald L. Allegrucci '63. Rosen replaces the late Justice Robert L. Gernon '69, also a Washburn Law alumnus.

Justice Rosen became a District Judge in April 1993. He previously held positions as Public Defender from 1983 to 1985; Assistant District Attorney from 1985 to 1988; Associate General Counsel for the Kansas Securities Commissioner from 1988 to 1990; Attorney in private practice from 1990 to 1993; and District Court Judge from 1993 to his recent appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court. In addition, Justice Rosen has been a part of Washburn Law serving as an Adjunct Professor from 1989 to 1994.

The Washburn Lawyer



Dick Sherbondy '74 and Linda Miller



John '73 and Peggy Johnson

## Dean's Circle Dinner

The annual Dean's Circle Dinner was held Oct. 22, 2005, at the Fairmont Hotel, Kansas City. Supporters of the law school including alumni and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening of conversation, camaraderie and entertainment. Attendees heard updates on the law school from Dean Dennis R. Honabach. Other speakers included Dr. Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University, and Steve Cooper '73, Vice-President, Washburn Law School Alumni Association.

Members of the Dean's Circle give \$1,000 or more annually to Washburn Law. Members are invited to the Dean's Circle Dinner and also receive special invitations for premier events and programs throughout the year. For more information about how to become a member of the Dean's Circle, contact the Law School Advancement Office at (785)-670-1100.

Gary Mathews '77  
and Deb Huff



Judy Jewsome '07, Prof. Linda Elrod '72,  
Aaron Jewsome, Prof. Joyce McCray Pearson '89  
and Mitchell Pearson



Danny '08 and Charlie '88 Manh



Ann and Tom '69 Adrian

# Dean's Circle



Judge Sam Crow '52, Ruth Crow, Carol Honabach and Dean Dennis Honabach

