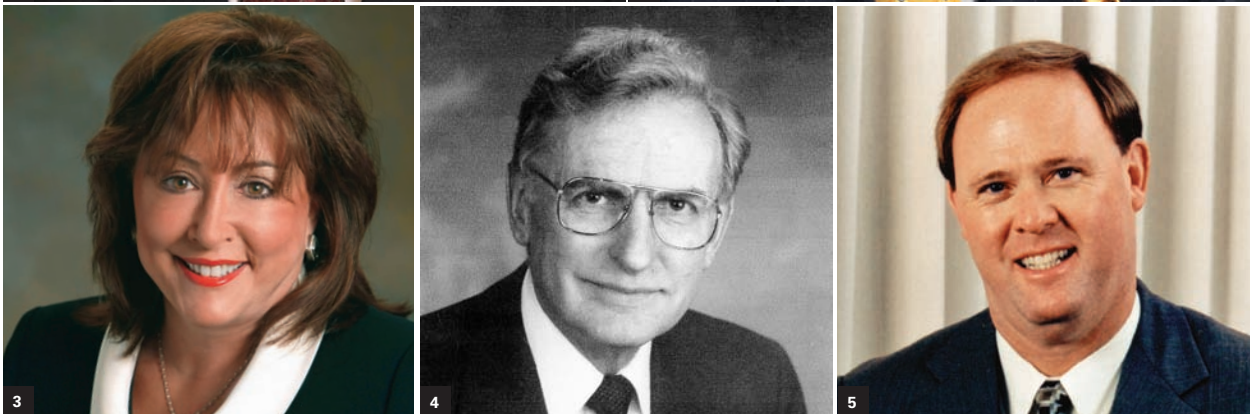


# Alumni Association Awards

The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors presented its annual awards at the Washburn Law luncheon at the Kansas Bar Association's annual meeting.



[1] Professor Gregory J. Pease [2] The Honorable C. William "Bill" Ossmann, '77 [3] Nola Tedesco Foulston, '77 [4] Dr. Max M. Halley, '66 [5] Mark V. Heitz, '77 [6] Congressman Dennis W. Moore, '70 [7] Ronald E. Wurtz, '73



## Honorary Life Membership

The Honorary Life Membership is awarded annually to a non-graduate. The recipient of this honor is someone who has provided an exemplary service to their profession, community, and Washburn University School of Law.

**Professor Gregory J. Pease** graduated *cum laude* from Wichita State University with bachelor's degrees in English and psychology in 1964. He studied philosophy at the University of Illinois before entering law school. He received his law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1970 and upon graduation served as a law clerk to the Honorable Oliver Seth, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Prior to joining Washburn Law faculty, he taught at the Ohio Northern University (ONU) Claude W. Pettit College of Law in Ada, Ohio. At ONU, he was an assistant dean and also the faculty advisor for the law review.

Professor Pease taught at Washburn Law for 37 years and served as a member of the Admissions Committee for many years. He has been a repeat recipient of the William

O. Douglas Professor of the Year teaching award presented at spring commencement for the law school. He authored chapter 59 of the 2000 Supplement for *Vernon's Kansas Statutes Annotated*, and his teaching responsibilities have included Decedents' Estates, Trusts and Future Interests, Property I, and Law and Literature. He retired from Washburn Law after the 2013 spring semester.

Professor Pease will now have more time to enjoy hunting, fishing, music, and reading. With his retirement, he will be able to enjoy the 4Gs — gardening, guitar, grandkids (he and his wife, Joan, have two children and four grandchildren), and golf. He has fond memories of playing golf with Professors Ray Spring and John Kuether. One thing he will miss in retirement is Professor Linda "Cricket" Elrod's chocolate chip cookies.

## Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed on graduates of Washburn Law who have distinguished themselves and brought recognition to the school through their service to Washburn Law, the legal profession, their community, or public service.

**The Honorable C. William "Bill" Ossmann**, '77, was appointed District Court judge in Shawnee County, Kansas, in August 2012. Prior, he was the chief litigation attorney for the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services for a few months, following a similar position with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services that he began in November 1997.

Judge Ossmann's early experience included work as a guardian *ad litem* with the Shawnee County juvenile court. He was a criminal prosecutor from 1978 to 1993 and worked with the Kansas Department of Agriculture as a special assistant attorney general from 1993 to 1997.

Judge Ossmann received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Kansas State University and his law degree from Washburn Law. He received a master's in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

The Kansas County and District Attorney's Association selected him as Prosecutor of the Year in 1990. He is active as a master in the Sam A. Crow Inn of the American

Inns of Court and a Life Member of the Washburn Law Alumni Association.

Judge Ossmann has served as chairperson of the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board. He has been active in the Topeka community, participating in the 1991 Leadership Greater Topeka class.

Judge Ossmann frequently teaches for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) trial skills and deposition skills programs in Chicago and Colorado. He has served as program director for NITA Public Service Lawyers programs in Topeka and Hays, Kan. As an adjunct professor at Washburn University School of Law, he teaches trial skills, depositions, and cross examination. He was selected as Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013.

In 2009, the Kansas Bar Association presented Judge Ossmann with its Distinguished Government Service Award. He and his wife, Catherine, live on a ranch west of Topeka.

## Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed on graduates whose careers have been highly distinguished, and whose achievements and contributions are widely recognized as significant and outstanding in their field of endeavor, whether it be in the practice of law, the judiciary, business, public service, education, or otherwise. While all graduates of the law school will be eligible for consideration, in general those nominated should be persons whose professional careers have been substantially completed, and who clearly will represent the very best and most accomplished of the law school's many outstanding graduates.

**Nola Tedesco Foulston, '77**, a native of Lake Mahopac, N.Y., received a bachelor's degree in 1972 from Fort Hays State University, attended the University of Kansas Graduate School, and earned her Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in December 1976. In 2013, she retired after 24 years as the elected district attorney to join the Wichita law firm of Hutton & Hutton LLC as a trial attorney who specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice, and complex tort litigation.

Foulston was admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas in 1977, is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of Kansas, and holds the privilege of admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. She began as an assistant district attorney in Wichita, from 1977 to 1981, and until 1989 she practiced civil law.

In 1989, Foulston was sworn in as district attorney for the 18th Judicial District of Kansas, Sedgwick County.

**Dr. Max M. Halley, '66**, was born in Bremerhaven, Germany, and came to America in 1935. He grew up in western New York and, at age 17, enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Army Specialized Reserve Program and then as special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps, earning the rank of warrant officer.

After his military service, Dr. Halley earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1949 and an M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1953. In 1959, Dr. Halley moved with his family from New Orleans to Topeka, where he began his medical practice. He served as chief of surgery at Stormont-Vail Hospital.

While practicing surgery, Dr. Halley attended Washburn Law and received his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, in 1966 and was admitted to the Kansas Bar. He used his legal education to teach legal issues to physicians and to promote better understanding between the professions. He taught Medical Evidence at Washburn Law.

Dr. Halley published more than 50 journal articles and

She is well known for her tough stand on crime. In 2012, she was awarded the prestigious American Bar Association Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award.

Prominent cases in which Foulston has been involved in prosecuting include the 1990 murder of Nancy Shoemaker; the Reginald and Jonathan Carr brothers' murder spree of 2000; the BTK serial killer Dennis Rader in 2005; prosecution of Scott Roeder for the killing of Dr. George Tiller in 2009; and, importantly, serving as co-counsel in 2006 before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Michael Marsh v. State of Kansas*, which upheld the constitutionality of the Kansas death penalty law.

Foulston enjoys the privilege of being an AV rated Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™, which are an objective indicator of a lawyer's high ethical standards and professional ability.

several book chapters, dealing with professional liability and tort reform, as well as medical ethics and surgical topics. He was a founder of the Institute for Healthcare and Law to further study medical-legal issues.

Dr. Halley has been and continues to be involved with Washburn University School of Law through the mentor program. He and his wife, Jo, established a trust to create the Fowks-Halley-Van Petten Chair of Dispute Resolution, along with the Robert J. Fowks Fund at the law school. They also created a scholarship to help single mothers attend the Washburn University nursing program.

Dr. Halley married Josephine Ann "Jo" Van Petten in 1954, after she graduated from KU School of Nursing. They have five children, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, one step-granddaughter, and two step great-granddaughters. Among the five children are two physicians, one social worker, and two lawyers, practicing in Topeka, Kansas City, Connecticut, Ohio, and California.



**Mark V. Heitz, '77**, attended Washburn University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1974, a Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 1977, and an Honorary Doctorate of Law in 2001.

While attending Washburn Law, Heitz became a law clerk for the Kansas Insurance Commissioner and began his nearly 40 year career in the insurance industry. In 1981 he joined the legal staff at Security Benefit Group, where he led their governmental relations efforts in Washington, D.C., and Topeka. He was heavily involved in the rewriting of the federal income tax code for the life insurance industry, working closely with the Senate Finance Committee and its chairman, Senator **Bob Dole, '52**. From 1984 to 1986, he worked for CGF Industries and helped consummate 14 acquisitions.

**Congressman Dennis W. Moore, '70**, graduated from the University of Kansas in 1967. Following in the footsteps of his father, **C.W. (Warner) Moore, '50**, Dennis received his law degree from Washburn Law.

After service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Reserve, Congressman Moore started his legal career as an assistant attorney general for the State of Kansas. He entered private legal practice in Johnson County in 1973. In 1976, Moore was elected district attorney in Johnson County and was re-elected twice, serving a total of 12 years. During his tenure, he earned the reputation as a tough but fair prosecutor.

Congressman Moore was elected in 1998 to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Third District of Kansas, where he served six terms.

**Ronald E. Wurtz, '73**, received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Washburn University in 1970 and is a 1973 graduate of Washburn University School of Law.

Early in his career, Wurtz served as a Shawnee County assistant district attorney. He was the chief public defender in Shawnee County from 1979 to 1994 and then chief of the Death Penalty Defense Unit of the Kansas State Public Defender System until 1998. Wurtz served as an assistant federal public defender, first assistant, and acting federal defender for the District of Kansas from 1998 until his retirement in 2013.

Wurtz served as a U.S. Air Force judge advocate, retiring in 1997 after 22 years of active and reserve service. He has been an adjunct professor at Washburn Law, a mentor to law students and a supporter of the law school, delivering

Heitz joined the Board of Directors of American Investors Life Insurance Company (AIL) in June 1986 and became a founding director of AmVestors Financial Corporation, the parent company of AIL, in August 1986. In October 1986 he became president of AIL and in December 1986 he also became president of AmVestors, beginning a 25-year career with these entities. He retired at the end of 2011 and continued in a consulting role for Aviva USA through the end of 2013.

Heitz has served on the Washburn Board of Regents, the Washburn University Foundation, and the Washburn Law Alumni Association Board of Governors. Heitz and his wife, Lisa, reside in Miramar Beach, Fla., and also maintain a home in Topeka.

As a member of the Center Aisle Caucus, a group formed to bring more civility and bipartisanship to Congress, Moore developed a reputation as someone who would reach across the aisle to develop common-sense solutions to issues.

The January 24, 2000, issue of *Roll Call* featured Congressman Moore in the article "Who's Part of the Next Generation of Hill Leaders."

Congressman Moore has made presentations to the political science department at Washburn University and was the graduation speaker for commencement at Washburn Law in May 2008. He resides in Lenexa with his wife, Stephene, a registered nurse. They have seven children and eight grandchildren.

the commencement address to Washburn Law graduates in 1995.

Wurtz received the Kansas Bar Association Outstanding Service Award for his many contributions to the KBA and the legal profession.

Wurtz has been admitted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. This accomplished group recognizes excellence in trial lawyers, and membership is by invitation only to persons who have distinguished themselves in trial practice for at least 15 years and who are recognized leaders in their local communities. The college looks for lawyers who are considered by other lawyers and judges to be the best in their states or provinces, whose ethical and moral standards are the highest, and who share the intangible quality of collegiality.