

Recognizing Excellence

Six join ranks of past honorees.

by Kathy Busch | kbusch@wufoundation.org

Six individuals joined the prestigious rank of Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association award recipients at the Oct. 1, 2016, alumni awards dinner.

Lifetime Achievement

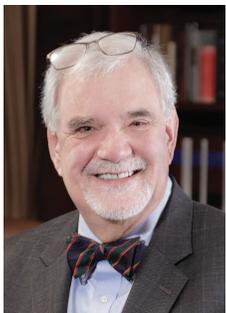


Earl Hatcher, JD '23 and H '69 (posthumous)

“Our family is very excited about this honor you are bestowing on our grandfather. He held Washburn in high esteem his entire life and worked tirelessly helping it through tough times. Our grandfather’s daughter, four grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren

and 18 great great grandchildren will remember this award and keep it close to our hearts for the rest of our lives. Those of us who knew Earl Hatcher personally know what a special person he was. You would never know his accomplishments by talking to him. He was a very humble man.” (Steve Jones, Grandson)

Earl Hatcher graduated with honors from Washburn Law, and the following year he joined the faculty and took a leading role in raising funds for a new law school following the 1966 tornado. He spent 11 years on the Kansas Supreme Court as the Court reporter and wrote several hundred opinions for the Court that encompass more than three volumes. His Hatcher’s Digest was used for more than three decades as a great reference for attorneys throughout the State of Kansas. He spent three years in charge of the Kansas Bar Examiner’s office located on the Washburn campus. He was Alf Landon’s campaign manager during Landon’s run for president.



The Honorable J. Thomas Marten, BA '73 and JD '76

“In reading about this award, I was a little chagrined to learn that recipients should be well along in their professional careers. It is humbling to even be considered for a Lifetime Achievement Award, and those who receive it understand it bestows an

obligation to continue to do the best work one can. For me, every day is still an adventure, and the best parts of it are still

out there. Washburn, both the undergraduate school and the law school, are much more than repositories of knowledge. The faculty encourages fresh perspectives, innovation, and, most important, the desire to make a positive difference. So, in a very real sense, this award belongs to Washburn.”

Chief Judge Tom Marten, a native Kansan, was appointed to the bench in 1996, and was appointed Chief Judge of the District of Kansas in 2014. After serving as law clerk to retired Associate Justice Tom C. Clark of the United States Supreme Court, he spent 19 years practicing law in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas, including 14 years as a member of Bremyer & Wise, P.A. in McPherson, Kansas. Judge Marten is a founding member of the Wesley E. Brown Inn of Court, a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences, and has taught trial advocacy at Harvard Law School for more than 25 years.



Frank Ross, Jr., JD '78

“I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Washburn Law School Alumni Association with the Lifetime Achievement Award. To the extent I’ve achieved anything in life, I hope it’s been to be considered by my family and friends as a good husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend.

If along the way, it also happened that others thought me to be a good lawyer for our law firm’s clients and a good partner to my law firm colleagues that would have been more than I ever could have hoped for. My years at Washburn were memorable and special years, where I learned about the law but maybe more about the selfless commitment it takes to be a lawyer. I am so grateful for this honor and offer my great thanks to the Alumni Association for even thinking that I was deserving of such a special recognition.”

After graduating from Kansas State University in 1975, Ross earned his juris doctor from the Washburn University School of Law in 1978. He took his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. As a Washburn Law student, Ross was the recipient of the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, was assistant editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*, and a member of the Washburn Moot Court Council. He also served on the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors. Ross is currently

chair of Polsinelli's Business Department and has led the department's growth from 30 attorneys in 1998 to more than 375 professionals in 2016, serving clients across the nation.

Distinguished Service



Lynette Petty, JD '87

“What an incredible honor to be recognized by the institution that has given me so much opportunity. As I reflect on the students I have served, the clients who have benefitted from the hard work and advocacy of our Law Clinic interns, and the dedication of our staff and faculty to guide

students down the path to professional service, I feel proud to be a part of the Washburn tradition and fulfilled by the success of all our efforts.”

Lynette Petty began her career as a teacher for 12 years before graduating *cum laude* from Washburn University School of Law in 1987. She joined the faculty in 1992 and dedicated the last 24 years of her career to preparing law students to be effective and empathetic lawyers. While at the Law Clinic, she practiced in the areas of social security disability, family law, juvenile law, and immigration law. She served as the assistant dean for accommodations, ensuring equal access for all students to a top-notch legal education at Washburn. Prior to joining the Washburn Law faculty, Petty was a staff attorney, then assistant managing attorney and project director at Kansas Legal Services.

Honorary Life Membership



Cynthia Heath, BA '71

“The selection as an Honorary Life Member of the Washburn School of Law Alumni Association is so unexpected and such a wonderful honor. Washburn Law has always been my adopted law school. Of course, the primary reason is because my husband, David Heath, was a graduate. The other

reasons are because I believe the Law School is a hallmark of Washburn University, the best law school in Kansas, and one of the outstanding law schools in the Midwest. Our teaching law school provides legal writing skills, clinical experiences, and other opportunities that result in well-prepared attorneys for our profession. I am humbled and delighted to be recognized

in this way by the Board of Governors of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association.”

After graduating from Washburn University with a degree in history, Heath taught and coached at Topeka West High School, Topeka. She earned a master's degree from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., and a juris doctor from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. After working at a St. Louis law firm, Heath went to work for Emerson Electric, where she serves as vice president for executive compensation. She met her late husband, **David Heath, BA '70 and JD '76**, at Washburn. They were long-time supporters of Washburn Law, and she has continued this support. Heath has served as a Washburn University Foundation trustee since 2007 and as a director since 2009. She currently serves as the chair of the trustees. She also chaired the Washburn Women's Venture Partners from 2008 to 2015. She received the Alumni Association's 2013 Monroe Award and was inducted into the Washburn Hall of Fame in 2013.



The Honorable Edward Larson

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A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, the Honorable Edward Larson graduated from the University of Kansas Law School in 1960, after which he practiced law and served as a municipal judge in Hays, Kan. In 1987, he was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals and then tapped for the Kansas Supreme Court in 1995. He retired in 2002. Larson has worked with Washburn Law's Oil and Gas Law Center for Excellence since its inception. He has taught the Mineral Title Examination course for many years. He continues to mentor Washburn Law graduates and has served in many capacities with Washburn Law faculty on numerous professional boards and committees.