

A 21st Century Legal Education

As we begin the new academic year, I am again reminded of what an amazing place Washburn Law is for our students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

Washburn Law continues to meet the challenges of providing a 21st century legal education. We have expanded our nationally renowned Oil and Gas program, launched a new Law Early Admissions Program (LEAP) with Baker University, started a Rural Legal Practice Initiative with Kansas State University, and placed 11 students in externships in Western Kansas, thanks to a continuing grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Our efforts are paying off in the national rankings. Washburn Law was ranked one of the Best Schools for Practical Training by The National Jurist, Top 16 in the nation for Trial Advocacy by *preLaw* Magazine, Top 11 in the nation for Taxation, and Top 17 in the nation for Business and Corporate Law by *preLaw* Magazine.

Washburn Law has outstanding students, an exceptional faculty, and exemplary programs. Still, it is time to lay a new cornerstone. To remain and advance as a premier law school, we need a building that is both functional and appealing. A new home will help us further strengthen our national reputation and attract the most highly talented students and faculty. The vibrant and flexible spaces will create a more productive environment for faculty, students, and staff, and a deeper and more connected student experience. At our new home on the corner of 21st and Washburn Avenue, we will be the cornerstone for Washburn's campus, Topeka, the state of Kansas, and the entire legal community.

To reach our \$40 million goal, we continue to work with alumni and friends to match the \$20 million that Washburn University and its Board of Regents has committed toward our new home. Our staff, faculty, and alumni volunteers continue to engage more of our loyal alumni and friends as we bring their passionate support for Washburn Law together with this transformative project.

We were very pleased with the recent generous challenge gift of \$1 million from Cynthia Heath. Cynthia and her late husband David, '76, have been great supporters of the Law School for many years. Cynthia's gift will match dollar for dollar each new or increased gift to the building campaign, up to \$1 million.

In closing, at the Dean's Circle dinner a few months ago, I announced I was stepping down as the Dean of the Law School in June 2018. Serving as your Dean has been my honor and privilege and the perfect capstone of my legal career. The median tenure for law school deans today is about 3 years. This is my eleventh year as Dean, and had you asked me when I started "how long do you plan on being Dean," I probably would have said three to five years. These years have gone by quickly. I look forward to visiting with many of you in my last year as Dean, and I know Washburn University will be diligent in finding the right person to lead Washburn Law into the future.

Thank you for all you do to help make Washburn Law what it is today, and what it can become going forward.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Romig
Dean and Professor of Law
Washburn University School of Law



WASHBURN LAWYER

We welcome your suggestions about this publication. Please write, phone, email, or visit our website. Letters to the editor and news of jobs and honors are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime phone number. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.

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