

# WASHBURN LAWYER

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Magazine | Summer 2018

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 1



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# My Sincerest Thanks

As I finish out my tenure as dean of the Washburn University School of Law, I'm thankful for the opportunities and memories I've been able to share with the Washburn Law family.

When I first arrived at Washburn for my interview, I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was the people and their kindness that convinced me to make this move in my career. The last 11 years here have reaffirmed that decision. While the average tenure for a law dean today is three to four years, I've stayed at Washburn because of each of you and what we have been able to accomplish over the years.

I would first like to thank the students. Their eagerness to use their education to make the world a better place is inspiring. They challenge each other, the faculty and staff, and our alumni to think differently about the role of lawyers in today's world. I've worked with many of them as they considered their future careers and how they want to build on the existing legal community, and I enjoy hearing of their later successes.

Faculty members have spent countless hours making this law school what it is today – a collegial environment that promotes respect for others and the value of teaching and developing practice-ready graduates. The diversity in their research interests and their excellent teaching skills have contributed to a rise in the national rankings for Washburn Law.

Our alumni and donors make this success possible. Many of our students would not be able to afford law school without your support, and our faculty and staff would not be able to provide our students so many opportunities outside of the classroom. Your mentorship of students and amount of time many of you spend serving the Alumni Association is invaluable to this Law School.

Thank you for all you have done for Washburn Law, and I look forward to continuing to work with many of you as a proud supporter of Washburn Law and faculty member.

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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# Building Momentum

This is an exciting time for Washburn Law School. Washburn graduates around the country have reason to be proud of their alma mater.

Thanks to Dean Romig and our outstanding faculty, Washburn Law has achieved its highest rankings in school history. Washburn is ranked No. 3 in the nation for Government Law, No. 7 in the nation for full time Government and Public Interest Employment, No. 9 in the nation for Business, Banking and Corporate Law, No. 16 for Legal Writing and Top 16 in the nation for Trial Advocacy. For the last seven years Washburn School of Law has been recognized by the Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report as one of the Best Law Schools in the United States.

This is all great news and we should share it!

I am also pleased to report the fundraising effort for the new law school building to be constructed in the Southeast corner of campus, has gained momentum. More than 1,000 people have contributed \$8.5 million to the building campaign and nearly 450 of these contributions have been received in the last year alone. Great progress has been made thanks to the dedicated fundraising group at Washburn led by Marshall Meek, Patrick Mikesic, Karla Whitaker and their team. This enthusiastic support from our alumni will create a state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Washburn's campus that will meet the innovative needs of our students for years to come, and supports the interdisciplinary study and expertise that the field of law requires.

We remain grateful that the Washburn Board of Regents voted unanimously to build the new law school building on campus. The dream of a new Law School building will be realized!

This is a wonderful time to introduce the next dean of Washburn Law, Carla Pratt. Dean Pratt is an accomplished, visionary leader with a reputation for being creative and a passion for educating future lawyers. You will read much more about our new dean in the next edition of the Washburn Lawyer.

In the coming weeks as Dean Pratt takes the reins we encourage you to attend alumni events and meet our talented new leader. In particular, please mark your calendars for Thursday, Aug. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m., as we host a Welcome Reception on Washburn Law's South Patio to introduce Dean Pratt to the Washburn Law family.

Finally, it has been my privilege to serve as Board Chair the past two years and I am excited for what lays ahead for our Alumni Association under the leadership of incoming Chair, Lucky Defries, '78. I look forward to the year ahead and encourage all alumni to stay connected to Washburn Law through membership, supported programs and events. Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Jim Slattery, '75  
Chair, Washburn University School of Law  
Alumni Association Board of Governors



The Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors was first created in 1952. Our mission is to promote the interests of the Law School by engaging our alumni through service to the Law School and the Association, participating in alumni events and programs, remaining connected, and assisting to further scholarship funding. Appointments run July through June.

#### 2017-2018 Board of Governors

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# Lifetime of Service

## *Thomas J. Romig to step down as dean after 11 years.*

*By Sarah Towle, BA '07 | stowle@wualumni.org*

Integrity, honesty, and honor are at the heart of being a lawyer and are values Thomas J. Romig, Dean of the Washburn University School of Law for the last 11 years, has carried with him as he's led the school.

### *Establishing Hard Work and Values*

As an undergraduate at Kansas State University, Romig became inspired to pursue a career in law by an adjunct professor teaching business law. The professor's name was Don Hill and he was a Manhattan attorney and a Washburn Law graduate. Since Romig was in the Army ROTC program and incurred a two-year service obligation upon graduation, his plan was to serve the two years in the Army and then use the GI Bill to go to law school.

Following graduation he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence and was assigned to the airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He so enjoyed the life of an Army paratrooper so much that he forgot about the plan to go to law school. After four years, he had a life-altering event that changed the course of his military career. He was participating in a military parachute exercise with the 82nd Airborne Division when he experienced a malfunction of his parachute. The first part of the parachute jump had gone well as his parachute canopy had deployed perfectly. He was one of several hundred descending paratroopers when his canopy collapsed and he fell 75 feet. The long recovery time from the accident and subsequent back surgery allowed him to reflect on his career aspirations and the original plan to attend law school. He decided to pursue a law degree and was selected to attend the Santa Clara University School of Law through the Army Funded Legal Education Program.

After graduating from law school, he became an Army Judge Advocate and served in a variety of assignments including three years teaching international law at the Army JAG School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 2001, he was named the 36th Judge Advocate General of the Army — the Army's top military lawyer. Ironically, the first speaking engagement he had after assuming the position was at Washburn University School of Law, addressing the Kansas National Guard. At the time, he had not considered becoming dean of a law school, let alone at Washburn.

He retired from the Army in October 2005, after having served 34 years. In December 2005, he accepted the position of Deputy Chief Counsel for the Federal Aviation Administration and later became the Acting Chief Counsel.

During his last several years in the Army and while in the FAA, he and his wife, Pam, were coming back to Kansas more and more often. They went to high school reunions, attended K-State football games, and visited relatives.

Their growing desire to be back in Kansas and his desire to have a capstone experience for his career led him to apply for



Photo by Michael C. Snell

### **The Farm**

In 2007, when making the change from Virginia to Topeka, Kansas, Dean Romig spent some time searching for a home. He and his wife found their fit on a plot of land in southwest Shawnee County, coincidentally already in the Washburn Law family as it was previously owned by two Washburn Law alumni.

Growing up in Manhattan, Kansas, he gained an appreciation for the importance and value of land. The entire time in the Army, he knew if he went back to Kansas, he wanted to purchase some land.

"When you move around in the military, you don't have that opportunity to really establish roots anywhere," he said.

After he steps down as dean, Romig is hoping he can spend more time on the property, a total of about 77 acres with a 3-acre pond.

"It's very peaceful out there. I'm hoping, I will have time to spend on the tractor and to work on the property."



Photo by Doug Stremel

the dean position at Washburn Law. He began his tenure as the Washburn Law Dean on July 1, 2007.

### *Leading Through a Changing Landscape*

Anyone who leads an academic department for 11 years is going to see profound change in how the field grows, the interests of students and faculty members, and how economic and political factors can change an industry.

“It’s caused me to appreciate even more the importance of having a good legal education system where students not only learn the law, but they learn the practice elements of being a lawyer, and maybe most importantly the value of professionalism, integrity, and ethics,” Romig said. “There is not a better place anywhere in our country to teach that than Washburn Law.”

The values he carries with him as a lawyer played out in 2010 when he led the Law School through one of the nation’s worst economic downturns and a prolific amount of negative media coverage about law schools lacking transparency and being a poor investment for students.

“The criticisms of not being transparent or not providing a good value did not apply to us, but it was affecting everyone’s perceptions of law schools. We had to figure out a way to weather through it,” Romig said.

Law schools around the country had two choices – if they thought it was going to be a short-term matter, they could decrease admission standards and keep class sizes and budgets steady. If they thought it might go on for awhile and wanted to hold onto their reputation and credentials, they’d have to drop their class size. Washburn Law chose the latter option.

“We had to tighten our financial belts and reduce our spending in a lot of areas, and that enabled us to bring in smaller classes. We also looked at this as an opportunity to keep credentials up, attract the best and brightest students and have it reflected in our rankings.”

The plan worked, and the national rankings of Washburn Law have improved. The Law School was ranked 15th nationally in Legal Writing in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Grad Schools in 2018. The National Jurist in 2017 named Washburn Law as one of the nation’s “Best Schools for Practical Training.” Washburn Law’s trial advocacy program was also ranked among the top 16 law schools in the nation the last two years by preLaw magazine.

**Paul Hoferer, ’75**, a member of the Washburn University Board of Regents and a member of the Washburn University Foundation Board of Directors, served on Washburn Law Alumni Association’s Board of Governors at the time Romig was hired. During the economic downturn, the Law School had tough decisions to make, but Hoferer considers the handling of the difficult situation a hallmark of Romig’s tenure.

“He and the faculty accepted the challenge and held the course for academic standards,” Hoferer said. “They managed to raise our national rankings and our prestige and never lost ground during the downturn. It was the ultimate example of making lemonade out of lemons and a major accomplishment.”

### *Setting a Pathway for the Future*

One of the first major initiatives Romig put together was a task force for a new law building, as he, along with fellow faculty and alumni members, knew would be vital to keeping up the prominence of the law school. Washburn was providing a 21st century legal education, but needed better spaces to enhance the educational experience. To date, the Law School has raised more than \$8.4 million in private funding toward a new building, with a \$20 million commitment from the Washburn Board of Regents once \$20 million is raised.

“I think there is a lot of competition out there for law schools, so you have to have a leader who is not only a good academic role model, but someone who does not believe in the status quo,” Hoferer said. “You have to move forward, or you will be left behind. Dean Romig went to work, and today, we are much closer to getting that new building.”

Putting the right people in place has also been a pillar of success for Romig, according to Joseph Mastrosimone, associate dean for academic affairs. In the past few years, many senior faculty members have retired and the Law School has had to complete nationwide searches to find the best-fit people for Washburn Law.

“Dean Romig has kept a keen eye on making sure the faculty we hire fit into that culture and the new faculty hold the same values – collegiality, respect for others, and student-centered teaching and learning,” Mastrosimone said. “He has left this school in smart and capable hands.”

Under Romig’s leadership, three new centers – Robert J. Dole Center for Law and Government, Oil and Gas Law Center, and International and Comparative Law Center – were created with many initiatives and programs receiving national recognition. One of his final initiatives has been laying the groundwork for an additional center on rural law.

“One of his most recent accomplishments was the establishment of an agricultural law program which has proven to be quite important,” said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. “This program is a vital component of the Rural Legal Practice Initiative, which is a partnership with Kansas State University – an initiative aimed at addressing the dramatic shortage of lawyers in rural Kansas.”

One of the last changes Romig brought to Washburn Law happened this spring – teaching a military law course, which is something the school hasn’t offered for many years. Because of the extensive travel schedule required of the dean, he hasn’t been able to teach but wanted to do it in his final semester.

“You can come out of teaching a class and you’re kind of on an adrenaline high because of the interaction with the students,” Romig said. “It’s like if you try a case, when you do your final argument and you hear the jury verdict.”

When Romig was looking for the capstone of his career, he was hoping to pull all of the things he’s done together to give back to the profession by mentoring students and contributing legal education.

“Coming in here, having some influence on legal education, working with a great faculty and staff, enthusiastic students and dedication alumni has been very rewarding,” he said. “If I had to pick anything to do, there couldn’t have been anything better than being dean of Washburn Law.”



Washburn Law faculty, staff, and alumni celebrate Dean Romig at his retirement reception. Photos by Nick Krug

# A Force to be Reckoned With

*Young alumni gain confidence from their strong education.*

*By Leah Sewell, BA '11*

**Candice Alcaraz, '16**, had an impressive tally of real-world experiences on her record, a fact that supplied her with an upper hand when she threw in her hat for a job as a Wyandotte County prosecution attorney and was awarded the position. It was her first job right out of Washburn Law.

“Everything from my experience at Washburn prepared me for that moment,” Alcaraz said. “In those first weeks, everything we’d ever talked about in the practical classes would come running back to me. I’d say to myself, ‘I know this.’”

Within her first days as a county attorney, she was asked to respond to a motion. Alcaraz felt the pressure, but relied on her practical education from Washburn Law to follow through with confidence.

“I made the motion, did the response, went to the hearing, argued it. I did it, full out. I remembered doing this same thing with Professor John Francis at the law clinic,” said Alcaraz. “With me being the new attorney, the judge asked me about case law, and I thought to myself, ‘Here we go, it’s law school all over again.’”

Alcaraz, originally from Chicago’s South Side, wound up a law student at Washburn and, ultimately, an attorney in metropolitan Kansas City through sheer grit combined with serendipity. Alcaraz knew from an uncannily early age she was a force to be reckoned with.

Recalling a long-ago episode in a third-grade classroom in Chicago, Alcaraz said, “My parents had just switched me from a religious school to a public school, and I was suddenly at a loss on the subject of science. I’d been good at everything else up until then. At that moment, I decided, if I let anything hinder me, I’m not going to get too far. I decided I



Candice Alcaraz, '16, stands in the entrance of the Wyandotte County Courthouse.  
Photo by Nick Krug

would study hard and go after this with all my might. And I just took off from there. I kept achieving at every grade level.”

Alcaraz graduated in the top 10 of her high school and wound up an undergrad at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. There, in her junior year, she had an auspicious conversation with her criminal justice instructor where it first dawned on her to pursue a career in law.

Fast forward to 2013. With a commendable LSAT score in her favor, Alcaraz had several offers, but her future really came down to a choice between two schools. One of them was Washburn.

“In talking to Washburn, people were friendly, helpful, and informative,” remembered Alcaraz. “I kept thinking, ‘People can’t really be this nice,’ but they were. The other school was treating me like I was just another number. Washburn kept telling me they were very experience-oriented. I felt like, okay, I like this. I got everything I needed and more. It was a great decision.”

At Washburn, Alcaraz threw herself full-force into experiential offerings and seized every opportunity for growth. She led a study group, participated in the Black Law Student Association, won an internship with the **Honorable Stephen Hill, ’75**, on the Kansas Court of Appeals, served as the president of the Moot Court Council, achieved membership to the Order of the Barristers, and earned a certificate in advocacy from the Center for Excellence in Advocacy.

Alcaraz’s boundless drive during her academic career seems almost superhuman. But she’s quick to point out the school and its faculty challenged her to overcome and exceed her limits, and that an atmosphere of collaboration provided her with the encouragement she needed to succeed.

“My first time doing a mock argument during class, I was freaking out. I was terrified. The student who was opposing me was so reassuring beforehand. We all supported each other, we were all students at the end of the day,” recalled Alcaraz. “Still, as I walked up to the podium, I was shaking. But when I started speaking, I was on fire. Professor Emily Grant asked me a question, and I responded, ‘I can give you this two ways,’ and she shot back, ‘Well, show me what you’ve got.’ I knew in that moment that I was good at this.”

Alcaraz cites the emphasis on legal writing, the collegial atmosphere among students, the range of practical

opportunities, and the relationships she formed with practicing attorneys and judges as the factors leading to her success.

“Everything turned around for me from my first year to my last year,” Alcaraz recalled. “I ended up having all this experience so I could do anything I wanted and run wild with it. When you get out there, people expect you to know things. Washburn’s practical approach has got to be the wave of the future. You can’t trade that kind of experience for anything.”

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“In talking to Washburn, people were friendly, helpful, and informative. I kept thinking, ‘People can’t really be this nice,’ but they were. The other school was treating me like I was just another number. Washburn kept telling me they were very experience-oriented. I felt like, okay, I like this. I got everything I needed and more. It was a great decision.”

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Every semester, Washburn University School of Law Dean Thomas J. Romig takes time to get to know incoming students.

“I always ask them to say why they decided to go to law school,” Romig said. “Before 2011, there were maybe 20-30 percent of the students who would say, ‘When I graduated college, I didn’t know what else to do with myself.’ We don’t see that anymore. We have people who are really focused on going to law school because of that smaller pool.”

“Any way you look at it, the chances of getting a job are good for people who graduate from Washburn Law,” said Romig. “They are better prepared to go out and practice law or provide legal counsel because of the courses they’ve taken. They’re ready to hit the ground running. Employers know that.”

Alcaraz is one of those applicants who really knew the law school path was the right one for her.

“I think that, in our profession, people are leery of going after a degree because there might not be a job afterward. That, and the cost of living, scares people,” said Alcaraz, who funded part of her degree with student loans. “I knew it was going to be expensive. But I knew it would pay off over time. If you want this, go after it full throttle. There’s so much you can do with this degree.”



The new law school building will be built around the needs of a 21st Century education already being taught by Washburn Law faculty. The building campaign has seen tremendous momentum over the last year.

## Challenges Accepted

*Giving challenges increase participation in building project campaign.*

*By Sarah Towle, BA '07 | [stowle@wualumni.org](mailto:stowle@wualumni.org)*

In the past year, the law school building project has seen an increase in participation thanks to generous giving challenges and match campaigns sparked by Cynthia Heath's \$1 million challenge launched in October 2017 and finalized in January 2018.

Two \$5,000 matches on the Day of Giving in February, and one \$25,000 match aimed at encouraging law school faculty and staff to give has increased the total amount given to *Ideal Place: The Building Campaign* for the Washburn University School of Law to \$8.5 million.

**Heath, BA '71**, and honorary lifetime member to the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association, is delighted the campaign has gained incredible momentum in the last eight months.



Cynthia Heath, BA '71. Photo submitted

“I like to encourage others to think bigger than themselves,” said Heath, chair of the Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees. “At the heart of my giving is honoring those who came before me, in particular my parents who sacrificed for me, and my husband, David, who encouraged me and believed I could succeed at anything. Giving to Washburn fulfills my commitment to them.”

With a goal of \$20 million to raise for the building, Heath knows it’s going to take the Washburn Law family to meet the goal.

### *Faculty and Staff Step Up*

Martin Wisneski, assistant director and head of technical services of the Washburn Law Library, and a law school staff member since 1986, along with his wife, **Lisa Hammer, ’90**, took up the cause to inspire others to give as well through a “mystery donor” challenge to the law school faculty and staff.

Wisneski has been involved in the renovation of many areas of the current law building, including the law library expansion in the late 80s and early 90s, and knows it takes broad support to see a project through. Hammer shared that when traveling, they often stop at other law schools to check out their spaces.

“Times have changed,” said Hammer, who worked for the Kansas Court of Appeals and Kansas Social Rehabilitation

Services. “The competition for law students is keen — students are more aware of law school debt now, so they are more selective. You must put a good foot forward. You have to be sharp looking. We need to sharpen Washburn Law’s physical image.”

Wisneski noted the changing nature of legal education to more of a collaborative and group learning environment recently led the law library to refurbish its entry and reference areas to provide students with more inviting spaces to study and work together.

“Students have made great use of the refurbished areas, confirming our thought that many of these types of spaces are needed in the new building, and prospective students walk in and immediately see current students working together, a real positive,” said Wisneski.

Inspired by Heath’s challenge, Wisneski and Hammer issued their own fundraising challenge. In addition to giving back to the institution that has played such a major role in their lives, they hoped to encourage more faculty and staff to give to the new building.

“We wanted to make it a challenge, make it fun, and to tell law alumni the people who work here also support this project,” said Hammer. “It doesn’t matter what amount you can give, but that you demonstrate your support for the Law School.”



Washburn Law faculty and staff gather to present the check from their giving challenge. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Both were surprised when the total was revealed this March at a celebration where they were disclosed as the “mystery donors.” By the completion of the challenge, more than 75 percent of the law faculty and staff had given more than \$107,000, exceeding the initial challenge by 300 percent. In total, law school faculty and staff have contributed in excess of \$425,000 to the law school building campaign since it began.

“The total amount was astounding to us. We didn’t know what it was until we saw the check,” said Wisneski and Hammer. “The generosity everyone showed by participating in our challenge truly touched us, and we appreciate all of the contributions.”

### *Day of Giving*

Washburn’s annual Day of Giving helped build the momentum for the law school building campaign as it raised almost \$30,000 in gifts in the span of one day.



Judy Jenkins, BS '04, JD '07. Photo submitted

**Judy Jenkins, BS '04, JD '07,** and Washburn University Foundation trustee, issued a \$5,000 match that day with another anonymous donor doing the same. In total, more than 35 donors gave to the building campaign.

“I was happy to be in a position to both challenge and to remind my classmates to show their support for the school’s building project,” Jenkins said. “It was my hope my classmates would match my challenge,

exceed my goal or simply begin the conversation with the Foundation or the Law School to learn about the many ways to support the college, the current and future students. I felt it was my turn to begin paying it forward.”

### *Looking to the future*

Heath said she is looking forward to the successful completion of the building campaign and to see a new law building on the southeast side of campus.

## *By the Numbers*

*Ideal Place:* The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law has seen record momentum in the last eight months.

Here are the numbers as of June 1, 2018.

**Total Raised:** \$8.5 million

**Total Donors:** 743

**Since October 2017:**

\$2.5 million raised

more than 290 new donors

**From Washburn Law Faculty and Staff Donors:**

\$427,559 raised



The \$1 million challenge wrapped up in January of this year, and Heath said she was pleased with the great enthusiasm by the law school alumni, faculty and support staff, Washburn undergraduate alumni, and her fellow Foundation trustees who gave to meet the challenge and contributed more than \$1.3 million in less than three months.

Since the \$1 million challenge started, more than 290 new donors have given to the law school, an increase of almost 65 percent since the campaign initially started.

“The impact of our university and the law school on the local community, state, and the world should not be underestimated but celebrated at every opportunity,” Heath said. “No one can do this alone, and I always hope that others will join me in the opportunity to strengthen Washburn.”

# Relationship Building Leads to Success

*Alumna works to replicate experience of mentoring others.*

*By Angela Lutz*

For **Lynn McCreary, '94**, the secret to success lies in relationships. She certainly has a career anyone would be proud to claim. After graduating from Washburn University School of Law in 1994, she worked at Frieden, Haynes & Forbes in Topeka before joining Bryan Cave (now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner), where she went on to serve as managing partner of the firm's San Francisco office.

In 2010, McCreary joined Fiserv, Inc., a Fortune 500 company based in Brookfield, Wisconsin, that is a leading provider of financial technology solutions. She became the chief legal officer shortly thereafter. In her current role, McCreary, a member of the company's executive committee, is responsible for legal affairs, ethics, and compliance, as well as enterprise risk and cyber security strategy, the latter of which has taken on heightened significance in recent years.

"Washburn gave me the opportunity to succeed, and I'm indebted for that opportunity. The law school, administration, and faculty provided me with the support I needed. They gave me an education that allowed me to enjoy a challenging and rewarding career in private practice, and now with a dynamic company that impacts people across the globe."

"Cyber security is a pressing concern for any company that handles data and information," McCreary said. "Because Fiserv serves institutions which are 'systemically important' to the financial industry, maintaining the sanctity, integrity, safety, and security of sensitive financial information is of paramount importance."

As an in-house lawyer, McCreary is fully integrated with Fiserv, allowing her to identify and contribute to solutions before problems arise. Building relationships with her internal colleagues has allowed her to gain a comprehensive understanding of the business, essential to the success of any general counsel.

"If you can see an issue before it becomes a problem, you can work to avoid that problem, but the opportunity to be proactive is certainly enhanced by strong relationships with your business partners who integrate you into their leadership teams," McCreary explained. "Being aligned with and integrated within the business you support is key."

As a leader in her industry, McCreary has the chance not only to foster relationships, but also to help others develop their skills and achieve success. She readily acknowledges that, as she progressed in her career, she had the support of mentors and others who encouraged or challenged her, and she relishes the chance to offer similar support to up-and-coming leaders.

"I am successful because people believed in me along the way. They gave me the opportunity to succeed," McCreary said. "I try to replicate my experience: Believe in your people, give them honest feedback, and put them in positions to succeed. Broadcast their successes and support them when they don't succeed. The hardest aspect of leadership is knowing when you have done all you can to develop someone."

In her own career, McCreary credits Washburn University School of Law with giving her some of the tools and knowledge she needed to be successful in her current role. The desire to give others a similar chance at achieving their personal and professional goals fuels her service as a member of the Law School's alumni board.

"Washburn gave me the opportunity to succeed, and I'm indebted for that opportunity," she said. "The law school, administration, and faculty provided me with the support I needed. They gave me an education that allowed me to enjoy a challenging and rewarding career in private practice, and now with a dynamic company that impacts people across the globe."

McCreary believes the Washburn faculty's integration of academia and real life made her education even more valuable, as well as her relationships with her teachers and fellow students.

"I loved the closeness of not only the student body but the faculty," she said. "I benefitted greatly from the faculty's ability to incorporate the real world into the theoretical one by



Lynn McCreary, '94. Photo by Jessica Kaminski - The Refinery Photo Studio

introducing outside speakers into the curriculum and weaving real-life experiences into the classroom, which brought the law to life.”

When it comes to balancing her career with her life outside of work – which includes spending time with family, traveling, cycling, and cooking – McCreary doesn’t draw a line in the sand between the two: “My work is very much a part of my life, and my life is very much a part of my work,” she said.

“Being in touch with what’s important to you and making sure that you allocate time to do what’s important to you will allow you to find balance, if there is such a thing,” she added. “It really requires you to be in touch with what’s important and to respect your own priorities, even if that means scheduling personal or family activities and treating them as though they are one of your most important business commitments.”

Going forward, McCreary is excited about the next phase of the Fiserv legal department, which involves more fully leveraging technology to better manage a highly complex and diverse business on a global scale. She also looks forward to building and strengthening relationships with the professionals on her team and helping them, and the business they serve, achieve their goals.

“As I think back on my career, I’m proudest of the teams and groups that I’ve had the opportunity to affiliate with and the things we have been able to build together,” McCreary said. “Throughout my career, I’ve had incredible lawyers, paralegals, business partners, and others who have demonstrated the power of coming together to achieve a common goal. Lawyers are often uniquely situated to help others. Having the opportunity to lead a strong team that contributes to the success of others truly drives me.”

# Dean Gives Fellow JAGs Edge

*Romig's experience helped prepare students for fulfilling careers after graduation.*

*By Chris Marshall, BA '09*

Few things mean more to a job-seeking juris doctor candidate than a letter of recommendation from the dean. The words of praise carry even more weight when written by a member of the graduate's field of choice.

Twenty-four Washburn University School of Law alumni graduated directly into a Judge Advocate General (JAG) or JAG Corps program since 2007, the year Thomas Romig became dean after leaving his distinguished career with the U.S. Army and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Every branch of the military accepted at least one graduate during Romig's 11 years as dean, thanks in part to his guidance before, during, and after their time on campus.

"The reason I chose Washburn Law was because of Dean Romig," said **Sean Pribyl, '10**, who transitioned from his career as a merchant mariner to come to Topeka with the goal of becoming a JAG. "He presented himself in a way that made me say, 'This is the person I want to work for,' and that's essentially what it was. When I left that meeting with him, I knew right away that's where I wanted to be."

Pribyl served six years in the Coast Guard JAG program after graduating from Washburn Law and received the ABA's outstanding young military leader award in 2015. In 2016, he joined Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C., the nation's largest maritime law practice.

"He's probably been on longer than most other law school deans, which was a real win for the law school," Pribyl said, "and now that he's moving on, I don't think we should focus on it as a loss for the Law School, but celebrate what he brought."



Sean T. Pribyl, '10. Photos submitted

What Romig brought is a combined military and legal background that made him uniquely qualified to prepare students for law school and beyond. The Manhattan, Kansas, native joined the Army after graduating from Kansas State University, then enrolled at the Santa Clara University School of Law in his fourth year of service.

"The great leaders in the military are energetic and engaging. They pull you in and look for opportunities to mentor, and that's what Dean Romig did for me. He makes people around him better, and he deserves to be recognized for the impact he has had on all of us." - **Jason Schulte, '14**

As a JAG officer, he rose through the ranks to become the Army's top military lawyer. After retiring as a major general in 2005, Romig worked as the deputy chief counsel for operations for the FAA and served as acting chief counsel.

For students like Pribyl, who had an already-established end goal, Romig helped map the path to get there. But there are also success stories like **Erica Bowden, '17**, who never considered JAG before the dean introduced the possibility.

"All I thought about was military bearing and being yelled at," Bowden said of her initial impression of the JAG program. "But it's really about being a good leader, and Dean Romig let me know there's a place for people who want to work on that in the military."

Now, Bowden is in the Navy, taking a course in Rhode Island in preparation for her first tour in Norfolk, Virginia.

**ReAnne Wentz, '12**, said JAG wasn't on her radar until the summer after her first year at Washburn Law, when she interned for the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

She sought more information on the program after learning Romig was The Judge Advocate General of the United States

Army (TJAG) from October 2001 until September 2005, an important timeframe considering its proximity to 9/11.

“I approached him to write a letter to get into JAG Corps,” said Wentz, who is now an Army defense attorney. “From the conversation I had with him, he seemed to serve as a gatekeeper, to make sure I wasn’t just applying, but also understanding what I was about to go do.”

Romig’s experience in JAG did more than just attract quality students to the program. It also helped prepare them for fulfilling careers of their own. **Jason Schulte, ’14**, was already commissioned as a Marine officer when he came to Washburn, and quickly recognized the school’s diverse curriculum resembled the real-world situations one might experience as an officer in the military.

“You’ll work as a legal assistance attorney, drafting wills and powers of attorney for 18 months or so, then move to trial or defense counsel billet, before working in an office advising commanders on military justice, legal or ethical issues,” said Schulte, now a JAG stationed at the Marine Corps air station in Cherry Point, North Carolina. “As you cycle through these different billets, having really good mentors is essential, and Dean Romig was one of my first mentors as a JAG.”

Bowden said she has yet to feel overwhelmed by the whirlwind of training and relocation that comes in the first year of JAG.

“I’m here with attorneys who went to Harvard, Georgetown, and many other top-ranked law schools,” she said. “But I feel like Washburn prepared me as well as anyone, if not better.”

The recognition Washburn Law received during Romig’s tenure backs that sentiment. In the past year alone, the school has made national rankings for its practical training, trial advocacy, and legal writing.

While it’s the school that receives these honors, there’s no doubt in the graduates’ mind who deserves the credit.

“The great leaders in the military are energetic and engaging,” Schulte said. “They pull you in and look for opportunities to mentor, and that’s what Dean Romig did for me. He makes people around him better, and he deserves to be recognized for the impact he has had on all of us.”

Romig made several impacts, large and small, throughout his students’ time at Washburn, but like the letters of recommendation he wrote so often for graduates, it’s the praise he receives in the end that speaks loudest.



## Washburn & JAG

Since 2007, Washburn Law has had 24 graduates go directly into a JAG Corps or JAG program following graduation (all service branches are represented: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard).

### Graduates who entered a JAG program directly from Washburn Law:

#### 2007

Cory Scarpella – Army  
Michael Scaletty – Army

#### 2008

Chris Cook – Navy  
James Lehner – Army  
Martisse Dettmer – Army

#### 2009

Jeff Waddell – Air Force

#### 2010

Veronica Davis – Army  
Josh Mikkelsen – Army  
Sean Pribyl – Coast Guard  
Teresa Poindexter – Navy

#### 2011

Brian Carr – Army  
Thomas Webb – Army

#### 2012

Wallace Stromberg – Army  
ReAnne Wentz – Army

#### 2013

Heather Colacicco – Army  
Jessica Switzer – Air Force  
Jon Wood – Army

#### 2014

David Derochik – Army  
Jason Schulte – Marine

#### 2015

Jonathan Mathis – Army

#### 2016

Kim Hurt – Army

#### 2017

Erica Bowden – Navy  
Amanda Fleming – Marine  
Vy Nguyen – Army

*\*This does not count graduates who may have worked for a year or two before beginning service as a JAG.*

# An Honor and a Privilege

*Honorary doctor of law presented to the Honorable J. Thomas Marten.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

**The Honorable J. Thomas Marten, BA '73, JD '76**, joined the ranks of other prestigious Washburn Law School alumni and friends when he received an honorary doctor of law at the May 2018 commencement. Marten received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors in 2016.

Marten was born in Topeka, graduated from high school in Onaga, Kansas, and moved back to Topeka to attend Washburn University. He worked his way through college and law school at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. After graduating from Washburn Law, Marten served as law clerk to retired Associate Justice Tom C. Clark of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. He then spent 19 years practicing law in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas, including

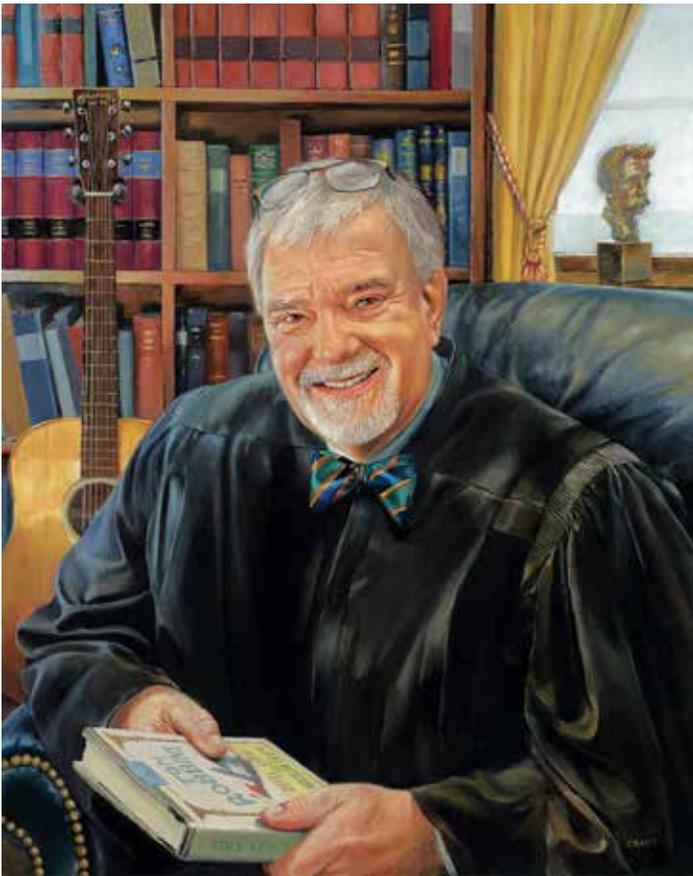
nearly 15 years as a member of Bremyer & Wise, P.A., in McPherson, Kansas.

President Bill Clinton appointed Marten to the bench in 1996. He served as chief judge of the District of Kansas from April 2014 until May 1, 2017. Marten has taught trial advocacy at various programs and workshops throughout the United States for more than 35 years — most recently at Harvard Law School in January 2018.

While Marten was chief judge, the district hosted the national Federal Court Clerks Association annual meeting and held a district-wide retreat involving all court offices and agencies. Finally, the district bench and bar planned and presented the Kansas Legal Revitalization Conference, a three-day conference featuring speakers from across both the legal profession and those outside of it, with the goal of re-energizing lawyers, to push them to think beyond their day-to-day tasks, to look at problems in different ways, and to find some of the idealism that sparked their interest in the law in the first place.

Marten is a founding member of the Wesley E. Brown American Inn of Court in Wichita — named after Marten's former colleague and friend. The organization has flourished with a committed membership and an exceptional partnership with the Wichita Bar Association. He has served as a Federal Judges Association board member and as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Information Technology. He currently serves as a member of the JCUS Federal Rules of Evidence Advisory Committee, is an advisory member of the Sedona Conference, and a judicial advisor to the New York University Law School's Civil Jury Project. He is a recognized national leader in reforming and preserving civil jury trials, and frequently speaks on those topics.

**Delmas C. Hill, a 1929 Washburn University Law School graduate** ("Uncle Buzz" to Marten and his brothers), was an early influence and mentor to Marten. Hill was appointed to the U.S. District Court in 1949; and to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 1961.



Portrait of the Honorable J. Thomas Marten, BA '73, JD '65, H '18, by artist John Oehm



From Left – Washburn University President Jerry Farley, The Honorable J. Thomas Marten, BA '73, JD '65, H '18, and Washburn Law Dean Thomas J. Romig after the honorary degree ceremony. Photo by Earl Richardson

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“I have always been proud to say that I was a graduate of Washburn undergraduate and Law School. This recognition is a tremendous honor.”

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Judge Hill was a brother of Marten’s maternal grandfather, who died young. Judge Hill stepped into the position.

“When I was growing up, Uncle Buzz was like a grandfather to me. I think it was expected that I would go to law school, but I never thought a judgeship was anywhere in the cards,” said Marten. Yet, as it turned out, “For 22 years, I was in the chambers he occupied; I use his desk, most of his office furniture. The courtroom that adjoins my chambers was his court room. He not only was a remarkable personal influence, he influenced my career direction to an almost unimaginable extent. He introduced me to Justice Clark, which led to my clerkship and much of what followed.”

Judge Marten is a man of many interests and is an accomplished musician and songwriter. One of his songs, “With Me Again,” written with Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Jimmy Fortune, appears on Fortune’s album “Lessons.” He and another Country Music Hall of Fame inductee, Don Schlitz (writer of “The Gambler” and “Forever and Ever, Amen,”) present a program together on “Concise, Colorful, Persuasive Writing.”

Marten notes, “if our days are filled with work that gives us satisfaction and joy, we want to get better at what we do. It is a blessing to awaken each day knowing there are opportunities to be of service.” Of his many blessings, Marten is most grateful for his three adult children — Sam, Zach, and Allison and his three beautiful grandchildren — Avery, Rylan, and Jace.

“I have always been proud to say that I was a graduate of Washburn undergraduate and Law School. This recognition is a tremendous honor.”

# Law Library Focused on Technology, Research

*New professor helps forge path for student success.*

*By Annie Flachsbarth, BA '07*

Working in a law library was never on Thomas Sneed's radar when in law school. After graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law, he clerked for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Kentucky. During this time, he also served as the defacto librarian for the county law library, but he eventually moved on to do private practice in real estate. Little did he know that he'd be hitting the books again soon.

Shortly after marrying his wife, Whitney, and moving to Columbus, Ohio, so she could pursue a graduate degree, Sneed found himself reflecting on the future of his career. A law librarianship opening in his area piqued his interest — after all, he had previously worked in a law library and had always been interested in research and academia. He enrolled in Kent State's masters in library sciences program, and soon after took a position with Ohio State's Law Library.

In July 2017, after having obtained a master's of business administration degree and additional library management experience at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Sneed accepted the law library director role at Washburn University School of Law.

Now, Sneed, also an associate professor in the School of Law, is bringing a wealth of knowledge and fresh ideas to build on the law library's well-established record of excellence.

## *Adding to the Catalog of Courses*

According to Sneed, the first year Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing course is a great way to give students a good taste of legal research, but more knowledge and experience is needed for real-world application. The addition of an advanced legal research class will help to expand and reinforce those skills.

"Studies show that half of the time spent by new attorneys is spent doing legal research," said Sneed. "That's something they're going to need when they get out into practice."

While the library has taught legal research classes in the past, Sneed hopes to make an advanced course a permanent fixture among offerings in the future. At least one advanced legal research class will now be offered per semester, including in the summer, to give the opportunity for students to spend a full semester focused on legal research.

In addition to the commercial databases students have access to while enrolled, Sneed wants these classes to focus on improving students' legal research skills by incorporating what is freely available to the public.

"Commercial databases can be quite expensive for attorneys in practice," said Sneed. "If you can save that cost, and not have to pass it along to your clients or absorb it as a business expense, it's going to help out in the long run."

The Kansas Legal Research course, which started with the spring 2018 semester, is already proving quite popular. The class was full and even had a waitlist, showing considerable interest among students.

Sneed is also looking into other classes that may be needed. A course to help with technological needs may also be added to help students learn about client management systems, how to master Excel and possibly even how to build a website for those going into private practice.

"We realize that technology — not just in a library perspective, but in a practice perspective — is very important," said Sneed.

## *Updated Space*

Sneed also has big plans for continuing the updates that were in the works before he joined Washburn Law. New furniture, along with the reorganization of the physical space and updating study spaces throughout the library are at the top of the list.

The library's entryway is one of the more notable changes. In addition to moving some stacks out of the area to make the area more inviting, they've also added more comfortable seating and tables for study groups.

The entry area is incredibly popular, with students congregating constantly. It's even been the location of a few small receptions — including a scholarship reception and another reception for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals during a recent visit.

"The Law School doesn't currently have a good space for bigger gatherings, so it's been a good opportunity to show off the



Thomas Sneed, library director and associate professor of law, sits in the new furniture positioned in the front of the Law Library. Photo by Doug Stremel

space and remind people that we're here and available to help," said Sneed.

In the future, Sneed is hoping to find ways to make areas on the second floor more conducive to studying.

"Study spaces are extremely important. At our busiest time around finals, we see about 20 percent of our student body in the library studying at the same time," said Sneed.

### *A new home in Topeka*

Now seven months in, he, his wife, and their three children, Henry, Charlie, and Penelope, are starting to settle in to life in Kansas. They recently purchased a new house and Topeka is already starting to feel like home.

"I remember telling my wife when I was applying, 'That was the nicest group of people,' and 'it just feels more like a home than a lot of other places do,'" said Sneed. "The faculty, students, and staff are all amazingly nice and caring. I've truly found a place I love."

## *Alumni Opportunities*

Big things are happening in the law library and Thomas Sneed, director, made a point to mention all alumni are welcome to visit at any time.

While there, be sure to check out a few things in addition to the updated space, including the cane collection that was once on display in the Kansas room. A new display case will showcase them prominently in the reorganized space.

Also, be sure to check out a display of the Dr. John Davis Jr. collection of Supreme Court justice autographs. The autographs and others can also be found in the Washburn University School of Law digital archives, among other interesting photos, bulletins, directories, and previous editions of the Washburn Law Journal. Those can be found at [contentdm.washburnlaw.edu/](http://contentdm.washburnlaw.edu/)

# On the Road Again

*Alumnus travels California coast to help underserved populations.*

*By Angela Lutz*

At first glance, Stephen Stern's vintage Airstream trailer does not look like a law office. The shiny silver vehicle is classically cool, an eye-catching icon of the American west. Stern has remodeled the interior with lots of natural light and calming colors similar to a yoga studio, and there are no heavy wooden desks, dense books, or diplomas on the walls. Several times a week, **Stern, '98**, drives his breezy, approachable Mobile Law Center along the central California coast, delivering affordable legal advice to underserved communities.

An attorney with two decades of experience under his belt, Stern realized his true calling involved helping individuals who are too intimidated or overwhelmed to pursue legal counsel. His Mobile Law Center, which became the first of its kind in the nation (and perhaps the world) when it started operating in April 2017, has been an effective outreach mechanism to assist clients primarily with debt, bankruptcy, consumer protection, wills, and trusts. He continues to provide his long-time business clients with transactional and intellectual property support. It's his business clients who help subsidize the cost to others.

"After practicing law for about 18 years in Arizona and California, I came to the conclusion that there was a vast number of people who were either underserved or not being

served in the legal system because they were either intimidated by lawyers or the legal system, the cost, and the legal process," Stern said. "As a result, a lot of them got paralysis by analysis and did nothing and found themselves in even deeper problems."

Many of Stern's clients find out about his services via social media, where he announces his arrival a couple of days in advance. He makes regular stops in communities from Ventura to Cambria, which are about 125 miles apart – and when he's not on the road, he's teaching business and media law courses at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He typically sees five clients per day, charging \$45 for a 20-minute consult. He's often able to provide some much-needed peace of mind to individuals who are being harassed by debt collectors, for instance, or attempting to draft a will.

"In 20 minutes, I can explain to them the legal background of the situation and their options to resolve their issues," Stern said. "If they want me to do it, I give them a flat fee so they're not guessing how many hours I'm working, because that's something of great concern to people who are on limited budgets."

Then there's that Airstream, which Stern spent eight months and considerable effort renovating to make it as welcoming as possible. In Stern's experience, he's come to realize many people find traditional law offices overly formal and a bit intimidating, so he has actively tried to fight these stereotypes with his mobile office.

"I'm trying to be more accessible and provide outreach, and I think people appreciate that I'm doing things much differently than nearly everybody in my profession," he said. "I'm able to provide legal services in a personal way that breaks through a lot of barriers and stereotypes that people have."

Stern credits his time at the Washburn University School of Law with helping him hone his inherently philanthropic nature. He enjoyed his time at the school, particularly the helpful nature of the students, faculty, and staff, and he believes this camaraderie helped him determine the course of his career.



Photo by Shannon McMillen



Stephen Stern, '98, sits in his mobile office, an inviting space for those who may feel intimidated by legal offices. Photo by Shannon McMillen

“The people I went to school with were very altruistic and genuine – they were salt-of-the-earth people,” he said. “Everybody was there to support everybody. It was a great environment, and I wanted to create that atmosphere when people came to see me.”

Most people have been supportive of Stern’s Mobile Law Center – one man took a picture, telling Stern he hoped his son, a law student, would pursue this type of practice following graduation. But others in the profession have been more resistant to change.

“In some people’s minds, it’s still a little unprofessional to meet a client in a coffee shop, let alone a mobile law office,” he said. “As people realize I’m thinking out of the box and I have a good reputation and provide good legal work for the clients, they think maybe they need to look at things a bit differently.”

In Stern’s eyes, a new approach to practicing law is essential, especially in an age of continuing technological advancements that allow everything from business meetings to medical care

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to happen remotely via videoconference. He believes his mobile model is the way of the future – and judging by the increasing number of requests Stern has gotten for consultations from lawyers interested in taking their own practices on the road, he just might be on to something.

“That’s rewarding because it tells me that this was a good idea,” he said. “It validates my belief of filling a big void in the legal system and makes me feel good to know I’m making a difference.”

# Assisting Rural Communities

*Spring break trip shows importance of addressing rural law issues.*

*By Angela Lutz*

Most college students dream of traveling somewhere warm for spring break, but this March, four Washburn School of Law students headed to Garden City, Kansas – and they weren't going on vacation. Instead, they traveled to this vibrant, multi-cultural community in southwest Kansas to participate in a service-learning trip through a Washburn Law Clinic project.

“We described this as an alternative spring break,” said Michelle Ewert, Washburn Law Clinic associate professor, who headed up the program. “There are simply not enough lawyers in many rural communities, and that includes both lawyers who charge for their services and pro-bono attorneys,” Ewert said. “Getting more lawyers into communities is definitely something that many rural areas want.”

Ewert said the program was designed to address three primary issues: providing legal services to low-income individuals

in rural areas, attracting rural high school students to law careers, and introducing Washburn law students to practice opportunities in rural communities. These goals are in line with the Law Clinic's mission of representing people who otherwise could not afford an attorney, something Ewert has focused on throughout her career.

“I'm a legal aid lawyer by background, and part of my time was spent in rural California,” Ewert said. “I've seen firsthand the challenges that arise in communities where there are not sufficient legal services to meet people's needs or where people have to travel a long distance to obtain services.”

To fulfill the first objective of addressing unmet needs, students from the Washburn Law Clinic gave “know your rights” presentations at the high school that touched on the basics of employment, landlord-tenant, and consumer law.



Ben Donovan, '18, Tim Carney, '18, Becca Bergkamp, JD candidate '19, Hayley Sipes, '18, and Associate Professor Michelle Ewert, met with alumna Jennifer Cunningham, '10, (back right) in Garden City during an alternative spring break. Photo by Brooke Jantz Photography.



Jennifer Cunningham, '10, assistant city manager in Garden City, talks with Washburn Law Clinic students. Photo by Brooke Jantz Photography

“This will help the high school students transition to adulthood,” Ewert said. “As these young people get their first jobs, take out their first credit cards, and sign their first leases, they’ll have a better sense of what their rights and responsibilities are.”

In addition to providing legal information about their rights and obligations, the program also targeted Garden City High School students by encouraging them to consider careers in the law. A representative from the Law School’s admissions department talked to the students about the path from high school to law school and resources available to help them prepare for a career in the law. This is part of Washburn’s participation in a national program to help young people from diverse backgrounds pursue legal careers.

Finally, to fulfill the project’s third objective of increasing law student exposure to rural practice, the Washburn Law students participated in a series of networking events with local attorneys, government and non-profit leaders, and young professionals. This gave the law students a better sense of their peer group in a smaller town, as well as introducing them to the benefits and challenges of rural practice. Ewert hopes this experience in Garden City will help Washburn law students think more broadly about the range of opportunities available to them after graduation and encourage some to consider practicing in rural communities.

“In rural areas, you often have a very small, tight-knit legal community, which can really encourage and support lawyers as they begin their careers,” Ewert said. “There are usually opportunities for leadership that you might not have in a larger community – especially at the early stages of your career, which is very exciting. The strong community ties within rural communities can be an added bonus.”

Funded by a generous grant from **Cynthia Heath, BA '71**, an honorary lifetime member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association, and with additional support by community partners, this year’s program covered costs for four students to travel to Garden City, but Ewert said there could be room for expansion and replication in other communities going forward.

“In addition to being able to practice law in a controlled environment, Washburn’s Law Clinic also introduced me to the idea a lawyer should be engaged with his/her community,” **Ben Donovan, '18**, said. “The trip to Garden City reinforced that idea by allowing me to talk with practitioners and members of the non-profit and government sector. Wherever I end up practicing law, I want to be a valuable asset to my community.”

Ewert hopes the program excites students about their future careers and shows them how they could give something back to their own communities.

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“So much of law school focuses on what happens between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in practice – training to do the work to serve clients,” she said. “I also want students to start thinking about what they do from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. – in their evenings and on the weekends in their communities, whether it’s serving on the PTA or a nonprofit board, running for local office, or taking leadership roles on their homeowners’ association. There are so many ways the skills students learn in law school can be used to help their communities, and I hope this gives them the chance to start thinking about what that might look like either in a rural community or other setting.”

The Washburn Law Clinic students heard this message and embraced it.

“Going out to Garden City for spring break was a great experience,” said **Timothy Carney, '18**. “It allowed me and my classmates the opportunity to do outreach to high school students, meet with community leaders, network, and see some of the inner workings of a city on the rise. It certainly helped open my eyes in seeing that, through active involvement and dedication, lawyers can be forces for positive change within their communities.”

# Faculty Updates



**Andrea Boyack** – Moderator, “Access to Capital: Challenges and Opportunities,” Fair Housing and Financial Markets

Diversity Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, March 6, 2018.

– Panelist, “Uneven and Unfair: The Financial Fallout of the Boom & Bust Mortgage Cycle,” Fair Housing and Financial Markets Diversity Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, March 6, 2018.

– Presented “The Freedom of Contract Myth: Status Law Ascendant,” Panel on Liability without Assent: When Contract Occurs without Assent, What Grounds Liability and Remedy? Seeking Positive Premises, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Section on Contracts, San Diego, California, January 6, 2018.

– Presented her scholarly project “Urban Renewal for a New Millennium,” Exploring New Frontiers in Real Estate Development, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Sections on Commercial & Related Consumer Law and Real Estate Transactions Joint Program, San Diego, California, January 4, 2018.

– Presented her current scholarship project “Too Poor for Bankruptcy,” J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Annual Scholarship Conference, San Diego, California, January 3, 2018.

– Agreed to be the treasurer for the Central States Law Schools Association for a term starting in 2018.

– Elected to serve as the secretary of the Section on Real Estate Transactions of the American Association of Law Schools for the 2018 term.



**Gillian Chadwick** – Testified before the Kansas House Judiciary Committee regarding HB2529 (the bill would create a presumption

of fifty/fifty residency for all children in disputed custody cases that could only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence), February 6, 2018.

– Filed a Brief of Amicus Curiae, *Schreiber v. McCament et al*, 2:17-cv-02371-JAR-JPO, U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas (filed December 29, 2017, on behalf of the Children and Family Law Center advocating for the rights of adoptive parents and children under immigration law).

– Presented “Challenges with Discovery,” February 28, 2018 (with Erin Scheick); “Direct Examination Issues,” March 1, 2018 (with Amie Lopez); and “Issues with Order Modification,” March 2, 2018 (with Stacey Platt), as part of the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence and Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, Advanced Custody Litigation Institute, Dallas, Texas.



**Linda Elrod** – Submitted written testimony and testified in opposition to HB 2529 on February 6, 2018 (the bill would create a presumption

of fifty/fifty residency for all children in disputed custody cases that could only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence), also submitted written testimony on SB 257 which had the same provisions.

– Presented “Is the Trend toward Using Best Interests in Relocation Cases actually in the Child’s Best Interests?,” Family Law in a Changing Society: Changing Family Forms Conference, Edinburgh Centre for Private Law, Edinburgh, Scotland, March 21, 2018.

– Published *Child Custody Practice and Procedure*. 2018 ed. (Thomson Reuters, 2018).

– Co-authored *Family Law: Cases, Comments, and Questions*. 8th edition. American Casebook Series. (with Harry D. Krause and J. Thomas Oldham) (West Academic, 2018).

– Published *Kansas Family Law: Kansas Law and Practice*, Volumes 1 and 2. 2017-2018 ed. (Thomson Reuters, 2017).



**Michelle Ewert** – Moderator, “How Did We Get Here? The Evolution of Fair Housing Protections,” Fair Housing and Financial Markets

Diversity Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, March 6, 2018.

– Presented “Contemporary Constitutional Issues in Housing,” Living Democracy discussion series, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, February 25, 2018.



**Alex Glashauser** – Presented “The Role of the Judicial Branch in our Constitutional Democracy,” The Living Democracy

discussion series, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, March 2, 2018.



**Emily Grant** – Presented “Helicopter Professors,” at the Sixth Annual Southwestern Consortium of Academic Support

Professionals Workshop, which focused on Assisting the Modern Law Student: Academic Support in Changing Times, at UNT Dallas College of Law, Dallas, Texas, March 9, 2018.



**Randall Hodgkinson** –

Presented “Racial Bias and Traffic Stops: State v. Gray and Strategies for Defense Advocacy,” hosted by Third Judicial District Public Defender Office, Lawrence, Kansas, March 9, 2018.



**Janet Jackson** – Panelist, “Speakers at Women’s Forum Optimistic about Topeka,” International Women’s Day, Topeka,

Kansas, March 8, 2018.



**Jeff Jackson** – Quoted, “Bible Giveaways End at Kansas Elementary School after Constitutional Complaints,” *The Wichita Eagle*, January 3, 2018.



**Ali Khan** – Published “Pakistan’s Hyperactive Supreme Court,” *Jurist*, February 9, 2018.



**Tonya Kowalski** – Panelist, “Designing Legal Writing Problems Incorporating Access to Justice,” 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, San Diego, California, January 6, 2018.



**Craig Martin** – Published “The Assumptions of Koh’s Transnational Legal Process as Counter-Strategy,” *Opinio Juris*, February 26, 2018.

- Published “Japan’s Definition of Armed Attack and ‘Bloody Nose’ Strikes Against North Korea,” *Just Security*, February 1, 2018.
- Published “Striking the Right Balance: Hate Speech Laws in Japan, the United States, and Canada,” 45 *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly* 455 (2018).
- Presented “Challenging and Refining the Unwilling or Unable Doctrine,” AALS (American Association of Law Schools) Annual Conference, San Diego, California, January 3, 2018.
- Elected secretary to the East Asian Law & Society Interest Group of the American Associations of Law Schools, at the AALS Annual Conference in San Diego, January 6, 2018.
- Re-elected to the executive committee of the International Law Interest Group of the American Associations of Law Schools (AALS), at the AALS Annual Conference in San Diego, January 4, 2018.



**Joseph Mastrosimone** – Elected chair of the American Association of Law Schools Section on Labor Relations and Employment Law, January 2018 - January 2019.



**Roger McEwen** – Conducted several interviews with WIBW and RFD-TV available on the Washburn Agricultural Law & Tax Report website.

- Presented “The Present Tax Landscape: Implications for Individuals, Businesses, Investors, and Others CLE,” Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, January 10, 2018, with Lori McMillan.



**Lori McMillan** – Presented “The Present Tax Landscape: Implications for Individuals, Businesses, Investors, and Others CLE,” Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, January 10, 2018, with Roger McEwen.

- Guest at “US Tax Bill Update,” Wharton University of Pennsylvania Business Radio on Sirius XM program, Knowledge@Wharton, December 20, 2017.



**David Pierce** – Published “Breaking with Tradition: Exercising Professional Judgment When Drafting Oil and Gas Documents,” 38 *Energy & Mineral Law Institute* 1 (2017).

- Co-authored *Oil and Gas Law and Taxation*. (West Academic) (2017) (with Owen L. Anderson, John S. Dzienkowski, John S. Lowe, Robert J. Peroni, and Ernest E. Smith).
- Presented “The Basics of Joint Operation,” *Joint Operations and the New AAPL 610-2015 Model Form Operating Agreement*, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Denver, Colorado, December 5, 2017.



**William Rich** – Quoted “Sharp Division Marks Kansas Debate on Joining Campaign for U.S. Constitutional Convention,” *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, February 18, 2018.

- Guest at “Education and the State Constitution,” *KCUR 89.3*, December 18, 2017 (begins about 7:55).
- Quoted, “A Look Back At 2005, When Kansas Neared Constitutional Crisis over School Funding,” *KCUR 89.3*, December 18, 2017.



**David Rubenstein** – Quoted “States to DeVos: We’ll Keep Cracking Down on Student-Loan Companies,” *MarketWatch*, March 2, 2018.



**Freddy Sourgens** – Forthcoming publication, “Experiencing Arbitration” (co-authored with Michael Nolan) (West Academic, forthcoming 2019).

- Published “Value and Judgment in Investment Treaty Arbitration,” 2018 *Journal of Dispute Resolution* 185 (2018).
- Accepted an offer to publish “The Paris Paradigm,” 2019 *University of Illinois Law Review* (forthcoming, 2019).
- Published “Evidence in International Investment Arbitration” (with Kabir Duggal and Ian A. Laird) (Oxford University Press, 2018).

# Alumni Events

## President's Holiday Party

Dec. 5, 2017

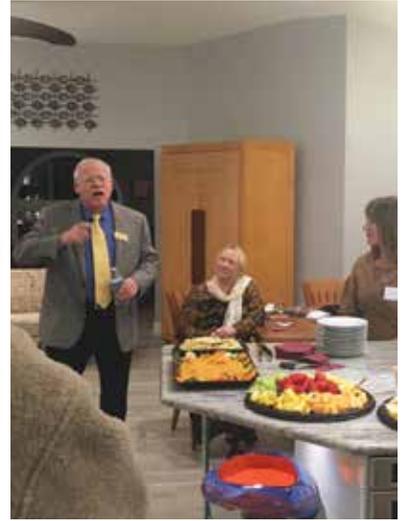
Top – Jo Kuckleman, BBA '86, Ann Hoelting, BBA '85, Nancy Vaughn, B ED '88, and Abigail Hoelting, '18. Photo by Julie Olson



## Sarasota Alumni Event

Jan. 30, 2018

Left – Pam Romig, Crystal Doeblin, '01, Karla Jones-Wilson, '03, Whitney Ambuter, '11, Bradley Wilson, and reception host Professor Emeritus Nancy Maxwell. Right – Dean Romig gives the crowd updates on what is happening at Washburn Law. Photos by Alumni Relations staff



## Admitted Student Day

March 9, 2018

Richard Budden, BBA '09 and JD '12, LeTiffany Obozele, '12, Angel Romero, BA '10, JD '13, Lisa Brown, '12. Photo by Martin Wisneski



## Garden City Alumni Event

March 18, 2018

Hayley Sipes, '18, Becca Bergkamp, JD Candidate '19, and Terry Malone, '75. Photo by Alumni Relations staff



# Alumni Events

## Dallas Alumni Event

April 11, 2018

Left – Steve Kitchen, H '05, BBA '70, host Lori Fink, '85, Marshall Meek, MBA '17, Amy Thornton, '00, and host Samantha Durst. Right – The crowd at the Dallas event hear updates from President Jerry Farley. Photos by Julie Olson



## Class of 2018 Graduation Celebration

May 10, 2018

Left – Katie Baylie, '18, wins an alumni license plate. Photo by Martin Wisneski



## Spring Commencement

May 12, 2018

Top Left – Washburn Law golden graduates, Robert Minter, '68, and E. Bernard Hurd, BA '65, JD '68. Top Middle – Brecken Larson, '18. Top Right – Don Fahrny, '18. Bottom Left – Jessica Gutierrez, '18. Bottom Middle Left – Tim Laughlin, '18. Bottom Middle Right – Monet Straub, '18, and Rob Pyatt, '18. Bottom Right – Jim Slattery, BA '70, JD '75, Board of Governors chair. Photos by Earl Richardson



# News Briefs

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## *Pair of Graduates Starting Federal Clerkships*

**Caitlyn Berry, '18, and Jennifer Salva, JD Candidate '19,** are starting prestigious clerkships after graduation, built on the backs of previous externships.

Berry joined the Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review as a judicial law clerk. She previously externed for the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement, where she conducted research and prepared legal memoranda on behalf of attorneys to file with the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Kansas City Immigration Court.

In her new role, she is looking forward to learning experienced judges' perspectives on immigration reform and seeing the different ways each judge approaches a case.

Salva grew up looking out for the needs of her little sister, who was born deaf and with other disabilities. She plans to continue working on behalf of people with disabilities. Through Washburn Law's externship program, Salva was placed with Judge Julie A. Robinson, Chief District Judge of the United



Caitlyn Berry, '18.



Jennifer Salva, JD Candidate '19.

States District Court for the District of Kansas. She was hired for a term clerk position with Judge Robinson and will begin in 2019.

She enjoys the research and writing a clerkship requires. The legal writing faculty at Washburn Law pushed her during her first semester, but she said she is better for it, as shown in her clerkship work.

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## *Washburn Law Recognized by Several National Publications*



Washburn School of Law programs continue to receive high rankings from national publications. Washburn was ranked No. 3 in the nation this year by *preLaw* magazine and No. 2 the year before for its government law program. The trial advocacy program was named a top 16 program in the country by *preLaw* the last two years.

The Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing program was ranked 15th this year and 13th last year by U.S. News & World Report. Washburn Law was ranked No. 14 this year and No. 17 last year by *preLaw* for business, banking, and corporate law. The school was ranked No. 9 this year and No. 11 last year by *preLaw* for taxation law.

# Class Actions

*The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school from Aug. 15, 2017 to April 30, 2018. Update your address at [alumni@washburnlaw.edu](mailto:alumni@washburnlaw.edu) and submit your news at [washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions](http://washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions).*

1969

**The Honorable A.J. Wachter**, Pittsburg, Kan., of the 11th Judicial District has announced his retirement Dec. 18, 2017. Wachter, who oversees the district from the Crawford County Judicial Center in Pittsburg, has been a district court judge since 2002 and chief judge since 2013. The 11th Judicial District is composed of Cherokee, Labette, and Crawford counties.

1973

**The Honorable Phillip J. Fromme**, Burlington, Kan., retired from the bench at the end of November. He has been chief judge since 2003 in the district which includes Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, and Osage counties.

**Ronald E. Wurtz**, Topeka, has been reappointed to serve a three-year term on the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services.

1975

**Terry E. Beck**, Topeka, has joined attorney **Christopher Gunn, '14**, to form the Beck & Gunn Law Office.

**The Honorable Robert J. Frederick**, Garden City, Kan., is a judge in the 25th Judicial District, composed of Finney, Greeley, Hamilton, Kearny, Scott, and Wichita counties.

**The Honorable Jennifer L. Myers**, Kansas City, Kan., was appointed by Chief Justice Lawton R. Nuss of the Kansas Supreme Court to serve on the District Judges Manual Committee. The committee composes and updates the manual for Kansas district judges and district magistrates.

**James D. Oliver**, Overland Park, Kan., has been selected as a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

1976

**Joe L. Norton**, Wichita, Kan., has been elected as a regular fellow to The American College of Bond Counsel.

1977

**Professor David E. Pierce**, Topeka, has been selected by the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission as the recipient of the 2017 Robert L. Gernon Award.

1978

**John D. Petersen**, Overland Park, Kan., has been named as one of the Kansas City Business Journals' 2017 Best of the Bar.

**Frank J. Ross**, Overland Park, has been named as one of the Kansas City Business Journals' 2017 Best of the Bar.

**Roger L. Tarbutton**, Shawnee Mission, Kan., had an article, "Evolution, Intelligent Design and the Establishment Clause" published in the fall 2017 edition of the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion.

1979

**Sarah B. Shattuck**, Ashland, Kan., was reappointed to the Kansas Judicial Council.

1980

**The Honorable Fred W. Johnson, Jr.**, Parsons, Kan., formally took the bench in the 11th Judicial District. Johnson has been working as a judge since early October. He replaced retired Judge Robert Fleming.

1982

**The Honorable Larry D. Hendricks**, Topeka, retired March 30 after 11 years on the bench in Shawnee County. He was appointed in late 2006 and took the bench in 2007.

**The Honorable Mike Keeley**, Great Bend, Kan., has been appointed to the Kansas Judicial Council.

1983

**Brent I. Anderson**, Wichita, Kan., has formed Anderson Law.

**Robert M. Barnes**, Kansas City, Mo., has been named as one of the Kansas City Business Journals' 2017 Best of the Bar.

**Scott A. Mugno**, Moon Township, Pa., was nominated October 27, 2017, to be assistant secretary of labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Mugno was a long-time executive at delivery giant FedEx.

1984

**Shari M. Albrecht**, Topeka, six-year Kansas Corporation Commissioner, was elected chair of the state's three-member utility regulatory panel. Albrecht was first appointed to the KCC on June 25, 2012. She was reappointed to a second four-year term, which expires March 15, 2020.

**Laura L. Ice**, Wichita, Kan., was recognized as an Outstanding Woman in Business 2017 by the Wichita Business Journal.

**Thomas M. Warner Jr.**, Wichita, Kan., has been inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

1985

**Paul F. Good**, Wichita, Kan., has joined Depew Gillen Rathbun & McInteer LC as of counsel.

**The Honorable Thomas K. Ryan**, Shawnee, Kan., was appointed to a two-year term as chief judge of the 10th Judicial District, effective January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019. Ryan has served as district judge in the 10th Judicial District since 2008. He presides over a criminal docket in Johnson County.

\*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.

## 1986

**The Honorable Robert D. Berger**, Kansas City, Kan., was reappointed to his second term as a United States Bankruptcy Judge on October 16, 2017. Judge Berger is the sitting judge in the Kansas City Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas and has been on the bench since 2003.

**The Honorable Thomas G. Luedke**, Berryton, Kan., was appointed as district judge in the 3rd Judicial District.

## 1988

**Brian S. Burris**, Wichita, Kan., is now with Occidental Management.

**Edward L. Kainen**, Las Vegas, has been named as Best Lawyers' 2017 Las Vegas Family Law "Lawyer of the Year." Only a single lawyer in each practice area in each community is honored as the "Lawyer of the Year." He was also honored with this distinction in 2013.

**The Honorable James I. Murfin**, El Dorado, Kan., has been appointed as the Derby Municipal Court judge.

## 1989

**Natalie Camacho Mendoza**, Boise, Idaho, was elected as chair of the board of directors for Farmworker Justice; Washington D.C. FJ is a nonprofit that empowers farmworkers to improve living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice. FJ works with and advocates for farmworkers across the country and provides expertise internationally. FJ is also a member of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda.

**William L. Townsley III**, Wichita, Kan., was installed as the 52nd president of the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel.

## 1990

**The Honorable Jennifer Brunetti**, Frontenac, Kan., was appointed as a district judge in the 11th Judicial District.

## 1992

**Brett C. Bogan**, Overland Park, Kan., has joined Spencer Fane LLP.

**R. Scott Seifert**, Addison, Texas, has been elected to serve as president of Hiersche, Hayward, Drakeley & Urbach, P.C.

## 1995

**Jonathan Lutt**, Richmond, Va., has joined Thomas Sanders LLP Multifamily Housing Finance practice as a partner. Lutt's practice focuses on commercial real estate finance with significant experience representing lenders, master servicers and special servicers related to the servicing of real estate loans.

**Tony A. Potter**, Wichita, Kan., has joined Ward Law Offices, LLC.

**Jennifer L. Stultz**, Wichita, Kan., has joined Stinson Leonard Street as a partner in the Tax, Trust & Estate division.

## 1996

**Michelle E. Bowman**, Council Grove, Kan., was nominated to the Federal Reserve Board by President Donald Trump. She is the designated community bank representative for the St. Louis region. Bowman was previously the state bank commissioner for Kansas. Her nomination will require U.S. Senate confirmation.

## 1997

**Byron K. Rupp**, Wichita, Kan., was appointed Hesston College vice president of advancement.

**Shannon D. Wead**, Wichita, Kan., was named secretary of Kansas Association of Defense Counsel.

## 1998

**Amy E. Burns-Brooke**, Topeka, has become the president and executive director of the Stormont Vail Foundation.

## 2000

**Eric A. Buresh**, Overland Park, Kan., has been named as one of the Kansas City Business Journals' 2017 Best of the Bar.

**Jake Fisher**, Silver Lake, Kan., was appointed to a three-year term on the Shawnee County Planning Commission. Fisher is with the Kansas Corporation Commission and serves on

the board of education for the Silver Lake Unified School District 372.

## 2001

**The Honorable Mary E. Christopher**, Topeka, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Shawnee County District Court.

**The Honorable Ted R. Griffith**, Wichita, Kan., was appointed to the Wichita Municipal Court Judges Education Committee.

## 2002

**Darian P. Dernovich**, Topeka, was named as interim secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Dernovich has served as an attorney at KDHE since 2015. He is the agency's chief litigator in federal and state court and advises on issues of environmental law, public health, health care finance (including Medicaid), and personnel.

**Scott H. Raymond**, Topeka, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, was promoted to vice president of legal services and general counsel. In that role, Raymond provides legal counsel, manages litigation, leads the company's legal services department, and oversees the records management program. He also serves as corporate secretary for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation.

**Michael Sharma-Crawford**, Kansas City, Mo., has been named as one of the Kansas City Business Journals' 2017 Best of the Bar.

**Meghan K. Voracek**, Seneca, Kan., has been named Brown County attorney.

## 2003

**The Honorable John W. Broomes**, Wichita, Kan., is now a district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

**Marlea J. James**, Belleville, Kan., was hired by the Kansas Department of Labor to lead its new department overseeing amusement parks, carnivals, and other recreational venues in Kansas. The new position was created in response to the tragedy last year at Schitterbahn in Kansas City, Kan., in which the 10-year old son of a state legislator was killed on the Verruckt, billed as the world's largest water slide. James sees the position as an opportunity to use not only her law

degree and experience, but also her undergraduate degree in engineering.

## 2004

**Amie L. Bauer**, Lindsborg, Kan., was named by Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss to serve on an ad hoc committee charged with reviewing bonding practices, fines, and fees of Kansas' municipal courts to compile a "best practices" model for the courts to follow.

**Andrea S. Hayes**, Columbia, Mo., serve as the interim assistant vice chancellor for civil rights & Title IX at the University of Missouri.

**John M. Shoemaker**, Singapore, has joined Butler Snow in Singapore. Shoemaker will join the firm's business services practice group. Shoemaker previously served as the global head of product management for UBS Wealth Planning Trusts and Foundations, which required creating, delivering, and supporting profitable, fully compliant, demand-driven wealth planning structures.

**Donald H. Snook**, McPherson, Kan., has joined Karstetter & Bina, L.L.C. as an associate.

## 2005

**The Honorable Meghan M. Houtsma**, Garden City, Kan., was appointed by Chief Justice Lawton R. Nuss of the Kansas Supreme Court to serve on the District Judges Manual Committee. The committee composes and updates the manual for Kansas district judges and district magistrates.

## 2006

**Sunee Mickle**, Topeka, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, has been promoted to the new position of vice president of government and community relations. Mickle is responsible for federal administration and congressional relations, state administration and legislative relations, and regulatory relations involving the Kansas Insurance Department and other agencies. In addition, she has a leadership role in maintaining the company's position as a good corporate citizen through corporate giving, volunteerism, community partnerships, and initiatives that improve the health of Kansans.

**Michelle K. Witte**, Wichita, Kan., is now with Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, L.L.P.

**Angel R. Zimmerman**, Topeka, has been selected to receive the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka 2018 Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney of Achievement Award.

## 2007

**William F. Deer**, Wichita, Kan., is now with the Sedgwick County Counselor's Office.

**Norman E. Douglas Jr.**, Wichita, Kan., has opened The Kansas Bankruptcy Center.

## 2008

**Rachel E. Lomas**, Wichita, Kan., is now a law clerk for **The Honorable Gwynne Birzer**, '92.

**Eric M. Pauly**, Wichita, Kan., has joined The IMA Financial Group, Inc.

**Evan A. Rosell**, Wichita, Kan., is the lead staff for Project Wichita, an effort of the Greater Wichita Partnership to develop a 10-year plan for the city.

**Doug M. Taylor**, Topeka is the League of Kansas Municipalities' new legal counsel. Taylor most recently served as an assistant attorney general for the Kansas Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division.

## 2009

**Masood Dehnavifar**, Winona, Minn., has joined Merchants Bank as senior vice president/Trust Department manager.

## 2011

**Stephen Freeland**, Kansas City, Mo., has joined The Kansas City Southern Railway Company as a general attorney.

## 2012

**Robert M. Fitzgerald**, Las Vegas, is now an assistant federal public defender in the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada.

**Drew J. Steadman**, Wichita, Kan., has

joined King, Brennan & Albin, LLC.

## 2013

**Daniel S. Creitz**, Pittsburg, Kan., has been appointed as general counsel and compliance officer for the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK). Creitz joins CHC/SEK with an extensive background in business law and corporate governance, most recently serving as staff attorney with the law offices of Wheeler & Mitchelson.

**Brian K. Johnson**, Oswego, Kan., has been named Labette County Counselor, following the resignation of his father, **The Honorable Fred W. Johnson**, '80. Brian began practicing law with his father at the Johnson Law Firm, LLC.

**Leslie A. Klaassen**, Colorado Springs, Colo., has joined Marrison Family Law LLC.

## 2014

**Michael K. Fessinger**, Wichita, Kan., is now with the Sedgwick County Counselor's Office.

**Christopher Gunn**, '14, Topeka, has joined attorney **Terry E. Beck**, '75, Topeka, to form the Beck & Gunn Law Office.

**Eli M. O'Brien**, Wichita, Kan., has joined Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered as an associate.

## 2015

**Alexander P. Gentry**, Topeka, is now a research attorney for **The Honorable Kim Schroeder**, '82, Kansas Court of Appeals.

**Samuel W. Jones**, Wichita, Kan., has joined Klenda Austerman LLC.

## 2016

**Jorge M. De Hoyos**, Wichita, Kan., is now an associate at Patterson Legal Group, L.C. He was previously a litigation manager at Kansas County Association Multiline Pool.

**John C. Reynolds**, Great Bend, Kan., is an assistant county attorney for Barton County.

## 2017

**Claire M. Hillman**, Lenexa, Kan., is an associate at Shook Hardy & Bacon, L.L.P.

# In Memoriam

*Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from Aug. 15, 2017, through April 30, 2018.*

**William A. Stiles Jr., '50**, Sedro Woolley, Wash., on Sept. 27, 2017, at age 93

**James B. Martin, '51**, Evansville, Ind., on Nov. 23, 2017, at age 95

**John E. Bohannon, '51**, Sequim, Wash., on June 23, 2017, at age 93

**Byron D. Pinick, '52**, Manhattan, Kan., on Aug. 13, 2016, at age 89

**Don B. Stahr, '53**, Wichita, Kan., on Aug. 20, 2017, at age 87

**Wesley M. Smith, '56**, Kansas City, Kan., on Jan. 17, 2017, at age 92

**Jack P. Steinle, '56**, Aurora, Mo., on Dec. 24, 2017, at age 89

**Richard G. Rossman, '57**, Olathe, Kan., on Aug. 11, 2017, at age 89

**James M. Barnett, '59**, Overland Park, Kan., on Feb. 20, 2018, at age 84

**Roscoe E. Long, '61**, Dunedin, Fla., on Aug. 13, 2018, at age 82

**Edward A. Simons, '65**, Denver, Colo., on Oct. 26, 2017, at age 78

**Ken W. Strobel, '65**, Dodge City, Kan., on Jan. 13, 2018, at age 78

**Gloria E. Shaw, '67**, Concord, Calif., on Dec. 17, 2017, at age 85

**Robert L. Nicklin, '68**, Wichita, Kan., on April 24, 2017, at age 74

**William E. Lusk, '70**, Andover, Kan., on April 18, 2018, at age 74

**Marvin C. Pendergraft, '70**, Phoenix, Ariz., on March 27, 2017, at age 72

**Avis A. Swartzman, '71**, Topeka, on Oct. 26, 2017, at age 80

**Dan D. Boyer, '75**, Salina, Kan., on Jan. 31, 2018, at age 77

**David J. McCarthy, '76**, Nolensville, Tenn., on April 7, 2018, at age 65

**Paul D. Oakleaf, '76**, Independence, Kan., on Oct. 16, 2017, at age 68

**Gary M. Peterson, '76**, Topeka, on Dec. 5, 2017, at age 77

**Lauren D. Hogan, '77**, Northbrook, Ill., on April 22, 2018, at age 65

**Thomas A. Loftus, '80**, Bakersfield, Calif., on Oct. 29, 2017, at age 66

**Laurine R. Kreipe, '82**, Topeka, on Sept. 24, 2017, at age 87

**Michael T. O'Hara, '84**, Topeka, on March 11, 2018, at age 65

**Phillip G. Krueger, '87**, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., on July 30, 2017, at age 58

**Shondi M. Cole, '92**, Lakeland, Fla., on Oct. 6, 2017, at age 51

**Lee J. Davidson, '95**, Topeka, on Nov. 8, 2017, at age 46

**Amy L. Stus, '02**, Manhattan, Kan., on Oct. 24, 2017, at age 43

## Remembering Kansas Bar Association President-elect Bruce Kent, '70



Bruce Ward Kent, '76, passed away May 15, 2018.

Kent grew up in Salina and Norton, Kansas, and graduated from Kansas

State University in 1967. He then obtained his juris doctor degree from Washburn, where he served as president of the Student Bar Association and was a member of the Washburn Law Journal and Phi Alpha Delta. He later went on

to obtain a masters of law degree from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

Kent spent 25 years with the law firm of Ryan, Kent, Wichman and Walters, with offices in Hays and Norton. Among his endeavors, he has served as senior counsel for the IRS in Austin, chief counsel for the Department of Human Resources for the state of Kansas, regional administrator of the Small Business Administration in Kansas City, and legal counsel for the Kansas State University Foundation.

Throughout his life, Kent was also active in the community. He served in multiple leadership positions in the Kansas Bar Association, and at the time of his death, he was president-elect of the association. He also was a strong supporter of Kansas Democratic Party politics, serving as the first congressional district chairman where he attended many state and national party conventions. He was also a voracious fundraiser for many local, state, and national campaigns.

— SAVE *the* DATE —

2018

*Washburn University School of Law*

**ALUMNI  
REUNION**

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018

SAVE *the* DATE

U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In

**WHO:** Washburn Law alumni and friends

**WHAT:** U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In trip

**WHEN:** Monday, June 10, 2019

**WHERE:** Washington, D.C.

[Washburnlaw.edu/swearingin](http://Washburnlaw.edu/swearingin)



## Upcoming Events

[washburnlaw.edu/events](http://washburnlaw.edu/events)

### AUGUST 2018

**30** Topeka Reception at Washburn Law

### SEPTEMBER 2018

**6** Southwest Kansas Bar Association Reception

**11** Alumni event in Kansas City

**13** Alumni event in Tulsa

**20** Alumni event in Wichita

**24-26** Eastern Kansas Tour

### OCTOBER 2018

**6** Alumni Reunion & Alumni Awards Banquet

**9-11** Western Kansas Tour

**19** Alumni event in Atlanta

**24** Alumni event in Washington, D.C.

**26** Alumni event in New York

### NOVEMBER 2018

**1** Alumni event in San Francisco