

Importance of Judges



WASHBURN LAWYER

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The Rule of Law is central to our democratic system of government, and judges are salient to maintaining the Rule of Law. Judges across our nation strive to ensure the fair, impartial, and independent administration of justice. Judges work to ensure that each person who interacts with our judicial system is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and experience equal protection of the law.

Judges have immense power in our system of justice not only at a structural level, but on an individual level as well. Judges not only shape the development of the common law, they also can have a significant impact on our daily lives. We entrust them to make some of the most important decisions that affect us. From the power to decide whether to create a family through adoption to the power to impose punishment for violation of the criminal law, judges impact the lived experience of millions of people every day. In doing so, judges protect our liberties and our fundamental rights. Without them, there is no rule of law, no justice, and no freedom.

In recognition of the importance of judges to our system of justice, this issue of the Washburn Lawyer celebrates the Washburn University School of Law alumni who serve our democracy as judges. The impact Washburn has had on the Kansas judiciary has been remarkable. Washburn alumni serve at every level of the court system in Kansas, including the highest court in the state – the Kansas Supreme Court. On the cover of this issue of the magazine we highlight Washburn Law alumna and Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, Justice Marla Luckert. I hope you enjoy reading about this amazing lawyer and judge and her path to the highest position in the Kansas judiciary. We are so very proud to call her a Washburn Law alumna.

Indeed we are very proud of each and every one of our alumni who serve our nation as a judge. In this issue, we honor them for this service that makes them the living embodiment of Washburn's motto – *Non Nobis Solum* (Not for ourselves alone).

Sincerely,

Carla Pratt
Dean, Washburn University School of Law