

# News Briefs

## *Washburn Law Responds to COVID-19*

When the pandemic first made its impact known in March, 2020, Washburn Law was quick to make adjustments. Faculty and staff all worked closely together to create new grading policies, provide training in online platforms, and provide support to students so that they could finish out the year with as little interruption as possible.

Students, understanding how unprecedented the situation has been, adapted well to the new accommodations as classes, meetings, and events headed online. By all faculty accounts, the students performed as well as could be expected under the circumstances, highlighting the impeccable quality of scholars that Washburn attracts.

As the pandemic continues, the Law School has continued to adjust, allowing for online and hybrid options for class delivery, creating socially distanced practices and facilities, and requiring the use of masks while in the building. While none of these measures create an ideal environment, Washburn Law has made

it a top priority to ensure a continuity of education that will maintain production of top-notch legal talent.

Alumni similarly rallied around the school during the pandemic. A swell of support in the spring allowed the Alumni Association to provide technology support to students who needed it to continue their classes. When closures to businesses, firms, and organizations continued into the summer, many students found themselves with canceled opportunities for summer employment or internships. Alumni stepped up there, too, providing chances for students to gain experiences by offering up projects and positions in their offices. Alumni support has even continued into the fall, with donations allowing the Alumni Association to assist with technology expenses in the classrooms that will help create a more in-person feel for students attending online. Through all these acts, Washburn Law continues to show that its alumni network is second-to-none in its generosity and accomplishment.

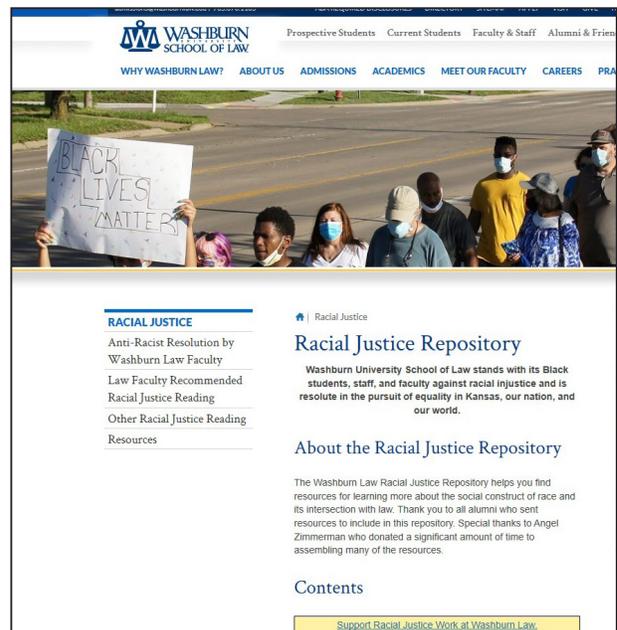
## *Washburn Law Launches Racial Justice Repository*

As protests swept the nation over the summer in response to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, Washburn University School of Law reiterated its commitment to education and its support of Black students, faculty, and staff by creating a Racial Justice Repository on its website.

The Washburn Law faculty unanimously approved a resolution underlining and defining its efforts to increase diversity, provide accountability, establish equitable values, and encourage students to engage with multiple diverse perspectives. The resolution can be found in the repository.

In addition, each of the faculty members provided a list of recommended readings that can assist in developing a better understanding around issues of race, justice, and the law in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The Racial Justice Repository can be found at [washburnlaw.edu/racialjustice](http://washburnlaw.edu/racialjustice).



The Racial Justice Repository home page at [www.washburnlaw.edu/racialjustice](http://www.washburnlaw.edu/racialjustice).

# Answering the Call

## *WashCall students step up to find donors to meet matching gift challenge*

Like nearly every other educational institution, Washburn University School of Law has had to make changes to deliver courses in multiple ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students stepped up this spring to find donors to offset those costs.

The school incurred significant expenses to supply proper technology for faculty, students, and staff to function remotely, and that has included cameras, microphones, and internet capabilities. Those funds came from the school's budget normally used for scholarships to reward returning students. WashCall chairs Brigid Markey and Paige Reese, both 3Ls, thought they could help by calling alumni from home this spring.

“Paige wondered whether there was anything we could do to help,” Markey said. “When she pitched the idea, I was all for it. After all, we were going to be at home for a long while, so I figured that time could be put to good use.”

“I felt compelled to ask how WashCall could help,” Reese said. “Through all of it, we were just committed to making sure the scholarship program would be available for fellow students who are so deserving of those funds.”

**Cynthia Heath, BA '71**, and honorary lifetime member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association, heard about this effort and offered a matching gift. Altogether, donors gave \$65,000 – enough to fund the \$30,000 in scholarships plus more to help recruit incoming 1L students this fall.

“Nothing is more important to me than providing opportunities for Washburn Law students to succeed, whether with scholarships, programs, or a new building,” Heath said. “Despite the Covid-19 situation, the law school could not put a pause on recruiting and retaining students.”

Reese and Markey became friends during their first few months of law school and they started working WashCall together. Donations they raise and the conversations they have with alumni inspire them.

“Once I started WashCall, I just couldn't stop,” Reese said. “I got my first large donation, and it was just so thrilling to me that alumni would give their hard-earned dollars for students' use. I find a lot of joy in talking to fellow Ichabods who care so much about Washburn Law and its students. I love hearing stories from their time at Washburn Law and about



Washburn University School of Law students benefited from donors' generosity this past spring. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

the professors they have that I have now. It is so funny to hear how, even as decades pass, many things remain the same. I have never had so many people be so generous with their time and treasures as I have seen with WashCall.”

They have both received scholarships and understand the importance of alumni giving back to a place like Washburn Law that has shaped so many individuals.

“Washburn alumni are so kind,” Markey said. “They want to know who you are, what area of law you're interested in, and what has changed at Washburn. You gather pieces of history from your conversations. I think about how fortunate I am to receive a scholarship, and it fuels me to help bring that kind of relief to others.”

Heath wanted to make sure other students experience what Markey and Reese are experiencing.

“The size of the first-year class determines the size of the 2023 graduating class, and that opportunity could not be missed,” Heath said. “I was moved by the compassionate act of granting scholarships to keep current students who already had made financial sacrifices to go to the law school. These efforts squarely represent the University's founding principles of ‘Non Nobis Solum,’ ‘Not for Ourselves Alone.’”

*The need to raise scholarship dollars and cover other expenses continues, and so will the efforts of WashCall students. Be ready to receive a call from them this fall.*