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WASHBURN

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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The Importance of Social Justice

Hello, everyone:

One of the best things about being the new interim dean at Washburn University School of Law is that I get to write an introduction for this issue of the Washburn Lawyer, which will be seen by all our amazing alumni. This issue focuses on a topic of great importance: social justice. If this topic sounds a little broad and "squishy," well, it kind of is... at least on the surface. The term "social justice" gets bandied about a lot in the media and online, and sometimes is so misused it seems stripped of any real meaning. However, once we look at the essence of what social justice advocacy really is: using the skills and knowledge of the law to create laws and outcomes that make our society a better and more just place for all people, then it becomes apparent that it's something worth pursuing. And it's something that Washburn Law has been training people for ever since its founding.

When Washburn University was founded as Lincoln College in 1865, it embraced a commitment toward education for all, regardless of gender or race. This commitment continued with the founding of the School of Law, which enrolled its first African-American student, Samuel Cary, in 1907, and its first female student, Jessie Junette Nye, in 1909.

Graduates of Washburn Law have been making the nation a more just society in a number of ways throughout history. From Charles Scott, John Scott, and Charles Bledsoe, three Washburn lawyers who filed the Brown v. Board of Education case, to lawmakers such as Sen. Bob Dole and Rep. Jim Slattery, who helped fight for and secure passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Congress, our alumni have been using the skills and knowledge learned at Washburn to ensure equal opportunity for all.

Alumni profiled in this issue uphold Washburn Law's commitment to social justice advocacy. Through activities such as arranging adoptions, bringing attention to the plight of recent immigrants, reforming the prosecution of crimes, helping underprivileged children, and promoting recycling, they are working to make the world a better and more just place for all of us.

This issue also highlights one of Washburn Law's most important contributions to the community: the Law Clinic. The Washburn Law Clinic is the second-largest provider of free civil legal services in Kansas. Each year, over 30 upper-level law students authorized to practice law by the Supreme Court of Kansas represent low-income Kansans in a range of legal matters. Students work on family law, civil, criminal, immigration, small business, and other cases in federal court, state court, municipal court, and before administrative agencies. In addition to direct representation, students also conduct "know your rights" presentations to community members who need legal information.

At Washburn Law, we take great pride in preparing students not only to be great lawyers, but to be great leaders who will advocate for what they believe. It's one of the things that makes Washburn Law such a special place.

Jeffrey D. Jackson, BBA '89, JD '92

Jeffry D. Jackson

Interim Dean, Washburn University School of Law

Bright Future

Do you recall the moment you made the decision to attend law school? For many of us, the decision to pursue a law degree was made in part because of our values. The commitment to justice is as evident in today's alumni as it was in our founders over 100 years ago. I am proud to see this showcased throughout this latest edition of the School of Law's publication, the Lawyer.

As we gear up for a new year, I am excited to witness the new law building opening in time for the next fall semester. Like so many buildings before it, this started as a vision to fulfill the needs of current and prospective law students. The updated technology, classroom configuration options, and collaborative learning spaces will all contribute to the continued success of Washburn University School of Law. Combined with the Third Year Anywhere program, the future of our renowned alma mater is bright.

With a bright future ahead, I welcome you to join me. If you recall, earlier this year the Washburn Law Alumni Association partnered with the University's Alumni Association to provide our members with more benefits and opportunities to network. Alumni who join our Alumni Association will automatically be enrolled in the University's Alumni Association as well, receiving the benefits of both organizations. We expect the expanded opportunity to broaden and deepen the Washburn bond. If you are not already a member of the Law Alumni Association, I invite you to become a member today.

Whether you've been away from Washburn for five years or 50, our values remain the same. I am confident that each of you carries a commitment to excellence, integrity, and professionalism in your respective careers. As always, thank you for all you do to support Washburn.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Adrian, '69 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.

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Erika Jurado-Graham, '07. Photo submitted

The Right Influence

Kansas City Attorney Becomes One of Nation's Go-To Authorities on Immigration

By Annie Flachsbarth

When people have questions, they turn to the internet. When they have questions about immigration, they turn to Erika Jurado-Graham, '07.

With more than 2 million combined followers on all platforms, Jurado-Graham's social media became more than just a marketing avenue for her Kansas City-based immigration law firm – it became an educational tool for immigrants all around the country.

Creating Influence

Jurado-Graham was born in El Paso, Texas, but raised in Monterrey, Mexico, by a single mother. She was attending law school in Mexico when her mother and close relatives immigrated to the United States. She stayed behind to complete her studies – working two jobs to make ends meet. After graduating and getting licensed in Mexico, Jurado-Graham moved to the U.S. to be close to her family. But when she arrived, she learned that because the U.S. legal system is so different, she could not practice law in the states. Instead of opening a practice, she decided to stay state-side and got a job working in a warehouse where she ended up meeting her now husband.

Eventually, she found a job working as a legal assistant for a bilingual workers' compensation attorney in central and western Kansas. There she handled the marketing and advertising for the

office – something she had a flair for and enjoyed. The attorney she worked for, Thomas Fields, '89, encouraged her to go back to law school.

Washburn University School of Law was the best fit for Jurado-Graham. While attending, she was the president of the Hispanic American Law Student Association and two-term secretary of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy.

After graduation, Jurado-Graham thought she would make a career in workers' compensation, but she decided to start her own practice, taking on a variety of cases. A good friend of hers had an immigration practice but had to give it up. He offered for her to take it over and he would mentor her along the way. She learned a lot while taking over that practice but was still doing a lot of other types of work. Another attorney friend gave her some advice that changed the course of her career.

"I was told, 'Erika, if you want to be really good at something, you have to specialize in one or two areas. Otherwise, you won't be good at anything.' That made a lot of sense to me," Jurado-Graham said. "After lots of consideration, I made the decision to let go of every other area of practice and just focus on immigration."

Although it was a big gamble, specializing was the right decision - and in January 2010, she set out with new focus.

"I don't regret it for a minute. I like working with the immigrant community. I sympathize with the immigrant community, because I come from an immigrant family," Jurado-Graham said. "It's a very vulnerable community. People try to take advantage of them because of their lack of education. I like to be in this position - to help people and make a difference. I would do it all over again."

Influencing Trust

Social media was really starting to take off, so she created a Facebook page and started marketing her firm.

"People started asking me questions about immigration on Facebook. Instead of repeatedly answering the same questions, I decided to record a video," Jurado-Graham said. "People started watching, liking, and sharing my videos. So, I did more. The first year, my Facebook page had 100,000 followers. The next year 200,000 followers. And now I have 1 million."

Now, as one of the top three Spanish-speaking immigration influencers, she is on all popular social media platforms, is a sought-after television and radio guest, and regularly refers clients to attorneys across the country.

"There are many people here without status. I try to tell them what the law says and where they may stand. But then I tell them to get the assistance of an attorney," Jurado-Graham said. "Don't hire me if you don't want to, that's fine - but get legal advice."

"I don't regret it for a minute. I like working with the immigrant community. I sympathize with the immigrant community because I come from an immigrant family. It's a very vulnerable community. People try to take advantage of them because of their lack of education. I like to be in this position - to help people and make a difference. I would do it all over again." - Erika Jurado-Graham

So many people trust Jurado-Graham and her social content gets so many views that Facebook and YouTube both pay her to produce content. What started as a hobby became a full-time job. In addition to her legal team, she now has two full-time employees devoted to the social media side of her business a blog writer and marketing specialist who work full-time on her content.

"I don't like to consider myself an influencer, but I am an influencer when it comes to immigration," Jurado-Graham said. "I have to be very responsible with people's trust."

Jurado-Graham is licensed in Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and the country of Mexico. She lives in Kansas City, Missouri, with her husband, and twin son and daughter. Her eldest daughter attends Boston University.

Fostering Collaboration

By Finding a Middle Ground, Attorney Brings Together Families and Political Parties

By Chris Marshall

When Mike Kuckelman started his career as an attorney, he encountered friends with fertility issues. He saw the emotional and financial toll hopeful parents encountered trying unsuccessfully to conceive. He also saw them struggle with the adoption process. Adoption can be expensive for these young couples, so he decided he would help by providing adoption legal work pro bono.

Over his three decades of legal practice, Kuckelman, BBA '86, JD '90, has assisted families in navigating the adoption process. For someone who has a lot on his plate as a founder of Kuckelman Torline Kirkland law firm in Overland Park, Kansas, a board member at Benedictine College, and chairman of the Kansas Republican Party, he says this small part of his practice brings him the most fulfillment.

"Someone at Washburn asked me what my favorite part of my career is, and I said, 'That's easy, it's the adoption side of it.' It's the most fulfilling work I've done. I've handled lots of interesting litigation, but there's nothing better than seeing a family unit come together."

- Mike Kuckelman

"For me, it's a welcome break from my normal litigation to see the happiness it brings someone and their family," he said. "I've done adoption cases for so many years that many of the babies are now young adults out in the community working jobs. I see and hear from them on some occasions, and some send me notes when something happens in life. I've received invitations to some of their high school graduations, and thanks to social media, I can keep up with a few of the children and see their fulfilled lives."

Those shows of appreciation can be a mood-lifter for an attorney who spends a majority of his time on dourer, yet no less important, civil cases. After the terrorist attack on Sept.

11, 2001, Kuckelman was appointed by the federal court in New York to serve as a member of the WTC Executive Committee, where he was responsible for prosecuting the civil cases that arose from the terrorist attack. More recently, the SEC appointed him in Texas to pursue recovery of losses perpetuated in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in U.S. history.

More locally, Kuckelman prosecutes civil rights cases involving police officers who violate citizens' rights. He says he's a big supporter of law enforcement and calls the majority of officers honorable public servants. His goal is to prosecute the 1 or 2 percent who risk giving that majority a bad reputation.

"Those cases are also rewarding because it's important we protect the constitutional rights of citizens from the government," he said. "The people who need that protection the most are probably those who are involved in disputes with law enforcement at the time."

While many have adopted a firm stance for or against the police in recent years, Kuckelman avoids generalizations and instead focuses on the information available on a case-by-case basis. The ability to form arguments based on facts, without stooping to a level that gets personal, is something he says he first picked up at Washburn.

"Being respectful and civil to the person on the other side of an issue is something we learned firsthand in class at Washburn Law," he said. "The professors would call on folks and purposely pull out both sides of a legal opinion. It was always professional, never personal. You can have a big disagreement without degrading yourself or the other person."

That approach has served him well in the courtroom and in his role with the Kansas GOP. His four years in the elected volunteer position have taken him to major political events, including Republican National Conventions. In 2020, Kuckelman was the delegate who stood up on the convention floor to cast Kansas' vote for a presidential nominee.

Wichita attorney Bill Cummings is on the opposite end of the political spectrum, but has remained close since the two attended Washburn, in part because of his friend's impartiality. "Our politics are opposite, and he believes strongly in a lot of things I disagree with," Cummings said. "But I don't know a better guy or lawyer in the state."

Cummings, owner of Cummings & Cummings Law Firm with his wife, Nika, also graduated from Washburn Law in 1990 and was in the same section as Kuckelman.

"I don't get along with every Republican like I do with Mike," Cummings said. "He's very accepting of my viewpoint and doesn't look at me like I'm some crazed liberal from outer space. He'll say, 'I understand Bill, and we can disagree.' He's remarkable, the way he can disarm you."

Even those who disagree with Kuckelman's viewpoints can appreciate his work as a civil servant. In 2021, Washburn presented him a distinguished service award for his legal career and volunteer efforts for several charities and schools.

Kuckelman's ability to impact others inspired his two sons to follow in his footsteps. His youngest, Matthew, inherited Mike's passion for politics, and now works in Washington, DC for the Republican National Committee and plans to attend law school in the future. His oldest son, Jacob, is in his third year at Washburn Law and works part-time at the Douglas County district attorney's office. His daughter, Sara, opted to practice medicine rather than law and is a pediatrician at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Kuckelman's influence on the next generation will soon extend even further beyond just family. He provided a gift to the Kuckelman Family Scholarship Fund, which will be awarded to an incoming Washburn student in January 2023. His goal is to provide a scholarship opportunity for future students interested in public service and in particular, constitutional law.

"Someone at Washburn asked me to name the favorite case of my career, and I said, 'That's easy, my favorite cases are the adoptions I handled. It's the most fulfilling work I've done," he said. "I've handled lots of interesting litigation, but there's nothing better than seeing a family unit come together and now, seeing it impact another generation. One of the 'babies' recently married and started her own family, giving birth to a beautiful daughter."



Mike Kuckelman, BBA '86, JD '90. Photo submitted

Law Alumni Awards

Recognizing the Achievements of Our Graduates.

On Oct. 15, 2022, Washburn University School of Law alumni gathered to celebrate and honor this year's Alumni Award recipients. Awards were presented by Lucky DeFries, '78, past chair of the board of governors. Honorees were joined by family and friends to accept their awards, recognizing their service, dedication, and support to Washburn and their communities. The following is a highlight of our award winners and a brief bio of each recipient.



Whitney Casement

Whitney Casement, BA '09, JD

'12, was awarded the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award. This award honors recent Washburn Law graduates whose performance and commitment has set an example of professionalism and demonstrated leadership in the legal field, in their community, or to the School of Law. After graduating from Washburn

Law School in 2012, Casement started her legal career as an assistant attorney general for Kansas, serving in that position for five years. She has been in private practice in Topeka since 2017, first with Goodell, Stratton and most recently with Stevens & Brand. Whitney has represented government agencies and officials, businesses, and individuals in state and federal court and before administrative boards and tribunals. She has been recognized as One to Watch by Best Lawyers in America, a SuperLawyer Rising Star, and the Topeka Legal Professional Boss of the Year.

Casement is active with the bar and community. She has served as president of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka, secretary for the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, as a board member for the Topeka Bar Association, and as secretary of the board for Communities in Schools of Mid-America. She has a passion for raising awareness for mental health issues and teaching mindfulness, including giving many continuing

education presentations on these topics. She is involved with the law school as a mentor through the Professional Development Office.



Joslyn Kusiak

Joslyn Kusiak, '12, was also awarded the GOLD award. Kusiak is a graduate of Missouri State University and Washburn University School of Law. While in law school, she served as staff editor for the Washburn Law Journal, interned for the Honorable Steve Leben at the Kansas Court of Appeals, clerked with the Kansas Highway Patrol, and interned at the Washburn

Law Civil Litigation Clinic. Upon graduation, Joslyn spent three years practicing law in Wichita handling all phases of civil litigation before joining the firm of Kelly & Kusiak in her hometown of Independence, Kansas. She also currently serves as Independence municipal judge. In 2018, she was honored with the Kansas Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Kusiak presently serves on the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Board as the vice chair, Kansas Bar Foundation board of trustees, and Kansas Bar Association board of governors as the Young Lawyer Delegate to the American Bar Association. She has been engaged in alumni activities and hosts alumni events in southeast Kansas.



Left to right: The Hon. Dan Biles, '78, Cameron V. Michaud-Drumright, '02, Greg Drumright, '02, Glenda Cafer, BA '83, Wendell "Bud" Cowan, '74, Whitney Casement, BA '09, JD '12, Joslyn Kusiak, '12, The Hon. Stephen D. Hill, '75. Photo by Jeremy Wangler



Glenda Cafer, BA '83, was awarded the Honorary Lifetime Membership award. The recipient of this honor is someone who has provided exemplary service to his or her profession, community, and Washburn University School of Law.

Born in Missouri, Cafer has spent most of her life in Topeka. Her

association with Washburn University started in 1967 when her father, Glenn Cafer, came to Washburn as the men's basketball and golf coach. Cafer received her bachelor's in 1983 from Washburn. After she briefly attended Washburn Law, she transferred to Louisiana State University, receiving her juris doctor in 1987. Now with Morris Laing in Topeka, Cafer has a depth of knowledge in public utility regulatory law that is second to none. Not only is she the only person to have served as both general counsel and director of utilities at the Kansas

Corporation Commission, but she also actively practices in the areas of both energy and telecommunications law. She is a former chair of the Administrative Law Section of the Kansas Bar Association, past president of the Women Attorney's Association of Topeka, former chair of the career development committee of the Kansas Women Attorney's Association, and current president of the Topeka Lawyers Club.

Cafer began serving Washburn University Foundation as a trustee in April 2007 and completed her term as board chair this past summer. She has been chair of the finance and development committees and also serves on the executive committee and the committee on directors and trustees. In her roles with the Foundation, she has been a vocal advocate for the law school, was a major gift donor to the new building, and helped the building campaign across the finish line. Cafer is such a champion for Washburn Law that many alumni are unaware that she received her law degree elsewhere.



The Michaud family. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

The Michaud family was honored with the Washburn School of Law Legacy Family Award. This award honors the families who have carried the Washburn Law tradition across generations. It is bestowed on a family in which two or more members of the family - generational or through marriage - are law school graduates, and who as a group have distinguished themselves through service to Washburn Law School, the legal profession, their communities, or public service. Gerald L. Michaud*, BA'51, JD'51, H'86, Patrick J. Michaud, '76, Cameron V. Michaud-Drumright, '02, and Greg A. Drumright, '02, were the members of the family receiving this award.

Gerald Michaud, BA '51, JD '51, H '86 (deceased, 2005), was a world-class medical malpractice lawyer who never forgot his alma mater, Washburn University. Some of Michaud's ground-breaking cases resulted in the reduction of estrogen in birth control pills, the introduction of safety precautions at gasoline pumps to reduce the risk of cancer from benzene and the reformulation of tampons connected to toxic shock syndrome. He retired in 1995, only to come out of retirement in 2002 to help one of his daughters, Cameron V. Michaud-Drumright, '02, advance her career in law. He retired again in April, 2015, saying he thought she was ready to practice on her own. Michaud was awarded an honorary doctor of law from Washburn in 1986 and was given the Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

Patrick Michaud, '76 (son), practiced law until the age of 40 when he retired. Upon retirement, he invested his time in serving communities where he resided. Living in Maui for over 10 years, he was heavily involved in his children's athletics, coaching soccer and little league baseball, ultimately managing baseball and umpiring, and becoming a chief umpire in a program that taught high school students to umpire games. Michaud moved his family back to Kansas, enjoying retirement for a few years while spending time with ailing relatives, including his father. After the passing of his father, he relocated to central Florida where he

volunteered in a project to restore a historic building that had been ruined in a hurricane, ultimately becoming the construction manager. He and his wife intended to become "snowbirds," but loved their next home in Spokane, Washington, so much that they decided to stay there for several years before retiring again to Gold Canyon, Arizona, where they reside permanently.

Cameron V. Michaud-Drumright, '02 (daughter), upon graduation from law school, joined Morris Laing to work with her father, Gerald L. Michaud. Her areas of practice include not only medical malpractice, product liability, and wrongful death cases, but also semi-truck and major motor vehicle collisions. Michaud-Drumright concentrates most of her practice on personal injury cases and has developed strategies to mitigate the impact of the "tort reform" attitudes held by many jurors. She has served on the board for the Wichita Women's Attorneys Association, Junior League of Wichita, and the Wichita Collegiate Alumni Association. She has been recognized as the Kansas Association for Justice Thomas E. Sullivan Award recipient and the Wichita Business Journal's Women Who Lead Legal Honoree.

Greg Drumright, '02 (son-in-law), within Wichita's legal and business communities is known as a skilled litigator representing clients in corporate matters, including contract disputes, construction law, products liability, agricultural law, and general commercial liability. He has litigated in state and federal courts throughout the country. Drumright is a graduate of the International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy at Stanford Law School, is a member of the Wichita Area Manufacturers Association, and the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel. He and his wife are both active members of the Washburn School of Law Alumni Association and have supported the new law school building.



The Hon. Dan Biles

The Hon. Dan Biles, '78, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is bestowed on graduates whose careers have been highly distinguished, and whose achievements and contributions are widely recognized as significant and outstanding in their field of endeavor, whether it be in the practice of law, the judiciary, business, public service, education, or otherwise.

Justice Biles, a native of El Dorado, Kansas, earned a journalism degree at Kansas State University. During law school, he also worked as an Associated Press reporter in Topeka. After graduation, he served as an assistant attorney general, attorney for the Kansas Board of Education, and general counsel for

the Kansas Turnpike Authority. He then worked in private practice before being appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in 2009.

In addition to his service on the bench, Biles has also served as an adjunct professor at the law school as well as a visiting professor at K-State. Biles has a long-standing reputation as being a friend to the law school and can be counted on as an engaged member of the school's alumni.



The Hon. Stephen Hill

The Hon. Stephen D. Hill, '75, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Born in Fort Scott, Kansas, Hill grew up in Wichita but spent most of his legal career as a lawyer, county attorney, and judge in the 6th Judicial District. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and a law degree from Washburn Law. After

serving 22 years as a district court judge, he was named to the Kansas Court of Appeals in 2003.

Hill previously served as the chair of the Kansas Judicial Council Pattern Instructions Advisory Committee and is a past member of the Kansas District Judges executive committee. He participated as a speaker, in numerous continuing legal and judicial education events in Kansas and at the Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Judge Hill remains connected to the law school and is a regular lecturer in the classroom.



Wendell "Bud" Cowa

Wendell "Bud" Cowan, '74, received the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to graduates of the School of Law who have particularly distinguished themselves and brought recognition to the school through their service to Washburn Law, the legal profession, their community, or public service.

A native Topekan, Cowan recently retired as partner from Foulston Siefkin in Overland Park. He practiced litigation and employment law, with special emphasis in employment litigation and human resource advice and counseling. He has litigated hundreds of trials and administrative hearings, defending businesses and municipalities in discrimination, wrongful discharge, and civil rights cases. He presented numerous risk-avoidance seminars and provided consultation to various business groups, employers, and attorneys on personnel law issues concerning discipline and claims.

He was honored as 2021 Lawyer of the Year in Kansas City, Kansas, for insurance law in Best Lawyers in America. He and his wife, Peggy, are lifetime members of the Law School Alumni Association, have established a scholarship fund at the law school, and made a gift to the new building.





Mark Dupree Sr., '07. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Righting the Wrongs

Wyandotte County District Attorney Mark Dupree Leads the Way to Ensure Justice.

By Annie Flachsbarth

Since 1989, innocent Americans, later exonerated, have collectively served over 21,000 years in prison. It's estimated that more than 15 percent of individuals who are currently incarcerated in the United States are not guilty and were wrongfully charged.

If you ask Wyandotte County District Attorney Mark Dupree, Sr., '07, those numbers mean our legal system has made some mistakes deserving further review.

A Second Look

Shortly after taking office in 2017, Dupree learned about Lamonte McIntyre. He had been serving a double life sentence after being convicted of a double homicide at the age of 17, after just six hours of investigation. Although McIntyre's family had actively pursued an appeal to his sentence for years, Dupree learned the previous district attorney had repeatedly fought to keep the case from coming up for review. Curious to find out if there was truth to the investigation, he decided to no longer object and began looking into the case.

"At the end of the day, we learned a lot of mistakes were made," Dupree said. "He had not been given a fair trial. He was wrongfully imprisoned for 23 years for a crime he did not commit."

On day two of what was expected to be a week-long hearing to review the case, Dupree withdrew his objection to setting aside the jury's verdict. The judge found manifest injustice occurred in McIntyre's case and then set aside the jury's verdict. It was at this moment Dupree had to decide whether to re-try the case

in front of a different jury or choose to dismiss all charges. He chose the latter, thereby dismissing the entire case and McIntyre walked out a free man that day. This was a huge step on the road that would ultimately lead to his complete exoneration.

"That case showed me that if there was one person who was wrongly convicted and incarcerated, there were probably more," Dupree said. "So, I created the Conviction Integrity Unit to deal specifically with those cases."

A Unit of Hope

Created in 2018, the Wyandotte County Conviction Integrity Unit was the 40th of its kind in the country and the first in Kansas. Now in 2023, there are still only 85 units in the country. Dupree said ultimately, he aims to lead the way for prosecutors to do what is just for the victims, the accused, and the community.

"If a prosecutor makes a mistake and wrongfully puts someone in prison, they should have the integrity to stand up and say they were wrong," Dupree said. "It's about righting the wrongs that we have done, and not focusing on the politics."

Applications to review guilty sentences come before incarcerated individuals, family, friends, retired police officers, and community members.

"We don't reverse every case, but we review every application," Dupree said. "It's not about letting people out; it's about doing justice."

Doing justice is just what he and the CIU did for Pete Coons – a middle-aged man wrongfully convicted of murder. After reviewing the case, Dupree agreed with Coons' attorneys, that manifest injustice had occurred. After hearing the facts, Coons' conviction was set aside by the judge, and Dupree again decided to dismiss the case.

"Afterward, he shook my hand, looked me in the eye, and said, 'Mr. Dupree, thank you for answering my letter.' He had been writing for 12 years since he was imprisoned and nobody had answered," said Dupree.

Sadly, Coons passed away three months after he was released from an untreated cancer during his incarceration. But his family was grateful the CIU did something to give them time with him before he passed away.

In the years since the murder of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the CIU was expanded to include the ability to file official reports and complaints of police overreach or misconduct.

"It's all about transparency," Dupree said. "It's part of reassuring and regaining the trust of the community we serve."

Dupree believes appealing to the fears of the community gets people elected to these positions and in office for decades. He had a different idea for what the job of district attorney should look like.

"You have to get away from scare tactics and fear-mongering. As a minister of justice, you have to administer justice — both for the victims and the accused." Dupree said. "You are the prosecutor for all of the community, not just the victims, not just the accused, it's your job to do what is right."

Rooted in Right

Dupree's pursuit for justice began early. At age 14, while attending Wyandotte High School, he was told by his school counselor to wear a suit to school the next day to shadow someone at city hall. Surprisingly he was taken to the courthouse instead, and Dupree was ushered into a courtroom filled with tons of people, including lawyers – none of whom looked like him.

"I was sitting there scared, and then I heard a pound on the bench and 'The Hon. Judge Cordell Meeks, Jr. is presiding,' and I look up and see a short, African American man with a mini Afro on the bench," Dupree said. "It blew my mind. If he could do it, I could do it. That day changed my entire perception of the criminal justice system, and the entire trajectory of my life."

That day turned into a seven-year mentor/mentee relationship where Dupree received guidance and encouragement to study the law. Dupree went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, and then received his law degree from Washburn University School of Law in 2007.

Since then, Dupree has practiced in a multitude of legal capacities. He clerked in Jackson County, Missouri, served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County, Kansas, and as assistant public defender in Johnson County. He and his wife, **Shanelle Dupree**, '07 — his law school sweetheart — practiced together in their firm, Dupree and Dupree, LLC, Attorneys at Law, until he was sworn into office.

He is the vice president of the Kansas Bar Association Board of Governors, member of the National District Attorney's Association Board of Directors, a member of the Earl E. O'Connor American Inn of Court, an active Sunflower House board member, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. He has served as a committee chairperson for the Wyandotte County Bar Association and Board Member of the Johnson County Bar Association, as well as the Kansas Legal Services Board of Directors.

When he was elected to district attorney in 2016, not only was he the first African American district attorney in Wyandotte County, Kansas, but he was also the first African American in the state of Kansas to be elected district attorney.

Being the Change

Dupree is the senior pastor at Grace Tabernacle Family Life Outreach Center - the church his father and mother pastored for 35 years – in Wyandotte County.

"As a pastor's kid, I watched my father work in tandem with his wife in ministry and in life. My wife, who is also a pastor's daughter — we work together in everything," Dupree said. "I knew if we ran for DA, it would not just be my thing. It would affect our time together and with family. So we had to make the decision together as a team."

Dupree and Shanelle have four children - Layla, age 13; Mark, age 12; Lilly, age 11; and Micah, age 10 - who also played an active role in Dupree's re-election campaign. As Dupree puts it, it's a group effort.

"It's not just me. It's we." he said.

Dupree uses that same approach when working with the community. Growing up in inner-city Wyandotte County, Dupree knew the system was flawed. It was crucial to him to get input and hear the voice of the community. When he decided to run, he rode the metro bus to hear from the community and educate individuals on their right to vote.

"I made sure the community knew who I was and that I was serving the community. Otherwise, you're just serving yourself," Dupree said.

While riding the bus, Dupree heard stories of how the criminal justice system affected people's lives positively and negatively. He heard the voices of the people the criminal justice system was supposed to serve.

"That's why we won the election the first time as well as the second time," Dupree said. "America is a great country, but there is a lot of bias. As we've changed policies and laws we haven't done enough to remedy where we make those mistakes in the lives we have affected."



Mark Dupree, '07, Shanelle Dupree, '07, with their four children, Layla, Mark, Lilly, and Micah. Photo submitted

Dupree is determined to change that, too. He gives back by speaking at countless churches and schools and hosting various opportunities to bring students into the courthouse and office through his Brilliant Outstanding Leaders Determined to be the Difference initiative. In fact, Dupree says you cannot be a prosecutor in his office without going out into the schools they've gone out over 300 times to schools in the community and community events.

"We're showing kids that whether you're Black, white, brown, broke, college-educated or not — you can do this. You just have to be focused, so that you can be the difference that you want to be," Dupree said. "That's what we do for our young people. Because that is the first line of defense for keeping them from being on the criminal side."

Community Impact

Evidence of Fenley's Support Extends from Washburn to Kansas City.

By Angela Lutz

It's hard to drive through downtown Kansas City, Missouri, without seeing one of the companies David Fenley, BBA '76, **JD** '79, has helped during his 45-year career as a real estate transactions lawyer. In recent years, he has worked with several recognizable institutions to build national headquarters, develop property, and shape the look and feel of the city including redeveloping the Country Club Plaza, a Kansas City landmark.

"I love to help real estate developers get their projects off the ground or redevelop projects in the city," Fenley said. "It's a lot of fun for me."

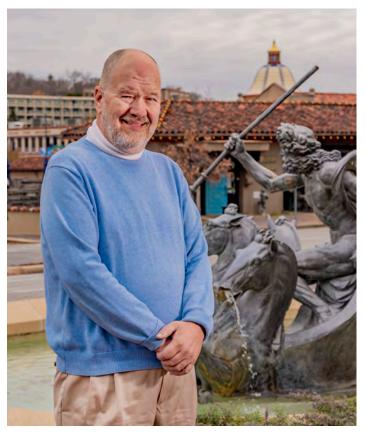
Fenley spent the first 38 years of his career at Husch Blackwell Sanders, eventually becoming a partner and serving on the executive board and as chair. He also helped grow the firm from 38 attorneys to more than 700. Since 2018, Fenley has served as counsel at Dentons, focusing primarily on land use questions, rezonings, and securing development incentives from the city, state, and county for developers.

For his highly successful career, Fenley credits not only his time at Washburn University School of Law, but also his time as an undergraduate at Washburn. He is quick to note that his accounting degree helped him tremendously in his legal career.

"Washburn offers a very successful set of undergraduate programs as well as the law school," Fenley said. "My education there could match up against anywhere in the country. With my accounting background, I was able to understand the financial needs of developers. I was very comfortable working with the numbers."

Fenley's affinity for Washburn extends beyond just his education. During his first year of college, he also played on the football team, and he was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, serving both as president of the local chapter and as a student member of the national board of directors. Over the years, he has become one of the football team's biggest fans.

"I am a nut when it comes to college football and I love to follow my Ichabods," Fenley said. "I have season tickets and I'm



David Fenley, BBA '76, JD '79, in front of the Neptune Fountain at the Country Club Plaza. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

able to make it to virtually every one of the home games. I get to see some of my friends from the fraternity and the football team. We tailgate together and watch the games. It's a lot of fun to keep up with people."

Fenley has also stayed connected to Washburn by joining the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees in 2008, and by teaching a course on accounting and the law each spring. He believes it is his responsibility to give back financially as well, having endowed a chair at the law school and contributing to the new law school building.

"I think it's a duty we all have to give back to the school financially," he said. "The law school gave us tremendous educations. I feel like it's almost a responsibility for us to give back, and that's what I've tried to do."



James Concannon, Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, with Michael C. Manning, '77. Photo by Earl Richardson

Seeking Justice

Michael C. Manning Relentless in Pursuit of Justice.

By James Concannon, Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus

Professor Concannon joined the full-time law faculty in 1973. Michael C. Manning, '77, was a student in Concannon's classes in the spring and fall semesters of 1975. They have remained friends throughout Manning's legal career.

When Mike Manning, '77, relocated in 1989 from the Washington, D.C., office of the firm then known as Morrison & Hecker to manage its Phoenix office, he already had earned a reputation as a fierce litigator with the courage needed to hold the wealthy and powerful accountable for their wrongdoing. He had spent the last four years litigating bank fraud claims for the FDIC against New York mob-affiliated money broker Mario Renda.

The move to Arizona was prompted by Manning's selection by the Resolution Trust Corporation as lead counsel for what became the largest multi-district litigation in history at that time, exposing massive fraud in the Charles Keating -Lincoln Savings and Loan scandal. Later, he brought claims on behalf of union pension funds against Arizona's sitting governor, Fife Symington, for fraud in the governor's financial statements used to support personal guarantees of loans, and he successfully represented an employee of the Arizona State Bar in a suit for sexual harassment against its executive director that other lawyers refused to bring because of his prominence in Arizona's legal community.

However, the public knows Manning best for his relentless, two-decades-long pursuit of justice for victimized prisoners in suits against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and its infamous Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who proclaimed himself "the toughest sheriff in America" and housed prisoners even during Arizona summers in an outdoor tent city he described as a "concentration camp."

"Winning these cases is not enough for me. I didn't take the cases just because I wanted to win them. I took them because I wanted people to know. I wanted people to wake up in this community." - Mike Manning

In 1997, Manning agreed as a favor to a friend to take over a wrongful death/civil rights case arising from the death in Arpaio's jail restraint chair of the friend's son, Scott Norberg. The case was settled in 1999 for \$8.25 million. As Manning later wrote in "The Arizona Republic," "we uncovered evidence that 10 of Arpaio's jailers started the assault, kicked in Scott's throat and choked him to death. They then destroyed evidence of their guilt and altered other evidence, all while Internal Affairs officers covered up for Arpaio."

An action for the wrongful death of a second inmate, placed in the jail restraint chair in 2001, resulted in a judgment for \$4 million in damages and an award of \$2.6 million in attorney fees. The 2006 judgment led Arpaio to discontinue use of the restraint chair. Manning's suit for the death of a diabetic inmate arrested in 2005 on a minor drug possession charge alleged she died of a diabetic coma after being denied insulin and necessary medical treatment. Manning produced reports commissioned by the county describing a "culture of cruelty" that included denial of health care to inmates. He found witnesses who described the destruction of critical evidence. When the trial judge ruled that the jury could be told of the coverup and of missing jail videos and recordings of the victim's phone calls, the county settled for \$3.25 million.

In all, Manning won judgments or settlements in 16 cases against Arpaio. The last to conclude, in 2018, was an action for wrongful death of a mentally ill inmate after a Taser was used while he was

being booked into the jail. Maricopa County settled its part of liability in the case for \$7 million. Judgments and settlements in cases Manning litigated against Arpaio and Maricopa County exceeded \$45 million. Not all of those cases were for wrongful death or catastrophic injury to a prisoner. In some, he represented judges, newspaper reporters, county supervisors, Latino citizens, and others claiming abuse of power by the sheriff. What Manning learned about practices in Arpaio's office incensed him - there were so many other victims.

"Winning these cases is not enough for me," Manning told a reporter. "I didn't take the cases just because I wanted to win them. I took them because I wanted people to know. I wanted people to wake up in this community."

In April 2008, he wrote to Attorney General Michael Mukasey requesting that the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice initiate "an investigation into a pattern and practice of cruelty, abuse, deliberate indifference, and willful civil rights violations against detainees and inmates by Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office." He expressed his "belief that the Maricopa County jails have become unconstitutional places of confinement." His 10-page letter described many of the seven death cases he had filed by then and the tampering with evidence he encountered in them. He contrasted those cases with the complex commercial law cases in which he specialized:

The dishonorable and unethical behavior by those types of commercial fraud adversaries was never surprising to our team or to me. But, when we discovered that type of conduct by a law enforcement agency, like the MCSO, it had a gut-wrenching impact on all of us. It was one thing to needlessly take the lives of vulnerable citizens. But, to compound the cruelty by corrupting the system that they were sworn to uphold was heartbreaking and maddening.

Others also urged DOJ to act, and it initiated a formal investigation in early 2009. Manning's suits continued to force voters in Maricopa County to pay for Arpaio's abuses, and they finally voted Arpaio out of office in 2016.

As a student, Mike endured my classes in Legal Research and Writing and Evidence. As a lawyer, his tenacity and commitment to seek both justice for the vulnerable in our society and accountability from those who abuse positions of power make me proud he is a Washburn graduate.



Left to right: Lauren Martin, BLS '20, Debi Schrock, AA '87, Gillian Chadwick, Randall L. Hodgkinson, Haeli Maas. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Preparing Students

The Next Generation of Students Gain Practice while Helping the Community.

By Angela Lutz

Lauren Martin, BLS '20, is still a student at Washburn University School of Law, but she has already interviewed clients, drafted pleadings, prepared for trial, and even presented a case in court. As an aspiring family law attorney in her second semester with the Washburn Law Clinic, she recently worked on a complex guardianship case and was able to secure a positive outcome for the children involved, boosting her confidence and her preparedness for her future career.

"At the clinic as a student, you're doing it all yourself," Martin said. "It's the best experience you can have in law school because it's 100 percent practical, and it feels really good to help out members of the community."

Since 1970, the Washburn Law Clinic has allowed students to gain essential legal experience while also providing pro bono

services in the areas of family justice, immigration, civil law, and criminal defense to members of the community who could not otherwise afford an attorney. For Gillian Chadwick, clinic director and associate professor, the clinic offers students an incredible educational and service opportunity.

"The clinic is a unique way for students to take on the responsibility and experience of being a lawyer while still having support from faculty," Chadwick said. "Our clients are amazing, and the students enjoy getting out of the classroom and engaging with people. It helps them remember why they went to law school, which is often to help people."

In addition to altruism, the clinic's primary mission is to encourage students to become competent attorneys by letting them take the lead on cases. This level of autonomy is made

"Our clients are amazing, and the students enjoy getting out of the classroom and engaging with people. It helps them remember why they went to law school, which is often to help people." - Gillian Chadwick

possible through the certified legal intern program, which allows law students to gain practical skills under the supervision of a licensed attorney. The law school also has a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Appellate Defender Office, to offer a Criminal Appeal Advocacy clinic, which gives students the chance to work with a staff attorney on briefs.

"It's a great opportunity to teach students about the real-world aspects of representing indigent clients," said Randall L. Hodgkinson, a state public defender and visiting assistant professor who has worked with Washburn students since 2006. "It's rewarding when they see how the real legal world works. I hope my clients get a better appeal because they have me working on it, and the students – that's another benefit of the program."

Students are also regularly involved with large-scale community events and have achieved amazing results. Some recent projects have included assisting with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals renewals, expungement and clean slate events, and estate planning for health care workers during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. This commitment to social justice boosts students' enthusiasm and self-assurance in a big way.

"Once they get their first client interview or court appearance under their belt, you can see their confidence begin to build," said **Debi Schrock**, **AA** '87, managing director of administration at the clinic. "By the end of the semester they have experienced so much of what it is like to practice as an attorney – being responsible for clients, managing their caseloads, negotiating with opposing counsel, interacting with courthouse personnel – they begin to see themselves as attorneys."

Like Martin, Washburn Law student Haeli Maas has gained tremendous experience that will help her in her future career as an attorney. Now in her second semester at the clinic, Maas has found that she loves working with clients, such as the couple she helped prepare for the U.S. citizenship test by creating study guides and working with them on weekends.

Support Washburn Law Clinic

The Washburn Law Clinic plays a vital role in students' legal education, giving them real-world experience while also helping underserved clients who could not otherwise afford representation. To carry out this mission, the clinic operates on a "shoestring budget," said Gillian Chadwick, director and associate professor, which is why support from Washburn alumni and the surrounding community is so vital.

"Having a community that believes in the clinic is wonderful," Chadwick said. "The more support we have the more we can expand our services and raise the profile of the clinic and the law school – and that's always a good thing."

According to Jeffrey Jackson, interim law school dean and professor, the Law Clinic is the second-largest provider of pro-bono civil legal services in the state of Kansas – additional funds would enable the clinic to expand and educate more students and serve more people.

"Washburn as an institution has always been founded on the idea of helping people, and this is one very effective way that we can do that," Jackson said. "The Topeka community is among Washburn's biggest supporters, and we feel an obligation to give back. It shows how valuable Washburn can be to the surrounding community."

To give to the clinic, visit **wualumni.org/schooloflaw** and select "School of Law Clinic Fund."

"They were an older couple, and the man said he had been waiting 50 years to become a U.S. citizen," Maas said. "I only worked with them for a small portion of their journey, but it was a very high point in my clinic experience. I will graduate and feel confident after having worked in the clinic – there's nothing better in terms of how to learn."

For Chadwick, these types of experiences are precisely what make the Law Clinic so special – and why she's grateful to be surrounded by a supportive network of Washburn alumni and community members whose generosity allows this important work to continue.

"I'm very proud of the work we do in the clinic, both in terms of the education we provide to students and the service we provide to the community," Chadwick said. "In just 14 weeks our students can transform their practice and go into the world much more confident and prepared – and they've also had this wonderful experience getting to connect with clients."

The Honor Roll of Donors

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation and Washburn University School of Law extend their gratitude to each and every donor. Every gift makes a difference for the students. The Honor Roll of Donors is a way to recognize those who made gifts to Washburn Law during the fiscal year July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation and Washburn Law have made every effort to ensure the

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Richard F. Corson, '85

"I'm a firm believer in putting action behind gratitude which includes supporting and volunteering for organizations that enabled doors to open for me. Washburn Law certainly opened doors for me in ways that I never imagined. My life has been enriched by the opportunities and friendships made through my Washburn family."

- Lori A. Fink, '85



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"I give to Washburn Law because Washburn Law gave to me. It was such a game changer in my life. Washburn Law had such a positive impact on my level of confidence and in my belief that with hard work, I could do anything I set my mind to. Washburn provided me with an education, academically and personally, that I am certain I would not have received at any other institution."

- The Honorable Gwynne E. Harris Birzer, BS '89, JD '92

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News Briefs

Law Building Nearing Historic Finish

After several years of planning, the new School of Law building is nearing completion. While construction will not be completed by the initial target date of December 2022, the finishing touches are starting to take shape, and students, faculty, and staff can expect to move into the building in time for the fall 2023 semester.

In part, the \$33 million project has been funded by more than 1,000 alumni and friends of Washburn University School of Law. The current building, which opened in 1969, was determined to be of similar cost to renovate as construction of a new building, resulting in the decision to move forward with construction. The old building will remain open, and the university is working to determine which department(s) will utilize the space in the future.

The new building will also provide new technology which will allow the School of Law to continue distance learning, a crucial piece to the new Third Year Anywhere program. Faculty will now have the capability to engage in distance learning as their class sessions can be automatically recorded and uploaded for students participating in the Third Year Anywhere program, those who were absent, or those who simply want an enhanced understanding of the lesson.

In addition to the upgraded technology, the new building boasts several private study spaces, two new courtrooms, and countless upgrades for the best law education possible.





Photos by Jeremy Wangler

News Briefs

Diversity Milestone Reached at the School of Law

Each year, Washburn University School of Law eagerly welcomes the incoming class. The class that arrived this August brought with them the most diversity of any incoming class. Out of the 103 new students, 43% self-reported as a member of at least one under-represented population, which includes ethnic identity, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

"At Washburn Law, we believe that representation is incredibly important, and this year's entering class exemplifies our commitment to creating diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession," said Dean Jeffrey Jackson.

The School of Law boasts a long history of being committed to diversity, graduating its first female law student in 1912, a time when many states would not allow women to practice law. The law school was also one of the first predominately white public law schools to admit African-Americans and prepare them for the practice of law.

This year's new class, which includes both spring and fall starters, is made up of 92 traditional first-year juris doctor students, eight master of law students, and three transfer juris doctor students.

University President Update

In Sept. of 2022, Washburn University said farewell to Jerry and Susan Farley after 25 years of service. Following the announcement of Farley's retirement as president, the university hired recruiting firm, WittKieffer, to begin the

Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

months-long process of identifying a new university president and on Jan. 11, that search came to an end.

The Washburn University board of regents selected Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek as the university's 15th president, and she began her role Feb. 1, 2023. She is the first woman to lead Washburn University as president since its founding in 1865.

Mazachek is returning to Topeka after serving as president of Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, since last May. Prior to her time at MSU Texas, Mazachek spent 30 years at Washburn University in various leadership roles. Coming home, she said, is an opportunity she could not pass up.

"Washburn University is such an important part of my family," Mazachek said. "I am incredibly honored to lead this institution as we build on a foundation of academic excellence and on our unwavering commitment to students and their success. Innovation, growth, and collaboration with community partners are among my key priorities as, together, we continue to move Washburn forward toward an even brighter future."

To learn more about Mazachek and to read the full press release, visit washburn.edu/president.

Faculty Updates

The following faculty updates are from Jan. 1, 2022, to Nov. 15, 2022.



Rory Bahadur - "Law School Rankings and the Impossibility of Anti-Racism," 53 St. Mary's Law Journal 991 (2022). "Actively Achieving

Greater Racial Equity in Law School Classrooms," 70 Cleveland State Law Review 709 (2022) (with Catherine Bramble).

- "Reexamining Relative Bar Performance as a Function of Non-Linearity, Heteroscedasticity, and a New Independent Variable," 52 New Mexico Law Review 119 (2022) (with Kevin Ruth and Katie Tolliver Jones).



Andrea Boyack - "Structural Precarity and Potential in Condominium Governance Design," 75 Arkansas Law Review 291 (2022).



Gillian Chadwick - "Time's Up for Attorney-Client Sexual Violence," 22 University of Maryland Law Journal of Race,

Religion, Gender & Class 76 (2022).



Linda Henry Elrod - "Review of the Year 2021 in Family Law: Getting Back to Normal," 55 Family Law Quarterly 397 (2022).

- Child Custody Practice and Procedure. 2022 edition (Thomson Reuters, 2022).

- Kansas Family Law: Kansas Law and Practice, Volumes 1 and 2. 2022 edition (Thomson Reuters, 2022).



Emily Grant -"Belongingness," 54 Connecticut Law Review Online 1 (2022).



Burke Griggs - Cases and Materials on Oil and Gas Law. 8th. ed. (2022) (West Academic) (co-author with John S. Lowe, Owen

L. Anderson, Christopher S. Kulander, Monika U. Ehrman and James W. Coleman).



Jeffrey Jackson - Interactive Citation Workbook for ALWD Guide to Legal Citation, 2022 Edition (LexisNexis, 2022).



Lori McMillan - "Banking, Commercial & Contract Law" Kansas Annual Survey (Kansas Bar Association, 2022) (with Gustavy Niemtschik).



Frédéric G. Sourgens -"Human Rights Claims and Counterclaims in International Energy Arbitration," 73 Proceedings

of the Institute on Energy Law (2022). - "Diligent Zero," 75 SMU Law Review

- "A Parisian Consensus," 60 Columbia Journal of Transnational Law 657 (2022).

- Good Faith in Transnational Law: A Pluralist Account (Brill, 2022).

- "Living on a Prayer: Termination of Intra-EU BITs and the Law of Treaties" in The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties in Investor-State Disputes: History, Evolution and Future (Esmé Shirlow & Kiran Nasir Gore eds.) (Kluwer Law International, 2022).



Amy Westbrook - "A Safe Harbor for Ransomware Payments: Protecting Stakeholders, Hardening Targets, and Defending

National Security," 18 New York University Journal of Law & Business 391 (2022).

Meet the Law Alumni Team



Patrick Mikesic **Executive Director** of Development and Alumni Relations - School of Law



Anne McInerney Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations - School of Law



Amanda Hughes Director of Membership and Outreach



Kaitlin Alegria Director of Development - School of Law



Dannie Harris-Cooper Communications Engagement Specialist

Class Actions

The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school before Nov. 11, 2022. Update your address at alumni@washburnlaw.edu and submit your news at washburnlaw.edu/alumninews.

1966

Daniel Forker, Haven, Kansas, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy as part of its 31st class.

1972

Gregory Waller, Topeka, was inducted into the Hutchinson High School Wall of Honor.

1974

John Kemp, Roslyn, New York, retired as CEO of The Viscardi Center and is now president and CEO of The Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama.

1975

Randall McGrath, Lawrence, Kansas, published his second book, "From the Bench and Beyond," about his experiences as a judge and lawyer in Kansas.

1977

Jeffrey Joy, Portland, Oregon, joined Greenberg Traurig as counsel in Portland and Orange County.

Michael C. Manning, Paradise Valley, Arizona, was honored with his seventh selection out of the last 10 years for the Super Lawyers of Arizona. He was also named one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Arizona four times in the last six years.

David Urbom, Arapahoe, Nebraska, retired in the summer of 2021 as judge for the 11th Judicial District.

Merlin Wheeler, Emporia, Kansas, has retired after 32 years of service as a judge, including 25 years as chief judge, to the 5th Judicial District in Kansas. He was awarded Kansas District Judges Association's Judicial Excellence Award at KDJA's October 2022 annual meeting.

1978

Bruce Gatterman, Larned, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 24th Judicial District.

1979

Robert Hartsook, Kansas City, Missouri, was inducted into the Colby Community College Alumni Hall of Fame.

1980

Richard Anderson, Topeka, received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Kansas District Judges Association. Anderson also retired in December of 2021 as a district court judge for Shawnee County.

Norman Hope, Dallas, Texas, was elected secretary and treasurer for the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants for the 2021-22 year.

Randall Grisell, Garden City, Kansas, retired as the city attorney after 41 years of practicing law and 33 of those years serving his city.

1981

Kevin Regan, Kansas City, Missouri, was selected to serve as the grand marshal for the annual Topeka St. Patrick's Day parade. His four grandchildren rode along with him.

1982

Marty "Joe" Dickinson, Newton, Kansas, has retired from the 9th Judicial District after seven years as chief judge.

1985

Steven Johnson, Great Bend, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 20th Judicial District.

Stephen Minnis, Atchinson, Kansas, received the Papal Award from Caritas in Veritate for being one of the remarkable Catholic leaders, showing outstanding work in charity and leadership.

1986

Benjamin Sexton, Abilene, Kansas, has been named the new chief judge of the 8th Judicial District.

Steven Scheiwe, Encinitas, California, was appointed to the board of directors of Atlas Financial Holdings.

1987

Jeffry Larson, Emporia, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to serve as the chief judge of the 5th Judicial District.

1989

Tony Barry, Topeka, was inducted into the Topeka West Athletics Hall of Fame.

James Fleetwood, Wichita, Kansas, received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Kansas District Judges Association during the virtual statewide conference for judges.

1990

Susan (Hoffman) Robson, Marion, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly as a judge to the 8th Judicial District.

1991

Keith Haas, Overland Park, Kansas, was promoted to associate vice president - legal counsel at Black and Veatch Corporation.

Jeffrey Moots, Hagatna, Guam, was named legal counsel for the Office of the Governor of Guam this year.

1992

Jeffrey Jackson, Topeka, has been named interim dean of the Washburn University School of Law.

1993

Timothy Shultz, Topeka, has joined Stormont Vail Health as associate general counsel, risk and safety.

1994

Craig Henderson, Fruita, Colorado, was recognized by McPherson College for his accomplishments and received a Young Alumni Award.

Ja'mez Jahmez-James-Antonio Reid, Arverne, New York, served as an Army doctor until medically boarded with honor due to a traumatic service brain injury of a hemorrhagic stroke.

1995

William Mott, Wellington, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 30th Judicial District.

1996

Clinton Peterson, Liberal, Kansas, was appointed chief judge of the 26th Judicial District.

William Stetzer, Belmont, North Carolina, was recently hired as Gaston County's new attorney.

1999

Trey Alford, Kansas City, Missouri, prosecuted the largest Social Security fraud case in history, and Apple TV recently made a true crime documentary, "The Big Conn," on the case. Alford appears in episodes three and four.

Gregory Hill, Aurora, Colorado, was appointed the executive director of the New York State Dental Association.

Steven Neill, Lenexa, Kansas, has been appointed as a veterans law judge for the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C., prior to this appointment, he was an active duty Army officer for over 20 years, including two as a military judge and two overseas deployments.

2000

Shelley King, Lawrence, Kansas, was promoted to senior associate counsel and director of legal services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in June 2022.

2002

Jason Coody, Tallahassee, Florida, has been named a U.S. attorney for the northern district of Florida.

Jack Kaplan, High Point, North Carolina, began working as a member at Wade & Kaplan PLLC.

John Spisak, Kansas City, Missouri, joined Spencer Fane LLP as an associate attorney focused on intellectual property.

2003

Amanda Kiefer, Topeka, was promoted from first vice president to senior vice president at FHLBank Topeka and serves as the chief compliance and ethics officer and general counsel, corporate secretary.

Amy (Jurgensmeier) Memmer, Topeka, was named associate professor and chair of the criminal justice department at Washburn University.

2004

Laura Lewis, Meade, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 16th Judicial District.

Tiana McElroy, Columbus, Kansas, is now the county attorney for the Bourbon County Attorney's Office.

Alexandra Ritter, New Haven, Connecticut, was named a partner with Dolan Divorce Lawyers.

2006

Angel Zimmerman, Topeka, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

2007

Andrea (Coplin) Purvis, Abilene, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the 6th Judicial District.

Kelly (Gordon) Trussell, Topeka, Law Journal, was selected as the chief of prosecution for the City of Topeka.

Kerrie (Young) Lonard, Lawrence, Kansas, was named the Kansas child advocate and head of the Division of the Child Advocate that will oversee child welfare services by Gov. Laura Kelly.

Melanie Worsley, Topeka, was named associate dean of the School of Applied Studies at Washburn University. As assistant professor, she was formerly chair in the criminal justice department.

2009

Angela (Chesney) Coble, Salina, Kansas, was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Danielle (Wherrell) Hall, Topeka, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021. She was also a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

Kevin Mechtley, Overland Park, Kansas, was named vice president of business development and chief innovation officer for Sammons Financial Group.

William Schmidt, Lenexa, Kansas, has joined the Kansas City branch of the IRS Office of Chief Counsel as a tax attorney.

Sheri (Krehbiel) Smiley, Kansas City, Kansas, recently co-founded the firm Friel, McCord & Smiley. The firm has an emphasis on electric cooperatives and is located in Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis.

2010

Andrea (Ohlman) Swisher, Lindsborg, Kansas, was appointed to a judgeship position in the 28th Judicial District by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly.

2011

Amanda Wilwert, Lawrence, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

2012

Boyd Chappell, Midland, Michigan, has been named the chief financial officer of Jones Memorial Hospital.

Jennifer (Fenton) Cocking, Topeka, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

Alison (St. Clair) Pollock, Topeka, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

Alicia Guerrero-Chavez, Topeka, received the Making a Difference award from Family Service and Guidance Center for providing topquality mental health care to northeast Kansas children.

LeTiffany Obozele, Topeka, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021. She was also a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

2013

Stephanie Randall, Colorado Springs, Colorado, was named the chief executive officer of The Burnham Law Firm PC.

2014

Travis Pfannenstiel, Scottsdale, Arizona, was named assistant general counsel of DEPCOM Power, Inc.

2015

Jordan Clothier, Denver, Colorado, was named senior assistant general counsel for Denver Health & Hospital Authority.

2016

Jorge De Hoyos, Wichita, was named lead assistant public defender for the Sedgwick County Public Defender's Office.

2017

Valerie Desroches, North Beach, Maryland, is now an associate attorney at the Law Office of Thomas E. Pyles, P.A.

Maureen (Hannen) Cook, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, was hired by Spencer Fane LLP as an associate where she will join the tax, trusts, and estates practice group.

2019

Keegan McElroy, Topeka, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

Mallory Riley, Powell, Wyoming, opened her own clothing store, The HumbleBee Shop, in the summer of 2021.

Seth Young, Bel Aire, Kansas, was promoted to corporate counsel at Daland Corporation.

Jason Steele, Austin, Texas, was promoted to director of government relations at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in January of 2022.

2020

Kyler Wineinger, Lawrence, Kansas, started as the associate attorney at the Law Offices of Morris, Laing, Brock & Kennedy Chtd.

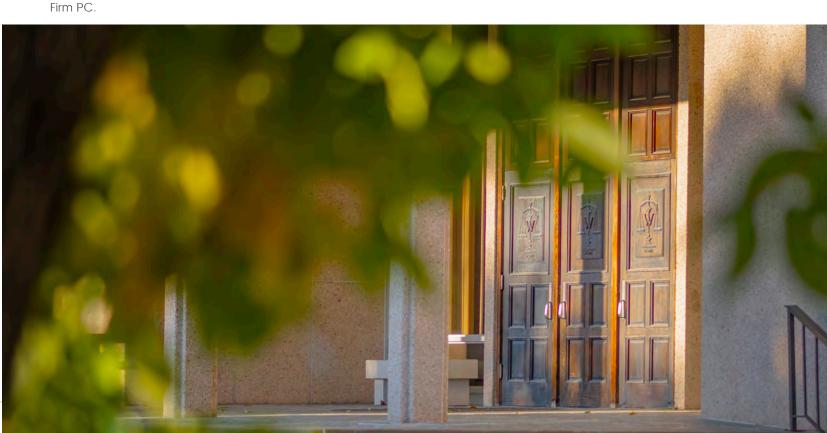
2021

Reece Hiebert, Walton, Kansas, joined Adrian and Pankratz, P.A. as an associate attorney.

Brigid Markey, Topeka, was hired as an associate attorney at Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe, L.L.C.

2022

Reagan McCloud, Topeka, Kansas, was named manager of government relations for Kansas Electric Cooperative Inc.



In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from July 1, 2021 - Nov. 15, 2022.

Alva H. Bandy, '49, Richardson, Texas, on March 17, 2022, at age 98

Lawrence O. Bengtson, '50, Salemsborg, Kansas, on Sept. 17, 2022, at the age of 99

The Hon. Norman K. "Keith" Sanborn, '**50,** Bluff City, Kansas, on Aug. 1, 2022, at the age of 100

Junior F. Elder, '51, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 26, 2022, at the age of 102

Tom H. Foulds, '51, Edmonds, Washington, on Nov. 14, 2021, at age 97

The Hon. Adrian J. Allen, '54, Topeka, Kansas, on April 16, 2022, at age 93

H. Dean Cotton, '54, McPherson, Kansas, on Sept. 18, 2022, at the age of 93

Paul D. Berkley, '56, Salina, Kansas, on March 6, 2022, at the age of 91

William R. "Russ" Davis Jr., '57, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Oct. 17, 2021, at age 92

Richard V. "Dick" Foote, '58, Wichita, Kansas, on March 22, 2022, at age 92

Ronald J. Wilkinson, '58, Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 24, 2021, at age 87

The Hon. Melvin M. Gradert, '59, Newton, Kansas, on Sept. 7, 2022, at the age of 93

David L. McComb, '59, Atlanta, Georgia, on Dec. 23, 2021, at the age of 90

The Hon. Dean J. Smith, '59, Overland Park, Kansas, on Nov. 3, 2021, at the age of 89

Robert H. "Bob" Reeder, '60, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2022, at the age of

Robert D. Hamel, '61, Windcrest, Texas, on Dec. 26, 2021, at the age of 84

David V. Buckley, '62, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 8, 2021, at age 85

Harry "Pete" Connelly, Jr., '62, Santa Fe, New Mexico, on May 28, 2022, at the age of 88

Firman G. Gladow, '63, Lyons, Kansas, on Jan. 1, 2022, at the age of 83

Roger M. Sherwood, '64, Wichita, Kansas, on July 20, 2021, at the age of 84

James D. Farris, '65, Kansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 23, 2022, at the age of 82

Ronald G. Hinkle, '66, Overland Park, Kansas, on Jan. 17, 2022, at the age of 80

The Hon. Thomas F. Richardson, '68, Garden City, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2021, at the age of 80

Ronald W. Hill, '70, Topeka, Kansas, on April 13, 2022, at the age of 77

The Hon. Daniel L. Brewster, '72, Joplin, Missouri, on May 26, 2022, at the age of 75

R. Daniel Lykins, '72, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 25, 2021, at the age of 75

Jack D. Sage, '73, Dorr, Michigan, on April 8, 2022, at the age of 77

Frank E. White Jr., '73, Hesston, Kansas, on Nov. 2, 2021, at the age of 78

Arthur H. "Art" Griggs, '74, Topeka, Kansas, on July 10, 2022, at the age of 75

Timothy J. Suttle, '74, Plano, Texas, on Aug. 1, 2022, at the age of 73

James K. Packard, '75, Loveland, Colorado, on Dec. 30, 2021, at the age of 73

Harry W. Longbottom, '77, Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 2022, at the age of 70 William T. "Bill" Coppersmith, '78, Olathe, Kansas, on May 11, 2020, at the age of 68

The Hon. Philip T. Kyle, '78, Ness City, Kansas, on May 3, 2021, at the age of 80

The Hon. Daniel W. Olsen, '78, Raymore, Missouri, on Nov. 9, 2021, at the age of 69

Mark B. Hutton, '79, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2021, at the age of 67

Douglas B. Salsbury, '79, Chesterfield, Missouri, on Feb. 19, 2022, at the age of 69

Bruce J. Woner, '79, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 27, 2022, at the age of 67

Frank S. "Steven" Coen, '80, Wichita, Kansas, on Feb. 25, 2022, at the age of 68

John I. O'Connor, '80, Farmington, Missouri, on Oct. 12, 2022, at the age of 67

Linda L. Larsen, '81, Flagstaff, Arizona, on Nov. 15, 2021, at the age of 65

Douglas P. Campbell, '84, Ulysses, Kansas, on July 28, 2021, at the age of 74

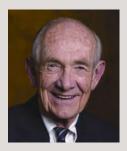
Mark E. Caplinger, '85, Topeka, Kansas, on June 12, 2022, at the age of 62

Scott K. Hanano, '90, Wailuku Maui, Hawaii, on Nov. 26, 2021, at the age of 57

Sandra K. "Sandy" Lindell Harms, '92, Atlantic, Iowa, on Nov. 8, 2021, at the age of 56

Christopher C. Bates, '05, Seattle, Washington, on Feb. 28, 2022, at the age of 47

Remembering William D. Bunten



William D. Bunten, '56, died on Sept. 2, 2022. He was 90. Bunten joined the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees in 1990 and served as a director from 2006-09. He received the School of Law Distinguished Service Award in 2009. He and his wife,

Charlene Bunten, created and funded a School of Law scholarship and have supported several other areas at Washburn. He worked in the banking industry for 50 years throughout the U.S., retiring in 1996 from INTRUST Bank in Wichita. He chaired several non-profit boards including United Way of Topeka and the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Remembering Richard C. Hite



Richard C. Hite, '53, H'11, died on Dec. 16, 2021. He was 93. Hite served on the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees from 1986-99 before becoming trustee emeritus. He created and funded an endowment in his name for the Washburn University School of Law. He practiced law in Wichita, Kansas, with Kahrs, Nelson from 1959-2000. He was also a founding partner of the firm Hite, Fanning & Honeyman. He volunteered and served on the boards of several local and national legal and charitable organizations.

Remembering Charlene L. Smith



Washburn University School of Law's Emeritus Professor of Law Charlene Smith passed away on Feb. 24, 2022.

Smith taught at Washburn Law for over 20 years, from 1982-2003 and 2007-08. She received her undergraduate degree, as well as a master's degree in history, from the University of Denver.

She taught history at Lea College in Albert Lea, Minnesota, before moving to the Twin Cities region and obtaining her juris doctor degree from Hamline University School of Law. After graduation, the Minnesota attorney general hired Charlene to head the Human Rights Division. A particularly noteworthy case she successfully shepherded was a lawsuit against Reserve Mining, a sex discrimination claim brought on behalf of women seeking equal employment rights.

Being a teacher at heart, Charlene then attended Temple University Beasley School of Law, where she earned a masters of law as a Law Teaching Fellow.

Charlene's teaching assignment included Torts, Legal Methods, Legal Research and Writing, and a torts seminar. She also became the coordinator of Ahrens Tort Seminar for nine years, bringing many international torts scholars, professors, attorneys, judicial officers, and government

officials to Washburn. One example of Charlene's creativity and innovation as a law professor was using distance (remote) learning for the Ahrens Tort Seminar in 1999 and 2000, long before distance or remote learning was being used in academia.

In 1990, Charlene, along with Professor Bill Rich, planned and implemented another innovative course, the Law Colloquium. Not only did the subject matter of the course change each year, but the course was unique in that it was co-taught by many Washburn Law faculty members. Charlene also loved to travel and was instrumental, together with Professor Linda Elrod, in setting up the Summer Study Abroad Program at Brunel University in Uxbridge, England, and then, a few years later, moving the program to King's College in London.

Charlene was passionate about the legal rights of women and LGBTQ individuals. She served on the Kansas Bar Association task force on women and was the editor of the Kansas Women's Legal Rights Handbook.

Charlene retired as professor emeritus from Washburn in 2003. She then joined the law faculty at Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

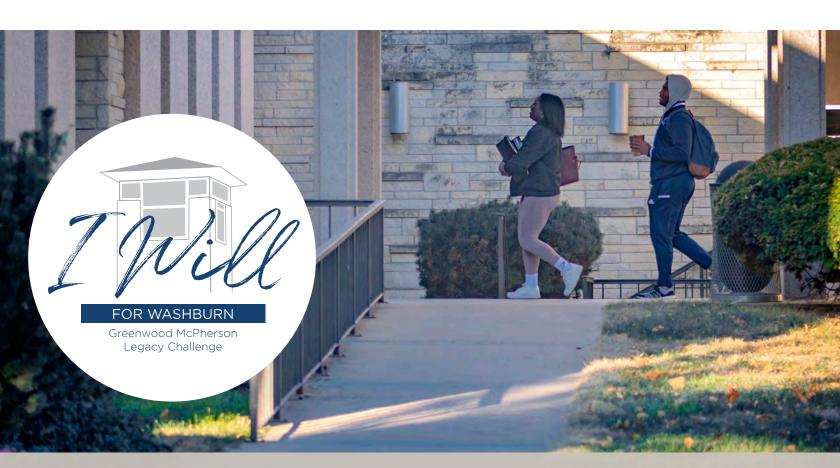
In Memoriam by Nancy Maxwell, professor of law emeritus



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Contact Patrick Mikesic, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations - School of Law

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