

WASHBURN LAWYER

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Magazine | 2021-22



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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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Greetings Alumni and Friends

It is my pleasure to introduce this issue of the Washburn Lawyer magazine which highlights Washburn's impact on global law practice and education. When people think of international law, or practicing law outside of the continental U.S., they may not think of Kansas. After reading this issue of the Washburn Lawyer magazine, it is my hope that our alumni, prospective students, and friends of the law school will have a better appreciation for Washburn's global impact both historically and in the present.

Washburn University School of Law has alumni on every continent with the exception of Antarctica. Moreover, we provide study abroad opportunities for law students to study in the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. Studying abroad expands the understanding that students have of our interconnected world and also expands their aspirations and ambitions. However, too few students take advantage of study abroad opportunities. Research tells us the number one reason that students do not avail themselves of the opportunity to study abroad is that they cannot afford the additional costs associated with traveling abroad. That is why Washburn Law's International and Comparative Law Center (hereinafter "the Center") has made it a priority to raise the funds necessary to create an endowed fund that will provide a travel stipend to students from lower-income backgrounds to help them afford studying abroad. If you want to help us with this goal, please email or call me. I would be happy to talk to you about the work of the Center as well as the study abroad programs that we currently offer to students. If you want to learn more about the work of the Center, please contact its co-directors, Professor Craig Martin and Professor Tonya Kowalska.

Because many alumni did not have the opportunity to study abroad when they were law students, we are inviting a limited number of alumni to join us for a week on our next study abroad trip to Barbados in January of 2023. The Barbados program at Washburn Law historically was held in the summer, but last year, we received ABA approval to move the program to the winter during the first two weeks of January. Moving the program to the winter will serve students better by affording them the opportunity to study abroad while reserving their summers for working in law practice settings and learning to apply the knowledge they gained from classroom instruction. Moreover, we hope more students will be interested in traveling to Barbados in January to escape the cold winter in Kansas. The University of West Indies is our partner school in Barbados and this year they are teaching all online due to the pandemic. Consequently, we did not travel to Barbados in January of 2022, but mark your calendars for January of 2023! The one week alumni portion of this study abroad program will offer 12 credit hours of CLE, a networking reception with lawyers of the Barbados Bar Association, and a cultural excursion to learn more about Afro-Caribbean culture and law. I hope to see you there, and I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine.

Sincerely,

Carla Pratt
Dean, Washburn University School of Law

Excited for the Future

Resilience. Strength. Determination. Commitment. Although the past year has not been devoid of challenges, the Washburn community came together to actively demonstrate that it is, indeed, resilient, strong, determined, and steadfastly committed to our beloved institution, its legacy, and its future. The challenges we faced together have illuminated the fantastic alumni community we have at Washburn University School of Law and give every indication for a brilliant future for the school and our alumni network.

Several years ago, we committed to constructing a new law school building. We steadfastly nurtured that commitment, coming together to generate enthusiasm, raise funds, and continually look forward. And, we saw great progress this year. This past summer, we broke ground on the new law school building and our vision for and commitment to our school's future is well underway. Every day, as the building takes shape, we can see the fruits of the intense effort put in by our dedicated community of alumni, faculty, fundraisers, and administrators as, together, we continue to plan for the future of Washburn Law and the future generations of lawyers that will continue the school's legacy of excellence. From the forward-looking design and classroom technology to the beautiful, relaxing student gathering spaces, the new building promises future lawyers with a tremendous place to begin their professional journeys. We look forward to welcoming the first class of students for the Spring 2023 semester.

Our innovative spirit, manifested in our Third Year Anywhere program, entered its first year of implementation, with our current group of 3L students getting the opportunity to learn and work across the country. Many of our alumni have greeted these students warmly and allowed for a one-of-a-kind learning experience that will uniquely advantage student participants as they enter the professional legal market with an expanded network, diverse academic experiences and an appreciation for alternative environments, further differentiating Washburn Law from its peer schools.

And, this year, we also joined efforts with the University's Alumni Association to provide more benefits and opportunities to network to our members. Alumni who join our Washburn Law Alumni Association will automatically be enrolled in the Washburn University Alumni Association as well, receiving the benefits of membership in both organizations. In addition to the added benefits, it is our hope that, as we share resources and programming, opportunities for our Washburn Law graduates to meet and build relationships will expand tremendously, broadening and deepening the Washburn bond.

The challenges of the past year provided us with an opportunity to showcase our innovative capabilities too, and our Alumni Association continued to offer a rich variety of programming over Zoom and through other means. Not only did we maintain alumni engagement, it also offered new opportunities for remote alumni to feel more connected to the school, to our organization, and to each other. We have been excited to see alumni from around the world coming together in new ways, and as we resume offering traditional networking events, we plan to continue to offer remote events.

Resilience. Strength. Determination. Commitment. We saw it in 2021 – and I hope you share my pride in our alumni, our students, our faculty, staff, and administration. We have persevered, and I hope you also share my optimism about our school and about our alumni association. Thank you for all you do to support the school.

Sincerely,
Lynn S. McCreary, '94
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.

2021-2022 Board of Governors

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Law faculty who work on international law: Front row (left) Linda Elrod, BA '69, JD '72, Lori McMillan, Amy Deen Westbrook. Back row (Left) Craig Martin, Alex Glashausser, Antonina Kowalska. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

International and Comparative Law Center

Faculty, Center work to connect Kansas students to international law practices.

By Angela Lutz

When Washburn University School of Law Distinguished Professor **Linda Elrod, BA '69, JD '72**, traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, as a Washburn undergraduate in 1967, she experienced what she called “an awakening.” During her journey, she visited more than 15 countries and came to understand how foreign legal systems could inform her point of view on family law. As a professor, she returned to Denmark more than a decade later, solidifying her drive to bring a well-rounded global perspective to her students.

“That’s what sparked my interest – the idea that America didn’t have all the answers, and other countries were sometimes doing things a little better than we were,” Elrod said. “I realized our law students needed to have a broader base of understanding of the world, the way other systems are operating, and how governments and other players function within those systems.”

During more than four decades teaching at Washburn, Elrod has established herself as an international family

law expert. She has coauthored a widely used textbook and given more than 170 presentations at local, national, and international events. She has spoken and taught all over the world – including Australia, Canada, England, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Serbia. She has also helped draft international child support conventions, and she serves on the Advisory Committee of Private International Law.

“We’re all global citizens at this point,” she said. “We all need to be aware of international norms.”

International and Comparative Law Scholarship

At Washburn, Elrod is one of many professors who actively present, teach, and publish around the world, bolstering the law school’s reputation and passing knowledge and experience on to its students. One of the most vital aspects of Washburn’s

global presence is legal scholarship, which showcases the vast proficiency of the law school's faculty.

“To most people, scholarship is not a very visible aspect of what we do, but it’s very important,” said Professor Craig Martin, the co-director of the International and Comparative Law Center. “From an international and comparative law perspective, we have a disproportionate number of faculty who are writing cutting-edge scholarship and making a name for themselves.”

One of Washburn’s most prolific scholars is Freddy Sourgens, Senator Robert J. Dole distinguished professor and director of the Oil and Gas Law Center. He has coauthored multiple books on subjects including international petroleum law and evidence in international investment arbitration, international law theory, climate change law, among many others, and he is currently working on another title about renewable energy and transnational law. He has more than 80 international publications to his name, making him a globally recognized authority on the intersection between energy law, dispute resolution, transnational law, and globalization.

“I think comparative law provides students with a better toolkit so they can ask questions that sharpen their understanding in a more sophisticated way,” Sourgens said. “Many of the largest problems we have at the moment are global problems, and they’re subject to global regulatory processes. Having this knowledge is an important part of being a lawyer in the 21st century.”

Sourgens and Elrod are among a strong bench of international and comparative law scholars at Washburn Law, a list that includes Professors Amy Westbrook, who focuses on international trade and international business transactions; Patricia Judd, who specializes in international intellectual property law; Lori McMillan, who works in international and comparative tax law; Antonina Kowalska, who works on comparative legal education, and Alex Glashausser, who has published on comparative civil procedure and jurisdictional issues. Craig Martin, the co-director of the ICLC, teaches public international law, the law of armed conflict, international human rights, international climate change law, and comparative constitutional law. His scholarship focuses on the legal constraints on the use of force and armed conflict in both international and constitutional law, and he has written extensively on Japanese constitutional war powers. He recently started a podcast in which he interviews top experts from around the world on legal issues related to the laws of war, and which is now listened to in over 100 countries (visit it at: jibjabpodcast.com).



Freddy Sourgens, the Senator Robert J. Dole distinguished professor and director of the Oil and Gas Law Center at Washburn. Photo submitted

As with Elrod, Sourgens, Martin, and others travel all over the world to present their scholarship at international and comparative law conferences. Again, this is activity that tends to be out of sight of students, staff, and alumni, but it is an important component of the work that they do. As Martin explained, “the overall purpose of scholarship is ultimately to advance our collective understanding of law and policy, but as a scholar, one of course wants to exercise some influence on the development of that collective understanding, to shape the formation of future law and policy, whether here or abroad – and to exercise influence your scholarship has to be read by many people, in many different positions in the process of law and policy formation. Presenting at conferences is a way for us to get our writing read and discussed – and also an opportunity for us to get feedback on our work, and to get more and better ideas for future work. It is our opportunity to really engage in the marketplace of ideas and amplify our own contributions to that marketplace.”

The International and Comparative Law Center

Martin and Kowalska, who administers much of the study abroad program, sought in 2013 to establish an institution that could coordinate and facilitate the international and comparative law curriculum, programs, and scholarship at the law school. This led to the establishment of the ICLC. It became one of Washburn’s six centers for excellence that provide an organizational structure focusing on a particular



Professor Bill Rich teaching constitutional law in the Constitutional Court of Georgia, in Batumi, on the Black Sea, 2019. Photo submitted

Supporting the Rule of Law in Georgia

Another important international program that Washburn Law faculty and students have contributed to is a rule of law initiative in the Republic of Georgia (now simply known as Georgia). The program was established at Washburn in 2011, when the Law School received a grant from the United States Department of State Agency for International Development to help promote the rule of law, and Washburn partnered with Georgia's Free University of Tbilisi.

More than half of Washburn law faculty members have been involved in teaching courses to students in Georgia, as well as running workshops for the training of Georgian university professors, lawyers, and even judges. Washburn Law students have played an important role as well, conducting research each year in a program that has been overseen by Professors Jeff Jackson and Bill Rich. "Washburn students are selected to write research memos that will be used in amicus briefs in the constitutional court of Georgia," said Professor Craig Martin. "Some of our students' memos have been cited in court decisions on constitutional issues. It's pretty exciting for them to know that their research is going to be relied upon in court."

For more on the ICLC and the international and comparative law activity of Washburn Law faculty and students, visit the ICLC webpage: washburnlaw.edu/practicalexperience/internationallaw

area of law or aspect of legal practice. Martin and Kowalska serve as co-directors of the center, which has the mission of both coordinating and furthering the education of Washburn Law students in the area of international and comparative law, and to support and promote the scholarship, teaching, and service of the Washburn Law faculty in international and comparative law.

"We established the International and Comparative Law Center because we had more international and comparative law faculty members than other schools in the region, and most schools of our size," Martin said, "and so it made sense to both play to our strengths and leverage our comparative advantage, and to help promote the international and comparative law work of our faculty. But also, there was a broad understanding that some familiarity with international and comparative law is increasingly important in our ever globalized world, and it would be irresponsible not to properly prepare our students for careers in that world. The ICLC was established in part to focus on that need."

"Some people may wonder why a lawyer in Kansas or Missouri might need to know either international or foreign law, but the reality is Kansas is involved in energy production, agriculture, aeronautics, and any number of other industries that involve global markets – there are many more international implications than one might think," Martin said.



Professor Craig Martin presents a paper on climate change and the laws of war at Columbia University Law School, 2020. Photo submitted



Professor Patricia Judd at Harvard University. Photo submitted

“Coming to Washburn, you have the opportunity to do global work if that’s where your interests lie.”

Washburn’s prominence in the field of international and comparative law also helps attract new students, who are increasingly interested in how their legal careers and influence can span the globe. In addition to Washburn Law offering a robust selection of international and comparative law courses, the ICLC administers study abroad programs in Barbados; Osaka, Japan; and Maastricht in The Netherlands, all of which provide students with an opportunity to study alongside foreign students, and expose them to very different perspectives.

The ICLC is currently fundraising to help students who cannot afford to participate in these study abroad programs, as well as to create internships, externships, and a pipeline for jobs abroad or in international organizations.

The ICLC also established an annual Great Plains International and Comparative Law Colloquium, a one-day workshop at which scholars from law schools in the region can meet to present and discuss their current research and writing projects.

Photos from Past Study Abroad Trips:



Martin and students from both Washburn Law and Osaka University, at Osaka University, June 2018. Photo submitted



Several Washburn Law students at a dinner with lawyers from the Osaka Bar Association, after the students visited the Bar Association offices as one of the study abroad program’s field trips, June 2018. Photo submitted

Singing Judge

Multitalented attorney lays down the law and the beats in Grenada.

By Chris Marshall

When **Jerry Seales** retired as chief magistrate judge in Grenada in 2018, news sites described him as a “thorn in the side of traffic violators” for his “strict sentencing” and “hard adherence to the law.”

With 30-plus years of experience and a reputation for harsh punishments, the results that come up when you type his name into YouTube may come as a surprise. When Seales, '88, isn't settling disputes in the courtroom, he pursues another passion, recording songs and music videos like “Simple Life” and “Darling Butterfly” that are a combination of Caribbean blues, country, and reggae.

If it's hard to picture a laid-back reggae singer living a double life as a stickler for the law, there is an explanation: the native of St. George's, Grenada, often handed down sentences with the intention of improving the community, which is why reckless drivers were frequently tasked with cleanup duties at a local school, church, or cemetery.

“During my tenure of office in the post of magistrate, I was able to make a meaningful contribution to law and order and justice in Grenada,” said Seales, who ruled on civil, family, and juvenile matters in the country's Southern district. “Of the over 7,000 cases done by me – 1,860 traffic cases in 2016 alone – there were only two or three lawyers with clients complaining.”

Musician and magistrate are just two of the hats Seales wore after returning to his home country with a degree from Washburn University School of Law. He served in Grenada's Senate from 1992-95 and was a coroner until 2018. He is an honorary consul for South Korea, facilitating Grenada's diplomatic relations with the country, and was appointed a justice of the peace in 2001.

The foundation of his diverse career was built at Washburn, which he attended in part because Forbes Field Airport was nearby and allowed him to remain in the United States Air Force.

“That education was just truly amazing. It was an opportunity to serve in the military and get a great education,” he said, “and



Jerry Seales, '88. Photo submitted

at the same time, interact at the highest level of lawmaking and laws.”

Seales recalled valuable one-on-one time with professors Bill Rich and Ron Griffin, followed by real-world training as an intern for Eugene Anderson, the only Black senator in the Kansas chamber in 1987. The proximity to Kansas City, Missouri, didn't hurt either, Seales said, because he was able to make regular trips to reggae nights at the Grand Emporium on Main Street.

The combination of judicial and musical experiences Seales absorbed while at Washburn remains useful to this day.

“I carried a great deal of my professors' teachings with me to my career on the bench in Grenada,” Seales said. “My Washburn Law education was a great asset; I can see that clearly.”

Staying Active from Afar

John Shoemaker working to connect with, support others who work internationally.

By Angela Lutz

When the pandemic hit, **John Shoemaker, '04**, was looking for a lifeline. Like everyone, his daily routine was profoundly impacted by travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders, and he found himself distanced from friends and colleagues. It was during this time he began to reconnect with faculty and fellow alumni from Washburn University School of Law while attending online happy hours hosted by Dean Carla Pratt. The virtual format was essential for Shoemaker, who has lived and practiced law in Singapore since 2015.

“Washburn did an excellent job at coordinating their online outreach to alumni during the pandemic,” he said. “It reinvigorated my awareness of and my thankfulness for what Washburn had done for me. It reminded me how I got to where I am, and I was looking for a way to recognize how important Washburn has been to me.”

For Shoemaker – who currently works at private firm Butler Snow focusing on taxation, trusts and estate planning and previously served in the trusts, and foundations unit at UBS Wealth Planning in Switzerland – it made sense to donate to Washburn’s International and Comparative Law Center. In an increasingly globalized world, he believes other alumni should consider doing the same.

“We are at a fundamental shifting point in global development,” he said. “There will be a huge need for the study of comparative law over the next few decades. This center is very uniquely positioned to address the political, climate, and economic future that is rushing towards us. We need to start building up the baseline that will empower us to withstand it.”

Shoemaker also recognizes that the internet has made it possible not only to reconnect with old friends from thousands of miles away but for an attorney from Kansas to have an international influence, which he first realized when participating in Washburn’s summer exchange program with King’s College in London. For future students considering studying or working abroad, Shoemaker’s primary piece of advice is simple: Stay curious and don’t be afraid to take chances. In Shoemaker’s case, participating in an improvisational comedy troupe hasn’t hurt, either.

“Improv taught me to think on my feet and be open to learning something new,” he said. “Don’t ever think that anything from



John Shoemaker, '04, and his wife, Kelli, show off their fun lifestyle in Singapore. Photo submitted

your background or your situation is prohibitive of you making a change and doing something you’ve always wanted to do. It may not work out – but it may if you keep plugging away at it.”

Shoemaker’s own academic trajectory was fairly nontraditional, underscoring the value of these suggestions. Due to personal circumstances, he didn’t complete his undergraduate degree before he began law school, but he is grateful Washburn gave him the flexibility he needed to complete his studies. He also received much-needed emotional support from former Washburn Law Professor Peter Cotorceanu, who helped him through a tough year when he lost five close family members.

“The greatest strength Washburn provides is the support and opportunities it gives to students to pursue things outside of the norm,” he said. “My donation is a way to thank Washburn for everything they’ve done and continue to do – and a way to give back to current and future students so they understand this is possible. A small-town kid can have a global impact. If you have thought about going to another country – you can.”

The Fraternity of Jessup

Students compete to develop advocacy skills.

By Jensen Simons

Each year, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition presents law students with the opportunity to expand their international law knowledge and develop their advocacy skills by arguing a dispute between fictional countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One of the largest and most prestigious moot court competitions in the world, prior to the pandemic the Jessup involved close to 600 universities from over 100 countries. Eligible teams, comprising five students from each university, begin with regional rounds before advancing to national rounds and then the global round, customarily held in Washington D.C. The Jessup, named after a famous American diplomat, scholar, and jurist, is organized by the International Law Students Association, an American non-profit association of students and lawyers.

Craig Martin, professor of law and co-director of Washburn's International and Comparative Law Center, said the Jessup "develops advocacy skills like no other competition can." He should know; Martin has coached each Washburn team since 2011 and competed in it himself as a law student.

"International and comparative law is important to many features of the practice of law and the conduct of business in Kansas, especially relating to the agricultural, aeronautical, and energy industries. We are part of a global trading system, and so Kansas lawyers should have some familiarity with international and comparative law," Martin said. "The Jessup is one of the great vehicles for developing that knowledge."

Preparation for the competition is grueling. Planning for the Jessup begins at the outset of the fall semester when the team is

chosen by Martin via a competitive process in early September. From there, students begin working to research "the problem," which is released by ILSA in September. For four months, the team, comprised of two students as applicants, two as respondents, and one as of counsel, conducts research and writes their written briefs, or "memorials." After those are submitted in early January, there is a month and a half of practice rounds for the oral argument, during which previous Washburn Jessup participants are invited to judge. With the preparation phase over, the regional/national rounds commence in February or March.

The 2021 Washburn Jessup team included: Desi Smith, Pam Saenz, Tyler Laudick, Christina Brunton, Brett Combs, and Jennifer Collier, the "1L rep" from the team. The problem involved legal issues relating to a pandemic, the shooting down of a civilian aircraft, and refugee and asylum issues, among others.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ILSA updated its 2021 programming to allow for a completely virtual competition through its own proprietary platform, featuring online courtrooms and breakout rooms created specifically for the Jessup. Over six weeks of virtual competition, 574 teams from 90 countries competed in 2,036 matches accounting for more than 3,000 hours of argument. More than 1,100 lawyers, judges, and law professors from all over the world served as volunteer judges.

Ultimately, the Washburn team competed in 10 rounds against teams from the U.S., Ukraine, Pakistan, Australia, Slovenia, Brazil, and China. The team finished with a record of three wins and one loss in the global round, ending up 157 out of 574. The University of Sydney, Australia, won the top prize, the White & Case Jessup Cup.

What is more, the Washburn students are now members of the global Jessup fraternity, an august group that includes an ever-growing number of Washburn alumni.

"The Jessup and the International and Comparative Law Center have reaffirmed my desire to work in the governmental/foreign relations sector post-law school, and the Jessup specifically has provided a built-in network of like-minded individuals situated across the globe in those kinds of positions who recognize and care for one of their own," Brett Combs, 2L, said. "All in all, through all of the work and the struggle, I am looking forward to competing again next year."



The Jessup Team in Denver, February 2020. Left-to-right: Brett Combs, Ivan Moya, Pam Saenz, Lillian Chin, Tyler Laudick, Desi Smith, Professor Craig Martin. Photo submitted

Returning Home

Asino went back to Namibia, Africa to put legal training in practice.

By Angela Lutz

When **Matti Asino, '91**, first moved to Omaha, Nebraska, from his home country of Namibia, Africa, in 1981, it was the middle of summer. His family was pleased to find the weather warm and the landscape lush and green, which reminded them of the rainy season back home. A few months later, though, Asino's first Midwestern winter came as a surprise.

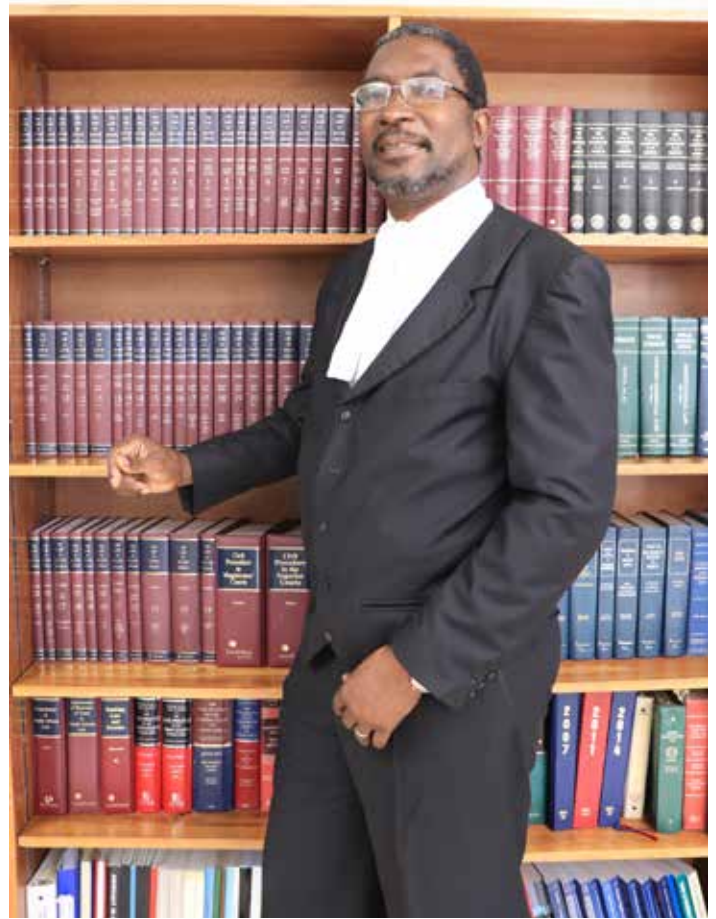
"When we saw our first snow, it was a shock – we couldn't believe it," Asino said. "Our home country is very dry, but here it was raining snow! In Namibia we don't really have frost or snow – only maybe once in a while."

Over time, Asino and his siblings grew accustomed to Midwestern weather and American culture – including that when in Nebraska, the only acceptable football team to root for is the Cornhuskers, a memory that still makes Asino laugh. In 1982, another move took the family to Greenville, Pennsylvania, where Asino attended high school and college before starting at Washburn University School of Law in 1989. Because Namibia was still involved in the South African Border War and was not considered an independent nation at that time, Asino's legal education was sponsored by the United Nations.

"At that time our country did not even have a law school," Asino said. "It was thought that those who attended law school would be able to help with implementation of laws and establishing legal institutions to ensure the country is properly managed and ruled."

After graduating from Washburn, Asino was "overwhelmed with high emotion" upon returning home to Namibia, where the war had finally ended in 1990. When he began working as a legal officer, he was able to put his law school training into practice – particularly constitutional law, which was essential in a country where people were beginning to recognize their rights. He also married his wife, Johanna Elina Ndapanda, in 1992, and they went on to have two children.

Eventually Asino began working for the Office of the Attorney General in Namibia, and today he is head of the Directorate of Civil Litigation, a role that entails leading the Ministry of Justice and representing the Namibian government in all forms of litigation.



Matti Asino, '91. Photo submitted

"When I came home most people were very skeptical, but Washburn really prepared me well and gave me a good foundation to build my career upon," Asino said. "Of course there are differences between America and Namibia, but the basic principles of law remain the same. I felt that I was very well educated by Washburn and given the tools to succeed."

While Namibia continues to struggle with COVID-19 – particularly maintaining adequate vaccine supply and overcoming vaccine hesitancy – Asino is looking toward the future. He is eager to reconnect with fellow Washburn alumni, and he hopes one day he can come back to the Washburn University campus to visit and check out what's new.

"It would be great if I got an opportunity to return to Washburn," he said. "I want to see the new faces and the new buildings. I have a lot of really fun memories there."

Taking Off

Alumna helps lead effort to take Wichita-based company global.

By Angela Lutz

As general counsel at Textron Financial Corporation, **Laura Ice, '84**, has traveled all over the world – but she conducts most of her international business from her office in Wichita, Kansas. During her 23 years with Textron, she's helped to oversee a global expansion that has touched at least 85 countries. Her successful career serves as a prime example of how a lawyer's influence can span the globe while staying anchored in the Midwest.

“When I started at Textron, we were financing aircrafts in Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and Central America,” Ice said. “Since then, we're everywhere – and we're expanding still. Country by country, little by little, we've moved out into the world.”

With headquarters in Wichita and a global finance team, Textron Financial Corporation provides financing opportunities for customers purchasing Textron products, primarily Bell and Textron Aviation - Cessna, Beechcraft, and Hawker - aircraft. In her role, Ice works with domestic and international clients to structure a loan or lease that complies with specific legal standards and protects the company's interests. Two decades ago she was the second lawyer hired by Textron, and two years ago she became the company's first female general counsel.

A Fourth-Generation Lawyer

While Ice seems right at home in the legal and financial world, she didn't always want to be a lawyer. As an English major, her first career choice was secondary education – but law school was always on her radar, and after a year of teaching high school, she decided to take a chance and apply to Washburn University School of Law.

“I grew up in Newton, Kansas, and I'm a fourth generation lawyer,” she said. “I think that's what motivated me. Even while teaching high school, law school was always in the back of my mind – I just didn't feel confident that I would be good at it. But I went ahead and applied, and Washburn accepted me.”

At Washburn, Ice's self-assurance grew as she made lasting memories with lifelong friends, including her two roommates,

who helped her de-ice her car so she could make it to take a final exam one winter morning. She also found Washburn's professors fun and inspiring as she learned how to transfer her skills as a writer to a legal career.

“Attending law school at Washburn gave me more confidence that I could be a lawyer,” Ice said. “At Washburn I learned how to write like a lawyer and not like an English major. They provided a supportive environment. I'm still friends with people in my class. Lots of them are practicing in Wichita or Topeka. It's a nice network.”

Taking Flight in the Aviation Industry

After graduating from Washburn, Ice spent 13 years in private practice and became a partner at Adams Jones Law Firm in Wichita, where she focused on real estate, banking, oil and gas, and commercial work. In this position, she put her law school knowledge into practice and learned how to take a commonsense, client-centered approach to solving problems. Then she decided to take another chance.

“There was a notice that Cessna Finance Corporation, now known as Textron Financial Corporation, was looking to add a lawyer,” she said. “I thought that sounded interesting. I had no aircraft experience at the time, but I had commercial experience, which goes hand in hand. So I applied, and I was the second lawyer they hired.”

When Ice came onboard at Textron, the company was primed for expansion. Ice's job was to carry out the specifics. When the company had a financing opportunity in a new country, she would find a lawyer there and explore how best to structure a transaction. Though international legal systems can be complex and varied, Ice considers dealing with international lawyers the most rewarding part of her career.

“We all have the same problems, we all have the same hopes, and we all have the same dreams,” she said. “One time I met with our lawyer in Romania and we were having dinner, and we started talking about music. I had played the violin growing up and she played the piano. We started talking about our favorite



Laura Ice, '84. Photo submitted

composers, and she said, 'Isn't that something – you grew up in free America, I grew up in communist Romania, and we played and listened to the same music.'

Overcoming Challenges and Staying Connected

Over the last year, Ice has faced numerous professional difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic that have also been shared around the world. She has been general counsel at Textron for two years, and more than half of that time has been hampered by coronavirus restrictions. The pandemic caused numerous business disruptions around the world in many industries – though technology provided one silver lining for Ice, who conducts a lot of her business over the phone.

“In the last year since COVID hit, we’ve started doing a lot more videoconferencing, so I could see my lawyers face to face and talk to them more directly,” she said. “Still, the last year has

been challenging, and I’m hoping we’re at the end of that tunnel.”

In difficult times, Ice considers herself lucky to have an extended professional network that can provide support. In addition to staying connected with her former classmates, she has also remained involved with Washburn. She serves on the law school’s board of governors and Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees, and she has donated to the building fund and the Business and Transactional Law Center.

“Washburn gave me my career, and I want other people to have the chance that I had,” she said. “When I think about my time at Washburn, I smile. I remember the friendships and the experiences. Law school is difficult, but the people in law school were great friends. I’m very glad I had the opportunity to go to Washburn. It laid the foundation for where I am now.”

Education After Law School

Graduates are inspired to seek further education abroad.

By Angela Lutz

As many Washburn University School of Law graduates can attest, a successful international career often starts in Kansas. For **John Westerhaus, BBA '06, JD '12**, curiosity about the world began long before law school. As a child in Overland Park, Kansas, he played video games online with people from across the globe, giving him early exposure to other places and cultures. This burgeoning inquisitiveness influenced his decision to pursue his LL.M. at University College London in the United Kingdom after graduating from Washburn.

“Connecting with people in other countries as a kid made me understand that other points of view can be useful in assessing your own life – even in Kansas,” Westerhaus said. “I still find this useful – there are core aspects of international law that everyone agrees on, but there are also opportunities to look at the ways someone else does something and say, ‘Maybe we should try that.’”

Today Westerhaus’ legal practice is based in the Midwest – he works on employee benefits and executive compensation issues

at Kutak Rock in Omaha, Nebraska. But he still relies on his international training to tackle legal challenges and more deftly respond to and incorporate a variety of stakeholders’ perspectives.

“Internationally educated folks attack legal problems from another perspective that I appreciate,” he said. “If law school teaches you how to think about the law, then I think that international attitude can be learned as much as the domestic attitude. It offers a way of thinking that allows you to accommodate different interests.”

Educational Differences

An international education might provide a new way of looking at things because many law schools overseas approach legal education from a different angle. **Marvin Tador, '19**, completed his LL.M. in international law and protection of the environment at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and he now works as an adjunct lecturer at the John H. Carey



John Westerhaus, BBA '06, JD '12, in London. Photo submitted



Marvin Tador, '19, in Prague, Czech Republic. Photo submitted

II School of Law at Anglo American University in Prague. Having worked as an instructor and attended classes overseas, Tador has noticed that law students at American schools are often expected to ask and answer more questions in class.

“My international education was less taxing because university lecturers and professors did not uniformly utilize the Socratic method,” Tador said. “Some of the students did not possess a law degree, which further altered the classroom experience. In fact, this variation often enhanced the classroom discussion because the non-J.D. classmates had other impressive degrees, backgrounds, and perspectives.”

Jessica Dorsey, '08, noticed some of the same differences in her legal education at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, where she earned her LL.M. after finishing her law degree while participating in Washburn's study abroad program. Now she is an assistant professor of international and European law at Utrecht University, having put down roots and started a family in the Netherlands over the last 13 years. This has given her plenty of time to observe subtle differences in the way law is taught.

“Law school in the US is based on the Socratic method – you prepare your cases for the day, and if you're on the hot seat, the professor is peppering you with questions, and it's your day to shine or falter, as it were,” Dorsey said. “Here the Socratic method isn't used widely. We work more in smaller groups in an intimate setting that requires more of a collaborative effort. It's a different approach to legal education.”

Incorporating What Works

While teaching at Utrecht University, Dorsey has also used aspects of her American education to shape her students' classroom experience. She relies upon her extensive knowledge in international human rights – as well as her work conducting research for a variety of non-governmental organizations and think tanks – to develop educational techniques for Utrecht University's graduate and undergraduate programs. While embarking on this endeavor, Dorsey has relied upon her Washburn education to integrate skills-based classroom techniques into her current law curriculum.

“I take a lot of what we did at Washburn and set up programs that mirror those or borrow from them to serve as a launching pad for law students here into their careers,” she said. “I'm trying to make law a verb for the students – something they do and not just something that they learn. They're working on presentation skills, writing skills, time management, culturally



Jessica Dorsey, '08, outside of the United Nations in Geneva. Photo submitted

sensitive interpersonal relationship building – skills that transfer to their careers.”

Tador also credits Washburn with helping prepare him for his studies at Charles University, particularly by sharpening his analytical skills, legal research capabilities, and verbal and written communication skills. He relied on these abilities when working on his LL.M. thesis, as well as when he completed an opinion piece on policing in America and autonomous zones and when he interned with the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic to scrutinize Czech securitization laws.

“These skills have been instrumental during my nascent career in the Czech Republic,” Tador said. “Nowadays, I use these skills daily to teach my students about the law at Anglo-American University, and my experience as an Ichabod shapes my teaching methodology.”

With all of the benefits an international education can bring, Tador, Westerhaus, and Dorsey all emphasize that one of the most rewarding aspects is getting outside of their comfort zone.

“Moving to a new place – even to the other side of the state where you're from – to be faced with something new is something I would recommend to everyone I know,” Dorsey said. “Even if it's scary, you'll get through it – and on the other side, you'll be a better person for it.”

Digging in From Afar

Washburn Law students take on special project to protect an ancient burial site in St. Lucia.

By Annie Flachsbarth

While many students could have used the COVID-19 pandemic as a time to slow down and not take on new endeavors, two Washburn University School of Law students did just the opposite.



Elizabeth "Kinsella" Brunetti, '21

In the summer of 2020, **Elizabeth "Kinsella" Brunetti, '21**, and **Deisy "Pam" Saenz, '21**, worked on an international law research project to assist with litigation in St. Lucia, an island in the West Indies, to protect indigenous rights and preserve indigenous cultural heritage. The case involved a Canadian developer named Cabot, which wanted to build a luxury resort and golf course in an area of St. Lucia that was on an ancient burial site. An archaeological study in 2011 found burial remains from between 1000-1500 A.D., prior to the arrival of the Europeans when a group of people known as the Caribs populated the area.



Deisy "Pam" Saenz, '21

Brunetti and Saenz were introduced to the project by Washburn Law Professor Craig Martin, who grew up in St. Lucia and teaches courses on international law and human rights. Martin heard of the situation from friends still living in the area, and he sent an email to his previous International Human Rights course students to see who would be interested in helping. Brunetti and Saenz, who are also friends outside of school, eagerly volunteered.

Martin asked the two to conduct research and develop arguments on the international human rights law that might assist the local lawyers in developing their case against the government. In particular, they were asked to determine if there were any specific international legal obligations St. Lucia was under that might be violated if the government allowed the Cabot development to proceed as planned.

In the end, they produced a creative and meticulous 9,000-word research memo to assist lawyers working for the St. Lucian National Trust, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the country. The memo explained how allowing the development to proceed might violate St. Lucia's obligations under the international law relating to the preservation of cultural heritage, and the international law relating to the rights of indigenous peoples.

The two students worked long hours on the complex, pro bono project, clocking in 20 hours per week on average over a two-month period – all on top of jobs and summer classes. While they didn't receive any class credit for this project, both Brunetti and Saenz felt it was well worth the effort.

"After having taken a course with Professor Martin, the idea of working with him on an actual human rights case was very appealing to me," said Saenz. "I felt like it was an opportunity to apply what I'd already learned and to delve deeper into that area of study."

While it was a lot of work, the project gave the two students real world experience that's hard to get in the classroom – as they learned directly from being a part of litigation.

"Kinsella and Pam spent an enormous amount of time working on this project. We went through a number of revisions because we had to make sure that the arguments were tight and correct. They really did as much work as might be expected of a two-credit course," said Martin. "I think this kind of work helps students considerably in developing as lawyers. Particularly, international work helps them think about the opportunities available to Washburn Law students outside of the regional area."

The project wasn't just designed to help with their training and development – their work had real value and was important for the case in St. Lucia. The National Trust and its lawyers were very grateful for the assistance they provided.

However, due to the timing of their work and when the St. Lucian National Trust was preparing to file their case, they weren't at liberty to speak about the case with anyone until this summer.



Cas-en-Bas Beach, St. Lucia. Photo submitted

“It was pretty weird. This project was consuming a lot of both of our lives, but we could only talk about it with each other,” said Brunetti.

Regardless of the somewhat secretive circumstances, both Brunetti and Saenz were grateful for the opportunity.

“Working on a project like this adds an element to the law school experience that you don’t get from turning in a paper,” said Brunetti. “I learned a lot about time management, and my research skills increased. It was very different from research in my undergrad classes.”

“I also learned about interdisciplinary research – which was something I hadn’t done before,” said Saenz. “I researched scientific reports, anthropology reports, and international treaty language. It helped me to see the bigger picture and take everything into consideration.”

Due to the pandemic, all work and research was done remotely and via Zoom. However, the experience still made an impression on the students.

“I gained an appreciation of international law. Just because you’re geographically far away doesn’t mean you can’t have an impact on the international law sphere and international litigation,” said Saenz. “I also gained an appreciation for our technology, which contributed to our capabilities to make an impact from afar.”

“For a project that we dedicated a lot of time to, and sometimes made us want to pull our hair out, it was still very fun,” said Brunetti. “It’s easily the thing I’m most proud of from my time at Washburn Law.”

Litigation with Cabot is ongoing. Although they recognize that it may not be realistic to completely stop the development project, the two are proud of the work they did to help the indigenous people of St. Lucia.

“A complete excavation of the site could take years without the proper resources,” said Brunetti. “The goal at this point is to just be able to preserve as much of it as possible.”

German Immersion

Studying abroad leads to successful career and honorary consul position.

By Annie Flachsbarth

Paul Maricle has maintained a passion for Germany, the German language, and German culture since he was a high school foreign exchange student. He wasn't formally trained in the German language before he went abroad, but was immersed in the language and the culture immediately – an experience that shaped his career today.

While **Maricle, BA '76, JD '79**, was attending Washburn University, he returned to Germany for a year as a Rotary International Scholar. Maricle received a full scholarship to study at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Bonn, Germany. After that year, he received his modern language degree and then worked as a German teacher's assistant while attending Washburn University School of Law. Teaching wasn't his passion since law school was always the plan; nor did he focus on any international work. After law school, he had a rewarding experience clerking for Justice **Richard Holmes, JD '53, H '91**, on the Kansas Supreme Court, and during that time he was

approached by **William Langdon, BBA '86, and Carol Vogel, BA '67**, about an opportunity to study abroad once again. He was one of six American lawyers selected to participate in a program for foreign lawyers to study the German and European Union legal systems sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service. When the program ended, he stayed and worked in Germany for another year and a half where he expanded connections with many European lawyers and friends.

When he returned to the US, he put all of that experience to work building a career in Denver, Colorado, representing small to medium-sized business with international business transactions – particularly with German businesses entering the U.S. market.

Due to his significant background and experience working in Germany and his continued efforts back in the states, Maricle was appointed honorary consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in 2015. As honorary consul, he is responsible for helping to



Left: Paul Maricle (right) with a client in front of the Wittenberg Castle in Wittenberg, Germany. Right: Paul Maricle with an intern from Germany in the Honorary Consulate. Photos submitted

encourage networking between the residents of Colorado, Wyoming, and Germany, facilitating business opportunities and cultural exchange. He offers assistance to U.S. and German citizens and companies with legal and consular issues related to Germany.

“I answer to the consul general in Los Angeles for Colorado and in San Francisco for Wyoming. We renew passports, authenticate signatures, register births, deaths, and marriages for German citizens,” said Maricle. “It’s a lot more work than you would expect, but luckily I have an assistant who is Austrian and spends at least 50% of her day helping me help German citizens.”

While the role is an unpaid role, being an honorary consul is a huge honor to Maricle.

“You do it because you want to do it. I do it because I want to give back,” said Maricle. “While in Germany, so many people took an interest in me and provided me with many great experiences and opportunities. I’m always willing to return the favor.”

As an honorary consul, Maricle gets to make connections and host other dignitaries – one of his favorite parts of the job.

“It’s really interesting because I’m involved in all of the international activity going on in the Denver area – and I am asked to speak on a regular basis on a variety of international topics.”

In his time, Maricle has had the pleasure of making a variety of important connections, including connecting the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra with the Bavarian Philharmonic as well as setting up meetings with German dignitaries and the governor of Colorado.

In addition to his consul work, Maricle is a partner at Castle Lantz Maricle, LLC, in Denver, Colorado. There he conducts corporate and real estate work with a client base of German and Austrian companies doing business in the Colorado area. According to Maricle, speaking German and a familiarity with how the German legal system works is a huge factor to his success.

“Connecting the German language with a law program was really a turning point because I figured out a way to use my law degree to be involved with Germans on a daily basis,” he said. “I travel to Germany twice per year and maintain a broad network of lawyers and friends there who help keep me in business – and that’s what makes practicing law really fun for me.”

When asked how to get where he is by young lawyers interested in international law, Maricle always starts by asking them how long they’ve lived in another country. If it’s only a semester, he says that’s not enough.



Paul Maricle in Brussels, Belgium. Photo submitted

“The reason you need all of this experience is because there are European students who speak three languages fluently and have studied in England, France, or Hong Kong, and they’re head and shoulders more qualified in foreign languages than most lawyers coming out of U.S. universities,” said Maricle. “Speaking a little bit isn’t going to cut it. You really have to speak it fluently. You have to be able to write a letter that’s grammatically correct. You have to understand the culture so you know how deals are done, and that all takes more than a semester abroad.”

Maricle said the German language didn’t come easy to him. However, if you fully immerse yourself and learn the language and culture, there’s an acceptance that happens.

“I’ve reached a stage of my career where I get to really enjoy what I’m doing,” Maricle said. “I enjoy the cultural part of it. Germans say and think about things in a different way than we do. The end point is the same, but the path is different. Understanding the differences is fascinating.”

Life Down Under

Callahan finalizes fulfilling career in Australia.

By Angela Lutz

Since **Lori Callahan, BBA '80, JD '83**, moved to Sydney, Australia, two decades ago, she jokes she became an amateur tour guide for visitors from the Midwest. Along with her husband, who is Australian born, she has shown family, friends, and even groups of alumni from Washburn University School of Law around the gorgeous coastal city she calls home. Originally from Olathe, Kansas, Callahan moved to Australia to pursue a job opportunity, and now her family spans the globe along with her career.

“We are truly an international family,” she said. “The whole time I’ve been here we’ve had the pleasure of having a steady stream of visitors – my husband jokes that we should turn our car into an unofficial tour van for visitors from Kansas. We live right at the beach. I took the ferry to work every day and I would see dolphins – the first time I saw them I thought, ‘I don’t think I’m in Kansas anymore.’ It is wonderful to share that with my fellow Kansans and Washburn grads.”

Thinking Like a Lawyer

For these reasons, Callahan has established permanent roots in the Land Down Under – and she’s excited to see where



Lori Callahan, BBA '80, JD '83, with her husband, David Taylor, in the Outback. Photo submitted

life takes her next. Early last year, she retired after a successful 17-year career with Allianz, an international financial services provider that offers insurance and asset management solutions to more than 86 million customers, making it the oldest and largest insurance company in the world. Callahan started off as their general claims manager overseeing all claims for Australia and New Zealand before eventually moving up to chief risk officer, an executive role she reshaped from the ground up.

“I got to create the position – the division, the team, the structure,” she said. “I had the board backing me. I got to deal with the top people at Allianz in Munich, and that was a pivotal point in my career. At Allianz they told me they always liked that I thought like a lawyer, and they liked my problem solving skills and strategic view of things that arose from my legal training.”

Callahan’s impressive career began with an interest in the pursuit of justice. In seventh grade, she read Dee Brown’s “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee,” which chronicles Native American history in the late 19th century. The narratives of this marginalized group moved her. Though she didn’t have any lawyers in her family, she knew legal professionals could help people and institutions achieve equitable outcomes. She eventually discovered her true calling in argument and debate, and her mother encouraged her to follow her passion.

“I remember telling my mother in junior high that I wanted to be a lawyer and she was very encouraging,” Callahan recalled. “She definitely believed women should have real roles and be paid real money and pursue their interests. I went to Washburn on a debate scholarship. I debated all through high school. I loved trial law, so I went into insurance law because you get lots of trial work.”

Moving to Australia

A determined and dedicated student, Callahan found exactly the type of mentorship and support she needed to achieve her goals at Washburn. When she attended the law school, many of the institution’s young and energetic professors – including Nancy Maxwell, **Linda Elrod, BA '69, JD '72**, Myrl Duncan, and Jim Concannon – were not much older than the students themselves.

“They were enthusiastic and inspirational,” she said. “You wanted to go to class. You were interested in learning because they wanted you to understand. I remember the strong



From left: Lori Callahan, BBA '80, JD '83, and Linda Parks, BA '79, JD '83. Lori with Tom Schultz, BBA '87, JD '92, by the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Photos submitted

connection and the open-door policy. They guided us, mentored us, spent time with us – and we benefited from that.”

After graduation, Callahan worked as a research attorney for Kansas Supreme Court Justice **Harold Herd, BA '41, JD '42**, for two years and then as an associate and then partner at two law firms in Topeka before serving as general counsel at KAMMCO, a medical professional liability insurance company. During her time at KAMMCO, she became involved with an international association of insurance companies and got to know lawyers from all over the world. That’s when an auspicious meeting with an Australian law firm changed the trajectory of her life.

“In the very first meeting I had they offered me a job in Australia, and I hadn’t even decided if I wanted to move there yet,” she laughed. “My now Australian husband was taking me to a Fourth of July lunch at the American Club in Sydney. He was sitting in the lobby and thought I’d been kidnapped. I was supposed to be there for 30 minutes and it went on for several hours. I walked out and said, ‘I’m moving to Australia.’”

A Sense of Personal Satisfaction

A few years later, after being admitted to practice law in Australia and managing legal teams in two Australian law

firms, Callahan started working at Allianz, where her career highlights included participating in an elite international scholarship program for upcoming CEOs in Singapore, where she was among 40 participants from 25 different countries. She is also proud that, as the executive sponsor of the Allianz Pride Committee, she helped grow the company’s LGBTQIA-friendly organization from less than 2% of employees to more than 10%.

“The most rewarding part is always the people – the people you meet, and the people you’re mentoring and inspiring,” she said. “Then all of a sudden you realize they are teaching and inspiring you. The most rewarding thing in all those roles is always about the people.”

Over the years, she has found value in staying connected to Washburn and her Kansas roots as well – even as an unofficial tour guide, and even from half a world away.

“In my career I’ve had a real sense of personal satisfaction, and the education I received at Washburn prepared me well,” she said. “We were not only taught law – because the law changes – but we were taught how to think like lawyers. When I moved into roles that didn’t need me to be a lawyer, I understood how to think and how to solve problems. That’s what my Washburn education gave me.”



Kurt Kerns, '91, with his legal assistant and client after a trial they won at the Mechanism for International Criminal tribunals in Arusha Tanzania. The client was acquitted but four other co-defendants accused were convicted at the trial that ended in June. Photo submitted

A Home in the Hague

Wichita lawyer fulfills goal first established during studies overseas.

By Chris Marshall

In 1670, a 26-year-old was arrested in London for preaching nonconformist religious views at a time when the English monarchy was attempting to suppress dissent. During the man's trial, the defense argued that speaking on a street corner was not a violation of the law, and the Crown produced no substantive evidence against him.

When the man was found not guilty, jury foreman Edward Bushnell was imprisoned for weeks. For the duration of his time behind bars, Bushnell held to his stance that trials should be decided by jurors, not the king's desires. With his freedom granted by Bushnell and the jury, the man left his home country to start a new life in the United States.

When **Kurt Kerns, '91**, first heard this story studying at a Washburn University summer program in England, it became clear what field of law he wanted to pursue.

"He was nothing more than an innocent man who was accused of fighting against power," Kerns said, "and the jury wouldn't convict him. When I read that, it inspired me to get into international law."

Now one of just 26 American lawyers authorized to appear before the International War Crime Tribunal at The Hague, Kerns eventually achieved his goal, but the journey to practice overseas was far from direct.

For 25 years and counting, Kerns has been a partner with Ariagno, Kerns, Mank & White, the firm he helped found in Wichita, Kansas. He maintains a successful record in murder trials and has been featured as a legal commentator on national networks like Court TV and A&E.

When a friend suggested a business trip to the Netherlands, Kerns couldn't resist. Unfortunately, his first visit to The Hague, and several subsequent trips, each had the same result: Watch trials. Meet lawyers. Fly back to Wichita with no new opportunities. Repeat.

"By my seventh trip," Kerns recalled, "people said, 'What are you going to do, corner the market on Wichita war crimes?' I said, 'Wait and see.'"

On lucky trip number seven, a lawyer named Jelko Par asked Kerns to join him in defending Vinko Martinovic, a Croatian commander during the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Kerns recalled Par asking "Are you going to keep coming here until you get a case? I guess I better hire you."

While working the case, Kerns made a connection with attorney Dragan Ivetic, who a few years later brought Kerns onto the defense team of Ratko Mladic, a general dubbed "the butcher of Bosnia" for having 7,000 boys and men killed.

Kerns' wait to work inside The Hague was finally over, but he soon learned the need for patience remained. Eight years after Kerns first started on Mladic's case, his appeal was denied. Mladic's life sentence was upheld in June 2021 for crimes during Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

"Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Justice delayed is justice denied.' I don't think they've ever heard that phrase in international courts," Kerns said. "The process of justice overseas is incredibly long, as demonstrated by fact we're still dealing with war crimes coming out of the former Yugoslavia in the '90s and genocide in Rwanda in 1994-96."

Since getting his first opportunity overseas, Kerns has established standing offices in the Netherlands and Tanzania, but it was his longtime ties to Wichita that put him in the right place at the right time in 2010. As his doubters once predicted in jest, the first genocide case to be tried on United States soil happened to be in Kansas, making Kerns the obvious choice to lead the defense of Lazare Kobagaya.

"All the people making fun of my interest in international war crimes had to eat their words," he said. "The only one with experience in that area around here was me."

Kobagaya was accused of lying on American citizenship forms, and as part of the charges, prosecutors claimed he ordered the deaths of hundreds of people during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Kerns argued Kobagaya was fleeing the country during the attacks.

Over the course of two years, Kerns flew all over Africa, attempting to track down witnesses in eight different countries. At one point, he was nearly jailed in Rwanda while trying to interview a witness.

"The government spent over \$2 million processing the case," Kerns said, "and we ended up winning it. So, Lazare lives comfortably in Topeka, Kansas, these days."

The charges against Kobagaya were much more severe than those in the trial that first inspired Kerns as a Washburn student, but the end result was the same: a person freed of accusations in their homeland was able to start anew in the United States.

Whether a person faces imprisonment for war crimes or simply for speaking his religious views, a fair trial is a national right deserving of universal application. Kerns has held onto that belief since his trip abroad years ago, even if it took longer than he would have liked to put it into practice.

"Washburn motivated me to go fight for the people," Kerns said, "and be a voice for people around the world who don't have a voice."



Kurt Kerns, '91. Photo submitted

Rep. Jim Slattery

Taste of international law in school leads to lifelong career.

By Brad Porter

Rep. Jim Slattery, BS '70, JD '74, is well known as one of the most prominent Kansas politicians of his generation. He ran his first campaign while a first-year law student at Washburn University School of Law. He served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1973-79. He later served in the U.S. Congress from 1983-95 and ran for Kansas governor and the U.S. Senate.

Outside of elected office, Slattery has also built an impressive resume as a practicing attorney with a particular focus on international affairs. For more than 20 years he was a partner at Wiley Rein LLP, a large Washington, D.C., law firm where he headed the firm's public policy practice. In 2019, he left to form Slattery Strategy, LLC to advise clients who have matters pending before the federal government and international agencies.

So how did a farm boy from the Good Intent Community in Atchison County, Kansas become a globe-trotting attorney involved in high profile international cases, and what has he learned along the way?

When did you first get a taste for politics and international affairs? When I arrived at Washburn in the fall of 1966, I already had an interest in politics, but had not traveled outside the Midwest except for one ROTC flight to Texas. One day though, Dean of Students Lee Dodson pulled me aside in Morgan Hall and told me about an opportunity to study abroad for a year at the Netherlands School of International Economics and Business. I jumped at this chance.

It was a life changing experience! I studied international economics and European history with a focus on post World War II East-West relations. I traveled all over Europe – visited NATO headquarters, the European Parliament and looked over the Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie in West Berlin. I also traveled extensively in Eastern Europe and saw firsthand the impact of communism. I will never forget being in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in January 1969 shortly after several students burned themselves to death to protest the Soviet invasion of their country. It was a transformative time for me as I watched young people my age risk their lives to gain their freedom. This experience along with the Vietnam War spurred a lifelong passion for international affairs and the law.

Studying abroad was not common in the 60s. But it was something Washburn prioritized. I will always be grateful to Dean Dodson for encouraging me to go to Europe to study.

From there, you went to law school and entered politics, before eventually landing at a prominent D.C. law firm, Wiley Rein. How did your work there in international law and trade come about? My first client at Wiley Rein was from Atchison, my hometown. Midwest Grain Products was the largest producer of wheat gluten in the country. MGP told me how a recent trade agreement, the Uruguay Round, was causing serious injury to the U.S. industry. I had never done a trade case in my life, but I consulted with our trade experts in the firm and two other Washington law firms and studied the Trade Act of 1974 in search of a remedy for MGP. We ultimately concluded that a safeguard action under Section 201 of the Trade Act was the only viable remedy, so we filed suit against the European Union on behalf of the U.S. wheat gluten industry.

Most trade experts in Washington thought this was a fool's errand because this section of the Trade Act had not been used for years. But I put together a team, and a coalition within the wheat industry, to fight for the U.S. industry. We had to pursue this case through the International Trade Commission and educate members of congress and officials in the Clinton Administration about the serious injury our clients were suffering. But we succeeded in winning a judgment that MGP and others were being seriously injured and were entitled to relief. I then met with President Clinton to discuss a remedy. In a matter of about 5 minutes, he understood exactly what was going on and agreed to impose a quota on imports.

This was a groundbreaking case that I especially enjoyed because it saved a lot of jobs in my hometown and it paved the way for other industries like the steel industry to fight unfair and illegal foreign competition that destroyed U.S. jobs. Several years later this led to an excellent monetary settlement for the clients.

In addition to trade cases, you also wound up getting involved in very high-profile cases where you worked as a political intermediary. Yes. For example, I was retained to represent Julia Timoshenko, the former prime minister of Ukraine, who led the 2004 Orange



Jim Slattery, BS '10, JD '74, Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Revolution, when she was thrown in jail by her political rival. In this case there was an international legal component, but it was also a political matter. I spent hours negotiating man-on-man with Viktor Yanukovych, the president of Ukraine, to persuade him to release my client. I worked closely with Congress to pass resolutions demanding her release, which put international political pressure on Yanukovych. I pursued a legal and political remedy at the same time.

So what would you say to a law student or young attorney interested in international law – what lessons have you learned? To be successful in the international arena it is important to do your homework. Know the law and the facts. Find and rely on experts. And then it is important to determine whether a political remedy is available, or a legal remedy, or both. Sometimes there is a political solution to what appears to be a legal problem. I enjoy the complexity, and I enjoy unraveling all the layers to find

a remedy for my client. It sure helps to understand the other side's perspective.

Find opportunities to study abroad, earn an advanced degree, work with the International and Comparative Law Center, do all you can to broaden your perspective and build friendships. Washburn does a great job of providing these opportunities. This has to be something you're passionate about.

And as you do, build friendships. Your success or failure will often depend on the friendships you have made in life.

This is a condensed version of our conversation with Jim Slattery. For the longer version, with more stories, examples and insights, please visit: wualumni.org/Slattery

Soldier, Statesman, Servant

With humble beginnings in Kansas and at Washburn, Dole lived life of service.

By Jeremy Wangler and Sarah Towle

Washburn University joined Kansas and the United States in mourning the loss of one of its most decorated and celebrated alumni, **Sen. Robert Dole**, who died Dec. 5, 2021. He was 98.

“Sen. Dole made America a better place for all Americans,” said Washburn University President Jerry Farley. “Like many of the students who come to Washburn today seeking an education, Bob Dole grew up in a small town in Kansas. It is our duty to pass on to future generations his importance and the impact he made from those humble beginnings here in Kansas. He truly lived Washburn’s motto of ‘Non Nobis Solum,’ ‘not for ourselves alone,’ and we are proud to call him an alumnus of Washburn and the School of Law.”

Dole, BA ’52, JD ’52, H ’69, H ’85, was born in Russell, Kansas, on July 22, 1923, and enlisted in the Army in 1942. After recovering from an injury sustained during World War II, he enrolled at Washburn. He went on to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives, as Russell County Kansas attorney and as a member of the United States House of Representatives before spending nearly 30 years as a U.S. senator. He was chair of the Republican National Committee, Senate minority leader and Senate majority leader, where he set a record as the longest-serving Republican leader. Dole was President Gerald



Dole statue on Washburn University’s campus. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Ford’s vice-presidential running mate in 1976 and a Republican presidential candidate in both 1988 and 1996, earning the GOP nomination in 1996.

Dole shared a long-standing friendship with **John Pinegar, BA ’82**, who said Kansas was forever home to Dole – it was a central part of his life – and he never forgot that.

“Despite his enormous stature across the country, he was about as humble as they come,” Pinegar said. “Forever an optimist, he deeply inspired those of us who knew him well and knew what challenges he faced on a daily basis. He genuinely lived to make the world a better place — I’ve never met somebody who was so dedicated to helping others like he was. Time and again, he quietly reached out to lift up those who were facing difficulties in their lives. His compassion was unmatched, and I truly cherished the friendship we enjoyed.”

Former **Rep. Jim Slattery, BA ’70, JD ’74**, said that when he visited with Dole once, he inquired about the legislation he was proud of and Dole named three specific areas of work – the Social Security Amendments of 1983, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and his commitment to feed the hungry.

“He did all of this in the face of strong opposition from some of his constituents and some in his own party. He did it because he had the courage to do what is right even if politically unpopular at the time,” Slattery said. “This was the way Bob Dole led. In all these cases Bob reached across the political aisle and found friends who shared his desire to move our country toward a more perfect union.”

Dole also served as national chair of the World War II Memorial Campaign. In January 2018, Dole was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress’ highest civilian honor. He was given an honorary promotion to Army colonel that same year.

“In addition to his brave military service in WWII, I am most proud of Senator Dole’s work that led to the passage of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act which will benefit most Americans at some point in their lives,” said Carla Pratt, dean, Washburn Law.

Dole remained committed to serving and giving back to Washburn throughout his life. Along with his wife, Sen. Elizabeth Dole, they established and funded at Washburn the Senator Robert J. Dole Law Professorship, the Robert J. Dole Center for Law and Government and the Honorable Robert J. Dole Scholarship for Law Students with Disabilities. They also made substantial gifts to other areas on campus including the new School of Law building. He served on the School of Law board of governors and the Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees.

Washburn University recognized Dole with two honorary doctor of law degrees in 1969 and 1985. A bronze statue of Dole was erected on campus in 2018 and an outdoor plaza at

the new School of Law building will be named in his honor. The Washburn Alumni Association honored Dole with a Distinguished Service Award in 1966, and the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

“He built relationships throughout his life based on trust, respect, and integrity,” Farley said. “From his dedication to veterans and disabled Americans, to his principled congressional leadership, he set an example every American should emulate. Washburn University joins the rest of Kansas, the United States and entire world in mourning his passing while honoring, celebrating and memorializing his amazing life.”



Sen. Bob Dole, BA '52, JD '52, H '69, H '85 (left), speaking after a statue of him was unveiled at Washburn University in 2018. Photo by Doug Stremel

Faculty Updates

The following faculty updates are from Aug. 1, 2019, to March 15, 2020.



Rory Bahadur – “Newsworthiness as an Internet-Era Mitigant of Implicit Bias,” 88 UMKC Law Review 1 (2019).

- “Law School Rankings and the Impossibility of Anti-Racism,” 53 St. Mary’s Law Journal __ (forthcoming, 2022).
- “Of Socratic Teaching and Learning Styles: Exposing the Pervasiveness of Implicit Bias and White Privilege in Legal Pedagogy,” 18 Hastings Race & Poverty Law Journal 114 (2021) (with Liyun Zhang).
- “Reexamining Relative Bar Performance as a Function of Non-Linearity, Heteroscedasticity, and a New Independent Variable,” 52 New Mexico Law Review __ (forthcoming, 2021) (with Kevin Ruth and Katie Tolliver Jones).
- “Directed Questions: A Non-Socratic Dialogue about Non-Socratic Teaching,” 99 University of Detroit Mercy Law Review __ (forthcoming, 2021) (with Kris Franklin).
- “Quantifying the Impact of Matriculant Credentials & Academic Attrition Rates on Bar Exam Success at Individual Schools,” 99 University of Detroit Mercy Law Review Online 6 (2021) (with Kevin Ruth).



Andrea Boyack – “Abuse of Contract and the July 2020 Bar Exam,” NULR Of Note (July 15, 2020).

- “Responsible Devolution of Affordable Housing,” 46 Fordham Urban Law Journal 1183 (2019).



Gillian Chadwick – “Legitimizing the Transnational Family,” 42 Harvard Journal of Law and Gender 257 (2019).

- “(Un)Supervised Student Practice,” 58 San Diego Law Review 497 (2021).



Linda Henry Elrod – “Child Participation in Custody Proceedings in the United States” in International Handbook on Child

- Participation (Wendy Schrama, et al, eds., 2021).
- “Review of the Year 2020 in Family Law: COVID-19, Zoom, and Family Law in a Pandemic,” 54(4) Family Law Quarterly 281 (2021).
- “Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act: Adding Another ADR Option: Part I of II,” 34(2) American Journal of Family Law 47 (2020).
- “The Need for Confidentiality in Evaluative Processes: Arbitration and Med/Arb in Family Law Cases,” 58 Family Court Review 26 (2020).



Michelle Ewert – “Their Home is Not Their Castle: Subsidized Housing’s Intrusion into Family Privacy and Decisional Autonomy,” 99 North Carolina Law Review 869 (2021).

- “Things Fall Apart (Next Door): Discriminatory Maintenance and Decreased Home Values as the Next Fair Housing Battleground,” 84 Brooklyn Law Review 114 (2019).



Alex Glashausser – “Law School of Rock” in The Media Method: Teaching Law with Popular Culture (Christine A. Corcos, ed.,

2019).



Emily Grant – “Assessment of Teaching and Learning: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Law Schools,” (2021) (with Gerald Hess, Kelly

- Terry, and Sandra Simpson).
- Published with **Tonya Kowalska** “Assessment and Grading” in *Legal Writing Sourcebook*, 3rd ed. (edited

by J. Lyn Enrikin and Mary B. Trevor) (American Bar Association, 2020).



Burke Griggs – “Reaching Consensus About Conservation: High Plains Lessons for California’s Sustainable Groundwater

- Management Act,” 52 University of the Pacific Law Review 495 (2021).
- “Water: Practical Challenges and Legal Rights to Acquire and Recycle Water for Hydraulic Fracturing,” 56 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Journal 69 (2019).
- “Interstate Litigation, State Reaction, and Federalism in the Age of Groundwater,” 65 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute Proceedings 26-1 (2019).



Marsha Griggs – “Diploma Privilege and the Constitution,” 73 SMU Law Review Forum 168 (2020) (with Claudia Angelos, et al).

- “Race, Rules, and Disregarded Reality,” 82 Ohio State Law Journal __ (forthcoming, 2021).
- “An Epic Fail,” 64 Howard Law Journal 1 (2020).



Janet Jackson – “Wellness and Law: Reforming Legal Education to Support Student Wellness,” 65 Howard Law Journal 1 (2021).



Jeffrey Jackson – “Tiered Scrutiny in a Pandemic,” 12 ConLawNOW 39 (2020).

- “Classical Rational Basis and the Right to Be Free of Arbitrary Legislation,” in *Is the Rational Basis Test Unconstitutional?* (2019).
- “Legal Writing: A History from the End of the Civil War to 1930,” 24 Legal Writing 81 (2020) (with David Cleveland).



Craig Martin – “Economic Sanctions Under International Law: A Guide for Canadian Policy,” Rideau Institute on International Affairs and

Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa: Research Report (2021).

– “Atmospheric Intervention? The Climate Change Crisis and the Jus ad Bellum Regime,” 45 Columbia Journal of Environmental Law 331 (2020).

– “Challenging and Refining the ‘Unwilling or Unable’ Doctrine,” 52 Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law 387 (2019).



Lori McMillan – Published with **Frédéric Sourgens** “The Carbon Taxation Conundrum” in

Decarbonization and the Energy Industry: Law, Policy and Regulation in Low-Carbon Energy Markets (Tade Oyewunmi, et al, eds., 2020).



Carla Pratt – “White Supremacy’s Threat to U.S. Democracy,” in Beyond Imagination? The January 6 Insurrection (Mark Alexander, ed., forthcoming, 2022).

– “Radical Reformation: Diverse Pathways to Attorney Licensure will Yield a More Diverse Profession,” __ Rutgers Race and the Law Review __ (forthcoming, 2022).

– “Sisters in Law: Black Women Lawyer’s Struggle for Advancement,” in Gender, Power, Law & Leadership (Hannah Brenner and Renee Knake, eds., 2020).



Mary Kreiner Ramirez – “Whistling Past the Graveyard: Dodd-Frank Whistleblower Programs Dodge Bullets Fighting

Financial Crime,” 50 Loyola University Chicago Law Journal 617 (2019).



David Rubenstein – “Acquiring Ethical AI,” 73 Florida Law Review __ (forthcoming, 2021).

– “Supremacy, Inc.,” 67 UCLA Law Review 1130 (2020).

– “State Regulation of Federal Contractors: Three Puzzles of Procurement Preemption,” 11 UC Irvine Law Review 207 (2020).

– “Privatized Detention and Immigration Federalism,” 71 Stanford Law Review Online 224 (2019) (with P. Gulasekaram).



Thomas Sneed – “Leadership and Librarians: A New Pedagogical Direction,” 89 UMKC Law Review 89 (2020).

– “The Academic Law Library’s Role in Cultivating the Rural Lawyer,” 64 South Dakota Law Review 213 (2019).



Frédéric Sourgens – “Curious Unilateralism,” 13 Federal Courts Law Review 113 (2021).

– “The Importance of the State-Owned and Private Oil Sector for Successfully Implementing the Energy Transition,” 67 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute Proceedings (2021) (with Leonardo Sempertegui, Kate Hardin and Iain Fergusson).

– “States of Resistance,” 14 Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy 91 (2019).

– “Schmitt, Heidegger, and the Humanist Tradition,” 32 European Journal of International Law __ (forthcoming, 2021).

– “A Parisian Consensus,” 60 Columbia Journal of Transnational Law __ (forthcoming, 2021).

– “Cyber-Nuisance,” 42 University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law 1005 (2021).

– “The Precaution Presumption,” 31 European Journal of International Law 1277 (2020).

– “Geo-Markets,” 38 Virginia Environmental Law Journal 58 (2020).

– “Termination and Amendment of Treaties” in The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties in International Arbitration: History, Evolution, and Future (Esmé Shirlow and Kiran Gore, eds., 2021).

– “Truths in Translation,” 44 Fordham International Law Journal 101 (2020).

– “Diligent Zero,” 75 SMU Law Review __ (forthcoming, 2022).

– “Cancelling Schmitt,” 32 European Journal of International Law 729 (2021).

– “Truths in Translation,” 44 Fordham International Law Journal 101 (2020).



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

National Security,” __ New York University Journal of Law & Business __ (forthcoming, 2021).

– “We(’re) Working on Corporate Governance: Stakeholder Vulnerability in Unicorn Companies,” 23 University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law 505 (2021).

– “Snapchat’s Gift: Equity Culture in High-Tech Firms,” 46 Florida State University Law Review 861 (2019) (with David A. Westbrook).

– “Sustainability Priorities, Corporate Strategy, and Investor Behavior,” 37 Review of Financial Economics 149 (2019) (with Linda Espahbodi, Reza Espahbodi, and Norma Juma).

– “Securing the Nation or Entrenching the Board? The Evolution of CFIUS Review of Corporate Acquisitions,” 102 Marquette Law Review 643 (2019). Reprinted: 61 Corporate Practice Commentator 673 (2020) (as one of the top corporate and securities law articles of 2019).

Class Actions

*The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school before June 30, 2021.
Update your address at alumni@washburnlaw.edu and submit your
news at washburnlaw.edu/alumninews.*

1963

Arthur E. Palmer, Topeka, has retired from practice at Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer.

1971

Jackie N. Williams, Topeka, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Wichita Bar Association's Law Day and Awards Luncheon.

1972

The Hon. Michael B. Roach, Wichita, now serves as a hearing officer in the 18th Judicial District, Wichita, Kansas and is the judge of the city of Andale, Kansas.

1973

The Hon. Robert J. Bednar, Atchison, Kansas, of the 1st Judicial District retired after 22 years of service. Bednar became a judge in 1998. He served in Leavenworth County until moving to Atchison County District Court in 2008. The 1st Judicial District is composed of those two counties.

Ronald H. Harnden, Wichita, was named to the 2020 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers® List.

The Hon. Gary L. Nafziger, Oskaloosa, Kansas, retired after 38 years of service. Nafziger became a district judge in 1982 and was appointed chief judge of the 2nd Judicial District in 2005. The district is composed of Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, and Wabaunsee counties.

1974

Wendell (Bud) F. Cowan, Overland Park, Kansas, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" in the area of insurance law.

1975

Dennis D. Kirk, Falls Church, Virginia, was nominated for a Presidential Appointment Senate Confirmation (PAS) posting by President Donald Trump as a member of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board for the remainder of a seven-year term to expire in 2023. Kirk was also appointed to be a member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a term that expired July 18, 2021.

1976

David M. Rapp, Wichita, Kansas, was recognized as a 2021 Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

Dan Rector, Colorado Springs, Colorado, was named a 2021 Colorado Super Lawyer.

James A. Walker, Wichita, Kansas, was named to the 2020 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers® List.

1977

The Hon. Bill Ossmann, Topeka, Kansas, has received the Topeka Bar Association Warren W. Shaw Distinguished Service Award.

1978

The Hon. Thomas E. Foster, Olathe, Kansas, retired after serving 21 years in the 10th Judicial District. Foster was appointed a district judge in 1999 and served from 2009 to 2013 as chief judge of the 10th Judicial District, which is composed of Johnson County. He served on the Kansas Juvenile Justice Review Committee from 2015-16, was chair of the Kansas Child Support Guidelines Committee the last 11 years, and helped to start the Johnson County Family Court docket in 2006.

The Hon. Rebecca A. Sanders, Topeka, was awarded the Carol Foreman Medal of Civility Award from the Kansas Women Attorneys Association.

1979

The Hon. Ellen G. Neufeld, McPherson, Kansas, was selected to fill a district magistrate judge vacancy in McPherson County.

1981

David M. Traster, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" in the area of environmental law.

The Hon. Mark A. Ward, Fort Scott, Kansas, was reappointed to the Judges Assistance Committee by the Kansas Supreme Court. Ward will serve a four-year term that began on July 1 and will end June 30, 2024. The Judges Assistance Committee helps Kansas judges in need due to mental or physical disability or addiction.

1982

The Hon. J. Michael Keeley, Great Bend, Kansas, retired on Jan. 11, 2021. He served 28 years as a district judge having been elected in 1992. He was appointed chief judge in 2004. The 20th Judicial District encompasses Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell, and Stafford Counties. Keeley served as president of the Kansas District Judges Association from 2012-13. Prior to being elected he began his law career as an attorney in 1982 with the law firm of Ward and Berscheidt in Great Bend.

1983

Thomas E. Palen, Scottsdale, Arizona, retired from Wells Fargo Bank as a senior vice president after 28 years.

Stanley Spurrier, Wichita, was named by Best Lawyers in America® 2021 in the areas of: appellate practice; criminal defense; general practice; and criminal defense: white-collar.

William A. Vickery, Wichita, has opened the Law Offices of William A. Vickery.

1984

The Hon. David E. Bruns, Topeka, was appointed to the Kansas Board of Law Examiners. Bruns has served on the Kansas Court of Appeals since 2011. Before his appointment to the Court of Appeals, Bruns was a district court judge in the 3rd Judicial District, which is composed of Shawnee County, as well as a private practice lawyer.

1985

The Hon. Daniel D. Creitz, Iola, Kansas, chief judge of the 31st Judicial District, was elected president of the Kansas District Judges Association, an organization open to all state district court judges, for 2021. The 31st Judicial District is composed of Allen, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson counties.

The Hon. Steven E. Johnson, Great Bend, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to serve as chief judge of the 20th Judicial District from Jan. 11 through Dec. 31, 2021. The 20th Judicial District is composed of Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell, and Stafford counties. Johnson was elected district judge in 2012.

The Hon. James R. Kepple, Manhattan, Kansas, was reappointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to the District Magistrate Judges Certification Committee. Kepple has served in the 21st Judicial District, which includes Riley and Clay counties, since 2017.

The Hon. Thomas Kelly Ryan, Olathe, Kansas, was elected secretary of the Kansas District Judges Association, an organization open to all state district court judges, for 2021. Ryan is chief judge of the 10th Judicial District, composed of Johnson County.

1986

The Hon. Joe E. Lee, Howard, Kansas, was appointed Elk County attorney to the 13th Judicial District Magistrate vacancy.

Lee has been a county attorney in the 13th District since 2008, where he has prosecuted a wide variety of cases.

William R. Wood II, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 “Lawyer of the Year” in the area of banking and finance law.

1987

Kevin J. Arnel, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 “Lawyer of the Year” in the area of nonprofit/charities law.

Paula B. Hurt, Olathe, Kansas, was elected vice chair of the Johnson County Commission on Aging.

Craig W. West, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 “Lawyer of the Year” in the area of elder law.

1988

Nicholas B. Cox, Tampa, Florida, is serving his third term as Florida’s statewide prosecutor. In addition to his routine practice, he has overseen the grand jury examining the Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S. shootings and the investigation of child sex abuse by clerics.

The Hon. Matthew H. Hand, Amarillo, Texas, was elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Hand worked for years as a civil attorney in the law firm of Brown and Fortunato in Amarillo, Texas, and was most recently elected as state of Texas judge of Potter County Court at Law No. 2.

1989

The Hon. Kim W. Cudney, Washington, Kansas, was elected president-elect of the Kansas District Judges Association, an organization open to all state district court judges, for 2021. Cudney is chief judge of the 12th Judicial District, composed of Cloud, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Republic, and Washington counties.

Greg V. Etter, Boerne, Texas, has been appointed to the Liberty Gold board of directors. Etter has broad, extensive experience in the natural resources sector, including more than

two decades of successfully managing diverse portfolios as a senior executive at multiple international mining companies. He has been responsible for government relations, legal, security, land, environment, public relations, and community affairs. During the course of his career, he has had wide-ranging experience on four continents, including significant accomplishments relating to development projects. He joined Kinross Gold Corporation in 2007 and served in a number of roles including senior vice president, global government relations, security and lands prior to his retirement in 2020.

Samuel M. Herrera, formerly Taos, New Mexico, re-located to Hà Nội, Viet Nam, where he practices law remotely and practices his Vietnamese.

Greer S. Lang, Kansas City, Missouri, is now of counsel at Kutak Rock, joining the firm on June 7, 2021, as a member of the firm’s national litigation practice group. Lang has nearly 30 years of experience representing clients in litigated and non-litigated complex commercial and business-related disputes in state and federal court, both at the trial and appellate level. Her work includes breach of contract matters, shareholder and partnership disputes, employment matters and disputes involving covenants not to compete and other restrictive covenants, loan enforcement actions and lender liability issues, real estate disputes, construction matters, insurance disputes, regulatory matters, trusts, business torts, and professional liability matters. She is a frequent speaker and author on issues regarding the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Regulation B and ADA website litigation.

Brian L. Leininger, Overland Park, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program Board. Leininger will serve a six-year term that began on July 1 and will end June 30, 2026. The Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program was created to help lawyers seek treatment for physical or mental illness, substance abuse or emotional distress.

Mark R. Maloney, Wichita, was recognized as a 2021 Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

The Hon. Kenley J. Thompson, Houston, Texas, has become an immigration judge with the U.S. Department of Justice.

1990

The Hon. Stephen A. Hilgers, McPherson, Kansas, has retired as district magistrate judge for McPherson County. Hilgers served as an assistant Harvey County attorney from 1993-99 and previously had a private law practice.

Stewart T. Weaver, Wichita, Kansas, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" in the area of elder law.

1991

Randy D. Gordon, Dallas, Texas, has joined Duane Morris LLP. Gordon has more than 25 years of complex litigation experience working with public and private companies in more than two dozen industries. He focuses his practice on helping a range of entities with antitrust, RICO, class-action, university-related, securities, and intellectual property matters. Gordon advises businesses on distribution plans and provides legal and economic analysis of proposed transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. He formerly served as general counsel to a global trade association serving the semiconductor industry and recently served as the lead attorney for a major research university in international product liability litigation.

Kurt, P. Kerns, Wichita, was elected to serve on the Membership Committee of the International Court Bar Association. Kerns is a member of the Dodge City-based law firm Warrior Lawyers International. He specializes in defending persons accused of crimes and representing people whose civil rights have been violated. Warriors Lawyers International is affiliated with attorney Dragen Ivetic of the Netherlands.

Michael W. Riley, Hiawatha, Kansas, was elected international president of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity in January 2021. He had previously served as international legal counsel.

1992

Jeffrey P. DeGraffenreid, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" in the area of litigation - labor and employment.

J. Scott MacBeth, Wichita, Kansas, was recognized as a 2021 Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

The Hon. Sheila M., Schultz, Paola, Kansas, is serving as part-time county counselor for the City of Paola. Schultz has been municipal judge for the City of Paola since 2004 and for the City of Osawatomie for about a decade. She also serves as municipal judge for the City of La Cygne, a position she began in January 2021.

Channel P. Townsley, Wichita, Kansas, has opened Wichita Divorce, LLC.

1993

Jeff Kahrs, Topeka, Kansas is the senior advisor for Congressman Jake LaTurner. Kahrs brings over 25 years' experience in public service.

The Hon. Jacquelyn E. Rokusek, Shawnee, Kansas, was appointed to the 10th District Court of Johnson County. Rokusek is managing partner of Rokusek Stein Law in Johnson County and formerly was an assistant Johnson County district attorney.

1994

Lynn S. McCreary, Alexandria, Virginia, was appointed chief legal officer of Sportradar, a leading global provider of sports betting and sports entertainment products and services. McCreary spent the past 11 years at Fiserv, Inc., a global leader in financial services and payments technology, and since 2013 served as its chief legal officer, chief ethics and compliance officer and corporate secretary.

Lisa A. McPherson, Wichita, was named to the 2020 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers® List.

1995

Mark A. Kubinski, Boise, Idaho, was recently appointed as chief of the Criminal Law Division of the Idaho Attorney General's Office. Kubinski has been with the Attorney General's Office for 18 years, having served the last 10 years as lead deputy attorney general for the Idaho Department of Correction.

1996

Arthur E. Rhodes, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

William T. Stetzer, Charlotte, North Carolina, has been named as the acting United States attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. Stetzer is a career prosecutor who has dedicated his professional life to public service. Stetzer joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2018 and has since served as the first assistant United States attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

1998

Patricia A. Voth Blankenship, Wichita, was recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" in the area of real estate.

Christopher S. Conroy, Des Moines, Iowa, is the 2020 chairman of the National Association of Fixed Annuities. Conroy previously was head of annuity sales at North American Company for Life and Health Insurance.

David A. Bohm, Raleigh, North Carolina, was selected to serve as the program chair for Leadership North Carolina, Class of XXVIII. By serving in that role, Bohm will also serve a two-year term on the board of directors.

The Hon. Lesley A. Isherwood, Wichita, was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals. Isherwood has been a prosecutor for Sedgwick County since 1999 and has served as senior assistant district attorney in the Appellate Division. She has argued over 100 cases before Kansas appellate courts and has penned over 1,000 appellate briefs. Isherwood briefly practiced law at Williams, Stroble, Malone, Mason & Ralph, P.A., in Dodge City.

1999

The Hon. Kevin N. Berens, Colby, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to its Access to Justice Committee. He serves in the 15th Judicial District, composed of Cheyenne, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties. The Access to Justice

Committee makes recommendations on issues such as increasing resources available for legal services for self-represented litigants in civil cases improving planning and coordination for legal services delivery and reducing potential barriers to equal access to justice.

Ashley A. Davis, Wichita, has joined the Penner Lowe Law Group LLC.

2000

The Hon. Lynelle D. Homolka, Central City, Nebraska, was appointed as county court judge in the 5th District. Homolka, has served as Merrick County attorney and Central Nebraska Youth Services administrator since 2011. Prior to her work as Merrick county attorney, she served as deputy county attorney in Hall County from 2001-10. Homolka has practiced criminal and juvenile law for over 20 years, litigating well over 100 criminal jury trials ranging from traffic infractions to felony cases involving violent assault, child abuse, sexual assault, and murder.

2001

Justin A. Barrett, Colby, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program Board. Barrett will serve a six-year term that began on July 1 and will end June 30, 2026. The Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program was created to help lawyers seek treatment for physical or mental illness, substance abuse or emotional distress.

Emily A. Hartz, Lawrence, Kansas, was appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program Board which was created to help lawyers seek treatment for physical or mental illness, substance abuse or emotional distress.

2002

The Hon. Adam J. Espinosa, Denver, Colorado, was appointed to the Colorado 2nd Judicial District Court. Previously, Espinosa was assistant regulation counsel for the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (2010-2015); deputy district attorney in the 19th Judicial District (2005-2010); litigation associate at Castle Meinhold & Stawiarski (2004-2005); deputy district attorney in the 4th

Judicial District (2003-2004); deputy district attorney in the 5th Judicial District (2003); and judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Michael Martinez of the Denver District Court (2002-2003).

Michelle M. O'Malley, Kansas City, Missouri, has been appointed to the Ad Hoc Court Records Committee by the Kansas Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration.

Sherri L. Schuck, Westmoreland, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

2003

Stephanie E. Bunten, Topeka, is the Kansas Supreme Court judicial administrator, the state's highest ranking nonjudicial position in the Kansas court system. Bunten has served as chief financial officer for the courts, a position she's held since 2015. Previously, she served as assistant fiscal officer and as a research attorney for a Court of Appeals judge. In between her terms with the court system, she was a tax accountant for Mize Houser & Company, PA, in Topeka.

Richard A. Schoenfeld, Topeka, has become a partner with the Law Firm of Stevens & Brand, LLP.

2004

Andrew R. Davidson, Hutchinson, Kansas, was appointed to the Reno County deputy district attorney position. After law school, Davidson was an associate for the law firm of Tenopir & Huerter in Topeka, practicing criminal, domestic, and family law, and other areas of general legal practice. In 2009, he became an assistant county attorney in McPherson County, prosecuting juvenile and child in need of care cases, traffic and driving under the influence cases, drug crimes, and other crimes against persons. He also served on the McPherson & Harvey County Community Corrections Advisory Board.

The Hon. Christopher T. Etzel, Oskaloosa, Kansas, was appointed to the 2nd Judicial District Court. Etzel has been in private practice since 2004, handling a

wide variety of civil and criminal cases. He also serves as the city attorney for Onaga, Havensville, and Wheaton. In his role as city attorney, he prosecutes cases in municipal court and provides legal counsel to the cities. Etzel has extensive community involvement through his involvement with various educational and civic groups such as the Second Judicial District Juvenile Correctional Advisory Board and the Onaga Chamber of Commerce.

Sarah E. Reichart, Topeka, Kansas, has been named director of the Supreme Court appeals where she will directly report to and assist the chief justice in the management of the Supreme Court docket and processing of cases. Reichart has served in the court's central staff as a research attorney for Chief Justice Marla Luckert, as the court's motions attorney, and as assistant general counsel to the chief justice. Reichart chairs the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

2005

Tanya E. Bidwell, Midland Texas, has opened the Law Office of Tanya E. Bidwell, PLLC.

The Hon. Monique K. Centeno, Wichita, was appointed to the newly created Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice. The committee will study racial equity and justice with statewide hearings and eventual recommendations to state and local governments on steps to increase racial equity in Kansas.

Melissa A. Moodie, Wichita, has joined the Hinkle Law Firm as of counsel.

Sarah L. Shipman, Topeka, was appointed to serve as Kansas deputy attorney general for the Legal Opinions and Government Counsel Division. Shipman joined the Victims Services Division in February 2020 as deputy director. She also served as an assistant attorney general in the Legal Opinions and Government Counsel Division. Her prior state service was in the Department of Administration where she held various roles including chief counsel and secretary of administration.

2006

Kelly B. Bieri, Mission Woods, Kansas, is now the firm manager at Kennyhertz Perry Attorneys at Law.

Casey A. Jenkins, Omaha, Nebraska, has joined Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman LLP's team of business attorneys. Casey advises owners and developers, architects, and engineers in all construction phases from pre-bid to project closeout, including final claims.

Sunee Mickle, Topeka, has been named to Ingram's "50 Kansans you should know."

The Hon. Karan M. Thandani, Topeka, is the new administrative municipal court judge for the City of Topeka. He has 14 years of experience practicing law in the state and has worked in both private practice and the government sector. He was most recently chief of prosecution for the City of Topeka.

Kristen D. Wheeler, Wichita, was appointed to the State Board of Tax Appeals. The agency resolves disputes between taxing agencies and Kansans.

2007

The Hon. Amy Crawford-Coppola, Junction City, Kansas, was chosen to fill a magistrate judge vacancy in Geary County. The 8th Judicial District is made up of Dickinson, Geary, Marion, and Morris counties.

Melissa M. Schoen, Norton, Kansas, was reelected to her third term as Phillips County attorney and second term as Norton County attorney.

2009

Timothy M. Belsan, Washington, D.C. is the inaugural director of the enforcement section within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Immigration Litigation.

Brett A. Flachsbarth, Topeka, became the director of UI ITSC Solutions at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

The Hon. Daniel D. Gilligan, Hutchinson, Kansas, was reelected treasurer of the Kansas District Magistrate Judges

Association. Gilligan serves in Reno County, which is the 27th Judicial District.

Jennifer L. Michaels, Sumter, South Carolina, was promoted to the role of senior vice president/chief administrative officer of SAFE Federal Credit Union.

Johnathan A. Rhodes, Denver, Colorado, joined Walmart Health & Wellness as lead regulatory counsel.

2010

Shane A. Rosson, Wichita, was named as a 2020 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers® List "Rising Star."

2011

Shawn P. Yancy, Washington, D.C., has accepted a new job with the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Legislation as an unemployment insurance program specialist.

2012

Amy J. Ahrens, Denver, Colorado, has joined Jennifer Anntoinette Rivera & Associates.

Whitney L. Casement, , received a YWCA 2020 Women of Excellence Award for 2020.

Jennifer M. Cocking, Topeka, received a YWCA 2020 Women of Excellence Award for 2020.

LeTiffany Obozele, Topeka, is now chief of prosecution for the City of Topeka Legal Department.

Matthew D. Quandt, Omaha, Nebraska, has been elected a partner at Erickson Sedstrom. Quandt has been with the firm for two years, before which he litigated at a reputable Kansas City firm. Quandt focuses his practice on civil litigation, including catastrophic injury and wrongful death, trucking and transportation, construction defect, product liability, and professional liability.

John J. Westerhaus, Omaha, Nebraska, joined Kutak Rock as an associate in the firm's employee benefits and executive compensation group. Before joining Kutak Rock, Westerhaus worked at Arnold, Newbold, Sollars & Hollins, P.C. in Kansas City, Missouri.

2013

Kate Duncan Butler, Topeka, was appointed to the Information Network of Kansas board. INK provides Kansans equal electronic access to state, county, local, and other public information via gateway service.

Jacob A. Conard, Washington, D.C., is the legislative director for Congressman Jake LaTurner. Prior to his current appointment, Conard served as a prosecutor in Cherokee County, Kansas, for six years. After two years as a deputy prosecutor, Conard was elected county attorney in 2016 and reelected in 2020.

Eloy Gallegos, Garden City, Kansas, was approved by the Kearny County Republican Party to fill the interim position as Kearny County Attorney. Gallegos established Gallegos Law LLC. in Garden City. His practice consists of immigration law, criminal defense, personal injury, and worker's compensation.

Kali M. Hague, Washington, D.C., was appointed to the National Business Aviation Association's board of directors as its young professional director. Hague is a partner at Jetlaw, LLC, where she advises clients in the U.S. and internationally on all aspects of aviation law.

Anna M. Jumpponen, Wichita, has joined the Stange Law Firm.

Anna M. Quinn, Overland Park, Kansas, of Avant Law Group, LLC has been selected for a Women's Justice Award from Missouri Lawyers Weekly for her work in the innovation and technology category.

The Hon. Shannon D. Rush, Lyndon, Kansas, was elected second vice president of the Kansas District Magistrate Judges Association. Rush serves in Osage County of the 4th Judicial District.

Alisha Udhwani, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, has been elected president-elect of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, which puts her on track to become president in 2022. She will be among the youngest presidents of the Virgin Islands Bar Association elected to date.

2014

Keaton S. Ashlock, Hermitage, Missouri, was appointed as the Hickory County, Missouri, prosecuting attorney. Ashlock is previously an assistant prosecuting attorney in Dallas County.

Eli M. O'Brien, Wichita, was honored by Best Lawyers in America® 2021 in the practice area of criminal defense: white-collar. Before joining Monnat & Spurrier in 2015, O'Brien was a trial attorney with the Sedgwick County Public Defender's Office.

Tucker A. Stewart, Topeka, will serve as Sen. Roger Marshall's Senate office senior agriculture advisor. He has served as associate counsel for the Kansas Livestock Association for the last six years.

2015

Ashley N. Green, Bellaire, Texas, has been named a Houstonia Magazine 2020 Top Lawyer.

Coleman J. Younger, Garden City, Kansas, is now the managing attorney for the newly opened Garden City office of Patterson Legal Group.

2016

The Hon. Damon J. Stevens, Hugoton, Kansas, is the new magistrate judge in Stevens County, Kansas.

2017

Jacob D. Bielenberg, Kansas City, Missouri, has joined Baty Otto Coronado PC.

Kristina J. Branstetter, Fairfield, Iowa, is the legal department associate director of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.

Andrea C. Haddad, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is now an assistant county attorney at the Office of the County Attorney for El Paso County - Human Services Division.

Luis M. Solorio, Topeka, has joined the City of Topeka Legal Department.

2018

Matthew W. Adams, Wichita, is now with Foreman Law LLC.

Michael D. Davis, Kansas City, Missouri, was elected to the Missouri Legislature. He will represent the 56th District in Kansas City.

Abby Hoelling, Shawnee, Kansas, started a new position as associate corporate counsel at MRIGlobal, a scientific research institute in Kansas City, Missouri. She previously practiced general litigation at Seaton, Seaton & Dierks, LLP in Manhattan, Kansas.

Monet N. Straub, Topeka, is a district representative for Congressman Jake LaTurner. Previously, Straub served as the deputy director of operations for the Kansas State Treasurer's Office.

2019

Hayden L. Ballard, Beaver, Utah, has formed the law firm of Ballard Law, P.L.L.C., specializing in agricultural law and natural resources law. After graduating from Washburn Law, Ballard went on to receive an LL.M. in agricultural and food law from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2020. Ballard also currently serves as part-time of counsel to the firm of Eland & Pratt in Hoxie, Kansas, and he has accepted a part-time agent position for Ozark Hills Insurance, West Plains, Missouri, specializing in pasture, range and forage insurance.

Rebecca E. Bergkamp, Wichita, has joined Hinkle Law Firm LLC.

Cameron S. Bernard, Topeka, has joined Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer LLP, following his position as a research attorney for Judge Kathryn Gardner at the Kansas Court of Appeals. Bernard plans to focus on medical malpractice and insurance law.

Cleotha M. Daniels, Topeka, is now associate in-house counsel at Midwest Health, Inc.

Sierra M. Logan, Hutchinson, Kansas, has joined the Reno County District Attorney's Office.

Jacob D. Miller, Kansas City, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council.

Jesse T. Nation, San Antonio, Texas, has joined Kruger Carson PLLC. His practice focuses on real property and corporate transactions. Prior to joining Kruger Carson, he was an associate attorney in a regional business law firm and has

worked with public and private clients in areas such as real estate, financing, construction, energy, mining and intellectual property.

Jarod M. Reiger, Hutchinson, Kansas, is now with Young Williams CSS.

Luke J. Williams, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

2020

Christopher L. Grause, Wichita, has joined the law firm of Foulston working with the firm's transactional law practice group.

Gabriella C. Ferraro, Wichita, has joined the law firm of Foulston.

Jesse J. Gutierrez, Wichita, Kansas, has joined the Hinkle Law Firm.

Clarisa C. Harvey, Kansas City, Kansas, has been appointed to the Kansas Real Estate Commission.

Taylor M. Meeks, Topeka, has joined Woner, Reeder & Girard, P.A.

Harry D. Schwartz, Overland Park, Kansas has joined Stange Law Firm, PC.

Sailor Sinclair, Fort Worth, Texas, has joined the Texas Christian University athletic compliance department.

Lance R. Smith, Topeka, has joined the team at Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer.

Kayla L. Stavinoha, Wichita, has joined the Hinkle Law Firm.

Logan K. Taylor, Saint Joseph, Missouri, is now an assistant prosecuting attorney for Buchanan County.

Jon M. Thomas, Seward, Nebraska, has joined Svehla Law Offices in York joining his father, Kelly Thomas. He also recently joined the Kilgore Library Foundation board.

Kyle C. Wineinger, Topeka, has joined the Law Offices of Morris Laing as an associate attorney. He primarily practices in estate and trust planning, taxation, and probate.

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school from Nov. 2020 - June 30, 2021.

The Hon., James J. Noone, '47, Park City, Kansas, on Jan. 14, 2021, at age 99

S. Jack Graves, '50, Wichita, on March 2, 2021 at age 93

Orville J. Cole, '51, Garnett, Kansas, on Nov. 7, 2020, at age 92

Lester L. Banks '54, Wichita, Kan., on Dec. 22, 2020, at age 91

Louis F. Eisenbarth, '54, Topeka, on Feb. 18, 2021, at age 96

Gailen L. Keeling, '55, Walnut Creek, California, on Jan. 17, 2021, at age 90

John R. Blair, '57, Phoenix, Arizona, on Jan. 26, 2021, at age 92

Carl W. Quarnstrom, '57, Topeka, on Nov. 26, 2020, at age 92

Elmo A. Lund, '59, Hays, Kansas, on July 16, 2020, at age 90

Donald C. Staab, '59, Hays, Kansas, on May 9, 2021, at age 85

The Hon. Fred S. Jackson, '60, Topeka, on Aug. 1, 2020, at age 84

The Hon. Jerry C. Whitehead, '60, Lamoille, Nevada, on Oct. 12, 2020, at age 86

Danford L. Hoben, '61, Estes Park, Colorado, on Dec. 28, 2020, at age 84

The Hon., Tyler C. Lockett, '62, Topeka, on Nov. 28, 2020, at age 87

The Hon., Ronald D. Innes, '63, Wichita, on April 12, 2021, at age 85

Denis R. Lazarus, '64, Wasilla, Alaska, on April 23, 2021, at age 80

Terrence S. Leek, '65, Prescott, Arizona, on Feb. 18, 2021, at age 81

Prof. David L. Ryan, '65, Scottsdale, Arizona, on May 25, 2021, at age 80

The Hon. Robert L. Morton, '66, Emporia, Kansas, on Aug. 20, 2020, at age 86

Ray "Sandy" Sutton, '66, Kansas City, Missouri, on Sept. 2, 2020, at age 82

The Hon. Charles P. Aldrich, '67, Great Bend, Kansas on Oct. 16, 2020, at age 79

Patrick L. Dougherty, '67, Manchester, Missouri, on July 11, 2020, at age 81

Ross R. Freeman, '67, Topeka, on March 4, 2021, at age 81

Donald L. Gottschalk, '67, Hutchinson, Kansas, on Oct. 10, 2020, at age 81

Clarence E. Koch, '67, Wichita, on March 10, 2021, at age 81

George R. Remer, '67, Battle Creek, Iowa, on Oct. 15, 2020, at age 81

The Hon. Tracy D. Klinginsmith, '68, Holton, Kansas, on Dec. 11, 2020, at age 79

John B. Meeks, '68, Prairie Village, Kansas, on March 14, 2021, at age 80

Allen L. Shelton, '68, Oberlin, Kansas, on Aug. 23, 2020, at age 77

Robert J. Terry, '68, Ocala, Florida, on July 7, 2021, at age 78

Thomas C. Kelley, '69, Topeka, on March 31, 2021, at age 76

William R. Wood, '69, Wichita, on Aug. 7, 2020, at age 83

H. Kent Hollins, '70, Topeka, on Jan. 17, 2021, at age 76

Kenneth P. Peterson, '70, La Crosse, Wisconsin, on May 25, 2021, at age 80

Douglas S. Brunson, '72, Great Bend, Kansas, on Dec. 24, 2020, at age 74

Laurence R. Hollis, '72, Wichita, on March 10, 2021, at age 77

Oscar P. Peterson, '72, Lawrence, Kansas, on March 30, 2021, at age 85

The Hon. Gregory L. Waller, '72, Wichita, on Dec. 1, 2020, at age 72

Morris D. Birch, '73, Wichita, on Dec. 2, 2020, at age 76

The Hon. Daniel L. Mitchell, '73, Topeka, on Nov. 23, 2020, at age 72

William L. Edds, '74, Topeka, on June 28, 2021, at age 74

David A. Hanson, '74, Manhattan, Kansas, on Sept. 1, 2020, at age 71

Gregory D. Lewis, '74, Lockport, New York, on April 4, 2021, at age 74

Harold W. Powers, '74, Leawood, Kansas, on Jan. 3, 2021, at age 72

John V. Wachtel, '74, Wichita, on Oct. 26, 2020, at age 75

George W. Stafford, '75, Bethesda, Maryland, on Feb. 24, 2021, at age 70

Steven P. Clark, '76, Topeka, on Dec. 31, 2020, at age 69

Richard A. Johnson, '76, Valley Falls, Kansas, on March 4, 2021, at age 69

Donald W. Rupert, '76, Evanston, Illinois, on July 19, 2020, at age 73

Michael W. Murphy, '77, Marysville, Kansas, on March 22, 2021, at age 67

Ronald P. Williams, '77, Wichita, on Jan. 4, 2021, at age 73

Donald R. Snapp, '78, Newton, Kansas, on Jan. 15, 2021, at age 68

Kathy L. Wood, '79, Saint Joseph, Mo. on October 1, 2020, at age 66

Rev. Michael F. Blevins, '80, Decorah, Iowa, on February 14, 2021, at age 66

Donley K. Rees, '80, Castle Rock, Colo., on June 7, 2021, at age 66

Terry R. Gross, '81, St. Charles, Mo., on May 1, 2021, at age 72

David A. Williams, '81, Wichita, on Jan. 29, 2021, at age 69

Joseph P. Anthony, '83, Bradley, Illinois, on Jan. 2, 2021, at age 62

Ralph L. DeLoach, '83, Leawood, Kansas, on Nov. 5, 2020, at age 74

John L. Reed, '83, Tecumseh, Kansas, on May 3, 2021, at age 83

Gary A. Norton, '84, Norwalk, Iowa, on Dec. 23, 2020, at age 67

Kerry M. Gasper, '85, Topeka, on May 25, 2021, at age 61

Donald R. Crowell, '88, Wichita, on Dec. 22, 2020, at age 77

Don M. Haggerty, '88, Durant, Oklahoma, on April 13, 2021, at age 76

Jose C. Peggs, '89, Wichita, on Sept. 23, 2020, at age 72

Roger A. Van Effen, '89, Topeka, on Aug. 14, 2020, at age 65

Lee E. Velasquez, '90, Wichita, on Sept. 23, 2020, at age 72

David V. Schneider, '92, Topeka, on July 30, 2020, at age 61

Rhoda J. Walker, '92, Topeka, on May 4, 2021, at age 67

Michelle D. Shinn, '96, Conway Springs, Kansas, on Aug. 17, 2020, at age 50

Ryan J. Mahoney, '04, Lawton, Iowa, on March 29, 2021, at age 45

Melinda M. Teglia, '04, Lenexa, Kansas, on April 9, 2021, at age 41

Amy L. Leisinger, '06, Lombard, Illinois, on June 11, 2021, at age 40

Remembering the Hon. Joseph Morris



Judge Joseph W. Morris died on Nov. 11, 2021, at age 99. He was born on April 28, 1922, in Rice County, Kansas. He received his bachelor's

degree from Washburn University in 1943 where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity.

After receiving his degree from Washburn, Morris entered the U.S. Navy during World War II. He attended Officer's Training School at Ft. Schuyler, New York, and was commissioned an Ensign. He was then assigned to serve on the staff of Admiral O.C. Badger in Honolulu, Hawaii. After the war, he returned to Washburn where he received his law degree, graduating first in his class in 1947. He was later inducted into the Order of the Coif at the University of Oklahoma.

While in law school, he met Dorothy Deane Conklin, a student at Washburn. Following law school, he enrolled in the graduate program of the University of Michigan Law School where he earned an LL.M and an S.J.D. degree.

After returning home from the University of Michigan Law School, he and Deane Conklin were married, and he joined the legal department of Shell Oil Company where he worked in both Tulsa and New York City for 12 years. Deane, to whom he had been married for 38 years, predeceased him.

In 1960, Morris joined the legal department of Amerada Petroleum Corporation where he served as associate general counsel and general counsel in Tulsa. In 1972, he was named as dean of the College of Law of the University of Tulsa.

In 1974, he was appointed U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of

Oklahoma. He served as judge and chief judge until 1978, after which he was named vice president and general counsel of Shell Oil Company in Houston. In 1981, he received an honorary doctor of law from Washburn University.

Following his retirement from Shell, Morris became a shareholder and member of the board of GableGotwals where he served until his death.

Following the death of his first wife, Deane, Joe married Dona Frank on July 27, 1989.

During his entire career, he had a keen interest in legal education and taught oil and gas law as an adjunct professor for more than 20 years prior to becoming dean of the College of Law at the University of Tulsa. He taught a course in Arbitration Law at the University of Tulsa College of Law as an adjunct professor until shortly before his death.

During the last 28 years of his life, Morris was heavily involved in international arbitrations. He was a member of the National Panel of Distinguished Neutrals for the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution. He was a member of the American Arbitration Association's Large, Complex Case Panel of Arbitrators and its Energy Panel. He was a member of the advisory board of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration of the Center for American and International Law. He was an emeritus member of Rand Corporation's board of overseers of the Institute for Civil Justice. He was a member of the American Law Institute, the American Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, and past president of the Tulsa County Bar Association. He was an Oklahoma Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a former chairman of the Natural Resources Law Section of the American Bar Association.



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