

WASHBURN Lawyer

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2
SPRING 2013



108th
Commencement

Ronnie Rhodes:
On the Outside

LARW Program
Ranked 11th
by U.S. News

Cover Story | *Oil and Gas Law Center Launched*

DEAN
Thomas J. Romig

When Washburn Law developed its oil and gas curriculum nearly a quarter of a century ago, **David Pierce**, '77, Norman R. Pozez Endowed Chair in Business and Transactional Law, fostered a first-rate program that remains at the top of its class today. Although much broader in scope and size than its 1989 archetype, the program has never lost its focus to serve the needs of the oil and gas industry as well as the academic needs of our students who choose to pursue that area of law. We are proud to have established a program that offers a complete curriculum, including essential practical experience, to ensure our graduates can address, not just popular trends, but the modern-day issues that comprise all of oil and gas law.

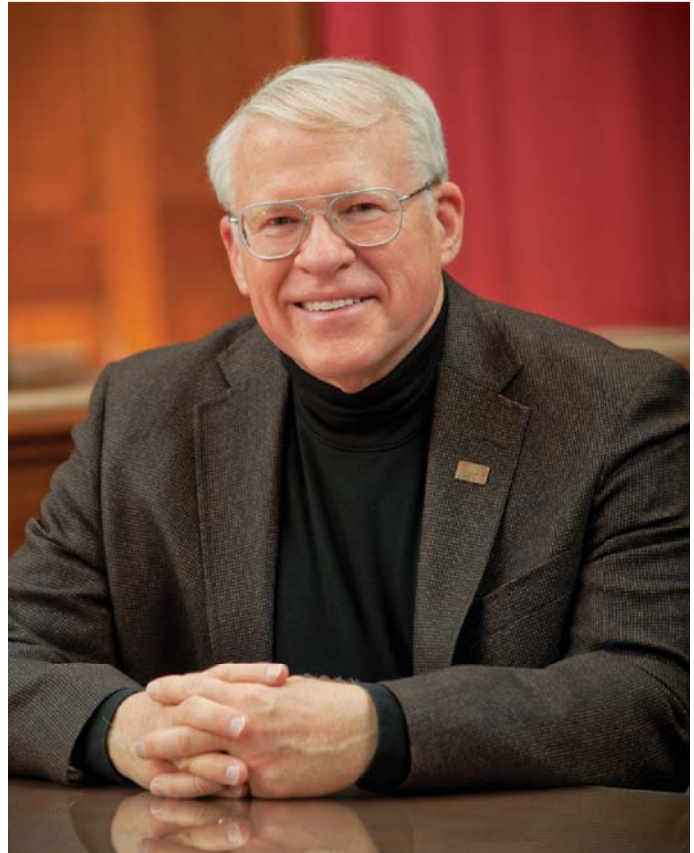
With that in mind, we've taken the next logical step by establishing the Oil and Gas Law Center at Washburn University School of Law with Professor Pierce as the Center director. By creating the Center, Washburn Law formally establishes itself as a national leader in oil and gas law, and as such, will expand and deepen its oil and gas-related academic initiatives and scholarship. The Center will also help distinguish us from the few other law schools that have a multi-course oil and gas curriculum. The Center creates an organizational structure that signifies Washburn's institutional commitment to the oil and gas law discipline, which will assist us in attracting prospective students to the program; obtaining grants to support Center activities; and attracting adjunct professors and practitioners to assist in providing oil and gas law instruction. Our cover story on page 26 features the new Center and Professor Pierce's philosophy of taking a positive and balanced approach to the curriculum.

Another exciting accolade we received this spring was the ranking of our Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Program. The program is ranked 11th among all law schools in the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2014 Best Graduate Schools ranking. Our program was the only law school speciality program in Kansas and the Kansas City metro area to receive a national ranking for 2014. I invite you to read more law school news, beginning on page 10.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Romig
Dean and Professor of Law
dean@washburnlaw.edu



DEAN

Thomas J. Romig

EDITORS

Judyanne Somers

Director, Alumni Services

Marsha Boswell

Director, Marketing Communications

Vicki Estes

Assistant Director, Marketing Communications

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gary Jones, Jones Huyett Partners

Bruce Mathews, Mathews Communications

Martin E. Wisneski

DESIGNER

Pam Besler Kaufman, Create, Inc.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

E-mail: alumni@washburnlaw.edu

Phone: (785) 670-1011

CONTACT US:

We welcome your comments to this publication. Please write, telephone, e-mail, or visit our website. Letters to the editor and news of jobs, honors, weddings, anniversaries, and births are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address, and daytime telephone number.

Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.

WRITE TO:

Editor: *Washburn Lawyer*

Washburn University School of Law

Alumni Services

1700 SW College Ave.

Topeka, KS 66621

Telephone: (785) 670-2013

Fax: (785) 670-3249

E-mail: alumni@washburnlaw.edu

Web: washburnlaw.edu/alumni

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Paul R. Hoferer, '75

Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association

2012-2013

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Keith L. Roberts, '80 (Woodbridge, Va.)

Angel R. Zimmerman, '06 (Topeka)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Alumni Association

There are many exciting things happening at our law school, including plans for the construction of a new law school building to be located on the southeast corner of the campus. To give you a complete and timely update of university developments and law school plans, Washburn University President Dr. Jerry Farley, Dean Tom Romig, and I are visiting several cities in the next few months to meet with law school alumni and friends.

In addition to meeting fellow alumni in your area, these events will provide you with an update on what's going on at the law school and include a video with a virtual tour of the new law school building. We are pleased that several law school professors and Washburn Foundation President Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek will also be attending several of the events.

Plans for the new building have been met with great enthusiasm. Your alumni board of governors voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the construction of the new facility. The University Board of Regents also voted unanimously to approve construction and a funding plan for the new building.

Look for an invitation in the mail a few weeks before we visit your area. I encourage you to attend and hope to see you soon.

Paul Hoferer, '75
President
Washburn University School of Law
Alumni Association



Artist's rendering of the proposed 152,600 square-foot law school.



washburnlaw.edu/alumni



Class of 2013

108TH COMMENCEMENT

The Kansas Territorial Pipes and Drums led the traditional processional from the law school building to Lee Arena on the Washburn campus for the 108th Washburn University School of Law Commencement the evening of May 11. Professor Myrl L. Duncan, J.S.D., served as grand marshal and Jeffrey D. Jackson, '92, as assistant grand marshal, leading the law students, Jerry B. Farley, Ph.D., president of Washburn University, Dean Thomas J. Romig, guests, and Washburn law professors to the ceremony.



Commencement speakers were: Dean Romig; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Aida Alaka; **Jill Gillett, '13**, president of the Washburn Student Bar Association; and **Paul Hoferer, '75**, president of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association. Board of Regents member **William "Bill" Sneed, '80**, presented the 2013 Honorary Doctor of Law degree to **Stanley C. Sager, '57**, who also gave the commencement address. Conferring of degrees was led by President Farley. A champagne reception at Memorial Union to congratulate the graduates followed commencement.



Each academic year, the graduating class votes to honor a member of the faculty as the William O. Douglas Outstanding Professor of the Year. Professor Will Foster received this award. **The Honorable C. William "Bill" Ossmann, '77**, was chosen by the graduating class as the Adjunct Professor of the Year.

Max Gaither, '53, Delano Lewis, '63, Jim Wright, '63, Jack Black, '63, and Bob Storey, '63, were Golden Alumni guests of the law school and participated in the commencement ceremonies.

During the May commencement, 151 students graduated, and 76 certificates were awarded in the following areas: advocacy, business and transactional law, estate planning, family law, international and comparative law, law and government, natural resources law, and tax law. Twelve students were recognized for their pro bono work.



Will Foster,
William O.
Douglas
Outstanding
Professor of the Year



The Honorable C.
William "Bill"
Ossmann, '77,
Adjunct Professor
of the Year

Graduates ~ 2013

Nicholas Ryan Adams

Natural Resources Law

Scott Lawrence Anderson

Artur Bagyants

Pro Bono Honors

Erik J. Bailey

Elizabeth A. Baker

Business & Transactional Law

Brandon Bieker

Business & Transactional Law

Jordan Ashleigh Bickford Blair

Business & Transactional Law

Tax Law

Pro Bono Honors

Leah Doyle Bockover

Benjamin Robert Bowman

Law & Government

Natural Resources Law

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Steven LaVon Braegger

Jennifer Lauren Brewer

Arthur Randolph Bridgens

Natural Resources Law

Cory R. Buck

Scott R. Burrus

Natural Resources Law

Kate Duncan Butler

Family Law

Lyndzie Marie Carter

Xiaolu Fan Choi

Advocacy

Jennifer Marie Cocking

Heather Michelle Colacicco

Law & Government

Jacob A. Conard

Julie M. Covell

Bryan W. Cox

Daniel W. Cramer

Daniel Spencer Creitz

Pro Bono Honors

Christopher Jared Davies

Advocacy

Law & Government

Theodore Craig Davis

Ann Kelsey DeLong

Summer Ott Dierks

Preston Harry Dishon

Natural Resources Law

Noah R. Dumpert

Travis Herbert Dunsmoor

Ashlee Michele Erickson

Natasha Leaire Esau

Holly Jean Fenton

Natural Resources Law

Daniel Paul Finder

Heather Renee Fletcher

James Antwone Floyd

Advocacy

Law & Government

William Blake Follis

Annalee J. Foster

Marissa Marcene Frederick

Pro Bono Honors

Crystal Ilene French

Joseph William Frick

Advocacy

Natural Resources Law

Eloy Gallegos

Joseph James Garcia

Joshua Garrett

Heather Lynn Gelsinger

Business & Transactional Law

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Jill Rance Gillett

Matthew Liam Gleason

Steven L. Goaslind

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Ellen Justine Grennier

Family Law

Kali Martine Hague

Dayton L. Hall

Christina Joy Hansen

Kendra Dawn Hanson

John David "JD" Hatcher

International & Comparative Law

Ben Hinkle

Colin Wade Holthaus

Ashley Marie Jackson

Benjamin C. Jackson

Benjamin A. Janssen

Advocacy

Brent Adam Jepson

Advocacy

Brian Kirby Johnson



Jerald Von Johnson

Pro Bono Honors

Nicole Michelle Johnson

Vijoy Joseph

Anna Michele Jumpponen

India Elizabeth Keefover

Advocacy

Leslie A. Klaassen

Brian Koch

Allison Leigh Koehn

Catelyn Helene Kostbar

Sun Jae Kwon

William Robert Lawrence IV

Advocacy

Law & Government

Won Jun Lee

Taryn Alexandra Locke

Pro Bono Honors

Jared Robert Love

Brendan Pierce Lykins

Daniel Owen Lynch

Eileen De-lee Ma

Business & Transactional Law

Law & Government

Tax Law

Brian Lee Main

Zachary Keith Mark

Kaitlin Marie Marsh-Blake

International & Comparative Law

Law & Government

Jessica L. Kelly Martens

Jeffrey Walter Mattern

Chandler Leigh Maxon

Matthew Carlton McGregor

Business & Transactional Law

Carly Eileen McPeak

Family Law

Pro Bono Honors

Philip Ray Michael

Andrew Clark Millett

Joshua Tyler Mortensen

Business & Transactional Law

Andrew Michael Moskow

Jonathan R. Myers

Advocacy

Law & Government

Natural Resources Law

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

James William Newbery

Estate Planning

Tax Law

James Wesley Norman

Cliff Andrew Nye

Law & Government

Matthew William Parker

William Eric Paulson

Clayton James Perkins

Lynne Marie Philips

Adam Bernard James Poole

Law & Government

Laura Elise Poschen

Anna Marie Quinn

Colin Matthew Quinn

Business & Transactional Law

Natural Resources Law

Stephanie Ann Randall

Family Law

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Brandon Tod Ritcha

Angel Romero Jr.

Law & Government

Brett T. Runyon

Christopher Mark Rush

Shannon Dawn Rush

Jorden John Ryan

Kathryn Diane Salsbury-Kiwan

Zachary Daniel Schultz

Lauren Marie Schulz

Business & Transactional Law

International & Comparative Law

Jordan P. Seckman

Kesar Sharma-Crawford

John Clark Shultz

Jennifer Ashley Simpson

Tax Law

Timothy Ray Sipe

Advocacy

Ethan James Smith

Ryan M. Smith

Business & Transactional Law

Natural Resources Law

Kyle Sollars

Christi Marie Somers

Marsha J. Sonner

Advocacy

Matthew Aaron Spahn

Sarah Kathleen Stark

Ryan Castañeda Starkey

Elizabeth Stuewe

Law & Government

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Elizabeth Pearson Swanson

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Jessica Louise Switzer

Law & Government

Laura Nicole Taylor

Nickolas Cruz Templin

Jacob Alan Thomas

Business & Transactional Law

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Ian David Tomasic

Patrick Davis Toomey

Melissa Ann Tucker Pope

Advocacy

Alisha Udhwani

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Christopher Michael Valentino

Business & Transactional Law

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Amanda Rachelle Walker

Business & Transactional Law

Estate Planning

Tax Law

Mitchell L. Walter

Law & Government

Spencer J. Ward

Caitlin Riley Waskom

Elizabeth Marie Weingart

Jonathan David Weishaar

Aarika Adelle Wellnitz

Ginger Elizabeth Wells

Aaron Paul Westbrook

Matthew Ryan Roy Williams

Jonathon M. Wood

Ashlyn Lanora Yarnell

Family Law

C. Zachary Young

Peter M. Zettersten

Law & Government

December 2012 Graduates



Twenty-nine students graduated in December 2012, with seven students receiving certificates.

First row from left:

Jennifer Marie Cocking, Anna Michele Jumpponen, Melissa Ann Tucker Pope,
Caitlin Riley Waskom, Crystal Ilene French, and Lyndzie Marie Carter.

Second row from left:

Christopher Mark Rush, Marsha J. Sonner, Heather Renee Fletcher, Steven LaVon Braegger,
Jill Rance Gillett, Summer Ott Dierks, Aarika Adelle Wellnitz, Timothy Ray Sipe, and
Matthew Liam Gleason.

Third row from left:

Christopher Jared Davies, C. Zachary Young, Jorden John Ryan, Brandon Tod Ritcha,
Patrick Davis Toomey, Zachary Daniel Schultz, and Peter M. Zettersten.

Not pictured:

Artur Bagyants, Won Jun Lee, Andrew Clark Millett, Shannon Dawn Rush,
Jordan P. Seckman, Ethan James Smith, Ryan M. Smith, and Mitchell L. Walter.



(right) Golden Alumni guests: Max Gaither, '53, Charlotte Adair (daughter), Delano Lewis, '63, Jim Wright, '63, and Jack Black, '63. Not pictured: Bob Storey, '63.



Legacies

CARRY ON THE WASHBURN LAW TRADITION



Matthew Spahn and mother Jennifer Spahn, '83, with aunt and uncle Susan and David, '84, Lind



Jill Gillett with husband John Gillett, '79



Zach Mark with father Keith Mark, '86, and brother Jacob Mark, '15



Kesar Sharma-Crawford with father Michael Sharma-Crawford, '02



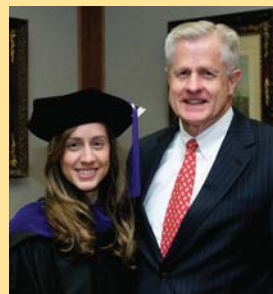
James Norman and father James L. Norman, '75



Ian Tomasic and mother Denise Tomasic, '83



Jessica Switzer and uncle Herman Loepp, '81



Jessica Martens and father Norman Kelly, '80



Elizabeth Pearson and grandfather Jack Flesher, '72 (not pictured: uncles Matthew D. Flesher, '90, and Mitchell R. Flesher, '96)



Adam Poole and uncle George Burket, '72



Daniel Creitz and father Dan Creitz, '85



Elizabeth Weingart and father John Weingart, '77



Brendon Lykins and father Dan Lykins, '72



Brian Johnson with father Fred Johnson, '80, and uncle Phil Johnson, '01



Laura Taylor and father Donald Taylor, '87



Cliff Nye with father Gregory Nye, '78, and plaque of great aunt Jessie Nye Warren, 1912, and portrait of great grandfather J. Sidney Nye, 1915

Correction:

In the Spring/Summer 2012 issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*, in the Legacy photo section, we incorrectly identified Kyle Steadman, '95. He is the uncle of Drew Steadman, '12.

Commencement Speaker

RECIPIENT OF THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAW

Stanley C. “Stan” Sager, ’57, was born October 17, 1929, in Concordia, Kan., attended schools in Clyde, Kan., and won a Navy scholarship to the University of Kansas upon graduating from Clyde High School. He received a B.A. degree from K.U. in 1951, was commissioned in the Navy, and served in the Pacific and in Japanese and Korean waters during the Korean war. In 1954 he was placed on the Navy retired list, having contracted a paralyzing case of polio while at sea.

Mr. Sager decided to pursue law school while a patient at the Long Beach, California, VA hospital. His first inquiry into possible acceptance by a Kansas law school was rejected since the school said it had no facilities for wheelchairs. An inquiry to Washburn Law met with “Come on, we already have a student in a wheelchair.”

Sager’s application was accepted, and he enrolled. He overcame architectural barriers at the school with the help of students and faculty, who carried him and his wheelchair up and down stairs. He graduated in 1957 with Dean’s honors.

Mr. Sager is a member of the Kansas Bar, the New Mexico Bar, and the bars of the U.S. Tax Court, the Tenth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He co-founded and was managing director and chief trial attorney for the law firm of Sager, Curran, Sturges & Tepper, which grew to 23 lawyers with offices in Albuquerque and Las Cruces, N.M., by the time of his retirement in 1993.



Stanley C. “Stan” Sager, ’57, was joined by his family at the 108th Commencement ceremony.

Mr. Sager was an associate attorney with the tax and probate firm of Schroeder, Heeney and Groff in Topeka for two years after graduating. During that time he served as volunteer treasurer of the Topeka Council of Churches. He and his family moved to Albuquerque in 1959, where he practiced and gained trial experience with McAtee, Toulouse, Marchiondo, Ruud and Gallagher, a general practice firm. He and a partner left that firm to start their own practice in 1961. In Albuquerque, he was treasurer of the Albuquerque Legal Aid Society, board member of the New Mexico Council of Churches, president of the Child Guidance Center, treasurer and long-time board member of the New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation, treasurer of the Zia Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of

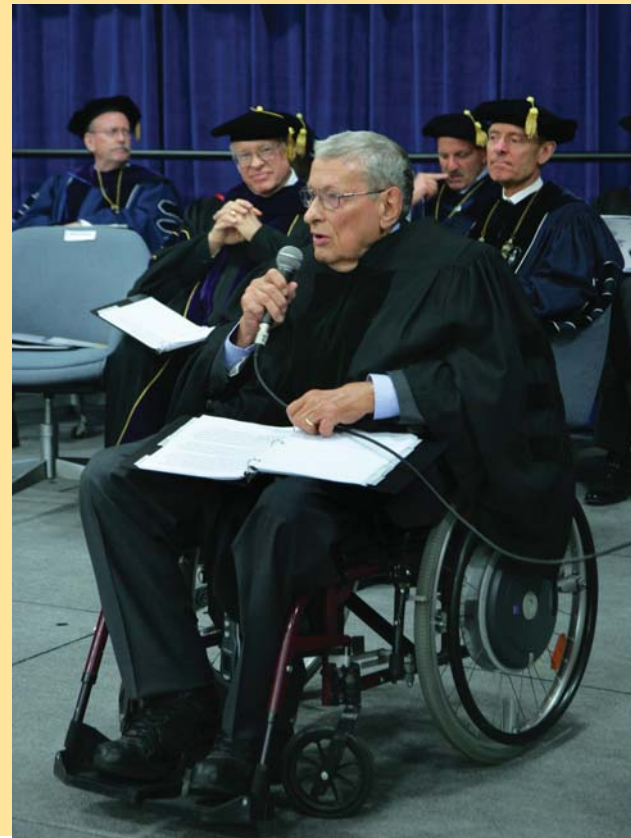
America, building committee chair of The Storehouse, and chaired three building committees for different construction projects for his church. He has been a frequent presenter of construction law seminars for architects and engineers.

He was a New Mexico State Bar Commissioner and chaired the Legal Services for the Elderly Project, a service to rural poor elderly people. He helped take the Project from a local service in Taos to a state-wide program, with over 400 volunteer attorneys. In 2001 the program received state funding, and Governor Gary Johnson appointed Mr. Sager to a commission to administer the fund. For years, Sager also provided free legal advice to three United Methodist bishops and incorporation services to over a dozen churches and other charities.

— continued on page 10

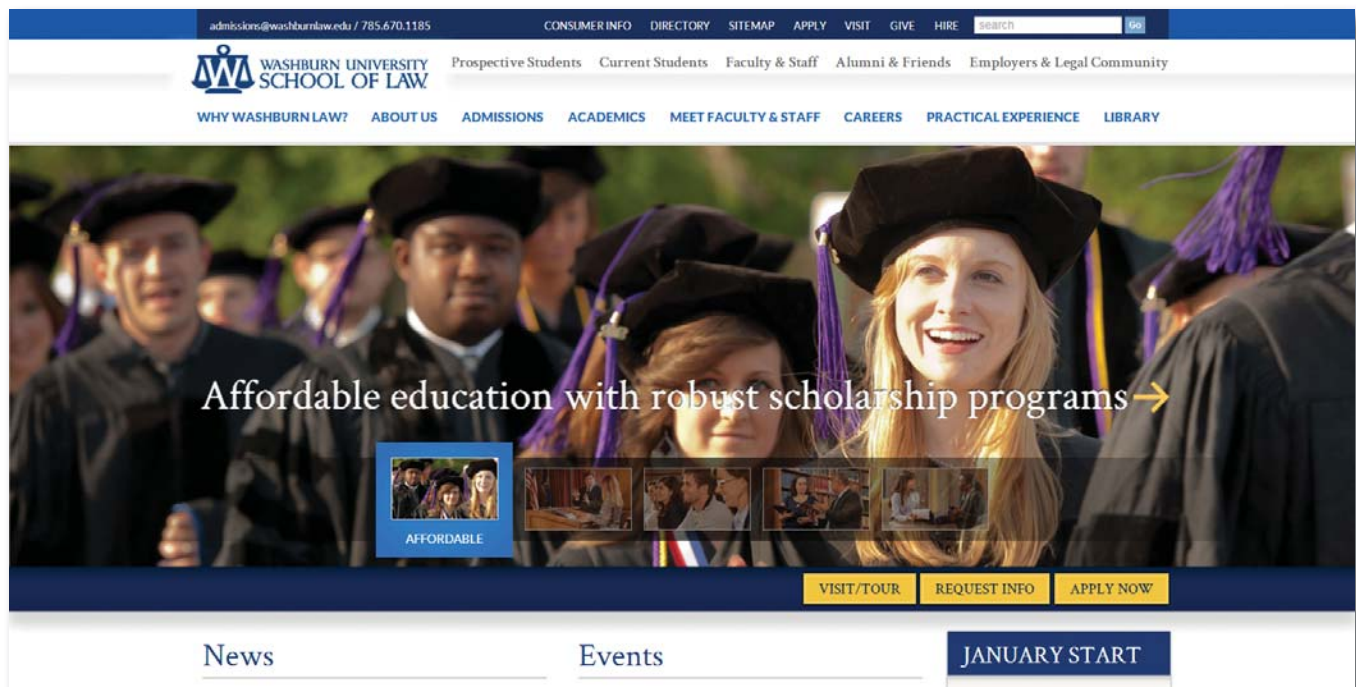
Mr. Sager served as an adjunct professor for four years in the 1990s, teaching construction law at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture. He chaired the United Methodist denominational Committee on Audit and Review from 1996-2000, chaired the denomination's legislative Committee on Finance and Administration at its 2000 General Conference, and was given the Judge Woodrow B. Seals award by Perkins School of Theology, SMU, for his work in restructuring denominational finance policies. He has authored two books, *Viva Elfego! The Case for Elfego Baca, Hispanic Hero*, and *Four Corners: Where the Holy Spirit Touches Navajo Hearts*, as well as numerous articles on disability issues, professionalism, and New Mexico history. He is currently working on a memoir, tentatively titled *Don't Kill All the Lawyers*.

He received the 1987 and 1996 Distinguished Bar Service awards, the 1991 Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono award, and the 1998 Outstanding Service award. In 1997 Mr. Sager was given the Professionalism Award, the highest honor bestowed by the New Mexico Bar Association, for epitomizing the highest standards of the legal profession. He was designated a Living Archive by the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife of 60 years, Shirley. The couple has funded a professorship in international law at Washburn in memory of their late son, **Kurt M. Sager, '76**, a Washburn Law graduate. They have two daughters, Gayle Keenan and Ann Bracken.



Washburn Law Redesigns Website

 washburnlaw.edu



LEGAL WRITING PROGRAM AGAIN RANKED AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION

Washburn University School of Law's Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Program (LARW) is ranked 11th among all law schools in the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2014 Best Graduate Schools ranking. The LARW program at Washburn Law is the only law school specialty program in Kansas and the Kansas City metro area to receive a national ranking for 2014.

Highlights of the Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing Program at Washburn Law include:

- Focus on preparing students for the actual practice of law
- Professors dedicated to legal writing as one of their primary fields for teaching, scholarship, and service
- Foundation in legal reasoning, research, and oral advocacy

From its inception, the strength of Washburn Law's LARW program has



been its commitment by faculty to provide integrated skills education essential in producing competent, practice-ready graduates committed to serving their clients, the legal profession, and society at large. Our full-time LARW professors co-direct the first-year program and are members of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) and the Legal Writing Institute (LWI). As experts in their field, LARW faculty members have shared their teaching expertise with peers at the Free University of Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia and with visiting Chilean law professors.

Washburn Law legal writing professors regularly teach a seminar session in the Washburn Law Clinic, helping students to make a smooth transition between classroom and practice, and our legal writing students observe oral arguments before state and federal appellate courts.

Fall 2012 Entering Class



The entering class of 2012 includes students from around the world — spanning Arizona to Virginia; New York to California; and from Armenia and Bolivia. Sixty-three percent are from Kansas. They represent 52 different undergraduate schools. The top feeder school is the University of Kansas with 21 undergraduates. There are 11 Kansas State University graduates, followed by Washburn University with 10, and Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University with five each.

LAW LIBRARY RANKED 19TH BY *THE NATIONAL JURIST*

What makes a
GREAT LAW LIBRARY
today?

Washburn Law Library is among the top 20 law school libraries in the nation, according to an article in the November/December 2012 issue of *The National Jurist*, a national magazine for law students. The magazine measured 178 law school libraries based upon their collection, facility, and staff resources.

Using data each school reports to the American Bar Association, *The National Jurist* compared libraries in seven categories: number of volumes and volume equivalents; number of titles; number of serial subscriptions; hours with professional staff on duty each week; facility square footage; number of study seats; and number of computer workstations. The latter three categories were expressed as a ratio to student enrollment.

The four top-rated libraries were at Harvard, Iowa, Texas, and Minnesota. Other top 20 libraries include those at Yale, Northwestern, Virginia, Michigan, Washington & Lee, Ohio State, Georgetown, Stanford, and the University of California, both at Berkeley and Hastings.

Earlier in 2012, an article in the *Law Library Journal* found Washlaw, the website maintained by the Washburn Law Library, to be the most influential source of legal information available anywhere on the Internet, as measured by the number of sites to which Washlaw links and by the number of sites that link to it.

Spring 2013 Entering Class



Washburn Law's Spring 2013 entering class is comprised of students with undergraduate degrees in biology, criminal justice, environmental sciences, history, hospital/health care administration, humanities, marketing, political science, psychology, and social sciences. Six students come from out-of-state schools: Cleveland State University, Columbia College-Mo., National American University, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Texas-San Antonio, and Wayland Baptist University.

Thirteen students attended Kansas colleges, including Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Friends University, Newman College, University of Kansas, Washburn University, and Wichita State University.

WASHBURN LAW CLINIC INTERNS WIN CASES FOR CLIENTS

Carly McPeak was the inaugural recipient of the Ellis & Judd Outstanding Directed Intern Award. Josh Garrett was selected as the Spring 2013 recipient of the Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice.

At the beginning of the semester, McPeak was given a hotly contested divorce case which was complicated by a protection from stalking case and two criminal matters stemming from the actions of the Clinic client's abusive husband. After negotiating a settlement of the case and preparing to present the terms at pretrial, McPeak was advised moments before the hearing that the settlement was off. Trial was set with less than three weeks to prepare.

"Carly did a masterful job preparing for the hearing," said Associate Professor Lynette Petty, who presented the award to McPeak. "She dealt with multiple issues at trial, including debt and property division, child support, distribution of tax refunds, and parenting time. Carly pored over mounds of evidence to determine which documents should be introduced during trial. Her direct required a skillful telling of a complicated story over emotional details of the events that had transpired. While our client's income was limited, Carly worked with the facts she had to show the Court that our client could cashflow the mortgage on the house and pay the debts to cover her husband's equity."

Petty continued, "To add to Carly's challenges, the Respondent was represented by a very experienced attorney known for his trial work and ability to effectively cross examine witnesses. Carly more than held her own. Her preparation paid off for her client who ultimately prevailed on every issue."

"Carly McPeak has definitely earned her award," said Petty.

Josh Garrett was presented with the Ungerman Award by Associate Professor Rebecca Woodman.

"There was one intern in particular whose clinic work this semester, in our judgment, best exemplifies the spirit of the Ungerman Award," said Woodman. "For most of the semester, Josh represented one client in several cases. Soon after the semester started, he was confronted with a motion to revoke a diversion in a prior case involving possession of alcohol and drug paraphernalia, based



on a new DUI charge. In preparing for the hearing on the motion to revoke, Josh discovered that the stipulated facts underlying the diversion agreement were insufficient to establish one of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

"At the hearing," Woodman continued, "Josh exercised great judgment, initiative and skillful advocacy in presenting and arguing this legal defect to the court, and thus precluded his client from being found guilty on that charge. He then represented his client in a Department of Revenue administrative hearing that arose in conjunction with the DUI charge. He did a masterful job in examining the arresting officer to set the stage for the defense of his client on the DUI. That defense included the filing of a motion to suppress the evidence against the client due to a lack of probable cause to arrest, which was heard by the district court just last week."

"Josh's careful preparation and research was evident in his performance at the hearing, and he exhibited great skill in cross-examining the State's witnesses and presenting closing argument to the court. The court granted the motion to suppress in part, which now sets the stage, not only for the upcoming jury trial, but for a potential appellate issue arguing that the evidence remaining after the court's suppression order is insufficient to establish probable cause for the arrest. In our view, Josh exhibited the highest level of professional skill, judgment and advocacy during each stage of his Clinic representation, and he deserves special recognition," Woodman said.



*By Professor
Lynette Petty, '87*

A child is brought across the border, carried in the arms of his mother. The family settles in Topeka and makes a home for themselves. The child grows up speaking English, attending public schools, making friends, playing sports, learning and enjoying American culture. For all intents and purposes, the child – now a young man – is American. Except he isn't. He is undocumented and could be removed from this country and sent back to a place he does not know. He is a Dreamer. He dreams of one day being able to work and live in the United States without fear of removal.

While surveys show a majority of Americans are sympathetic to this young man's situation and would be in favor of some form of immigration relief for the Dreamers, Congress has not approved legislation to revise the immigration code. On June 15, 2012, President Obama issued a controversial administrative policy allowing Dreamers to apply for deferred action. The Department of Homeland Security was directed to exercise, as appropriate, prosecutorial discretion for those who are approved and not use enforcement resources on these low priority cases. With deferred action also comes eligibility for employment authorization.

The Law Clinic represents young people applying for deferred action as Dreamers. Eligibility requires proof of the following:

- ✓ Being less than 31 years old on June 15, 2012.
- ✓ Having come to the U.S. before the age of 16.
- ✓ Having continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007.

- ✓ Being physically present in the U.S. now and on June 15, 2012.
- ✓ Entering the U.S. without inspection before June 15, 2012 or having lawful immigration status expired as of that date.
- ✓ Having graduated from high school or obtained a GED, being in school or a GED program now, or being honorably discharged from military service in the U.S.
- ✓ Not having a felony conviction, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors and not posing a threat to national security.

Interns in the Law Clinic help clients gather documentation to prove the elements of their case and file all of the necessary forms for deferred action. As one can imagine, it is not always easy to come up with an actual document to prove you have been in the United States every month since 2007 or even that you were actually here on the exact day of June 15, 2012. All of these documents must be organized in a logical way to make sure immigration officials will see that each element is met.

Working with Dreamers has been a rewarding experience for our interns. Our clients are grateful for the representation as they navigate an immigration system that can be very intimidating to someone who must come forward and openly reveal his undocumented status.

AHRENS EARNS KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE RAYMOND SPRING AWARD



Amy Ahrens, '12, was the Spring 2013 recipient of the Kansas Association for Justice Raymond Spring Award. This award is given to the Law Clinic intern who has demonstrated the highest commitment to providing legal services to clients in need. The Kansas Association for Justice Raymond Spring Award was established in remembrance of **Raymond Spring, '59**, former professor and dean of the law school.

While in clinic, Ahrens represented clients in a variety of domestic and criminal cases. In one case, she worked long hours on a post-conviction petition that remained pending beyond her clinic semester. Ahrens wanted to see the case through, so she volunteered her time in the clinic during the holiday break and spring semester in order to fulfill her professional responsibility to her client. Ahrens' supervising attorney, Professor Aliza Organick, remembers her as "dependable, hardworking and, overall, a terrific student." Ahrens currently represents clients through her general practice office in Tonganoxie, Kan.

SOMERS COMPLETES SECOND JURY TRIAL AS LAW STUDENT

While admitting that her last semester in law school was a marathon, recent graduate **Christi Somers, '13**, says she could not imagine searching for a job as a prosecutor without the practical experience she gained the past year through her internship with the Shawnee County District Attorney's office.

She has successfully completed her second jury trial, one that included one count of domestic battery and one count of interference with a law enforcement officer. Somers said she handled the case on her own, from *voir dire* to sentencing.

"I know what I'm doing," said Somers. "I can handle it. I'm prepared. I can step into any district attorney or county attorney's office and know how to handle a case from day one until it's over."

"I felt confident going in. I thought it was a pretty solid case although there were quite a few obstacles with it. There was an eye-witness so basically it came down to if the jury would believe the eye-witness. Going into deliberations I wasn't quite sure how they would go. I couldn't really tell throughout the trial what the jury was feeling. I was really surprised. I got the guilty on the domestic battery but not on the interference count. The domestic battery is the top charge so it was the one we were really wanting. And I offered a plea to defense prior to the trial and basically the outcome was exactly what the plea would have been. I wish I could have gotten him guilty on both counts, but it made me feel reassured that I offered a decent plea for what the case was and the evidence we had. And for the jury to return almost exactly the same verdict. That was pretty crazy."

"I really don't understand how someone can start as a prosecutor without completing an internship like this because you really learn everything that law school can't teach you: how to deal with defense counsel, how to deal with issues that may arise, how to deal with judges — things like that."

Somers has worked for the Shawnee County District Attorney's office since May 2012 after participating in the on-campus interview process at Washburn Law, coordinated by the Professional Development Office (PDO).

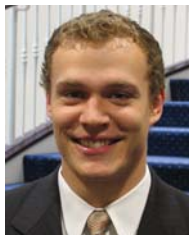
"The PDO is there to help you in any fashion that you need. They bring the district offices onto campus so you can interview with all of them in the same day. It makes it really convenient for the students' schedules and I think it helps the district attorneys' offices too, because they can come and just interview a bunch of people at once. They have the on-campus interview and then they do call backs in some of the offices so you have multiple opportunities to get hired someplace. They really help. And afterwards if they know you are interested in the prosecution they can help look for employers or alumni who can help connect you with potential employers," Somers said.



Practice-Ready Graduates

BELSAN, '09, NAMED 2012 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL DIVISION ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Tim Belsan, '09, was recently named the 2012 U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division Rookie of the Year. This elite award is given "in recognition of exceptional performance and notable contributions toward the Division's mission by any employee with fewer than three years of service with the Division, and fewer than five years overall Federal service."



Tim
Belsan, '09

While attending law school, Belsan was editor-in-chief of the *Washburn Law Journal* and later worked as a law clerk for The Honorable Deanell Reece Tacha with the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit before joining the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a member of the Kansas, Missouri, and Tenth Circuit bars.

HENKE, '12, ELECTED DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Renee Henke, May 2012 Washburn Law graduate, was elected as district magistrate judge in Kansas' 17th Judicial District, Division 4. Henke is based in Downs, Kan., in the north central part of the state.



Renee
Henke, '12

After winning the Democratic primary in August, Henke defeated Richard E. Linton in the Nov. 6 general election, garnering 59 percent of the vote. Henke campaigned door-to-door and said she was pleasantly surprised that her youth was viewed as a strength. She said that most people "liked to see someone young moving back to the area, using their education and coming back and trying to help build the community and maybe encourage other young people to come back here as well."

In preparing for her position, Henke worked closely with current Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Thornton and spent time shadowing 17th Judicial District Judge Preston Pratt. As a district magistrate, Judge Henke has jurisdiction over traffic infractions and cigarette or tobacco infractions as

well as criminal misdemeanors and juvenile cases. She has authority to conduct preliminary hearings, arraignments in criminal felonies, and jurisdiction over probate matters.

While in law school, Henke was a law clerk with Irigonegaray & Associates; a teaching assistant for Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing; and secretary for the Washburn Student Bar Association.

LAUTT, '12, WINS SUPREME COURT CASE 22 DAYS AFTER BAR ADMITTANCE

Steven A. Lautt, May 2012 graduate, argued his first case before the North Dakota Supreme Court 22 days after being sworn in and won the case when the Court issued its opinion in *Hamilton v. Woll* on Nov. 27.



Steven A.
Lautt, '12

At issue was the important oil and gas principle of whether certain conveyance language creates a "royalty" interest or a "mineral" interest; the distinction can have significant financial and development ramifications. Lautt was successful for his client by convincing the Court to overturn an adverse summary judgment to allow consideration of extrinsic evidence to interpret an oil and gas conveyance. As a result of the Court's remand, Lautt is handling his first trial in district court.

Lautt says the critical balance of confidence and humility learned at Washburn Law has helped him navigate law practice upon graduation.

"The most important idea that Washburn Law teaches its students is the appropriate balance of confidence and humility. Law school graduates in their first year of practice certainly don't know all the answers, but Washburn graduates can be confident that the instruction they received during law school will allow them to find the answers and effectively argue on a client's behalf."

Lautt works at the Pringle & Herigstad Law Firm in Minot. While attending Washburn Law, he was a staff writer for the *Washburn Law Journal* and president of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

PROFESSOR CONCANNON RECEIVES JUSTICE AWARD

In front of a packed courtroom filled with friends, family, colleagues, and former students, Professor James M. Concannon received the Justice Award from the Kansas Supreme Court during a special session on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012. The award — the Court's highest — is given to recognize persons or organizations that have contributed significantly to the improvement of justice in Kansas. **Linda Elrod, '72**, Washburn University School of Law Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law, and **David Heinemann, '73**, a Topeka attorney who served as a legislator from Garden City for 27 years, presented Concannon to the Court. Both shared their professional and personal stories of Concannon and his positive impact on his many students, colleagues, family, and friends.

"I have never wanted to attend my own funeral, and now it really seems that no purpose would be served," Concannon joked in response to their comments.

The Court recognized Concannon for his career-long service to the legal community and, in particular, the courts. Among his principal activities for the improvement of justice in Kansas, Concannon has been a member of the Pattern Instructions for Kansas Civil and Criminal Committees since 2001 and the Judicial Council's Civil Code Advisory Committee since 2008. That committee, among other activities, restyled and revised the first three articles of the Kansas Code of Civil Procedure and revised time computation standards throughout the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

Concannon was a member of the Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee, from 2010 to 2012, when the Supreme Court adopted sweeping changes to the rules attorneys follow in court cases. A long-time advocate of keeping courts out of politics, Concannon has served on the Kansas Commission on Judicial Performance since 2006. He has represented Kansas on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws since 1998.

Concannon served as dean of Washburn University School of Law from 1988 to 2001, and has since served as a Distinguished Professor of



Jim
Concannon

Law. In 2013, he was named the Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law. Before serving as dean, he had been a member of the law school faculty since 1973. Concannon has authored numerous chapters and legal treatises. His detailed history of Washburn Law from its founding in 1903 to 2003, entitled, *"The Ideal Place...for the Establishment of a Great Law School": History of Washburn Law School 1903-2003*, was published in June 2012 by the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association.

Recipients of the Justice Award receive an engraved plaque and a \$500 stipend. In addition, a permanent plaque listing the names of recipients is on public display in the Judicial Center just outside the courtroom. The stipends have been awarded from earnings on a \$10,000 check the Court received in 1987, when its program to reduce delay in the courts was recognized by the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice, a national organization founded by the late James W. Chapman, of Atlanta. Kansas was the first state to establish specific time standards for disposing of cases for each of five major case categories. Numerous statements have followed up such time standards and guidelines.

Any Kansan or Kansas organization, except members of the Supreme Court and their personal staff and the members of the Justice Awards Nominating Committee, is eligible for the award. Washburn Law alumni Justice Award past recipients include **Robert A. Cobean, '35**; **Jack R. Euler, '53**; **Gerald L. Goodell, '58**; **Judge Jerry L. Mershon, '61**; **Paul E. Wilson, '40**; and **Arno Windscheffel, '34**. Other recipients of the award include: Kenneth Bronson, Rev. Wardell A. Chambers, Lewis L. Ferguson, Marion County Extended Learning, Justice David Prager, and Judge Herbert W. Walton.



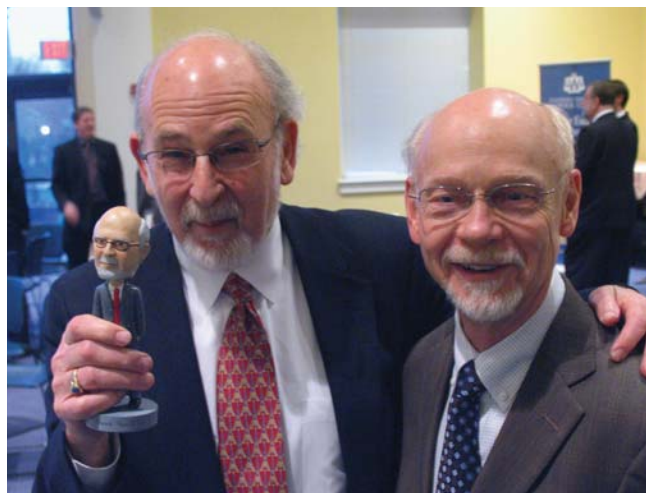
PROFESSOR PIERCE HONORED BY RMMLF



*David
Pierce, '77*

Professor David Pierce, '77, was presented with the 2012 Clyde O. Martz Teaching Award from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation on July 19, 2012. The award recognizes excellence in teaching natural resources law and fostering of a broad understanding of the law, mentoring of students, and an innovative teaching style.

Faculty News



At the annual advocacy awards banquet, students presented Professor Michael Kaye with a bobblehead that resembled both him and Professor Myrl Duncan.

PROFESSOR GLASHAUSSER RECEIVES 52 AWARD

Professor Alex Glashauser was presented with the 52 Award from the *Washburn Law Journal*. This year, the Volume 52 Board of Editors realized the need to recognize the pivotal role that the Washburn Law faculty plays in ensuring the success of the *Washburn Law Journal*. For this reason, the Board created this award, the "52." The 52 honors a faculty member who goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist the *Journal*,

the Board of Editors, and student writers. Although the outstanding service, dedication, wise advice, and priceless insight of the 52's recipient cannot fully be repaid, he will be honored by a travelling trophy and enough red pens to survive the next year's volume.



Alex Glashauser

PROFESSOR BAHADUR NAMED CLEO CONSULTANT

Professor Rory Bahadur has been selected the National Academic Curriculum Consultant by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), a division of the American Bar Association. CLEO was founded in 1968 as a non-profit project of the ABA Fund for Justice and Education to expand opportunities for minority and low-income students to attend law school. In his role as consultant, Professor Bahadur will be assisting CLEO



*Rory
Bahadur*

with program development and oversee all of CLEO's programming for entering and first-year law students. He will be training CLEO faculty at schools hosting CLEO Summer Institutes, hiring and training a team of CLEO Regional Curriculum Consultants, and teaching minority and economically disadvantaged law students to be expert, self-regulated learners.

Professor Bahadur joined the Washburn Law faculty in 2007 and was voted Professor of the Year in 2010 and 2012. He currently teaches Torts, Civil Procedure, Admiralty and Maritime Law, and Federal Courts and presents nationally on teaching methods and techniques.

New Faculty



Andrea J. Boyack
Associate Professor
of Law



Emily Grant
Associate Professor
of Law



Frédéric G. Sourgens
Associate Professor
of Law



Rebecca E. Woodman
Visiting Associate
Professor of Law

Andrea J. Boyack joined Washburn Law after serving as a visiting professor at Fordham University School of Law, George Washington University School of Law, and Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Prior to entering academia, Professor Boyack practiced corporate and real estate law for 13 years in New York City and the Washington, D.C. area with Reed Smith; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; Goodwin Proctor; and O'Melveny & Myers. She also served as in-house regional counsel to Toll Brothers, Inc. While in law school, she was Notes Editor for the *Virginia Journal of International Law* and directed the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. After law school, Professor Boyack clerked for Judge John Gleeson of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York. Professor Boyack has written and presented on issues relating to the housing crisis, the secondary mortgage market, and common interest community governance. Her current scholarship focuses on transactional freedom and individual liberties in the context of real property development and control, including issues regarding society's optimal allocation of risk, costs, power, and resources.

Emily Grant began teaching legal writing courses at her alma mater, the University of Illinois College of Law, where as a student she served as Articles Editor for the *Illinois Law Review*. She joined the University of Kansas School of Law faculty as a part-time lecturer in the Lawyering Program. Later Professor Grant was named as a full-time lawyering professor while also working with students as part of the Academic Resources Program. Before transitioning to a teaching career, Professor Grant was senior court counsel for the Palau Supreme Court, which serves the small island nation located in the Pacific Ocean. She also clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

Frédéric Sourgens' teaching and scholarship focus on international dispute resolution, with a particular emphasis on resolution of disputes involving political risk. He has published numerous articles on international arbitration and serves as editor for the Oxford University Press reporter of investor-state arbitral decisions. Prior to joining Washburn Law, Professor Sourgens practiced international arbitration in the Washington, D.C. office of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy and the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski and worked as counsel in ICSID, UNCITRAL, ICC and LCIA arbitrations representing diverse clients such as Yukos Oil Company, Fraport AG, the Government of Mongolia, and U.S. private equity and financial services companies. While in Washington, D.C., he was an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center and, in 2010, received the Georgetown University Law Center Council of Barristers Inaugural Alternative Dispute Resolution Award for Coaching Excellence.

Rebecca E. Woodman began as an adjunct professor at Washburn Law in 2007, teaching courses on capital punishment and wrongful convictions. Prior to joining the Washburn faculty as a visiting professor, Woodman was with the Capital Appellate Defender Office in Topeka, Kan., where she represented death row inmates on direct appeal, habeas corpus petitions, and petitions for *certiorari*. She twice argued *Kansas v. Marsh* (2006), a case involving the constitutionality of the Kansas death penalty, in the Supreme Court of the United States. Professor Woodman has also served as *amicus* counsel in the Supreme Court. During her work as an appellate defender, Woodman litigated numerous capital and non-capital cases on appeal and in the district courts. Previously, she was a staff attorney to the Kansas Sentencing Commission. Professor Woodman has published several articles on issues related to criminal law, including the death penalty, the insanity defense, and international criminal law.

Endowed Chairs and Professorships Awarded

Five Washburn Law professors have been honored for their excellence in teaching by alumni and supporters who have endowed positions that provide funding for professional development and research.

David Pierce, '77, and William Rich are first-time holders of five-year endowed chairs, while James Concannon and Amy Deen Westbrook are first-time holders of five-year endowed professorships. **Linda Henry Elrod, '72**, was reaffirmed as holder of an endowed professorship.

"These endowments recognize the outstanding work of our professors in their teaching and in their overall contributions to Washburn Law and the legal community," Dean Thomas Romig said. Endowed positions provide funds that are available to the professors to enhance their instructional programs, to fund research projects, and to advance their overall scholarly work.

"To be a top law school we must have the best talent. Endowed faculty professorships and chairs make it possible to recruit and retain talented academicians," Romig added. "Washburn Law is extremely grateful to the donors and their commitment to the future of our law school."

David Pierce, Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law

Professor Pierce has been named the Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law endowed by **Norman R. Pozez**, who graduated from Washburn Law in 1980. It is awarded to a faculty member who has made extraordinary contributions to the law school primarily in the area of teaching and who is a traditional academic and/or an individual with prominence in the chosen field of study, with preference given to a professor in the area of Business and Transactional Law.

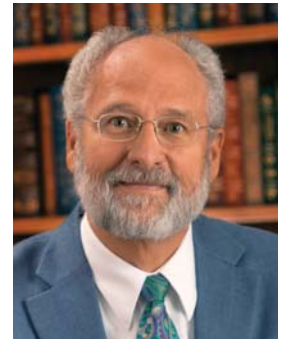


David Pierce, '77

Pierce has been the energy behind Washburn Law's oil and gas program, teaching many of the core courses since its inception in 1989. He has continued to elevate the program through his publications and his work with the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, where he served as president and from which he recently received the Clyde O. Martz Teaching Award. He previously served as the director of the Business and Transactional Law Center and now serves as director of the Oil and Gas Law Center. Before joining academia, Pierce worked in-house for Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas, as of-counsel for the Gable & Gotwals law firm in Tulsa, Okla., and for the Shughart Thomson & Kilroy law firm in Kansas City, Mo. He earned a master of laws from the University of Utah College of Law and is a Washburn Law graduate.

Bill Rich, James R. Ahrens Chair in Torts and Constitutional Law

Professor Rich has been named the James R. Ahrens Chair in Torts and Constitutional Law endowed by the law firm of Michaud, Cordry, Michaud, Hutton and Hutton, named in honor of former Washburn Law professor James R. Ahrens. Rich, who has served as acting dean and interim dean during his tenure at Washburn Law, teaches Constitutional Law, Constitutional Litigation, Civil Liberties, and Jurisprudence. For several years he worked with Washburn Law Clinic students representing inmates in constitutional challenges to Kansas prison conditions. Before joining the Washburn Law faculty, he was a law clerk for Chief Justice Donald Wright of the California Supreme Court and he served as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Wichita. Rich's publications address a wide range of constitutional law topics, including federalism, sovereign immunity, prison conditions, and race relations. He received a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law.



Bill Rich

Linda Henry Elrod, Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law

Professor Elrod has been reaffirmed as the Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law, which was created by a gift from the Richard S. Righter Trust and is awarded to a faculty member who has made extraordinary contributions to the law school primarily in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. Righter became a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Lathrop, Crane, Sawyer, Woodson & Righter, which evolved into Lathrop, Woodson, Righter, Blackwell & Parker. Today, the firm is Lathrop & Gage.



Linda Elrod, '72

Elrod is the director of the Children and Family Law Center and has brought national and international attention to the Center through her scholarship and expertise in the field. She frequently is sought after by the media to offer legal analysis on children and family law issues and by organizations as a continuing legal education speaker. She served as a Fulbright senior specialist at Dublin Institute of Technology in 2011. She is past chair of the American Bar Association Family Law Section; served as co-chair of the ABA Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Advisory Board; and has been editor of the American Bar Association *Family Law Quarterly* since 1992. Elrod graduated from Washburn University School of Law in 1972.

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

Professor Concannon was named the Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law, an endowed fund established by a gift from **Senator Robert J. Dole**, who graduated from Washburn Law in 1952. The professorship is awarded to a faculty member considered to be an excellent teacher, who may be a traditional academic or an individual with prominence in the field of law



Jim Concannon

— Concannon has achieved both. His leadership as dean shepherded Washburn Law for more than a decade from 1988 to 2001. His career-long service and dedication to the legal community, in particular the courts, was recognized in December 2012 by the Kansas Supreme Court, which presented him with its Justice Award. After receiving a law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law, Concannon served as a law clerk in the Office of the Kansas Attorney General and the Office of the Kansas Insurance Commissioner and as a research attorney for Justice Alex Fromme of the Kansas Supreme Court. He joined the Washburn Law faculty in 1972.

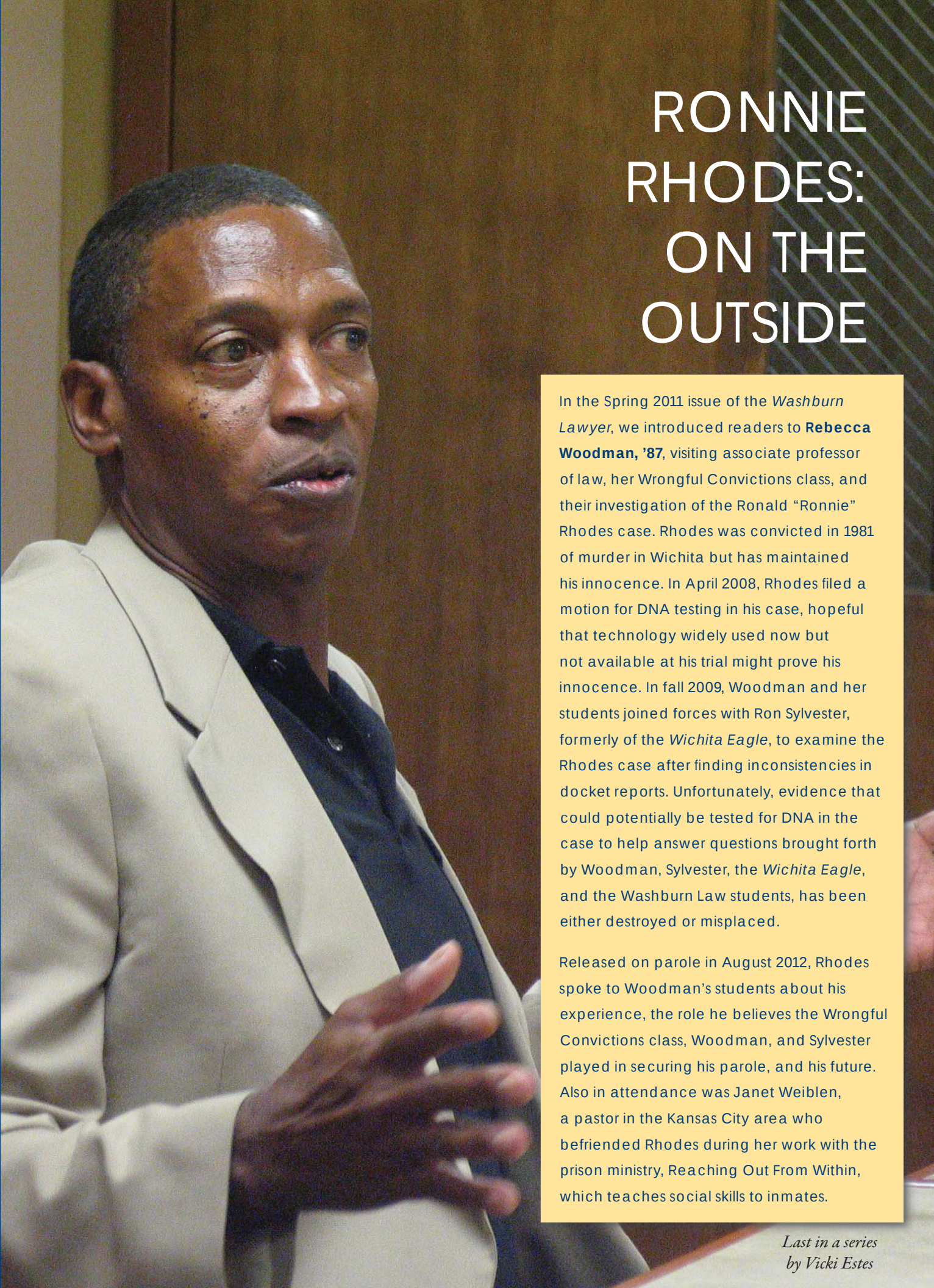
Amy Deen Westbrook, Kurt M. Sager Memorial Distinguished Professor of International and Commercial Law

Professor Westbrook has been named the Kurt M. Sager Memorial Distinguished Professor of International and Commercial Law, which was established by **Stan, '57**, and **Shirley Sager** in memory of their son **Kurt Sager, '76**, who died in 1998 at the age of 44. It is awarded to a faculty member considered to be an excellent teacher, who may be a traditional academic or an individual with prominence in the field of law, with preference given to a professor in the area of International or Commercial Law.



Amy Westbrook

Westbrook's teaching and research focus on financial, international, and transactional subjects. She has worked for the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels, Belgium, and as an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in Washington, D.C. In her previous position at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, Westbrook taught courses on international finance, securities regulation, international trade, the North American Free Trade Agreement, acquisition transactions, and transactional practice. She also served as the director of the University of Buffalo New York City Program in International Finance and Law. She teaches Business Associations, Financial Institution Regulation, International Business Transactions, and Securities Regulation. Westbrook is the director of the Business and Transactional Law Center at Washburn Law. She received a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1992.



RONNIE RHODES: ON THE OUTSIDE

In the Spring 2011 issue of the *Washburn Lawyer*, we introduced readers to **Rebecca Woodman, '87**, visiting associate professor of law, her Wrongful Convictions class, and their investigation of the Ronald "Ronnie" Rhodes case. Rhodes was convicted in 1981 of murder in Wichita but has maintained his innocence. In April 2008, Rhodes filed a motion for DNA testing in his case, hopeful that technology widely used now but not available at his trial might prove his innocence. In fall 2009, Woodman and her students joined forces with Ron Sylvester, formerly of the *Wichita Eagle*, to examine the Rhodes case after finding inconsistencies in docket reports. Unfortunately, evidence that could potentially be tested for DNA in the case to help answer questions brought forth by Woodman, Sylvester, the *Wichita Eagle*, and the Washburn Law students, has been either destroyed or misplaced.

Released on parole in August 2012, Rhodes spoke to Woodman's students about his experience, the role he believes the Wrongful Convictions class, Woodman, and Sylvester played in securing his parole, and his future. Also in attendance was Janet Weiblen, a pastor in the Kansas City area who befriended Rhodes during her work with the prison ministry, Reaching Out From Within, which teaches social skills to inmates.

*Last in a series
by Vicki Estes*

Tasting freedom for the first time in 31 years, Ronnie Rhodes described his first main meal outside prison walls. “It was a lovely dinner with Janet (Weiblen) and my mentor. We had roast pork, mashed potatoes and squash, and a spinach salad with mandarin oranges and avocados. And a drink—sangria—non-alcoholic of course,” Rhodes recalled with a smile. The meal was in stark contrast to his original wish for a basic bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich. He said he thought better of it after someone told him he was crazy to want to eat a sandwich on his first day out of prison after 31 years.

Rhodes was paroled in August 2012 after eight unsuccessful attempts before the Kansas Parole Board beginning in 1996. He says the parole board gave a different reason each time for not releasing him or they required that he complete new goals. One time, he says the parole board told him he would need to quit smoking before they would consider his release. “I got one reason and that was to develop a no-smoking plan,” he chuckled. “And follow it—cigarettes that is,” he added to clarify.

“I’m telling you every time I saw the next board it was a different board. So I could never get a leg up.”

Rhodes believes the only way he would have been released sooner was if he were to confess the crime, something he often felt pressured to do. “Every time, because, you see, in Kansas parole is grace. It’s not a right. It’s a privilege, and it’s these three powerful people that grant you this privilege. They expect for those of us who are asking for this hand of grace to show remorse for what we had done. I couldn’t admit to something I didn’t do.”

So for 31 years Rhodes did the drill, met with the parole board, listened to what they had to say and then, after being denied, awaited his next hearing. “And if they’d have kept me there for 30 more years I would have just been there ‘cause I didn’t kill this guy. I’m sorry he’s dead. But I didn’t kill him.”

In an attempt to eliminate the racial disparity existing in the indeterminate method of sentencing felons, the Kansas Legislature instituted the 1993 Kansas Sentencing Guidelines. Most inmates in the Kansas prison system today have defined sentence lengths based on those guidelines. However, more than 700 inmates, like Rhodes, incarcerated before the guidelines took effect, must go before the parole board once they are eligible. In 2011 a prisoner review board replaced the parole board.

“I believe that with the prison review board my story became more important. It scared ‘em,” Rhodes said.

After being passed up for parole again in 2011, Rhodes recalled Weiblen’s suggestion that he maintain a low profile and cease talking about the case. “Like Janet has always told me, ‘No matter what, Ronnie Rhodes, these people are not going to say they were wrong.’”

“There was a lot of publicity about this case and a lot of pressure not only on D.O.C. officials but on the Wichita police department to release records they were refusing to release. And even on the parole board before it became the prisoner review board to release records that they had refused to release because there was public pressure to do so,” Woodman explained to the students. “I think it was very prudent for Ronnie to keep quiet for a while. It had the desired effect in the long run, but it had reached a critical mass.”



Professor Woodman explains the Rhodes case to students.

Rhodes believes the publicity generated by the investigation prompted the prisoner review board to examine his case. “It caused them to read the facts of the case, that there’s a problem, and it’s not Ronnie Rhodes saying there’s a problem. It’s people working that have a career, as a lawyer, or newspaper reporter. It’s these people saying there’s a problem,” Rhodes said. “Make no mistake. That is the reason I am out of prison and I will never forget that, ever.”

Rhodes was abruptly transferred in December 2011 from Lansing, where he had spent 19 years, to Hutchinson a month after the Washburn Law Clinic filed a petition for clemency to Gov. Sam Brownback and sought signatures for a petition. Department of Corrections officials did not offer a reason for the transfer, which at the time was devastating for Rhodes, who had secured a job working in the kitchen in his unit at Lansing. In hindsight, however, Rhodes believes the move was for the best and that it accomplished his goal to blend in with the prison population. "To some extent they accomplished that for me because they transferred me from Lansing to Hutch. So they kind of sent me underground."

rang while in the midst of his dialogue with the students, prompting giggles from the crowd. After a quick, "I'll call you back," he returned his focus on the students.

"My problem is wanting to master everything right now. I'm trying to make up for lost time and am in a hurry to catch up."

Originally from Wichita, Rhodes says his family is now here, motioning to Woodman and Wieblen. Rhodes chose not to parole to his hometown, saying he wouldn't have survived there, afraid that someone with an axe to grind might try to get him thrown back in jail.



Ronnie Rhodes talks to the Wrongful Convictions class about his experiences with the legal system.

Freedom has not brought Rhodes the sense of independence one would expect. In fact, Rhodes says he has encountered the opposite.

"In prison, I was in control of what I did, dependent on no one but myself." Now, Rhodes tackles the uncertainties life in the modern world presents, exacerbated by 30 years of technology upgrades.

Most difficult for Rhodes is facing situations where he has to remind himself that he doesn't know the answer. "I'm having a difficult time. I've been out for eight days and I'm having a difficult time. The cell phone is killing me really, and the computer," Rhodes admitted. His cell phone

"My problem is wanting to master everything right now. I'm trying to make up for lost time and am in a hurry to catch up."

Ronnie Rhodes

"I'm under old law and under parole so if someone calls my parole officer and says something like, 'Well, he's drinking,' I'm going to jail. Until they sort it out, I'm going to jail. OK, yeah, bring his black ass back this way; we got something for him."

Reaching Out from Within, formerly known as Stop the Violence, had a profound impact on Rhodes since its introduction to Lansing inmates in May 2004. "It became my breath. That program became what I needed to pattern my life by. They became my family and my support team. And I love 'em."

At that moment, Rhodes fought back tears. "I love 'em, and um, so I wanted to be where..." With his face buried in his hands, he wept and then quickly apologized. "I told myself I wasn't gonna do this. I wanted to be with my family so that is why I didn't go back to Wichita."

Rhodes earned a paralegal degree while in prison and is hopeful he can use it someday to help others. When asked by a student what he would change if he could change one thing in the legal system, Rhodes seemed pensive.

“I think that bad convictions come from the initial investigation. I think that the police officers, detectives in particular, when they are investigating a particular crime, they should be a little more thorough...” his voice trailed.

“When they’ve got a witness who has blood all over them?” Woodman interjected.

At press time, Rhodes was living in a faith-based Oxford House planning his next steps, but navigating them one at a time. He explained his desire to regain freedom and to be on his own, yet is he aware that he needs time to adjust to his new life outside prison.

“‘Oh, I am ready’ — you tell yourself that but you’re not ready. But when I am able, other people will help me validate that I am ready.”

As Rhodes’ discussion with the class came to a close, Woodman reflected on the investigation and a conversation she recalled having with her Wrongful Convictions class about the final transcripts of Rhodes’ case.

“The trial’s transcripts pretty clearly show that at the end of the case, when all of the evidence had been presented and the jury began to deliberate, the defense attorney and the judge believed that Ronnie was going to be found not guilty based upon the evidence that was presented at trial,” Woodman recalled.

“Ron [Sylvester] actually talked to the court reporter, who was one of the few people from this case who were still around the Sedgwick County Courthouse, and she remembered Ronnie’s trial and she was shocked that Ronnie had been found guilty.”

So how was Rhodes found guilty in light of what Woodman, the students, and Sylvester uncovered?

“How? I’m not going to pull the race card,” Rhodes said. But Weiblen will.

“Well I’m gonna pull the race card because I’ve read what you (Rebecca) came up with and there was only one viable suspect as far as I can tell. And we’re talking about probably someone well connected who happened to be white. I really think the race card was a major factor in that. I really do and I’ve always thought it was,” Weiblen explained.

If ever found, the missing evidence in the case could eventually exonerate Rhodes. “When we looked at evidence custody receipts, there was no record of that evidence having been destroyed. So, it might still be out there,” Woodman suggested.

Rhodes quickly replied, “But I’m not getting ready to hold my breath on that. I’ve got to get back to living.”



Ronnie Rhodes and Professor Woodman



Oil and Gas Law Center Launched

NEWEST CENTER
FOR EXCELLENCE

The oil and gas industry has always been a multifaceted legal and regulatory environment in which to operate. Rapid growth and change aptly describe the energy industry today. Recent discoveries of oil and shale gas, and the accompanying environmental scrutiny, have created an increased need for lawyers with experience in the energy sector. Law graduates interested in pursuing oil and gas law require a working knowledge of all aspects of the industry, to include the complex property and contract relationships created to develop the resource, and the equally complex mix of environmental and business regulations. Washburn Law's oil and gas program provides a targeted curriculum beneficial to students and to an industry seeking to hire well-qualified law graduates.

"During the past 20 years many law schools have abandoned oil and gas courses, often retiring the discipline with the professor who taught the course," said David Pierce, Norman R. Pozez Chair in Business and Transactional Law and Professor of Law. "To them, having an oil and gas program did not fit with their environmental programs. Oil and gas law was way too capitalist. Our program takes a positive approach to the subject matter because it's not necessarily pro-industry but it's certainly not anti-industry. We are training the future lawyers the industry will need to do business effectively. We are training the future lawyers governmental agencies will need to effectively regulate the industry."

The program that began with three core courses has expanded three-fold over the years, adjusting its curriculum to address topical environmental perspectives, emerging

Recent discoveries of oil and shale gas, and the accompanying environmental scrutiny, have created an increased need for lawyers with experience in the energy sector.

energy sources, and changing regulations. As a reflection of the law school's commitment to the program, it recently announced the establishment of the Oil and Gas Law Center to provide a structure for the existing oil and gas curricula. The Oil and Gas Law Center is the law school's fifth Center for Excellence. Pierce, who has been the driving force behind the oil and gas program at Washburn Law since its inception nearly a quarter of a century ago, is the Center's director, and says the Center structure will allow Washburn Law to more effectively attract students, obtain grants and other financial support for Center programs, and attract alumni and other oil and gas lawyers to assist with the Center's educational mission.

"Because of our program's solid history and our desire to truly meet the needs of a changing industry, we have one of the most extensive oil and gas law programs in the nation," Pierce says. He points to Washburn's use of full-time tenured professors who teach program-related courses



and the law school's judicious use of visiting practitioners who volunteer their time to share their knowledge with students.

Practicing oil and gas lawyers, many of whom are alumni while others are dedicated friends of Washburn Law, volunteer their time for the Mineral Title Examination course, topical symposiums, and other special events that provide Washburn Law students with additional training without additional costs. Oil and gas law, as an elective field of study, has always enjoyed a strong student following. Washburn has a rapidly growing group of alumni who practice oil and gas law.

"One of the major factors that will distinguish a Washburn Law grad from others is that they will have taken several classes specifically focusing on oil and gas," Pierce noted. "I've had employers tell me that's a huge plus, because not only does it validate that the student has an interest in the subject matter but the student also has a substantial amount of background in the area the minute they start working. It may take years for their competitors to gain the same level of knowledge," he said.

"Most students in the program end up with over 100 hours of CLE that we have provided to them beyond the classroom," Pierce estimates. "That sort of environment is really important, is really healthy, and it gives the students more connection with the alumni, the business community, the practicing bar, the judiciary—everybody," he added.

Going the extra mile—or 600 miles in Pierce's case—for students is not unusual at Washburn Law. Students taking the Mineral Title Examination course in 2012 attended the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation's Mineral Title Examination special institute in Denver, at no charge to them, where they received invaluable experience, including the opportunity to network with legal professionals and potential future employers.

"We also make it possible for 1Ls to become actively involved in oil and gas law from the moment they arrive at Washburn," Pierce explains. "Through our oil and gas law lecture series, student travel programs, and unique curriculum, 1Ls can amass a fair amount of oil and gas law training by the time they seek out summer clerkships following their first year in law school. For example, just three months into law school I had several 1Ls who were learning about oil and gas law at the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation's Horizontal Oil & Gas Development special institute."

According to the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, the Kansas oil and gas industry ranks third in the nation for oil and gas exploration. This gives Washburn Law prime access to the industry, its leaders, and experts, many of whom routinely visit Washburn Law, mentoring students and providing hands-on practice.

"It's not uncommon to have lawyers working hand-in-hand with our students imparting knowledge and offering expertise," Pierce explained. He shared a favorite

story of a prospective student who was visiting the law campus with her parents on a Saturday when the Mineral Title Examination course was in session. Pierce says he had just broken everyone into small groups to work on a title problem when he noticed the trio walking through the hallway. When he stopped to introduce himself, the parents explained that their daughter had just been accepted to law school and they wanted to look around.

“Well I said, ‘I’ll show you around.’ Right over here is Justice Larson. He was on the Supreme Court of Kansas and he’s now on the Court of Appeals in senior status. He’s working with those students showing them how to do a title exam because that’s what he used to do before he became a Supreme Court justice,” Pierce recalled saying. He took them to observe the small break-out groups, each being assisted by practicing attorneys who are experts in oil and gas title examination. “I didn’t have to sell anything because it was merely what we do at Washburn Law.”

When presenting to industry groups, Pierce tells people to simply introduce him as a law professor and an oil and gas lawyer. He says “the rest of it is just fluff.” Proud of his association with oil and gas law, Pierce understands the importance of his work to his students, many who have gone on to successful careers in-house and working for leading law firms in the industry. Pierce says Washburn Law graduates can successfully compete for jobs in the oil and gas industry whether they are in Houston, Texas, or Billings, Montana.

“Folks compete from all over the United States to go to Montana, that’s a big deal. One of our recent graduates got his foot in the door to a large extent because he had taken a block of courses that demonstrated he was ready to go to work for them. They love him. And he thinks his career is unfolding in a dreamlike fashion.”

The Oil and Gas Law program includes distinctive course offerings designed to prepare students for the contemporary practice of oil and gas law:

- Oil and Gas Law
- Advanced Oil and Gas Law
- Mineral Title Examination
- Oil and Gas Conservation Law and Practice
- Oil and Gas Taxation
- Environmental Regulation of the Oil and Gas Industry
- Energy Regulation
- Drafting Contracts and Conveyances
- Externship in Oil and Gas Law
- Independent Study in Oil and Gas Law
- Directed Research in Oil and Gas Law
- New Oil and Gas Law Certificate

Students have the opportunity to earn an Oil and Gas Law Certificate after successfully completing a focused course that includes coursework, extracurricular study, professional experience, a writing requirement, and other general requirements.



DEAN'S CIRCLE

Dean's Circle Reception & Dinner

10.15.2012

THE DEAN'S CIRCLE: A RICH TRADITION OF GIVING

The Dean's Circle is a collection of committed leaders who share a common vision of the rule of law, service to Washburn Law, and reciprocal giving. Dean's Circle members bring distinction to the law school through their philanthropy and their life's work.

THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT

Ability has always outweighed assets in determining who is admitted to Washburn Law. Accordingly, our students often come from families of modest means. Therefore, the law school relies on the generosity of our Dean's Circle members to help keep a Washburn Law education affordable.

Washburn Law's ability to educate its students—those who will help the nation meet the legal challenges of the 21st century—depends upon the generosity of our Dean's Circle members. Such philanthropy helps today's students meet real educational goals and thus contributes to the betterment of the rule of law.

YOU DETERMINE THE FUTURE

Your membership in the Dean's Circle will make a difference. Through your vision and support, bright and deserving students will have the opportunity to benefit from a Washburn Law education.

Many members find advantages in making gifts of securities. Your gift of stock qualifies you for an income tax charitable deduction for the current market value of the securities. (Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.) In addition, many companies offer matching gift programs that double or triple the value of your donation. Matching gifts are added to your own personal gift to determine Dean's Circle eligibility.

DEAN'S CIRCLE MEMBER BENEFITS

- Show your leadership and support of Washburn Law.
- Receive special invitations to events throughout the year.
- Receive a special Dean's Circle recognition award in honor of your support.
- Receive an invitation to the annual dinner recognizing all Dean's Circle members.



Prof. Myrl Duncan visits with Jodi Hoss, '02, and Nate Adolf, at the Dean's Circle festivities at the Kansas City Marriott on the Country Club Plaza.



Dean's Circle members Michelle Canter, '92, and Sabrina Standifer, '99, are pictured with Prof. Patricia Judd.

JOIN THE DEAN'S CIRCLE

We thank you for your generosity to the law school, but most importantly for your contribution to our students. Your gift makes a considerable difference.

If you would like to learn more about the Dean's Circle, contact Joel Lauer, development director, at (785) 670-1702 or jlauer@wufoundation.org.

ALUMNI NEWS & Events

Bradley Haddock

HONORED AS 2012 ALUMNI FELLOW

Bradley E. Haddock, '80, Wichita, was honored as the Washburn University Alumni Fellow from the law school on Oct. 26, 2012. Sponsored by the Washburn University deans and the Alumni Association, the Alumni Fellows program recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their career fields. The Alumni Fellows program brings successful alumni to campus to meet with students, faculty, and other alumni and share their expertise formally and informally in the classroom and other campus settings.

Haddock graduated *cum laude* from Washburn University School of Law in 1980. While in law school, he served as executive editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*. Haddock is the founder and chairman of Haddock Law Office in Wichita. He offers a wide-range of legal expertise and hands-on experience, as well as industry-specific legal and business knowledge. He formerly served as executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Koch Chemical Technology Group in Wichita. During his distinguished career at Koch, Haddock served as lead counsel for several key businesses, including Koch's refining, chemicals, and asphalt businesses, and the group of 10 global manufacturing and engineering businesses that became KCTG. While at Koch, he led or significantly



Bradley Haddock, '80, Alumni Fellow, and Washburn University President Jerry B. Farley

The Alumni Fellows program recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their career fields.

participated in more than 65 domestic and international acquisitions.

Haddock has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Arbitration Association since 2005 and was elected to a second four-year term at the AAA's 2009 annual meeting in New York City. He is also a qualified member of the American Arbitration Association's Roster of Neutrals and a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution. During his tenure at Koch, Haddock was an active member of the Association of Corporate Counsel. He is also a member of the Association for

Corporate Growth, American Bar Association, Christian Legal Society, Kansas Bar Association, Licensing Executives Society, and the Wichita Bar Association. He has received an AV (5.0 out of 5.0) rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest peer review rating available for legal expertise and ethics.

A lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America, Haddock is a Distinguished Eagle Scout, served as Quivira Council President, and has been recognized by the National Council with its highest commendation, the Silver Buffalo Award, for his noteworthy and extraordinary volunteer service to youth.

ALUMNI NEWS & Events

7TH ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT AND ETHICS CLE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012, THE GOLF CLUB AT FALCON LAKES, BASEHOR, KAN.

On behalf of the 2012 golf committee, we sincerely thank those who participated and those who provided financial assistance for the 7th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament and Ethics CLE. The net proceeds of \$5,000 will go to unrestricted law school scholarships.

There were 22 hole sponsorships and a total number of 61 golf participants. The Golf Committee chair was **John Jurcyk, '84**, Fairway, Kan.

The 2013 golf tournament will be held on Oct. 4, at Firekeeper Golf Course in Mayetta, Kan. Watch for details coming soon.



Jason Sudenga, Tim Lutz, Rich Enochs, and Darren Enochs



Mark Neis, Jody Brazil, Judge Pat Brazil, and Alan Alderson



Joel Lauer, Sabrina Standifer, Dan Crow, and Paul Hoferer

CLASS Actions

Updates submitted as of February 2013.

47 The Honorable Joseph W. Morris, '47, Tulsa, Okla., was honored for his career accomplishments when he was one of five people named to the Tulsa Hall of Fame.

62 Harry S. Connelly Jr., '62, Las Cruces, N.M., was certified as a specialist in 13 areas of local government law by the New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization.

63 James C. Wright, '63, Topeka, retired after nearly 50 years of practicing law. He was a partner at Shaw, Hergenreter & Quarnstrom before opening his own practice, which focused on workers' compensation defense.

66 Roger K. Weatherby, '66, Shawnee, Kan., has published the novel, *DEATH IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR* (the first of the Parlous Trilogy set in Kansas City) released by Amazon. Weatherby's

second novel in the series, *COLD STONE ALIVE*, will be published early in 2013, with the final book, *WILL EVIL NEVER DIE*, following later in the year.

68 The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has passed a resolution honoring former Kansas State Representative and former Kansas Corporation Commission member **Ward Loyd, '68**, Topeka, for his service to the group. Loyd was a KCC member from February 2010 to June 2012, before working for the attorney general.

72 Linda D. Elrod, '72, Topeka, published "Please Let Me Stay:

Hearing the Voice of the Child in Hague Abduction Cases,” which appears in 63 *Oklahoma Law Review* 663 (2011).

73 **Thomas D. Haney Jr.**, '73, Topeka, has been selected for the 2013 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. Haney, who is of counsel for Henson, Hutton, Mudrick & Gragson, was named in the area of Criminal Defense: White Collar. • **William T. Nichols**, '73, Topeka, is the general counsel, assistant compliance officer, and assistant board secretary at Denison State Bank in Holton, Kan.

74 **Stephen L. Day**, '74, Seattle, Wash., was named president and chief executive officer for American Fast Freight, an ocean freight forwarder headquartered in Renton, Wash. He joined the company as vice president of Corporate Counsel in 2005, became chief operating officer and later was named president. • **C. Michael Lennen**, '74, Topeka, received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kan. He is counsel for the Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock and Kennedy law office in Topeka. • **The Honorable Christel E. Marquardt**, '74, Topeka, retired effective Jan. 2, 2013, from the Kansas Court of Appeals. Before being appointed to the bench, she practiced law for 21 years and was the first female president of the Kansas Bar Association. Marquardt was managing editor of the *Washburn Law Journal* and is a former Washburn University regent and trustee of the Washburn University Foundation. • **The Honorable Meryl D. Wilson**, '74, Manhattan, Kan., was appointed chief judge of the 21st Judicial District, which includes Clay and Riley counties in Kansas. He has served as a district court judge since 1997. • **Roy H. Worthington III**, '74, Lake Quivira, Kan., retired as president and general counsel of Charlson & Wilson Bonded Abstracters Inc., Manhattan, Kan., on Jan. 1, 2012.

75 **David F. Fisher**, '75, Minneapolis, Minn., joined the University of Minnesota Law School as executive director of the Corporate Institute. He is of counsel with

Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, where he has specialized in business law, business organization, and corporate and board governance, and has served clients as general counsel. • **William L. Frost**, '75, Manhattan, Kan., retired as Manhattan city attorney after more than three decades in that position.

76 **Gary B. Harbaugh**, '76, Fort Wayne, Ind., was a candidate for the Indiana House of Representatives.

77 **Jeffrey O. Ellis**, '77, Lake Quivira, Kan., is a health care consultant at Pershing Yoakley & Associates in Kansas City, Mo. • **Michael C. Manning**, '77, Phoenix, was named to the 2012 Top Lawyers list in Business and Corporate Law categories by *Arizona Business Magazine*. He serves as the managing partner at Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP, in the firm's Phoenix office. • **Patrik W. Neustrom**, '77, Salina, Kan., has been selected to serve as the 2012-13 treasurer and Eagles Chair for the Kansas Association for Justice, a statewide, not-for-profit professional association that champions individual and corporate responsibility and accountability, the right to trial by jury, independence of the judiciary, and high standards of ethics. • Washburn Law Professor **David E. Pierce**, '77, Topeka, received the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Clyde Martz Teaching Award at the Foundation's Annual Institute, July 18, 2012, in Newport Beach, Fla.

78 **Bradley J. Prochaska**, '78, Wichita, has been awarded the 2012 Arthur C. Hodgson Award by the Kansas Association for Justice. • Former Secretary of Labor Karin Brownlee reappointed **The Honorable Rebecca A. Sanders**, '78, Topeka, for a four-year term as an administrative law judge for the Kansas Division of Worker's Compensation. • **John C. Shultz**, '78, Wichita, has been awarded the 2012 Humanitarian Award by the Kansas Association for Justice.

79 **Craig C. Blumreich**, '79, Topeka, has been awarded a Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers designation the last five years, from 2008 to 2012. • **The Honorable Thomas E. Malone**, '79, Topeka, was appointed chief judge of the Court of Appeals by the Kansas Supreme Court. He has been a member of the Court of Appeals since 2003. • **David N. Zimmerman**, '79, Overland Park, Kan., has joined Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne LLP as partner in its Kansas City, Mo., office working with the corporate practice group. Zimmerman has provided strategic counsel to clients for more than 30 years in estate and charitable planning; business succession planning; corporate acquisitions and divestitures; and real estate exchanges among others.

80 **Dale E. Bennett**, '80, Westwood, Kan., was selected by his peers to serve as the Kansas Association for Justice 2012-13 president-elect. As president-elect, Bennett serves in the officer corps and will assume the office of president on July 1, 2013. Bennett is with the Law Offices of Dale E. Bennett. • **Douglas A. Matthews**, '80, Great Bend, Kan., is the Barton County attorney. • **Michael A. Preston**, '80, Lenexa, Kan., has become a shareholder at Yeretsky & Maher LLC. • **Bradley G. Rigor**, '80, Naples, Fla., of Quarles & Brady LLP, was named by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine as among the top five percent of attorneys in Florida for 2012. He concentrates his practice on estate planning and probate. • **Teresa G. Zimmerman**, '80, Fountain Hills, Ariz., received an Outstanding Performance Award from the Arizona Public Defender Association in recognition and appreciation of her commitment to excellence and the provision of high-quality legal representation to indigent people. She was specifically cited for her case work and her commitment to Fountain Hills Teen Court. The award was presented at the 10th Annual Statewide Arizona Public Defender Association Conference in June.

81 **Bradley J. Frigon**, '81, Littleton, Colo., is a special needs content co-editor for *ElderCounsel*. • **Kevin B. Johnson**, '81, Emporia, Kan., is the general counsel at Emporia State University and a professor in the School of Business at ESU. • **Jeffrey W. Jones**, '81, Topeka, has joined Hamilton, Laughlin, Barker, Johnson & Watson as a partner.

82 **Douglas K. Manion**, '82, Vernon Rockville, Conn., has joined the Law Offices of Kahan, Kerensky & Capossela LLP as a partner where he is continuing his practice in the areas of divorce, residential real estate, criminal defense, estate planning, and personal injury litigation. • **Timothy P. McCarthy**, '82, Overland Park, Kan., was appointed by the Governor on March 15, 2013, as Judge in Johnson County District Court. He is president of the Johnson County Bar Association. The JCBA is an association of 1500 lawyers who live or work in Johnson County. • **Theresa A. Roberts**, '82, Topeka, is the executive director of American Holistic Nurses Association, where she had been serving as the interim executive director since February 2012. She previously served for 23 years as the executive director of the Kansas State Nurses Association. • **The Honorable Kim R. Schroeder**, '82, Hugoton, Kan., was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback to the Kansas Court of Appeals. He previously served as a district court judge for the 26th Judicial District.

83 **David K. Holmes**, '83, Alexandria, Va., is an attorney at Santos, Postal & Company PC. He previously practiced law in Wichita, Kan.

84 **The Honorable William G. Henderson**, '84, Las Vegas, Nev., serves as a district judge in Clark County, Nev. • **Cynthia J. Sheppard Langston**, '84, Topeka, has been selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America 2013* in the field of product liability defense. • **Blake A. Post**, '84, Wichita, is with the Sedgwick County Public Defender's Office. • **W. Thomas Stratton Jr.**, '84, formerly of Topeka, was named the director of

the New Orleans City Council Utilities Regulatory Office. Stratton previously was chief litigation counsel for the Kansas Corporation Commission. New Orleans is one of only two U.S. cities that exercise regulatory authority over their utility companies, rather than having a state commission handle oversight.

85 **Natalie G. Haag**, '85, Topeka, was appointed as executive vice president-general counsel for Capitol Federal Savings and Capitol Federal Financial Inc. For the past nine years, she served as the associate general counsel/director of governmental affairs for Security Benefit Corporation.

86 **J. Patrick Flanigan**, '86, Overland Park, Kan., has written the action adventure novel *THE FIFTH MIRANDA*, which is available at Amazon.com. The novel tells the story of a Johnson County, Kan., lawyer whose court appointment as guardian *ad litem* for the only child of a militia leader places him in the case with the child's social worker. The novel culminates on the Elk River in southwest Missouri.

88 **The Honorable Kyle A. Bryson**, '88, Tucson, Ariz., was named presiding judge of the probate division of Pima County (Ariz.) Superior Court. • **Gregory L. Shevlin**, '88, Swansea, Ill., is the president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. He is a partner in the firm Cook, Yursa, Bartholomew, Brauer & Shevlin. Shevlin was notes editor of the law journal while at Washburn.

89 **Sandra L. Jacquot**, '89, Lecompton, Kan., retired from her position as director of law/general counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities on Dec. 31, 2012. • **Greer M. Lang**, '89, Lawrence, Kan., was elected partner at Lathrop & Gage in Kansas City, Mo. • **Natalie Camacho Mendoza**, '89, Boise, Id., was selected to serve on the 16-member board of Farmworker Justice, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that seeks to empower farmworkers across the nation on issues

such as improving their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice.

91 **Diana G. Edmiston**, '91, Wichita, is now with Glaves, Irby & Rhoads, Wichita. • **The Honorable Anthony J. Powell**, '91, Wichita, has been sworn in as a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals. He was a district judge in Sedgwick County. He had a private practice and was a member of the Kansas House of Representatives before his current position.

92 **Bill H. Raymond**, '92, Manhattan, Kan., was named Manhattan city attorney. He had served as chief assistant county counselor for Sedgwick County (Kan.) since 2007.

93 **Katherine L. Kirk**, '93, Lawrence, Kan., has been selected to serve as the 2012-13 secretary of the Kansas Association for Justice.

94 **Shari L. Berry**, '94, Peoria, Ill., is a partner with Heyl Royster's Peoria, Ill., office. She is one of the leaders of Heyl Royster's Railroad Practice Group and manages litigation involving crossing accidents and Federal Employers Liability Act claims. • **Mary Mattivi**, '94, Topeka, was appointed as Shawnee County District Court judge by Gov. Sam Brownback. She previously had served as pro tem judge in Topeka Municipal Court and in Shawnee County District Court. • **Patricia A. Sexton-Dorsey**, '94, De Pere, Wis., is an attorney with Kansas City-based law firm Polsinelli PC. • **Charlie Smithson**, '94, Des Moines, Iowa, joined the Iowa Secretary of State's staff as legal counsel. He had been chief clerk of the Iowa House since 2010.

95 **Marc Bennett**, '95, Wichita, is the new Sedgwick County (Kan.) district attorney. Before his election to the office in August 2012, Bennett was deputy district attorney and served in the

Sedgwick County District Attorney's office for 15 years supervising Trial Division II.

96 **Jason Monteleone**, '96, was elected president of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association. He is a founding partner of Johnson and Monteleone in Boise. • **Kimberly D. Phillips**, '96, Charleston, S.C., has joined the faculty at the Charleston School of Law as law professor teaching criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional law. Phillips began her teaching career at Texas Tech University School of Law. She also served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps.

97 **Susan C. Hascall**, '97, Pittsburgh, Pa., was elected chairwoman of the African law section of the Association of American Law Schools, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit composed of 176 law schools. It is the principal representative of legal education to the federal government and other organizations. • **Terry D. Holdren**, '97, Manhattan, Kan., was appointed to the Information Network of Kansas by Gov. Sam Brownback. He is the general counsel for the Kansas Farm Bureau. • **Joseph S. Passanise**, '97, Springfield, Mo., has been featured in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers 2012* magazine in the area of criminal defense.

98 **Amy E. Burns-Brooke**, '98, Topeka, was named president of Junior Achievement of Kansas Inc., effective March 1, 2013. Previously Burns-Brooke was in-house legal counsel and director of marketing and development for Family Service & Guidance Center in Topeka. • **Lesley A. Isherwood**, '98, Bel Aire, Kan., made the *Wichita Business Journal's* 40 under 40 for 2012.

99 **Kevin J. Cook**, '99, Topeka, represents the second district on the Shawnee County Commission. He is a partner in the law firm of Cook & Fisher. • **Michael Gayoso Jr.**, '99, Frontenac, Kan., was re-elected Crawford

County (Kan.) attorney. He has held the office since January 2009. • **Eric G. Kraft**, '99, Olathe, Kan., is now a trial lawyer at The Katz Law Firm, Overland Park, Kan. • **Ann Marie G. Steel**, '99, Bronte, New South Wales, Australia, left Washington, D.C., earlier this year and her role as deputy assistant director with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with the Department of Homeland Security to work for Ogilvy Public Relations in Sydney, Australia. She specializes in issues and crisis management and strategic communications counsel.

00 **Samantha Parks Angell**, '00, Salina, Kan., was appointed to the Kansas State Board of Indigent Defense Services by Gov. Sam Brownback. She is a partner at Achterberg & Angell law firm. • **Andrea C. Reed, Ph.D., L.M.L.P.**, '00, Wichita, joined the staff of Prairie View as a psychologist. She focuses her work in several treatment specialties, including anxiety and depressive disorders, PTSD, Borderline Personality Disorder, ADD/ADHD in children and adults, stress management, and obsessive compulsive disorders. Reed will provide outpatient services at Prairie View's Reflection Ridge in west Wichita.

01 **Michael J. Fleming**, '01, Leawood, Kan., has been selected by his peers to serve as the Kansas Association for Justice 2012-13 legislative chair. Fleming previously served as the association's Legislative Chair from July 2011-June 2012. He is a member of the Wendt Goss Law Firm of Kansas City, Mo., and has practiced law in the Kansas City area for more than 10 years.

03 **Scott J. Schneider**, '03, Wichita, is a lobbyist and president of Schneider Public Strategies, which represents such clients as the City of Derby, Uncork Kansas, and Shell Oil.

04 **Teri C. Adam**, '04, Tempe, Ariz., married Nicholas Adam and joined Phoenix School of Law in its Center for

Professional Development. • **Timothy C. Hodge**, '04, has been named a partner and shareholder in the Newton, Kan., law firm of Adrian & Pankratz PA. Hodge has practiced with the firm since 2003.

05 **Zachary J. Anshutz**, '05, Topeka, Kan., is assistant commissioner at the Kansas Insurance Department. • **Matthew R. Bergmann**, '05, Silver Lake, Kan., was named to Greater Topeka's 20 under 40. He is a partner at Frieden, Unrein & Forbes LLP. • **Melissa R. Doeblin**, '05, Lawrence, Kan., joined Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. as manager of government relations. Doeblin previously was advisory counsel to the Kansas Corporation Commission. • **Trinity J. Muth**, '05, Wichita, was named 2012 Kansas Prosecutor of the Year at the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association fall conference in Overland Park, Kan. Muth, assistant district attorney in Sedgwick County, is a member of the office's Gang and Violent Crimes Unit and was nominated for his successful prosecution of several gang-related homicides and other crimes of violence. • **Randy J. Obert**, '05, Springfield, Ill., has been named division responsibility officer and division director of Risk Management for the Central Illinois and Springfield Referral Divisions of Hospital Sisters Health System. • **Ashley Polston**, '05, Morgan Hill, Calif., is co-owner of Odeum, an eco-friendly and sustainable restaurant in Morgan Hill, Calif., that recently received an award for the 2012 Best Food in all of San Jose and Silicon Valley. She co-owns the restaurant with fiancé and Michelin Star Chef Salvatore Calisi. Polston is also an estate planning attorney. • **Jennifer R. Sourk**, '05, Topeka, is the director for Kansas Insurance Department, Consumer Assistance Division. Sourk has worked with the Insurance Department since 2007, previously as assistant general counsel and as a staff attorney. She joined the Insurance Department as a consumer representative in the division she now leads.



Jill Ethbridge Gillett, '13, and John Gillett, '79, were married Nov. 3, 2012, in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center at Washburn Law by officiant and alumnus, The Hon. Daryl D. Ahlquist, '79. The nearly all-Washburn Law wedding party and guests enjoyed a reception in the familiar first floor commons area. Back row (left to right): Hon. Daryl D. Ahlquist, '79, Officiant, and Chief Hon. Daniel D. Creitz, '85. Middle Row (left to right): Bret A. Heim, ba '93 and jd '96, Doug Depen, bba '77 and jd '80, Assoc. Dean Jalen Lowry, jd '87, Amanda Walker, jd '13, and Melissa Johnson, jd '99. Front Row (left to right): Wade H. Bowie II, bs '01 and jd '04, John J. Gillett, ba '76 and jd '79, Jill R. Gillett, jd '13, and Mary Apt, bba '79. Front: Cody Snell, ba '09 and jd '12.

06 Stefanie M. Benson-Hebberd, '06, Overland Park, Kan., has opened The Law Office of Stefanie Benson-Hebberd LLC, in Olathe, Kan. Her practice focuses on family law issues in the counties of Johnson, Wyandotte, Franklin, Leavenworth, Miami, and Linn.

07 Benjamin J. Strohmman, '07, Stevens Point, Wis., has joined Associated-Banc Corp., Green Bay, Wis., as senior vice president, senior enterprise risk program manager.

08 Catherine Sundwall, '08, Murray, Utah, is with Perretta Law Office, West Jordan, Utah. • Cynthia G. Waskowiak, '08, Topeka, was hired as compliance officer for Washburn University in September 2012, where she focuses on regulatory compliance, policy writing, and general higher education advising.

09 Timothy M. Belsan, '09, Alexandria, Va., was named the 2012 Department of Justice Civil Division Rookie of the Year. The award is given in recognition of exceptional performance and notable contributions toward the

Division's mission by any employee with fewer than three years of service with the division, and fewer than five years of overall federal service. • William K. Schmidt, '09, Roeland Park, Kan., completed a master of laws in Taxation at UMKC School of Law and is an associate attorney at Murray, Tillotson & Burton, Chartered, Leavenworth, Kan. He received the 2012 Pro Bono Award from the Kansas Bar Association.

10 Robert E. Bauer, '10, Great Bend, Kan., has joined the Law Office of Bauer, Pike and Johnson Chtd. as an associate attorney. • Travis R. Cantrell, '10, Tulsa, Okla., is with Armada Consulting LLC. • Jamey A. Critchlow, '10, Crown Point, Ind., has joined Zaumdio Law Professional PC as an associate. • William H. Kariker, '10, Saint Joseph, Mo., has joined Morton, Reed, Counts, Briggs & Robb LLC. • Teresa A. Mata, '10, Kansas City, Kan., is an associate at McAnany, Van Cleave & Phillips PA in Kansas City. • Jason E. Oller, '10, Shawnee, Kan., has joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP as an associate in global product liability litigation.

11 Amanda R. Haas, '11, Wichita, is an attorney at Morris Laing Evans Brock & Kennedy in Wichita. • Craig E. Lowe, '11, Colby, Kan., has joined the Thomas County Attorney's Office as assistant county attorney. • Jonathan M. Snyder, '11, Topeka, is an associate with Cook & Fisher LLP. • Christopher R. Walker, '11, Phoenix, Ariz., is an associate at the Law Offices of Scott M. Clark PC in Phoenix.

12 Joshua A. Decker, '12, Topeka, has joined Coffman, DeFries & Nothern as an associate attorney. He works with clients in the areas of estate planning, real estate, business transactions and business tax, and will be preparing fiduciary and individual income tax returns. • Tyson R. Eisenhauer, '12, Pratt, Kan., has joined Johnston & Eisenhauer as a partner. • The Hon. Renee J. Henke, '12, Downs, Kan., was elected as district magistrate judge in Kansas' Seventeenth Judicial District,

ALUMNI

In Memoriam

Washburn Law mourns the passing of the following alumni whose deaths were reported to the school since the date of our last publication.

33 Eldon R. Sloan, '33, Topeka, on Dec. 16, 2012, at age 103

50 Richard R. "Dick" Rock, '50, Tulsa, Okla., on Feb. 17, 2013, at age 88 • Walter A. Sawhill, '50, Haysville, Kan., on Dec. 11, 2012, at age 91

51 Edgar M. Miner, '51, Bow, N.H., on May 24, 2012, at age 85

52 James R. Groff, '52, Sioux Center, Iowa, on June 7, 2012, at age 92

55 Eberle A. Baldwin, '55, Bartlesville, Okla., on June 8, 2011, at age 85 • Vincent L. Bogart, '55, Wichita, on March 26, 2012, at age 90 • Loren H. Hohman Sr., '55, Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 19, 2012, at age 94

56 John W. Brimer, '56, Wichita, on Nov. 25, 2012, at age 85

57 Donald R. Johnson, '57, Lindsborg, Kan., on Oct. 25, 2010,

at age 82 • Donald P. Schnacke, '57, Topeka, on May 21, 2012, at age 84

58 Wallace M. Buck Jr., '58, Topeka, on July 21, 2012, at age 81

59 Harold R. Walraven, '59, Anthem, Ariz., on Dec. 29, 2012, at age 78

62 Charles M. Cline Jr., '62, Wichita, on Feb. 16, 2012, at age 80

63 Gerald M. Helberg, '63, Morland, Kan., on Sept. 16, 2012, at age 74

71 Lawrence P. Ireland, '71, Topeka, on July 24, 2012, at age 68

72 The Honorable Charles Andrews, '72, Topeka, July 2012, at age 65

74 Dr. Myron R. Hausheer, '74, Topeka, on Jan. 4, 2013, at age 78

75 Donald C. Krueger, '75, Emporia, Kan., on Oct. 2, 2012, at age 66

76 John B. Black, '76, Salina, Kan., on Jan. 4, 2013, at age 66 • Keith D. Hoffman, '76, Abilene, Kan., on August 11, 2012, at age 62

77 Glen W. Froelich, '77, Lenexa, Kan., on Dec. 11, 2012, at age 66

79 Lieutenant Colonel William C. Pfeifer, USAF (RET), '79, Topeka, on Dec. 27, 2012, at age 81

78 The Honorable Stan R. Singleton, '78, Derby, Kan., on May 18, 2012, at age 58

81 The Honorable Steven P. Deiter, '81, Sabetha, Kan., on Oct. 21, 2012, at age 57

81 Janet S. Helsel, '82, Wichita, on Jan. 10, 2013, at age 57 • The Honorable A. Joe Parker, '82, Clovis, NM, on Jan. 30, 2013, at age 64

04 Elizabeth M. Myers, '04, Junction City, Kan., on Nov. 28, 2012, at age 37

Division 4. • **Andrew D. Holder, '12**, Topeka, has joined the law firm of Fisher, Patterson, Sayler & Smith as an associate in the firm's Topeka office. While in law school, he served as a law clerk for the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals for two years before joining the firm as a law clerk earlier this year. • **Nicholas H. Jefferson, '12**, Topeka, has been named an associate at the law firm of Alderson, Alderson, Weiler, Conklin, Burghart

& Crow, LLC. His practice will focus on the areas of Intellectual Property, Oil and Gas, Environmental Law and Water Law. • **Joslyn M. Kusiak, '12**, Wichita, has joined Klenda Austerman LLC. Kusiak's practice focuses on civil litigation. • **Steven A. Laultt, '12**, Minot, N.D., is an associate at the law firm Pringle & Herigstad P.C. • **Allison H. Maxwell, '12**, Topeka, has joined the law firm of Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman,

McEntire and Jarboe as an associate. She will be working primarily in Sloan's domestic relations section. • **Andrew T. Newcomer, '12**, Great Falls, Mont., is a new associate attorney with Ugrin Alexander Zadick and Higgins. He is engaged in the firm's litigation practice, providing representation to individuals and businesses in the areas of personal injury, property damage, employment, and insurance defense. • **LeTiffany O.**

Charles S. Fisher Jr. and Ella Marie Fisher Law Scholarship Fund

Charles S. Fisher Jr., bs '49 and jd '51, had a passion for life that he demonstrated throughout his career as a top trial attorney, as an adjunct professor, as a military man, and as an outdoorsman and dedicated family man. A native Topekan, Fisher earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Washburn University in 1949. He pursued his passion for debate and moot court while attending Washburn Law, activities which he said contributed to his successful career as a litigator. He also served on the *Washburn Law Journal* Board of Editors in 1951.



After earning his law degree, Fisher refined his skills in the courtroom and became one of Kansas' preeminent trial attorneys. He was listed in every edition of *Best Lawyers in America* under the category of Personal Injury for Plaintiff during his many years of practice.

Fisher generously volunteered his time to help others, and for approximately 13 years taught Evidence and Trial Practice at Washburn Law. "I had such respect for adjunct faculty and was honored to be asked to join them," Fisher said in a previous interview.

He thoroughly enjoyed his role in bringing practical experience to the classroom. "Keeping students challenged and interested were the most challenging aspects of teaching," he had said. He often told his students that having a law degree does not in and of itself make a qualified lawyer and that total preparation and integrity are the keys to being a good lawyer. "A passion for the profession and for integrity is essential," he had said.



Fisher deeply enjoyed life with his wife, Ella Marie, who also attended Washburn University, and with their blended family in Topeka and at their home in the Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, Fla. The family includes Charles' three sons, Michael, Mark, and Charles III, and four daughters, Cheryl Cailteux, Linda Spencer, aa '90, Janet Webster, and Anita Longoria. The association with Washburn continued with Ella Marie's daughters, Vicki Peterson, ba '64, and husband, Gary, bba '63, jd '76; Kay Mettner and husband, Randy, ba '70 and jd '75; Sue Bolley, b ed '91; and Cindy Sundgren.

After more than 50 years as a member of the Kansas Bar, Fisher retired in 2004 as a partner with the prestigious Topeka law firm of Fisher, Cavanaugh, Smith & Lemon PA. He was respected by his peers and served as president of both the Topeka Bar Association and of the Kansas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Charles died on Oct. 26, 2007, and Ella Marie passed away on Oct. 28, 2011. Now, with the assistance of daughter and son-in-law Vicki and Gary Peterson, the Charles S. Fisher Jr., and Ella Marie Fisher Law Scholarship at the Washburn University School of Law has been funded.



Obozele, '12, Wichita, is now with the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office. • **Robert J. Rojas**, '12, Lawrence, Kan., joined Husch Blackwell's Labor and Employment group in the firm's Kansas City, Mo., office. Previously, Rojas was an assistant account executive at Vanguard Media Group in Las Vegas and a legislative assistant for the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce. • **Rebecca F. Sisk**, '12, Wichita, former

Chanute assistant city attorney, has joined the family law department of Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC's Wichita office. She also worked for a private firm in Chanute where she handled primarily family law cases. • **Alison J. St.Clair**, '12, Topeka, has joined Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer LLP as an associate attorney. Her areas of practice are primarily business and transactional law and civil litigation practice. • **Nikolas S.**

Stoffel, '12, Denver, has joined Holland & Hart LLP's Energy and Infrastructure Group. Stoffel focuses his practice on transactional matters, including the development and financing of projects in the energy and infrastructure sectors and mergers and acquisitions.

Donor Honor Roll

Thank you for your support

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Upcoming Events

JUNE 2013

- 7 Admitted Student Barbecue, South Patio, Law School
- 7-9 Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Conference, Law School
- 19-21 KBA Annual Meeting and Joint Judicial Conference
- 21 Alumni Association Board of Governors Meeting and Alumni Awards Luncheon
- 27-28 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Law School Room 102

AUGUST 2013

- 15-16 Case Management CLE, Law School Room 120

SEPTEMBER 2013

- 12 Children and Family Law Center Event and Advanced Family Law CLE,
co-sponsored by American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Kansas City
- 17 Constitution Day Event, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

OCTOBER 2013

- 4 8th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament and CLE, Firekeeper Golf Course, Mayetta, Kan.
- 5 Board of Governors Meeting, Hilton President Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.
- 5 Dean's Circle Dinner and Reception, Hilton President Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.

All events on Washburn University campus unless noted otherwise.