Renowned attorney and longtime supporter of Washburn University School of Law, John Hamilton, '65, joined the prestigious ranks of Washburn Law alumni who have received an honorary doctor of law degree. The honorary degree was bestowed on Hamilton at the May 14, 2016, commencement when 85 new graduates joined the ranks of more than 7,000 alumni.

“I am truly honored to receive this degree,” Hamilton said. “I received an outstanding legal education at Washburn Law that prepared me for a rewarding career. It is because of this foundation that I feel strongly about staying involved with Washburn Law whether as a mentor to current students or as a member of the Board of Governors.”

Thomas Romig, dean, Washburn University School of Law, has worked with Hamilton through the years, as a practicing attorney who comes back to campus to teach and to mentor, as a member of the Board of Governors, and as an alumnus who attends events and supports Washburn Law.

“We are privileged to have John as a Washburn Law alumnus,” Romig said. “He has had an outstanding, noteworthy career, and he is always willing to share his experiences with our students. In addition, he and his late wife, Louise, have supported the law school through the years. John truly deserves this honor.”

Hamilton, a senior partner with Hamilton, Laughlin Barker Johnson & Jones, is widely recognized as a leading expert in the areas of eminent domain and condemnation. Prior to 2011, his practice areas also included personal injury and trial practice.

Hamilton is listed in Ingram’s “Best Lawyers in America” in the field of eminent domain. From 2009 to 2012, he was recognized as a Super Lawyer, by the Super Lawyers rating service, as one of the top 5 percent of all attorneys in Kansas and Missouri in the field of eminent domain.

He is currently a member of the Topeka, Kansas, and American Bar Associations, the Kansas Association for Justice, and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Hamilton has served on the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Governors since 2011 and is a long-standing member of the Dean’s Circle. Through the years, he has shared his experience with countless students, most recently in the role of counselor in a mock trial of the Wright v. Hawk boundary dispute.

He and his late wife, Louise, are longtime donors to Washburn and Washburn Law, supporting scholarships, the renovation of White Concert Hall, and the Mulvane Art Museum as well as the new School of Law facility, and many other Washburn initiatives.

Hamilton was born in El Dorado, Kansas. He grew up in Augusta, Kansas, and received his bachelor of science in economics from Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, in 1962.

### Past Recipients

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1891 Solon O. Thacher
1902 John C. McClintock
1904 William O. Johnston
1905 William H. Rossington
1914 Archibald McCullough
1915 Jacob C. Mohler
1916 Harry B. Wilson
1921 Edward G. Buckland
1922 Henry J. Allen
1923 Arthur E. Hertzler
1925 Vice President Charles Curtis
1926 Senator Robert Stone
1927 George H. Whitcomb
1928 Orza S. Davis
1930 Orza S. Davis
1931 Senator Arthur Capper
1932 Lee Eldas Phillips
1933 Governor Alfred M. Landon
1934 Frank Martin Mohler
1935 Dean Harry K. Allen
1936 Thomas Allen McNeal
1937 A.A. Godard
1938 Frank A. Quail
1939 Senator Arthur Capper
1940 Herbert George Titt
1941 Governor Alfred M. Landon
1942 Edward G. Buckland
1943 Senator Arthur Capper
1944 Senator Joseph F. Robinson
1945 George E. Brown
1946 Senator Edward G. Brown
1947 Senator Frank Carlson
1948 Senator Robert J. Dole
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