**Agricultural Law: New Specialty Broadens Curriculum**

In February, Roger McEowen joined the Washburn Law faculty to head a new agricultural law and taxation specialty. This field of study will focus on agricultural law and taxation issues that affect farming and ranching communities and the agribusiness enterprises that support agriculture.

Selected as the Kansas Farm Bureau Professor of Agricultural Law and Taxation, McEowen will focus on farm and ranch taxation, commercial transactions and bankruptcy in agriculture, and water, environmental, and regulatory laws that impact agriculture. Other areas covered in the specialty include environmental law taught by Myrl Duncan; oil and gas law taught by David Pierce, ’77; water law and estate planning taught by adjunct professors Leland Rolfs and Timothy O’Sullivan, ’75, respectively; and agricultural law and public land law taught by Burke Griggs, who will join the Washburn Law faculty in the fall of 2016.

McEowen is also editor of the Washburn Agricultural Law & Taxation Report (WALTR), a free, web-based publication that addresses all aspects of agricultural law and tax law of interest to lawyers, tax professionals, and the agricultural community. The report is available on the Law School website.

McEowen received the American Agriculture Law Association (AALA) Distinguished Service Award and the award of excellence for scholarship. He is widely published in law reviews and other agricultural publications, and conducts national agriculture tax and law seminars.

Learn more:
David Pierce, ’77, Director
Oil and Gas Law Center
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**Rural Legal Practice: Washburn Law and Kansas State Forge Partnership**

The upcoming fall semester marks the beginning of a new rural legal practice initiative with Washburn Law and Kansas State University — an initiative that is designed to help rural communities that are chronically underserved by the legal profession.

The two-year program is designed to help Kansas State recruit students who have a strong interest in pre-law and rural practice opportunities with the goal of transitioning to Washburn Law, completing their degree, and returning to practice in rural communities.

During their course of study, students will be exposed to diverse topics such as water and environmental law, agriculture and rural policy, taxation, oil and gas law, and estate planning. The program will draw from both universities’ scholarly and research expertise. Students will work alongside Washburn Law faculty, staff, and alumni.

Learn more:
Aida Alaka, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Law
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**News Briefs**

**International Opportunities: A New Era**

In March, Washburn Law entered into an exchange and cooperation agreement with law schools of the internationally renowned Osaka University, Osaka, Japan, paving the way for an expanded international experience for both faculty and students.

Soon, the faculty of each school will have the opportunity to conduct research and teach at the partner school. In addition, the exchange will create study abroad opportunities for students of both schools.

Currently, Washburn is exploring the development of a summer study abroad program at the facilities of Osaka University with courses being taught by Washburn Law faculty as well as Osaka faculty. In the future, Washburn Law will seek to accept students from Osaka University for semester-long visits, and to admit Osaka graduates into Washburn Law’s LL.M. program.

Learn more:
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**Class Actions**

The following alumni are those whose updates were reported to the school since November 12, 2015. Update your address at alumni@washburnlaw.edu and submit your news at washburnlaw.edu/alumni/classactions.

1950 *Stan Spurrier, ’50*, Wichita, co-founded Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, with defense attorney Dan Monnat in 1985. The firm, one of Kansas’ leading law practices for criminal defense and criminal appeals, celebrated its 30th anniversary in December 2015.

1971 *Roger L. Hiatt, ’71*, Kansas City, Mo., has started Hiatt, LLC.

1973 *Jan Hamilton, ’73*, Topeka, was selected by the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission as the recipient of the 2015 Robert L. Gernon Award.

1974 *David K. Duckers, ’74*, Kansas City, Kan., was named a new member of the Ethics Commission for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kan.

1975 *Col. (RET) Charles R. Rayl, ’75*, Strong City, Kan., retired from the practice of law on Sept. 16, 2015, after 40 years and four days. The 5th Judicial District Court hosted a reception in the Chase County Courthouse, the oldest courthouse in Kansas.

1978 *The Honorable Ricklin R. Pierce, ’78*, Garden City, Kan., has been appointed a district judge for the Kansas 25th Judicial District.

1979 *Paul T. Maricle, ’79*, Denver, Colo., corporate attorney with ALG Attorneys, PLLC, was appointed New German Honorary Consul in Colorado.

*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.*