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.

Bradley J. Prochaska, ’78, Wichita, has been honored with the Dan Cullen Award by Birth Trauma Litigation Group of the American Association for Justice.

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.
1980 Joe Cosgrove, Jr., '80, Austin, Texas, has founded The Joe Cosgrove Law Firm PLLC and JEC Legislative & Regulatory Consulting LLC. He also serves as president of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas.

1982 Elizabeth A. Carson, '82, Wichita, has opened Carson Law, LLC.

1984 The Honorable David E. Bruns, '84, Topeka, is the 2015-16 Optimist International President. Bruns will lead 85,000 adult and junior members who seek to “bring out the best in kids” — through clubs, sports, and other projects.

Daniel P. Kolditz, '84, Saint Louis, Mo., has been appointed vice president and senior counsel of distribution for Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC.

Gary A. Norton, '84, Des Moines, Iowa, was recognized by the firm for 30 years of service to Whitfield & Eddy. Norton is a member attorney and chair of the Environmental Law Practice Group and past chair of the firm’s Business and Banking Practice Group.

1985 Calvin D. Rider, '85, Wichita, is the school attorney for USD 394, Rose Hill.


1987 Daniel B. Bailey, '87, Westminster, Colo., is the senior vice president of legal and general counsel for AxisPoint Health.

1989 Mark R. Maloney, '89, Wichita, has joined Hinkle Law Firm LLC.

1993 Stacy L. Cook, '93, Indianapolis, Ind., is the new general counsel at the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA).


Douglas T. Shima, '94, Topeka, has been appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court to be clerk of the appellate courts at the judicial center. Shima has served as the interim appellate clerk since the middle of January and has been with the judicial branch since 1995.

1995 The Honorable Norbert C. Marek, '95, Westmoreland, Kan., has been appointed a judge in the 2nd District Court, which includes Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie, and Wabaunsee counties.

1996 Stephanie K. Dawkins, '96, Geneva, Ill., is the city administrator for the City of Geneva. Dawkins has worked as Geneva’s assistant city administrator and director of administrative services since 2008. Dawkins has been responsible for all city operations in the finance, human resources, and information technologies divisions.

1998 Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, '98, Lawrence, Kan., deputy commanding general of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, received command of the 35th Infantry Division of the Kansas National Guard. Braden is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and numerous other awards and decorations. As a civilian, Braden is the deputy Kansas attorney general in charge of the Criminal Litigation Division.

1999 Candace Brewster-Gayoso, '99, Galena, Kan., was selected city attorney. In addition, she serves as municipal judge and city attorney for other small towns in the area.

2000 The Honorable Jason E. Geier, '00, Topeka, is now a Municipal Court administrative judge.

2001 Michael L. Baumberger, '01, Wichita, was named partner at Klenda Austerman LLC.

2002 Jennifer L. Lautz, '02, Wichita, has joined Minter & Pollack Law Firm as an associate.

Michele M. O’Malley, '02, Kansas City, Mo., has been named a partner in the firm of Stinson, Leonard, Street. O’Malley is a real estate litigator with significant experience with judicial and non-judicial foreclosures of commercial and residential real estate, as well as condemnation actions, workouts, commercial landlord-tenant matters, easement enforcement, and sales contract disputes.

2005 Melissa A. Bleser, '05, Denver, Colo., was elected into the partnership of Kutak Rock LLP. Her practice focuses on tax credit transactions and commercial real estate finance matters.

2006 Brian J. Malone, '06, Saint Louis, Mo., has joined the law firm of Lashly & Baer, P.C. in its government practice group.

Nicole M. Romine, '06, St. Francis, Kan., has joined Cheyenne County as county attorney.

Megan Walawender, '06, Kansas City, Kan., was promoted to partner at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP.

*Names in blue indicate Alumni Association members.
2007 Jessica G. Domme, ’07, Topeka, was named one of the Jayhawk Area Council Boy Scouts of America “Top 20 Under 40,” which recognizes young professionals making an impact on the future of Topeka in a positive way.

Kristen C. Kellems, ’07, Provo, Utah, was hired as the staff attorney for Timpanogos Legal Center, a legal nonprofit based in Provo, dedicated to serving the legal needs of low-income and senior individuals.

2008 Monica S. Cameron, ’08, Wichita, has merged her practice to form Cameron & Herman, P.A.

Austin K. Parker, ’08, Topeka, has joined the law firm of Fisher, Patterson, Sayler & Smith as an associate attorney in the firm’s Topeka office. In addition to his practice, which focuses on civil litigation defense, Parker is the attorney for the Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas, the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the National Aviation Grant Consortium, and the cities of Andale, Augusta, Clearwater, and Viola.

Nicholas J. Zluticky, ’08, Kansas City, Mo., has been named a partner in Stinson Leonard Street. Zluticky is a member of the firm’s bankruptcy and creditors’ rights division.

2009 Timothy M. Belsan, ’09, Washington, D.C., was recently promoted to senior litigation counsel within the Department of Justice’s Civil Division, Office of Immigration Litigation. Belsan was also recognized as one of the Department’s Outstanding Mentors for 2015.

Matthew W. Bish, ’09, Wichita, was named partner at Foulston Siefkin LLP.

Justin R. Shinkle, ’09, Wichita, was named partner at Foulston Siefkin LLP.

2010 Michael C. McClure, ’10, Boise, Idaho, has joined Brian Webb Legal.

Lt. Sean T. Pribyl, ’10, Alexandria, Va., received the 2015 Outstanding Young Military Lawyer Award (OYMLA) for the US Coast Guard. This award, a joint effort of the American Young Lawyer Division and Judge Advocate Association, recognizes the legal contributions of one young judge advocate from each uniformed service.

Bryan L. Walker, ’10, Washington, D.C., has joined the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP.

2011 Jill Carlson, ’11, Cortez, Colo., was elected to the City Council.

Ashley R. Holm, ’11, Topeka, has joined Mize Houser & Company, a regional accounting firm, as a technical tax services staff analyst. Holm will focus on income tax preparation as well as property and sales tax consulting.

Kathlyn E. Randal, ’11, Wichita, has joined Koch Companies Services, LLC.

Jonathan E. Voegeli, ’11, Wichita, was presented with the Top 10 Personal Injury Attorneys Under 40 in Kansas award by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys.

2012 Dominic L. Eck, ’12, Wichita, has joined Gilmore & Bell, P.C.

Nicholas H. Jefferson, ’12, Topeka, is an assistant city attorney - civil litigation, City of Topeka.

LeTiffany O. Obozele, ’12, Topeka, is with the Kansas Attorney General’s Office, Sexually Violent Predator Unit.

Hannah C. Schroller, ’12, Holton, Kan., is with the Jackson County Attorney’s Office.

2013 Ted Davis, ’13, Wichita, has joined DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers.

Joseph W. Frick, ’13, Billings, Mont., is an associate at Tolliver Law Firm.

Nickolas C. Templin, ’13, Overland Park, Kan., has joined Sanders Warren & Russell LLP, as an associate.

2014 Kelsey Fowler Floyd, ’14, Wichita, is now with the City Attorney’s Office.

Michael J. Fowler, ’14, Wichita, now serves as in-house counsel at Delta Dental of Kansas.

Zachary N. Green, ’14, Albuquerque, N.M., is an associate at Jeff Diamond Law Firm.

Christopher A. Rohr, ’14, Colby, Kan., serves as Rawlins County attorney.

Linda Tran, ’14, Seattle, Wash., is president-elect for the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington.

Marissa J. Wagenaar, ’14, Topeka, is now a senior administrative specialist for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation’s Offender Registration Unit.

Megan T. Williams, ’14, Olathe, Kan., has joined the Leavenworth County Attorney’s Office.

2015 Jessa A. Burris, ’15, Wichita, has joined Rick Hodge, Attorney at Law, L.C.

T. Chet Compton, ’15, Wichita, is an associate at Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC.

Jessica L. Conrow, ’15, Topeka, is now an attorney at Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

Bethany L. Crosland, ’15, Topeka, has joined Mack & Associates, LLC.

Michelle David, ’15, Topeka, is with the Kansas Insurance Department.

Gregory S. Diehl, ’15, Topeka, is an associate with Ralson, Pope & Diehl, LLC.

Brian K. Edwards, ’15, Topeka, has joined the State of Kansas Board of Indigents’ Defense.

Matthew C. McAnarney, ’15, Wichita, has joined Bever Dye, LC.

Melinda G. Parrish, ’15, Dodge City, Kan., is an assistant attorney in Ford County.

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