

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT
SPRING 2026



2026

MAY 15, 2026 | 5:00 P.M.
WHITE CONCERT HALL

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
PREPARES OUTSTANDING LAWYERS AND
LEGALLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS TO SERVE
THEIR LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL
COMMUNITIES WITH EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY,
AND PROFESSIONALISM; AND THROUGH
ITS SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE STRIVES TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LAW AND A MORE JUST SOCIETY.

120TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL	Kansas Territorial Pipes & Drums, Topeka Lori McMillan <i>Grand Marshal</i> Joseph Mastrosimone <i>Assistant Grand Marshal</i>
WELCOME	JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D. <i>President, Washburn University</i>
INTRODUCTION OF 2026 WASHBURN STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT	Danielle Dempsey-Swopes, '92 <i>Associate Dean for Student Affairs</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE FACULTY & STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARDS	Michael Gallegos, '27 <i>2025-26 President, Washburn Student Bar Association</i>
CLASS OF 2026 ADDRESS	Koy Olberding, '26
RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN GRADUATES	Jeffrey D. Jackson, '92 <i>Dean</i>
INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT	Jeffrey D. Jackson, '92
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	James C. Slattery, '75
PRESENTATION OF THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAW DEGREE	JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D.
PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026	Emily Grant <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>
CONFERRING OF THE CLASS OF 2026 MASTER OF LAWS & JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES	JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D.
INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026 GRADUATES	Jeffrey D. Jackson, '92
RECESSIONAL <i>Please allow bagpipers & graduates to exit first.</i>	Kansas Territorial Pipes & Drums

*Please silence all cell phones & refrain from talking on them during the ceremony.
Numbers following names reflect Washburn University School of Law graduation year.*

THE HISTORY OF WASHBURN LAW

Lincoln College, founded in 1865, became Washburn College in 1868, in recognition of the financial support of New England philanthropist Deacon Ichabod Washburn. Washburn became a municipal university in 1941, and today receives partial funding from the state of Kansas.

The School of Law was founded in 1903 when Washburn College President Norman Plass asked a prominent Topeka lawyer, Robert Stone, to head a committee for the formation of a law school. In September of that year, Washburn Law School officially opened under the direction of Dean Ernest B. Conant, a Harvard Law graduate. He was the only full-time professor, with 23 practicing lawyers serving as part-time faculty members.

In 1905, the Association of American Law Schools admitted Washburn Law into its ranks. Continued enrollment growth and development of a substantial library prompted several relocations into larger quarters in downtown Topeka. The Law School moved to the Washburn Campus in 1918. In 1923, the American Bar Association included Washburn Law on its first list of fully accredited law schools.

Washburn Law played an important role in shaping the nation's history with its pioneering efforts from the school's beginning in the quest for equality. The first African American graduated from Washburn Law in 1910, and shortly after, the first woman graduated in 1912. In 1951, Washburn Law alumni found themselves on both sides of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark civil rights case that would forever change the nation.

When the Kansas Supreme Court authorized senior law students to practice law under supervision, Washburn Law responded by establishing the Law Clinic in 1970. The clinical program, operating as a student law firm supervised by full-time faculty members, became a model for other law schools in the nation.

In 1992, the Law School established certificate programs, allowing students to select an area of concentration within the traditional law school curriculum. Students now may earn certificates in 11 areas of law.

Since opening its doors in 1903, Washburn Law has graduated some of the finest law professionals in the country. The Law School's nearly 7,500 alumni live in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 15 foreign countries and U.S. territories. Of the 21 alumni who have been Kansas Supreme Court justices, six have served as chief justice, including the first woman to serve in that position.

In 2021, Washburn broke ground on a new law building, Robert J. Dole Hall, on the southeast corner of campus. The facility, which opened in summer 2023, exemplifies the upward trajectory of the school and provides a space to continue delivering high-quality legal education.

MESSAGE FROM THE 2025-26 WSBA PRESIDENT



Dear Washburn Law Class of 2026,

Graduation always feels like an ending but from where I stand, it looks a lot more like a beginning.

You've endured the long nights, the pressure, and the moments of doubt, and you didn't quit. You kept going. That perseverance is what brought you here.

More than anything, this journey has taught you that the law is not just about knowledge; it's about willingness—a willingness to advocate, to stand when it's uncomfortable, and to carry responsibility for others.

As you go into this next phase of life, remember to have a servant's mentality. If you are billing for big law, do it with diligence. If you are representing the indigent, do it with courtesy and compassion. If you are in the courtroom, speak with conviction and integrity. If you are counseling a client, listen with patience and care. If you are negotiating, do so with honesty and fairness. If you are given authority, exercise it with humility. If you face adversity, meet it with resilience.

Wherever you go, let your work reflect not just what you know, but who you are.

Congratulations!

Michael Gallegos, '27
2026 President
Washburn Student Bar Association



2026 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS AWARDS

Each academic year, the graduating class of Washburn University School of Law votes to honor the William O. Douglas Outstanding Professor of the Year, the Outstanding Adjunct Professor of the Year, and the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR: ALEX GLASHAUSSER



After growing up in New Jersey, Alex Glashausser received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1990 and his law degree from Duke University School of Law in 1995. Following graduation from Harvard, he traveled to Tokyo, Japan, where he studied at the Yoshida Institute of Japanese Language and taught English. He later studied the Japanese legal system at Santa Clara University School of Law's Institute of International and Comparative Law, in Tokyo, and interned at the Ishii Law Office. While at Duke, Glashausser was the Executive Editor of Duke

Law Journal and the recipient of the H.M. Johnson Memorial Writing Prize for the top law journal note. After graduating from law school, Glashausser clerked for the Honorable Albert J. Engel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He then served as a litigation associate for Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP and taught as an adjunct professor at the Ohio State University College of Law in Columbus, Ohio.

Glashausser came to Washburn in 1999. At Washburn, he teaches courses on civil litigation and has served three times as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and once as Associate Dean for Student Affairs. In 2017, he became the first David A. Fenley Professor of Law. He was the inaugural Chair of the Faculty from 2018 to 2022. For many years, he taught summer and winter bar review courses on Federal and Kansas Civil Procedure. His scholarship focuses primarily on issues concerning federal courts, jurisdiction, and the independence of the judiciary. He also writes about international law and four times has been in residence as a Visiting Scholar at Waseda Law School in Tokyo; he has published articles in several Japanese law journals.

Glashausser is a member of the Board of Directors of the Topeka Bar Association and multiple committees of the Kansas Judicial Council. In 2025, he became an honorary lifetime member of the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR: RANDALL HODGKINSON



Randall Hodgkinson is a Kansas native, growing up in Hutchinson. While a student at the Arizona State University College of Law, Hodgkinson served on the law journal as associate editor and was named a member of the Order of the Coif. After graduating magna cum laude, he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Sheldon H. Weisberg, Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, in Phoenix.

After clerking, he returned to practice as a public defender—in a Wichita trial office for a year and then in an appellate office in Topeka. At the Kansas Appellate Defender Office,

he has represented clients in more than a thousand felony appeals before the Kansas Appellate Courts.

Hodgkinson is currently appointed in a joint endeavor between Washburn University School of Law and the Kansas Appellate Defender Office. His primary responsibility at the law school is teaching Criminal Appellate Advocacy, where law students draft appellate briefs under his supervision in actual felony appeals that have been assigned to the Kansas Appellate Defender Office. Hodgkinson also teaches other doctrinal courses, mostly related to criminal law and procedure, as needed by the law school.

Hodgkinson is a member of the Kansas Judicial Council Criminal Law Advisory Committee and is a co-chair of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Tenth Circuit Amicus Committee. In 2014, he was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR: CORY PAYNE



Cory Payne joined Washburn University in 2009, starting her career in the undergraduate Admissions Office. In 2012, she transitioned to the Washburn Law staff, working in the Law School Admissions Office before moving to the Dean's Suite. In 2023, she stepped into her current role as the Student Records Administrator, where she plays a key role in supporting law students throughout their academic journey.

Payne's responsibilities include managing registration materials, assisting students with enrollment, conducting degree audits, coordinating exam accommodations, processing grades, calculating class ranks and honors, certifying graduates for state bar admissions, printing unofficial transcripts, and maintaining records for all current and former students. She is dedicated to ensuring a smooth and efficient academic experience for both students and faculty.

Payne has cherished her time at Washburn Law and finds great fulfillment in working with students. She takes pride in providing guidance and support, whether it's navigating enrollment, preparing for exams, or celebrating graduation milestones.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER & RECIPIENT OF THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAW DEGREE

JAMES C. SLATTERY



Born in 1948 and raised in the Good Intent community in Atchison County, James (Jim) Slattery earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Washburn University in 1970 and a juris doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 1974. He graduated from the Netherlands School of International Business and Economics in 1969. While a law student at age 24, he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives from the 53rd District in Topeka in 1972. He served three terms and was speaker pro tem from 1977-79. In 1979, he was appointed secretary of the

Kansas Department of Revenue. During that time, he also served as an officer in the 69th Infantry Brigade of the Kansas Army National Guard.

In 1978, Slattery joined fellow Washburn graduate Jerry Brosius to found Brosius and Slattery, Real Estate in Topeka.

Slattery was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982 and served six terms from 1983-95. In Congress, he served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the Budget, Financial Services and Veterans Affairs committees. He led efforts to balance the federal budget, to expand health care for low-income children, Vietnam-era veterans and improve health care access in rural areas. He was a leader on environmental legislation like the Clean Air Act and was a key supporter of the bipartisan plan to end the Civil War in Nicaragua. He also introduced the legislation to create the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Park in Topeka.

After leaving Congress, Slattery entered private law practice in Washington, D.C. He was a partner at Wiley Rein LLP from 1995-2019. His practice focused on international trade, health care, energy and railroads. In 2019, he founded Slattery Strategy, LLC where he continues to advise national and international clients with a focus on Ukraine and environmental work.

Slattery has received numerous professional honors. He holds an AV Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the organization's highest ranking for ethical standards and legal ability. In 2013, he received the Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award. From 2015-18, he was named one of Washington's "Super Lawyers" for government relations.

In addition to his legal and legislative work, Slattery has been active in international diplomacy and peacekeeping work. He has served as a board member and Iran

specialist for the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy since 2014. He was a lead participant in the Abrahamic dialogue with Iran, engaging with Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders as well as Iranian religious and political leaders to promote interfaith understanding and reconciliation. He has traveled regularly to the Middle East in support of these efforts.

Slattery also has served as an international election monitor in Iraq, Ukraine and Nicaragua. He has lectured on foreign policy and Congress at institutions including the United States Naval Academy and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

His additional service includes serving on the board of directors of the Aerospace Corporation and TGen, a cancer research center affiliated with the City of Hope and Mayo Clinic. He is also a member of the board of advisors for the Dole Institute of Politics.

Slattery has served on the Washburn University board of regents, as chair of the Washburn University School of Law board of governors and as a trustee for the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. Throughout his career, he has maintained close ties to Washburn University, supporting its mission and growth. His work in public office, private practice and international peacekeeping reflects a lifelong commitment to public service, ethical leadership and practical problem-solving.

HISTORY OF THE AWARD

The Honorary Doctorate, awarded since 1888, is the highest academic recognition Washburn University can bestow. Candidates have demonstrated in their life and in their work, high standards of excellence as evidenced by scholarship or achievement, public service, and commitment to the development of Washburn University.



THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

JURIS DOCTOR

Jeb S. Allen

Jaiden Elayne Anderson

Mia Aronson

Adebola Atanda

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Cole C. Baker

Madison Marjory Berger

Lauren Elizabeth Bergin

Family Law Certificate

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Brion Reeves Bircher

Catlynn Black

Natural Resources Law Certificate

Izabella G. Borowiak-Miller

Javyahn Bradford

Drew Richard Burgoon

Jacob Robert Carrow

Amos T. Cooley

Tyler P. Cotterill

Brennan Michael Cox

Laura Mae Cunningham

Blake Esten Deines

Nicholas Robert Donaldson

Colin Ray Downey

Austin Charles Edwards

Victoria L. Ehlers

International & Comparative Law Certificate

Jacob R. Fiscella

Tyler Marie Gallagher

Jackson S. Garrett

Maria Elise German

Family Law Certificate

Stewart C. Gonzalez

Natalie Ruth Gore

Family Law Certificate

Rosalie G. Granger

Karter S. Granzella

Britton T. Haigh

Jack D. Hamilton

Workplace Law Certificate

McKenna Noelle Hammeke

Quentin M. Harris

Caleb Ronald Christian Haselhuhn

Ethan Elijah Hawn

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Megan C. Haynie

Melissa Dawn Hendricks

Pro Bono Honors

Catherine M. Hewlett

Pro Bono Honors

Zoe Holcomb

Alexandra Holmen

J.D./M.B.A. Dual Degree

Intellectual Property Law Certificate

Chukwudi Francis Ifeabunike

Cael Lee Johnson

Eleanor Qianyue Jones

Advocacy Certificate

Elise Marie Jones

Family Law Certificate

Pro Bono Honors

Peyton L. Jones

J.D./M.B.A. Dual Degree

James Patrick Keating

Maria Kling

Advocacy Certificate

Alexandria Kay Koresh

Workplace Law Certificate

Kelsie Lyn Kulp

Family Law Certificate

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Joshua Ross Lambert

Keeton Eugene Lee

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

Darby Elizabeth Leitch

Jack Edward Kemp Lewis

J.D./M.B.A. Dual Degree

Business & Transactional Law Certificate

Tax Law Certificate

Elizabeth Leanne Marston

Advocacy Certificate

Grace A. Mlynec

Business & Transactional Law Certificate

Tax Law Certificate

Distinguished Pro Bono Honors

Alison Moore

Jacob William Nobis

Koy J. Olberding

Tochukwu Sylvester Onah

Eduardo N. Palacios

Lauren Peterson

Intellectual Property Law Certificate

Sinjin Pharathikoune

Patreece Elyse Pickett

Business & Transactional Law Certificate

Justin Alan Puetz

Zachary R. Racy

Samuel Grant Reyes

Diego Jesus Salinas

Alexander Allen Schwartz

Janira Silva

Ryan Simatovich

Aria LaRue Smith

Colton Alexander Smith

Robin Snyder

Madison Amber Squibb

Jamie St. Viva

Simon Elliott Stegall

Natural Resources Law Certificate

Nathaniel Ben Strathman

Blake P. Swenson

Charles A. Syring

Emily M. Unruh

Kelcie Lorean Washington

Intellectual Property Law Certificate

Hannah Caroline Webb

Kaitlynn Michelle Wetchensky-Bays

Haley M. Wiercinski

Reed N. Wilkinson

Luke Patrick Zenger

Honors and certificates printed in the program or announced during the ceremony are preliminary.



JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)

The Juris Doctor is the first earned law degree indicating graduation from a law school with two to three years of post-baccalaureate study. J.D. is an abbreviation for the Latin juris doctor, also called a doctor of law or doctorate of jurisprudence.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (M.B.A.)

The Master of Business Administration is a graduate degree that provides theoretical and practical training for general business management.

PRO BONO HONORS

The Washburn Law Pro Bono Program encourages students to understand and embrace their future professional obligation to provide legal services to individuals of limited means. Students who completed 50 hours of pro bono service received Pro Bono Honors. Those who completed 100 hours of pro bono service received Distinguished Pro Bono Honors.

CERTIFICATES

Students at Washburn University School of Law may distinguish themselves by earning a Certificate of Concentration, which allows students to specialize in an area of concentration within the traditional law school curriculum. Washburn University School of Law students may earn a Certificate in:

Advocacy	Law and Government
Business and Transactional Law	Natural Resources Law
Estate Planning	Oil and Gas Law
Family Law	Tax Law
Intellectual Property Law	Workplace Law
International and Comparative Law	

GOLDEN GRADUATES

Washburn Law honors alumni celebrating a 70-, 60- or 50-year graduation milestone. Members of the classes of 1956, 1966, and 1976 participate in the commencement ceremony, wearing a special graduation gown and walking with the 2026 graduating class.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS

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Shelly Buhler
John B. Dicus
Spencer Duncan

Jake Fisher, '00
Linda Jeffrey, '77
John N. Nave
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WASHBURN UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D., *President*

John Fritch, Ph.D., *Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs*

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ADMINISTRATION & FACULTY

Jeffrey D. Jackson, '92, *Dean*

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Danielle Dempsey-Swopes, '92, *Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

Shawn Leisinger, '99, *Associate Dean for Centers and External Programs*

Tammy S. King, *Assistant Dean for Professional Development*

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FACULTY

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David Braun, '21
Meryl Carver
Danielle Davey
Jeff Dazey, '10
Lucky DeFries, '78
Shanelle Dupree, '07
Linda Elrod, '72
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Britt Lauritsen
Glen McBeth, '03
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Donald Moler
The Hon. C. William
Ossmann, '77
The Hon. Rachel Pickering

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Stephanie Poyer, '11
Anna Quinn, '13
Kasey Skidmore, '18
Duston J. Slinkard, '03
Chris Steincamp, '93
The Hon. Sarah E. Warner
The Hon. Brett A. Watson
The Hon. Teresa Watson, '94
Deborah Williams
Lisa Williams-McCallum, '14
Karen Wittman, '01
The Hon. Maban Wright
Emily Young, '20

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Eunice Peters, '06, *Secretary*

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Lisa A. McPherson, '94
Marcos Mendoza, '89
Robert J. Moody, '14
Nicole M. Revenaugh, '12
John M. Shoemaker, '04
The Hon. Charles Stokes, '82
William L. Townsley, '89
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WASHBURN LAW
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