

Alumni Awards

Six people were honored by the Alumni Association on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, for their service.

GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD)



Mark Dupree, JD '07

Mark Dupree was sworn in as District Attorney of Wyandotte County, Kansas, on Jan. 9, 2017. He leads an office of 60 employees in Kansas' fourth largest county and focuses on equitably prosecuting crime, being proactive, and attacking violent crimes and crimes that affect the standard of living. Previously, he was an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County (Missouri) and practiced in the firm, Dupree and Dupree, LLC, along with his wife, Shanelle Dupree, '07. Dupree speaks at numerous churches and schools and has sponsored legal clinics and shadow days. He is an associate pastor and ordained church elder, and a member of the Kansas Bar Association Board of Governors and the Kansas Legal Services Board of Directors.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Bob Hartsook, JD '79

Robert Hartsook has established himself as a leader in the field of fundraising and philanthropy consulting and an advocate for education of aspiring fundraising professionals. He founded Hartsook Companies, Inc., the world's largest fundraising consulting practice, in 1986. The company has helped more than 6,000 nonprofits worldwide. He has also invested personally in the field with the Hartsook Chair in Fundraising at Indiana University, Hartsook Institutes at Avila University (Missouri), and the Hartsook Centre for Sustainable Philanthropy at Plymouth University (United Kingdom). Indiana University gave him the Spirit of Philanthropy Award in 2004, and Avila University named him Philanthropist of the year in 2012. Hartsook has written numerous fundraising books on fundraising.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



John Kemp, JD '74, H'03

John Kemp is a leading advocate for improving the lives of people with disabilities. He is president and CEO of The Viscardi Center (New York), a network of nonprofits providing services to educate, employ and empower individuals with disabilities. In 2006, he received the Henry B. Betts Award, regarded as America's highest honor for disability leadership and service. In 2014, Kemp received the Dole Leadership Prize at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. Dole, jd '52, ba '52, honorary '69, honorary '85, personally selected Kemp for the award. Kemp has served on the Medicaid Commission and U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Jessie Junette Nye, JD 1912 (Posthumous)

Jessie Junette Nye came to Washburn in 1901 and graduated from Washburn Law in 1912. She is often cited as a pioneer for women in the law in Kansas and started the Kansas Women Lawyers' Association with two other alumnae in 1919 since women were not permitted to join the Kansas Bar Association (and wouldn't be able to until 1935). Upon graduation, Nye was docket clerk for the Public Utilities Commission. Not fully welcomed into the legal profession as a woman, Nye worked several jobs before establishing her own private practice in Newton, Kansas, in 1931. She worked there until retiring in 1970. Nye had no children of her own, but she influenced many in her extended family to follow in legal studies at Washburn.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



Steve Cavanaugh, BA '71, JD '80

Stephen Cavanaugh graduated with honors from Washburn Law and joined the firm of Fisher, Ochs & Heck, P.A. The firm is now known as Cavanaugh, Biggs & Lemon, P.A., and he is Of-Counsel. He was president of the Topeka Bar Association and chaired the Bench and Bar Committee for 18 years, and he currently serves both on the Kansas Board for Discipline of Attorneys and as president of the Sam A. Crow Inn of Court. Cavanaugh has a long history as a supporter of Washburn Law and served as an adjunct professor for 11 years. He was also a member of the Alumni Association Board of Governors from 1998 to 2012, serving as president from 2010 to 2012. In addition, Cavanaugh was the president of the Washburn Law School Foundation Board of Directors for three years and served on the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Washburn University Foundation from 2012 to 2015.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP



Dean Thomas J. Romig

Thomas J. Romig became Dean of Washburn Law in 2007 and announced recently this would be his final academic year as Dean. During his tenure, he established three joint degree programs with other schools within Washburn, expanded the summer study abroad program and an agriculture law program. The School has been recognized nationally for its legal writing program, practical training, and trial advocacy program. He graduated with honors from Santa Clara University School of Law (California). During his prestigious military career, he served four years as the 36th Judge Advocate General of the Army, supervising 9,000 personnel across 22 countries. He served as Chief of Army Civil Law and Litigation and Chief of Military Law and Operations. The Kansas Bar Association awarded Romig the Courageous Attorney Award in 2009 for his time as Judge Advocate General of the Army for positions against interrogation methods in violation of the Geneva Conventions and Uniform Code of Military Justice. His military service has earned him numerous decorations and badges.