



Our Story. Our Time.
GiveToWashburn.org

Washburn University School of Law

THE NEXT BOLD STEP

For more than 100 years, Washburn University School of Law has been committed to educating highly skilled attorneys who provide access to justice across Kansas and the nation. The majority of practicing attorneys, prosecutors, and justices in Kansas are, in fact, fellow Washburn Law graduates.

We are at a pivotal moment in Washburn Law's history. As we look to the next 50 years and beyond, we must position the law school for the future – adapting our learning environment to accommodate new trends in legal education, while preserving our longstanding tradition of providing the best legal education to our students.

To that end, we have embarked on a comprehensive campaign to raise \$34.5 million for Washburn Law. The majority of these funds – \$20 million – are for a new law school facility.

Our current building is nearly 50 years old and does not meet the needs of today's students and certainly not those of future students as the practice of law continues to evolve.

The need

The current legal curriculum is much different than when the building opened in 1969. In the past 30 years, the number of courses has increased nearly 40 percent. In the past 10 years alone, there has been a 20 percent increase in the number of course offerings, but the space remains the same.

Today, the number of skills-based classes far exceeds the number of large lectures. In the past, the Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing course, which is required for all first-year students, was taught in a single classroom. Today, there are seven or eight small sections each semester, giving students more practical experience and mentoring, but also requiring seven or eight additional classroom spaces.

In addition, today's legal education requires advanced courses around this same skill that were not offered in the past. For example, the current curriculum includes courses such as Legal Writing for Government Clients, Legal Writing for Externships, Transactional Drafting, and Writing for Law Practice. These advanced classes require additional space.

This is what the students need. This is what employers expect. This is what the profession demands. To meet those demands, we must have additional space – and the right kind of space – to remain at the forefront of legal education.

Space constraints

Today, all first-year students are required to give oral arguments in the courtroom. They must vie for courtroom space with trial advocacy students honing their oral advocacy skills, clinic students needing access to the courtroom to practice their skills, and Moot Court and Trial teams. The new facility will have both an Appellate Courtroom and a Trial Courtroom, alleviating current scheduling conflicts and giving students the experience they need to be successful in today's environment.

The new facility will also provide additional individual and group study spaces. Today, there are not enough study rooms for first-year students to meet in their mandatory study groups. Through the years, space has been carved out of the library to accommodate the increased number of classes and required group study spaces. Individual study space is so limited students often leave the building to study as they simply cannot find a space to work.



Why a New Facility

NUMBERS MATTER

40% increase in number of courses over the past 30 years

20% increase in number of courses over the past 10 years alone

2002: 3 Centers for Excellence

2014: 6 Centers for Excellence

1992: 3 certificate programs

2014: 9 certificate programs

Currently facility: 10 classrooms and 2 group study rooms

New facility: 16 classrooms and 11 group study rooms

Current facility: 1 Appellate Courtroom

New facility: 1 Appellate Courtroom and 1 Trial Courtroom

Looking to the future

Washburn Law's national reputation is closely tied to the success and achievements of its alumni. In order to retain and strengthen that competitive edge, we must invest in the future of our law school, our students, and our faculty.

Since its founding in 1903, the School of Law has been unwavering in its commitment to providing students with the best possible legal education.

The focus on highly talented faculty, small classes and high standards has been a hallmark of the school since its beginning. Now, decades later, we must look to the future.