



Law School building campaign surpasses \$14 million with support from renowned attorney Michael C. Manning

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TOPEKA, KANSAS – A \$1 million gift for the new home of the Washburn University School of Law from alumnus Michael C. Manning jd '77, h '07, has pushed fundraising past the \$14 million mark and beyond its original goal of \$13 million.

In permanent recognition of Manning's accomplished career, the law school will honor him by naming the Michael C. Manning Advocacy Suite and Trial Courtroom.

"When the school approached me about naming the trial advocacy space in the new law school building, I was both surprised and humbled," said Manning, who is from Phoenix, Arizona.

Carla Pratt, dean, Washburn Law, said a trial courtroom is an integral part of an outstanding law school building, and she is proud to have Manning play a role in upgrading the courtroom into a state-of-the-art facility for teaching advocacy skills.

"Mike's gift will help create an environment that fosters innovation in trial advocacy and attract top students and faculty," said Pratt. "This new facility recognizes Mike, who I regard as one of the most accomplished and prominent trial lawyers in America. The vast and consistent achievements of his career will set the standard for generations of future Washburn Law students, and we are proud to call him one of our own."

Manning's capstone gift concludes the active fundraising phase to support construction of the \$34 million building project for the law school. The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation will continue working with alumni and friends on opportunities to be involved in the project as it is constructed. Final design and development for the project is near completion and groundbreaking for the new law school building is expected in May 2021.

Ideal Place - The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law has a total project budget of \$34 million. Washburn University and its Board of Regents have committed \$20 million for the project with the remaining \$14 million resulting from donor support. The new School of Law building, to be located on the southeast corner of campus at 21st Street and Washburn Avenue, will allow Washburn to deliver a 21st-century legal education, pay tribute to the history of the law school, and recognize many of the alumni who have served our legal community well.

"A great law school deserves a great home," said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. "Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Manning, Washburn Law's new building will be able to compete with any law school in the country to educate future leaders in the legal community. Given Mike's accomplishments, it is only fitting that the trial courtroom in the new building be named for him."

An accomplished and nationally recognized attorney, Manning is best known for his successful trial practice career. He has led numerous high profile and groundbreaking cases: the Lincoln Savings & Loan/Charles Keating case, at the time the largest commercial litigation in U.S. history; and one of the largest wrongful death and civil rights settlements in Arizona history against Joe Arpaio and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

While in law school, Manning was editor-in-chief of the Washburn Law Journal and transitioned his stellar academic performance to the practice of law by becoming an equity partner in the esteemed national law firm Stinson, LLP headquartered in Kansas City. Prior to his recent retirement, Manning served as managing partner of the Phoenix office of Stinson and was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America."

"Mike's transformative gift is an investment that will further improve the law school's already sterling national reputation," said Marshall Meek, president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. "We are very grateful to him for his generosity which will benefit and inspire future Washburn Law graduates."

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