

1930's

The Honorable Gordon Sloan '35, Wilsonville, Ore., died Aug. 23, 2006, at the age of 95. Sloan was senior judge of the State of Oregon and former associate justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. Sloan followed his father, Edward (1906), and brother, Eldon (1933), as graduates of Washburn University School of Law. In 1958, Sloan was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court where he served two highly esteemed terms. His judicial excellence was recognized in his appointment as the first senior judge of the State of Oregon. He was a member of the Oregon Bar Association.

Earl L. Kirk '36, Sanibel, Fla., died Sept. 29, 2006, at the age of 93. Kirk was a long-time car dealer and businessman. He owned Earl Kirk Chrysler-Plymouth and AMC Jeep, Downtown Dodge, Earl Kirk Leasing and Downtown Mini Storage. Although he was admitted to the Kansas Bar, he never practiced law, instead joining his father in the automobile business after he graduated in 1936.

Clair D. Hyter '39, Hutchinson, Kan., died Nov. 9, 2006, at the age of 94. Hyter was a lifetime Hutchinson resident. He practiced law until 1964, then became president of the former Central Plains Insurance Co., then worked as a consultant for Town and Country Insurance Co., retiring in 1994.

1940's

Evan Corman '49, Minneapolis, Kan., died Feb. 10, 2006, at the age of 85. Corman was a practicing attorney. He was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and served in the Pacific theater. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

1950's



Warner Moore '50, Andover, Kan., died Sept. 17, 2006, at the age of 85. Moore was a respected and accomplished lawyer. He was elected and served as Sedgwick County attorney three times from 1953-1959. He served as democratic county chairman in Sedgwick County from 1966-1971 and 1978-82. His son Dennis Moore '70 is also a graduate of Washburn Law.



James R. James '53, Topeka, Kan., died Nov. 14, 2006, at the age of 80. After graduation from law school James was an assistant reporter to the Kansas Supreme Court. Two years later, he moved to the Supreme Court Clerks office where he served as deputy clerk. In 1959, he left the Court for a brief stint as an attorney for the League of Kansas Municipalities. In 1961, the Supreme Court called on him to be clerk of the Supreme Court of Kansas. From 1965 to 1979, he served Kansas as the first judicial administrator. James resigned his Kansas post to become director of the Southeast Regional Office of the National Center for State Courts, and was named vice president of the Midwestern Regional Office of the national center in 1989, and returned to Kansas in 1992 when he became a senior adviser to the national center. In 1994 he received the Justice Award from the Kansas Supreme Court; he also received the Warren E. Burger Award from the National Center for State Courts.

James E. Johnson '53, Fishers, Ind., died Aug. 8, 2006, at the age of 78. Johnson retired in 1991 as manager of the Commercial Department and assistant vice president of Chicago Title Company. Prior to that he was senior vice president for Bank One formerly American Fletcher Mortgage Company and Puller Mortgage.

Duane W. Bolze '56, Phoenix, Ariz., died Dec. 9, 2006, at the age of 75. Bolze served in the Marine Corp during the Korean War. He moved to Phoenix, Ariz., in 1958 and began practicing law earning great respect from both the courts and bar, a practice he pursued until his death.

L. H. Rohleder '59, Council Grove, Kan., died Dec. 14, 2006, at the age of 75. During the Korean War, Rohleder served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. After law school, Rohleder became a district court judge in Great Bend in August 1967. From April 1981 until he retired in May 1995, he was administrative judge for the 20th Judicial District. In 1986, he was appointed by then Governor John Carlin to chair the Liquor Law Review Commission. Rohleder declared the report to be a blueprint for bringing Kansas' liquor laws into the 20th century. Rohleder was past president of the Kansas District Judges Association.

1960's

Howard Spies '61, Bradenton, Fla., died Aug. 17, 2006, at the age of 70. Spies served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Florida Bar Association.

William Harris, Jr. '63, Washington, DC, died Aug. 28, 2006, at the age of 81. Harris received his B.S. and J.D. from Washburn University. After receiving his law degree, Harris worked on scores of civil rights cases. He served as the assistant city attorney in Topeka, Kan., and was general counsel of the State of Kansas Tax and Revenue Agency. In 1976, he moved to the Washington, DC area to work at the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an attorney in the office of Legal Counsel, and later as an attorney with expedited appeals in the office of Federal Operations. Harris retired in 1996.

Larry E. Benson '69, Lenexa, Kan., died Aug. 1, 2006, at the age of 64. Graduating second in his class, he was hired by the law firm of Weeks, Thomas, Lysaught, and Bingham. In 1986, Benson continued to practice law on his own with his long-time college friend Michael Jarvis, until he retired in early 2006.

1970's

Dwayne A. Schulke '73, Dallas, Texas, died Nov. 28, 2006, at the age of 58. Schulke began his career working for title companies in Wichita, Kan., and Dallas, Texas, and worked for Republic Title of Texas, Inc.

David J. Heath '76, Chesterfield, Mo., died Sept. 27, 2006, at the age of 58. Heath was a well-respected attorney and labor negotiator for MDC/Boeing. The family suggests memorials to the Washburn University Law School Foundation.

1980's

Mike Mlinar '85, Greeley, Colo., died Dec. 21, 2006, at the age of 53. Mlinar was a resident of Greeley for the past five years.

1990's



John V. Dwyer '92, Wichita, Kan., died Dec. 6, 2006, at the age of 42. Dwyer moved to Wichita in 1992 after graduating from Washburn Law. He practiced law for several years before transitioning to a career in pharmaceutical sales.