2022
University of Wyoming
College of Law

Honors Banquet

Honoring the Past and the Future

Thursday, September 1, 2022
Gateway Center
Laramie, Wyoming
Awards

Honorary Order of the Coif

The Order of the Coif is a national honorary society that recognizes excellence in legal studies. Membership is limited to those who graduated in the top ten percent of their class and to honorary members selected by schools with a Coif chapter. Each year, the University of Wyoming faculty select honorary members who graduated prior to the creation of the Wyoming chapter in 1985.

Thurman Arnold Distinguished Supporter of the Law School Award

The Thurman Arnold Distinguished Supporter of the Law School Award is awarded to non-alumni who have gone beyond the norm to promote and develop the UW College of Law. The awardees are selected by the University of Wyoming faculty.

Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award

Members of the Dean’s Advisory Board, which also functions as the Law Alumni Board, select the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards.
Honorees

For 2020 & 2021

Honorary Order of the Coif
Jack Speight, 1965
Tom C. Toner, 1973

Thurman Arnold Distinguished Supporter of the Law School Award
Frank Trelease
Stephen D. Easton
Christopher B. Mueller

Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award
The Honorable Gregory Phillips, 1987
Gina Guy, 1975
Judge Margie Meacham, 1954
Ray Hunkins, 1968
Honorary Order of the Coif

Jack Speight, 1965
Tom C. Toner, 1973

John B. Speight

John B. (Jack) Speight is a Cheyenne native and attorney. He graduated from UW in 1962 with a political science degree and earned a law degree from UW in 1965. Before entering private practice in 1972, Speight was an Assistant Attorney General for Wyoming and consultant to Governor and Secretary of the Interior Stanley K. Hathaway. Speight has worked on landmark cases such as lender liability, toxic tort litigation, insurance bad faith grievances, and school finance litigation.

Speight has served on the Dean’s Advisory Board and has been a major force in the Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program (WyLAP), a nonprofit that provides grants to lawyers in need of mental or behavioral health support.

Tom C. Toner

Tom Toner grew up in Sundance, Wyoming. He graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law with honors in 1973. He has practiced since that time at Yonkee & Toner in Sheridan. Among other accomplishments, Toner is an inducted Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.
Famed water law expert and Dean Emeritus Frank J. Trelease grew up in Colorado. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado in 1937, followed by his LL.B. in 1938. He later earned a J.S.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1962.

Prior to his 35-year career at the University of Wyoming, Trelease worked in private practice in Denver and taught law at the University of Colorado for four years. He joined the faculty of the UW College of Law in 1942. From 1960 to 1971 he served as dean of the college. Under his leadership, clinical programs were added, and the Land and Water Law Review was founded.

Trelease was long active in the field of water law and gained international recognition as a leading authority. He was the principal draftsman of the underground water statutes of Wyoming and was retained to draft the first water law code for the state of Alaska, enacted in 1966. Under the auspices of the United Nations, he served as a consultant on water law for the governments of Jamaica, the Philippines, and Swaziland. He was appointed to the National Water Commission in 1969 as a consultant.

Included in his many honors, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Colorado School of Law and was a member of the Order of the Coif. Upon his retirement from the University of Wyoming College of Law, Trelease was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, honoris cause, and the title Dean Emeritus in 1977. He passed away in 1986.
Stephen (Steve) Easton joined the University of Wyoming College of Law in 2009 and served as dean until 2013. As the Williams T. Schwartz Professor of Law, he taught courses in evidence, professional responsibility, and trial practice.

In 2011, Easton founded the University of Wyoming College of Law Summer Trial Institute, enhancing the trial advocacy program and further advancing experiential learning at the College of Law. In addition, he created the Spence Law Firm Historic Trials, a series of mock trials based on historic events.

Easton’s research, writing, and speaking focus on expert witnesses, effective trial advocacy, and professional responsibility. As a continuing legal education speaker, he has been invited to speak in dozens of states.

Easton earned his associate degree at Northland Community and Technical College in 1978, received his bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from Dickinson State University, and earned his law degree from Stanford Law School in 1983.

Before starting his teaching career, Easton was a law clerk to the Honorable Joseph T. Sneed of the United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco, an associate and partner with Pearce & Durick in Bismarck, North Dakota, and the United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota in Fargo and Bismarck.

Easton became the 13th president of Dickinson State University on March 26, 2020.
Christopher Mueller earned his A.B. degree from Haverford College in 1966 and J.D. at University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall in 1969. He is a past faculty member of the University of Wyoming College of Law whose scholarship focuses on evidence law, particularly the rules governing hearsay and impeachment.

He says his interest in hearsay stems from his interest in “the tension between the tendency of lawyers to interpret language grammatically and structurally and the human tendency to speak by indirection, analogy, idiom, and image.”

With Laird C. Kirkpatrick and Liesa L. Richter, he is the author of Evidence Under the Rules: Text, Cases, and Problems (Aspen Publishing), one of the most widely adopted evidence casebooks ever published. Mueller and Kirkpatrick have also written the five-volume Federal Evidence, which is cited approximately twice a week by appellate courts across the country.

Major media outlets have called on Mueller’s expertise during important national trials such as the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh.

Christopher Mueller is the Henry S. Lindsley Professor of Procedure and Advocacy at the University of Colorado School of Law.
A native of Evanston, Gregory Phillips earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming in 1983. He earned his law degree from the UW College of Law in 1987, graduating with honors. He was selected for induction into the Order of the Coif.

For two years, Phillips served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alan B. Johnson of the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming. In 1989, he began working in private practice with his father and brother in his hometown. From 1993 to 1999, he simultaneously served as a Wyoming State Senator for Uinta County.

In 1999, Phillips moved to Cheyenne and continued in private practice before serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in 2003. In late 2010, Governor-elect Matthew Mead nominated Phillips to serve as Wyoming Attorney General. The state senate unanimously approved the nomination.

In 2013, President Barack Obama nominated Phillips to serve as Wyoming’s sole judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals when Judge Terrence L. O’Brien took senior status. Again, Phillips received a unanimous confirmation to the role, this time by the United States Senate.
Georgina (Gina) Guy was born and raised in Cheyenne. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming in 1964, followed by a master’s degree from the University of Colorado in 1971. She served in the Women’s Army Corps with the rank of Captain before attending law school in Wyoming. She earned her J.D. in 1975 — one of three female graduates in her class.

Guy began her legal career working with her father in private practice. Her father, George Guy, was the first graduate of the UW College of Law to serve as the State Attorney General.

In 1982 she took a position with the United States Department of the Interior. There, she excelled in environment and natural resource law, playing a key role in developing the 1982 amendment to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In 2002, Guy took a position with the Air Force, serving in the Pentagon as Deputy Counsel for Installations and Environment. She served for three years, assisting the Air Force with ESA and Migratory Bird Treaty Act issues and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) litigation. Guy returned to Denver in 2004 and continued to practice law. Following her retirement, she traveled the world, engaged in philanthropic endeavors, and enjoyed life until her passing in 2018.
Margie Meacham grew up in Clarinda, Iowa, and attended the University of Wyoming for both her undergraduate and law degrees.

She had a long and distinguished career as an attorney and judge in Park and Carbon Counties. She was active in the American Bar Association, serving as chairperson of several committees and as a member of the House of Delegates.

Meacham was a founding member of the National Association of Women Judges and a member of the National Center for State Courts. She was known as a pathfinder in the finest tradition of the Equality State, as the only woman in her law school class and one of the few women in her generation to practice law.

The Honorable Margie Millhone Meacham died in 2018 at age 88 in Walnut Creek, Calif.
Ray Hunkins is a Marine, retired attorney and rancher who has been active in state and community affairs during his 50-year career. He was the Republican nominee for Governor of Wyoming in 2006. He is an emeritus fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers. He is a former Chairman of the Board of the Louisa Swain Foundation and a past member of the UW College of Law Dean’s Advisory Board.

After living and working in Wheatland and rural Platte County for 44 years, he and his wife Debby moved to Cheyenne to be closer to their oldest daughter and her family. He is the award-winning author of *The View from Thunderhead, Reflections on the History, Culture, People, and Politics of Wyoming.*
Join us

September 16
as we break ground for the new

Alan K. Simpson
Center for Legal and Experiential Learning
Anticipated completion 2024