



NEWS RELEASE

Washburn University Foundation Adds Four to Board of Trustees Sept. 29, 2015 For Immediate Release

TOPEKA – Washburn University Foundation added four new members to its Board of Trustees in August 2015. The board is the governing body responsible for the implementation of the strategic mission of the Foundation to develop and invest private support for the benefit of Washburn University. Trustees are elected by the Board of Trustees.

George A. Barton, J.D., Washburn University School of Law; B.A., University of Pennsylvania, is the principal in the Law Offices of George A. Barton, P.C. which specializes in complex business litigation.

Barton has practiced law in the Kansas City area for the past thirty-eight years, focusing in civil litigation. During that time, he has devoted the majority of his practice to representing mineral interest owners in royalty underpayment litigation against natural gas producers in Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Barton graduated *magna cum laude* from Washburn University School of Law in 1977. While at Washburn, he was a member of Phi Delta Phi and executive editor of the Law Journal. In 2011, he was named an Alumni Fellow in recognition of his distinguished service to and achievements in the legal community. Washburn University School of Law conferred an honorary doctor of law on him in 2015.

He and his wife, Theresa, reside in Mission Hills, Kansas

Deanna (Dee) Smelser-Bisel, B.A., Washburn University, is the owner of the Minuteman Press franchise in Lawrence, Kansas. Her company earned the designation of a Sustainable Green Printer, one of only 55 Sustainable Green Printers in the entire United States.

Smelser-Bisel serves on the Executive Board of Printing & Imaging Association of MidAmerica in Dallas, Texas. She was named the PIAMidAm Executive of the Year in 2012. An active member of the Lawrence SERTOMA Club, she serves on their leadership team. She has been a trustee for Lawrence Heights Christian Church for several years.

Smelser-Bisel earned her bachelor of business administration from Washburn. While at Washburn, she

was a member of Alpha Phi sorority and held various offices. She has since served on the School of Business advisory board.

She resides in Lawrence, Kansas.

Michael W. Falk, graduated from Washburn University in 1984 with his bachelor of business administration with an emphasis in accounting. He earned a master of accountancy degree from Kansas State University where he was a graduate teaching assistant and instructor.

Falk is a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) where he leads the firms' tax services for a number of clients in a diverse group of industries. In addition, he has overall firm relationship responsibilities for several of the firm's clients.

Falk has served as a board member on several not for profit organizations including Hope House, Camps for Kids, the Kansas City Zoo and the Kansas State University Accounting Advisory Board.

In 2013, Falk was honored as a Washburn University Alumni Fellow by the School of Business.

He and his wife, Linda, reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

Steven W. Weeks, Esq., B.S., Washburn University; J.D., 1977, Harvard Law School, is a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister. In his 38th year at the firm, he focuses his legal practice on the construction and real estate, computer/technology, and health care industries.

Weeks has received national recognition for his works including Woodward-White's Best Lawyers in America for 20 years. Marquis, publisher of Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World, has listed him in its directories for more than 15 years. He is also designated as a Leading Lawyer by Cincy Magazine, and has been awarded an AV Peer Review Rating (Preeminent) by LexisNexis/Martindale-Hubbell for many years.

Weeks graduated *summa cum laude* from Washburn University, majoring in chemistry, with non-major concentration in mathematics and computer science courses as well.

He resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.