

## Chief Justice Kay McFarland Named Distinguished Alumni



Kay McFarland, Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Washburn Law School Association, the alumni organization of Washburn University School of Law, at a luncheon Saturday, June 10. Washburn Law Dean Dennis R. Honabach is this year's recipient of the Honorary Life Membership, and H. Allan Caldwell, former general counsel for Koch Industries, Wichita, will receive the Distinguished Service Award. The awards luncheon is scheduled in conjunction with the Kansas Bar Association Annual Meeting, held this year at the Overland Park, Kan., Marriott.

Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are chosen for their exceptional professional accomplishments. Chief Justice McFarland - the first woman to be elected to a judgeship in Shawnee County, the first woman district court judge in Kansas, and the first woman appointed justice of the Kansas Supreme Court - is also the first woman to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Chief Justice McFarland graduated magna cum laude from Washburn University with dual majors in English and history-political science. In 1964, she received her law degree from Washburn Law, was admitted to the Kansas Bar and entered private practice in Topeka. In 1971, she was elected judge of the probate and juvenile courts of Shawnee County.

In January 1973, she became judge of the newly created Fifth Division of the District Court in Topeka. On Sept. 19, 1977, she was appointed by the governor to be a justice of the Kansas Supreme Court and became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on Sept. 1, 1995, upon the retirement of Hon. Richard W. Holmes.