

Outstanding Alumnus 2007
Russell D. Canaday



Russell D. Canaday came to Independence Community College from Silver Lake, Kansas, in the fall of 1971 to play football, which he describes as ending shy of the pre-season alumni scrimmage. He completed his Associate of Arts Degree in the fall of 1972 and transferring to Washburn in the spring of 1973. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in 1975 and Juris Doctorate in 1978 while working second shift at the Hallmark plant in Topeka during undergraduate school and the weekends as security guard during law school. After graduating from Washburn Law School and passing the Kansas bar, Judge Canaday returned to Independence and opened a law practice while working part time collecting child support for the SRS. He served as an assistant county attorney for four years until being elected to the bench in 1988.