



John R. Elrod from Fayetteville, an attorney in the Conner & Winters Northwest Arkansas office, will receive a Westminster College Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award on Saturday, April 29, during the college's Alumni Weekend.

Elrod has been a member of the Westminster Board of Trustees since 2007.

A distinguished attorney, Elrod has focused his legal practice on litigation and dispute resolution. His clients have ranged from multinational corporations to small businesses and individuals.

“Westminster was the perfect transformative institution to prepare me for law school and real life,” says Elrod.

He began as a deputy prosecuting attorney in Benton County, AR and later spent many years with his family's law firm in Siloam Springs, AR. In 1995, he joined the northwest Arkansas team of Conner & Winters, a Tulsa-based law firm with offices in six cities in the Southwest and Washington, D.C.

He has also served as both a Special Justice and Special Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court and a member of the Arkansas Board of Corrections.

The Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award is presented annually to alumni whose accomplishments reflect the Westminster mission and who have distinguished themselves through personal achievements, professional achievements and /or have made significant contributions to society.

In 1993, Elrod became a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and in 2014, he was honored with the Richard S. Arnold Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Bar Association.

For 25 years he has been an active partner in the Northwest Arkansas Council, and he created the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Authority, which he has represented for 25 years.

He has also worked to help his region flourish through the growth of locally based companies such as Walmart, Tyson Foods, J.B. Hunt and Simmons Foods; the expansion of the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville; and the emergence of nationally recognized cultural institutions.

Elrod will receive his award at a special Alumni Honors Convocation Ceremony to be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury on the Westminster campus in Fulton, MO. The award is approved by the Alumni Council and requires a motion and vote from the Board of Trustees for approval. Up to six alumni can receive the award annually.

###