

Students and alumni are two very important elements of a successful law school. Through their accomplishments, achievements and support, the law school continues to grow and be successful. As this issue of *The Washburn Lawyer* focuses on students, this section highlights current students whose family members are Washburn Law alumni. There are many current students with family members who graduated from Washburn Law, however, due to space constraints, we could not highlight everyone. In fact, twelve percent of the current study body has relatives who graduated from Washburn Law. Below are a few of those students along with their respective family members, who continue the tradition of attending Washburn Law.

Washburn Law Legacies...

Amie Bauer '04 and Calvin K. Williams '78

Amie Bauer '04 has always been fascinated by the law practiced by her father, Calvin Williams '78. As a young girl, she remembers people approaching him when they were out together and thanking him for what he had done to help them. Later, in high school, she began going to court with her father to watch and listen. These experiences instilled in Amie an early appreciation for the law and a desire to become a lawyer herself. In fact, her high school classmates voted her "most likely to become a lawyer."

Amie knew she wanted to attend Washburn University School of Law, so much so that she didn't bother applying to any other school. Now in her third year, she acknowledges that attending the same law school as her father has its advantages, particularly the real-world perspective her father brings to the classes she is taking. He has also been a huge source of encouragement and confidence-building—being able to talk about classes, papers and problems has helped her get through some trying times.

Amie has really enjoyed her time at the Law School. The school's "small-community feel" and the accessibility of the professors, who take a personal interest in the students, has contributed to her success and fueled her desire to practice law. Through her involvement with moot court, she has come to realize that she wants to do criminal defense work and spend her time in the courtroom. She believes strongly that everyone deserves representation, regardless of who they are or their circumstances. After graduation, Amie looks forward to doing criminal defense work in a small, private law firm or public defense work in the Salina, Wichita or McPherson area.



Calvin Williams '78 encouraged his daughter Amie to go to Washburn Law because he wanted her to attend an affordable school that would give her "a good, solid legal education." Besides, said Calvin, "most of the attorneys she knew growing up were Washburn graduates"—including her father.

At the time Calvin entered Washburn Law, he already had two children. During school, he worked two jobs, which did not leave much time for extra activities. However, he did participate in the law clinic, which he describes as "a good introduction to the system and its frustrations." His fondest memories of Washburn are of the friendships he made with his classmates and the professors.

Today, he is a criminal defense lawyer in private practice in Colby. Amie, he believes, will be a great lawyer, in part because she is organized and self-motivated. He talks with her regularly, and takes her out for dinner whenever he is in Topeka. He has also taken her to several KBA and CLE events.

Looking back on his own journey from law school to his current practice, one lesson Calvin has learned is that "the legal system and justice are not the same thing; however, with hard work, they can usually be reconciled." He encourages law students and young lawyers not to take themselves too seriously and to enjoy their successes and learn from their losses. He also urges prospective students to consider Washburn Law: "If a legal education is part of a bigger plan, Washburn is a good place; if you want to be a practicing lawyer (in the trenches), Washburn is a great place."

Family Legacies...

Kelly Garrity '06, Dan Garrity '72 and Stanley Garrity '27

Kelly Garrity '06

has always considered a career in law, since both her father, Dan Garrity '72, and grandfather, Stanley Garrity '27, were lawyers. Now a first-year law student, she appreciates more fully her family's tradition at Washburn University School of Law.

The fact that her father attended Washburn has been a big help, said Kelly. She has been able to talk to him about her experiences, and he helps her think through the new ideas and concepts she's learning. He also sends her books on special subjects of interest.

Overall, Kelly has really enjoyed law school so far. "Even though law school is competitive, the students really want to help each other out and the faculty encourages the community atmosphere," said Kelly.

Since her background is in history, Kelly is particularly interested in legal research and is considering a clerkship where she can apply her research skills. At this early stage of her law studies, however, Kelly is undecided on what type of law she wants to practice, but she is certain that it will be an area that will allow her to help others. Once she finds her niche, said Kelly, she wants to be the best at what she does.

Dan Garrity '72 always knew what he wanted to be when he grew up. "I cannot remember a time when I did not believe I would attend Washburn Law and become a lawyer," said Dan. He recalls as a young child listening to his father, Stanley Garrity '27, describe his current trials at the dinner table. Each story had a lesson on trial technique or a moral that was punctuated by his father's observance, "It should be unlawful to get paid for having so much fun!" And he meant it, said Dan.

In 1969, after graduating from Wichita State University with a degree in journalism, Dan enrolled at Washburn Law. He recalls his experience as "one of the happiest times of my life." Later, he would encourage his daughter, Kelly '06, to consider law school, especially at Washburn. "She has always seemed to have an aptitude for law," said Dan.



After law school, Dan joined the Wichita law firm Coombs and Brick (which later became Coombs, Lambdin, Kluge, Garrity & Moore), where he practiced

until 1975, when he was named district counsel of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Wichita. He would go on to serve as vice president and general counsel for First National Bank in Great Bend, and later practiced in the firm of Hylton, Garrity and Stevens, before forming Garrity, Fletcher & Haines. Today, Dan and his wife, Mary Carol, reside in Atchison, where Dan serves as mayor and continues to practice in the firm of Garrity and Kuckelman.

Stanley Garrity '27 (1904-1969) was raised on a homestead in western Kansas. His father was a farmer and his mother was a teacher, who instilled in him her zeal for education. According to his son, Dan Garrity '72, his father's lifelong love of the law began at around age 10 or 11. "He was walking by the Logan County courthouse," recounts Dan. "The courtroom windows were open and he heard the voice of a lawyer arguing his case to a jury. Intrigued by what he heard, he found his way into the...courtroom where the oratory of the country lawyer inspired him to be a part of the profession."

After graduating from high school, Stanley Garrity enrolled at Washburn because it offered him, among other things, an opportunity for legal education. In those days, undergraduate training and law school training were combined into a five-year course, and Stanley was able to begin taking law classes in his second or third year. "My father's years at Washburn were very formative," said Dan. "He always felt he learned not only an employment skill at Washburn but also a way of life."

Upon graduation in 1927, Stanley opened a small law practice in Kansas City. Shortly thereafter, he joined McVey, Randolph, Smithson & Garrity. In 1938, he joined the prestigious Kansas City law firm of McCune, Caldwell & Downing, where he eventually became a partner. In 1956, Stanley accepted the position of general counsel for Kansas Gas & Electric Co., where he remained until his death in 1969. Shortly before his death, Stanley received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Law School Association. "It was one of his most cherished achievements," said Dan.

Family Legacies...

Richard Hickey '06, Allen Hickey '62 and Richard Hickey '38

Richard Hickey '06

shares more in common with his grandfather, Richard Hickey '38, than his name. Like his grandfather, Richard attended high school in Wichita and went on to earn his business degree from the University of Kansas. Today, Richard is attending Washburn Law, just as his grandfather did more than sixty years ago.

Even though Richard never knew his grandfather, Allen Hickey '62, Richard's father, believes Richard's grandfather is "cheering him on as he goes through law school"—just as he did for Allen when he attended Washburn Law. Allen attended Washburn because his father highly recommended the school and because the Law School's schedule allowed him to work and attend classes. Once Richard decided to become a lawyer, Allen encouraged him to consider Washburn University School of Law.

"My father didn't push me to go to Washburn Law; however, he really liked the decision I made," said Richard. His family's support has been very helpful, especially when Richard first entered law school. "It was pretty overwhelming coming straight from undergrad," admitted Richard. Richard has also benefited from the support of his professors, who have encouraged him to "keep forging ahead."

Now that Richard has adjusted to the rigors of law school, he is enjoying the challenge. He is also excited about "all the options you have with a law degree." For now, Richard is "keeping my options open," but he has a strong interest in business and transactional law as well as family law, and he is also considering becoming a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office.

Richard's father agrees "a law degree does broaden the job market," but he's quick to add, "Don't be in law for the money." **Allen Hickey '62** is in the legal profession to help those who need it, a work ethic instilled by his father, who did "lots of pro bono work." After law school, Allen worked for four years in his father's firm in



Liberal, Hickey, Harner, Newbauer and Wilcox. He then worked as an attorney for the Federal Trade

Commission (FTC) in Washington, DC. He never dreamed he would end up at the FTC, said Allen, "Washburn Law qualifies you to work anywhere." He returned to Kansas in 1987 to start his own bankruptcy law practice in Wichita. The layoffs in the airplane industry have hurt many Wichitans, and Allen strongly desires to help "a lot of people who really need financial relief."

Allen believes Richard will make a good lawyer in part because he has a sense of fairness and is willing to stand up for it. He recalled an incident that took place at school when Richard was in second grade in Andover. When the teacher reprimanded a classmate for something he hadn't done, Richard told the teacher, "You can't do that!" Richard also possesses good communication and writing skills, said Allen. "And he will debate you on almost anything."

Richard Hickey '38 (1908-1969),

Richard's grandfather, also had strong communication and writing skills, which he put to work as a sports reporter while a student at the University of Kansas. Once he entered Washburn Law, he worked for the state attorney general's office. After graduation, he joined the law firm of his uncle, Mills Ebright, who had been a judge in the 1930s. After a few years, Richard '37 moved to Liberal and established his own firm. But he never lost his love of sports writing, and continued his avocation writing articles for the local newspaper. Sadly, he died in 1969 at the age of 60, but not before inspiring two generations of lawyers. Ask either Hickey, Allen or Richard, who has been his greatest mentor and the answer you'll get is, "My father, of course."

Christopher Irby '04, Curtis M. Irby '71 and Vernon Williams '48

Law school seemed like a natural choice for **Chris Irby '04**. His father, uncle and great-uncle are lawyers. Though his father, Curtis M. Irby '71, had never pushed Chris to pursue a law career, once Chris set his sights on law school, his father and great-uncle, Vernon Williams '48, encouraged him to enroll at Washburn University School of Law.

Chris is grateful for his father's support throughout his time at Washburn Law. In the summer after Chris' first year, he helped Chris get an externship with Congressman Dennis Moore '70 in Washington, D.C.

While in D.C., Chris got an inside look at the legislative process by handling constituent responses, attending legislative meetings and researching veteran's affairs issues. Now in his third year of law school, Chris works for the Kansas Corporation Commission doing regulation work, the same area his father has focused on during his career.

Sadly, Vernon Williams, Chris' great-uncle, died before learning that Chris would be attending Washburn Law. "We know he would be very proud of that fact," said Margie Williams, Vernon's widow. Vernon, who loved computers, had purchased a new one before his death. Margie Williams gave it to Chris to use at school "because Vernon would have wanted it that way." For Chris, the gift serves as a tangible reminder of his great-uncle, who he feels is "still with me."

Looking ahead, Chris is excited about starting a career of his own, perhaps in corporate law or civil litigation—he's keeping his options open. After graduation, Chris plans to relocate to Colorado and take the Colorado bar exam. For now, however, he remains focused on his studies. "I don't want to cheat myself out of gaining valuable information," said Chris.

Curtis M. Irby '71 encouraged his son, Chris '04, to attend Washburn Law because his "experience with Washburn graduates, as attorneys, has always been excellent." More than 30 years earlier, Curtis' uncle, Vernon Williams '48, made a similar recommendation to him, and Curtis entered Washburn Law in 1968, two years after the tornado of 1966 had destroyed the old law school. "I attended law school classes in the trailers before the new law school was completed," recalled Curtis. "I

arrived in Topeka the day before classes were to commence...and was quite surprised and scared to learn that assignments for classes had been posted; the work started immediately."

Curtis fondly recalls his law school days, especially the friendships he made, many of which continue to this day. And he'll always be grateful to Jim Morrison's wife, Lois,

for the dinners she prepared when he and Jim Morrison '71 were law clerks. "It was great for a single student to get a warm meal and enjoy the friendship of the Morrisons," said Curtis.



After graduation, Curtis joined the firm of Warnick, Moore, Phares & Irby (later, Moore & Irby). In 1979, his friend and current partner, Jack Glaves '50, and the late Hon. Dale Saffels '49 advised him to accept the position of trial counsel for the Kansas Corporation Commission in Topeka because it would be "an excellent career opportunity." He would stay with KCC until 1984. "Their advice was, indeed, true," said Curtis. "I continue to practice law with Jack Glaves." Today, Curtis regularly practices before the KCC and is managing partner of Glaves, Irby & Rhoads in Wichita, which does oil and gas work, business law, probate, real estate and civil litigation.

Curtis' experiences at Washburn and his subsequent professional success would prove most helpful to his son, Chris, when he began law school. During Chris' first year, Curtis shared his experiences and expertise with Chris to help him learn how to "think like a lawyer." But, said Curtis, "I tried to keep my old law school 'war stories' to a minimum." Curtis sees in his son the makings of a great lawyer. "Chris possesses the ability and skill to analyze issues and to vigorously advocate any position which he is advancing or defending," observed Curtis.

When asked what advice would he give to law students or young lawyers, Curtis repeats the best advice he ever received from another lawyer, Patrick J. Warnick, who told him on the second day of his first job: "Curtis, never do anything involving another attorney, and particularly with a matter before the court, that makes you ashamed to smile, shake the judge's and the other lawyer's hand and be able to tell them that you enjoyed working with them." Said Curtis, "I have endeavored for 32 years to never violate Pat's instruction."

Christopher Irby '04, Curtis M. Irby '71 and Vernon Williams '48

Vernon Williams '48, (1920-2001)

left a legacy of public service and professional and personal achievement. In 1946, Vernon and his wife, Margie, moved from Wichita to Topeka so Curtis could enroll at Washburn Law. "Vernon did not want to go anywhere else for law school," recalled Margie. When they arrived, married student housing was still under construction, so they ended up living in the girls' dormitory that first year. It would become the setting of some of Vernon's fondest memories of Washburn, said Margie.

Following graduation, Vernon accepted a position as labor relations attorney for the Coleman Company in Wichita. He would eventually rise to vice president of labor relations, and remained with the company until his retirement. Vernon was also very active in politics, and served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1953 to 1957 and again from 1983 to 1991. His experiences as a lawyer and legislator taught Vernon the importance of being fair and impartial and a strong advocate for his clients, said Margie. Vernon, said Margie, "was very honored to be an attorney."

Timothy Larigan '03, John "Steve" Larigan '72 and John Larigan '00

Timothy Larigan

'03 had many people around him which began his interest in law; uncles and cousins who were lawyers, but especially his father Steve Larigan



'72 and brother John Larigan '00. Tim's parents encouraged both he and John to take advantage of the many educational opportunities available to them in pursuing their degrees. All three Larigan's had an interest in business, with slightly different directions.

Tim is planning to join the firm of Polsinelli, Shalton & Welte PC, in Kansas City, working in business law. He will start that position after graduating this spring. He joins his brother John, who coincidentally also practices business and transactional law at Polsinelli.

Tim chose Washburn Law not only because his brother and father attended, but also because he liked the atmosphere there better than the University of Kansas. He also received a scholarship from Washburn Law. Tim admits his brother has been helpful in preparing him for classes and certain professors; however, Tim's biggest motivation is to get good grades. Tim states "I'm a pretty competitive person and want to do well, but my brother John received good grades and I want to live up to what he did as well."

Tim is on the Washburn Law Journal staff and enjoys that experience. He credits his high school's International Baccalaureate Program as being the one

thing that most prepared him for law school. "They were small intensive college prep courses with intense essay exams," which he feels has helped him during law school.

Steve Larigan '72

and his wife Sally are proud of both Tim and John for turning out to be "such smart, good men," they know both will be great lawyers. Steve, like his sons, has been interested in business. However, Steve took a slightly different path, he has spent 20 plus years in the banking industry working in corporate trust administration. About eight years ago while at INTRUST Bank, he assumed a Trust Counsel role in addition to managing the corporate trust department. Five years later, Steve became general counsel for SunGard Wealth Management Services. In addition to that role, Steve also is involved in the day-to-day involvement in transactional law drafting and negotiating contracts.

Along the way Steve has learned, "You are never as smart as you think you are," and "the essence of a good businessman and I think, a transactional lawyer, is to not only know what the impediments to completing a transaction are, but how to overcome those impediments and get the transaction done." Steve passes along these words of encouragement to up and coming lawyers "Some may know what they want to do while still in law school and others may be lucky to stumble on their chosen field in their first job. It took me 25 years to work my way into something that is very satisfying. I am having more fun now than I have had in my 30 years in business and law.

Family Legacies...

As long as it continues to be fun, I will keep working.”

John Larigan '00 also chose Washburn Law because of the atmosphere and the generous scholarship money it provided. John encouraged Tim to attend the law school of his choice, but thought Tim would enjoy the “mental gymnastics involved in law school,” just as much as he did. John has had many people shape his educational background, parents, professors and now partners and senior associates who, he says, help contribute to his success.

John is a general corporate associate, or a business transactional attorney at Polsinelli Shalton & Welte, PC in Kansas City. John held a summer associate position with Polsinelli after his second year in law school and was extended an offer after that summer. He has been with Polsinelli since August 2000. During law school, John also participated in Law Journal. “Participating in these types of activities not only helps your resume and gives you experience, but also shows potential employers a real interest in putting in the time and effort you’re going to have to show after graduation,” said John.

Ryan Mahoney '03, Kelly Elliott Mahoney '02 and Michael Mahoney '78

Ryan Mahoney

'03 has always had a head for business. At the age of 13, he started his own lawn-care business, and by the time he graduated from high school, he had 75 commercial accounts and six employees. Ryan continued his lawn-care business through college then sold the business

after graduation. He went on to work as an investment advisor for Edward Jones, but after several years with the company, he decided to go to law school. He chose Washburn Law not only because his father, Michael Mahoney '78, graduated from the school but also because of the law clinic. He knew Washburn Law would provide a great education at a good value.

That said, Ryan admits his father has been especially helpful to him during law school, serving as both a mentor and as a role model for a good lawyer. His father is successful and well-respected by his peers and clients, largely, Ryan believes, because his father has always been truthful with all who have sought his help and service. Ryan believes that is a big part of being a good lawyer.

Ryan's wife, Kelly Elliott Mahoney '02, has also been a great support to Ryan. Kelly believes Ryan will be a great lawyer because he enjoys people, is an incredibly hard worker and is very organized. “These attributes, together with the fact that he really enjoys the law, will make him a great lawyer,” said Kelly.

Ryan encourages prospective students to consider Washburn Law. “Washburn provides excellent professors who have excellent backgrounds and have been very successful,” said Ryan. “It is a very well-respected school—just look at the judges and practicing lawyers who have come from Washburn Law.” His advice to law students: “Study a lot, but relax. It is a process and you will get through it.”

Ryan graduated in December 2003 and has returned home to Iowa. He plans to pass the bar and begin practice in his father's law firm, Jordan, Mahoney, Jordan & Quinn, P.C., in Boone, Iowa.



Kelly Elliott Mahoney

'02 was in her third year of law school when she met her future husband, Ryan Mahoney '03.

“Obviously, for this reason, I am very

glad he decided to go to law school,” joked Kelly. While Ryan's interests tended toward business law, Kelly's tended toward criminal law. She interned at the District Attorney's Office in Wichita, during the summer after her second year at Washburn and was offered the position of assistant district attorney after graduation. Working in the traffic division, she handled cases from charging through post-trial motions.

“I believe the best part about being a prosecutor is helping people,” said Kelly. “You not only have the chance to help victims of crime but also, hopefully, to help those who have committed crimes change for the better.”

Kelly praises the education she received at Washburn Law. “It has not only provided me with the knowledge but also with the practical skills to feel comfortable making the transition to practicing law,” she said. She encourages prospective law students to consider Washburn Law because of the school's friendly atmosphere, outstanding professors and location in the state capital. “Washburn is an excellent choice for a law school,” said Kelly.

Kelly also recently returned to Iowa following Ryan's graduation, and she is presently looking for a new position.

Family Legacies...

Michael Mahoney '78 is a third-generation lawyer, but he did not urge his son, Ryan '03, to attend law school. "Our family has always encouraged the next generation to merely find a vocation they might enjoy," explained Michael. But once Ryan decided to pursue a law degree, Michael and his wife, Peggy, encouraged him to choose Washburn University School of Law.

Michael earned his undergraduate degree in business at Washburn and continued at Washburn because he felt the law school "was a good fit for me." Together, his business degree and law degree have "formed the basis of my entire career." He has been with the same firm, Jordan, Mahoney, Jordan & Quinn, P.C., since January 1979. But his law practice has evolved over time. "As a young lawyer, I was a part-time prosecutor, handled too many

dissolutions of marriage and was involved in litigation," said Michael. "Ultimately, I decided to become a transactional lawyer, which much better fits my personality."

Michael believes Ryan will be a great lawyer because he's a hard worker and sets and meets difficult goals. Ryan also relates very well to people, which is a characteristic Michael values. "Being willing to listen to peoples' problems and working toward a resolution" are qualities Michael believes are essential to being a lawyer. "I consider myself a problem solver, not a problem maker," said Michael. His advice to law students or up-and-coming lawyers? "Don't ever be afraid to admit you don't know the answer to a question, and don't be impressed with yourself."

Kelly McDonald 2006 and Hugh MacFarland 1906

After five years of advocating on behalf of children as the executive director of The Child Advocacy Center in North Carolina, **Kelly McDonald '06**

decided that she wanted to go to law school. She chose Washburn Law for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was that she had family in

Topeka. However, she would not learn until entering Washburn's Centennial class in fall 2003 that her great-grandfather, Hugh MacFarland '06, had preceded her at Washburn by 100 years. In fact, he was a member of the class of 1903, the first entering class in the Law School's history.

The auspicious timing of Kelly's enrollment at Washburn has heightened her excitement about the Law School's Centennial Celebration, and she is very proud to have had a family member in that important first class. Her own experience so far has been "absolutely wonderful." The support she has received from the faculty, their availability to help and mentor students, has particularly impressed her. She senses that the professors really enjoy teaching, and are committed to helping the students succeed.

Kelly has wasted no time getting involved in school activities. She holds offices in VLAW and the Young Democrats and serves as a student ambassador with the admissions office, helping to recruit future students to Washburn Law. She also makes time to volunteer at the VA Hospital and at other veterans groups. She comes from a military



family and her husband is deployed in Afghanistan, so she is a firm believer in giving back to the veterans who have given this country so much.

Kelly still feels passionately about advocating for children, especially those who have been victims of abuse or neglect, and she's looking forward to learning more about

the law and how she can use her law degree to help repair some of the social injustices.

Hugh MacFarland '06 (1882–1953)

was a member of Washburn Law's first entering class of 1903 and first graduating class of 1906. A century later, his great-granddaughter, Kelly McDonald '06, is enrolled in her first year at the law school.

Following graduation in May 1906, Hugh served for two years as reporter of the Kansas Supreme Court before joining his father's law firm, where he practiced law for five years. He also served as police judge for two years. In 1913, Hugh decided to seek the Republican nomination for probate judge of Shawnee County. Nomination by primary election was new back then, and Hugh had no campaign organization, so he began going door-to-door to ask voters for their support. It is said that Hugh was the first candidate in Shawnee County to employ such an innovative campaign strategy. The voters responded by electing him to probate judge in 1913 and again in 1915. At the end of his second term in 1917, Hugh returned to private practice in Topeka, and he remained active in the community, his church and professional associations until his death at age 71.

Ralf Mondonedo '03, Francedsca Montes-Williams '01, Mario Verna '96 and Kristi Verna '96



At age 16, **Ralf Mondonedo '03** immigrated to the United States from Peru. He spoke no English, but learned the language quickly while in high school in Texas. He continued his education at the University of North Texas in Denton and recently graduated from Washburn University School of Law in December 2003.

Washburn Law was a natural choice for Ralf. Three of his cousins earned their law degrees at Washburn: Francedsca Montes-Williams '01, Mario Verna '96 and Kristi Verna '96. Together, they provided Ralf with a lot of support and guidance. "We did it and so can you," they would tell him. He also received encouragement and support from his professors, who he believes really care about the students and are eager to help them succeed.

While in school, Ralf participated in a number of activities, including the law clinic, HALSA, PAD and the International Law Society, where he served as regional director. He also served on the board of Washburn's International House. His ability to speak both Spanish and English allowed him to work for the federal court as a translator for public defenders and for other local attorneys.

Newly graduated from law school, Ralf plans to return to Texas but is still uncertain about what he will do with his law degree. He is very interested in doing pro bono work for people in need, a quality that was evident while Ralf served as an intern in the law clinic, where he would often take on extra work to help his clients. Ralf believes you should always take the time to help people. "Something that may be small and insignificant and takes little time to handle can be a lifesaver to someone in need of help," said Ralf.

Francedsca Montes-Williams '01 chose Washburn Law because her cousin, Mario Verna '96, spoke so highly of the school. Eventually, she and Mario and his wife, Kristi Verna '96, would encourage Ralf '03 to come to Washburn Law a few years later.

Francedsca currently serves as assistant district attorney in the Sedgwick County Traffic Division, where she handles daily

dockets, motions and trials. "I believe that working as an ADA allows me to make a difference in my community and state," said Francedsca. "[It also] allows me to work in the place that I love: the courtroom."

Francedsca enjoyed her time at Washburn Law and feels strongly that her law degree has broadened her career opportunities. "A degree from Washburn Law will take you anywhere you want to go," she said. She advises prospective law students to consider Washburn Law even if they can't envision themselves in a courtroom. "A Washburn University School of Law degree will serve you in every facet of your life."

Mario Verna '96 and his wife, **Kristi Verna '96**, attended Washburn Law together. They were encouraged to apply to Washburn Law by Kristi's sister, Kimberly Phillips '96, who had heard good things about the law school. All three were accepted and attended law school at the same time. Later, they would recommend Washburn Law to their cousin, Ralf. "Mario and I encouraged Ralf to go to Washburn by telling him about the excellent legal education that we received there," said Kristi.

Following graduation, Mario went on active duty in the Marine Corps, where he served as judge advocate. He is currently with the Texas law firm of Bush and Motes, P.C., which focuses on construction litigation. It's a good fit for Mario, since his undergraduate degree is in construction science. Kristi took a position as a law clerk with an appellate court judge in Washington, D.C., before joining Mario in Hawaii, where he was stationed for three years. Today she serves as a briefing attorney for the Hon. Terry R. Means in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. They are the proud parents of Sabrina, age 6, and Dylan, age 4.

Both Mario and Kristi would encourage any prospective student, not just family members, to attend Washburn Law. The quality professors, excellent and well-rounded education, location in the capital city and diverse student body all make Washburn University School of Law a great choice, said Kristi.