



## Dale '90 and Lynn '90 Ward

### Alumni

Dale and Lynn Ward both appreciate Washburn University School of Law for several reasons, first because they feel they received a first rate legal education and second, but not less important, they met each other during law school and married during the fall of their third year.

Dale is currently Co-Managing Director and head of recruiting at Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm LLC in Wichita, Kansas. He focuses on real estate, business transactions and municipal finance. Prior to entering law school Dale served as the City Administrator of the City of Lindsborg, Kansas and the Assistant City Manager of Largo, Florida.

Lynn is a shareholder and head of the family law department at Morris, Laing, Evans Brock & Kennedy, Chtd. also in Wichita. She also is chair of the firm's marketing committee. Lynn's emphasis involves adoption, divorce, paternity, custody, visitation, child support, as well as pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements. She is a certified family law mediator.

Both Lynn and Dale participated in several law school activities which they feel greatly helped them in their careers. Dale participated in client counseling and was editor-in-chief of the law journal, which he says, "helped my writing skills greatly." Lynn participated on a trial advocacy team and on moot court, which she says helped instill more confidence in her when she had her first trial.

During law school Dale clerked for the Shawnee County judges, a job he especially enjoyed. "Those clerking jobs are invaluable in applying things that you are learning in class and they look good on a resume when you are interviewing for associate positions" said Dale. Lynn clerked for Topeka attorney Pedro Irigonegaray '73 during law school, who she said was a big mentor to her. She worked for him for two years and inspired her to use her legal abilities to help others. "I have never met another attorney who is as enthusiastic about the practice of law as Pedro," said

Lynn. Incidentally, Dale and Lynn were married at Pedro's home in Topeka.

Lynn believes the practice of law is a privilege that should not be squandered. Although being a successful lawyer involves very hard work, it is very rewarding way to make a living because you have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. Dale believes you make friends of your clients; it makes practicing law easier and more enjoyable. He believes there is nothing better than talking to and helping out a friend everyday. Both have positive attitudes regarding their profession and the impact it has had, not only in their lives, but the lives of their clients.

Giving encouragement to other students, Lynn warns, "don't become a lawyer if you want to work 9 to 5 and make a lot of money. Do become a lawyer if you want to help others and enjoy a variety of changes." Dale also adds, "do your best on every project given to you and don't procrastinate on any assignment." Both speak enthusiastically to potential students about Washburn Law because the quality of education they will receive is absolutely superior and because the faculty is caring and committed to helping students succeed in the practice of law. Dale encourages students to visit with the students and faculty of several different schools to see the Washburn Law difference.

Dale and Lynn support the school both financially and in giving their time. During law school both Dale and Lynn received scholarships and feel it is important for them to give back to the school. "I was lucky enough to receive scholarship money, it is only fair to give something back to the school," said Dale.

Even though both are very busy in their respective firms, each still devotes time to their communities. Dale helps coach the middle school track and cross-country teams at St. Thomas Aquinas school in Wichita. Lynn is active in the Junior League, serving on the board for two years, was appointed to the board of Indigent Defense Services by former Governor Graves and has served two three-year terms. She serves on the Board for Legal Services of Wichita, the advisory board for Habitat for Humanity and serves on the board of Communities in Schools.