



Calvin Lee '05

Student

As Calvin Lee wraps up his second year at Washburn Law, he's still not sure what area of law he wants to practice, but he's getting closer. "I haven't exactly pinpointed it yet. But I'm leaning toward business and transactional law," said Lee.

Lee's interest in business is not new. He earned his undergraduate degree in finance and international business from Washington University in St. Louis. Over the years, he has also worked in the family's import business in Kansas City. But for now, Lee is still uncertain how he wants to combine his business background with his legal education.

In the meantime, he has plenty to keep him busy. In addition to his legal studies, he is active in the Asian-American Law Student Association (AALSA), where he was elected Vice President. This past semester, AALSA held an Asian-cooking demonstration and a martial arts demonstration, and the group hopes to launch a new community service activity soon. Lee is also active in the Christian Legal Society, which has grown in the two years he has been at Washburn. Every month, members of the society volunteer at the rescue mission. Lee enjoys both groups, which allow him to meet with students who share similar interests, beliefs and, in the case of AALSA, ethnic backgrounds.

Lee and his younger brother and sister are native Midwesterners, born and raised in

the Kansas City area. But Lee's father is originally from Taiwan and his mother is from Hong Kong. Lee has been enriched by their cultural heritage and by his many trips to both countries to visit relatives. "That spurred my interest in international law," said Lee.

At home, the family sometimes speaks a blend of Mandarin Chinese and English, what Lee calls "Chinglish." He recalls having to spend each Sunday afternoon studying Chinese or, more precisely, how much he and his siblings disliked "Chinese school." "I didn't learn it," concedes Lee. "So when I went to college, I decided to get serious and learn what I should have learned before." He went on to minor in Chinese at Washington University.

Lee credits his parents for instilling in him a sense of diligence that has helped him immeasurably at law school. "They always taught me to study hard and to do the best at whatever I was working at," said Lee.

Lee highly recommends Washburn Law to anyone considering law school. "The biggest reason is all of the teachers and faculty are really nice and make it conducive to learn and enjoy the subject matter, and the students help each other—they're not super-competitive like at other schools," said Lee.