After receiving her Political Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Meghan Morgan chose Washington and Lee Law to pursue her legal career. 

"I feel that my experience at W&L has helped me to develop the work ethic to succeed in the practice of law, the social atmosphere to remember that life isn't all about work, and has given me the opportunity to give back to the community," said Meghan.

*Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail.*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

MEGHAN MORGAN
(Class of 2005)
any people embark on the same path, but no one ever takes the same journey. Trail and traveler evolve with every stride, every moment. Every step takes a trekker closer to one point...further from another. The traveler leaves his mark on the trail...just as the journey leaves its mark on the traveler. Every intersection is an opportunity for an experience...every experience can be a conduit for growth.

Washington and Lee School of Law stands proudly as something of a deviation from the norm. It is a school comprised of some of the brightest and most competitive young minds in America...yet it is a place with a permeating sense of camaraderie and community. We are continuously refining an educational process calculated to deliver to each student the challenges and guidance necessary to succeed in the classroom and in professional life.

Washington and Lee is more than a road to a degree in law. It is a path along which you’ll come to understand that there truly is such a thing as a W&L lawyer: highly educated, critically trained, fully engaged, and bound by a code of honor. It is a path to a place in the elite coterie of W&L Law graduates.

“We are the only national law school that commits to teaching law through a liberal arts model of education. Our broad and energetic curriculum includes courses from the entire spectrum of legal specialties; our commitment to accessibility means you can really work on your legal writing and rigorous theoretical thinking. W&L Law offers all the phases of a national curriculum in a place that prides itself on getting to know you.”

Mark A. Drumbl
Associate Professor and Ethan Allen Faculty Fellow

Heather Curlee had her pick of eight top-tier law schools, but decided to start her journey at Washington and Lee.

“Washington and Lee doesn’t just say they really care about the students. They actually back it up. I have met a wide group of friends who have been positive influences in my development. We support one another and bond in ways other law schools simply do not promote.”

Heather Curlee [Class of 2007]
RELATIONSHIPS

Students come to law school with all kinds of expectations. You may be apprehensive about the Socratic method, considering what area of law you’ll specialize in, and contemplating where you’ll find a job. You’ll quickly discover that, as important as these concerns are, they won’t define your three years at W&L.

What will impress you most are the relationships you’ll form while you’re here. Your experiences with classmates, professors, and the community will become a part of who you are.

LIFESTYLE • COST OF LIVING

We see value in taking the path less traveled. For some, W&L Law offers a respite between undergraduate life and the urban work setting that so often follows a law degree. For others, three years in Lexington is the first step on a journey dedicated to law practice in a small town. In the eclectic hills of Lexington, there is a place to learn, reflect, and reinvent one’s self. “MetroLex” may be rural, but it is neither backwards nor backwoods, and it’s a million miles from road rage.

Time magazine featured Lexington as one of 10 great small towns, and Money magazine selected it as one of the 12 best places for a summer vacation, in company with such destinations as Vancouver, San Diego, and Steamboat Springs.

Geographically, Lexington is in the lush Shenandoah Valley – a place that enjoys sunrises over the Blue Ridge Mountains and sunsets over the Alleghenies. Equidistant from New York and Atlanta, Lexington is only three hours from the Washington, D.C. area and 45 minutes from Roanoke.

Students love Lexington, whether they grew up in large cities or smaller communities. We think you will, too.
After receiving his Masters of Art from Columbia University, Keith Dunlap was offered a full ride to a big-city law school but found that Washington and Lee was the way to go.

"With my scholarship, I will be able to graduate with very little debt. This economic freedom will enable me to pick the job I want, not the job I need to pay off my loans. I had a full scholarship offer from a big-city school, and after I did the math, it was still less expensive to go here with a less than full scholarship."

"It’s a hard choice to move your family across the country to go to school. But I knew that W&L was a friendly place and that the administration would do what they could to make it work for us. You can’t get lost in the shuffle here."

With a dossier that includes Buffalo, New York City, and Montana, Keith and his family are the kind of folks who will make a mess of a friend’s address book, but they have found the quality of life in Lexington easy to embrace.

"We rent a beautiful home in town – in another setting, we would never have so much space. My wife has a garden. The community has really reached out to my wife and my daughter and made them feel welcome."
Professor Mary Natkin’s role is part mentor, part mediator, and part matchmaker. As director of the Black Lung Legal Practice Program at Washington and Lee, she pairs bright young law students with pneumoconiosis-stricken miners to help them seek federal disability payments under the Black Lung Benefits Act. Few private practice lawyers will touch black lung cases because they can drag on for years and the compensation is often meager compared to the effort required.

“Law students need to struggle with the awesome responsibility of what it means to be a lawyer and to represent someone,” explains Natkin. “This is exactly what we need to do every day in this profession.”

Natkin says the Black Lung Clinic is one of the ways Washington and Lee Law puts students on a collision course with the real problems and issues faced by lawyers. “Our students crave client contact, and these clients have been amazingly giving — open and welcoming. But their cases are difficult to prove, and each student struggles with an imperfect case that needs to be molded into a persuasive affirmative argument,” said Natkin. “In a traditional law school class, hypothetical examples are neat, and our doctrinal analysis lines up nicely with the point we are teaching that day. It doesn’t work that way in practice. The clinic experience is more about facts and less about law.”

Mary Natkin
Clinical Professor of Law

Wireless communications in every classroom, carrel and meeting space. High-speed dataports at each classroom seat. Missed classes can be videotaped with the push of a button. A technology staff that’s scanner stocked and laser printer laden. A technology staff that’s eager to help...even if it’s your own laptop giving you fits. We’re not committed to staying up to date with technology. We’re committed to staying ahead of it.

W&L’s three-story law library is the hub of the law school. Its 400,000 volumes and extensive collection of legal periodicals, combined with services such as Lexis and Westlaw, provide students with comprehensive research opportunities. Our experienced staff will help you find the information you need, no matter how esoteric.

The Washington and Lee School of Law also houses a very special research source – the complete papers of Supreme Court Justice and W&L Law alumnus Lewis F. Powell, Jr. And don’t overlook our prolific faculty’s own writings. You’ll find their authoritative books and articles in leading law journals a particularly fertile source of research.

At W&L, advanced technology and dedicated people combine to open doors to knowledge and possibilities.
Honor System • Clinics and Externships

Maybe you think of an honor system as something that prevents a student from cheating on a test or assignment. But the honor system at Washington and Lee goes much deeper—it defines our integrity.

Students at the Law School regularly take exams without supervision. Professors feel free to assign take-home, closed-book exams. This climate of trust can only exist when honor is paramount.

Our commitment to honor goes beyond the classroom and extends to all areas of community life. Your word is your bond—to professors, to fellow students, to everyone, on campus and off.

Just as your integrity is nurtured by the honor system, you have other opportunities to develop skills that will serve you well throughout your career. Students write, edit, and publish four journals: Capital Defense Journal, Environmental Law News, Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice, and the Washington and Lee Law Review. Exciting moot court and client counseling programs allow you to analyze legal issues, practice writing briefs, and sharpen courtroom and negotiation skills through national competitions.

You’ll also have the opportunity to work with actual clients on real cases through our Legal Clinics. Our in-house Legal Clinic offers help to people with black lung disease as they seek disability benefits. Our Community Legal Practice Center offers you a chance to help local residents with legal advice. At the same time, the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse draws national attention as its students focus on complex legal issues affecting death penalty litigation and sentencing.

Exterships also provide practical experience in representing clients. The Public Prosecutors Program offers opportunities to draft indictments, prepare for trials, and handle appeals. You can work with the Legal Aid Society to meet the legal needs of low-income clients. And if you’re interested in litigation, you can become a legal clerk with Virginia Circuit Court judges, a Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, or a federal Bankruptcy Court judge.

Mark Drumbl
[Assistant Professor of Law and Ethan Allen Faculty Fellow]

Born in Canada. Taught at Columbia, Arkansas, and Afghan University in Pakistan. Led seminars in China and performed exchange work in Brazil. Worked at a Wall Street firm, and served as a clerk to a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Practiced as a defense lawyer in the Rwandan genocide trials. A law student could go around the world and never find a professor with such a diversity of experience. And at W&L Law, you won’t just hear “war stories” delivered from a podium, you’ll get to know the man.

“With our foreign exchange programs, specialized courses in international and comparative law, vibrant student associations, and large number of celebrated speakers that come to campus, our global legal studies curriculum is exciting and rapidly growing,” said Drumbl.
When Jennifer Williams took the cross-country trek from the left coast to Lexington, she was unsure of what to expect. “Being an African-American woman from California, I have enjoyed a great diversity of cultures and have been exposed to liberal points of view,” Jennifer noted.

Jennifer says that while Lexington is certainly not the West Coast, her time at W&L has been anything but limiting. “My viewpoints are not at all the mainstream,” said Jennifer, “but people here are willing to hear what you have to say. Law school fosters debate, and despite how unpopular a point of view may be, it is heard with civility and respect.” I’ve felt very comfortable as a black woman in Lexington and at W&L. I’ve had nothing but positive experiences. Though Lexington is a small town, the people are highly educated; there’s more of a cosmopolitan flavor to the community and the law school than your typical Southern town.”

Dorothy Brown
Professor of Law

Washington and Lee University traces its origins back to 1749, making it the ninth-oldest college in America. The law school was established independently in 1849 and has provided a pathway to the law for generation after generation of superior students, among them four who went on to serve as Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court, six who presided over the American Bar Association, and countless other dedicated practitioners who have changed the lives of the clients they serve.

Despite our historic legacy, the true focus of any institution of higher learning is on the present and future. One tangible reflection of that commitment is found in our rich, eclectic, diverse, and extremely bright student body.

Another is our continually evolving curriculum. Students who come to W&L Law concerned about memorizing facts go out into the world understanding that those facts are just the building blocks for deeper analytical thinking. Our long history allows us to make that happen every way possible.

The Frances Lewis Law Center helps foster the intellectual life of the School of Law by sponsoring programs that challenge faculty, students and the University community to expand their understanding of the law and its implications for society. Scholars in Residence teach seminars on provocative legal subjects, and public lectures feature distinguished scholars addressing the impact of law on society.

W&L established a Center for Law and History in 2003, and has similar cross-disciplinary innovations under consideration. With Virginia Commonwealth University’s nationally recognized School of Allied Health Professions, we offer a dual-degree program through which students can earn a JD and an MHA. Additional dual-degree programs are on the horizon.

“I’ve felt very comfortable as a black woman in Lexington and at W&L. I’ve had nothing but positive experiences. Though Lexington is a small town, the people are highly educated; there’s more of a cosmopolitan flavor to the community and the law school than your typical Southern town.”

Dorothy Brown
Professor of Law
Today, Washington and Lee School of Law has distinguished alumni throughout the country, many of whom volunteer to help graduates find suitable employment after graduation. Alumni eagerly anticipate the opportunity to help you, whether it’s speaking to an employer on your behalf or advising you on opportunities in cities across the country.

Our alumni include Supreme Court, federal, and state judges. They hold government positions like Chief Council to the Department of Homeland Security, and work in federal agencies like the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Justice. They have been elected to the United States Congress and served as president of important legal organizations like the American Bar Association. And of course, they practice law at leading law firms throughout the country.

Our alumni work hand in hand with our Career Services Office to help you find just the right position. Career Services offers a variety of workshops each year to help you become an attractive candidate for employment. The staff will help you with interview skills, résumé preparation, and job search strategy. And they sponsor recruiting programs on campus and at a satellite location in Charlottesville, as well as interview programs throughout the country.

DARRYL HARRIS
[Class of 2005]

Before he finished his law degree, Darryl Harris was already lining up clients as a sports agent and head of his own company, Sports Management Group, LLC.

A former football player, Darryl hadn’t made Washington and Lee a part of his game plan, but the people won him over. He credits his associations and the friends he’s made here for helping him grow both personally and academically.
Some entering students come in thinking their first year of classes is like some ritual initiation they must endure. That’s not the W&L way. All first-year students take the same classes — American Public Law Process, Civil Procedure I and II, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Contracts, Legal Writing, Property, and Torts. While you’ll be challenged to change the way you think, this is law school, not boot camp. It is a growing experience to be enjoyed, not endured.

After your first year, there are three mandatory requirements: Constitutional Law, a professional responsibility course, and a writing requirement. After that, the choices are yours. We offer 120 electives, letting you customize and focus your curriculum on the areas of law where you intend to practice.

You’ll complete an upperclass writing assignment under the supervision of a faculty member. You’ll go through a number of drafts until it’s right — just as you will be expected to do when you’re in practice.

Your classes will be challenging, stimulating, and fun. You’ll work hard, but you’ll learn the law. You’ll be ready to pass the bar and begin making a name for yourself.

BRETT TWITTY
[ Class of 2006 ]

What would persuade an audiophile DJ with a large university background to give W&L Law and small-town life a spin? “After spending my undergraduate years at a large state institution, I wanted a more personal and student-centric educational experience,” said Brett. “I wanted to do more than simply go to class, read, sleep, repeat. I wanted to be involved.”

“W&L’s intimacy provided me an unparalleled opportunity to be an active participant in both the classroom and the extracurricular aspects of my legal education,” reported this Student Bar Association president. “My classmates have profoundly and positively affected my life. I feel this is a compliment that can only be reserved for a select few law schools, and W&L is such a school.”

First Year

American Public Law Process
An introduction to the legal framework of American constitutional and administrative government.

Civil Procedure I and II
The law governing the process of civil litigation, from commencement of the action through challenges to the judgment.

Contracts
The nature of exchange relationships in our legal system, including remedies for reinforcing exchange relationships, concepts and techniques relating to continuing exchange relationships, social control and utilization of contracts, and the contract as a form of economic wealth and property.

Criminal Law
A study of the ways in which society defines conduct and persons as criminal.

Criminal Procedure
The adjudication process applied in criminal cases from arrest through verdict.

Legal Writing
Legal research and writing assignments designed to sharpen writing and analytical skills and to familiarize students with law library resources and research methods.

Property
An introduction to the law of property with attention to personal property, the law of estates in land, landlord-tenant law, conveyancing, and non-possessory interests in real property.

Torts I
The legal protection afforded in civil proceedings against interference by others with one’s person, property, and intangible interests.

Second and Third Year Required Courses

Constitutional Law
Federalism and interstate relationships with particular reference to the Commerce Clause, civil liberties as defined by the Bill of Rights, and protection of civil rights.

Professional Responsibility Requirement
To fulfill the ABA professional responsibility requirement, a student must take one of the four legal ethics courses: Ethical Issues in Civil Litigation, Ethical Problems in the Practice of Criminal Law Seminar, Legal Ethics Seminar, or Professional Responsibility.
Abortion Controversy Seminar
Accounting and Finance for Lawyers
Administrative State and the Constitution
Advanced Criminal Procedure Seminar
Advanced Family Law
Advanced Law and Economics
Advanced Legal Clinic
Advanced Negotiation Strategies and Skills
Advanced Problems in Administrative Law
Advanced Property
Advanced Topics in Environmental Law Seminar
American Legal History I
American Legal History II
Animal Law
Antitrust Law
Bankruptcy
Bioethics Seminar
Business Planning
Capital Punishment Seminar
Catastrophic Environmental and Health Risk Seminar
Child Abuse and Neglect Seminar
Close Business Arrangements
Comparative Health Law Seminar
Comparative Legal Systems
Comparative Public and Constitutional Law
Complex Civil Litigation
Conflict of Laws
Constitutional Criminal Procedure
Constitutional Law Seminar
Consumer Bankruptcy
Contemporary Problems In Law and Journalism
Contemporary Problems in Law and the Political Process
Copyright Law
Corporate Finance
Corporate Income Tax
Corporate Reorganization
Critical Race Theory Seminar
Cyberlaw Seminar
The Death Penalty: A Survey
Decedent's Estates and Trusts I
Decedent's Estates and Trusts II
Development of the Western Legal Tradition
Elder Law
Employee Benefit Law
Employment Practices
Endangered Species and Biodiversity Protection Seminar
English Legal History
Entertainment and Sports Law I
Entertainment Law II
Environmental Law Seminar
Environmental Law
Estate Planning
Ethical Issues in Civil Litigation
Ethical Problems in the Practice of Criminal Law Seminar
Evidence
Family Law
Federal Civil Practice
Federal Civil Rights
Federal Energy Regulation
Federal Income Taxation of Individuals
Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure
Federalist Papers
Fiduciary Administration
First Amendment
Foreign Relations Law of the United States
Future Interests
Gender, Law, and Culture
Gender, Sexuality, and the Law Seminar
Global Environmental Governance
Law, Economics, and Policy
Global Warming Seminar
Government Contract Law
Health Care Quality Regulation
Health Law Organization and Finance
Independent Research Projects and Tutorials
Injunctions
Insurance
Intellectual Property Transactions
International and Comparative Family Law
International Business Transactions
International Commercial Arbitration
International Economic Regulation
and Trade Law
International Environmental Law
International Income Tax
International Intellectual Property
International Law
International Law of Human Rights Seminar
International Trade and Economic Relations Law
Internet Law
Introduction to United States Law
Introduction to European Community Law
Islamic Jurisprudence
Judicial Clerkship Program
Jurisprudence Seminar
Jury Advocacy
Labor Law
Labor and Employment Arbitration
Land Use Regulation
Law and Economics
Law and Education
Law, Litigation, and Democracy in Ancient Greece
Legal Clinic
Legal Ethics Seminar
Legislation
Litigation Planning
Local Government
Mass Media Law
Mass Violence, International Law, and Human Rights Seminar
Medical Technology and the Law
Natural Resources Law
Negotiation and Mediation
Non-Profit Organizations
North American Free Trade Agreement
Patent Law
Payment Systems
Poverty Seminar
Pretrial Advocacy
Problems in Media Law
Professional Negligence Seminar
Professional Responsibility
Property and the Constitution
Public Welfare Law
Publicly Held Businesses
Race, Crime, and Criminal Procedure
Radical Legal Thought
Real Estate Transactions
Remedies
Remedies Seminar
Retail Law
Secured Transactions
Securitites Regulation
State and Local Taxation
Supreme Court Practice
Tax Systems Seminar: Legislative Process
and Statutory Interpretation
Taxation of Gifts, Trusts, and Estates
Taxation of Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)
Torts I: Product Liability
Torts II: Relational Injuries
Trademarks
Trial Advocacy
Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse
Virginia Law and Procedure
White Collar Crime

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT

CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS:  
• Advanced Legal Clinic
• Black Lung Clinic
• Community Legal Practice Center
• Judicial Clerkship Program
• Legal Aid Program
• Public Defender Program
• Summer Internship Program
Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse

JOURNALS:  
• Capital Defence Journal
• Environmental Law News
• Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice
• Washington and Lee Law Review

RECENT COMPETITIONS:  
• ABA Client Counseling Competition
• ABA Criminal Justice Mock Trial Competition
• ABA Mediation Competition
• ABA Negotiation Competition
• Appellate Advocacy Competition
• ATLA Mock Trial Competition
• Holdenness William and Mary
• Most Court Competition
• Issac International Most Court Competition
• Braxton Crenshaw Most Court Competition

After earning her J.D. in 2000 from Tulane Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review, Montré Carodine was admitted to practice in Texas, where she served as law clerk and later worked as an associate for a firm in Houston. So what brought her to Washington and Lee?

"I found clerking for Judge Stewart and practicing to be excellent experiences, but I always wanted to teach," said Carodine. "Although I enjoyed practice, I certainly have no regrets. Lexington is an incredibly beautiful and charming small town. It’s a pleasure to teach here."
Clearly, we seek diversity in our student body. We’re pleased that our students boast a wide variety of undergraduate majors and graduate disciplines, and have a wealth of employment experiences, often including work for a year or more between college and law school.

For all this diversity, there are some things that are common to the group. Our students are high achievers with vision and great expectations for themselves, their teachers, and their future.

KAI-TING YANG

When it came to law school, Kai-Ting Yang was torn between a big city institution and W&L. That’s a choice a lot of our students have to make. And it’s nearly unanimous that they never regret coming to W&L.

“Lexington has proven to be exciting in its own way,” said Kai-Ting. “For the first month I was here, I went running in the early mornings around campus. I’d run by rivers, ponds with white geese, and so many trees. I kept thinking how glad I was I had chosen all this instead of a city. I love the outdoors, and this place is just gorgeous.”

“I’m incredibly happy here. Imagine that. Being incredibly happy during your first year of law school.”

Kai-Ting Yang was born in Taiwan, raised in Saudi Arabia (where she still returns frequently), and attended high school in the U.S. before attending the University of Virginia. She says she hopes to travel in her career. Odds are pretty good that’s going to work out.
What’s special about W&L is the genuine focus on the students. The faculty devotes a great deal of time to teaching and mentoring, inside and outside the classroom. At the same time, we are ambitious about contributing to national and international conversations about pressing legal issues.”

Not every associate dean looks forward to getting back to the classroom to be closer to the students. On the other hand, David Millon is not an ordinary associate dean. With a résumé that includes teaching at leading institutions in the U.S. and England and published work as varied as a critique of the Williams Act to an examination of the causes of the Enron debacle, Millon finds the allure of the classroom impossible to resist.

“I have been privileged to work for several years as associate dean, but I’m looking forward to returning to full-time teaching and research,” said Millon. “Those activities are what lured me into an academic career to begin with. There will be more opportunities for teaching, and I’m also eager to get back to large research projects in corporate law and medieval English legal history.”
YOU STAND AT A CROSSROADS, AND SO MANY OF THE ROADS AVAILABLE TO YOU ARE EMINENTLY ATTRACTIVE. WHICH ROAD IS YOURS?

With a centuries-old commitment to an intimate learning environment, Washington and Lee is the best student-centered law school in the country. If you've already charted your professional goals, you'll find our faculty eager to provide the knowledge and support you need to achieve them. And if you're still puzzling over which aspect of the law intrigues you enough to form the basis of your career, or how your skills can best be deployed, you'll find that we're equally adept at challenging you to discover your path.

W&L faculty members give a lot of time and effort to teaching in the classroom and interacting with students outside the classroom. Their doors are open; they're engaged in your education. We integrate our students into the academic life of the law school, and make them aware of what the faculty is doing intellectually. Our curriculum includes classes involving the latest issues of law and public policy — we want our students to see how an intense scholarly debate is joined and learn the nuances of making a persuasive argument. Our programs encourage students to get involved in the intellectual endeavor — the life of the mind, if you will.

At the same time, faculty members interact with students, at social events, on the basketball court, and at the local theater. A good deal of learning the law, of learning how to become a lawyer, occurs outside the classroom. Our professors thrive on providing that kind of education too.

Our clinics are a terrific example of our faculty's commitment to providing guidance on every level. Students in clinical programs really get their teeth into issues in the law and develop real-world skills like client interviewing, counseling, drafting, negotiation, trial preparation, and advocacy. In the clinic setting, students discuss issues and plan strategy in collaboration with professors, combining skills training and top flight teaching.

If you choose W&L, come prepared for the challenge of being fully engaged in your own education, in the classroom and beyond. The experience students have here sticks with them for a lifetime — whenever I meet alumni, I marvel at their fond memories of this place and the strong friendships formed here. That has implications far beyond the time you spend in Lexington, into the professional connections that will be a part of your capital as a lawyer and into the kind of lawyer you aspire to be.

In the end, the practice of law is communication. That's what makes better lawyers. And that's what this law school is all about.

David F. Parrlett
Dean and Professor of Law

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
Washington and Lee University is a community based on trust and respect for others. The quality of its life, academic and social, is shaped by the guiding principles of civility, and every member of the community is entitled to expect civil behavior from all other members. Students, faculty, and staff have the right to be free from prohibited discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct within the University community. Specifically, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran's status in its educational programs and activities and with regard to employment.