



# Professor Alex Glashausser

## Faculty

Growing up with parents who were teachers, a

mother who was an artist and a father who was, and still is, a physicist, more than likely paved the way for Alex Glashausser to enter the teaching profession as well. “I grew up in a family where both parents taught. I think that from a young age I had the idea in my brain that what one did in life was become a grownup and then teach. Their evident professional satisfaction made it seem like a natural path to take,” said Glashausser.

Prior to law school, and after graduating in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree from Harvard, Glashausser went to Tokyo. While there he studied at the Yoshida Institute of Japanese Language and taught English. Subsequently, Glashausser studied the Japanese legal system at Santa Clara University School of Law’s Institute of International and Comparative Law, in Tokyo, and interned at Ishii Law Office.

Glashausser then went to Duke University School of Law where he was Executive Editor of the *Duke Law Journal*. After graduating from Duke in 1995, Glashausser clerked for the Honorable Albert J. Engel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He then became a Litigation Associate at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, L.L.P. in Ohio. While in Ohio, he was also an Adjunct Professor at Ohio State University College of Law before joining Washburn University School of Law in the fall of 1999.

Glashausser has pushed himself his entire life. He decided to leave home and go away to college. He then decided to expand his horizons after undergraduate school and live in Japan. Without anyone pushing him, he attended law school. Once out of law school and practicing law Glashausser felt he had hit a dead-end road, especially when he saw partners in the firm who had been doing the same work for 30 years. At that point, he realized he didn’t have the passion for practicing law that he wanted to display in his work, so again, he took steps to do something different. Glashausser ultimately found himself teaching at Washburn Law.

Glashausser is a natural at teaching; it is his passion. While an adjunct teacher at Ohio State and working at his law firm, he remembers opening his E-mail one day. There was one from a client and one from a law student. “I had no desire to respond to the client’s message, even though, of course, I had to. But I couldn’t wait to respond to the student’s message. It was then that I realized I had to leave the firm and go into full-time teaching,” he said.

He believes the most important aspect of being a professor is to show students how to be comfortable with the uncertainty of the law and the ways to deal with those uncertainties. “They should be able to approach a legal situation, learn what there is to learn about it, and construct arguments of why the situation ought to be resolved in one way or another,” Glashausser said.

For Glashausser, preparation is key for the law. “It may not be glamorous, but neither is falling on your face. If you prepare for things as much as reasonably possible, then even if they don’t work out, you won’t kick yourself for what you might have done,” he said. He believes learning the law is like learning a new language. “It doesn’t come all at once, but if you work hard and are willing to dive in and make mistakes, you can eventually meet and even exceed your goals.”

“Seeing the transformation of students who begin law school unsure of themselves and of legal terminology, to student’s who graduate with the confidence that they are ready to succeed,” is what gives Glashausser the most satisfaction. “When I hear from alums who have been out of school for a few years and they tell me about the value of some point I got them to learn in class, well, that’s where the big payoff for me is personally,” he said.

Glashausser teaches Civil Procedure, Remedies and Torts and is active with several student organizations. Along with Professor Steve Ramirez, Glashausser proudly boasts maintaining an undefeated record in 2-on-2 basketball with students. Albeit he confesses they use the Ramirez “home court rules” to their advantage, but “only because our forceful arguments about interpretations of the rules have persuaded the judge (who happens to be Ramirez).”

In June 2006, Glashausser will become the new Associate Dean at Washburn Law replacing Professor Bill Rich who will return to teaching fulltime. Glashausser is unsure what to expect of his new position but quickly states, “Going into the unknown is always a challenge, but it’s also what makes people grow – which is where the reward is.”

“Personally, I’m just happy that I still have the passion for teaching that drew me to this profession. I hope to be saying the same thing 30 years from now.”