



## Zach Chaffee-McClure '07

### Student

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received a B.S. in Political Science from Kansas State University prior to attending Washburn law. He was a member of Kansas State's competitive public speaking team. A good pre-requisite for his participation on Washburn Law's Moot Court team. Chaffee-McClure decided to attend Washburn Law after receiving what he called "great treatment" from the admission office "and a faculty member actually met with me during the summer to discuss law school," said Chaffee-McClure. He was offered a scholarship from Washburn Law that far exceeded any other offer from other law schools, so it was an easy decision.

Chaffee-McClure is interested in litigation, particularly in appeals. When he came to law school, he didn't have any idea what direction he would take, but, "Thanks to the classes I've taken at Washburn and the activities I've participated in, I have had the chance to refine my interests and discover what I want when I graduate." Chaffee-McClure likes the idea of having the facts settled and focusing on the law. "Granted, it's not always that simple, but the focus on legal arguments instead of factual disputes interests me. I enjoy the abstractness," remarked Chaffee-McClure.

Chaffee-McClure along with Matt Ballard '07, comprised the moot court competition team which won the national Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. "Our tournament performances are bolstered by professors and alumni who volunteer their time and expertise to several practice rounds each year. Moot court has improved my advocacy skills, built upon my understanding of substantive law, and given me a taste of real appellate work. Plus, it's an opportunity to improve your writing, and the competitive aspect of moot court adds one more incentive to turn out quality work," said Chaffee-McClure.

In addition to participating on the Moot Court team, he is also a member of the *Washburn Law Journal* and is president of the Moot Court Council on Oral Advocacy. Chaffee-McClure chose to participate in these activities

because, "they are great opportunities for a student to improve his or her legal writing. I felt like the two would compliment each other because one is more academic and the other is more practical."

One thing he would like to pass along to upcoming students is to use the second year of law school to take diverse courses and figure out what area of law they are interested in. "Sometimes the most important thing you take away from a class is the realization that you are not compatible with a certain subject and you shouldn't make a career out of it," he said.

Chaffee-McClure said, "I think Washburn Law has sufficiently versatile and comprehensive resources to accommodate different students with different goals. Students can benefit from the faculty and staff here who are genuinely interested in helping students make that determination." He continues, "I have benefited a lot from some of Washburn's more practical skills-training programs, such as the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, Moot Court and structured externships."

He spent the summer doing research and writing for the Kansas Supreme Court. He said, "I worked for the Kansas Supreme Court this summer, researching issues and writing memoranda for the justices and research attorneys. The experience was great, and I felt very lucky to be doing the work with accomplished attorneys. It was also a good opportunity to learn more about the judicial process, which I'm certain, will be of benefit to me when I'm practicing law before a court."

Chaffee-McClure isn't sure where he will end up in five to ten years. "Part of what attracted me to law school was the variety of options available to someone with a law degree. There are too many things that interest me for me to anticipate how my career will make the best of my education down the road." Whatever he decides, based on his past, he will certainly be successful.