



Eryn Wright '08

Student

Eryn Wright's varied careers prior to law school have given her a wealth of knowledge to pull from and made her realize it is ok to have very different careers throughout your life. Through these careers she has learned that everyone has something to contribute, you can learn from others around you, and if you stop learning you stop growing.

Wright's parents had a big impact on her outlook on life. Growing up, she was encouraged to do anything she wanted and was told to never limit herself. She remembers her parents telling her, "Be true to who you are, don't pretend to be something different and don't succumb to other's opinions. Be true to what you believe." Wright encourages others she meets to do the same, and lives by those standards. Through several interesting careers, Wright's hunger to continue to learn not only in academic settings, but in life as well, continues to flourish.

Wright graduated from the University of Kansas in 1995 with two degrees, one in Theatre and Film and one in Psychology. During school she was very involved in theatre and film and did some local casting. After graduation, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue her love of theatre, film and casting. In L.A., Wright was hired by a casting firm and ultimately worked in television and episodic casting, including *Seinfeld* and the series *Earth to the Moon*, about the Apollo missions, starring Tom Hanks. After five years, Wright decided to give up the fast-paced, star-studded, extreme hours of casting and return to Kansas to work on a graduate degree in social work.

Once back in Kansas, Wright worked as a therapist while working on her Master's in Social Welfare from the University of Kansas, she worked with people with severe and persistence mental health issues. Wright became frustrated with the system and noted, "social workers didn't know enough about the law, and the law wasn't working in their favor." She ultimately decided to attend law school and become part of a solution to advocate for those individuals with severe and persistent mental health issues.

Wright chose Washburn Law after dropping in to visit the school, completely unannounced. "I stopped by and Karla Beam, director of admissions, stopped everything she was doing and gave me a personal tour. The atmosphere was very different and welcoming at Washburn Law, and I decided this was the place for me," recalls Wright.

While at Washburn Law, Wright has taken advantage of the many opportunities the school provides for students. This summer she worked at local law firm, Wright, Henson, Clark, Hutton, Mudrick & Gragson L.L.P. During the summer of 2006, she worked at the Kansas National Education Association. She had an externship with Social and Rehabilitation Services and this fall she will clerk for The Honorable John W. Lungstrum. Wright said the experience she has gained in these positions will be of value in helping her determine what she will do after she graduates next fall.

Wright has been active in student activities as well. She has participated in the ACLU student organization, Washburn Law Democrats, and the *Family Law Quarterly*. She was part of a group of students who wrote an amicus brief pertaining to the paternity of known sperm donors. For the 2007-2008 academic year, she will serve as the articles editor for the *Washburn Law Journal*. At the urging of several professors, Wright along with several other students, established the Gay Straight Legal Alliance. The group is open to all students interested in promoting diversity and acceptance and who believe in equal rights and fair treatment of all people.

Wright is still unsure where her career will lead after law school. Whatever she decides, she knows she not only wants personal satisfaction from her career, but wants client satisfaction as well. Wright states, "Who knows where I will go from here, I love to learn and have a hunger to do new things." Whether that is in research, working for an organization or in a law firm, she still strongly believes one thing: "It's never too late to try new things. If you have the opportunity and the means – go for it and don't give up. You can have several careers and still be successful."