

Liftoff to Landing: GOLD Gift Launches Others

Alan Dunaway's parents are musicians, so while his decision to obtain an undergraduate degree in music wasn't surprising, his eventual management career at JetBlue Airways was serendipitous. Although he enjoyed his various roles at JetBlue, he kept landing on the idea of attending law school.

Still pondering his plans, the married father of three made a lateral move to another department to work for a director he admired. When that director left JetBlue a few months later, Dunaway said, "I realized the time was right to not worry so much about attaching myself to someone else's star but to pursue my own dream. My kids were getting older, and the window of opportunity was closing."

Able to fly for free, Dunaway visited law school recruitment events across the country. He sought out Washburn University School of Law representatives on the recommendation of a co-worker (who had attended Washburn as an undergraduate).

"I needed a place that would be good for my family, not just me," Dunaway said. "Topeka was very affordable and offered a quality of life that made Washburn a good fit for us."

At 34, he and his wife, Laura, bought a house west of campus. While his children attended Whitson Elementary School, Dunaway benefited from courses taught by professors at Washburn Law.

"They went out of their way to make sure I was learning what I was supposed to learn, that I had a support system, and that I could get real-life experience to take advantage of career opportunities when I graduated," he said.

As a student, Dunaway was involved in the Tax and Estate Planning Association and the J. Reuben Clark Society while serving as a Westlaw student representative and a Washburn Law student ambassador.

Dunaway, who graduated in 2010, works as in-house counsel and litigator for Basic Research, a diet supplement company in Salt Lake City, and gives annually to the Dean's Circle fund through the GOLD (Graduates of the Last



Decade) program, which enables graduates to help shape Washburn Law for future students. Every Graduate of the Last Decade is granted access to join the Dean's Circle for a gift of \$100 times the number of years since graduation.

"It's my turn to give back — as often and as much as I can," he said. "It's rewarding to know that I'm helping students and, in turn, our society as Washburn produces high-quality legal representatives for our communities. Every dollar helps."

Annual giving helps sustain Washburn Law's focus and is the foundation of everything we do. It helps us meet immediate needs and gives us the flexibility to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. To support annual giving and 150 Forward: The Campaign for Washburn University, please visit givetowashburn.org/LawSchool.