It’s no secret that the market is challenging for new lawyers today. So why pursue a law degree in 2013? While some transactional and workflow tasks can be automated in the new economy, other skills—like reasoning, critical thinking, and client advocacy—cannot. A law degree provides these necessary skills.

In addition, not all change is bad. As markets continue to evolve, the law will continue to evolve as well, providing new opportunities for those who hold law degrees. A law degree creates the flexibility graduates need to pursue their passions.

This issue of *Washington University Law Magazine* asks three tough questions and then provides some answers drawn from success stories of the extended law school community. Through these vignettes and examples of excellence, this magazine offers reason for optimism. It celebrates not only those who have used their law degree to meet their personal and professional goals, but also examines what makes Washington University School of Law the right choice for law graduates pursuing diverse futures.

Yes, now is a time of great change; now is also a great time to be a lawyer.
WHY LAW?

A global investment banker whose career led him from New York to London. The executive director of the Joffrey Ballet who went on to found his own Los Angeles-based consulting firm. The leader of a nonprofit agency committed to saving distressed inner-city communities. A litigator who found his passion in developing the right strategy for his clients. A paralegal education program director turned scuba-shop owner turned acquisitions editor. An entrepreneur who transitioned from the dot-com market to financing for solar energy. These alumni stories demonstrate how a law degree can open up pathways to a fulfilling career.
A law degree provides the skills and flexibility to build a great career. For Kyle Williams, JD ’01, law school prepared him for the challenges of global investment banking in London. As a summer associate at Bryan Cave LLP, he got his first taste of what would become his career. After the partner he worked for gave him an assignment related to securities law, Williams knew it was a field he had to pursue. The next summer, he went to New York to be closer to the financial markets. “At that point I was completely hooked,” he says.

After graduation, Williams spent five years at Davis Polk LLP as a capital markets and derivatives lawyer before leaving to join Goldman Sachs as a corporate finance and treasuries lawyer. When an opportunity to relocate to London with Goldman Sachs arose, Williams and his wife, Brenda Zelin, JD ’06—then an executive compensation and employment benefits attorney at Sherman & Sterling in New York—took it.

Williams spends his days getting advice from experts who know the rules and history in different jurisdictions, and synthesizing that information into recommendations for the company. This experience is just one in a career path that he says has opened a lot of doors for him.

“The entire time I’ve stayed pretty true to my blind mission of wanting to be a capital markets lawyer, but I have done it in multiple places, in multiple aspects of capital markets—straight capital markets, derivative capital markets, and securitized derivative capital markets.”

Williams credits Washington University School of Law with his success. But more importantly, he gets excited about the people he met and the relationships he built here. A member of the law school’s National Council, he now tries to help current students get the same strong foundation he received.

“For me, many of those people who were responsible for helping me to do all of those interesting things that I do now and become the person that I am now, are still doing that for students at the law school,” Williams says. “In a lot of ways, my connection with the law school is reflective of the fact that my experience there meant so much to me.”

— Kyle Williams
Christopher Clinton Conway, JD ’96, did not follow a traditional path to law school. He decided to pursue the law while working at Sotheby’s auction house in Chicago. “Their business was a very relationship-based environment, which included interaction with estate planning attorneys. This is where I became very drawn to that area of the law,” Conway explains.

While in law school, he honed his leadership ability when he co-founded the school’s gay and lesbian student group. The experience also gave Conway the ability to cultivate a broad base of support. “During an initial planning meeting, the first two people to arrive were Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth and his wife, Elizabeth Gray Danforth,” he recalls.

After graduation, Conway served as senior associate director and general counsel for the Carter Center of Emory University. He also worked closely with President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, on their post-presidential initiatives relating to peace and health. Conway then became director of development at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. From there, he went to the Joffrey Ballet and then executive director of Los Angeles County Philharmonic. He is president of Urban Strategies, a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1978 that works with developers to transform distressed urban areas into thriving communities across the United States.

While Conway has focused his career on improving cultural life, he points out that his legal education has helped him along his path. “My education from Washington University gave me a succinct writing style, contract review skills, and a general fearlessness that comes from being an attorney,” he says.

While in law school, he followed the school’s gay and lesbian student group. “The experience also gave me the ability to communicate with people of different backgrounds,” Conway says.

The business of an arts organization is very much a business,” Conway explains. “I oversee funding, marketing, reviewing contracts, and working with unions, all while maintaining a reputable artistic dance company.”

This spring, he established his own Los Angeles-based consulting firm, Philanthropic Counsel. “Philanthropic Counsel directs meaningful change for iconic nonprofit organizations, high net-worth individuals, and family foundations,” he says. The firm’s portfolio includes Pacific Visions, a $50-million platform for developing and delivering programs, exhibits, and experiences for the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California.

Conway credits his legal education with helping him edit his legal education with helping him.”

While in law school, he focused on improving cultural life, while his wife, Sandra M. Moore, JD ’79, has dedicated herself to improving city life. She is president of Urban Strategies, a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1978 that works with developers to transform distressed urban areas into thriving communities across the United States.

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A member of the law school’s National Council, Moore formerly served as CEO of the Missouri Family Investment Trust, a public–private partnership entity leading Missouri’s multi-system reform efforts. She was responsible for helping communities across the state develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to improve education, health, mental health, human resources, and economic development outcomes for vulnerable Missouri families.

Prior to joining the Family Investment Trust, Moore was vice president of St. Louis 2004 Inc., an all-out citizen-based effort to make the St. Louis region a recognized leader in the 21st century by accomplishing major projects. She also is the former director of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DOLIR), where she served as a member of Governor Mel Carnahan’s cabinet, and a former administrative judge with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Moore credits her legal training and law school experience with paving the way for her career success: “My education at Washington University School of Law gave me a broad set of thinking, analyzing, writing, and problem-solving skills that absolutely has served as a driver for my work, legal and nonlegal, for the past 30 years. In leading Urban Strategies, not a single day goes by that I don’t have a series of questions to answer, problems to solve, and documents to understand that draw on my education from Washington University School of Law and my training as a lawyer.”
For Melody Schroer, JD ’87, her first jobs out of law school were as hearing examiner for the Missouri Public Service Commission, child support case worker for the St. Charles County Prosecutor, and contract attorney for Monsanto. But she left her legacy by creating an American Bar Association-approved paralegal education program at Maryville University in St. Louis.

“I thought of it as ‘my program’ at Maryville, and I’m still very proud of it,” Schroer says.

Then one day her husband suggested moving to the Caribbean to open a scuba-diving business.

“I had accomplished my professional goal of starting the paralegal program and earning tenure at Maryville,” she says. “I was ready to embark on my next ‘five-year plan.’”

The couple opened the Green Monkey Dive Shop and Bar on the island of Montserrat, and Schroer again put her law degree to work as assistant to the CEO of the company charged with rebuilding the town of Plymouth, which had been destroyed by a volcano. She wrote a staff manual, code of conduct for the company, and grants for businesses wanting to locate on the island.

Eventually, Schroer found herself yearning for city life and took a position as an acquisitions editor for West Academic Publishing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She thinks her next move may be back to the classroom, where she can walk in the footsteps of her favorite professors: David Becker and Stephen Legomsky.

“They made me want to be the kind of teacher whose primary concern is the welfare of their students,” she says.

Nick Pujji, JD ’08, an associate at DLA Piper in Los Angeles, says it’s the inherently competitive nature of litigation that keeps him dedicated to his work. “Other than professional sports, I can’t think of many other jobs that pay you to compete and win.

“I love the strategy and intensity litigation work requires,” Pujji says. “I enjoy my work because it is competitive, and requires strategy and critical thinking. Every day is both challenging and different—and this keeps the job interesting.”

At the firm, he has litigated a broad range of disputes, with particular emphasis in wage and hour class actions, trade secret theft, securities fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, wrongful termination, discrimination, and other employment-related and general business litigation.

In law school, Pujji was an associate editor of the Washington University Journal of Law & Policy. He also spent a semester in Washington, D.C., at the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, through the law school’s Congressional & Administrative Law Program.

“I love the strategy and intensity litigation work requires. I enjoy my work because it is competitive, and requires strategy and critical thinking. Every day is both challenging and different—and this keeps the job interesting.”

— Nick Pujji

He credits his semester in Washington, D.C., as being a critical point in his career. “My experience at the U.S. Department of Justice had a strong impact on my training as a law student,” he says. “It provided me with the opportunity to work on important national legal matters.”
For Stephen Honikman, JD ’98, MS ’98, his legal training combined with his master’s degree in technology and human affairs has allowed him to pursue a range of entrepreneurial interests in emerging markets. After law school, Honikman moved to Silicon Valley, where he began working with new and established “dot-com” companies, drafting privacy policies and other business documents, and participating in internet product development. “Over time, I naturally fell into a sort of ‘business to technology liaison,’” he says, bridging the gap between software engineers and business executives to provide better understanding of the other’s needs and constraints.

Born in a “solar home,” Honikman has always had an interest in renewable energy. “After law school, I was looking for ways to merge my career in the web with my passion for all things related to sustainability, especially development of clean energy resources,” he says.

“The light bulb moment came,” Honikman says, “when I learned about an interesting financial concept called a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) that had been used for decades by utilities to buy energy, and was beginning to be used to finance development of solar projects.”

The result was Wiser Capital LLC, a financial services company that is building a web-based “marketplace” to source solar projects and structure third-party financing to get them built. Based in Santa Barbara, California, Wiser’s platform brings together the parties necessary for these projects—the host facility, or energy user; the system integrator, who builds the solar system; and the investor(s), who joins Wiser to capitalize the project and then achieve attractive and stable returns on the investment over time by selling the energy to the host-facility through a PPA.

The PPAs allow the host facility to lock in energy prices, often saving money in the first year, and hedge against the volatility of utility rate increases in the future. When the PPA term is done, the host facility is left owning the system outright without ever having to use their own capital to go solar. “It’s a sustainable and ‘win-win-win’ opportunity,” says Honikman, who serves as Wiser’s president.

“At the end of the day, it’s about the quality of the deal,” Honikman says. “Law school gave me the skills I needed to evaluate potential deals quickly and effectively.”
Washington University School of Law is known for providing students with the right blend of intellectual, legal, and professional experiences on a major research university campus in a vibrant, highly accessible city. Applicants, current students, and the extended law school community frequently cite similar attributes that make the law school and Washington University law students stand out: innovative, exceptional, skilled, community-focused, passionate, globally minded, and nationally connected.
INNOVATIVE

»Clinical Education and Professional Practice
The law school’s 40-year-old Clinical Education Program is innovating constantly to provide students with the professional opportunities needed to meet the challenges of the legal market. Augmenting the clinical program’s 15 other distinct opportunities is the newly launched Semester-in-Practice program, which empowers second- and third-year students to gain hands-on professional experience anywhere in the country. Students will earn academic credit by spending a semester working full time for a nonprofit, government, or in-house corporate law office in the location of their choice. Placements this fall include U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Los Angeles; the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; and the MESH Coalition in Indianapolis, which provides emergency preparedness health care solutions.

»New Executive Education Program
The law school and Husch Blackwell are launching an intensive professional development program designed to enhance Husch Blackwell attorneys’ client relations and financial and legal business skills. This program is a pioneering way to capitalize on the law school’s expertise while offering high-level professional development to attorneys at a crucial time in their practice. Husch Blackwell University at Wash U began this fall, when nearly 30 of the firm’s attorneys converged upon the Washington University campus for the first in a series of three, three-day sessions. The sessions, to be held in both fall and spring, will focus on law firm economics and strategy, client relationships, and leadership development—content especially important to those who recently were made partners at the firm. Taught by law and business faculty and developed in a partnership between Washington University and Husch Blackwell, the courses will be tailored to Husch Blackwell’s strategy and culture.

»Online Education for Foreign Attorneys
The law school’s cutting-edge online program, @WashULaw, allows foreign attorneys to earn an LLM degree without relocating to the United States. It has welcomed four cohorts of students hailing from Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, England, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Established lawyers in their home countries, they join the school with a variety of experiences. Students include the owner of a Los Angeles law office, a legal analyst for Royal Dutch Shell PLC in London, a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and a former adviser of legal affairs and coordinator of privileges and immunities for the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. @WashULaw promises to provide a tremendous opportunity for the school to incorporate expertise gained in this program across the law school curriculum.

EXCEPTIONAL

»Outstanding Student Credentials
Current students join peers with consistently exceptional credentials. For example, the median LSAT score for the Class of 2016 was 166 with a GPA of 3.69. As a point of reference, the majority of the students entering the law school scored in the top 7–10 percent of test-takers. These students represent more than 100 undergraduate institutions and a diverse set of undergraduate fields of study, with the most common majors in political science, social sciences, business, English/communications, and international/foreign languages.

»Across the Country and Around the World
Each entering class represents a far-reaching population that brings a diverse set of experiences to the classroom. For example, the class of 2013 hailed from 40 different states in the United States and from 26 different countries—Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.
SKILLED

»By the Numbers
Students gain the skills they need for professional success through their law school experience. Some 80 percent of the Class of 2013 participated in a clinic, externship, or supervised practicum. In 2013, 150 students polished their skills in advocacy competitions, augmented by an in-depth professional skills curriculum. Additionally, more than 250 students obtained extensive experience in legal research and writing through their work on the school’s four legal journals.

»Gaining Experience
This past summer, every student in the Class of 2015 gained professional experience at an internship or paid position in the legal sector. In addition to international placements, these opportunities included positions at law firms; the Securities and Exchange Commission; in-house counsel offices; state public defender offices; U.S. district, U.S. bankruptcy, appellate, and family courts; state attorney general offices; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and the Department of Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

»Partners in Success
The Career Services Office partners with students from day one, helping them direct their skills and passions toward achieving their career goals. The process begins with a career services professional reaching out to each admitted student for a one-on-one conversation. Students next complete a detailed self-assessment that facilitates finding the right professional fit based on their specific backgrounds, interests, strengths, and geographic preferences. A career services professional then guides students as they access a full range of career services programming, extensive networking, and job postings. In the last year alone, more than 475 professionals from at least 30 cities representing 100 employers came to campus for more than 70 events. These events ranged from small-group discussions and mock interviews to large events like Corporate Counsel Day, Small Firm Day, Women’s Law Day, the Employer Showcase, and the Government & Public Interest Job Fair. The process culminates with each job-seeking graduating student being matched with a faculty member, an advisor, and a law graduate to help him or her find success.

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

»Collaborative Student Spirit
The law school fosters a caring community where students work collaboratively. Everyone is highly motivated and capable, yet students frequently say they want to see their classmates do well. They share class notes, form study groups, and work with one another to achieve common goals.

»Supportive Alumni Network
Law alumni are an engaged community involved in everything from supporting students through scholarships to hosting students, assisting them with their employment goals, mentoring them, serving on an alumni panel, and/or partnering in a public service event. Through the Becker Project, for example, more than 3,000 alumni and friends in more than 35 cities serve as resources to law students in their career searches, assisting students by establishing an ever-growing network of professional contacts. Closer to home, incoming students are welcomed each year through alumni-hosted dinners. In 2013, some 64 local alumni shared camaraderie, their valuable experiences, and their strong connection to the greater law school community as they hosted 117 entering law students during Orientation Week.

»Accessible Faculty
Faculty accessibility has been a long-standing tradition, and today’s students continue to appreciate the open-door policy of the school’s faculty and administrators. The law school’s faculty are powerful teachers and stimulating mentors who create scholarship, shape public policy, and make law. They are nationally and internationally recognized experts in fields ranging from international law and constitutional law to corporate and other private law fields. They come from a broad array of practice and disciplinary backgrounds, and use diverse methodologies. The faculty bring this vast expertise into the classroom as they connect with students through small first-year classes and more specialized upper-level courses. They regularly interact with students after class, during office hours, and through a full slate of social and academic events.
The class of 2013 reported more than 10,000 hours of pro bono and community service hours while in law school.

PASSIONATE

» Tradition of Public Service
Today’s students are passionate about causes and serving others. The class of 2013 reported more than 10,000 hours of pro bono and community service hours while in law school. In addition to clinics that give students direct experience working with underserved and underrepresented clients, the Public Service Project connects students with volunteer opportunities throughout the region.

» Diverse Student Groups
The wide-ranging interests and passions of the student body are also reflected in the more than 50 student organizations, ranging from the Student Bar Association to the Women’s Law Caucus, Black Law Students Association, OUTLaw, Federalist Society, Latin American Public Interest Law Initiative, Student Veterans Association, and Barely Legal Theatre. Students participate in intramural sports teams and host competitions like Section Wars, Geek Bowl, and Broomball. Fun-spirited events such as the Sidebar Wine Society’s wine tastings and the Animal Law Society’s Doggie De-stressor also foster collegiality.
GLOBALLY MINDED

»Crimes Against Humanity Initiative
Major international law events and scholarly opportunities connect law students to the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. For example, student work contributed to the success of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative, which drew on the expertise of nearly 250 experts from around the world to draft a convention on crimes against humanity. Students helped provide research for the award-winning *Forging a Convention for Crimes Against Humanity* (ed. Sadat, Cambridge 2013), which was released this past summer in paperback.

»Growing International Partnerships
With the latest addition of two French schools, the University of Paris I–Pantheon-Sorbonne Law School and the law school of Cergy-Pontoise, Washington University now has 14 international partner schools. Students and faculty take advantage of exchanges at Bucerius Law School in Germany, Catholic University of Portugal, Fudan University in China, Hong Kong University, IDC-Herzliya in Israel, Korea University, Queen’s University Belfast in Northern Ireland, National University of Singapore, National Taiwan University, University of Trento in Italy, Utrecht University in The Netherlands, and the University of Queensland in Australia.

»International Summer Placements
Summer internships abroad provide students with the opportunity to work intensely on legal issues in a global setting. This summer, law students participated in externship opportunities ranging from the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, South Africa, to a technology company in Beijing, China; the Federation of Women Attorneys in Accra, Ghana; Transparency International in Panama City, Panama; Juan Guzman Foundation in Santiago, Chile; the Prosecutor’s Office, Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague, The Netherlands; FH Legal in San Jose, Costa Rica; Beijing Arbitration Commission in Beijing, China; and Studio Legale Sutti in Milan, Italy.
NATIONALLY CONNECTED

»Professional Skills in Concentrated Markets
Through the Clinical Education Program, law students hone their skills through opportunities in St. Louis and beyond. Nearly 40 students participate each academic year in the long-standing Congressional and Administrative Law Program. The Washington, D.C., program places students in federal agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission, executive branch departments like Health and Human Services and the Treasury, congressional committee offices, and the Brookings Institution itself. Launched in fall 2011, the New York City Regulatory & Business Externship places law students with attorney-mentors ranging from those at the Financial Regulatory Authority to the New York Attorney General’s Office and Anheuser-Busch InBev. The new Semester-in-Practice program also facilitates additional placements nationwide.

»Groundbreaking Research Centers
In addition to working with the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute on the Crimes Against Humanities Initiative, law students can participate in transformative research and leadership opportunities through three other centers tackling legal issues, many with national implications. The Center for Empirical Research in the Law is at the forefront of a number of projects possessing a web presence and sophisticated technology for empirical research, such as the Supreme Court Forecasting Project and the EEOC Litigation Analysis Project. The Center on Law, Innovation & Economic Growth supports programs designed to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue and scholarship on issues at the intersection of the center’s three areas of focus. The Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital (CIS) examines the role that social class, race, and gender play in structuring relationships in society. Recent CIS events have been designed to foster sustained engagement of students and faculty with top policymakers, particularly emphasizing employment policy and labor markets.
Law graduates are faced with finding legal solutions to constantly emerging challenges in our society. Washington University School of Law partners with students to create their own narratives as they head out for careers locally, nationally, and internationally. Now is a great time to be a lawyer, and the law school is helping graduates chart career paths that allow them to solve problems and hone their newly minted skills.
Transnational Law Program (TLP) participant Molly Kelley, JD ’10, is a direct beneficiary of the law school’s growing international reach. She recently secured her dream job as an associate in Allen & Overy’s Washington, D.C., office. Allen & Overy is among the top 10 international firms worldwide, according to Global Competition Review.

“I’ve always been drawn to international issues,” says Kelley, a Chicago native who spent a year in France while an undergraduate at Notre Dame. But it was her participation in the TLP’s study abroad component that provided the international experience she needed to secure her position in Allen & Overy’s international antitrust practice.

“I spent a semester studying law and economics at Utrecht University in The Netherlands,” she explains. “That experience gave me the framework needed to understand the issues Allen & Overy’s clients face. Multinational corporations need attorneys who understand complex global issues.”

Adding to her understanding of global law were the courses she took in European Union law and comparative antitrust.

Now in its sixth year, the TLP is a four-year dual degree program in which U.S. students earn a JD from Washington University and an LLM from one of four partner universities—Utrecht University, Queen’s University Belfast, University of Trento, and Catholic University of Portugal. Their European counterparts pursue a complementary course of study; after earning their degree from their home European university, they enter the LLM Program at Washington University.

“It’s very exciting to be part of a firm with such a global reach. I am grateful to Washington University School of Law for all the opportunities and support it has given me.”

— Molly Kelley
Mikela Sutrina, JD ’12, says Washington University School of Law was key in obtaining her first job out of law school with Husch Blackwell.

“During my first-year summer, I worked for the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office, and I spent my second summer at Husch Blackwell,” Sutrina says. “I got both of those jobs through Washington University’s on-campus interview program.”

Sutrina also found the law school to be rich in opportunities and support, from both professors and fellow students.

“It is a big trial advocacy school and a big moot court school, and I ended up taking full advantage of both during my time at Washington University,” she says. “Those were the things that propelled me into the legal world more than class or grades or anything else—the practical programs that Washington University provides.”

During law school, Sutrina and her teammates won the William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition and the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC), which are among the largest in the country. She also received the third-best all-around speaker award at the NAAC competition in 2012.

An associate at Husch Blackwell, Sutrina assists in defending employers in numerous discrimination cases in state and federal court. In addition, she represents employers in proceedings before the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and the Missouri Division of Employment Security. She also defends against unfair labor practice charges before the National Labor Relations Board.

**Zach Greenberg, JD ’13,** who was his class’s “Voice of the Class” at Commencement, is clerking for Delaware Supreme Court Justice Myron T. Steele. Being in Delaware is significant, Greenberg says, because it is a haven of corporate law. More than half of the Fortune 500 companies and about 60 percent of companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange are incorporated in Delaware. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime, once-in-a-career opportunity to work in the courts and be part of the decision-making process,” he adds.

As a law student, Greenberg spent two years as a research assistant for Hillary Sale, the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law and professor of management. He also was senior executive editor of the *Washington University Law Review*. Looking back on his law school career, he says he quickly realized the value of a degree from Washington University.

He also recalls connecting with law alumni who practiced in his areas of interest over coffees or breakfast meetings: “The lawyers I met with were always gracious and happy to talk about their careers. You never know what may come out of a brief meeting—sometimes another meeting, sometimes a job, and sometimes simply another lawyer in your network. It’s good to have someone in your corner from day one.”

After Greenberg’s one-year judicial clerkship, he plans to work for the Miami, Florida-based international firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP.

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— Mikela Sutrina
Like many students before him, Joe Franklin, JD ‘13, was drawn to Washington University School of Law by the diversity of its faculty and course offerings. With a bachelor’s degree in biology from Duke University and a PhD in cell biology from Yale University, Franklin was able to successfully blend his background in science with law to provide him with the career he was seeking.

“While my initial interest was in patent law and Washington University’s great IP programming and active IP student group, I had the opportunity to meet professors who were experts not only in patent law, but also bioethics and drug and medical regulation,” he says. “The ability to change my interests as I went through law school was a big advantage of Washington University.”

While in law school, Franklin was an articles editor of the Washington University Law Review, and he had internships both at a law firm and in Washington University’s Office of Technology Management. His internship the summer of his second year at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Office of the Chief Counsel helped solidify his career interests. He was then able to pair this experience with a 14-week internship in the FDA’s Office of Policy as part of the law school’s Congressional and Administrative Law Program. That led to his current full-time position in the Office of the Chief Counsel.

“There is no question in my mind that my ability to spend six months at the FDA as part of my final year of law school was essential to getting hired by the Office of the Chief Counsel at FDA,” Franklin says.