

Jason Meares, B.A. English, Literature, 2006

By Sarah K. Miller

Associate Attorney

"The more you learn about other cultures the more you will understand how to make a place for yourself in the world."

Jason Meares graduated in 2006 with a literature major and a writing minor. After graduation, he moved to find a job. He did not expect to work as an attorney after graduation, but it became his career path after he worked in the mail room of a firm. "I actually kind of fell into law school," Meares said. "I moved to Chicago to do theater, and my day job was in the mail room of the firm I now work for. It was a good fit for me, and it turned out they liked my background. After working as a paralegal for a few years, I decided to go to law school." He obtained his law degree from [Northern Illinois University](#).



Meares found that his English degree was an effective stepping-stone into the law school curriculum. "Law school was great. One of the things that my English degree really helped with was law review. The skills I acquired while obtaining my degree at WKU helped me to obtain a position on my law school's law review, and to eventually become the law review's editor-in-chief. This kind of experience was super helpful when applying for jobs." Once he finished his degree via correspondence, he was promoted to paralegal. He currently is an associate attorney for a firm that specializes in aviation litigation and complex litigation defense, all of which he, fortunately, finds interesting and complex.

Meares gained many of the necessary talents from his English degree, which he said was invaluable to him. His ability to master the small, sometimes contradictory concepts of law and litigation was aided through his time studying and reading English. "Studying literature helped me understand these kinds of ideas. Having that literary background helped my brain wrap around those concepts more easily compared to people with hard science or math degrees." He enjoys his time now as an attorney because it keeps him engaged. "You're never bored, or rarely bored. You're constantly engaged with work. I'm never turning my brain off and coasting which is

fantastic. I love the travel, I love presenting in court, and I love drafting. I do a ton of writing. It's a good way to be paid for writing other than writing novels."

His advice for current students is to explore options here at WKU. "Take classes outside of your comfort zone. The more you learn about other cultures, the more you will understand how to make a place for yourself in the world. Work on your editing. Do whatever you can in the department, especially as an English major. The writing components of WKU English department are incredibly helpful. The teachers are available to help you edit yourself and become a better writer. The better writer you are, the better lawyer you *can* be."

