

Wesleyan Wednesday

Kristin Whitney '06

Our #WesleyanWednesday feature this week is Kristin Whitney '06! Kristin is a native of White Plains, Ky. and came to Wesleyan after being offered the Brown Scholarship. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in political science and a minor in communications.

When asked to share some about her choice to attend Wesleyan and her time here, Kristin echoed many of the sentiments that our other #WW features have shared. “The personal attention and quality of professors just cannot be beat. You might not always love being at a challenging institution, but I promise you that you’ll be so thankful for it later on,” she shared. “The personal attention is absolutely critical for students who might otherwise feel left behind or invisible at a huge state school. The staff at KWC cares about your success and they are going to stay connected to you and see how you’re doing after you leave.”

Kristin also talked a lot about the mentorship she received from Wesleyan professor, Dr. Bill Conroy, as a student and after. “He is easily the most important person in shaping my life outside of my own family. He really sought to challenge his students in ways that helped me develop my world view, and also in ways that made me realize I could do more – that I could be more – and that gave me confidence to apply to law school.”

After graduating, Kristin went on to obtain her JD from the UK College of Law. Because of the challenging and stimulating environment Kristin had experienced at KWC, she felt particularly prepared for law school in comparison to her peers. “I had already done so much writing, reading and research at Wesleyan that the amount of reading and writing we had to do for law school was second nature,” she remembered. “Other students were shocked by the workload because their undergrad hadn’t had the stringent requirements that mine had.”

After finishing law school, Kristin worked as a public defender for over 8 years – a job she describes as “incredibly difficult,” especially from an emotional standpoint.



“To nearly always be on the losing end of the court battle was difficult, but you just keep showing up, doing the work and, eventually, when you have a win, it just feels amazing... especially when it’s for a client or case that you really believe in.”

Nowadays, Kristin works as a prosecuting attorney for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office in Daviess County. Her specific position is one we found particularly exciting; Kristin runs the ‘Rocket Docket’ program that was created several years ago to help deal with the overwhelming drug epidemic in Kentucky. “My job is to speed up the resolution of those cases to get those people out of jail, into treatment, back to work and reunited with their families,” she explained. “I’ve grown the program a lot since I took over in 2018 – I’ve increased the annual cases handled from under 300 to nearly 800. It’s very rewarding to be helping individuals while also caring for this community.”

Wesleyan Wednesday

Kristin Whitney '06

As we ended our interview with Kristin, we asked her what it meant to be an alum: “Being an alum means coming back to help whenever I can. It means mentoring and encouraging students, and it especially means giving girls like me – who were from rural areas with very few family members who’d gone to college – the confidence to know that they belong here and they can be successful.”

Kristin, your passion is evident in what you do and you are a perfect example of living #TheWesleyanWay. Keep breaking those glass ceilings and keep inspiring others to do the same!