

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

By Sarah K. Miller & Max Chambers

Attorney

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Jason Meares graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in Literature, minoring in Writing. He obtained his Juris Doctor degree from [Northern Illinois University](#) in 2011. Meares is currently an attorney for a performance rights organization based in Nashville, Tennessee.



Meares 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.”

Meares found that his English degree was an effective stepping-stone into the law school curriculum. “One of the things that my English degree really helped with was law review,” said Meares. “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 JD, he was promoted to paralegal, then associate attorney at a law firm in Chicago, Illinois. Meares switched law firms to become an attorney in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2017.

As an attorney for a performance rights organization, Meares works to ensure that songwriters’ royalties are respected. “My daily activities include arbitrating disputes, overseeing infringement suits being handled by outside counsel, and helping the heirs of deceased songwriters sort out issues with royalty rights,” said Meares. He feels lucky to be working in the specific legal field he felt drawn to in law school, and he finds his

work with the families of deceased songwriters incredibly rewarding. He also enjoys the level of engagement that his job requires. “You’re never bored, or rarely bored,” said Meares. “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.”

His ability to master the small, sometimes contradictory concepts of law and litigation was aided through his time studying English. “Having that literary background helped my brain wrap around those concepts more easily compared to people with hard science or math degrees,” said Meares. He also appreciates the skills that his Writing minor provided, which help in drafting legal documents. “I do a ton of writing. It’s a good way to be paid for writing other than writing novels.”

When he isn’t working, Meares enjoys hosting a podcast called *San Dimas Today*, which discusses the Bill & Ted movies. “[My co-host and I] try to find unexpected means of analyzing the films and interview people associated with them,” said Meares.

Meares advice for current students is to explore options for non-English coursework and diverse electives at WKU. “Take classes outside of your comfort zone,” said Meares. “The more you learn about other cultures, the more you will understand how to make a place for yourself in the world.” He also recommends pursuing opportunities available through the English department, particularly for students hoping to obtain law degrees. “Do whatever you can in the department, especially as an English major,” said Meares. “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.”

