



SUBMITTED

Prepared for My Future

BY ANDREW LEHNER '03

This year marks the tenth year since my graduation from Northwestern. In that time I've married my college cross country teammate and best friend Kristel (Baumann '04), completed law school, and been blessed with two children. I operate my own estate planning and probate law practice, advise law students and graduates at William Mitchell College of Law as they seek to advance their careers, and am even teaching a law school class there.

As I considered my college options in high school, my search boiled down to a choice between a large, well-known university or Northwestern College. With little hesitation, I chose Northwestern and can look back with no regrets. My coursework was challenging and prepared me for law school and my future. Beyond the academic rigors, the community and relationships I experienced at NWC stand out as critically important to me.

Today, my closest friends are those who I met at Northwestern. It is this

community and these relationships that are behind what I do, who I am, and how I operate.

I am not driven to grow the next national force of a law firm, but I do make my best effort each day to serve my clients with service and efficiency, regardless of whether I'm drafting a simple Will or helping to administer the most complex of estates.

Betty came to me for help when her beloved sister passed away unexpectedly. She shared a duplex with this sister. My legal assistance to Betty as she administered her sister's estate set no new legal precedent, but I was honored to be asked to serve—indeed to minister—to this elderly woman in a very difficult time. We developed a real, meaningful relationship.

My profession puts me in the lives of others. Clients are my source of livelihood, yes. But each one is a soul with a story that I am invited into for a brief time. My profession is my ministry.

Like Andrew, all Northwestern alumni have a story to tell and we would love to hear yours! If you attended Northwestern, or perhaps if you have just had Northwestern as part of your life through another avenue, you can share your story of how your life is different because of NWC by sending an e-mail to advancement@nwc.edu. We will rejoice with you and pray for you, and we may use your story for this or other publications.