

## Frank Muller, J.D. B.A. English, Literature, 2002

*By Max Chambers*

### Supervisory Copyright Examiner, United States Copyright Office

*“Pursue every possible path to be engaged and really take advantage of your time as an English student. It really is a great opportunity to develop relationships and to take time to enjoy yourself.”*



Frank Muller graduated with honors from WKU with BAs in Literature and Philosophy in 2002. He received his JD in 2008 from [DePaul University College of Law](#). He is currently a Supervisor in the Registration Program in the [United States Copyright Office](#), a division of the Library of Congress located just steps from the U.S. Capitol.

As a WKU legacy student, Muller felt that the atmosphere of WKU was perfect for him. He explored various humanities departments, but he truly fell in love with English and Philosophy. He also felt that these departments would provide a solid educational base for law school in the future.

Muller felt that all his English classes prepared him for the sheer volume of reading and writing he does daily. In particular, Muller appreciated Dr. Deborah Logan’s help with his honors thesis. He found that “the experience of doing a thesis or capstone project is really invaluable, and it really helped me out especially in my law school career with writing and publishing articles.” Muller also loved his experiences in film classes with Dr. Ted Hovet. Muller studied abroad with Dr. Lloyd Davies in Cambridge, England, which he feels gave him a “great, holistic experience” of English. He was an active member of the [English Club](#) and edited [Zephyrus](#), which prepared him to edit law journals later in his career.

After graduating in 2002, Muller toured the country doing improv and sketch comedy for several years with two other English majors from WKU. He headed to law school in Chicago in 2005, received his JD in 2008, and began his own law practice later that year. In 2010, he left Chicago to join the Library of Congress staff, and he’s been there ever since.

At the United States Copyright Office, Muller works with the Registration Program's Literary Division. He explains that his job is mainly to read and review literary works: "We make sure that the work [an author] sent is copyrightable, that there's enough material to register it, that it hasn't been previously published or is in the public domain, and we make sure that what they said on the application (the author and ownership) is accurate." "Literary works" under U.S. copyright law also includes computer programs, databases, websites, and blogs, in addition to traditional literature.

Outside of work, Muller enjoys spending time with his wife and 7-year-old daughter, biking along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, home-brewing beer, and reading the works of T.C. Boyle, George Saunders, and Marilynne Robinson.

Muller recommends that current English students engage with their professors and other students through English Club and *Zephyrus*. He also hopes students see that their time at WKU is invaluable: "It may not seem that wonderful when you have to finish a 20-page paper by the end of the week, but take advantage of it and take it seriously. Embrace the feedback that you're going to get. Throughout your career you're not going to have professors who will guide you and provide you with guidance on how to better think about things and become a better writer. You're going to take out of this an ability to write that you will apply for the rest of your life."

