Kathryn Starnella

Kathryn Starnella began her first term on Colorado Lawyer’s advisory board in July 2017.

Describe yourself in five words.
Diligent, dedicated, good listener, inquisitive, reflective.

Why did you become a lawyer?
High school mock trial piqued my interest in the law and becoming a lawyer. (Thanks, Mr. Simonson and Mr. Raftery!) I enjoyed the experience of developing a persuasive theme, theory, and trial strategy with my teammates and presenting our case to the volunteer judge and jurors. I pursued this profession because I wanted to help people, I enjoy public speaking, and I enjoy the intellectual challenge.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given?
Live with integrity. My parents were the first people to give me that advice, and they embody that every day.

What is one of the most positive experiences you’ve had as a lawyer?
Serving as a judicial law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello has been my most positive experience as a lawyer. I am extremely grateful to have had that opportunity.

What do you like the most about your practice area?
I enjoy working on cases that present novel or complicated legal issues, concern areas of law that are unclear or developing, or concern policy.

What do you wish you had learned in law school?
I am really pleased with the education I received. If I could do it all over again, I would probably pursue more practical opportunities in one of the legal clinics or participate in a study abroad program or the school’s International Team Project program where students study another country’s legal system and develop a research project in that country.

What is your favorite place to escape to in Colorado?
Colorado has so many astonishingly beautiful places; it’s hard to pick a favorite. That’s why I love living in this state. When I need to detach to reflect on life, though, I like to go to the Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia.

If you weren’t a lawyer, you’d be:
I really enjoy being a lawyer. I had a phase where I wanted to be an actor, but I think I am over that (at least until retirement). 😂

Do you know a CBA member who should be featured in Under Oath? Email nominations to Brendan Baker at bbaker@cobar.org.