



# Kathryn Starnella

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

*Photo courtesy of Jen Collins.*

## PROFILE

**Hometown:** Sheboygan, Wisconsin

**Law School:** Northwestern University

**Lives in:** Denver, Colorado

**Works at:** Colorado Attorney General's Office

**Practice Area(s):** Civil litigation, civil rights issues, constitutional law

**CBA Member Since:** May 2012

## 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](mailto:bbaker@cobar.org).