



Johnnie Nguyen

Johnnie Nguyen, a 2L at the University of Colorado Law School, is the first Colorado law student to be elected chair of the ABA Law Student Division Council. He will begin his duties in the 2019-20 school year. As chair, Johnnie plans to address student debt, lawyer wellness, sexual harassment in the workplace, diversity and inclusion pipelines, and ways lawyers can be more environmentally conscious.

PROFILE

Hometown:

Denver

Law School:

University of Colorado Law School

Lives in:

Denver

Works at:

Extern at the Colorado Attorney General's Office

Practice Area(s):

N/A

CBA Member Since:

2019

Why did you decide to become a lawyer?

I want to be a voice for those who are underserved. Both of my parents were Vietnam War refugees. I've seen firsthand the obstacles that immigrants, people of color, and those who are economically disadvantaged have when navigating the legal system. I hope to contribute toward curtailing these barriers and expanding justice for all.

What's the best advice you've ever been given?

To be myself and that life is never a linear path. This advice allowed me to overcome the "impostor" syndrome as a diverse law student and not get too flustered when things don't go as planned.

What's your favorite memory from law school so far?

The class camping trip before law school started. I got to meet so many new, amazing people, build lifelong friendships, and enjoy Colorado's beautiful scenery before the stress of law school kicked in.

Outside of the law, what are your hobbies?

I love sampling snacks at Costco, playing pickup basketball, road cycling, bait-fishing, and cooking Vietnamese food.

What are you passionate about?

Breaking glass ceilings and opening doors for other underrepresented students who are striving to achieve the American dream.


What is your favorite Denver restaurant?

Sushi Den. I am dangerously addicted to sushi.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Getting my Asian tiger dad to say "I'm proud of you."

Who is your hero and why?

My parents. No doubt. They are humble, hard-working, and caring people who have given me everything when they've had nothing. I can't wait to make them proud by one day becoming our family's first attorney. 

Do you know a CBA member who should be featured in Under Oath? Email nominations to Sue Bertram at sbertram@cobar.org.