



Nicholas Monck

Nicholas Monck is the president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Colorado School of Law, and a member of the class of 2019.

PROFILE

Hometown: Birmingham, Michigan

Law School: University of Colorado

Lives in: Boulder, Colorado

Interns at: Department of Commerce

Practice Area(s): Government

CBA Member Since: 2016

Describe yourself in five words.

Versatile, adventurous, advocate, juxtaposition, deliberate.

Why did you become a lawyer?

Growing up, I didn't have any lawyers in my family, so my only real knowledge of the legal industry came from TV and movies. I knew lawyers represented people in court, but I didn't have a sense of how vast the profession is or the opportunities for lawyers in public service. It wasn't until I had been working in Washington, D.C. and noticed most of my mentors and people I looked up to were lawyers that I started seriously looking at law school.

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

Zealous advocacy doesn't require you to be a jerk, and you should treat everyone the way you would like to be treated. I think it is incredibly important to maintain a positive relationship even with people you disagree with. Nothing justifies personal attacks or vindictiveness. Just because your views are different, it doesn't mean you shouldn't be respectful of someone. For example, before being elected SBA President, I was part of the law school's Criminal Prosecution Society. A lot of my classmates and mock trial teammates work for the public defender's office. We don't allow our different views on criminal justice to get in the way of our friendship.

What is one of the most positive experiences you've had as a lawyer?

The collegiality from everyone in the Colorado bar

has been very surprising. Even when I'm calling someone about an administrative or procedural matter and identify myself as a law student, I've had nothing but courteous interactions with attorneys, judges, and elected officials. I know how busy people are, and I've been shocked by how many lawyers have taken time out of their day to talk with me.


What do you like the most about your practice area?

I really enjoy that public service is never repetitive or dull. In the places where I've interned, the attorneys are constantly bombarded with new projects. The work is fast-paced and involves many different interested parties. You have to consider all their needs and come up with a recommendation that is in the public's best interest, while on a tight deadline and juggling many other priorities.

What do you wish you had learned in law school?

So much. The law school has tons of interesting classes—I really wish I had more time to take them all. One thing that attracted me to the University of Colorado when I was deciding where to go to law school was the faculty. We have a number of professors who are experts in their field. It would be fantastic to have the opportunity to learn from more of them before graduation.

If you weren't a lawyer, you'd be:

A whitewater raft guide, which may still happen if my last year of law school and the bar exam don't work out. 

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