

# Katherine Claire Steefel

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O: 303.871.6177

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Assistant Professor of the Practice of Law**, Denver, CO

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

2023-present

*Courses:*

Externships

Lawyering in Practice, Externship Seminar

Appellate Criminal Law

*Service & Affiliations:*

Member, Modern Learning Committee (2024-present)

Member, Clerkship Committee (2023-present)

Member, Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place & Law (2023-present)

Faculty Advisor, Chancellor's Scholars (2023-present)

Member, Public Interest Summer Stipend Selection Committee (2024)

## PUBLICATIONS

*From Whiteboard to Statement of Principles: The Development of the Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place, and Law's Principles*, 101 DEN. L. REV. 455 (2024)

*Uniting the Head, Hands, and Heart: How Specialty Externships Can Combat Public Interest Drift*, 25:2 CLINICAL L. REV. 325 (2019) (peer reviewed law journal of NYU Law), co-authored with Alexi Freeman

*The Pledge for the Public Good: A Student-Led Initiative to Incorporate Morality & Justice in Every Classroom*, 22 WASH. & LEE J. CIV. RTS. & SOC. JUST. 49 (2016), co-authored with Alexi Freeman

*Pro Bono, Public Interest and More: A Look at a Student-Led Initiative to Elevate the Public Good at Denver Law*, THE DOCKET, Dec. 2016-Jan. 2017, at 26, co-authored with Alexi Freeman

## EDUCATION

**University of Denver Sturm College of Law**, Denver, Colorado

J.D., May 2017

*GPA/Ranking* 3.88; 1 of 215

Order of the Coif

*Scholarship* Chancellor's Scholarship Recipient

*Law Review* *Denver Law Review*, Symposium Editor, "Justice Reinvestment: The Solution to Mass Incarceration?"

*Awards* Faculty Prize: Kenneth L. Smith Award for Top GPA for Graduating Class  
Highest Grades in Federal Courts, Evidence, and Social Change Lawyering  
Reese Persuasive Writing Award for top brief in legal writing course

National Jurist: 2017 Law Student of the Year  
 Outstanding Graduating Student  
 Daniel S. Hoffman Award for Outstanding Student Leadership  
 2017 Sturm College of Law Student Leadership Award  
 2017 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *Public Good Distinction*  
 2016 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *The Pledge for the Public Good*  
 Outstanding 1L Day Student  
 2015 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *Analyzing the Law through a Racial Justice Lens*  
 Squire Patton Boggs 2015 Public Policy Fellowship Recipient

*Externships* Johnson & Klein, Rathod Mohamedbhai, U.S. Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division-Special Litigation, U.S. Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights, Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, Advancement Project

*Research Assistant* Professor Catherine Smith, researched and edited Amicus Brief of Scholars of the Constitutional Rights of Children, cited in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644, 668 (2015)

*Teaching Assistant* Constitutional Law (Professor Mark Hughes)  
 Criminal Law (Professor Rashmi Goel)

**Georgetown University, Washington, DC**

Bachelor of Science, School of Foreign Service, May 2013, *Cum Laude*

*GPA* 3.67

*Major* International Politics/Latin American Studies certificate

*Thesis* *Redefining Political Traditions: The Emergence of the Chilean Student Movement*

*Study Abroad* Studied at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Denver, CO**

*Deputy State Public Defender (Appellate Division)*

*February 2020-April 2023*

- Represented indigent defendants in appellate proceedings
- Drafted briefs filed in the Colorado Court of Appeals and Colorado Supreme Court
- Presented oral arguments to the Colorado Court of Appeals
- Visited incarcerated clients and communicated with clients and their families

**Johnson & Klein, Boulder, CO**

*Associate Attorney*

*Fall 2018-January 2020*

- Represented criminal defendants in state and federal court proceedings
- Successfully litigated motion to obtain discovery regarding claim of selective prosecution of protesters (prosecution ultimately dismissed criminal case against protester client)
- Assisted in investigation and witness interviews in civil rights cases
- Co-counsel for resentencing of a juvenile who received unconstitutional life sentence

**Justice William Hood III, Colorado Supreme Court, Denver, CO**

*Judicial Law Clerk*

*2017-2018*

- Drafted opinions, concurrences, and dissents for Justice Hood
- Reviewed work of legal interns and externs
- Assisted with Colorado's Access to Justice Committee and Diversify the Bench efforts

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

October 2024, Presenter, *Designing (or Redesigning) an Externship Program: Exploring Three Different Models from One Clinician's Crew*, Externships 12 Conference, Boston University School of Law  
September 2024, Guest Lecturer, *Mock Law School Class*, Metro State University of Denver  
May 2024, Presenter, *Effectively Working with Law Student Externs, Clerks & Summer Associates* CLE  
November 2023, Guest Lecturer, *Mock Law School Class*, Prospective Denver Law Students  
September 2023, Guest Lecturer, *Mock Law School Class*, Metro State University of Denver  
May 2023, Presenter, *Externship Supervisor Training* CLE

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Bar Admissions: Colorado, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and the United States District Court for the District of Colorado
- Colorado Bar Association (Spanish Speaking Lawyers Committee member), Colorado Women's Bar Association (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee member)