

Katherine Claire Steefel

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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, Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place & Law (2023-present)
Faculty Advisor, Chancellor's Scholars (2023-present)
Member, Clerkship Committee (2023-24)
Member, Public Interest Summer Stipend Selection Committee (2023-24)

PUBLICATIONS

Unconstitutional But Not Unconstitutional Enough, 111 CORNELL LAW REVIEW (forthcoming)

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

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

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

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Denver, CO

Deputy State Public Defender (Appellate Division)

2020–2023

- Represented indigent defendants in appellate proceedings
- Litigated constitutional issues arising in criminal cases
- 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

2018–2020

- 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
- 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, Colorado Women's Bar Association