



Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
The Civil Defense Bar

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Shannon A. Hughes

Sutton | Booker | P.C.

New Lawyer Director—

CDLA Board of Directors

When did you first know you wanted to be a lawyer? Why did you want to be a lawyer?

As a marketing major in undergrad, I landed a coveted internship at McDonald's HQ on the Happy Meal Team—a dream opportunity on paper, but I quickly realized it wasn't for me. I craved more meaningful work that made a positive impact, rather than contributing to over-consumption. This led me to pivot to law, spending five years as a paralegal in Chicago before moving to Denver to attend law school and pursue a career aligned with my values.

What is your most memorable moment in the courtroom?

Witnessing opposing counsel receive a stern reprimand from a Judge for wearing a bolo tie to a hearing. Coming from Chicago, where courtroom attire is traditional, this was my first exposure to such a unique fashion choice in a legal setting. A humorous reminder of how local customs can vary, even in professional environments.

What has surprised you most regarding the practice of law?

The significant role of non-legal skills in the profession – communication, client management, and emotional intelligence are just as critical as legal expertise.

What is the most useful advice you have ever received regarding your practice?

“Build relationships, not just cases.” Networking, mentoring, and building rapport with peers, judges, and clients can pay dividends in your career.

What was the first concert you attended?

Lilith Fair, 1998, with my mom.

What is your favorite way to relax from the practice of law?

Hiking with my family, running, dance.

What is your favorite fictional representation of a lawyer or litigation?

Dark Waters (2019), starring Mark Ruffalo, about attorney Robert Bilott, who took on the chemical manufacturing giant DuPont after they contaminated a community.

What would you want to be doing if you were not an attorney?

I would write children's books that inspire the next generation to care for the planet, protect animals, and embrace kindness through a vegan lifestyle.



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