

Member Spotlight

Krystin Latuszek

Counsel

McDonald's Corporation

Oak Brook, IL

In current position since: 2012

Years in-house: 3 years

Law School: Chicago-Kent College of Law

Undergrad: Illinois Institute of Technology, Political Science Major

The best thing about my current job is:

I get to work for a company with the highest ethical standards, consistently focused on doing the right thing.

The most challenging thing about my current job is:

Trying to maintain a level of strategic involvement in my client's projects while handling the high volume of contracts that I need to draft and negotiate.

My most pivotal career move:

Having only been a lawyer for 3 years, this is an easy one to answer: getting a job as an in-house lawyer for McDonald's was a dream come true, and I cannot imagine something more pivotal than that.

What I look forward to in my career:

Continuing to learn something new every day.

If I were not practicing law:

I would want to be working at McDonald's on the business side.

Hardest lesson I've learned as a lawyer:

Facing the fact that... like everyone else... I'll make mistakes. But I've also learned that you can overcome them by acknowledging them, fixing them, learning from them and moving on.

Most valuable life lesson:

Approach issues/jobs with thoughtfulness and care. To be successful, you don't have to be the smartest, most talented, most experienced or most knowledgeable person tackling the task. If you are simply thoughtful and sincerely care about the outcome, you will succeed.

Favorite volunteer activity:

I really enjoy the annual Street Law day at McDonald's. Last year we had about 45 kids from Proviso East High School come for a day of workshops and interactive sessions. The activities are fun, but they also expose the students to practical legal topics important to their everyday lives (e.g., why contracts are important). The students "get it." They get to see what business lawyers really do, and they realize that being a lawyer is not some mystical, incomprehensible thing, but involves dealing with issues they can relate to.

Best thing about the ACC Chicago Chapter:

The acquaintances and friendships I've made with other in-house lawyers. I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate the inspiration and guidance I have received as a young, in-house lawyer.

People may be surprised to learn that...

I speak Spanish fluently.

I'm currently reading:

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead

My current playlist includes:

Fun.

Favorite vacation spot:

New York City. There are great restaurants, of course, but there is also food you cannot find anywhere else, like NY-style pizza from Grimaldi's or bagels from Ess-a-Bagel. I love window shopping on 5th Avenue (designer selections, insanely expensive)... and then I do my "real" shopping at Century 21 (designer selections, insanely cheap!). NYC is my favorite place to visit and the only city... other than Chicago... where I can see myself living.