

Member Spotlight

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Associate General Counsel

Global Brass and Copper Holdings, LLC

In current position for: Since May 2018

Years in-house: 9 years

Law School: Chicago Kent

Undergrad: Indiana University (B.A. in Slavic Language and Literature)

The best thing about my current job is:

the ability to become a generalist and broaden my legal knowledge. The number of issues that arise daily provides constant opportunities to learn and grow. I also appreciate how skills I learned are transferrable. On any given day, I might review a commercial contract, oversee outside counsel on an employment case, confirm compliance with a regulatory statute, edit marketing materials, or devise strategies for registering trademarks.

The most challenging thing about my current job is:

being in a small legal department (with only two attorneys). The ability to bounce legal considerations off other lawyers is more limited, but this is why networking and ACC resources are so valuable.

My most pivotal career move or two was:

I had two pivotal moves that created growth and leadership opportunities that benefitted my career. The first was leaving the practice of law to raise my twins. Not working full time afforded me the opportunity to serve on my local school board where I gained knowledge of government and employment law as well as certain aspects of governance that I have since used in my career to provide legal advice to my clients. The second pivotal move was leaving my former place of employment for my current position. I left a large legal department at a Fortune 500 company. In doing so, I stepped outside my comfort zone, and as I expand my legal knowledge, I feel better equipped to provide a broad range of legal advice to my business clients.

Advice I would give to new lawyers, in-house or otherwise:

I have three pieces of advice: (1) start networking early, and maintain a network throughout your career; (2) figure out how the people you interface with like to be communicated with and how frequently, and then do your best to communicate that way; and (3) give 100% effort. It shows the client/employer you care about them as well as your work product.

Hardest lesson I've learned as a lawyer:

Lawyers make and help others make hundreds of decisions a day. Mistakes are bound to happen along the way. With experience, I've learned that most mistakes are easily remedied. So, I learn from them and move forward. (Of course, don't make the same mistake twice.)

What I like most about the ACC Chicago Chapter:

The Membership Committee, which I have served on for 3 years. I have had a great time planning pop up lunches for members to meet and network. Pop up lunches are gatherings where small groups of in-house counsel eat lunch (compliments of the ACC), network, and informally discuss best practices and legal issues.

My favorite pro bono or volunteer activities are:

I previously worked with Equip for Equality, Prairie State Legal Services, SNAP, Constitution in the classroom and other *pro bono* projects; all programs allow for a positive impact with a small investment of time and have staff that provide great support to their volunteers. Currently, I serve on the Junior Achievement-DuPage Board (and volunteer in the classroom) and the Spirito!Singers Board of Directors as well as support my children's volunteer activities.

If I were not practicing law, I would probably be:

A personal trainer. I am a firm believer in the philosophy: sound body, sound mind. I would enjoy helping others realize the benefits of physical fitness on their health.

When I'm not working, I like to:

spend time with family, cycle, do yoga and cook.

The worst job I ever held was:

I had a work study job in college where I counted pollen spores on slides for 12 hours a week for a biology professor's research project. The job was not bad but it confirmed my need to find a career where I interact with people.

What book are you currently reading?

Does a cookbook count?

What's currently on your music playlist?

I don't have one.

People may be surprised to learn that I:

placed in my age group in a triathlon in Freeport, Illinois

The place I have never visited but would most like to visit is:

Moscow, Russia, specifically to see a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet in the Bolshoi Theater.