



Volunteer Attorney: Beth Jacobs

What is your current position?

My current position is Assistant General Counsel at Northwestern Mutual. I represent the company in all aspects of its real estate investment and development activities which includes commercial mortgage loans transactions and acquisition and disposition of real estate assets.

What do you love about your job?

I enjoy that the position is a transactional law position, which means that there is cooperation in completing the deals. Both sides are attempting to get a deal closed. I also enjoy developing close relationships with the companies and businesses that I work with. Additionally, I enjoy working on joint venture development projects like the current one in Australia. I got to work with lawyers there to find answers to legal questions there and work in that country's legal system.

Where did you go to undergrad? What did you study?

I went to undergrad at West Point Military Academy and studied Computer Science and International Studies. Then, after undergrad, I spent six years in the army as a Communications Officer. During that time, I worked in Bosnia and helped implement voting systems and assisted the community to be comfortable in the right to vote.

How has your experience in the U.S. Army as a platoon leader influenced your legal career?

My experience in the U.S. Army had influenced how I react to different situations and influenced my committed mentality. I learned to take one day at a time which I then transferred that approach to my law school mentality. Being in the army didn't completely, though, influence the type of law that I do now.

Where did you go to law school?

I went the University of Iowa for law school. I am from Iowa, so it was nice to be close to home during this period of my life.

What field did you want to practice in while in law school?

While in law school, I really liked Property law during my first year of law school. I then took Real Estate law and liked that and wanted to continue doing that.

What activities were you involved in in law school?

During law school, I was involved with moot court and volunteer legal clinics (civil law oriented).

What was your favorite class in law school? Which class did you learn the most in?

My favorite classes in law school was property law, real estate finance, and creditor and debtor law. Additionally, I learned the most in my secured transaction class. In that class, I learned how to effectively read legal code that I could apply to other legal fields.

How did you start volunteering at MVLC?

I started volunteering at the MVLC because I enjoyed working at the legal clinics during law school. Additionally, I particularly enjoy volunteering at the Veterans' Service Office because I like serving individuals with veteran backgrounds. I feel that I am able to help them effectively because I have this shared background with them so then I can better care for them. Additionally, I have taken up new areas of assistance at the VSO like helping out with the Estate Planning Clinic which has also been rewarding.

What advice would you give current law students?

I would advise current law students to take every day one day at a time. Try not to get bogged down with all the day to day activities. Additionally, it is important to take time to get to know classmates because in the future, you may be referring clients or others to them for their law practice (and then they might refer clients to you). Also, they are a great resource on getting their opinions on legal issues not in your practice area.

What do you do like to do in your spare time? (hobbies)

In my spare time, I like to run, kayak, and do cross fit.