

# Katherine Claire Steefel

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### **Assistant Professor of the Practice of Law, Denver, CO**

*University of Denver Sturm College of Law*

*April 2023-present*

- Teach seminars in the Externship Program
- Advise students regarding selection of externships and supervise students during externships to ensure educational goals are fulfilled
- Support supervisors to create meaningful experiences and learning opportunities for externs

### **Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Denver, CO**

*Deputy State Public Defender (Appellate Division)*

*February 2020-April 2023*

- Represented indigent defendants in appellate proceedings
- 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 communicate with clients and their families

### **Johnson & Klein, Boulder, CO**

*Associate Attorney*

*Fall 2018-January 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
- Reviewed work of legal interns and externs
- Assisted with Colorado's Access to Justice Committee and Diversify the Bench efforts

### **Johnson & Klein, Boulder, CO**

*Legal Extern*

*Spring 2017*

- Drafted petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court
- Served as Spanish translator for incarcerated clients

### **Rathod Mohamedbhai, Denver, CO**

*Legal Extern*

*Fall 2016*

- Drafted complaints in excessive force case, Fair Housing Act case, and Title VII case
- Wrote successful Motion for Temporary Restraining Order in a Fair Housing Act case

**U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division-Special Litigation, Washington, DC**

*Legal Extern*

*Summer 2016*

- Worked on trial court litigation related to juvenile access to counsel, police accountability, and prison conditions

**Justice William Hood III, Colorado Supreme Court, Denver, CO**

*Legal Intern*

*Spring 2016*

- Prepared memoranda recommending whether to grant review of cases

**U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO**

*Legal Extern*

*Spring 2016*

- Led case investigations for complaints of violations of federal anti-discrimination laws in public schools

**Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, Denver, CO**

*Legal Extern*

*Fall 2015*

- Wrote petition for expungement of client's juvenile record
- Assisted with report on effects of direct filing juveniles as adults

**Advancement Project, Washington, DC**

*Legal Extern*

*Summer 2015*

- Supported grassroots racial justice organizations across the nation with their legal and communication needs

**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 Scholarship Recipient

*Law Review* *Denver Law Review*, Symposium Editor, "Justice Reinvestment: The Solution to Mass Incarceration?"

*Academic* Faculty Prize: Kenneth L. Smith Award for Top GPA for Graduating Class

*Awards* Highest Grades in Federal Courts, Evidence, and Social Change Lawyering

Recipient of Reese Persuasive Writing Award for top brief in legal writing course

*Leadership* National Jurist: 2017 Law Student of the Year

*Awards* Voted Outstanding Graduating Student by Denver Law students

Voted Daniel S. Hoffman Award for Outstanding Student Leadership by Denver Law students

Voted Outstanding 1L Day Student by Denver Law students

2017 Sturm College of Law Student Leadership Award

2017 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *Public Good Distinction*

2016 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *The Pledge for the Public Good*

2015 Recipient of Most Innovative Program for *Analyzing the Law through a Racial Justice Lens*

Squire Patton Boggs 2015 Public Policy Fellowship Recipient

*Research Assistant* Professor Catherine Smith, researched and edited Amicus Brief of Scholars of the Constitutional Rights of Children, cited in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644, 668 (2015)

*Teaching Assistant* Constitutional Law (Professor Mark Hughes)  
Criminal Law (Professor Rashmi Goel)

**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

*Thesis:* *Redefining Political Traditions: The Emergence of the Chilean Student Movement*

*Study Abroad:* Studied at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**PUBLICATIONS**

Alexi Freeman & Katherine Steefel, *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)

Alexi Freeman & Katherine Steefel, *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)

**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 (Spanish Speaking Lawyers Committee member), Colorado Women's Bar Association (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee member)