



## Amy C. DeVan

**Amy C. DeVan** is a member of the *Colorado Lawyer* Advisory Board. She has served on the board since July 2014 and was on the board's redesign committee in 2016–17.

### PROFILE

**Hometown:** Brighton, Colorado

**Law School:** University of Colorado

**Lives in:** Denver

**Works at:** Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell

**Practice Area(s):** Ethics and Professional Responsibility

**CBA Member Since:** 2001

### Describe yourself in five words.

Strong, optimistic, happy, principled, caring.

### Why did you become a lawyer?

I tell people, pretending I'm joking but I'm really not, that I graduated with a degree in history and a minor in geography, thinking that I'd like to teach but realizing too late that interacting with a room full of children on a daily basis wouldn't really suit me. I went to the college bookstore and looked at the books for both the GRE and the LSAT. The GRE had math; the LSAT didn't, so law school it was!

### What's the best advice you've ever been given?

Be present and be engaged, and whatever you do, do your best. When I was in middle school and received a failing grade in algebra (see the answer regarding math above), my mom made me write lines over the summer 100 times every week: "I am not a failure." It's a pretty good motto to live by. (But don't tell her I said that.)

### What is one of the most positive experiences you've had as a lawyer?

When I struggled a couple of years ago with the need to change my career path, I reached out to all the lawyers I knew to talk to them about it. They, in turn, put me in touch with other lawyers they knew. Not one person I contacted turned me down or said they didn't have time for me. They graciously gave of themselves, and it renewed my faith in my fellow lawyers and in our profession. I always try to return the favor by making time for others seeking advice.

### What do you like the most about your practice area?

Engaging with other lawyers, building relationships, and learning from each other about how we can all be better at what we do every day.

### What do you wish you had learned in law school?

I wish law school would teach us about managing client relationships. Law is a customer service profession, but our customers never walk in the door happy. They walk in the door because they are experiencing a crisis on some level, and relating to them in that space—still caring but not taking things personally—is, I think, the most challenging part of being a successful lawyer.

### What is your favorite place to escape to in Colorado?

People who know me know what I will say to this: I am afraid of nature. My favorite adventures are urban ones. Denver is a great city with a lot to offer, and my idea of a good time—apart from finding new restaurants and shops—usually involves my husband, a wide sidewalk, and our three dachshund/dachshund combo dogs chasing rabbits and pulling as far as their leashes will let them.

### If you weren't a lawyer, you'd be:

I may be the only one who agrees with this assessment, but I always thought I'd make a great advice columnist! People like telling me their problems; I think I just have that kind of face. Also, like everyone, I think I'd like to write a book—but I don't know what I'd write about—so that wish is likely to remain indefinitely on hold. 