

## Learn more about Courtney Lauer, fellow AWL Member



Employer:  
Husch Blackwell

Tell us about your job:

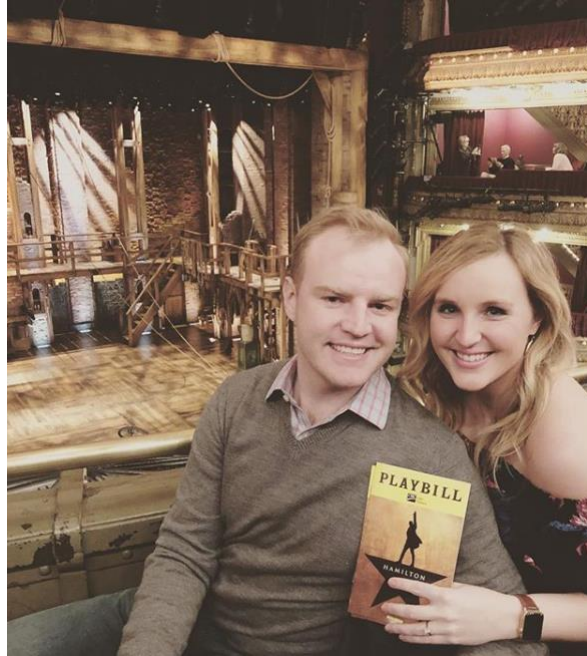
At Husch Blackwell, we work in industry-based groups within our practice specialty areas. However, I currently practice in all industry groups within Labor & Employment and Commercial Litigation.

What is most rewarding about your job?

I absolutely love the community focus the firm intertwines within the work we do daily. Not only does the firm participate in community events, but internally we have multiple initiatives to align our offices across the country. One is True North, an enrichment series for women in the firm. The women in our firm regularly get together for events and discussions – which is amazing since 55% of the firm's associates are women! That on top of Husch being recognized again for being a Best Law Firm for Women is really rewarding because I can see the strong impact it has on our clients.

How do you maintain a work/life balance?

Both my fiancé and I are attorneys, so our work weeks vary wildly week-to-week. However, we always make sure to find time to focus on one another without distractions. Also, I make it a point to attend church with family each Sunday. Being around my family keeps me rooted and allows me to maintain a good work/life balance.



*Courtney with her fiancé, Sam Steelman, at Hamilton in Chicago.*

How long have you been a Member of the AWL?

I moved back to Kansas City, after being away for a decade in Mid-Mo, in July. In August, I joined AWL after meeting a vibrant AWL member at the federal court house. (Here's a shout out, Meghan Litecky!)

Do you serve on any Boards? If so, tell us about them.

I currently do not serve on any boards. However, I just completed my term on the UM System Board of Curators. Prior to my appointment on the Curators, I was a Director on the Columbia College Alumni Board of Directors.

Best vacation you've been on?

My best vacation is my "repeat vacation." Most years I go to Colorado with my family; it has been a tradition since my grandmother was a little girl. I love going away on vacation and feeling like I am in my second home.



*Courtney and Sam in Colorado.*

How do you define success?

Success is trying your best and achieving your best result possible.

What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I am most proud of obtaining my L.L.M. while working full time as an Assistant Attorney General. Working full time and going to school full time was a heavy load, but I grew professionally and personally in one year quicker than I ever thought I could.

Do you have a favorite quote?

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Do you have a motto or personal mantra?

Even though it is one of the most cliché sayings, I live by: "Everything happens for a reason." I've learned that no matter how hard you try, some things are meant to be. Learn from these things. Grow from these things. Move onward. And sometimes, those moments are what define you.

Who do you admire most and why?

100% - my mom. She is the definition of beauty and strength, and every day I hope I can live up to be a fraction of her character.

What career lessons have you learned thus far?

Communication. Communication. Communication. Before I went back to law school, I worked in the Missouri Senate, and I learned that communication is key in every situation. Communication can effectively resolve disputes when many of the contentions revolve around a simple miscommunication.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love playing volleyball, exploring the city, and trying new foods. Since moving back to Kansas City, I have enjoyed re-learning the place that helped define who I am today.



*Courtney with her sand volleyball team.*

If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Hands down, cheese. You may think, “cheese is not a meal, though.” Wrong.

What is one thing few people know about you?

One thing few people know about me is that I am an avid Bachelor(ette) Fantasy League player. Hey, it’s all about guilty pleasures, right?