

Getting to Know ACC St. Louis Board Member,
Cara Stuckel Baker



Title: Membership Chair
Company: Anheuser-Busch
In current position for: 3 + years
Law School: University of Missouri
Undergrad: University of Missouri

1. If I was not an attorney I would be:

An aerospace engineer for NASA.

2. My hobbies are:

Traveling to as many new places as possible, spending time working on our log cabin in southern Missouri, and painting murals at our Benton Park abode.

3. When I want to relax I:

Go for a walk outside or grab a cold beverage. Golden Road Belgian White, Michelob ULTRA, or a Cutwater Lime Margarita are my current go-to's with a friend on a patio!

4. My music playlist is dominated by:

It's an eclectic mix of folk artists like Donovan Woods and mid-00's hip hop & rap classics.

5. My food guilty pleasure is:

Chocolate Twizzlers

6. My favorite family vacation was:

We took a trip to La Palma in the Canary Islands and had the opportunity to tour the world's largest telescope and star gaze in the clearest skies in the world; it was incredible. It's hard to fathom just how many stars there are until you see them littered across every inch of the night sky.

7. My favorite type of book to read for pleasure is:

Non-Fiction – anything about science/space exploration/the environment

8. I became involved with ACC St. Louis because:

When I moved to an in-house role, I had found such an awesome, talented and supportive community inside of Anheuser-Busch and learned quickly that many of our attorneys were already active members of ACC. Shortly after I started, my A-B colleagues reached out and invited me to attend an ACC event with them, and it was during that event it became evident to me the benefits of a community of attorneys who were facing similar challenges and opportunities as in-house attorneys!

When I litigated, I garnered much value out of talking to people who were also litigating and facing similar challenges. With the distinct challenges of moving from litigation practice to the corporate world, I was looking for the same comradery!

9. I think the real value our members get from involvement with ACC is:

The opportunity to meet similarly situated attorneys facing similar challenges and opportunities! We are a group of attorneys navigating the corporate world and by being involved in ACC, you get the opportunity to meet so many excellent folks who can provide support and guidance as you navigate your career. It also cannot be overstated how helpful it is to have ample opportunity to fulfill your CLE requirements with topics that are relevant to your practice in-house.

10. My advice to attorneys new to the in-house status is:

Working in the business world can be so different than time in a law firm or with a governmental body. My advice to new in-house lawyers is to ask as many questions as possible to your internal business colleagues as well as other in-house lawyers so you are prepared for all the corporate world has to offer. In particular, the more you can learn about the business operations and the process, the better!

Anheuser-Busch has such a vast portfolio of products that expand far beyond brewing beer! We create millions of cans of clean drinking water dispatched to emergencies all over the U.S., we purchase hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of raw ingredients grown on U.S. farms, we import and export alcohol beverages all over the world, and just about everything in between. While my "piece" of supporting this vast and complex organization may be narrow in focus, I have found that it's critical for my professional growth to understand, at least on a high level, the nuances and challenges of the business as a whole. Without this understanding, it's hard to understand the larger business implications of any particular legal risk assessment. If you are new to in-house, I encourage you to learn as much as possible about the entire business you support to ensure your advice is legally sound but also business-relevant!

11. The best way to get more involved with the ACC St. Louis Chapter is:

Like with basically everything, the best way to get more involved is to show up to events and meet people! At my first few ACC events I was lucky enough to be able to tag along with some A-B colleagues and then meet some great folks who welcomed me into the organization and encouraged me to get involved. If you are interested in coming to an event, even if you are not sure you will know anyone, I strongly suggest you do! There are so many friendly faces at these events that would be excited to meet you!