

GETTING TO KNOW ACC ST. LOUIS BOARD MEMBER, Denise Campbell Whitener

TITLE: Senior Company Counsel

COMPANY: Wells Fargo

LAW SCHOOL: Saint Louis University School of Law

1. **If I was not a lawyer, I would be:** a forensic psychologist
2. **My hobbies are:** My hobbies include hiking, skating, and playing the piano.
3. **When I want to relax:** I will go for a long walk or relax in the hot tub.
4. **My music playlist is dominated by:** 80's music... I can't get enough of it!
5. **My food guilty pleasure is:** Sushi
6. **My favorite family vacation is:** Universal Studios in Orlando Florida. I admit I did not ride the roller coasters...I'm too chicken for that!
7. **My favorite type of books to read for pleasure:** Thrillers and crime novels. I'm a diehard James Patterson fan.
8. **I became involved with ACC to:** I joined ACC to network with fellow corporate counsel and support various ACC initiatives including the ACC St. Louis Diversity Summer Internship Program. I really enjoy mentoring the area law students selected to participate in this amazing program. Their growth and development have been not only beneficial for them, but also fulfilling for me.
9. **I think the real value members get from involvement with ACC is:** It is hard to name one benefit because there is so much value in becoming a member of ACC St. Louis. Personally, my involvement provided me the opportunity to make solid connections with colleagues across various practice areas/corporations and create lasting friendships. The Continuing Legal Education courses are informative covering many areas of law and the social events are fun and engaging. From pop-up pedicures to Golf/Spa CLEs, ACC St. Louis has it all covered!
10. **My goal for this year is:** My goal this year is to increase my engagement with members and our sponsors now that Covid restrictions have lessened.
11. **My advice to attorneys new to in-house is:** I would suggest carving out time from the important work you do as attorneys to network both within your company and outside in the legal community. It can be tremendously helpful in your career to form relationships with your colleagues to leverage their knowledge and advice while acclimating to your new role as an in-house attorney. If your company offers a mentor/mentee program, take advantage of it. Partner with someone who can assist with navigating the cultural and work expectations so that you can avoid some pitfalls and jumpstart your path for success.
12. **The best way to get more involved with the ACC St. Louis Chapter is:** Start attending some ACC St. Louis CLEs you may find interesting or relevant to your practice area. There are also several great socials in fun relaxed environments which you would undoubtedly enjoy. We love to see new faces!