

# DVAP's Finest



## ASHLEY SCHNEIDER

Ashley Schneider is an Associate at Haynes Boone.

### 1. How did you first get involved in pro bono?

My first experience with pro bono was during law school. At the encouragement of a mentor, I volunteered at the CANLAW Clinic, which provides estate planning services to clients in treatment for cancer. This was of special interest to me because my mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor when I was 13, and I remember how challenging it was for her just to get to the attorney's office and communicate her wishes.

Being able to help patients and their families going through a similar situation has been meaningful to me.

### 2. Describe your most compelling pro bono case.

I recently prepared estate planning documents for a 56-year-old woman who had stage 4 metastatic cancer. A long-time motorcycle rider and the matriarch of her family, she exemplified strength even while facing a terminal illness and the challenges of treatment. When she was done signing her will, she asked to take a selfie with me.

### 3. Why do you do pro bono?

I do pro bono so that I can connect with people in my community. I mostly do transactional work involving large institutions, so getting to interact with clients one-on-one about legal work that will have a significant impact on their lives is rewarding to me. I do it so I can be of service.

### 4. What impact has pro bono service had on your career?

As a new attorney, pro bono service has given me confidence in my own abilities. By limiting the scope of the types of cases to areas where I have some previous experience, I am able to work mostly independently and reach out to mentors when needed. Pro bono service has also been a networking opportunity, as I have worked on pro bono projects with students at my law school alma mater.

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