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2020 Ones to Watch: Kathleen O'Neill Burgener, Of Counsel at Krokidas & Bluestein LLP

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Kathleen O'Neill Burgener
Krokidas & Bluestein LLP

What led you to your current profession? Prior to attending law school, I worked for several years in finance and university settings. This experience strengthened my desire to pursue a legal career with a transactional focus. Ultimately, the emphasis on a transactional practice lead me to real estate. At Krokidas & Bluestein, I have the benefit of a real estate practice working with a number of nonprofit clients which provides an additional avenue of supporting the community while doing work that I enjoy.

Who or what inspires you? My family is a source of inspiration and motivation. My father has practiced law for over 40 years, my mother learned French in connection with a career change and both of my parents have long standing philanthropic pursuits. My daughters inspire me with their energy, curiosity and happiness.

What advice can you offer to someone who is interested in a career in your industry? I highly recommend taking a break between college and law school. I found that this time allowed for a more disciplined approach to law school resulting in a more satisfying academic experience. After law school, in deciding between different law firms, it is important both to consider the strength of the firm in the practice area you are most interested and the connection with the culture and the people of the firm.

How do you contribute to your community or your profession? One of my favorite charities to support is Cradles to Crayons Boston and a few years ago I became a member of its Family Advisory Council. Its mission is to eliminate clothing insecurity for children in Massachusetts by providing specifically tailored “kid packs” of clothing, books and other necessities. I also co-teach a commercial real estate transactional course at Boston University School of Law that provides students with opportunities to read, draft and negotiate documents like term sheets, purchase and sale agreements and joint venture agreements. My goal in teaching this course is for the students to feel more comfortable with these practical aspects of a transactional practice when starting out as a first year associate.

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