

# LAW WEEK COLORADO

## Meet The New Class Of Lawyers

### Wiley Dornseif

WILEY DORNSEIF spent years on the lacrosse field before moving into the law.

But in a way, the new associate at Snell & Wilmer didn't have to think about things too differently.

"There are a lot of parallels," he said. "It's competitive, there are ups and downs, and you've got to get your job done within the confines of a team. It's not surprising you see a lot of former athletes in this profession."

Dornseif grew up playing hockey in the Denver area and took up lacrosse when he was around 12 years old. The sport held the same appeal as hockey. It's physical and still demands highly skilled stick work.

He played both sports throughout his time at Arapahoe High School, which is south of Denver. In his senior year, he was named the hockey player of the year in Colorado. That same year, his lacrosse team won the Centennial Conference and advanced to the state tournament.

When he moved on to college, he dropped hockey and focused exclusively on lacrosse at Tufts University where his team was routinely ranked in the top 20. He was named an All-American twice while there.

After college, he worked in high finance and played professional lacrosse for a bit with the Boston Blazers, a team in the National Lacrosse League. But the sport



involved a lot of travel with little pay. So he quit to focus on work.

"I had a lot of fun for a little while, but I always knew it was only going to be for a little while," he said.

Just like the limited timeframe for his sport, he knew his time in the finance world was just a stopover between college and law school. So after a few years, he attended Notre Dame Law School, and now he's a "free agent" in the business and finance group at Snell & Wilmer, doing a little bit of everything.

He still finds time to play lacrosse on a national club team in tournaments a few times a year.

His love for the sport has changed over the years. It used to be about the physicality, the skillset required. Now though, he finds it's more about the comraderie.

"It's a tight-knit community," he said. "You get to know the same people, and you end up seeing them everywhere."

Of course, that's what many say about Denver's legal community as well. •

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