

# LAW WEEK

## COLORADO

OUTSTANDING  
LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

PAGE 10



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2017



NATE BECKER

Tiftickjian Law Firm

Director of Operations

“

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BY **JULIA CARDI**  
LAW WEEK COLORADO

Nate Becker has a type-A personality and is intensely focused on details, so over the course of more than 10 years in the legal industry, the hardest lesson he’s learned is that he has to work within a system he can’t control and that is often unfair.

The best he can do, he said, is fight 100 percent for the things he can make a difference in.

“Figure out what you can fix and what you can make a difference on, and just let that other stuff go,” he said.

His attention to detail and drive to be an expert in whatever field he lands in have served him well over his career, during which he has become well-versed in DUI defense law, particularly

in the area dealing with DMV administrative processes.

Becker, the director of operations for the Tiftickjian Law Firm, said at the beginning of his career he didn’t plan to specialize in that area of the law or even to work in the legal field. His education is in accounting and sports administration.

But administrative law began to make sense for Becker because of its relatively black-and-white nature and his intense desire to understand why processes work the way they do. He said when he doesn’t fully understand something, he questions, researches and doesn’t give up until he does.

Jay Tiftickjian agreed with Becker’s self-assessment. “Nate is very type-A,” he said. “I don’t think the guy ever rests until everything is done properly.”

He said even the firm’s competitors will often call asking for Becker’s opinions and expertise.

Becker periodically teaches DMV law for CLE sessions and co-authored a guide for the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar called the “DMV Handbook for Colorado Attorneys.” He also currently holds the only non-attorney elected position on the bar’s board of directors. Tiftickjian said Becker has also used his accounting background to help the bar balance its books and make more money.

Much of Becker’s competency in the legal field is self-taught, but he’s also drawn from the lessons of mentors he’s had. Tiftickjian’s laid-back personality has a calming effect on him, Becker said, something that has had a significant influence on how he

looks at high-pressure situations.

“I’ve tried in my career to surround myself with people whose strengths are my weaknesses,” he said.

Gary Pirosko’s influence also helped Becker gain confidence in his own abilities. He said Pirosko, whom Becker called the “godfather of DUI” defense and who died in 2015, helped him understand his own value in a field full of alpha personalities that can make it difficult to assert oneself.

“Gary was one of those guys who never treated me like I was a lesser,” Becker said.

If he could give his younger self advice, he would say two things: Go to law school so he could make an even bigger impact on clients than he does now, and to not take himself or his career so seriously. Becker said the latter is especially important because DUI defense work is a serious topic and could consume his life if he let it.

“You should be passionate about what you do,” he said. “But that job shouldn’t define your life,” he said.

Becker said when he looks back on his career, he’ll judge it by how many people he positively affected and helped even when he wasn’t asked to, because he considers that a human duty.

“When I’m gone, what do [people] have to say about me?” Becker said.

Becker said his coworkers would probably describe him as tough but with a passion to succeed. He knows he and his firm can’t be perfect, but still, he believes it’s beneficial to try. “I want to strive for perfection, and hopefully we can catch excellence along the way.” •

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