Why did you become a lawyer?

My childhood was shaped watching 80's cartoons and movies. The characters that I identified most with were those that in dark moments looked first to help others, solve problems, and save the day. As I was trying to decide on a career, I saw that being a lawyer might not give me the opportunity to save the galaxy, but it would allow me to help others, solve problems, and occasionally even save the day – one person at a time.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Reaching a point in my career where people rely upon me for advice, guidance and help.

What experience at Coughlin Duffy has been the most rewarding? The most fun?

Growing not only professionally, but also within the firm to be the Practice Group Leader for the Commercial Services Group. In terms of the most fun, aside from our planned social events, I truly enjoy the ad hoc things that happen around the office with colleagues, e.g. a spontaneous lunch or spur-of-the moment after-work cocktail.

What is the best advice you ever received? What advice would you give to law students?

Best advice – It's often more important to understand why someone wants something, then what it is they want. I think law students should know that beyond the motions, the contracts, the trials, and hearings, everything that happens in this job ultimately affects people. Lawyers are also called "counselors-at-law" for a reason. Not only are we here to assert a client's position, but also to help a client understand what that position means, how it could impact their interests and ultimately, be there for them when it does.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

Receiving a thank you note from a client. Whether it's an email or a formal card, over the years I've received many that have truly been touching and made me feel incredibly good about what I do.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I co-teach a weekly kickboxing class.