



# Amanda Huston

Amanda “Mandi” Huston is coordinating editor for YLD articles appearing in *Colorado Lawyer*.

## PROFILE

### Hometown:

Arvada, Colorado

### Law School:

University of Denver  
Sturm College of Law

### Lives in:

Northern Colorado

### Works at:

Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC

### Practice Area(s):

Business and Real  
Estate Law

### CBA Member Since:

2016

Do you know a CBA member who should be featured in Under Oath? Email nominations to Sue Bertram at [sbertram@cobar.org](mailto:sbertram@cobar.org).

### Why did you become a lawyer?

To develop a tool to help others build things that matter to our lives and to our communities.

### What do you like the most about your practice area?

There is quite a bit of variety in business and real estate law, as no two businesses or deals are the same. This challenges you to continuously sharpen your understanding of the law and the nature of risk to your client, and offers a profound opportunity to see your clients’ ideas, designs, and projects come to fruition. It’s a great privilege to sit at the table with my clients, hear their goals and dreams, and be invited to share their journey to achieving these goals and dreams.

### What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given?

In law school, my husband would leave sticky notes with little nuggets of wisdom and encouragement all over the house. One particular note that I found next to my toothbrush said “Run your own race!” This has become a simple yet profound reminder to not only know myself, but to honor myself by running the race that only I can run.

### How do you find work/life balance?

I recently asked a wise colleague of mine how he found time to teach on top of all his legal work. “Well,” he said, “you always find time for the things that are a priority.” His response answers this question perfectly and further illustrates a paradigm shift in my understanding of work/life balance: The pursuit of work/life balance is not about perfect balance between all the competing items in life; it’s about

intentionally choosing what to let go of and what to pursue. Work/life balance is simply deciding what my priorities are and making time for them. Of course, this requires a genuine understanding of my priorities and accountability to those priorities.

### If you weren’t a lawyer, you’d be?

Perhaps an inventor or a writer. I enjoy the process of ideation and the design of functional solutions to problems. I also find the creative process of articulating complex, meaningful ideas exciting.

### Favorite place you’ve traveled to:

After an incredible year clerking at the Colorado Court of Appeals, I spent almost two months studying Spanish in Southern Spain. More than the awe-inspiring scenery or the delicious food, it was the hospitality, rhythm of restfulness, and sense of place that made it one of my favorite corners of the world. Sharing meals and stories with friends and family was a way of life, built into the fabric of each day and honored as paramount among all other daily obligations.

### What’s the most random job you’ve ever had?

I drove boats and taught kids to wakeboard at a camp in Texas for two summers after college. I had never been to this part of Texas before, but I packed up and decided to try something new. It was one of the most delightful and shaping experiences.

### What advice would you give a new lawyer?

Know yourself, trust yourself, and show up every day to serve others. 