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## ERIN MCKENNEY

Associate Director of Development  
*St. Petersburg College Foundation*



**Q: *When were you at Shumaker and what was your position/practice area?***

**A:** I was an associate with the Health Law team in Shumaker's Tampa office from 2014 to 2016.

**Q: *What is your current position and company?***

**A:** I am the Associate Director of Development for the St. Petersburg College Foundation (SPC Foundation). St. Petersburg College (SPC) offers over 100 workforce development degrees and certificates, almost 70 Associate in Arts degrees and transfer degrees, and 17 Bachelor's degrees. Our mission is to empower our students and community to achieve success and economic mobility through academic excellence and engagement. The SPC Foundation supports SPC by funding scholarships, holistic and wrap-around support services, programs for students, enhanced learning opportunities, and student success. My role includes the development and execution of SPC's planned giving strategies, major gifts, and community partnerships. Every day brings a new opportunity to help our students achieve success, which is the best part of my job.

**Q: *What do you enjoy most about your career?***

**A:** I truly enjoy the diversity of opportunities available with my law degree and experience. After leaving Shumaker, I served as in-house counsel for one of Shumaker's multi-family housing clients and then transitioned my career into the nonprofit sector. The skills I developed practicing law - analysis, issue-spotting, problem-solving, conflict resolution, project management, strategic planning, etc. - these skills are transferable to any career. I use all of these skills in my current role, especially as we create and execute SPC's planned giving and development strategies.



**Q: *What is the best advice you can give a new attorney?***

**A:** Being a lawyer requires you to be a lifetime learner. Don't assume you know everything and be open to learning from associates, support staff, partners, and others in the community. And don't forget to listen to your gut from time to time! It rarely steers you wrong.

**Q: *What motto do you live by?***

**A:** "There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." - Albert Einstein.

**Q: *What news would you like to share about your personal or professional life?***

**A:** While serving as in-house counsel, I did some soul searching and decided to take time off to identify a career path where my passions and skills best intersected to serve others. My time off included traveling for six months throughout Europe and Africa before officially transitioning my career into the nonprofit sector (right before COVID!). While traveling, I did strategic planning and board governance work for a non-governmental organization in Uganda and worked at a theology school in Poland. I was able to read books that had been on my list for years (and actually finish the book!) and explore parts of the world I had never seen before. I was exposed to a variety of cultures, people, and experiences for which I will be forever grateful. I came home in January 2020 and took a position as the interim Business Administrator for my church, Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, and enrolled in University of Tampa's Nonprofit Management Certificate program. All of these experiences led me to my current role and I believe my passions and skills are currently at a perfect intersection.