

In Their Words: The Moment These Attys Fell In Love With Law

By **Aebra Coe**

Law360 (February 14, 2022, 11:52 AM EST) -- A career in law can be extremely challenging, with long hours, lots of stress and intense pressure to perform. But for many attorneys it is a labor of love, a profession they fell in love with long ago and remain committed to all these years later.

For some it was a mock trial club in high school, for others it was an internship in a law office, and others fell in love and got truly hooked on the legal profession during their first big assignment as an associate.

Here, on Valentine's Day, stories from attorneys at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Reed Smith LLP and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, among others, on the moment they knew law would be one of the great loves of their lives.

ALICE BYOWITZ

Partner, **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

I vividly remember a moment as a summer associate at Kramer Levin when I was sitting in a colleague's office listening to a hearing in the Washington Mutual bankruptcy. There had been a major, unexpected development that meant we would have to quickly adapt our approach to the case. That led to a whirlwind of late nights, strategy sessions, research, drafting and, most importantly, an unparalleled sense of camaraderie. Being part of that process drove home how rapidly and significantly legal matters can shift based on changes in the real world — and how important, interesting and exciting that can be. Since then, every time a legal proceeding encounters a big real-world development, it reminds me of one of the things I love so much about the law: How it always evolves to reflect changes in the world around us. We have seen that repeatedly in recent years, from the 2008 financial crisis to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we'll continue to see it in the future. Each time we do, I'll always think back to when I experienced that lesson firsthand as a summer associate and fell in love.



--Editing by Brian Baresch.