

Sierra Russell

J.D.; BSCRП Alumna, 2004

1982-2018

Sierra Summer Russell, Esq., unexpectedly passed away in February 2018 during a minor illness. Sierra was a devoted wife, mother, dog mom, attorney, and friend.

Throughout her life, Sierra was a star student; the valedictorian of her high school, graduating at the top of her BSCRП class in 2004, and with honors from law school. She was compassionate, curious about the world, and hardworking. At Cal Poly, Sierra participated in Associated Students in Planning, the CRP Shermanators Softball Team, numerous other campus activities, and was the first CRP student to study abroad in Rio de Janeiro. There, she quickly learned conversational Portuguese and built lasting friendships. Sierra was beloved by her classmates and professors who appreciated and admired her intelligence, kindness, and drive.

During her internship at the City of Paso Robles, Sierra played such an integral part in the General Plan update that the Planning Division dedicated a brick to her at City Hall. After graduating from Cal Poly, she went on to work in private sector planning in San Francisco, then pursued her Juris Doctorate. Sierra was an Order of the Coif member of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. While working full-time as a real estate attorney in Denver, Sierra made time to give back to the community through several nonprofit organizations. She served on the Board of Directors at the Rose Andom Center and Mile High Learning.

The last few years were incredibly momentous for Sierra. She bought a house with Dan Vagasky, they got married, and had a baby, Inara. Sierra's last year was filled with lots of love and adventures as a new mom. Her family has laid her to rest at a waterfall in the Sierra Nevada by her hometown.

There is a special place in the universe for thoughtful and generous people like Sierra. She made a lasting impression on many and is dearly missed.

Sierra's interview featured in FOCUS 11 Spotlight Section in 2014.

