

Jocelyn Francoeur

Executive Director, Just The Beginning — A Pipeline Organization



Jocelyn Francoeur brings years of experience in law, education, youth development, and diversity to Just The Beginning – A Pipeline Organization (JTB). Francoeur most recently served as the pro bono partner for McDermott Will & Emery, where she oversaw the contribution of tens of thousands of pro bono and community service hours annually. In her role as the pro bono partner, Francoeur worked with McDermott’s management and Pro Bono Committee to partner with domestic and international legal aid organizations and to identify and facilitate high-profile, challenging pro bono opportunities for McDermott’s thousands of lawyers and staff.

Francoeur was a member of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel, as well as the firm’s Diversity, Recruiting, and Associate Development Committees. Prior to becoming the firm’s pro bono partner, Francoeur was an accomplished litigator and partner in McDermott’s Trial and White Collar Groups. Francoeur received the firm’s Pro Bono and Community Service Award in 2007 and has been recognized as an *Illinois Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” and a Benchmark Litigation “Future Star.”

Francoeur’s interest in the issues underlying JTB’s mission began over twenty years ago. After graduating from Northwestern University, she taught high school history, civics, and free enterprise in Jackson, Louisiana, as a member of Teach For America. She went on to obtain a master’s degree in American history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she focused on the history of education and wrote her thesis on media coverage of Milwaukee school desegregation.

She taught history and legal history classes for the Center for Talent Development (Northwestern University) and the Center for Talented Youth (Johns Hopkins University), and served as a teaching assistant throughout graduate and law school. After graduating *magna cum laude* from New York University Law School in 2002, she clerked for the Honorable Margaret Morrow in the Central District of California before joining McDermott. Francoeur is a Leadership Council member and career coach for The Posse Foundation, a former board member for the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, a mentor for Evanston Scholars, and a volunteer at Curt’s Cafe in Evanston, which provides job and life-skills training for at-risk youth. She resides in Evanston with her husband and daughter.



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