

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## ELIZABETH M. YOUNG LABERGE

Senior Regulatory Compliance Counsel,  
The National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions  
(NAFCU)



### **WHF Member Spotlight – January 2020**

### **Elizabeth M. Young LaBerge, Senior Regulatory Compliance Counsel at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU)**

#### **Hometown**

Panama City Beach, Florida

#### **Fun Fact**

I've never lived anywhere longer than 5 years. In May, 2020, I will have lived in DC longer than anywhere else in my life.

#### **Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.**

Going to school in Florida, I always expected to be in private practice. I graduated law school in 2008 and found out I passed the Missouri bar one week after the Lehman Brothers collapse. I had just moved to the Midwest to be closer to my parents, and was seeking a position doing estate planning in Kansas City. After the crash, no one was hiring. I ended up taking a job doing creditor's rights and bankruptcy work. I was lucky to work under a managing partner with great business sense and a strong sense of ethics. In November 2012, my firm was looking for someone with bankruptcy experience to transfer to the Portland, Maine office. I accepted the opportunity, but upon arrival was asked how I felt about moving into the litigation team – their workload had grown exponentially. I was never in love with bankruptcy and took the opportunity to learn something new. Between discovery and preparing witnesses, I learned a lot about mortgage origination and servicing operations. I learned more about federal regulations while defending mortgage servicing violation claims. A little less than three years later, we moved to DC for my late husband's job and I found a position at NAFCU. I was incredibly excited to take my experience and knowledge and use it to produce educational and informational resources to help credit unions.

#### **What do you love most about what you do?**

I believe in the cooperative movement and that credit unions can be a positive force in their communities. Working at NAFCU has given me the opportunity to both expand and deepen the scope of my knowledge, understand the operations of a much broader range of financial institutions, and gain new skills.

#### **Hobby(ies)?**

I am a film buff and love classic, foreign and arthouse films. Last year I got the Criterion Channel and I love it. I am also a trustee at the Awesome Foundation DC, a local philanthropic organization that gives monthly microgrants to people and projects that make DC more awesome.

#### **How long have you been a member of WHF?**

It is 4 years this month.

#### **Please describe your involvement with WHF.**

I have been a member for four years. In the past, have served on the communications, membership and young professionals committee.

**What have you gained from being a member?**

The two biggest gains I've gotten from WHF are meeting incredible, smart and kind women through the organization and being exposed to excellent speakers and important content.

**How do you make the best use of your day? (think techniques to enhance productivity, time management, time out, meditation/prayer, etc.)**

I'm a planner. I find the best way to make sure I don't waste my day is to know what I would like to do with it before I get started. Sometimes things go sideways on you and being flexible and resilient to change is important – but having a plan to start with means your default is a productive day.

**Who or what inspires you?**

What inspires me most is earnest passion. I feel like our current culture can be cynical, and taking something seriously is seen as naive. I get a spark from people who feel internally compelled to create, build and study.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

There is no better way to build trust with your boss and coworkers than to be honest and transparent about your mistakes.

**Who do you look up to the most and why?**

I look up to my mom who loves simply and unconditionally, has never stopped learning or working on herself, and seems to find new things to love about life every day.