

Teammate Spotlight

Getting to Know Madeline Harrison

Vice President | Dubuque Office



About Madeline!

My family is from Wisconsin originally, but we moved to Dubuque when I was a year old. I grew up here, attended Northwestern University, and then lived in Door County, Wisconsin for 15+ years where I owned and ran a start-up publishing and distribution company, which I sold in 2016. Since 2018, I've been a producer in C&B's employee benefits practice.

Fun fact about me is that I grew up as a C&B kid (my dad, Timm Johnson, was the 5th employee of C&B in 1978). And, my first job was at C&B! I started in the mail room. Here's a picture of me, age 14, with my dad. Not sure which one of us looks more awkward - me at age 14 in my full teenage cringey glory, or my dad with his eyes closed for the photo (this was long before camera phones and instant editing) and wearing the snazzy tie I picked out for him for Fathers' Day. Over 5 summers, I worked my way from the mail room, to claims processing on the LuminX system (which was basically NASA technology at the time), to claims adjusting and eventually to claims subrogation.



My husband (Chris), two daughters (Wynne and Hazel, ages 9 and 7) and I moved back to Dubuque in 2018 when C&B came calling. It's been a blur for the last 6+ years with kids and work, but it has been positive for our family. My mom and dad are still here in Dubuque, and it's been wonderful being close to them, especially while our girls are young.



What's one hobby you have outside of work?

Sailing is a passion of mine, though I don't do much of it these days. In college, I joined the sailing team and then later I was a sailing instructor for several years, and I did a fair amount of racing on Lake Michigan in my 20s and 30s. Someday I hope to be less landlocked and get back on the water more. For now, I'm content to be an avid reader when I'm not working or hanging out with my family.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

In his time at C&B, my dad was known for his volumes of advice, so I'll share one of his many gems since it's relevant to our work. He talked about listening to a radio program about the greatest base stealer in the history of baseball, which at the time was Ty Cobb. For 5 minutes, they rattled off his records and awards and gushed over how amazing he was. For the next 5 minutes, they talked about the worst base stealer in the history of baseball (most failed attempts, loss statistics, etc.), and it turns out it's the same guy, Ty Cobb. *The point is:* People will remember you for your successes, not your failures. Keep running for the base and keep trying.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I'm lucky enough to have traveled quite a bit since I didn't have kids until I was in my late 30s, and Hawaii tops the list for me. I will always be trying to get back to Hawaii. The weather and beaches, of course, but rainbows every day and the lush greenery are spectacular. Also, we tend to take US infrastructure for granted - Hawaii gives you tropical islands with well-paved and clearly marked roads, the plumbing works everywhere, and the people are very welcoming. It is the whole package for me.



If you could switch jobs with anyone else, who would it be and why?

Chris Luno - look him up on YouTube (or click play below). I listen to him for background music when I'm working (chill/techno beat with no words so it's not distracting). One day he's on a mountain top spinning record, the next day he's in the desert, the next he's in a Malibu beach house, then on a gondola in Venice or somewhere in Thailand... he just goes around the world and picks cool spots and mixes his music. He has a huge follower base, so presumably he's getting paid, and this is his job. Travel + music + zen vibes - this will be my job in my next life!

