DANIELLE CARDONA

Software Developer | Legal Engineer | Attorney   *LinkedIn* | *GitHub* | *Portfolio*

Experienced attorney turned software developer with a proven track record of delivering innovative solutions to complex challenges. Passionate about leveraging analytical skills and attention to detail to design impactful, user-centered applications.

SKILLS

Languages/Frameworks: Ruby, Rails, JavaScript, SQL, HTML, CSS, Active Record, React
Testing: RSpec, TDD, WebMock, VCR, Cypress, Faker, FactoryBot, SimpleCov
Tools/Workflow: Git, GitHub, Postman, Postico, Heroku, Render, Netlify, Agile Development

SOFTWARE PROJECTS

Festify, Solo Project
FE Repo | **BE Repo** | *React web app with a Rails API designed to help music festival administrators manage schedules*
Tech Stack: Ruby on Rails, Fetch API, PostgreSQL, React, React Router, JavaScript, CSS, RSpec, Cypress
- Designed, implemented, and deployed RESTful API endpoints, ensuring seamless data integration with the Rails backend
- Developed a responsive interface to view, edit, and remove shows
- Integrated live search functionality, streamlining the user experience by allowing identification of relevant events by artist name

Mood Boost, Group Project | **Deployed Site**
FE Repo | **BE Repo** | *React web app with a Rails API that delivers curated content to uplift users' moods*
Tech Stack: Ruby on Rails, Fetch API, PostgreSQL, React, React Router, JavaScript, CSS, RSpec, Cypress
- Designed a modal with conditional rendering for login and account creation, featuring robust client-side validations
- Connected the frontend to the Rails API to manage user profiles and log completed activities for personalized tracking
- Built end-to-end tests with Cypress to ensure reliable quote fetching, dynamic content updates, and seamless navigation flows

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Regional Counsel   Jan 2020 - May 2024
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the General Counsel | Denver
- Led nationwide committees, coordinating cross-functional teams to implement a modern, cloud-based knowledge management system to streamline legal operations
- Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated complex agreements with federal agencies, state and tribal governments, and private entities
- Provided strategic legal guidance to agency leaders, including Cabinet-level officials, hospital CEOs, and executive leaders
- Designed and delivered in-person and virtual training programs for agency leaders across diverse departments
- Represented HHS in litigation, leveraging case management skills to achieve favorable outcomes in all contested cases

Deputy General Counsel   May 2013 - Dec 2019
Denver Public Schools (DPS) | Denver
- Advocated for DPS in litigation, applying analytical problem-solving to resolve complex legal challenges
- Designed and delivered in-person and virtual training programs for hundreds of employees
- Managed complex personnel investigations, coordinating the work of dozens of HR professionals to ensure thorough and effective resolution of concerns
- Drafted and reviewed legal documents, including contracts, memoranda of understanding, and collective bargaining agreements

EDUCATION

Turing School of Software and Design   July 2024 - March 2025
Accredited Certificate in Full-Stack Software Development

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Juris Doctor   May 2013
Honors/Awards: Order of St. Ives | 4 Merit Scholarships | 5 Scholastic Excellence Awards | Outstanding Student Advocate Award

Metropolitan State University of Denver, Bachelor of Arts | Modern Languages   May 2010
Honors/Awards: Magna cum laude | Merit Scholarship | President's Honor List | Golden Key Honor Society