

MEMORIES & MILESTONES: ROCKY MOUNTAIN AUDIOLOGY

Making a difference for those with hearing loss

How did your business start?

We opened Rocky Mountain Audiology in Edwards in 2011 as there was a need in the valley for audiology services for patients of all ages. Dr. Daria's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of people affected by hearing concerns.

What do you sell?

Dr. Stakiw provides hearing loss evaluations and rehabilitation, hearing aid assessments and consultations, hearing aid fitting, repair and reprogramming as well as noise protection options and tinnitus management.

For those individuals who suspect they may be experiencing hearing loss, we offer comprehensive evaluation services to determine the type, degree and cause of the hearing loss as well as a variety of treatment options. A hearing evaluation can precisely define the nature of your hearing loss and establish a treatment program appropriate for you.

After the evaluation is completed, Dr. Stakiw will review the results with you and answer any questions you or your significant other may have. At that time, recommendations will be made for managing your hearing loss. These recommendations will vary depending on your hearing loss and individual communication needs. If a hearing aid is necessary, Rocky Mountain Audiology provides hearing aid maintenance, repair and reprogramming for all makes and models of hearing aids.

Dr. Stakiw is committed to ongoing continuing education, providing the latest in hearing technology, and serving patients with compassion and understanding.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Name of business: Rocky Mountain Audiology

Description: Rocky Mountain Audiology is Western Colorado's hearing and tinnitus experts. We are now opening a second location on the Western Slope in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Owner: Dr. Daria Stakiw, board certified Doctor of Audiology

Address: 1607 Grand Ave. Suite 21, Glenwood Springs

Phone: 970-945-7575

E-mail: dr.daria@rockymountainaudiology.com

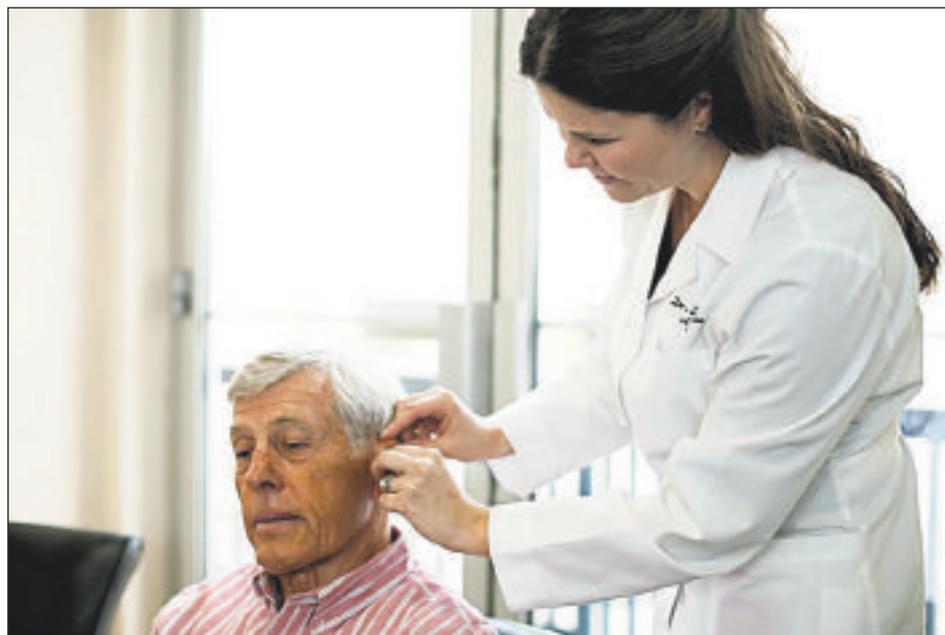
Website: www.rockymountainaudiology.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Rocky-Mountain-Audiology/236793289688525>

Date business opened: June 1, 2014

What positive lessons did you learn during the recession?

The recession has reinforced the importance of providing the highest integrity of hearing health care to all patients. We strive to deliver superior customer service and to respect patient's individual needs to maintain healthy hearing throughout their life. We hope to be a positive influence in each patient's care as well as educate them to prevent further hearing loss.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Daria Stakiw works with a patient.

What strategy do you use to hire good people?

We ensure our staff is friendly, honest, compassionate and highly professional at all times to maintain our patient's confidentiality and success of treatment. We do this by completing an intensive interview and training process with all employees and providing an ongoing continuing education provided as well.

What is your strategy for growth in the next year?

Our goal is to help as many patients with hearing loss as possible. Hearing loss

can be an early symptom for other health concerns. Hearing loss is the third leading cause of health problems in individuals over the age of 50. The only other two health factors that surpass it are arthritis and hypertension.

What is the best thing about running a business here?

The best thing about owning a business in the Roaring Fork Valley is the ability to care for the great people of the Western Slope. Having patients who pride themselves in health and positivity is truly a gift. The beautiful scenery doesn't hurt either!

A few good lawyers?

I don't mean to interrupt your summer, but if you are anything like me and you just graduated from high school or college, the thought of what you'll do for money when the proverbial family bank closes is becoming a pressing concern.

A few of you have a keen sense of what you want to do with your life. If this applies to you, stop reading and follow your bliss. This article is not for you.

It's for the vast majority who need some time to completely discover their gifts and ambitions. In particular, it's for those who, along the way, think they may want to become a lawyer.

A lot of people consider going to law school, despite the mixed reputation of the legal profession and the mixed experience of lawyers in the profession.

In my view, lawyers are among the most intelligent, hard-working and ethical

professionals out there, and the legal profession is an excellent career field that offers many options. But I would also suggest, and I think most of my colleagues would agree, that this job is not for everyone, there may be an over-supply of lawyers who enter the market each year, and lawyers who get into this profession for the wrong reasons often live to regret it.

It's not uncommon for a young person to try out a number of things before they settle on a career. But the legal profession, or any other career field with high costs of entry, is not one you should just "try out" or enter into blindly. The costs are simply too high.

The ABA Journal recently reported that law students are graduating on average with debt in excess of \$125,000. Add on three years of lost earnings as "opportunity cost," and going to law school looks a lot like plunking

down a quarter-million for the training required to sit for the bar. Assuming you pass the bar and get a legal job (an increasing number of law grads are having trouble finding work), servicing debt of this magnitude will be a significant hardship unless and until you realize the returns on this investment.

For a few law grads, there is an immediate return. New attorneys at the large firms in big cities will make six figures. They will earn that money, though, often spending nights, weekends and holidays at the office to meet the high billable hour requirements. Regardless, these jobs are highly sought-after, and they typically go to the graduates from elite law schools and the top students at the other schools.

For the majority of new lawyers, the financial results of pursuing a law degree are more pedestrian than most would hope or expect, especially at the beginning. This will be a tough thing to stomach if you made the investments described above.

So why should anyone who can't pay for law school with a check from the family bank pursue a legal career? My answer is simple — because you have decided, based on reliable evidence and appropriate criteria, that becoming a lawyer is your ideal path in life and that you are willing to bear the burden of the costs of entry.

Sounds simple enough, but this is an adult decision that can only be responsibly made after conducting a significant amount of what lawyers call "due diligence."

Due diligence does not include reading Grisham novels, binge watching Law and Order, or memorizing Lieutenant Kaffee's cross examination of Colonel Jessup in "A Few Good Men." Doing mock trial was a good start, but mock trial alone is not complete due diligence.

Due diligence should begin with discussions with practicing lawyers. Discuss what they believe to be the positive aspects of the profession and the negative. Learn what they actually do

with their time. If possible, work in a law office, even if it means working for pennies. This will give you invaluable practical insight into the profession, which will inform your decision and give you a leg up in law school if you decide to go for it. Talk with someone skilled with finances about what it will be like to pay for the law degree. Analyze the data about what new and established lawyers in your desired specialty make. Don't rely on the law schools' promotional materials for this information. They're selling something.

If, having thoroughly performed your due diligence, you determine that becoming a lawyer is your ideal path in life, do it. It's worth it. If you determine that it's less-than-ideal but still attractive, do something else, and avoid what could very well be a romantic but costly misadventure.

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Pro Bono Publico