A 1999 HHS graduate has returned to his hometown to join a local law firm.

Russell Sprague is the newest partner at newly renamed Colver, Killin & Sprague, LLP.

“It gets in your blood and you don’t ever get it out,” Sprague said of agriculture and rural life. This is one of the reasons he decided to join the Colver and Killin team in Holyoke. Another big reason is the strong family ties he has to the area.

“It’s been a blessing that I could get a chance to come back and help people in an area that I’m really passionate about,” Sprague said. He began at the law office Wednesday, April 4.

“Dave (Colver) and Kim (Killin) have been fantastic here,” Sprague said. He hopes to follow in their footsteps and serve the community the best he can.

While in law school, Sprague got a concentration in agricultural law, which he compares to a minor. He said it has always been a wish to try and use those skills.

The new attorney also has a few unique ties to the firm. His father, Russ, and Colver are first cousins. The firm was also originally started by Carl Absmeier, the grandfather of Russell’s wife, Billie (Absmeier).

“I’m really excited to be back,” Sprague said. “It’s nice to be around folks and the area where I grew up.”

Sprague earned his bachelor's degree in communication studies in 2003 and master's in communication studies in 2005 from Colorado State University. For both degrees he had an emphasis in rhetorical studies. Sprague also played football for CSU for five years.

Sprague earned his law degree from University of Nebraska Lincoln in 2008.

Following his graduation from UNL, Sprague clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th circuit with Chief Judge William Riley. He served as a judicial law clerk for one year before moving his family from Omaha to Denver to take a job with Wheeler, Trigg, O'Donnell. He said the Denver firm handles primarily trial work. He spent two and a half years working with the Denver firm.

Sprague and wife Billie have three girls, Avarie 8, Olivia 5 and Emersyn 4. The Sprague family currently lives in Parker where Russell commutes from. He said for now he will be in town during the week and head back to Parker on weekends to be with his family.

Both Avarie and Olivia are in school which won't be over for a few months, according to Sprague. He noted the girls are on a modified school year which runs a little longer than school in Holyoke. Sprague said they aren't quite sure how the transition will work just yet.

In his free time, Sprague enjoys spending time with his family as well as extended family. He also enjoys reading and attending any type of sporting event.

Sprague may be reached at the law office at 854-2264.

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