

LAW WEEK

COLORADO

CLC Launches Young Lawyers Division

The group aims to bring more young attorneys into the committee's projects



ATTORNEYS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE INITIAL YLD LEADERSHIP AT THE GROUP'S KICK-OFF EVENT ON JAN. 28. (NOT PICTURED: NATE HAKE)

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BY DOUG CHARTIER, HANNAH GARCIA AND TONY FLESOR
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Younger attorneys in Colorado now have a new platform for giving back to their community and networking with peers.

The Colorado Lawyers Committee announced the launch of its Young Lawyers Division, which will focus on increasing participation among under-40 attorneys in its projects.

The division's mission is to harness attorneys' legal skills to serve children and underserved populations through education, advocacy and pro bono projects. The YLD focuses on involving attorneys and law students younger than 40 or those who have been in practice for fewer than eight years.

The YLD also announced Monday the 14 members of its initial leadership board.

Matt Linton, a workplace safety attorney with Holland & Hart, will chair the board in 2016 and chair-elect **Tess Hand-Bender** of Reilly Pozner will lead the board in 2017. Linton graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College

of Law in 2006 and Hand-Bender is a 2010 graduate of Berkeley School of Law.

Lauren Carboni of Dentons US and **Chris Lane** of Davis Graham & Stubbs will chair the fundraising and events team. Carboni is a 2013 graduate of DU Sturm College of Law and Lane is a 2008 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School.

Martina Hinojosa of Butler Snow and **Tenley Oldak** of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck will chair the special projects team. Hinojosa is a 2013 graduate of CU Law School and Oldak is a 2007 graduate of Boston College Law School.

Jennie Wray of The Harris Law Firm and **Marie Williams** of Faegre Baker Daniels will lead the public relations team. Wray is a 2006 graduate of Vermont Law School and Williams is a 2000 graduate of CU Law School.

John McHugh of Reilly Pozner and **Beth Ann Lennon** of Sherman & Howard will chair the hate crimes education team. McHugh is a 2009 graduate of New York University School of Law and Lennon is a 2012 graduate of CU Law School.

Ellie Lockwood of Reilly Pozner and

Stephanie Kanan of Lindquist & Vennum will lead the legal night team. Lockwood is a 2010 graduate of DU Sturm College of Law and Kanan is a 2010 graduate of CU Law School.

Nate Hake of Arnold & Porter and **Abby Hinchcliff** of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott will chair the strategic planning team. Both are graduates of Yale Law School.

Some of the groups, like the hate crimes education and legal night groups, are initiatives of the larger committee that the YLD have adopted. Linton said that these are the initial groups, as the division aims to expand, but "simply having energy and numbers is important for those two things." High energy, along with technological savvy, is part of what makes young lawyers uniquely positioned to do good in the community, he added.

The YLD's special projects group is a "testing ground for new ideas," Linton explained. Currently the group is developing a pro bono nonprofit workshop. Pro bono services can be easier to come by in litigation, but the YLD is looking to address a transactional need by providing

legal audits pro bono to nonprofit organizations, Linton said.

Hand-Bender encourages early-career attorneys to take advantage of the CLC's pro bono opportunities as a means to not only serve the larger non-legal community but also grow their own skills.

"Young lawyers often have time to take on pro bono projects that more experienced lawyers can't make room for in their busy schedule(s)," Hand-Bender said. "This works out well because young lawyers often stand to gain the most from their pro bono experiences as they offer opportunities to try things and learn skills they might not otherwise get at their firms."

The YLD will hold a kick-off event for young lawyers and law students at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 at Brownstein's downtown Denver office. The gathering will be an opportunity for attendees learn about the YLD's goals as well as meet initial YLD board members and CLC executive committee members. Linton said he hopes the event will inspire young lawyers by connecting them with senior attorneys who are active in their communities. •