

# OTLA Leadership Academy Launch

By Shenoa Payne, chair

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Oregon Trial Lawyers Association Leadership Academy (OLA) for 0 – 10 year practitioners designed to give new lawyers the skills and techniques necessary to make them successful and effective leaders in OTLA, their practice, professional settings and their communities.

The OLA was modeled after the American Association for Justice and several other state trial lawyer associations' leadership academies. However, we designed the OLA so it is uniquely suited to the needs of our organization. Thanks to my fellow board members Tom D'Amore, Ronn Elzinga, Sonya Fischer, Neil Jackson, Tina Stupasky and Greg Zeuthen for spending countless hours creating the application and process, curriculum, securing speakers and choosing the participants from a list of 22 highly qualified OTLA rising stars.



Shenoa Payne

Special thanks to Tom D'Amore and the D'Amore Law Group who stepped up as an Annual Platinum Plus Sponsor of the OLA donating more than \$15,000 to cover

the cost of expert consultant speakers, meals, entertainment, hotel rooms, tickets for Snowball and much more.

We are extremely excited about the OLA program, which is comprised of five sessions highlighting leadership training, personal development, a day at the legislature and appellate courts, observation of board meetings and the inner workings of OTLA, Guardian and membership drives, and designing and completing a team service project at convention. Each session includes a social event with our leadership or stalwarts and/or current or retired

judges. During the last session, held the day before convention, graduates will be assigned to serve in a position within the organization as a first step toward future leadership.

Participants were selected based on the applicant's demonstrated commitment to OTLA and its mission, stated interest in future leadership in OTLA and the applicant's commitment to attend all sessions. We also considered whether the applicant added to the diversity of our organization through diversity in practice area, solo vs firm practitioner, geographic area, or representation in an under-represented community within OTLA. We are pleased to congratulate our inaugural OLA class:

- Ron Cheng, Picket Dummigan
- Erin Christison, Novation Law
- Nadia Dahab, Stolle Berne
- Michael Fuller, Olsen Daines
- Kellie Furr, Injury Lawyer PDX
- Willow Hillman, Law Office of Willow Hillman
- Meredith Holley, Johnson Johnson & Schaller
- Quinn Kuranz, QE Kuranz Attorney at Law
- Robert Le, Law Office of Robert Le
- Nathan Sosa, Corbridge Law
- Blair Townsend, Michael Wise & Associates

We would also like to thank our event sponsors who are contributing \$1000 to the food and fun expenses:

- Nolan Robinson, Ringler and Associates
- Paulson and Coletti
- Audrey Kenney, Millenium Settlements
- Jack Meligan, Settlement Professionals
- Ryan Jennings and the attorneys at the Gatti Law Firm
- Tina Stupasky and Ken Elmore
- Derek Johnson and the attorneys at Johnson Johnson and Schaller
- Dwyer and Williams

And \$500 scholarship sponsors:

- Marty Alvey, Alvey Law Group
- Beth Creighton, Creighton and Rose

If you have questions about the program, including how to get involved as a speaker, sponsor, or how to apply for next year's program, please contact me at [spayne@paynelawpdx.com](mailto:spayne@paynelawpdx.com).

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