

**Leadership Academy:**

# Retrospectives & Reminiscences

By Members of the OLA Class of 2021–2022

**A**s the autumn season gets well underway, another class of the OTLA Leadership Academy begins its journey, the Class of 2022–2023 — our 4th OLA class! We're thrilled to welcome another group of new lawyers to our ranks, and look forward to the year ahead as they grow as leaders and community members, and learn more about OTLA and the practice of law.

As members of the most recent class (2021-2022), we'd like to share some of our thoughts on the experience. Above all else, we hope to encourage every newer lawyer and member of OTLA to consider applying in the future.

**Shannon Conley,  
Nay & Friedenberg**

“From what I can tell, there is no other OTLA experience that will more effectively introduce you to the pillars of OTLA, help you develop strong relationships with the future pillars of OTLA and train you on how to meaningfully support OTLA moving forward. It was also a ton of fun! My advice, if you are even remotely interested, is to APPLY.”



*Shannon Conley*



*Talia Guerriero*

**Talia Guerriero,  
Albies Stark & Guerriero**

“[The] Leadership Academy was an enriching experience well worth every single minute spent. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn about OTLA, the legislative process, and the judicial process, and to make meaningful connections with like-minded attorneys facing similar battles and successes. I anticipate that the benefits of this program will serve me for decades to come and I highly encourage folks to apply!”

**Apolinar Montero-Sanchez,  
Law Offices of Lourdes Sanchez**

“Through the Academy, I gained a deeper understanding of OTLA's history, and was given access to attorneys, judges and elected officials. This Academy provides an opportunity to expand your network, create friendships, and speak with the movers and shakers in our profession. I'm extremely grateful for my time in the Academy and I highly recommend it.”



*Apolinar  
Montero-Sanchez*

**Jovanna Patrick,  
Hollander Lebebaum  
Gannicott & Patrick**

“Wow, it is so hard to put it into words! Leadership Academy is all about growth. Growing in understanding of who you are as a lawyer and a person. Growing in understanding and appreciating everything that OTLA is and does and your place within it. Growing incredible friendships with your class, prior classes, OTLA staff, and our generous sponsors, speakers and stalwarts. And maybe even growing your waistline a little from all the delicious food that is heaped on you at every opportunity! It is like the best adult summer camp you could ever imagine and then, unlike summer camp, you actually get to keep those deep connections as you continue forward with your practice. I did not know what to expect going into it and it was so much more than I ever could have imagined.”



*Jovanna Patrick*



*Maria Witt*

**Maria Witt,  
Stutheit Kalin**

“I'm so grateful to have participated in Leadership Academy. Through the year-long program, I gained a greater appreciation for all of the hard work OTLA members and staff have put in over the years to advance legal protections for vulnerable Oregonians. As an employment lawyer, it was particularly helpful to get to know other leaders

from all different practice areas and to gain a broader perspective as to why OTLA is so important. And I don't think I've ever been so well-fed in any other training!”

Between the many opportunities to hear directly from OTLA stalwarts, elected officials, judges and other organization leaders, the incredible experience of traveling to the American Association for Justice conference for the first time, the chance to plan a community oriented service project to benefit the underserved in our state and more... Participation in the OTLA Leadership Academy is an unparalleled boon to one's practice and personal and professional development.

Thank you to Diamond Partner and program sponsor **Tom D'Amore**, to **Shenoa Payne** who was the architect of the program, and all those who helped plan and execute our sessions and events.