



PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Law
Attorney General Cynthia Coffman

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COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL CYNTHIA COFFMAN ANNOUNCES SENIOR CABINET

DENVER—In her first act as Colorado's 38th [Attorney General, Cynthia Coffman](#) today met with Department of Law staff to announce her senior cabinet appointments.

"In becoming attorney general, I am inheriting one of the best public law offices in the country comprised of people who bring passion, intelligence and pride to their work," said Attorney General Coffman. "I am confident that the attorneys making up my cabinet are each exemplary leaders who will serve the people of Colorado and me with honor, and I am grateful for their dedication to public service."

Effective immediately, the legacy Chief Deputy Attorney General position is being divided into two new roles, both of which will report directly to Attorney General Coffman:

Chief of Staff: Melanie J. Snyder will oversee the office's administration functions, communication, attorney-related projects and spearhead a new community-engagement initiative. Since joining the office in 2008, Snyder has been consistently promoted for her leadership and expertise and has a solid working-knowledge of the various functions of the Department of Law. She has experience in private practice and business which, coupled with her background in government and law, bring depth and structure to the new Chief of Staff role. Snyder received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law and a B.A. cum laude in Political Science from the University of Arizona. Formerly, [Snyder was the Deputy Attorney General of Revenue & Utilities.](#)

Chief Deputy: David C. Blake will lead the office and advise the Attorney General on legal, policy and legislative matters. Blake will also serve as the primary point of contact with the governor's office as well as the office's external relationships with organizations like the National Association of Attorneys General and the Conference of Western Attorneys General. In 2010, Blake joined the office from the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and possesses a unique background in state and federal legal, criminal justice and legislative issues. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from George Mason University School of Law and has a B.A. in Political Science and Sociology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Formerly, [Blake was Deputy Attorney General for Legal Policy & Government Affairs](#) and Acting Deputy Attorney General for State Services.

The final member of Attorney General Coffman's senior cabinet is the Solicitor General, whose areas of responsibility remain unchanged.

Solicitor General: Effective April 1, 2015, Frederick R. Yarger will succeed Daniel D. Domenico as Colorado's Solicitor General. The solicitor general is responsible for supervising and determining legal strategy for criminal and civil appeals, as well as select constitutional litigation, handled by the Colorado Attorney General's Office. He is also responsible for reviewing and approving proposed regulations from client agencies, supervising the office's deputy and assistant solicitors general, and approving special assistant attorney general appointments. From 2012 through 2013, Yarger was the office's assistant solicitor general, working directly with Mr. Domenico to oversee the office's appellate and constitutional practice. Yarger previously served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Mark Filip of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and for the Honorable Timothy Tymkovich of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Yarger earned a Juris Doctorate with honors from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was elected to the order of the coif. He received his B.A. magna cum laude and with honors from Dartmouth College.

The Colorado Attorney General's Office provides ethical representation and legal advice of the highest caliber to its state agency clients and service of the highest quality to the people of Colorado. In the statewide Employee Engagement Survey, employees at the Colorado Department of Law consistently rank among the highest in the state in believing that their work is important and gives them a sense of personal accomplishment. There were no changes announced regarding the existing section deputies, and current vacancies will be filled forthwith.

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