

## Farewell Carol

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After five years at the helm of the Professional Liability Fund, Carol Bernick has decided to return to her former firm, Davis Wright Tremaine. There, she will focus on mentoring and career development of the firm's attorneys, especially women and lawyers of color. Carol's time at the PLF will be remembered as a period of revitalization, transition, and preparation for the future.

Carol has had an oversized impact on all aspects of the PLF given the time she served as CEO. While preserving the high standards in claims handling and personal and practice management assistance services that Oregon lawyers have come to expect from the PLF, she initiated a variety of needed internal system improvements and reforms. These ranged from rewriting the PLF coverage plans, streamlining claims administration, and implementing online assessment payments to overhauling the Excess Program's underwriting system. Her tenure has been marked by strong financial performance of the PLF as well – so much so, the PLF assessment was reduced for the first time in more than 15 years.

Among PLF staff, Carol is known for her approachable, pragmatic, and decisive leadership style. She fostered an open and collaborative workplace by supporting PLF staff and trusting in their ability to innovate and excel, while enhancing the lives of PLF staff through a new wellness program and her own guidance and mentoring. Her vision for the role of the PLF and values of professionalism, equity, and inclusion led to more opportunities for women and minorities to do defense work for the PLF and the adoption of a new mental health and substance use CLE requirement. Her belief in the mission of the PLF and standards of excellence has made her a leader in the legal profession both in Oregon and across the country.

Carol will be missed, but we wish her well as she moves on to the next phase of her career.