



The Whisper

The Newsletter of the Young
Lawyers Committee

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Leadership Profile

Leadership Profile



Nora Coleman

Nora Coleman is a partner at Haworth Coleman & Gerstman, LLC. She is currently Vice Chair of the DRI Young Lawyers Committee Corporate Counsel Subcommittee, and Young Lawyers

Substantive Liaison to the DRI Fire & Casualty Subcommittee. In her practice, Nora defends a wide variety of corporate clients in complex civil litigation, including class actions and toxic torts, focusing on product liability, toxic torts, construction, general liability and commercial disputes. She represents manufacturers of cosmetics, medical equipment, industrial equipment, chemicals, recreational merchandise and a wide variety of consumer products, as well as owners, managers and contractors in matters involving construction accidents and contract disputes. In addition, Ms. Coleman assists clients with the development of internal risk management strategies and corporate policy.

How did you get involved with DRI?

My partner, Scott Haworth, has been involved with DRI for many years, and encouraged me to look for opportunities to get involved myself. When I read up on the Young Lawyers Committee a few years ago, I decided that it would be a perfect place to start, and I think I was right.

How has DRI helped you in your practice?

The lawyers and corporate counsel I've met through DRI hail from all across the country, and they have helped me be a resource for existing clients who need representation in other jurisdictions. They have also looked to me when their clients need representation in New York or New Jersey. DRI seminars are geared specifically to my areas of interest, such as product liability or issues affecting young lawyers, which allows me fulfill my CLE requirements in a meaningful way while visiting with friends from around the country.

When you are not practicing law, what do you enjoy doing?

It doesn't really matter what I'm doing, as long as I'm with family (especially my nephew, Marc), friends or any bunch of good people. If the choice of activity is up to me, it's likely going to have to do with live music or a great restaurant.

If you were not a lawyer, what would you be?

Committee Leadership



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A makeup artist. About eleven years ago, during my first year of law school, I spotted an internationally renowned makeup artist in a store in Manhattan, and spent the better part of an hour convincing her to give me a job and teach me everything she knew. She agreed, and I spent the next two years working on her Global Product Development team, when I wasn't following her around to photo shoots, television appearances and Fashion Week. I still do makeup for people on occasion, and it's always fun for me to be in that environment. I also call upon my experience as a makeup artist in the product liability work I handle involving cosmetics.

What is the proudest moment of your legal career thus far?
The opening of our law firm, Haworth Coleman & Gerstman, LLC, ranks highly. We're looking forward to the one-year anniversary on July 1, 2011.

If they were making a movie of your life, what actor would play you?
I have no idea, but she has to be pretty tall.

If you could have a conversation with anyone of your choosing, alive or dead, who would that be?
Lorenzo de' Medici, especially if it could be done in 15th century Florence.

How do you think your adversaries would describe you if they had to explain what type of lawyer you are?
I hope they would describe me as smart, creative, thorough and reasonable, but formidable when necessary.

What's on your iPod right now?
A road trip mix made up of songs that reference cars or driving in the title or lyrics, like Thunder Road by Bruce Springsteen, The Weight by The Band, Little Red Corvette by Prince, Panama by Van Halen, or Mustang Sally by Wilson Pickett. I can't take credit for making the mix, but it's a good one. It's just a little depressing when I listen to it on the subway.

Last book read?
Best Food Writing 2010. It's a fantastic collection with pieces by Jonathan Safran Foer, Sam Sifton, Jonathan Gold and others.

Last vacation locale?
Italy. (It's also my next vacation locale. And maybe the one after that, too.)