

LEGAL LOWDOWN

Colorado Leads Diversity Efforts

By **Ali McNally, Matt Masich,
Meg Satrom, Esq.**
LAW WEEK COLORADO

The Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee of the Colorado and Denver bar associations recently presented awards to attorney **Kathleen Nalty** and law firm Gordon & Rees. Nalty, executive director of the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, received DILP's annual Diversity Trailblazer Award, while Gordon & Rees received the Diversity Leadership Award.

"In Colorado we are at the forefront nationally of diversity initiatives, which is evidenced each year by the quality and quantity of nominations we receive for DILP's awards. This year was no different, as the competition for the awards was incredible," DILP Chair **Meshach Rhoades** said in a statement.

The Diversity Leadership Award recognizes a Colorado law firm or corporate legal department that is a leader in diversity. Nominees were judged on measurable results in areas including attracting, welcoming, retaining and promoting diverse attorneys. Gordon & Rees has increased the number of diverse attorneys in its Colorado offices to about 10 percent, DILP said in its press release. The firm also formed an inclusiveness



Franz Hardy, left, a partner with Gordon & Rees, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Wiley Daniel, Kathleen Nalty, executive director of the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, and Meshach Rhoades, an attorney with CenturyLink and chair of Colorado Bar Association/Denver Bar Association Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee, at a recent DILP ceremony. Gordon & Rees and Nalty were presented with awards for their work on diversity efforts in the legal profession. | LAW WEEK PHOTO GABRIEL CHRISTUS

and diversity committee and is piloting an inclusiveness program developed by the Center for Legal Inclusiveness.

The Trailblazer Award honors a Colorado attorney who has made meaningful and significant efforts to advance

diversity within their organizations and the legal profession. Nalty has been executive director of the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, formerly Colorado Campaign for Inclusive Excellence, since its founding in October 2007. In this time, she has led the transformation of a one-person nonprofit into a national leading organization on diversity and inclusiveness, DILP said. •