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For more information, please contact:
Delene Taylor, Marketing Director
(502) 326-2333
dtaylor@dmlo.com

DMLO CPAs ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

Louisville, KY (September 29, 2014) – DMLO CPAs announced Friday at the annual state of the firm staff meeting that current President Jennifer Hughes will be ‘passing the baton,’ as she described it, to Director Chris Ward, as part of a planned rotation in leadership roles. Chris, age 42, will officially become the firm’s new President effective April 30, 2015, as DMLO prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary as a ‘Louisville original.’

“Guiding the firm through the last five years has been both enriching and enlightening,” said Jennifer. “There were invigorating highlights as well as unforeseen challenges, and I have grown immensely as a leader and as an individual as a result. I am so pleased that Chris is ready to step up and embrace this role and continue the vision. His enormous talent, energy, and drive, together with his experience, wisdom and respect as a leader at the firm, will without doubt help us achieve the important goals we have set for the firm.”

Much was accomplished during Jennifer’s term as President, including the successful retirement of a second generation of partners, formalization of the firm’s vision and strategic plan, joining a global association of accounting firms (BKR International), the acquisition of a local tax and accounting practice, and consistent growth in the midst of a recession, including the addition of five new partners. She oversaw substantial investment in state-of-the-art technology and training, the launch of a new website, and a complete renovation of the 11th floor of the ‘flashcube’ building at Hurstbourne and Shelbyville Rd. DMLO became a Top Investor and High Impact Company with GLI, and was recognized repeatedly for its exemplary workplace environment and practices with the prestigious national *When Work Works* award, based primarily on the results of an independent survey of employees.

Jennifer will continue to work with Chris and the leadership team to implement firm strategy and initiatives, in addition to devoting more time to one of the things she enjoys most – working directly with clients in the firm’s long-term care and not-for-profit niches. She also plays a vital role in our community and our profession, serving on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer for both Greater Louisville Inc. and Leadership Louisville, on the Executive Board of the Lincoln Heritage Council/BSA, and on the boards of the Kentucky Society of CPAs (KyCPA) and KyCPA Foundation, to name just a few.

In a similar path to Jennifer’s, Chris began his accounting career at the firm, and has been a Director since 2007. He has served on the firm’s Executive Committee since its formation. He was chosen for Business First’s *Forty Under 40* in 2011.

Fellow Director Joe Legel says about Chris: “His quick wit and aptitude for finding humor in the most common situations results in frequent laughter in the office. Our director group has a great sense of camaraderie; we have a lot of fun. I’m pretty sure we are not the ‘typical’ accounting firm.”

Key initiatives Chris will focus on as he takes the helm will be the continued development of the firm's specialty niche groups, and ongoing growth both organic, and via the targeted acquisition of smaller practices whose owners are approaching retirement and want to ensure that their clients continue to receive the highest standard of service and quality of relationship.

"I am honored to have the votes of confidence and trust from my partners here as the baton is passed. Our founding partners built something of incredible value, and we are so fortunate to carry on their impressive legacy. We have reached a very significant chapter in our story—and I look forward to continuing DMLO's transformation into the most relevant accounting firm in the region," said Chris.

About Chris Ward, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA

With over 20 years of experience practicing public accounting, Chris provides business valuation and forensic accounting services to closely-held businesses and family limited partnerships. He is also a trusted business advisor in the construction, manufacturing and professional services industries, and provides tax planning and compliance services to individuals. Chris earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Louisville. In addition, he earned the Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) and the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) designations, granted through the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants exclusively to CPAs who demonstrate considerable expertise in business valuations, and forensic accounting, respectively, through their knowledge, skills, and experience. Approximately 1% of the 377,000 CPAs represented by the AICPA in the U.S. have obtained these specialized credentials. He also earned the Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) credential from the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts (NACVA). Chris is a graduate of Ignite Louisville (2010) and Leadership Louisville (2012).

About DMLO CPAs

With 90+ employees, DMLO is ranked #2 on the Business First List, and is the largest single location Louisville-based accounting firm, providing a full range of financial and advisory services to businesses, individuals, high net worth families, entrepreneurs, and not-for-profit organizations. What makes us stand out? How much we care - about our clients, our staff, our community, and the ultimate impact of what we do every day. Engage with us online at dmlo.com, on [facebook.com/dmlocpas](https://www.facebook.com/dmlocpas), on Twitter [@dmlocpas](https://twitter.com/dmlocpas) or on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/dmlo](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dmlo).

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