

PLUS EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Nominee Details:

Name: Kayla McLaughlin

Job Title: Underwriting Manager

Company: Starr

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kayla-mclaughlin-223539131/>

From the Nominator:

How long have you known the nominee? And in what capacity?

I have had the pleasure of knowing Kayla for more than four years. We began our careers in the insurance industry around the same time. When we first met Kayla was as a PL Underwriter at Starr and I was working as an Associate Broker at Aon in the Professional Services Practice.

Describe ways in which the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to the industry via activities in their company, involvement with professional organizations such as PLUS, or other extracurricular activities related to PL.

Kayla has demonstrated a strong commitment to the insurance industry throughout her career. She has progressed from an Underwriter at Starr to an Underwriting Manager responsible for the New York region, where she leads and mentors a team of underwriters. Beyond her day-to-day responsibilities, Kayla is deeply invested in developing the next generation of insurance professionals. She is consistently willing to participate in associate development programs, serve on panels, and provide guidance to young underwriters and interns as they begin their careers. She also maintains an active presence within the industry, regularly attending and contributing to events such as the PLUS Symposia, Eastern Chapter events, and Women in Cyber events, helping her professional growth, and allowing for collaboration, and inclusion across the insurance community.

How has this person already uniquely contributed to the PL industry?

Kayla has made a unique contribution to the professional liability industry through her combination of underwriting expertise, mentorship, and commitment to industry engagement. In addition to building a successful underwriting career and leading a regional team, she has consistently invested in developing future talent by mentoring junior underwriters, participating in associate programs, and serving on industry panels. Her willingness to share knowledge and provide guidance has helped strengthen the pipeline of professionals entering the professional liability market. Through her active involvement in organizations such as PLUS and Women in Cyber, she has also fostered meaningful collaboration between carriers, brokers, and policyholders, helping to advance both the professional liability industry and the careers of those within it.

Why do you consider this person to be an emerging leader in the PL industry?

I consider Kayla to be an emerging leader in the professional liability industry because of her technical expertise, leadership, and willingness to invest in others. Her progression from Underwriter to Underwriting Manager overseeing the New York region in such a quick amount of time is a testament to both her capabilities and the respect she has earned from colleagues and peers. What has always stood out to me is her commitment to continuous learning and sharing knowledge with those around her. Last year, I transitioned from the brokerage side to underwriting, and while Kayla and I are now technically competitors, she has remained a great industry

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peer. We regularly have thoughtful and constructive conversations about market conditions, emerging risks, and underwriting trends, and I continue to learn from her insights. Her ability to lead, mentor, collaborate, and elevate the professionalism of those around her makes her a deserving candidate and a true emerging leader within the professional liability industry.

Nominator's Details:

Name: Kaylee Jones

Job Title: Senior Underwriter

Company: Westfield Specialty