

# COBB BUSINESS

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2016 Next Generation Award winners Caitlyn Cooper and Justin O'Dell. / Special to the MDJ

## Cobb Young Professionals names 2016 Next Generation Award winners

**Staff reports**

The Cobb Young Professionals, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's networking group for young professionals in their 20s and 30s, named the winners of the 2016 Next Generation Award at the August First Monday Breakfast on Aug. 8 — Caitlyn Cooper, lobbyist and political consultant at Excelsis Public Strategies; and Justin O'Dell, partner at O'Dell & O'Neal Attorneys.

The 2016 recipients were selected from a group of nominees who are active within the community, essential to their profession and offer a unique perspective. Both winners demonstrate the potential to be prominent leaders within the Cobb community.



From left are, Marty Heller, 2016 Chair of Cobb Young Professionals; Cooper; O'Dell; and Sharon Mason, COO of the Cobb Chamber. / Special to the MDJ

**CAITLYN COOPER**

With a reputation as a fundraiser, Cooper has managed numerous high profile and successful political campaigns at the state, county-wide and local levels.

As a nationally trained forensic interviewer, she has provided expert testimony in some of Georgia's toughest child abuse cases and works cases in counties statewide. Her work in this field has given her the ability to fight for women and children's needs as a lobbyist under the Gold Dome.

The youngest ever president-elect of the Rotary Club of Cobb County, Cooper recently received the Jimmy T. Anderson Rotarian of the Year award. She is involved with the Cobb Chamber as the 2016 Chair of the Marietta Area Council, a graduate of Leadership Cobb Class of 2014 and a mentee in the 2014-15 Cobb Young Professionals Next

**Generation Mentoring Program.**

In 2010, she was named the youngest member to receive Georgia Trend's 40 Under 40 honor, and in 2014, was named a "Top 20 Under 40" by Cobb Life Magazine. As one of her nominators stated, she "brings a passion to her work that ignites those around her and inspires them to be their best selves."

**JUSTIN O'DELL**

O'Dell started his own small law firm in 2013, which has doubled in size in less than three years under his leadership, and has earned a reputation as one of the "go-to lawyers" in Cobb County for various business probate and domestic litigation issues.

O'Dell's community service is extensive and diverse. He will serve as incoming president of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta after

serving as an active member for more than 15 years. He served as co-chairman for the SPLOST and Ed-SPLOST campaign in 2014, is a founding member and board member for local nonprofit Reconnecting Families since 2009 and is a graduate of the Leadership Cobb Class of 2007.

He is the recipient of the 2015 Cobb Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award, recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyers "Rising Star" in 2013, 2014 and 2015. He was also named a "Top 20 Under 40" by Cobb Life Magazine in 2010. He has served as a weekly Sunday School teacher at Marietta First Baptist Church since 2006 and also served on the Marietta First Baptist Board of Deacons since 2010.



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