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LOCAL ATTORNEYS COMING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO HOMELESS YOUTH

PORTLAND, OREGON: 10.29.2018 – On Wednesday, November 7th, leaders in the Portland legal community will come together to launch the New Avenues for Youth Legal Clinic. Hosted by Brent Barton, James Bruce, Jennifer Bruce, Mat dos Santos, Anna Friedhoff, Michael Fuller, Laurel Hook, Jason Kafoury, Aliza Kaplan, Shawn Menashe, Elizabeth Schleuning, Jody Stahancyk, Elliott Young, and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, the event hopes to raise \$120,000 in support for this clinic for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

The New Avenues for Youth Legal Clinic was formed as a pilot project more than a year ago and, since that time, has assisted 153 youth experiencing homelessness. Working in partnership with the Community Law Division at Metropolitan Public Defender and the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic at Lewis & Clark Law School Clinic, the clinic currently has over 90 active cases of young people facing a number of legal hurdles. Some of the most common legal challenges youth face include record clearing (expungements, felony reductions, waiving fines and fees), name/gender marker changes, safety related issues such as restraining orders, accessing benefits and housing, and family related issues.

“Homelessness is one of the most critical issues facing our city,” said attorney and co-host of the launch event, Jason Kafoury. “Recent *Oregonian* analysis from 2017 shows that while our homeless represent less than 5 percent of our city’s population, they account for 52% of arrests by the Portland Police. 84% of those arrests were for non-violent crimes. This New Avenues for Youth Legal Clinic will provide a critical safety net for our homeless youth to get the legal rights they deserve!”

The launch event will be held at the offices of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt from 5:30-7:30pm on November 7th and will feature guest speaker Representative Jennifer Williamson. RSVPs are required and interested attendees should contact James Kelly at jkelly@newavenues.org for more information.

About New Avenues for Youth

New Avenues for Youth is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and intervention of youth homelessness. Since 1997, our programs and services have impacted more than 20,000 young people as they work to overcome barriers, pursue their goals, and realize their potential. From supporting basic needs like meals and counseling to providing opportunities for education, job training, employment, and housing, we meet youth where they are—and help them get where they want to go. Our mission is to work in partnership with our community to prevent youth homelessness and provide young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness the resources and skills needed to lead healthy, productive lives. For more information about New Avenues for Youth, visit www.newavenues.org.

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