





**RONALD EDWARD
"RON" DANIELS**
Eastman, Georgia

*76th YLD President
&
Leadership Academy
Class of 2015*

If there was a way for you to grow professionally and have a good time at the same time, would you seize the opportunity? For me the answer was absolutely. And now I am the 76th president of this vibrant and diverse organization we call the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) for the 2022-23 Bar year.

Since its inception, the YLD has been responsible for a number of great programs which have benefitted both the profession and the public including the creation of the Georgia Legal Services Program, the High School Mock Trial Program and the award-winning Leadership Academy. The YLD has built better lawyers by providing valuable opportunities to network and learn from other young lawyers (and sometimes older lawyers) from all corners of this state and from every practice area imaginable. Despite our different backgrounds, life experiences and practice areas, everyone who has been active in the YLD will tell you the same thing: they never once regretted getting involved in the YLD and its programs.

YLD programs are successful because of our enthusiastic and devoted YLD members, who pool their talents through the work of our committees. There are dozens of YLD committees dedicated to a variety of issues, interests and projects. These committees are comprised of members around the state and are the heart of how the YLD accomplishes its goals. The YLD has many meaningful (and fun) ways for young lawyers to give back to their community and the legal profession, all while making connections with other young lawyers and within the community—and Leadership Academy is definitely one of those ways.

Whether you practice in a specialized field of law in Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Columbus or Valdosta, or maintain a general practice in Eastman, Georgia (like me) there is a place for you in the YLD and possibly the Leadership Academy. I hope you make the same choice I did in 2012 and become involved in this great organization, and in 2015 and apply for the YLD Leadership Academy.

What is the Leadership Academy?

Founded in 2006, the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia is a program for young lawyers who are interested in developing their leadership skills as well as learning more about their profession, their communities and their state.

The Leadership Academy counts more than 500 alumni. Those alumni members include solo practitioners, judicial law clerks, partners in large and small law firms, assistant district attorneys, public defenders, nonprofit lawyers, ADR specialists and in-house counsel for Fortune 500 companies. The benefits of having a friend and legal resource in practically every corner of the state and in any practice area cannot be overestimated.

Who Should Apply?

YLD members who have a history of involvement and leadership in their communities, offices and/or profession; who want to become more involved in the YLD and State

Bar; and, who want to network with state and national leaders and hear their perspectives on effective lawyering and leadership should apply.

How Will the Pandemic Affect the Leadership Academy?

A primary component of each year's Leadership Academy is in-person meetings, networking and socializing because, through these opportunities, our participants form strong personal connections with attorneys from across the state. This allows the participants not only to expand their personal networks but also serves the entire YLD—and State Bar—by building a stronger, more connected attorney base across the state. However, in view of the current public health crisis, these valuable in-person sessions may no longer prove safe, advisable or comfortable for many participants in the coming Bar year.

The State Bar is committed to the health and safety of its members and staff. As such, the YLD, Leadership Academy Committee and host venue will continue to monitor the pandemic situation in and around Georgia leading up to and during the 2023 class year, and will endeavor to comply with, policies, guidance and orders relating to the pandemic issued by the Supreme Court of Georgia, CDC, local, state and federal government, and the State Bar.

Programming for the planned sessions will be adjusted as necessary to strive to ensure all participants can participate safely throughout the program. We set out our hoped-for programming for the 2023 class on page 5, but some of the adjustments that may be made (as necessary) could include: moving CLE sessions to video conferences, shifting networking or happy hour events outdoors, decreasing the number of attendees per event, or dividing the class into smaller sections for limited in-person events. Various other changes may prove necessary, but the Leadership Academy Committee will provide updates and changes as soon as possible prior to and throughout the 2023 class year.

The Leadership Academy Committee has also approved a change to the tuition and fee structure for the coming year, detailed further on page 3, recognizing that many participants may not feel comfortable sharing a hotel room or staying in a hotel for sessions held in different cities. The YLD and Leadership Academy Committee look forward to working with the class of 2023 to find creative ways to ensure that this year's experience remains an enriching and valuable opportunity.

What If I Have Applied Before?

If you meet the criteria in the Who Should Apply section, we encourage you to apply again. We have far more qualified candidates apply each year than we can accept for

that year's class so you should not be discouraged if you have previously applied and not been selected.

What Should I Know Before I Apply?

Participating in the Leadership Academy requires a commitment of time and resources from each participant; however, alumni tell us that their experience in the program and the rewards of their participation greatly outweigh any sacrifice they make to attend.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process and are chosen from every corner of the state and every imaginable practice area. Recommendations from employers, judges and Leadership Academy alumni are strongly encouraged and considered.

The YLD Leadership Academy Class of 2023 begins in January 2023 and meets once a month for six months. Participants who attend all six sessions will receive 12 CLE credit hours, including 1 professionalism, 1 ethics and 3 trial. Those without perfect attendance will only receive CLE credit for the sessions they attend. CLE credit will be turned in for participants after session six in June 2023. Participants must attend at least four of the six sessions to graduate, be recognized at the graduation ceremony and be considered alumni of the program.

What is the Cost of Tuition?

The tuition options for participation in the 2023 Leadership Academy are listed below. Tuition covers all CLE fees, program costs and hotel accommodations for overnight sessions (if selected), and most meals. Transportation to and from sessions is not provided.

Tuition Option	Includes	Cost
Full Tuition with Double-Occupancy Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals and hotel accommodations for all multi-day sessions, sharing a room with another class member	\$1,100
Full Tuition with Single-Occupancy Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals, and hotel accommodations for all multi-day sessions, in a private hotel room without a roommate	\$1,990
Full Tuition with No Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals for those participants not planning to stay overnight for any of the multi-day sessions	\$500

Please note that for sessions held in conjunction with other State Bar or YLD meetings, there may be additional costs not covered by your tuition if you elect to attend additional CLEs, meals, receptions, etc., offered through the larger Bar meetings, but which are not specifically included in the Leadership Academy programming. All Leadership Academy participants are encouraged to take advantage of attending these other Bar events to supplement the Leadership Academy programming, should such events continue during 2023.

Payment plans as well as full and partial scholarships are offered to participants on the basis of need. To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must also complete the [scholarship application](#). Selection of applicants is independent of those who apply for a scholarship.

No refunds will be given after the deposit deadline of Dec. 2, 2022, has passed.

Why Should My Employer Support My Participation?



Build Networks

Meet judges, clients, potential clients and fellow lawyers who can refer you business; know who to call when you need to find local counsel to better serve your clients. The networking and business-development opportunities are limitless.



Get Recognized

Alumni have gone on to be elected to the State Bar Board of Governors, recognized in the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise-10 to Watch," named as *Atlanta Magazine's* "Rising Stars" and *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under 40" and a variety of other accolades.



Quality Programming

The YLD Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia is a nationally recognized program. In 2008, the Leadership Academy was awarded first place in the nation in the Minority Project Category during the American Bar Association YLD Awards of Achievement Program.



Earn 12 CLE Credit Hours

For the 2021 program, participants will have the opportunity to earn a full year's worth of CLE credit, including ethics, trial and professionalism. See the schedule below.

Schedule*

SESSION 1

Jan. 13-14, 2023 | Atlanta, GA

Becoming a Leader in the YLD and State Bar

CLE credit: 2 general, including 1 ethics

SESSION 4

April 14-15, 2023 | Dublin/Eastman, GA

Serving Your Community

CLE credit: 2 general, including 1 trial

SESSION 2

Feb. 8, 2023 | Atlanta, GA

Lawyers as Leaders in State Government

CLE credit: 3 general, including 1 trial

SESSION 5

May 12-14, 2023 | Blue Ridge/Ellijay, GA

Serving Through Wellness

CLE credit: 2 general, including 1 professionalism

SESSION 3

March 24-26, 2023 | Pine Mountain, GA

Leaders Through Change

CLE credit: 2 general hours, including 1 trial

SESSION 6

June 8-10, 2023 | Savannah, GA

Moving Forward in Leadership

CLE credit: 1 general

*Please note that the programming is subject to change, particularly in view of the current public health risk.

COVID-19 Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk

Under Georgia law, there is no liability for an injury or death of an individual entering State Bar of Georgia premises, or premises occupied or leased by the State Bar of Georgia if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. Attendees and guests are assuming this risk by entering such premises. Any person entering

the premises waives all civil liability against the State Bar of Georgia for any injuries caused by the inherent risk associated with contracting COVID-19 at public gatherings, except for gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional infliction of harm, by the State Bar of Georgia.

Deadlines

All [applications](#), including [scholarship applications](#), must be completed by Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. No extensions will be granted.

Letter(s) of recommendation are optional but *strongly* encouraged. Applicants may also submit additional information (not to exceed one page). Please email these items to yld@gabar.org by Friday, Oct. 14, 2022. No extensions will be granted.

Participants will be selected by the Leadership Academy Committee and will be notified of their selection by Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, via email. Once notified, participants must reply indicating the acceptance of their invitation. A non-refundable deposit of half the selected tuition cost (less scholarship, if awarded) must be received no later than Friday, Dec. 2, 2022. The other half will be due by Friday, March 3, 2023. Any invitations not accepted by Dec. 2, 2022, will be forfeited.

Applicants must be in good standing with the State Bar and meet the requirements to be a young lawyer as defined in the [bylaws](#).

“A past graduate of Leadership Academy, James Banter, recommended me for the class of 2021-22, and I cannot thank him enough—it was an invaluable experience. I met so many driven lawyers from across Georgia in my class and formed lifelong friendships. As a result of my experience with Leadership Academy, I have since become heavily involved with the YLD and State Bar on both local and statewide levels. Leadership Academy not only opened so many doors for me, but also opened my eyes to just how many ways I can contribute to my profession in meaningful ways outside of my day-to-day job. I cannot recommend Leadership Academy enough and hope others come to love it as much as I do.”

D. Sarah Young, Class of 2022

Testimonial



Hon. Andrew Pinson poses with 2021-22 YLD President Elissa Haynes, 2020-21 YLD President Bert Hummel, the 2022 YLD Leadership Academy participants and co-chairs at the Court of Appeals of Georgia during the February session.