



# The YLD Review

THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA | LAWYERS SERVING THE PUBLIC AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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Young Lawyers Division

Fall 2012

## YLD Officers

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Jon Pannell, Savannah  
jonpannell@gpwlawfirm.com

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dls@sutton-law-group.com

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jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com

Shiriki Lean Cavitt, Atlanta  
shiriki8@gmail.com

## The YLD Gets Down To Business at Lake Oconee

by Anne Kaufold-Wiggins

The Young Lawyers Division held its Summer Meeting Aug. 9–12 at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, at Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro. In this tranquil lakeside venue, young lawyers from across the state, including several first time attendees, gathered to enjoy a weekend of planning for the upcoming year, a CLE, networking, a little fun by the lake, some golfing and catching up with friends poolside.

While visiting Greensboro, the YLD also took some time to make an impact on the surrounding community. As the service arm of the State Bar, the YLD is committed to serving communities throughout Georgia. During the meeting, the YLD partnered with the Greene County Food Pantry (GCFP) for its summer service project. The YLD donated non-perishable food and more than \$400 from meeting attendees to the GCFP. Established in 2007, the GCFP serves in excess of 1,000 people per month who otherwise could not adequately provide food for their families. **Susan Wissman**, GCFP president, informed the attendees that the YLD's efforts will help to provide more than 350 meals to these families in the Greene County area.

The YLD began the meeting on Thursday with an Executive Committee Retreat in which 2012-13 YLD President **Jon Pannell** called on the executive committee to make this a year of statewide inclusion for YLD members. With this charge, the group discussed goals for the Leadership Academy, the Signature Fundraiser and increasing membership attendance. Officers and directors capped off the day with supper at the lodge. On Friday, members enjoyed a CLE presented by the Hon. **Daniel J. Craig**, Superior Court of Richmond County, and



YLD members collected 180 pounds of food for GCFP. (L-R) YLD Officers Jack Long, Sharri Edenfield, Stephanie Joy Kirijan, Darrell Sutton, GCFP President Susan Wissman, Jon Pannell, Jennifer Blackburn and Shiriki Cavitt.

a group dinner at the lodge. Following dinner, attendees were entertained by karaoke in the hospitality suite.

The meeting continued on Saturday when the general session convened. Committee chairs gave updates on projects and plans for the year. Representatives from across Georgia elected **Alex Brown** and **Jennifer Campbell Mock** to serve on the Board of Directors and the bylaw revisions presented by the Rules and Bylaws Committee at the Spring Meeting were adopted by a unanimous vote. Following the meeting and a relaxing afternoon at the lake, members gathered for a ride aboard *The Spirit of Oconee*, a double-decker sightseeing boat. After enjoying the beautiful shores of Lake Oconee, the evening concluded with a causal supper. The meeting was extremely productive and a good time was had by all. We hope you will consider joining us in Athens at the Fall Meeting.

The YLD would like to give special thanks to the sponsors for the meeting, which included SEA Limited, MLQ Attorney Services, Jennifer Campbell Mock for YLD Secretary and **Brantley Rowlen** for YLD Secretary.



First time meeting attendees at the YLD Summer Meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Plantation.

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## From the Captain

# I Am the Master of My Fate; I Am the Captain of My Soul

by Jon Pannell

During the summer of 2006, **Jason Pedigo** and I decided to catch up over lunch. Jason and I grew up together in Savannah and I had recently moved back to Savannah from Atlanta. Jason had just returned from the State Bar Annual Meeting held that year at Hilton Head Island. Over lunch, Jason told me all about the YLD pool party he had attended during the Annual Meeting. He went on and on about the great people he had met and began boasting about being elected as a YLD Representative. Later that summer, Jason recommended that I attend the next YLD meeting. And, so my journey began.

That fall, the YLD meeting was held in Athens, brilliantly planned over the weekend of the Georgia-Tennessee football game. Nothing like a little football to motivate lawyers to congregate! I signed up to attend my first YLD meeting and was excited to be staying at the brand new Hilton Garden Inn (the first and last time a YLD meeting was held at that hotel). For those of you who were not in attendance or have not heard the story, **Joe Dent** was the “host” of the hospitality suite that weekend and a king size mattress from the suite ended up “missing.”

It became quickly evident that the YLD was made up of very exceptional people, and they were also a lot of

fun. Some of the young lawyers I became acquainted with that weekend were **Jon Pope, Elena Kaplan, Michael Geoffroy** (who was running for YLD secretary at the time), **Damon Elmore, Carl Varnedoe** and **Sharri Edenfield**. I never imagined at the time that these individuals would become some of my best friends and six years later I would become the president of the YLD.

The YLD offers great opportunities for young lawyers to develop and grow leadership skills and abilities, earn CLE hours and give back to the community through various committees and programs. Most importantly, the YLD gives young lawyers a forum to network with lawyers of various backgrounds, practice areas and experience levels.

If you have never attended a YLD meeting, I encourage you to come to our Fall Meeting this Sept. 28-30, in Athens. We have a great weekend planned where you can earn CLE credit, learn about our committees, be wined and dined in the Classic City and meet other young lawyers. If you still need convincing, there is a football game on Saturday between the Dawgs and Vols and a tailgate party prior to kickoff.

And you never know, Joe Dent and the missing mattress may even turn up. . .

## Past President's Pointers

### Practice Civility & Professionalism: Words of Advice to Young Lawyers

by Frank C. Jones, YLD President 1956-57  
submitted on May 7, 2012



*The YLD would like to acknowledge the tremendous loss to the Georgia legal community with the passing of Frank C. Jones. As a past president of the YLD, Jones played a significant role in making the YLD the organization it is today. Throughout his more than 60-year legal career, Jones distinguished himself through his exceptional legal skills, dedication to his clients and unfaltering integrity. This impressive reputation made him a powerhouse at King & Spalding for close to 25 years and then followed him back to Macon where he resumed practicing law at Jones, Cork & Miller, the firm his great-grandfather started and place he began his legal career. The YLD holds Frank C. Jones and his lifetime commitment to the practice of*

*law in the highest esteem. We would like to share his thoughts that he submitted to the YLD on May 7, 2012, with advice to young lawyers. His words further demonstrate his continued commitment to bettering the practice of law. — Jennifer Blackburn*

Not long after I began the practice of law, an older lawyer in Macon told me, “Be nice to all other lawyers because you can never tell who may become a judge.” Although he was giving this advice at least partly in jest, the recommendation about one’s relationships with other lawyers is wise indeed in my judgment.

I would strongly encourage young lawyers to be civil and courteous —to be “professional” —in their dealings with other practitioners. I say this for a variety of reasons, including the following: first, we have an obligation as lawyers to conduct ourselves in accordance with the highest standards of professional conduct; second, a good relationship with another lawyer usually makes it easier to obtain cooperation with respect to some (any) matter not involving the merits of his or her client’s position in litigation or negotiations; and third, it is so much more enjoyable to practice law this way.

Frank Cater Jones, age 87, died at his home in Macon on Aug. 29, 2012, following a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Annie Anderson Jones, and by four children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Jones was born in Macon on June 19, 1925. He was educated in the public schools of Bibb County and graduated from Lanier High School. During World War II, he served for three years in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was a member of the original crew of the USS Midway, CVB-41. He was honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant. His undergraduate degree is from Emory University, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order and the chapter head during his senior year. He then graduated from the Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, and while there served as editor in chief of the *Mercer Law Review*. Jones practiced law in Macon from 1950-77 with the firm now known as Jones, Cork & Miller, LLP, that was established in 1872 by his great-grandfather, Isaac Hardeman, and where his grandfather, George S. Jones, and his father also practiced. In 1977, Jones accepted an invitation to become a partner in the firm of King & Spalding, LLP, in Atlanta. After approximately 25 years, he retired and returned to Macon. He became “of counsel” to Jones, Cork & Miller, LLP, and this relationship continued until his death. Believing that lawyers have an obligation to contribute to their profession and to the public by helping to improve the administration of justice, he was active throughout his career in local, state and national legal organizations. He served as president of the Macon Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia and the Younger Lawyers Section of the Georgia Bar Association. He received a number of awards, including the Distinguished Service Award of the State Bar of Georgia, an Award for Leadership from the Atlanta Bar Association, and the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Walter F. George School of Law. He was a lifelong member of Vineville United Methodist Church, Macon, and was one of the teachers of the George S. Jones Bible Class for 60 years.

Abridged from the original obituary which appeared in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Aug. 31, 2012.

# Judge's Chambers

## *A New Era of Civility*

by Hon. Dax E. Lopez, State Court of DeKalb County



I have often heard that there is nothing civil about civil litigation. My experiences as an attorney and judge have confirmed this to be true more often than it should. From the bench, I have witnessed how incivility among adversaries has grown to an epidemic level. From denying reasonable requests for extensions of time to bickering over deposition dates, attorneys have seemingly lost

sight of the Golden Rule, and appear to be less likely to extend basic professional courtesies. This can no longer continue. Professionalism is about more than doing the bare minimum of what is required by the rules of professional conduct. It is about going above and beyond and treating others as you would have them treat you.

I want to share a story from my days as an attorney. In June of 2010, a few months prior to being appointed to the bench, my daughter was born. At that time, I was in the midst of a contentious lender liability case. A few weeks before my wife's due date, I contacted opposing counsel to notify her that upon my daughter's birth I intended to take a few days off, and that I would be unable to plan any depositions during that time. Rather than congratulate me, I was accused of using my daughter's birth as an excuse to delay the case. She insisted that we conduct several depositions the very week I was planning to spend with my newborn. To say I was disappointed would be an understatement, particularly since it had always been my practice to extend professional courtesies to adversaries. Nevertheless, I attempted to work with my opposing counsel to reach a deposition schedule that accommodated both our schedules. Long story short, she would not retreat from her position of wanting to schedule depositions during my leave.

I enlisted a colleague to cover the depositions. The week my daughter was born, and the first week of scheduled depositions, my colleague's wife had a medical emergency, which required the depositions to be cancelled. What followed was an email from my opposing counsel that went beyond the pale of decency. We were accused of purposefully conspiring to cancel the depositions in an effort to avoid finishing discovery in a timely basis. I could not understand how she could be so unsympathetic and singularly focused on the deposition schedule over someone else's well-being.

Ultimately, my leave was cut short. Discovery was completed in a timely fashion, and the case was resolved in a manner very favorable to my client but not before I was appointed to the bench. I can still remember the look on my opposing counsel's face when I delivered the good news that I would be sworn in as a judge. To say that she looked panic stricken is a slight understatement. I guess she was counting the number of cases she had pending in DeKalb State Court.

There is nothing that is worth damaging your reputation, one that will largely be based on how you treat the members of the bar. Keep in mind that one day you might need a favor or concession from your adversary, and you should act accordingly. Judges appreciate reasonable attorneys who can work out minor disputes among themselves. I am confident that the YLD will usher in a new era of civility amongst the members of this noble profession. In case I have not presented a sufficiently persuasive case for civility, consider this—the attorney you mistreat today may be your judge tomorrow.

# Call to Service

## Transactional Pro Bono: It's Not an Oxymoron

by Rachel Spears, executive director, Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta



When I was a young transactional associate, I thought of pro bono work as something that was completely separate and apart from my regular practice. Based on the work we do at Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, I now know it doesn't have to be that way.

As a public finance associate at a large law firm, I responded to my sense of obligation to do pro bono work by handling adoptions for low-income families. I participated in a day-long training and took full advantage of the assistance offered by the pro bono provider. While I thoroughly enjoyed helping my pro bono clients, I felt uncomfortable with the litigation aspects of my work, which were completely different from my day-to-day practice.

The enjoyment I gained from my pro bono work kept me at it, but I understood my transactional colleagues' reluctance to take on pro bono work because it was so different from what we were being trained to do. I just thought that was the reality of pro bono work.

**“That's exactly what we provide at Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta—pro bono projects that are matched to the skills and expertise of the volunteers.”**

Then I was asked to help on a pro bono project that required my skills as a public finance attorney. An issue that had baffled a team of attorneys was very straightforward to me because it was in my area of expertise. My pro bono efforts on the project only took a few hours of my time, but it had a tremendous impact on the work of a nonprofit organization fighting homelessness—all because it was in my area of expertise. My eyes were opened to the possibility that even transactional lawyers could find pro bono work that was similar to their specific area of practice.

That's exactly what we provide at Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta—pro bono projects that are matched to the skills and expertise of the volunteers. We don't handle litigation and we don't represent individuals. All of our clients are nonprofit organizations that serve the poor and need legal assistance—just like any business.

I'm amazed at the variety of pro bono projects that come through our door. For example, nonprofits need assistance with registering trademarks, drafting whistleblower policies, properly using independent contractors, understanding contracts, revising employee handbooks, entering into strategic alliances, reviewing leases and complying with IRS regulations. If you do any of these things in your regular practice, you can also do them in your pro bono work.

Interested attorneys should sign up to receive a monthly email with volunteer opportunities or check out the current list at [www.pbpatl.org/for-attorneys/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.pbpatl.org/for-attorneys/volunteer-opportunities). Volunteers send me an email with a list of projects that interest them, and I match them up with the projects. After the volunteer attorney opens a file, we schedule and participate in an initial call or meeting with the client to make sure everyone is on the same page. The staff at Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta are available to provide forms and assistance as needed, but because attorneys take projects that are within their practice area, no specific training is required.

Volunteers are able to combine pro bono work with professional development by enhancing their skills and gaining experience. A young associate often has a lot more independence and control on a pro bono matter than a paying matter so it's a great way to demonstrate your abilities. Expectations by law firms of their associates keep rising and pro bono work offers a great way to develop the skills that are required to advance.

There is one benefit I see as consistent among all types of pro bono work, whether it is or isn't in your area of expertise: Pro bono clients really need your help and they are not shy about expressing their appreciation. For me, their expressions of gratitude provide tremendous motivation to do pro bono work. I encourage you to take the leap and take on a pro bono project.

More than 1,500 attorneys have completed pro bono projects for nonprofit clients through Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta since we started in 2005. If you'd like to sign up to receive our monthly email with volunteer opportunities, please email me at [rachel.spears@pbpatl.org](mailto:rachel.spears@pbpatl.org).



# Affiliate YLD Updates

## Augusta YLD

by Alex Brown

The Young Lawyers of Augusta (YLA) joined forces with the YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee to host the first Augusta Riverboat Cruise CLE with guest speaker, Chief Judge **John J. Ellington** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia. The event was a great success, and we look forward to continuing this event as a new Augusta tradition. On July 19, the YLA hosted a happy hour at Casa Blanca in downtown Augusta to celebrate the achievements of some of our own Augusta young lawyers. We honored **Jack Long** for being elected as the new secretary of the YLD, **Jenna Blackwell Matson** and **Brian Coursey** for being selected as *Augusta Magazine's* "Top 10 in 10 Young Professionals to Watch," and **Drew Copenhaver** and **John O'Neal** for being elected as Southern District representatives of the YLD. If you are interested in finding out more information about the Young Lawyers of Augusta or to join, please email us at yla.augusta@yahoo.com or like us on Facebook.



The Augusta YLA enjoys their first CLE riverboat cruise. (L-R) Alex Brown, Chief Judge John J. Ellington, Jordan Gillman Dinos, Jack Long and Adam Hatcher.

## Glynn YLD

by Patrick Powell

On Aug. 9, the Glynn YLD held its first official meeting at the Ocean Lodge on St. Simons Island. The newly formed group took in the rooftop view of the ocean while discussing future community service projects and social events. The group is excited to be an official affiliate of the YLD, providing networking opportunities for the growing community of young lawyers in the Golden Isles area. The Glynn YLD looks forward to the social and professional benefits that the group hopes to provide and notes that all members of the Golden Isles legal community are welcome to attend the meetings.



Participants of the Glynn YLD's first official meeting enjoy the weather: back row (L-R) Casey Viggiano, Jason Hodges, John Wright, Christina Jones, Glenn Jones, Ashley Browning, Emily Hancock and Bryan Corry; front row (L-R) Lacey Houghton, Amanda Jones, Patrick Powell, Lindsey Stewart and Melissa Cruthirds.

The Glynn YLD 2012 officers are: **Patrick Powell**, president; **Casey Viggiano**, vice president; **Amanda Jones**, secretary; and **Glenn Jones**, treasurer. **Lacey Houghton** was selected as chairman of the Membership Committee and **Melissa Cruthirds** was selected as chairman of the Community Service Committee. To get involved with the Glynn YLD, contact Patrick Powell at ppowell@durhamfirm.com.

## Macon YLD

by David McCain

The Macon YLD held its annual Summer Associate Social at the Bearfoot Tavern's Wine Cellar. The event was hosted by **John David Miller** with Northwestern Mutual. At this event, **Ivy Cadle** was recognized for his hard work and dedication on the Macon YLD Executive Committee over the past 5 years. The 2012-13 Macon YLD Executive Committee made up of **Canon Hill**, immediate past president; **David McCain**, president; **Amanda Smith**, vice president; **Will Horkan**, treasurer; and **Collier McKenzie**, secretary, was also announced at the social. Additionally, **Leah Aiken** will be assisting the Macon YLD Executive Committee as the public relations liaison.

The Macon YLD will continue to host monthly socials. July's social was held at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant and Cantina. For more information on the Macon YLD, its events or to get involved, please contact Leah Aiken at lmorton1007@gmail.com.

## Savannah YLD

by Heather Hammonds

The Savannah YLD has had a busy and exciting spring and summer. In March, members of the Savannah YLD met at the trendy downtown restaurant Cha Bella for a happy hour before attending a jazz concert at the Savannah Music Festival. For the second year in a row, this event offered a unique experience for local young lawyers.

Also held was the Seventh Annual Guardian Ad Litem Charity Golf Tournament in June. This year's tournament took place at the Plantation Course at The Landings. With the support of generous sponsors and golfers, the tournament raised more than \$5,200 for the Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Program. We would like to thank the following tournament sponsors for helping to make this event a success: McCorkle & Johnson, LLP; Johnson, Kraeuter & Dunn, LLC; Oliver Maner LLP; SunTrust Bank; The Georgia Institute for Plastic Surgery; Zipperer, Lorberbaum & Beauvais P.C.; Inglesby, Falligant, Horne, Courington & Chisholm, P.C.; Gilbert and Jones, Inc.; The Eichholz Law Firm, P.C.; Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company; Gray, Pannell & Woodward, LLP; Brannen, Searcy & Smith LLP; J.T. Turner Construction Co., Inc.; Pro-Legal Copies; Habersham Beverage; and The Club at Savannah Harbor.

Young lawyers enjoyed a happy hour in June at World of Beer. In July, there was a happy hour at Screamin' Mimi's, a popular location for pizza and live music. At both happy hours, donations were collected for the family of Sergeant **Bobby Crapse**, a Bryan County deputy who was killed in the line of duty. More than \$400 was raised for his family.

The Savannah YLD is looking forward to a great fall, which will start with its annual Kick-Off Event. For more information about upcoming events and how to become involved with the Savannah YLD, please email **Amanda Love** at alove@thebowmanlawoffice.com.



# Committee Updates

## Criminal Law

by *Amanda Clark Palmer and Nedal Shawkat*

On June 20, the YLD Criminal Law Committee hosted a free, all-day CLE seminar at the Bar Center in Atlanta that included the following sessions: “Technology Nirvana” led by the State Bar’s Law Practice Management Director **Natalie Kelly**, who demonstrated several useful apps and websites to help lawyers in their practices; **Wystan Getz** from the DeKalb County Solicitor General’s office, who spoke about the upcoming changes to the evidence code; **Ben Alper** spoke about the emerging social media evidence being used in criminal trials and educated the attendees on social media evidence and evidentiary issues with authentication, hearsay and the confrontation clause. In addition, attorneys **Luis Alemany** and **Eli Echols** gave a presentation on “The Nexus of Criminal Law and Immigration.” **J. Tom Morgan** spoke on cyber bullying and changes to our laws in this area, and Chief Judge **Harold Benefield** of the Clayton County State Court highlighted concerns about attorneys’ professionalism in the courtroom and discussed the Code of Ethics application to a young lawyer’s everyday practice.

The CLE event was followed by a happy hour at Thrive where the committee presented the Commitment to Justice Award to **Marisa McCall Dodson** of the Georgia Justice Project and **Dalia Racine** of the DeKalb County District Attorney’s Office for their outstanding work on the defense and prosecution sides of the courtroom. The committee also thanks all of our speakers and attendees for making the CLE event a success. We look forward to another great event next year.



The planning committee with the award recipients, (L-R) Amanda Clark Palmer, Stan Jones, Marissa McCall Dodson, Dalia Racine, Nicole Marchand, Carrie Hackett and Kathryn Boortz.

On July 23, the YLD Criminal Law Committee hosted its fourth annual St. Simons event to coincide with the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia (PAC) Summer Conference. This year’s event was the best yet thanks in large part to the generous contributions of sponsors: **Parag Shaw** of the Shaw Law Group; **Cynthia Jenkins** of Creative Excellence Management Solutions, LLC; and **Jenny Meyers** of Meyers & Meyers PC. Special thanks goes out to **Jesse Evans**, **Marty First**, **Grady Moore** and **Jason Samuels** of the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office for hosting the event on the rooftop deck of their beautiful beachfront rental house. Though the majority of guests were prosecutors, there were a number of criminal defense attorneys and a couple of civil attorneys amongst the more than 50 attendees. The breeze from the ocean helped to keep the temperatures down and the bugs away while everyone enjoyed the scenic view and company. So, mark your calendars now; the 2013 PAC conference will be July 21-24.

## Intellectual Property

by *Laura Ashby and Rachel Young*

The YLD Intellectual Property Committee is looking forward to an exciting year and kicked off the festivities with a fall social on Sept. 19. The fall social was held in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar and provided young lawyers an opportunity to become involved in both the YLD and State Bar IP Sections. If you would like more information on the YLD Intellectual Property Committee, please contact the committee co-chairs, **Laura Ashby**, [lashby@millermartin.com](mailto:lashby@millermartin.com), or **Rachel Young**, [ryoung@huntermaclean.com](mailto:ryoung@huntermaclean.com).

## Juvenile Law

by *Stephanie Mason*

On June 13, at the Georgia State University Rialto Center for the Arts, hundreds of foster care youths from across the state were honored in the annual Celebration of Excellence event in Atlanta. For more than 15 years, the Juvenile Law Committee has partnered with several different organizations, including Gift for a Child, Inc., the nsoro Education Foundation, Interfaith Children’s Movement and the Georgia Independent Living Program, to honor foster care youths.

Today, the Celebration is an annual statewide graduation event and scholarship program designed to recognize the education achievements of those in Georgia’s foster care system who are graduating high school, GED programs, vocational school or college. Every year, approximately \$100,000 in scholarships are awarded to deserving foster care recipients.

This year was the Celebration of Excellence’s 20th Anniversary. The graduates entered the Rialto on a red carpet while the public cheered them on. The Still Water Youth Sinfo-Nia of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., entertained the audience during the procession. Graduates were surprised by special guest speaker, **Chris “Ludacris” Bridges**. The keynote speaker for the event was Fox Sports South television analyst Mike “Stinger” Glenn, whose words the children honored with cheers. Scholarships were then presented to recipients by the nsoro Education Foundation. All in attendance were moved to hear how state agency employees have positively impacted the lives of Georgia’s youth.

This event would not have been the success it was without the contributions of Juvenile Law Committee members and chairs of the Celebration of Excellence subcommittee, **Laurie-Ann Fallon** and **Betty Toussaint**. For more information about the Celebration, please visit [www.celebrationofexcellence.org](http://www.celebrationofexcellence.org) or contact the Juvenile Law Committee of the Young Lawyers Division.

## Minorities in the Profession

by *Shalamar Parham and Yennifer Delgado*

The Minorities in the Profession Committee (MIPC) is dedicated to encouraging increased participation by minority attorneys in the YLD, providing its members opportunities for professional development and growth, and facilitating opportunities for members to give back to the community. The 2012-13 YLD year will be no exception. This year the committee will host happy hours to provide its members with networking opportunities, hold monthly meetings with topics geared to help its members navigate the legal profession as a young lawyer, perform community service projects and educate the general public about their legal rights. MIPC will also continue to reach back to local law students with its second annual mentoring program at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School and annual law school panels which are hosted each year by MIPC at Georgia law schools.

All members of the YLD are invited and encouraged to join MIPC. For more information on how to get involved or to be added to the MIPC listserv, please contact Co-Chairs **Shalamar J. Parham** at [sparham@parhamlaw.net](mailto:sparham@parhamlaw.net) or **Yennifer Delgado** at [delgado@hplawgroup.com](mailto:delgado@hplawgroup.com).

Do you have news to share about your YLD committee or local YLD? Send it to [marym@gabar.org](mailto:marym@gabar.org).  
Don’t forget to include a photo!

## YLD Officers



**President:** Jon Pannell is a partner with the law firm Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP in Savannah. His practice includes municipal bond law, business law and transactions, and commercial real estate matters. A native of Savannah, Pannell received his J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and his B.B.A. from the University of Georgia. In addition to state and local bar activities, he is the vice-chairman for the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, a member of the Chatham County Board of Registrars, a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Finance Committee for Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. He is married to Kimberly White Pannell and is a proud father to James and Paul.



**President-Elect:** Darrell Sutton practices law in Marietta, where he and his firm, Sutton Law Group, LLC, represent employers, insurers, self-insured companies and third-party administrators in Georgia workers' compensation claims. A native Georgian, Sutton received his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and his B.S. from Berry College. In addition to his service as YLD president-elect, he has served as YLD treasurer, secretary, newsletter co-editor and is a graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy. He also is a past-president of the Cobb County Bar Association YLD and has been a trustee of the Cobb County Bar Association since 2007.



**Treasurer:** Sharri Edenfield is an attorney with the law firm of Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C. in Statesboro. She maintains an active general practice, primarily focused on litigating business, personal injury, and constitutional law cases. Edenfield received her J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and her B.A. from the University of Georgia. In addition to her Bar service, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Future Business Leaders of America Foundation, the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce and the house corporation for the UGA chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.



**Secretary:** Jack Long is a solo practitioner in Augusta, where he lives with his wife Paige. He maintains a general practice focused on civil and domestic relations litigation, criminal defense, and appellate practice. He received his J.D. From Mercer University School of Law, and received his B.S. from Georgia Tech. A graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy, he also is currently the vice president of the Young Lawyers of Augusta.



**Immediate Past President:** Stephanie Joy Kirijan is director of corporate communication at Southern Company where she oversees external and internal communications for one of the nation's largest electric utilities. She previously worked as a senior staff attorney for Georgia Power and as an assistant district attorney in DeKalb County. A native of Atlanta, Kirijan is a graduate of the University of Georgia. While serving as deputy press secretary in the office of the Governor of Georgia, she earned her J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law. She was a founding member of the DeKalb County Bar Association YLD and is a member of the inaugural class of the YLD Leadership Academy. Kirijan has also been recognized for her leadership and service by LEAD Atlanta and Outstanding Atlanta.

## YLD Directors & Representatives

### Board of Directors

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#### Northern

2011-13  
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 2012-14  
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#### Middle

2011-13  
**Hoganne Harrison-Walton**, Milledgeville  
**Amanda Morris**, Macon  
**Jacob Poole**, Perry  
**Amy Walters**, Columbus  
 2012-14  
**Opie Bowen**, Macon  
**William Davis**, Albany  
**Jana Edmondson**, Macon  
**Benny Harrell**, Bainbridge  
**Amanda R. Smith**, Macon

#### Southern

2011-13  
**Alex Brown**, Augusta  
**Ashley Browning**, Brunswick  
**Michael Graves**, Statesboro  
**Lindsey Lovingood**, Savannah  
**William Norse**, Savannah  
 2012-14  
**Andrew Copenhaver**, Augusta  
**Andrew Johnson**, Hinesville  
**Jacob Masee**, Savannah  
**Jennifer C. Mock**, Statesboro  
**John O'Neal**, Augusta

#### Out-of-State

2012-13  
**James Baehr**, Camarillo, Calif.  
**Michael Brodarick**, Boca Raton, Fla.

#### Members-At-Large

2012-13  
**J. Stephen Albright**, Atlanta  
**James Clifton**, Atlanta  
**Bethaney Embry**, Decatur  
**Heather Hammonds**, Savannah  
**John Jett**, Atlanta  
**W. Jordan Knight**, Rome  
**Kevin Patrick**, Atlanta  
**T. Orlando Pearson**, Atlanta  
**Kimberly C. Sheridan**, Atlanta  
**Zack Tumlin**, Gainesville  
**Elizabeth D. Wheeler**, Atlanta  
**L. Rachel Wilson**, Savannah



**The YLD Review Co-Editor:** Jennifer A. Blackburn (Jen) is an associate in the Regulatory Compliance and Governmental Litigation group at Troutman Sanders LLP. Her practice focuses on land use and zoning issues, regulatory compliance issues, administrative law and legislative matters. She received a J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and a B.A. from Georgia State University. She is a member of the AVL Junior Board of Directors, co-chair of the Membership Committee for Lawyers Club of Atlanta, member of the Judicial Appointment Review Committee for the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers and vice president of training elect for the Junior League of Atlanta. Blackburn lives in Peachtree Hills with her two dogs Sadie & Sadler.



**The YLD Review Co-Editor:** Shiriki L. Cavitt most recently served as Counsel for Oldcastle, Inc. where her primary focus was on labor and employment issues. Prior to working at Oldcastle, she was an Associate at Troutman Sanders LLP in the Complex Litigation Practice Group. Cavitt obtained her B.A. in English from Dartmouth College and attended Vanderbilt University School of Law. Her community involvement includes: past co-chair of the YLD Community Service Committee, the YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee and the 2011 YLD Signature Fundraiser Committee. She also currently serves as co-chair of the Inter-Bar Relations Committee for the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and is a member of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Membership Committee.



# The YLD Concludes Another Successful Year at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Savannah

by John R. B. Long

The 2012 State Bar Annual Meeting was held the last week of May at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa, where the YLD officially began its 66th year of service. The YLD hosted young lawyers and their families from every corner of the state to enjoy a weekend of CLE programming, social networking, a gala and fun on the Savannah River. The YLD began the meeting on Thursday afternoon with a three-hour Business Law Seminar and CLE. During the panel discussion organized by **Jack Long**, Savannah's own **Shawn Kachmar** of Hunter Maclean provided an overview of business and employment law for general practitioners, and gave practical tips on addressing employment issues for business clients. **Tim Moses** of the Moses Law Group in Augusta followed, giving an update on non-compete agreements in Georgia, as well as, thoroughly explaining the essentials of drafting a useful employee handbook. Thursday's CLE was followed by the Opening Night Festival where YLD members together with members of the Big Bar enjoyed good food, music and dancing, and good company.

On Friday morning, several YLD members and their families began the day with the annual YLD/Pro Bono 5k Fun Run. That afternoon, the YLD Leadership Academy once again saw an end to a very successful year, graduating 46 new alumni from the program chaired by **Tippi Burch** and **Adriana Yarbrough**. Academy graduates left the program having met new friends while traveling the state and are now well trained to become our future leaders within the YLD and the State Bar. The day continued at the YLD Pool Party & Meet the Candidates Reception, where new leadership emerged with the election of new YLD district representatives.

Friday's YLD events concluded with the annual YLD Dinner and Swearing-In Ceremony, where incoming YLD President **Jon Pannell** and other incoming officers were installed, and YLD Immediate Past President **Stephanie Joy Kirijan** was honored for her outstanding work over the past year. Many awards were presented to YLD members, including **Jennifer Blackburn** and **Meredith Wilson** who received Awards of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Bar, in part for their hard work

in fundraising for the new YLD Presidents Boardroom. **Ivy Cadle** received the Eighth Annual YLD Ethics and Professionalism award. Last, but certainly not least, the Distinguished Judicial Service Award was presented to **Chief Justice George H. Carley**, Supreme Court of Georgia, after a colorful roast of the esteemed jurist delivered by Chief Judge **Lawton E. Stephens**, Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County. Chief Justice Carley performed his final oath of office for the 2012-13 YLD officers in a very memorable swearing-in ceremony. Guests ended the evening dancing into the night to the music of Atlanta's Yacht Rock Revue band. Thank you to the following sponsors of the highly entertaining YLD Dinner: Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, Merrill Corporation and SEA Limited.

The Annual Meeting drew to a close on Saturday with the Board of Governors meeting where YLD member **Elizabeth L. Fite** was elected to the State Bar Executive Committee, increasing the YLD's representation in the State Bar. That evening the Supreme Court Reception was held, followed by the Presidential Inaugural Gala, where guests brought another State Bar year to a successful and festive close with dinner, dancing and live music.



Past Presidents of the YLD were recognized at the 65th Anniversary Gala on June 1. (L-R) Damon E. Elmore, 2005-06; Joshua C. Bell, 2008-09; Amy V. Howell, 2009-10; James L. Pannell, 1979-80; J. Henry Walker IV, 1996-97; Chief Justice George H. Carley; Michael G. Geoffroy, 2010-11; Tina Shadix Roddenbery, 1994-95; YLD President Jon Pannell; Stephanie Joy Kirijan, 2011-12; Stanley G. Brading Jr., 1990-91; S. Kendall Butterworth, 2000-01; and Elena Kaplan, 2007-08.



## The 7th Annual Supreme Cork

Please join the Family Law Committee of the YLD for our annual fundraiser on Oct. 18, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at 5 Seasons Brewing Westside, 1000 Marietta St. NW, Atlanta.

The event includes a wine tasting and silent auction to benefit the Guardian ad Litem Program of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

To purchase tickets, please visit  
[www.avlf.org](http://www.avlf.org).

## YLD Awards of Achievement

The following awards were presented during the YLD Dinner at the Westin Harbor Resort on Friday, June 1.

Distinguished Judicial Service  
**Chief Justice George H. Carley**

Ross Adams  
**J. Henry Walker IV**

65th Anniversary Inclusive Leadership  
**Donna G. Barwick**

YLD Ethics and Professionalism  
**Ivy N. Cadle**

Outstanding Service to the Profession  
**Jessica C. Odom, Karen S. Kurtz**

Outstanding Service to the Bar  
**Jennifer Blackburn,  
Meredith L. Wilson**

Outstanding Service to the Public  
**Ana Maria Martinez,  
Jonathan R. Poole, Deepa N.  
Subramanian, Kristi W. Wilson**

Outstanding Service to the YLD  
**Marquetta J. Bryan,  
Edward T. McAfee**

Dedication to the YLD  
**Stacy Rieke**



## Editor's Block

Jennifer A. Blackburn

The YLD began the year at the Annual Meeting in Savannah with a dinner and awards ceremony hosted by Immediate Past President **Stephanie Joy Kirijan**, the swearing in of President **Jon Pannell** and the rest of the new officers by **Chief Justice George Carley** of the Supreme Court of Georgia, and topped off with the high-spirited Yacht Rock Revue performing live. The enthusiasm cultivated at the Annual Meeting continued on to Reynolds Plantation for the Executive Committee Retreat and YLD Summer Meeting.

In continuing Kirijan's 65th anniversary theme of "inclusive leadership," Pannell emphasized geographic diversity throughout his executive and committee appointments. Such regional flair allowed for a very effective planning session at the Executive Committee Retreat where many new ideas and events began to unfold. With a new twist on annual events such as the Signature Fundraiser, Supreme Cork and Leadership Academy, it is going to be a very exciting year.

Whether or not you have attended a YLD event in the past, I encourage you to get involved this year. The YLD provides members with the unique opportunity to connect with young lawyers from across the state and build both professional relationships and great friendships. Through my involvement with the YLD, I have made countless new contacts, reconnected with classmates, and strengthened existing friendships. To kick-off the upcoming Fall Meeting, in the words of Wayne Gretzky, "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take." This year take the shot and take advantage of all the YLD has to offer. Attend the Fall Meeting in Athens, join a committee, stop by a happy hour, or come out to a service project. I look forward to an exciting year and hope that you will be a part of it.

As we begin the YLD's 2012-13 year, I am reminded of one of Mark Twain's forward-thinking and astute quotes: "The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret to getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks and then starting on the first one." By training, and probably as a result of our genetic makeup, we lawyers are highly analytical and prone to planning out every detail of our lives well into the not-so-foreseeable future. Twain's advice to planners is therefore well-taken. It reminds us that as we look into the future, we must not look and focus so far in the future that our present becomes overwhelming and daunting, but instead we are to focus on developing small practical steps that are obtainable and will allow us to continue progressing toward our goals.

As you are developing your life's roadmap, involvement in the YLD can be a wonderful tool in achieving your professional, as well as community service goals. As a newer attorney to the practice of law, it can at times feel as though it is complex, and not to mention scary to begin the process of networking with fellow attorneys in the community. Participating in the YLD's various CLEs, events, committees and activities provides younger attorneys with opportunities to develop unique skill sets, furthers the education of its members about legal practice and encourages its members to gain legal experience while forming lasting friendships and giving back to their respective communities through volunteer work. Thus your participation in the YLD facilitates that "first task" to becoming part of a collegial environment where its members connect and learn from one another. So this year I strongly encourage you to take that first step in ensuring a lasting professional future with a strong network of your peers by becoming more involved with the Young Lawyers Division.



## Editor's Block

Shiriki L. Cavitt



## YLD Meetings

*Fall Meeting – Sept. 28-30, 2012, Athens – Foundry Park Inn*

*Midyear Meeting – Jan. 10-13, 2013, Atlanta – St. Regis Hotel*

*Signature Fundraiser – March 2, 2013, Atlanta – Capital City Club, Brookhaven*

*Spring Meeting – April 4-7, 2013, St. Simons Island – St. Simons Inn and Village Inn & Pub*

*Annual Meeting – June 20-23, 2013, Hilton Head, S.C. – Marriott Resort & Spa*