



The YLD Review

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

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Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia

by Amy V. Howell and Melissa D. Carter



Meaningful change takes courage and patience. It requires leadership to be steadfastly committed to a transformative vision. The long arc of juvenile justice reform in Georgia is proof of both points, and it all began with an ambitious effort by the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division's Juvenile Law Committee (JLC) in 2005. At the time we could not have fathomed how thousands of people and hundreds of organizations would come to see themselves as invested stakeholders in a public conversation about what is best for Georgia's children. Nor could we have anticipated the diversity of challenges ahead or the depth of patience the effort would require to come to fruition. Though the project started with the YLD, the beauty of the result is that it belongs to everyone. Countless individuals have played critical roles in the reform. Now, through the leadership of Gov. **Nathan Deal**, Lt. Gov. **Casey Cagle**, Speaker **David Ralston** (R-Blue Ridge), Chief Justice **Carol Hunstein**, House Judiciary Committee Chair **Wendell Willard** (R-Sandy Springs) and the members of the Special Council on

Criminal Justice Reform, juvenile justice reform is going to be a reality.

We remember the day when, as co-chairs of the JLC, we invited then-president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, **Robin Nash**, to speak

during a lunch meeting. Toward the conclusion of his remarks, he charged the committee with undertaking a comprehensive juvenile code rewrite. He told us that as young lawyers committed to this work we were uniquely positioned to lead the effort, and his conviction made us believe it. At the time we expected our approach would mirror the code revision projects of other Bar sections. The task at hand seemed deceptively straightforward: get funding, hire a reporter, draft a code, work with stakeholders to get feedback, revise and release the code and then develop legislation. We would like to think our naïve drive in purpose protected us from being discouraged by the enormous task at hand. Our lived experience with this effort and the wisdom of others quickly revealed just how ambitious our timeline and project scope were, but we marched forward undeterred.

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Eleventh Circuit Comes to Georgia

by Sharri Edenfield



(L-R) U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Hon. Lisa Godbey Wood, Hon. Joel Dubina, State Bar of Georgia Past President Gerald Edenfield, YLD Treasurer Sharri Edenfield, YLD Leadership Academy co-chairs Ivy Cadle and Adriana Sola Capifali immediately following the 11th Circuit Judicial Conference.

Like other federal circuit courts of appeals across the country, the 11th Circuit holds a biannual judicial conference for all federal circuit, district, bankruptcy and magistrate court judges in Florida, Georgia and Alabama to get together for continuing legal education as well as for various presentations by notable speakers on relevant topics. Traditionally, a number of lawyers are also invited by the court to attend the conference with the judges as guests of the Court. Former State Bar President **Gerald Edenfield** and his daughter, YLD Treasurer **Sharri Edenfield**, were asked to plan events incorporating Georgia younger lawyers into this year's biannual conference in Savannah.

They collaborated with Leadership Academy co-chairs **Ivy Cadle** and **Adriana Sola Capifali**, as well as the State Bar of Georgia Executive

Continued on page 7



From the Captain

The Year in Pictures



1. Kimberly and Jon Pannell enjoy St. Simons Island at the YLD Spring Meeting. **2.** YLD officers Jack Long, Sharri Edenfield, Stephanie Kirijan, Jon Pannell, Darrell Sutton and Shiriki Cavitt with a U.S. Marine Corps Reservist showcase the toys collected for Toys for Tots at the YLD Holiday Party. **3.** Todd Wiggins and Jon Pannell root for the Dawgs at the YLD Fall Meeting. **4.** Jon Pannell presents Gov. Nathan Deal with a token of appreciation at the YLD's annual Legislative Luncheon. **5.** Signature Fundraiser co-chairs Karen Kurtz, Jessica Cabral Odom and Sarah White with Jon Pannell at the annual fundraiser.

Past President Pointers

Below are words of wisdom from various YLD Past Presidents. The application of this advice to one's career will most certainly lead to both professional and personal success:

- With respect to work, there are really just two things: do it right and do it fast. Accomplish that and you'll be fine. —**Stan Brading**
- The Young Lawyers Division has largely become the service wing of the State Bar of Georgia due to the energy and enthusiasm of its members and leaders. Younger lawyers are tuned in. Many of the good works by the Bar are done by the members of the YLD. Significant programs like the High School Mock Trial program were born in the YLD. This program has literally touched thousands of lives of students, teachers, lawyers and judges, and continues to grow and prosper. Through this work younger lawyers have increased the public's understanding and appreciation of the law, our courts and the legal system as a whole. This is just one example of the many good works of the YLD over the years. Each year YLD officers, directors, committees, council members and members-at-large provide a working service to the public, the profession and the bar through an array of projects and programs. —**John Sammon**
- There are other jobs where you can make more money, but none where you can be this well paid for just sticking your nose into other people's business. —**Jim Pannell**
- Try not to procrastinate and use your time efficiently. And remember, you can sleep when you are dead! —**Joe Dent**
- Choose the field of law that interests you most, work hard at it and the money will take care of itself. —**Dana Miles**

- If you are fortunate and have office support staff, respect them and be considerate of their time. —**S. Kendall Butterworth**
- Being involved in the YLD will teach you mostly helpful things you would never learn in the four corners of your law office and you are guaranteed to meet some great people. So, learn from the past, plan for the future, but live in the present. —**J. Henry Walker**
- Speak softly and carry a big stick, but don't mumble and don't swing the stick. —**James Hyder Jr.**
- 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. —**Frank C. Jones**
- The way to be a great conversationalist is to be a great listener. The fastest way to endear one's self to others is to ask them questions about themselves. —**Walter Bush Jr.**

Judge's Chambers

Take Charge of Your Own Career

by Hon. Elizabeth L. Branch, Court of Appeals of Georgia



What is the best advice that I can give a young lawyer in the midst of a profession that is struggling to adapt to a challenging economy? Take charge of your own career. And this recommendation applies to all young lawyers regardless of their type of practice. Before the recession, when most lawyers were busy and perhaps overloaded with work, senior attorneys were willing to assist associates with developing their legal and marketing skills. The new realities of our profession mean that young attorneys may find fewer opportunities for career development. Accordingly, you must actively pursue billable hours, clients and mentors as soon as you begin your practice.

Development of Legal Skills

A young lawyer's main objective should be to develop appropriate legal skills—mastering the law in your subject area and learning how to take depositions, draft contracts and argue your client's case effectively. And the only way to achieve this goal is to engage in these activities as often as possible. Some associates will readily find these opportunities at their firms because the work pipeline is full and partners are willing to share. For those who are struggling to find ways to gain the necessary experience, my advice is: get out of your office.

Within your own firm, get to know other lawyers and tell them that you are willing to do the work, even if it is outside of your practice area. If more experienced lawyers do not have work for you right now, ask to accompany them to a closing or a deposition. Enthusiastically spending time on non-billable endeavors may ultimately lead to billable work.

Additionally, get outside of your firm. Participate in the broader legal community—attend seminars, go to State Bar meetings, join other legal groups and participate in leadership activities. By spending time cultivating relationships with other attorneys, you will create your own network of people who will be interested in helping you advance in your career and who may be able to provide you with practice tips and other valuable insights.

Participation in Marketing Activities

Every lawyer in private practice needs to understand the business side of the legal profession. In a big firm, seek out marketing opportunities with senior attorneys and do not hesitate to ask for advice on how to market your practice to potential clients. On your own, reach out to your friends and acquaintances. Tell them about your areas of practice and your firm. Ask about the legal needs of their companies. Join organizations that interest you in order to expand your networking opportunities. Mingle with other lawyers; they might prove to be valuable referral sources.

Even government lawyers should hone their marketing skills. While you may not be in private practice at the moment, you may eventually make that leap or you may simply want to take the next step on the government path. Make friends. Get to know other attorneys and staff in your office. Meet those who practice in different divisions and in different cities. Stay involved in legal organizations. By doing so, you are marketing yourself.

The Importance of Professionalism and Ethical Behavior

Finally and most importantly, as you develop your practice, both substantively and financially, be mindful that you represent the legal profession. Maintain the highest level of professionalism in your work product and in your words and actions; you alone are responsible for your reputation. Strive to embody the highest standard of ethical behavior. When confronted with challenging situations—and you will be—seek advice from senior attorneys, peers, as well as the State Bar.

You are in control of your legal career but you do not have to do it alone.

Call to Service:

Making an Impact, One Pro Bono Client at a Time

by Tamara Caldas, deputy director, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)



When I started working at AVLF, most of my legal experience was gained during the six years I had spent as a staff attorney at the Southern Center for Human Rights. Our legal team crafted litigation strategies to address systemic problems in the criminal justice system. The cases lasted were long, involved multiple parties and required significant resources. Federal oversight provided some assurance that any relief we secured for our clients would be enforced. It was challenging, rewarding and sometimes terribly frustrating work, especially when the pace of change didn't match our sense of urgency about the problem.

I am often asked to compare the work I do at AVLF with what I did earlier in my career and my answer has evolved over my many years here. When I first started at AVLF, I framed our work as almost the opposite of the Southern Center's "impact" or "systemic" litigation. AVLF provides legal representation one client at a time almost entirely through the efforts of pro bono attorneys whom we train, supervise, mentor and support. The cases are typically much shorter-lived and require significantly fewer resources. We work to promote access to justice for low-income families in our community by providing pro bono counsel to as many people as we can, and we have worked strategically to identify those areas of law where the involvement of an attorney can make a meaningful difference to the outcome of a specific matter. Ultimately, we prioritize individual cases where basic needs are at stake: needs for safety, housing, child well-being, income stability. The focus is on the individual lawyer representing the individual client or family for a discrete purpose.

But this focus does not mean we are not concerned with having a broader impact on the legal system. I have come to understand the work of AVLF, and the lawyers who volunteer with us, quite differently. Our volunteers help people who would otherwise be unrepresented and typically appear at calendar calls where there are very few attorneys on their side. The possibility that people will come to court with counsel changes the way the court operates and the way other litigants approach cases. For example, when a volunteer attorney stands with a tenant who is facing eviction, she is not only advocating for that client, she is witnessing a calendar call where many of the defendants are unrepresented. This attorney provides feedback not only on the outcome of her case, but also on how she perceived the legal process for those tenants who were not represented. These attorneys have made recommendations that have led to improvements in how the legal system treats the poor. The impact of having pro bono attorneys representing clients in courts and other places that would otherwise slip under the radar cannot be understated, and yet it is hard to quantify.

The change that results from our model can also be slow in relation to the sense of urgency we have as a staff. We hear from people every day who called us just a little too late or who were so confused by the process that they missed an important step and we can't fix it. But the work of our volunteers changes systems and promotes access to justice as surely as any strategy. When you volunteer with AVLF, you become our partner in serving the basic needs of families in our community and in enhancing the fairness of the legal system. There are many approaches to improving systems that affect people's lives. As a young lawyer, find the one that inspires you and then give it your best shot. Check out AVLF's website at www.avlf.org to learn more about our Eviction Defense, Domestic Violence, Saturday Lawyer and other programs where you can apply your skills and passion and make an impact.

Committee Updates

Aspiring Youth Program Committee

by *Lindy Kerr*

The Aspiring Youth Committee completed their annual Great Debaters program in April. This year the group partnered with a local community outreach center located in the Roosevelt Park community in College Park. Each week, the group met with students between the ages of six and 13 and encouraged them to use analytic skills, voice their opinions and get excited about debate through fun, interactive games. For more information about this program or to get involved with this committee, contact **Lindy Kerr** at lindy.kerr@kendavidlaw.com.

Intrastate Moot Court Competition

by *Emilia Walker*



Final Round Panel and Competition Co-chairs. (L-R) Katie S. Dod, Co-Chair; Hon. S. Phillip Brown; Hon. Howard Z. Simms; Hon. Stephen A. Dillard; Allen Wallace, Esq.; Jamie Woodard, Problem Drafter and Emilia C. Walker, Co-Chair.

The YLD Intrastate Moot Court Committee is happy to announce that its 2013 Moot Court Competition was a great success. This year's competition took place on April 5-6 at Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. The University of Georgia School of Law won titles for Best Team, Best Brief and Best Oralist. The committee would like to offer a special thank you to the multitude of practicing attorneys who helped to make this year's competition a success and to the judges who graciously volunteered their expertise and time: Hon. **Stephen A. Dillard**, Court of Appeals of Georgia; Hon. **S. Phillip Brown**, chief judge, Bibb County Superior Court; Hon. **Reuben M. Green**, Cobb County Superior Court; and Hon. **Howard Z. Simms**, Bibb County Superior Court. A special round of applause must also go to the 2013 competition sponsors: Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP; Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP; Elarbee Thompson, Fincher Denmark Williams & Minnifield LLC; Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP; Insley & Race, LLC; Mack & Harris, P.C.; Municipal Code Corporation; Murray Barnes Finister LLP; TrialGraphix and Troutman Sanders LLP. Cheers to another successful year of moot court!

Legal Food Frenzy

by *Jessica Nix*

The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, a joint effort between the YLD, the office of Georgia Attorney General **Sam Olens** and the Georgia Food Bank Association, successfully raised 842,317 pounds of food for local children during the second annual event held April 22-May 3. This year's total constituted a 38 percent increase over 2012's inaugural year. More than 245 firms and 14,000 members of the legal community across the state participated in the competition. This year's winners in the respective areas outlined below are:

2013 Attorney General's Cup Winner:

Walter G. "Bo" Sammons Jr. (Warner Robins)—4,609 pounds per person/9,218 total pounds

Attorney General's Cup Law School Winner:

Mercer School of Law—22 pounds per person/8,697 total pounds

Sole Proprietor Division (1–2 persons):

William Woodhull Stone, P.C. (Atlanta)—1,900 pounds per person (Per Capita Winner)

Joe S. Habachy PC (Atlanta)—2,840 total pounds (Total Pounds Winner)

Small Firm Division (3–20 persons):

Nathan M. Jolles, P.C. (Augusta)—2,364 pounds per person/ 7,093 total pounds (Won both the Per Capita and Total Pounds awards in this category)

Medium Firm Division (21–100 persons):

Coleman Talley LLP (Atlanta) 931 pounds per person/ 43,756 total pounds (Won both the Per Capita and Total Pounds awards in this category)

Large Firm Division (101+ persons):

Greenberg Traurig, LLP (Atlanta) 484 pounds per person/ 96,704 total pounds (Won both Per Capita and Total Pounds awards in this category)

Legal Organization:

Georgia Tech Office of Legal Affairs—1,566 pounds per employee (Per Capita Winner)

Office of DeKalb County Solicitor General—55,824 total pounds (Total Pounds Winner)

Corporate Legal Organization:

Georgia Power Company Legal Services—426 pounds per person/ 16,598 total pounds (Won both Per Capita and Total Pounds awards in this category)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Food Frenzy. Many families will be helped by your incredible generosity. We look forward to hitting 1 million pounds in 2014!

Litigation Committee

by *John Hadden, Knox Withers, Kevin Patrick and Ryals Stone*

The Litigation Committee was truly honored that **Ed Tolley**, Cook, Noell, Tolley, & Bates, LLP; **Bobby Lee Cook**, Cook & Connelly; and Hon. **Edward Lindsey Jr.**, Goodman McGuffey Lindsey & Johnson, LLP, were the speakers for its annual "War Stories" Lecture Series. Each of these individuals shared with us valuable insights into the practice of law, especially on the importance of professionalism in litigation. Our series began with a presentation by Tolley on Feb. 27. Tolley is a renowned attorney that has handled some of the highest-profile criminal cases in our state and has represented the University of Georgia Athletic Association on numerous matters. His willingness to handle these difficult and often controversial cases, even as a younger lawyer, inspired all of us to strive for justice and remain committed to our clients. The second installment of this series was on March 27 and featured Cook, who traveled from Summerville to speak to us. He is a stalwart of the legal community, and it is rumored that he was the basis for the hit television show "Matlock." Cook's presentation offered a remarkable perspective on the legal history of our state. Lindsey was our final speaker on April 24. In addition to being founding partner of his law firm, he currently serves as the Majority Whip for the Georgia House of Representatives. Lindsey has the distinction of tirelessly serving our state as one of the few lawyer-legislators, and he will always be remembered for championing HB 141 in order to stop human trafficking.

We hope that all of you will be able to join us again next year for this series. For more information, please contact the subcommittee chairs: **Kevin Patrick**, KPatrick@gmlj.com or **Ryals Stone**, ryalsstone@booneandstone.com.

Additionally, the Litigation Committee has planned a number of other exciting upcoming events. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list please contact **Brantley Rowlen** at rowlen@lbbbslaw.com. For more information on upcoming meetings and events please contact the chairs of this committee: **John Hadden**, jdhadden@haddenfirm.com, and **Knox Withers**, knox.withers@agg.com.

Women in the Profession Committee

by Kelly Campanella

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee hosted a panel of four Atlanta-area federal judges for an event on April 10, including Hon. **Beverly Martin** of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals; Hon. **Julie Carnes**, chief judge, Northern District of Georgia; Hon. **Amy Totenberg**, Northern District of Georgia; and Hon. **Linda Walker**, magistrate judge, Northern District of Georgia. A group of approximately 40 attendees, which included both male and female attorneys, listened to the judges describe their experiences on the bench and provide advice on topics ranging from how to write an effective brief to how to manage the dual challenges of busy personal and professional lives. The committee hosted a reception following the panel, at which attendees had an opportunity to meet and speak with the judges on a more informal basis. The panel was enjoyed by all and the committee plans to hold a similar event next year.



Women in the Profession Committee Co-Chairs Kelly Campanella and Jennifer Nichols with Judges Julie Carnes, Beverly Martin, Amy Totenberg and Linda Walker before the Federal Judicial Panel held on April 10.

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YLD Spring Meeting

by Will Davis

Over the first weekend of April, nearly 90 members of the YLD traveled to the coast for this year's Spring Meeting on St. Simons Island. Held in conjunction with the Leadership Academy's fourth session, YLD members enjoyed social activities with each other as well as the opportunity to give back to the community with a Saturday afternoon service project.

Attendees who arrived on Thursday were greeted with a welcome reception at Brogen's where they enjoyed an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Friday morning began with a CLE organized by **Jack Long** and the Glynn County YLD that focused on issues in starting a solo or small firm including retaining clients, business practices and ethics. Although Friday was a rainy day on the island, attendees did not let the weather stop them. Many took advantage of food and shopping downtown and golf on Sea Island before enjoying a trolley ride and a delicious dinner at Coastal Kitchen.

YLD President **Jon Pannell** led the Saturday morning business meeting with updates from all officers and various committee chairpersons. Among the items covered at the meeting were the kick-off of the second annual Legal Food Frenzy and an upcoming gun safety CLE sponsored by the Criminal Law Committee of the YLD. Following the meeting, the Leadership Academy participated in a session where they learned about the types of lawyers they would see in their careers as well as the proper way of crafting a story for trial. More than 40 young lawyers spent Saturday afternoon volunteering at the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia in Brunswick. In addition to presenting the shelter with donations from the morning meeting, the volunteers' primary project was yard maintenance at the new facility. It did not take long before YLD members were walking dogs, playing with cats and cuddling puppies. **Carrie Trotter** of Marietta said, "It is always nice to see YLD members coming together to help and support communities across the state. As an animal lover and would-be cat lady, I especially enjoyed sprucing up the Humane Society." Kudos to **Melissa Cruthirds** for organizing the service project.



YLD Spring Meeting attendees take a trolley to dinner Saturday night.

After a long day of meetings and volunteering, Saturday night concluded with another trolley ride and evening at Redfern Village. Those who attended were given 50 Redfern Bucks to spend at restaurants throughout the village. Some choose to use it all on food and watch the Final Four at Gnat's Landing while others perused their shopping options. The weekend ended on Sunday with all members excited for the upcoming State Bar's Annual Meeting in Hilton Head.

The YLD would like to thank SEA Limited, **Jennifer Mock** and **Brantley Rowlen** for their generous support of the Spring Meeting on St. Simons Island.



YLD members and Leadership Academy participants volunteer at the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia for the Spring Meeting.

Affiliate YLD Updates

Macon YLD

by *David McCain*

The Macon Young Lawyers Division has been quite busy these past few months. Our February event was sponsored by **John David Miller** of Northwestern Mutual at Downtown Grill in Macon. The Macon YLD also hosted **Brantley Rowlen**, candidate for YLD Secretary, at the February event. The March event was held at Dovetail, a new fine dining restaurant also located in the downtown area. At the March event, we hosted **Jennifer Mock**, candidate for YLD Secretary, along with **Amanda Morris** and **John Kennedy**, candidates for the Board of Governors.

This spring, the Macon YLD contributed to the fundraising efforts of the Middle Georgia Christian Home School Association's mock trial team. The mock trial team is the first team from the middle Georgia area to win the state High School Mock Trial Championship. Recently, the Macon YLD planned a fundraising event for Central Georgia CASA. The event was held on June 6, and Hon. **Stephen Dillard**, Court of Appeals of Georgia, was our guest speaker. For details on other Macon YLD events, please email **David McCain** at david@childersmccain.com.



Middle Georgia Christian Home School Association's mock trial team at the national championship in Indianapolis, Ind.

Savannah YLD

by *Heather Hammonds*



(L-R) Amanda Love, Casey Reichanadter, Lindsey Hobbs, Rachel Wilson and Jennifer Mock enjoy the weather prior to boarding for the Annual Savannah Boat Ride.

of Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media in the practice of law. Following the CLE, attendees enjoyed a happy hour at Tondee's Tavern.

As is typically the case, spring has been a fun and busy season for the Savannah Bar YLD. On Feb. 22, members of the Savannah YLD enjoyed great company and handcrafted cocktails at The Sparetime, a downtown Savannah establishment.

On March 7, members of the Savannah Bar gathered at the State Bar's Coastal Georgia Office for a CLE in conjunction with the state YLD on Ethics and Professionalism Concerns with the Use of Social Media. The panelists, who included Savannah's **Bates Lovett** and **Kellyn McGee**, opined on some of the potential benefits and complications of the use

The Savannah Bar Association's Annual Boat Ride took place on April 12. The Savannah YLD designed commemorative T-shirts that sold out in a short time. After the boat ride, the revelry continued for young lawyers at a YLD-hosted happy hour.

Also in April, the Savannah YLD hosted a happy hour at the new beer garden at Moon River Brewing Company. Beautiful spring weather helped to make this Friday afternoon get-together a great success.

On May 17, Savannah YLD members boarded a trolley and traveled to Oglethorpe Motor Speedway to watch the races. Members also enjoyed the eighth annual Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Charity Golf Tournament, which took place June 7 at The Landings.

For more information about upcoming events and how to become involved with the Savannah Bar YLD, please email **Amanda Love** at alove@thebowmanlawoffice.com.

Cobb YLD

by *Chase Swanson*

The Cobb YLD hosted its annual Great Day of Service on May 3, helping to organize and staff the Cobb County Bar Association's inaugural Law Day Classic Golf Tournament. Cobb YLD members assisted by putting up signs, assembling and handing out gift bags to participants and selling raffle tickets.

The tournament was held to benefit the Children's Emergency Fund (the Fund), which is a community service fund that the Cobb County Bar created more than a decade ago. The Fund provides financial support to families that are experiencing difficulties as a result of an emergency situation, such as the loss of a job, a serious injury or illness, or a death in the family. The financial assistance is used to help families pay for basic necessities, such as food, clothing, housing and utilities while they try to get back on their feet.

Since its inception, the Fund has provided more than \$200,000 in financial assistance, and last year alone it provided assistance to approximately 100 families. The money raised at the Law Day Classic will go a long way to helping Cobb families who are facing a financial crisis. The Cobb YLD is pleased to have supported such a deserving cause for its Great Day of Service.



Members of the Cobb YLD take registrations and sell raffle tickets for the Cobb County Bar Association's inaugural Law Day Classic Golf Tournament.

Seeing an update to the Juvenile Code as a worthy endeavor, the Georgia Bar Foundation awarded the JLC grant funds to support the hiring of a primary reporter, attorney **Soledad McGrath**. We also created an Advisory Board of veteran juvenile law practitioners and former JLC chairs to provide advice and guidance to the JLC through the process. Concurrent with our efforts, then-senator, now judge, **Bill Hamrick**, established an initial Juvenile Code study committee. McGrath's early work supported JLC leadership, **Amy Howell** and **Elizabeth Reimels**' participation in that committee. During this time, the JLC convened stakeholder meetings to determine which areas of the code needed to be addressed. Subsequently, we engaged two experts, Hon. **Velma Tilley** and Prof. **Lucy McGough**, who served the project as volunteer reporters. Ultimately, these three reporters jointly developed a research-based model code that represented best practices for Georgia. This proposed model was proudly released for public comment in 2008 and earned an American Bar Association Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service Project to the Bar for the YLD. Throughout this process, the State Bar, by way of the Georgia Bar Foundation, committees and leadership, has remained engaged, including the active support of President **Robin Frazer Clark**.

In many aspects aspirational, the model code was intended to provide a research-based framework for a revised juvenile code as a starting point for the larger discussion of needed policy change in Georgia. As a result, after releasing the Proposed Model Code for public comment in 2008, the JLC tendered the results to stakeholders who would pursue legislative reform. Those stakeholders evolved into the formation of a statewide juvenile justice coalition, the JUSTGeorgia Coalition, which has actively shepherded a legislative campaign to comprehensively revise Georgia's Juvenile Code since 2009.

The legislative proposal supported by the JUSTGeorgia Coalition gained significant support from members of the Georgia General Assembly as the bill was actively considered in the last three legislative sessions. Building on his success with adult criminal justice reform, Gov. Deal, a former juvenile court judge, had the foresight to reconvene the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform, augmenting it with prominent experts in juvenile

justice. He charged this body to examine the juvenile justice system and recommend reforms that would improve system efficiencies and increase public safety.

With the assistance of the Pew Center on the States, the governor's Special Council confronted a compelling data narrative revealing that Georgia expends considerable resources confining juvenile offenders who are at low risk to re-offend. While the preponderance of Department of Juvenile Justice dollars are expended ensuring the custody and punishment of youthful offenders, 71 percent of all juvenile dispositions involve minors who were assessed as being low risk. Millions of dollars are spent each year maintaining the secure facilities required by the current Juvenile Code, and the operation of out-of-home facilities can cost more than \$90,000 per bed, per year. Despite the investment, more than half of all youth in the juvenile justice system recidivate; that is, 65 percent are re-adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a criminal offense within three years of their release.

The Special Council released its final report and recommendations in December 2012, largely focused on a series of policy recommendations keyed to the dual goals of increasing public safety by focusing the state's out-of-home facilities on higher risk, serious offenders and reducing recidivism by strengthening evidence-based community supervision and programs. Those recommendations have been incorporated with the legislative proposal to comprehensively revise the Juvenile Code, thereby marrying system reform to statutory reform. The result, HB 242, introduced by Rep. Willard and carried in the Senate by Sen. **Charlie Bethel** (R-Dalton) received the unanimous support of both the House and Senate.

On May 2, Gov. Deal signed HB 242 into law. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, this bill offers improvements to practice, ensuring justice, and producing better outcomes for children and families involved with the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. HB 242 reorganizes the current Juvenile Code to create cohesive, integrated sections for ease of understanding and application, modernizes substantive law to reflect advances in research and practice, and ensures conformity of state law with federal laws that govern the state's response in cases of abuse, neglect, violations of law by children, and other circumstances warranting court intervention. Definitions and timelines are clarified, as are certain procedural mechanisms. Many substantive changes are made, including those based on the thoughtful recommendations of the Special Council, including a new statutory framework for designated felonies that separates less violent offenses (Class A) from more violent offenses (Class B). Additionally, the governor designated \$5 million in his budget recommendation to support a fiscal incentive program designed to promote community-based alternatives to detention.

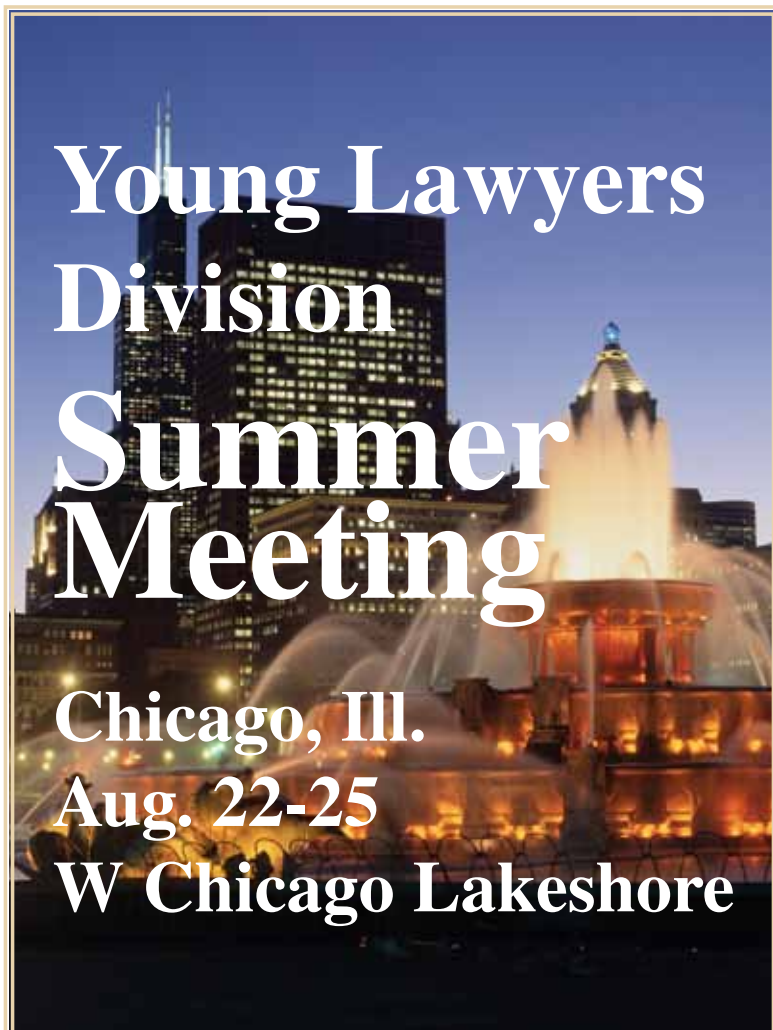
As Chief Justice Carol Hunstein stated in the 2013 State of the Judiciary address, Georgia is "at a crossroads in juvenile justice history." Emerging from almost a decade of laws that criminalize adolescence and fail to prevent the creation of adult offenders, all the while giving rise to costly practices and ineffective policies, Georgia has the opportunity to lead the way in necessary course correction. The Juvenile Law Committee, Young Lawyers Division, State Bar and all of the juvenile law attorneys they serve throughout the state can take heart in knowing that they wrote the first chapter.

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Committee and the 11th Circuit Executive's Office to plan and provide Georgia young lawyers with an unforgettable opportunity to be a part of this year's judicial conference. On Friday night, May 3, the State Bar of Georgia Executive Committee and the YLD Leadership Academy hosted a cocktail reception for members of the 2013 Leadership Academy class and Leadership Academy alumni to mingle with members of the federal judiciary from across the 11th Circuit. Approximately 50 federal judges joined 125 young lawyers from around the state in this first of its kind event. State Bar of Georgia President **Robin Frazer Clark** welcomed everyone present and thanked the federal judiciary for their support of the State Bar and the YLD.

On Saturday, May 4, more than 200 young lawyers joined approximately 100 federal judges from all across the 11th Circuit, as well as U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Clarence Thomas**, for a breakfast roundtable that morning. The judges, including Justice Thomas, rotated between the tables of young lawyers to answer questions and foster discussion on a variety of topics about professionalism and ethics. Finally, young lawyers who had previously submitted their applications and had been approved were sworn in to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court by Justice Thomas, the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals by Chief Judge **Joel Dubina**, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia by Chief Judge **Lisa Godbey Wood**. Wood informed the group that the roll book that each attorney was signing upon admission was the same roll book that attorneys signed in the 1700s when the district was first founded. Dubina declared the roundtable and swearing-in ceremonies to be the best part of the conference and that he hoped that it would become a tradition at the conference. Finally, Justice Thomas addressed the group and emphasized how much he enjoyed being with young lawyers, especially back in his hometown of Savannah. Interestingly, event organizers understand that this marked the first time a mass swearing-in to the U.S. Supreme Court had occurred outside of Washington, D.C.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank State Bar of Georgia YLD Director **Mary McAfee**, State Bar of Georgia Communications Director **Sarah Coole** and the State Bar Communications staff members for all of their hard work in making these events a success.





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Editor's Block

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“Contrary to the opinion of many people, leaders are not born. Leaders are made, and they are made by effort and hard work.”—Vince Lombardi (1913-1970)

When I came across the above quote, it really resonated with me. It is true that as with anything that is truly worth it in life, an intense amount of dedication, resolve, sweat equity and extreme hard work is mandatory. As young lawyers, we aspire to rise above mediocrity and be truly great leaders and legal counselors. Our employers provide us with the appropriate legal training, but at the end of the day it is incumbent upon each of us to take our career development in our own hands to reach the personal and professional success we have set for ourselves. Because I know this is true, I started thinking of pointers and advice I have received over the years that have helped me take my career—and life—by the reigns in an effort to reach my personal and professional goals, while also being an example and resource to others at the same time. I would like to take

this opportunity to share some of that advice with you in the hopes that it will be a guiding beacon for you, as it has been for me.

1. Take every opportunity you can to build your legal knowledge base, because developing a niche for yourself will ensure that you are an indispensable asset.
2. Always seek constructive feedback, find mentors who can and will champion you and your development and develop a well-rounded professional life.
3. Always balance your professional life with pro bono work and community development/service. Not only will you enhance your own skills, but you will benefit others in the process.

4. Know yourself, your strengths and limitations. Instead of mechanically going through experiences without reflection on what you have learned, take the time to process the experience because it will allow you to “see the areas of law and kinds of projects you enjoy; environments, interactions and relationships that are best for you; skills and areas for improvement; and personal interests and values that will give you peace of mind.” (Excerpted from “Advice for Young Lawyers about Career Development” by Paula Nailon.)
5. Treat every client that you have with the utmost respect and represent them zealously and diligently so they feel as though they are your only client and you truly value them and their matter.
6. Humility and grace take you so much farther than arrogance and pride ever will.
7. As you ascend the ladder of greatness professionally, reach down and pull others up with you.
8. Those you see going up the ladder will be the same ones you see going down, so treat them accordingly.
9. Get involved! Passivity breeds inactivity, so conversely, getting involved leads to character and professional development. (See **Jen Blackburn’s** article from the Spring 2013 issue for some suggestions on how to get involved.)

These are just a few of the invaluable gems I have received throughout the years from those far wiser and more experienced than myself. I have worked hard to implement them in my professional and personal life. It is my hope this advice will provide perspective for you as you journey along in your professional development. And I would definitely be remiss if I did not encourage you to take advantage of all of the CLEs, networking, community service and development opportunities the YLD has to offer. On top of all the benefits previously mentioned, I can personally testify that the YLD provides you the opportunity to form lasting friendships and touch the lives of others in the process. With that, I say, best of luck (sprinkled with lots of planning and hard work) as we travel along this professional leadership highway together!