



The YLD Review

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

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YLD Summer and Fall Meetings

YLD Takes Care of Business and a Bite out of the Big Apple

by *Darrell Sutton*

The YLD Summer Meeting took place in Atlanta and New York during the weekend of Aug. 18-21. President **Stephanie Kirijan** called the first business meeting of her administration to order at the Bar Center on Thursday, Aug. 18, as a room crowded with YLD members received information about the current state of the YLD from its officers, directors, representatives and committee chairs. The business meeting included a presentation by **Kirsten Widner** about the status of legislation to adopt the Model Juvenile Code developed in partnership with the YLD Juvenile Law Committee. Prior to adjournment, YLD members donated more than 60 children's books to Coastal Outreach Soccer, a Brunswick-based charity that teaches underprivileged and underserved minorities soccer, literacy and social skills, all of which can be used to overcome obstacles in their lives.

Following the business meeting, several of those in attendance departed Atlanta for the optional trip to New York City with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors. Those who made the trek to the Big Apple attended a welcome reception Thursday night at the Omni Berkshire Place Hotel and mingled with Bar officers and Board of Governors members, as well as members of the Supreme Court of Georgia and Court of Appeals of Georgia.

On Friday morning attendees were treated to breakfast and a series of CLEs facilitated by King & Spalding senior associate **Dawn M. Jones**. CLE topics included the Dodd-Frank Act, the U.S. Court of International Trade and

the advent of generic top level domain names (gTLDs). Sightseeing was the order of business for Friday afternoon as YLD members set out to see the many famous sights that the Big Apple has to offer. That evening, YLD and Board of Governors members experienced Broadway by attending a performance of the hit show "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying."

Saturday brought more opportunities to see the sights of New York City before the World Yacht – Duchess took members on a spectacular dinner cruise around the tip of lower Manhattan. The dazzling views of New York at night provided the perfect backdrop for the conclusion of yet another enjoyable Summer Meeting.

The YLD thanks the following sponsors for their support of the YLD Summer Meeting: BAY Mediation; Esquire Solutions; and SEA, Ltd.

Fall Football Kick-off: The YLD Invades Athens

by *Sarah White*

The YLD held its Fall Meeting in Athens at the Foundry Park Inn & Spa from Nov. 11-13. For dawg fans it was truly a celebratory weekend, with UGA pulling off a huge victory over their long-time rival, Auburn, but regardless of one's team affiliation, all who attended had a great time.

The meeting began Friday with the CLE "New Georgia Evidence Code," that was facilitated by father-son duo Ron and Mike Carlson. An Affiliates' Meeting was held and attended by leaders from across the state. Led by **Nicole Marchand** and **Graham McDonald**, this meeting afforded affiliate groups an opportunity to come together, compare notes and brainstorm new ideas to take back to their respective organizations.

Friday's meetings wrapped up with the YLD General Session, which began by honoring military service members including Capt. **James Baehr** of the U.S. Marine Corps, a YLD Out of State Representative; and Captain **Michael Graves**, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a YLD Southern District Representative. A great deal of business was covered at the meeting, including a presentation by Attorney General **Sam Olens** on the exciting new Legal Food Frenzy canned food drive being



YLD and Board of Governors Members prepare to board the World Yacht — Duchess to cruise around the tip of lower Manhattan.

See Fall on page 7



From the President

YLD and GLSP: A Partnership of Service

by *Stephanie Joy Kirijan*

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Because one of the stated purposes of the YLD is to “foster among YLD members the principles of duty and service to the public,” the organization has become known as the service arm of the State Bar. As part of our anniversary celebration, the YLD is focusing its service efforts on Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP). The YLD and GLSP have had an important partnership since the creation of GLSP 40 years ago.

The Young Lawyers Division (formerly Section) was the moving force behind the creation of GLSP. In 1968, the YLD initiated a needs assessment of lawyers for the poor. The study concluded that there was a distressing disproportion between the actual need for legal services by those who could not afford them and the present supply of legal services available to them. The next year, a second report promoted the “provision of legal services to indigent persons to the fullest extent possible,” including a draft of Articles of Incorporation of Georgia Indigents Legal Services. YLD members served as the first officers of GLSP. YLD members and past presidents are still active within GLSP serving on its Program and Foundation Boards.

Because of the commitment to equal justice felt by young lawyers, GLSP has grown to meet the critical need for legal services for impoverished Georgians and is the largest private, nonprofit law firm in the state. GLSP serves 154 counties outside metro Atlanta and has 11 offices around the state. The presence of GLSP in these communities is imperative to the delivery of legal services to underserved populations.

GLSP provides civil legal services free of charge to families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Low-income Georgians have been hit especially hard by the economy. In 2010, GLSP provided legal services to approximately 10,000 clients.

Even though the need for legal services programs for the poor is growing, these programs are experiencing severe budget cuts. The economic downturn has impacted funding sources, including lower interest rates on IOLTA funds, and federal and state reductions. GLSP’s principal federal funder, the Legal Services Corporation, cut the 2011 grant by over \$600,000, and the IOLTA grant has been reduced for 2011-12 by over \$450,000 or almost 60 percent.

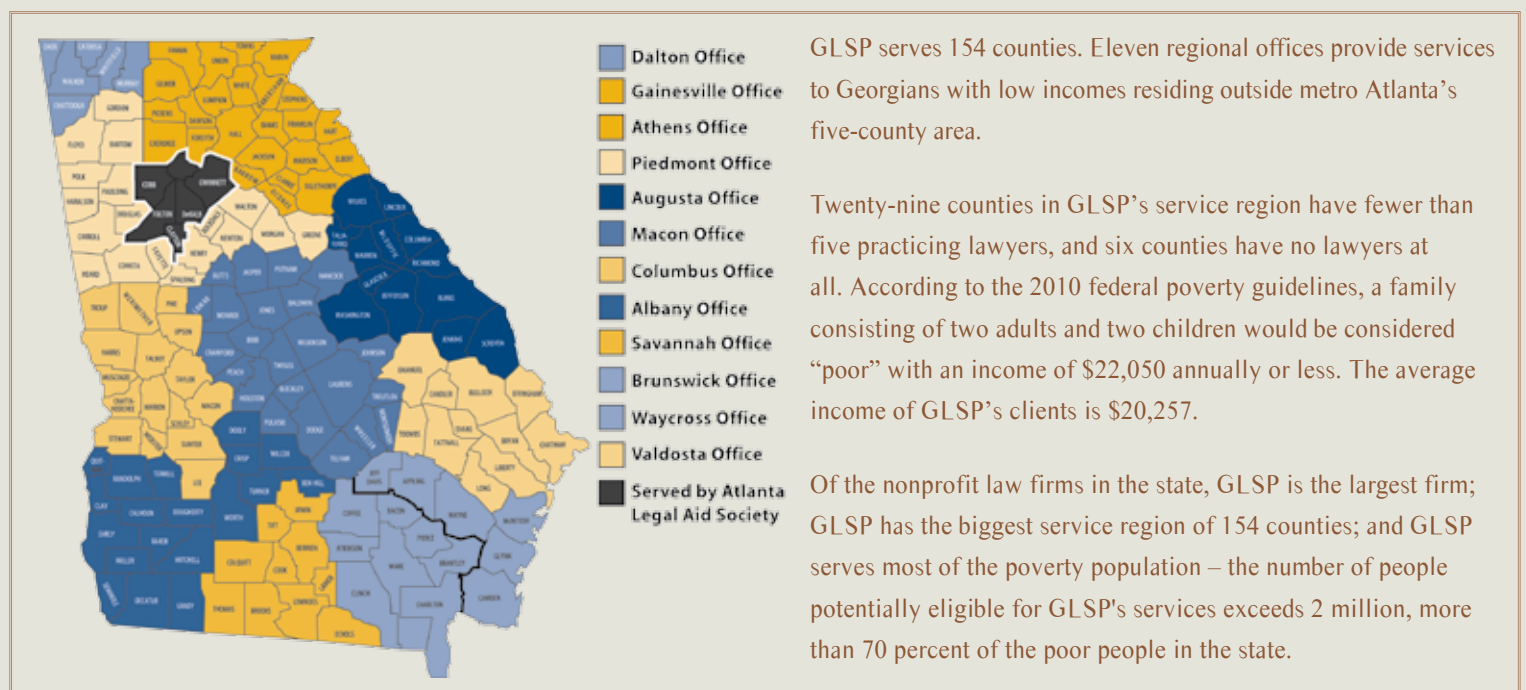
The YLD is committed to helping GLSP continue its mission to serve low-income Georgians. Since its inception two years ago, the YLD Public Interest Internship Program has provided summer interns at public interest organizations around that state. The value of these legal services to GLSP alone is close to \$170,000 per year.

GLSP was also the beneficiary of the 2011 YLD Signature Fundraiser, which raised over \$60,000. The YLD will continue its commitment to GLSP in 2012 by once again dedicating funds from the Signature Fundraiser to GLSP. This year’s event, Black Tie & Blackjack, will be held at Capital City Club – Downtown in conjunction with the State Bar’s Midyear Meeting and will feature hors d’oeuvres, an open bar, casino tables, a silent auction and a raffle. General Admission tickets are \$100 in advance and \$125 at the door. Please mark your calendars and look for additional details in this newsletter and in the Midyear Meeting registration materials.

The YLD Family Law Committee also chose GLSP as the beneficiary for its sixth annual Supreme Cork fundraiser which raised more than \$21,500 through sponsorships, ticket sales and a silent auction. Proceeds will be directed to family-law related cases and divisions within GLSP, including domestic violence, divorce, child support and legitimation. Look for more information about the Family Law Committee’s successful Supreme Cork in this newsletter.

This year, YLD officers, directors and representatives have committed to a GLSP challenge. Close to 70 young lawyers have pledged to either raise \$500 or serve as a volunteer lawyer for a GLSP case. But you don’t have to be a member of the YLD Executive Committee to take this challenge; all members are encouraged to participate. GLSP Director **Phyllis Holmen** has written an article for this newsletter detailing how you gain courtroom experience and develop your legal skills in life changing legal matters by volunteering for a case.

The YLD played a critical role in the creation of GLSP and its commitment of the program continues to be important. Because of the generosity of the legal community, GLSP continues to serve the most vulnerable populations, helping them rebuild their lives through access to justice and opportunities out of poverty. I invite you to join the YLD in its fundraising and service efforts on behalf of GLSP this year.



Judge's Chambers

Do the Right Thing

by *Presiding Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes,*
Court of Appeals of Georgia



I am proud to say I have been a member of the Bar for nearly 30 years, and during the course of my legal career, my perspective on what it takes to be successful professional has shifted. When I attended the University of Georgia School of Law, the general attitude was that, if a lawyer complied with the ethical standards required to remain licensed, that was good enough. But I have learned that professionalism is more than just

following the rules. True professionalism is a matter of character. To me, in law and in life, doing the right thing and taking the high road is what character and professionalism are all about. So many times in my life I have asked myself the question, "What is the right thing to do?" Trying to do the right thing – not necessarily knowing what that is, but at least asking the question – has come to embody my definition of professionalism.

These days, lawyers are often resented and mistrusted. They find themselves the butt of many cynical jokes. In fact, lawyers have never been popular, and on the whole, lawyers have a terrible image. Plato spoke of their "small and unrighteous" souls, and Keats said, "I think we may class the lawyer in the natural history of monsters." John Grisham, attorney and author of novels based on the legal system, says in his book "The Rainmaker," "All students enter law school with a certain amount of idealism and desire to serve the public, but after three years of brutal competition we care for nothing but the right job with the right firm where we can make partner in seven years and earn big bucks."

Here is how my perspective has changed over time: When I was in law school, I worried mostly about grades and survival. Those were really tough years financially and emotionally. After I graduated, I worried about passing the Bar. And after I passed the Bar, I just wanted to be a good lawyer. I don't think I had any clear concept of professionalism when I began practicing. I just wanted to be competent, make my clients happy and be successful by winning my cases.

As a litigator, all these are important. But as a new lawyer, I admit that in my desire to be a successful, winning lawyer, I was sometimes an overzealous advocate who reacted to the unfair tactics, rudeness, and unreasonable attitudes of older, more experienced lawyers by fighting fire with fire. I call this unfortunate practice playing the "I can be the Biggest Jerk" game. Unfortunately, it's a common stage in the development of many litigators. But please don't play the "I can be the Biggest Jerk" game because you will find out, as I did, that you can always win that game. You can be the Biggest Jerk if you try hard enough, but that kind of "win" does not constitute "success" or good lawyering. Instead, take the high road, because practicing law well is not about winning at all costs and it is not about making the most money.

In each case, you will be judged by others with whom you have contact. Your professionalism is reflected by the actions you take, the discussions you have, and your responses to the situations you face. We must resolve to strive each day to conduct ourselves in a professional manner. We have knowledge, training and skills that enable us to serve mankind. We must use those skills wisely if we are to uphold the dignity, integrity and honor of our profession.

I still ask myself every day, "What is the right thing to do?" and even when I don't know the answer, just asking the question puts me on the right course.

Call to Service

You Get Back What You Put In — Volunteering for GLSP and Changing Lives (Including Your Own)

by *Phyllis J. Holmen, GLSP Executive Director and*
Susan Wells, Public Information Specialist

Looking for court experience? Looking for real, hands-on involvement in a case? Looking for a way to learn from great lawyers who have dedicated their lives to public service? Looking for a feeling of satisfaction that your work genuinely helped someone, perhaps even saved a life?

If so, Georgia Legal Services Program is looking for you.

With budget cuts that have reduced the staff of GLSP by nine attorneys statewide this year, the need is greater than ever for young lawyers to give their time and resources at GLSP. But don't forget to consider what you get back. The lawyers at GLSP are experienced in just about every aspect of civil practice and will help you learn what they know. If you take a case in one of the 154 counties GLSP serves, you will likely quickly learn how to handle anything from a divorce to a bankruptcy to a landlord-tenant dispute. You may even have the opportunity to represent an abused woman in a hearing for a Temporary Protective Order. That's life-saving work.

If you are interested in getting into family law, the No. 1 need at several GLSP offices is for private lawyers to handle divorce cases where there has been family violence. We triage these cases to make sure the client gets a protective order and child support, but we do not have the resources to handle the divorce so the assistance of private attorneys to truly resolve the issues for these seriously broken families is desperately needed. Helping a survivor of domestic violence and the children achieve total safety and security, some level of financial support, and an opportunity for a new beginning, is a life-changing experience, both for them and for you as their lawyer.

There is also a need for young lawyers to take cases involving wills, advanced directives and powers of attorney for many of GLSP's elder clients who need to set their affairs in order before entering a nursing home or before death. These wills are typically simple matters to make sure the property is passed to family members. Such help truly creates great peace of mind for the client.

GLSP also provides opportunities for individuals to represent grandparents and other family members trying to get guardianship papers for children in their care or help tenants assert their rights to property repair or to stay in their homes in the case of foreclosure. It is through these examples above and many others that GLSP, with your help, enables so many low-income families to stay afloat or get a second chance.

And you don't have to take a case to provide invaluable help through GLSP; each GLSP office also presents a number of community education programs each year, such as Ask-a-Lawyer days where clients can come in or call for answers to their legal questions and gives presentations at several senior centers throughout Georgia on topics such as wills, insurance and medical coverage.

Besides all of the good you are doing in the community when you work on a case for GLSP, you also have the opportunity to develop and sharpen invaluable legal skills. "For the new attorney who has not yet found a position," said Savannah managing attorney **Bill Broker**, "it is a chance to develop a skill set and get some exposure to the courts and other lawyers."

To volunteer, contact your local GLSP office, contact Mike Monahan at the State Bar Pro Bono Project (www.gabar.org/programs/pro_bono_project/, or 404-572-8762), or log on to www.georgiaadvocates.org where you can join the Georgia Online Justice Community, specify what kinds of cases you are interested in taking, what areas of the state you are willing to serve and how many cases you would like to take. You will also be able to access all the resources in our online library, and have the opportunity to consult with our experienced staff via the site. We look forward to working with you.

YLD Spring Meeting

May 11-14, 2012

Washington, D.C.

Sofitel – Lafayette Square

Group Admission to the U.S. Supreme Court on May 14

Committee Updates

Community Service Projects Committee Update

by **Ana Maria Martinez and Jonathan Poole**

The YLD's Community Service Projects Committee kicked off the year by volunteering at the PGA Tour in September, helping raise funds for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. In October, committee members assisted the Global Soap Project by making soap in their Norcross warehouse. The Global Soap Project is an organization that recovers and recycles soap from American hotels and facilitates a process by which it is sanitized, melted and remolded into new bars, then distributed to refugee camps in Africa. In November, a Toiletries and Supplies Drive benefiting the Atlanta Children's Shelter was held. There were collection sites throughout the metro-Atlanta area and items were collected at a joint happy hour with the Business Law Committee on Nov. 15, at Hudson Grill Midtown that was generously sponsored by Bernstein Brokers and Bank of America. Thanks to all who donated, we were able to provide the shelter with much needed supplies.

On, Dec. 4, in partnership with the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, committee members volunteered at Project Open Hand by preparing and packaging meals for low-income families who are dealing with a critical, chronic or terminal disease and home-bound seniors. Members also assisted DFACS with wrapping presents for foster children.

In addition to planning our monthly events, with the help of event co-chairs **Kristi Wilson** and **Deepa Subramanian**, the support of the Attorney General's office and in partnership with the Georgia Food Bank, the committee has been busy planning the Inaugural Georgia Legal Food Frenzy which will take place in late spring. Legal professionals throughout the state will compete to collect the most food and donations for the seven food bank locations throughout the state. Registration for this event will begin in early spring.

If you are interested in participating in committee events or have ideas about a project you would like the committee to support, please contact committee co-chairs **Ana Maria Martinez** at amartinez@og-law.com or **Jonathan Poole** at jrp@sbllaw.net.

Judicial Law Clerk Committee Seminar a Success

by **Jason Redmond, T. Orlando Pearson and Monica Dean**

On Oct. 7, the YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee conducted a day-long seminar, hosted by Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, for new law clerks and staff attorneys throughout the state. The seminar included an assortment of speakers, including existing law clerks, **Paula Smith** from the attorney general's office, Hon. **Jim Bodiford** from the Superior Court of Cobb County and Hon. **Jeff Malcom** from the Northern Judicial Circuit. Attendees earned two hours of CLE credit. Networking followed at a reception at RiRa Irish pub.

Developed by **Monica Dean** and **Orlando Pearson**, the seminar fills the void in judicial training resulting from massive cuts in the State's budget. In April 2011, the committee, with the help of members **Leanne Dolin**, **Judith Oglesby**, **Jason Redmond**, **Susan Berry** and **Denise Purvis**, tested the waters with a small event held at Emory University that received positive feedback and led to the committee's decision to proceed on a larger scale in October.

Feedback from the seminar's attendees has been exceedingly positive, and support from the judiciary and state law schools indicate that such a seminar not only helps in attracting more interest in judicial clerkships, but also assists individuals with transitioning into the judiciary, along with providing networking opportunities among clerks.

If you would like to become involved with the committee, please contact Jason Redmond at redmondj@eighthdistrict.org.

Juvenile Law Committee

by **Crystal Conway and Stephanie Mason**

In 2012, the Juvenile Law Committee (JLC) will re-initiate the Young Lawyers Division – Juvenile Law Committee Awards, which have been historically called the Child Advocates Awards. Since 2000, this award has honored practitioners across the state who demonstrate leadership, exhibit creativity or otherwise have a significant impact on programs, practices, or policies affecting positive outcomes for children involved with Georgia's juvenile courts. If you would like to be involved with the JLC Awards subcommittee or have any questions regarding this award, contact **Stephanie Mason** at stephanie.mason@fultoncountyga.gov.

This year the JLC is also initiating its first toy drive for juvenile court playrooms. Beginning Dec. 1, the committee will be taking donations of new or gently used toys with the goal of replenishing the playrooms of Georgia's juvenile courts. Children can be involved with the

juvenile court system for many reasons and the juvenile court playrooms sometimes serve as visitation areas for parents and their children who are in foster homes. Children involved with juvenile courts may not always have positive associations with coming to court; however, having fun and current toys in these playrooms can help make coming to the juvenile court a more positive experience. As this is the first year of the toy drive, any donation received will go to replenish the playrooms of the Fulton and DeKalb Juvenile Courts. The committee plans to expand next year by partnering with YLD members who practice in other counties to replenish these counties' respective playrooms with the ultimate goal of supplying toys for all of the juvenile court playrooms across the state.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact **Crystal Conway** at crystal.conway@fultoncountyga.gov or Stephanie Mason at stephanie.mason@fultoncountyga.gov.

Litigation Committee Update

by **Lara P. Percifield & John D. Hadden**



(L-R) Brantley Rowlen, Shiriki Cavitt, Lara Percifield and John Hadden attend the Litigation Committee fall happy hour at RiRa Irish pub.

The Litigation Committee has started the year on a strong note and looks forward to a host of upcoming events. At the committee's first meeting in September, planning began for the War Stories, Clerk's Luncheon, Trial and Error CLE, Membership and Happy Hour subcommittees. The following day, the committee had a great turn out at a fall happy hour at RiRa Irish pub. In addition to about 50 YLD members and sponsors in attendance, the committee members were joined by several judges from the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

The committee has an exciting year planned, including the annual Clerk's Luncheon at Maggiano's in Buckhead on Dec. 6. From January through May, the committee will hold monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month with the War Stories series taking place at the meetings in February, March and April. Each War Stories session will feature a prominent litigator discussing memorable cases and answering questions from those in attendance. The Trial and Error CLE, sponsored by the committee and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, will take place on March 16. Finally, the committee plans to hold two additional happy hours in the spring and summer.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the committee or with any specific subcommittees, please email committee co-chairs **Lara Percifield** at lpercifield@m-mlegal.com or **John Hadden** at jhadden@haddenfirm.com.

Family Law Committee Hosts Successful Supreme Cork

by *Kevin Rubin*

The Family Law Committee hosted the 6th Annual Supreme Cork wine tasting and silent auction charity event on Oct. 13, at the 5 Seasons Brewery in Atlanta.

This year, the Supreme Cork benefited the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP), which provides, among other things, legal representation for several family-law related matters, including domestic violence, divorce, child support and legitimation.

More than \$21,500 was raised through sponsorships, ticket sales and auction item purchases, which will be directed to family-law related cases and divisions within GLSP.



(L-R) Katie Kiihnl, Julia Haesemeyer, Sean Ditzel, Kevin Rubin, Kelly Reese and Ashley Sawyer at the Supreme Cork.

Many family law practitioners, as well as other members of the legal community, attended the Supreme Cork, including Judges **John J. Ellington** and **Christopher J. McFadden** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia and Judge **Reuben Green** of the Superior Court of Cobb County.

Special thanks to the Family Law Committee members and all attendees for another fantastic Supreme Cork!

Thanks to the 2011 Supreme Cork Sponsors

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Past President’s Pointers

by *Damon E. Elmore*



who still can take advantage of it?

As a jump-start, I went back to the old “Lessons I’ve Learned” series we began in the 2005-06 YLD newsletter. I would encourage any interested lawyer to do the same. Better people than I have provided their thoughts, given their wisdom and offered sure fire gems that are a road map to a successful legal career and general personal and professional development.

Along the same line, I can’t stress enough the value of the State Bar. It is valuable as a resource for research, reference and as a bridge to continued legal education. It is valuable as the common thread shared with lawyers that prosecute, those that defend, those that represent corporations and/or those that protect some of the most important participants in our system: children and those with limited access. It is valuable as an unlimited networking resource. Whether you know it or like it, networking is the most important component of a successful lawyer. Those you interact with outside of the courtroom, boardroom, wherever your practice takes you, will be your best advice providers, Sherpa or people who will “vouch” for you when the time comes. For me, most of my fondest professional memories are from my work with the Bar and the interaction with the smartest lawyers I know, Georgia lawyers. I am not a paid endorser, but if you haven’t attended a Bar meeting or function, even a committee meeting or YLD service project, you should. I challenge you to just one. That’s my first suggestion.

Second, I will never forget a conversation I had with a senior partner at a firm I worked with. I wanted to know the definition of this mythical “good lawyer” that is used sparingly. I am getting closer to knowing who that person is. I have seen that she is prepared. She doesn’t have to have flashy demonstrative aids or a team of assistants handing her charts and reports. While that looks nice, often times those folk spend more time on the presentation than the underlying matter.

He is courteous, respectful and polite. Wondering whether I really have to go into detail about that, but if you don’t understand, maybe this bit of advice is for you. If you are a trial lawyer, your jury will listen to you. If your work is administrative, your investigator will give you a chance. This magic formula works for lawyers that are non-traditional or have a transactional focus. No matter what, say thank you. Remember a birthday or special occasion. Offer kind words.

The good lawyer does not have to win all the time. However, she does have to learn every time. Even when the outcome is not what she had hoped and even though she was prepared and polite, your result may be different from what you had hoped. That’s okay, unless it happens on a regular basis and then, maybe you should consider different work. Regardless, the good lawyer learns a lesson from the adverse order; she learns a lesson from the jury’s verdict or congressional hearing. Then, uses them at the next phase of the process or with the next claim.

I think most important; the good lawyer is passionate about being a lawyer. He loves to grow and learn. He loves to think as a lawyer. He balances that well with his family if he has one or his cycling club or band. But, when he wakes, he is excited about working for the profession. He does not know it all but he loves every minute of it. So much so, that he has no professional regrets.

As a final suggestion, ‘cause you can’t tell you young people anything — write, and don’t email or text thank you notes or other important correspondence. It is okay to actually use the phone for more than football alerts or game. There is no more genuine and clear expression of gratitude than taking the time to write it and no doubt that you will get a better sense of tone and will be able to instantly resolve many problems if you call. I have been wrong twice before so, I am pretty sure about this nugget.

Those are my thoughts. I promise, I am not perfect and often times don’t follow my own advice. But I’ve at least seen the play, I know how it ends. I’ve worked with good lawyers at the city of Atlanta and Genuine Parts Company. I worked with several at Gorby Reeves and still more in my work with the Bar. All of them have these traits in common. So, I thank them for their leadership and hope that I have done some work that would at least make me... *aight*.

Affiliate YLD Updates

Albany

by William Davis



(L-R) YLD Members Yolanda McKoy-Mott and Erika Garza stuffing jack-o-lanterns for *Boo from the Bar* with GLSP Albany Managing Attorney Cheryl Griffin.

At the After Hours event, members collected supplies for the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association's (DCBA) *Boo from the Bar*, a service project hosted by the DCBA where local attorneys reverse trick-or-treat with residents of a local nursing home. YLD members donated books, crossword puzzles, toiletries, notebooks and plenty of candy for the nursing home residents. On Oct. 28, several YLD members gathered with other local attorneys to help stuff the jack-o-lanterns to be given to the nursing home residents.

Albany YLD members also provided pro bono services to area residents during the month of October. On Oct. 21, **Jim Edge, Eric Hooper, John Ledford, Jonathan Morris, Tami Peavy, Amy Purvis** and **Trey Underwood** volunteered at the local bar's Ask a Lawyer Day, an annual event sponsored by the State Bar General Practice and Trial Section which allows attorneys to meet with pro bono clients. This year's event occurred at the Albany Regional Georgia Legal Services Program office, and YLD members spoke with clients about a range of criminal and civil legal needs.

Young lawyers in the Southwest Georgia area are encouraged to participate in Albany YLD activities and should contact President **Will Davis** at wdavis@glsp.org, if interested.

Augusta

by Alex Brown



(L-R) Kristin Bloodworth; Mark Reeves, YLA president; Lucy Dodd; Jordan Leigh Gillman, YLA treasurer; P.J. Campanaro; Justin Jones; Adam Hatcher & son, YLA vice president; Alex Brown, Nick Utley and Chris Johnson.

everyone enjoyed. The YLA also provided a monetary donation to Safe Homes in the form of gift cards that can be used to purchase supplies for the organization or as emergency funds for victims of domestic violence.

The Young Lawyers of Augusta (YLA) came together for a community service event benefitting Safe Homes, a domestic violence intervention program that provides free services to victims of domestic violence in Augusta and the surrounding counties. The YLA sponsored an outing at Monkey Joe's Indoor Playground for the children at the Safe Homes shelter while other YLA members pitched in to organize donations, do some yard work and create emergency kits for victims of domestic violence. The day was filled with lots of hard work, but it was a very rewarding experience that

everyone enjoyed. The YLA also provided a monetary donation to Safe Homes in the form of gift cards that can be used to purchase supplies for the organization or as emergency funds for victims of domestic violence.

For information about the YLA, direct inquiries to yla.augusta@yahoo.com.

Savannah

by Jennifer Campbell Mock

The Savannah Young Lawyers Division began the new Bar year in September and the Board has been working hard to ensure that this year is one of the best. On Sept. 29, the Savannah YLD hosted its kick-off event at Local 11 Ten. Sponsored by McKee Court Reporting, this happy hour was a great opportunity for young attorneys to reconnect after the summer break as well as to introduce recent law school graduates and those new to the area to the Savannah YLD.

On Oct. 21, the committee held its 2nd Annual Halloween Costume Party at the Crypt Pub. Donations were taken at the door with all of the proceeds going to benefit The First Tee of Savannah, a local charity that provides learning facilities and enrichment programs that promote literacy, character development, and life-enhancing values to Savannah's youth as taught through the game of golf.



(L-R) Lauren Grondin, Rebecca Fackler, Bryan Schivera, Ben Lingle, Tyler Henderson, Dustin Davies, Thomas Branch, Jessica Davis, Mary Wood, Crystal Lang and Rachel Wilson were sworn in on Nov. 7, in the Superior Court of Chatham County.

On Nov. 7, the Savannah YLD hosted the annual swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys and Superior Court Judge **Michael Karpf** presided over the ceremony as several local Bar leaders welcomed the new members to the legal community. The Savannah YLD welcomes all of our new colleagues to the legal profession and wants to thank **Lindsey Lovingood** for all of her work to coordinate this successful event.

If you are a young attorney in the Savannah area and you are not a part of YLD please contact Lindsey Lovingood, membership director at lindsey@tmlawpc.com for more information.

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Needed in 2012**

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YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

Call to Get Involved

by Jonathan B. Pannell

There are many great opportunities for YLD members to become active in the YLD in an official capacity. Although you are automatically a member of the YLD if you are under the age of 36 or are in your first five years of practice, there are many different ways members can serve the YLD as an elected officer, a member of the executive committee, a member of the executive council, a committee chair or committee member.

Below is a “Notification of Elections” that has been published in accordance with the YLD bylaws. The statewide positions of secretary, treasurer and president-elect of the YLD are voted on by ballot in conjunction with the election for members of the Board of Governors and the officers of the “Big Bar.” As provided in the notification, the YLD Nominating Committee will meet in January to propose a slate of candidates for the office of secretary, treasurer and president-elect. Nominations for these offices may also be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than March 2, 2012.

Outside of the officers that are elected by the entire YLD membership, the bylaws provide that the president shall appoint an editor (or co-editors) of the YLD newsletter and a minimum of four directors. In recent years, the president has appointed more than four directors. This year there are 18 members of the Board of Directors. The officers and directors make up the Executive Committee.

YLD representatives are elected annually during the State Bar’s Annual Meeting. A maximum of 10 Representatives from each judicial district (serving 2-year terms), 12 representatives at-large (serving 1-year terms) and two non-resident representatives (serving 2-year terms) are elected during the State Bar Annual Meeting. The elected representatives, members of the Executive Committee, all committee chairpersons, the president or chairperson of each affiliate unit (such as local YLD affiliates) and law student representatives from each of the law schools in Georgia, compose the Executive Council of the YLD.

Finally, the YLD bylaws provide for standing committees and special committees to provide the membership with opportunities in legal education, outreach and community service. There are currently 26 special committees of the YLD in practice specific areas such as litigation, real estate and criminal law and committees that focus on specific causes and issues such as community service projects, high school mock trial, ethics, disaster legal assistance, women in the profession and minorities in the profession. Hopefully many of you are already active with one or more of the YLD’s committees. Standing committees are made up of members of the Executive Council to advance the goals of the YLD in areas of membership, meetings, communications and budget, to name a few.

Now that you are aware of all the different ways you can become involved in the YLD as an elected or appointed member, get involved! Go to www.georgiayld.org to learn more about upcoming events, committee meetings and other YLD news. The YLD also has a page on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. The upcoming YLD meetings are another great way to get involved. Join the YLD at the State Bar Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, the YLD Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. and at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Savannah.

Notification of Elections

YLD Officers – 2011-12 Bar Year

In accordance with Article VII, Section 4 (a) of the YLD Bylaws, the following shall serve as Notification of Elections for YLD Officers for the 2012-13 Bar Year. The positions of President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary shall be filled by election by mail-out ballot.

You must be a YLD Member (as defined in the YLD Bylaws, but not an Honorary or Associate Member) at the time of the election to be eligible to serve as an Officer of the Young Lawyers Division.

There are two ways for a person to be nominated as a candidate for a YLD Officer position:

(a) The Nominating Committee (listed below) shall nominate one or more candidates for each office at its meeting on January 6, 2012. You are invited to submit recommendations to members of the Nominating Committee prior to its meeting.

(b) Nominations may be made in the form of a nominating petition signed by two YLD Members submitted to the Election Committee (listed below) no later than March 2, 2012. The nominating petition must be in the form prescribed in Article VII, Section 5(b) of the YLD Bylaws, which may be found at <http://www.gabar.org/public/pdf/yld/yldbylaws.pdf>.

The Election Commencement Date shall be March 29, 2012. Ballots will be mailed on this day to all YLD Members. Members may return these paper ballots or use the code number on the ballot to vote online. Ballots must be cast by 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2012. Election results will be available on the State Bar of Georgia website.

Nominating Committee	Election Committee
Jonathan B. Pannell (chair)	Jonathan B. Pannell (Chair)
Adam Ferrell	John C. Bush
Andrew L. Gorman	Holly A. Hance
Canon B. Hill	Lindsey A. Lovingood
Nicole C. Leet	Dustin R. Marlowe
William L. Nabors	Larry K. Moore
Jennifer J. Walker	Amanda M. Morris

Members of these committees may be reached at their contact information found in the member directory on the Bar’s website at www.gabar.org.

Fall from Page 1

launched by the State Bar. More information on this project can be found on page 4. The General Session ended with a service project involving a local charity. The beneficiary was Nuçi’s Space, a nonprofit health and music resource center in Athens. Bob Sleppy, executive director, was on-hand to explain the organization’s mission which is to prevent suicide by providing obstacle-free treatment for musicians suffering from depression and other disorders, as well as to assist in the emotional, physical and professional well-being of musicians. The YLD donated books, DVDs and music supplies, as well as a monetary donation. The YLD reconvened that evening for cocktails at the hotel and then loaded onto a trolley to head to dinner at Five & Ten Restaurant in historic Five Points. On Saturday, the group met adorned in their respective team attire for a tailgate that included delicious BBQ, tasty beverages and mingling prior to kickoff. It was a great time in Athens indeed! We would like to thank our Fall Meeting sponsors for their support of the YLD: Capstone Financial Partners; Shiriki Cavitt for YLD Secretary; Forge Consulting; Jack Long for YLD Secretary; Malow Mediation & Arbitration; SEA Limited; and Sterne Agee.



(L-R) Shatorree Bates, Kelly Campanella, Jennifer Blackburn, Andreea Neculae, Jonathan Poole, Darrell Sutton, Meredith Wilson and Josh Bosin at the Fall Meeting social.



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Editor's Block

Jennifer A. Blackburn

As we kick-off the holiday season and begin a period of holiday lunches, cocktail parties and festivities, it is easy to get caught up in the cheer and lose sight of what should be the true focus of the holiday season. Regardless of your religious affiliation, the holidays are a time to be thankful for the fortunate lives we all lead. In comparison to most of the state, county and certainly the world at large, we are all living privileged lives. In addition to our lifestyle, we are also privileged to be members of such a distinguished and admirable profession. Lawyer jokes aside, when in times of trouble most everyone is thankful to know a good lawyer!

During the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, my goal is to utilize these privileges to help the less fortunate both professionally, through pro bono service, and personally, through both community service projects and donations. In regards to pro bono service,

Phyllis Holmen, GLSP executive director, explains in her article included in this edition of the newsletter, taking a pro bono case is easy and their needs are endless. The YLD is a great resource through which to give back to the community through both service and financial resources. The upcoming Signature Fundraiser, benefiting GLSP, provides the perfect opportunity to support an incredible organization and attend a fabulous event. In addition, the YLD Community Service Committee organizes monthly service projects that allow for simultaneous community service and networking – a multi-tasking dream!

The holiday season is most certainly a time to celebrate; however, it also provides a great opportunity to give back to our community. It is my hope that each of you will consider incorporating service into this holiday season by signing up for a community service event, buying a ticket to the Signature Fundraiser - or taking a pro bono case. Happy Holidays!

We are entering the time of year that is often full of exciting travel, plans of spending time with family and friends, the expectation of good food (and plenty of it) and countless holiday parties and social gatherings...that's right, it's that time known as the holiday season. But, as of late, the holiday season also seems to involve countless errands, packed social calendars, increased spending and the intense pressures of imminent deadlines as everyone scurries to finish up those last minute matters, peppered with a nice dose of stress.

Whenever I start to get overwhelmed and bogged down with the demands of the holiday season, I try to take the time to refocus my energies and I am reminded of one of my favorite Shel Silverstein poems "The Giving Tree" that presents the tale of a boy and a tree and what one's life looks like when engaged in selfless giving. It is the focus of selfless giving that reminds me of the opportunities there are for me to give of my time and talents to those in need. Whether it be taking a pro bono matter; preparing food for the homeless; spending time mentoring; or just simply sharing a kind word; these types of things allow me to step outside of myself and my individual circumstances and appreciate the season. It is also through these occasions that I have been most humbled and experienced the true meaning and renewal of the holidays.

I have been amazed to see how the YLD embodies Silverstein's message of giving and the mission of the Bar in "serving the public." So as a reminder to myself, and hopefully encouragement to us all during this busy time, I hope that you will join me in participating in at least one community service activity during the holidays. It is my wish that with this act of serving the needs of others, we can all have the opportunity to see that the holidays are a great time to engage in one of the most fulfilling and rewarding acts of all...giving!



Editor's Block

Shiriki L. Cavitt

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION SIXTH ANNUAL SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER

This year's event, Black Tie & Blackjack, will be held at Capital City Club – Downtown and will feature hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, casino tables, a silent auction and a raffle all to benefit Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP).

GLSP is a nonprofit law firm with a mission to provide access to justice and opportunities out of poverty for low-income Georgians.

General Admission tickets are being offered at \$100 before the event and \$125 at the door. You can join the Host Committee for \$150 and enjoy a private reception one hour before the event starts. Host Committee Members will be publicized in the YLD newsletter as well as the final event program. Public interest and government attorneys will receive a \$25 discount on tickets.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.GLSP.ORG

**BLACK TIE &
BLACK JACK**
BENEFITTING
GEORGIA LEGAL
SERVICES PROGRAM
JANUARY 7, 2012

