



The YLD Review

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

Volume 53, Issue 1 Young Lawyers Division Fall 2011

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The YLD Kicks-Off its 65th Year at the 2011 Annual Meeting

by John R.B. Long



(L-R) YLD President Stephanie Joy Kirijan and YLD Past Presidents Elena Kaplan, Michael Geoffroy, Kendall Butterworth, Tina Shadix Roddenbery, Henry Walker and Joe Dent attend the YLD Awards Dinner at the Annual Meeting.

The 2011 State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting was held June 2-5 on the sunny shores of Myrtle Beach, S.C., at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. Young lawyers from across the state joined other members of the Bar to enjoy a weekend of business meetings, section events, alumni gatherings, networking and other social functions, CLE programming and a little fun on the beach. The YLD kicked off their portion of the meeting on Thursday with a CLE titled "The Power of Voire Dire: Strategies, Tactics and Techniques in Jury Selection." During the panel discussion organized by **Thomas V. Duck III**, Thomas V. Duck III, P.C., in Albany, and moderated by former YLD President and Managing Partner **Josh Bell**, The Law Office of Joshua C. Bell, LLC, in Whigham, YLD members **Christopher R. Abrego**, Webb Zschunke Neary & Dikeman, LLP, and **Evan L. Kaine**, Kaine Law, LLC, provided advice on picking a civil jury while **Alex Susor**, The Law Offices of Alex Susor, P.C., and **Nedal S. Shawkat**, Douglas County District Attorney's Office, debated the proper methods for picking a criminal jury. Bell concluded the CLE with sage advice on "Picking a Jury Below the 'Gnat Line'," followed by a full panel discussion on professionalism during jury selection.

On Friday morning, approximately 100 YLD members, family and friends ushered in the day's activities with the annual YLD/Pro Bono 5k Fun Run held on the beach. That morning, the YLD also hosted a breakfast for its past presidents. The YLD Leadership Academy Program

celebrated another successful year at its luncheon and graduation ceremony where 55 of its members equipped with new skills, a strong desire to get more involved in various YLD committees and new friendships became part of the YLD Leadership Academy alumni ranks. The day of celebration continued when new district representatives were elected that afternoon at the YLD Pool Party & Meet the Candidates Reception, sponsored by Esquire Solutions. Friday's YLD festivities concluded with the annual YLD Dinner, leadership tribute and installation of officers, where 2011-12 YLD President **Stephanie Joy Kirijan** and the other YLD officers were installed, and Immediate Past President **Michael Geoffroy** was honored for his service to the YLD over the past year. Several awards were also presented to YLD members who worked tirelessly throughout the 2010-11 Bar year to ensure the successful operation of the YLD. (Award recipients are listed on page 7.) On Saturday afternoon, the YLD co-sponsored the annual golf tournament at Arcadian Shores, a par-72 championship Myrtle Beach golf course. Congratulations to **Sam Matchett** and Hon. **Diane Bessen** for taking home the first place prize.

The Annual Meeting drew to a close with a reception honoring the Supreme Court justices followed by the Presidential Inaugural Gala. Guests enjoyed dinner, dancing, live music and great food. A great time was had by all while another successful Bar year came to a close.



Leadership Academy Co-Chair Carl Varnedoe and Justice Hugh P. Thompson present Kimberly Easterling with an award of completion for the 2011 Leadership Academy.



From the President

Celebrating 65 Years of Service

by *Stephanie Joy Kirijan*

I am honored to serve as the Young Lawyers Division president. The YLD is in its 65th year and the theme of this anniversary is inclusive leadership, which allows the YLD to better serve the needs of young lawyers throughout the state and make a positive impact on the public perception of the legal profession.

Originally named the Younger Lawyers Section, the YLD was created in 1947 to further the goals of the State Bar, increase interest and participation of young lawyers and foster the principles of duty and service to the public. The YLD continues to get stronger each year. Part of that success comes from the support we receive from the State Bar and its leadership. The other part is derived from our dedicated members who provide service to the Bar and the public through many valuable programs and projects.

The YLD has a history of providing public service in every corner of the state. In 1971, the YLD was the driving force behind the creation of the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP), which provides access to justice and opportunities out of poverty for Georgians with low-incomes. Today, GLSP has 12 offices around the state. To celebrate its 65th anniversary, the YLD will focus its service efforts on GLSP. The program will be the beneficiary of both the YLD Signature Fundraiser and the Family Law Committee's Supreme Cork event. More information on each event can be found in this newsletter.

Two years ago, the YLD developed the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP) which offers summer employment opportunities in public interest, government and non-profit organizations across the state. PIIP provides invaluable legal training and experience for participants while serving the legal needs of the indigent and underprivileged throughout Georgia. The YLD's commitment to serving our state enhances collegiality between lawyers and the reputation of the profession.

The YLD also improves the public perception of lawyers through its demonstrated commitment to advancing inclusive leadership in the legal profession. Seeing diversity and inclusion through the eyes of our members helps us sustain a professional association where all feel welcomed, valued and engaged—allowing us to better respond to the needs of young lawyers throughout the state. Lawyers of diverse backgrounds

continue to have an increased impact on the social, business and legislative fabric of our society. The skills and leadership of these lawyers are helping remove barriers while influencing our profession.

The YLD has been at the forefront of inclusiveness in the State Bar, and I am proud that our leadership reflects our more than 10,000 members. I am serving as the 10th female president of the YLD. The organization elected its first female officer in 1978 when **Gail Lioné Massey** became secretary. Ten years later, **Donna Barwick** became the first female president of the YLD. The organization has also had three African American presidents. **Derek White** was the first African American to serve as YLD president in 2002. This year, the YLD has the most diverse Board of Directors in the organization's history.

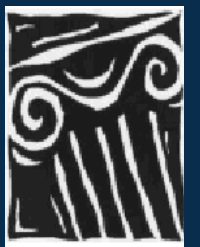
Our ability to weave diversity and inclusion into the fabric of everything we do makes a positive impact on the public perception of the profession. Inclusive leadership helps better prepare us to meet the expectations of our profession, clients and communities. The quality of life in any community depends on the quality of its leadership and this is also true for the legal community. It is incumbent upon us as lawyers to provide leadership, not only in our Bar association, but in our local communities as well.

In order to develop young lawyers' leadership skills, the YLD hosts a Leadership Academy. The statewide program includes young lawyers from every corner of Georgia and helps them learn more about their profession, their communities and their state. The Leadership Academy has also been recognized by the American Bar Association as one of the best programs in the nation for assisting minority lawyers in their career development and increasing their level of involvement in the Bar. The program includes alumni who serve, not only as State Bar leaders, but as a state representative, the commissioner of juvenile justice, a school board member and local judges.

I am proud to be a member of the State Bar and even prouder of the YLD's history of inclusive leadership and service to the profession and the public. I invite you to join us for, and participate in, YLD events throughout the year as we celebrate our 65th anniversary.



The Young Lawyers Division Family Law Committee summons you to the Sixth Annual Supreme Cork!



Please join us for this annual fundraiser on Oct. 13, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at 5 Seasons Brewing Westside, 1000 Marietta Street NW, Atlanta.

The event includes a wine tasting and silent auction to benefit the family law practice of the Georgia Legal Services Program. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door.

Please visit www.glsp.org for more information about the event and to purchase tickets.

Call to Service

AVLF Volunteer Opportunities and Upcoming Wine Tasting

by **Liz Whipple**, director of AVLF's Domestic Violence Project's Safe Families Office

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) is founded on two basic truths. The first is that no matter how many public interest attorneys are employed to help the poor of Atlanta, it will never be enough. The second is that attorneys in private practice have an obligation to ensure equal access to justice. Since 1979, AVLF has provided a conduit through which the private bar is able to provide pivotal legal assistance to those most vulnerable and impoverished members of the Atlanta community. Attorneys from all practice areas contribute through AVLF's programs, and are guided by careful training and support throughout all phases of their cases by AVLF staff attorneys and paralegals.

The following programs highlight the many services AVLF provides to the community. The Domestic Violence Project enables volunteers to represent victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders in order to provide safety and support to families suffering at the hands of an abuser. The Saturday Lawyers Program pairs attorneys with indigent clients in need of assistance in areas as varied as landlord-tenant disputes, securing unpaid wages and consumer debt issues. The Eviction Defense Program puts volunteers in a position to prevent homelessness in landlord-tenant issues. The Guardian Ad Litem Program appoints volunteers in disputed divorce and custody cases to advise the court on the best interest of the children involved. One Child One Lawyer provides volunteers to act in the best interest of the children in juvenile court deprivation proceedings in which a parent is struggling with drug addiction. AVLF also offers a Wills & Advance Directives program and a Probate Law Information Center where attorneys may donate their time.

This year the AVLF Board of Directors decided to form a Junior Board made up of young lawyers that have been active in AVLF programs in the past. The Junior Board is tasked with increasing participation in and support for AVLF and its programs amongst young lawyers. The board is lead by **Brian Smith** and includes the following members: **Enjolique Aytch, Jennifer A. Blackburn, Clark Calhoun, Caitlin Bannigan, Brooke Lewis, Anna Fretwell, Zach McIntyre, Jared Miller, Matt Pearce, Shuman Sohrn, Franklin Trapp, Candy Voticky Wilson, Jane Warring, Jared Welsh and Sarah Zampell**. The Junior Board's first order of business is to recruit supporters for the AVLF's signature fundraiser, the annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction.

The 20th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction will be held on Nov. 3, at King & Spalding's offices in Midtown. Often touted as the best legal event of the year, the Wine Tasting brings together over 700 attorneys from various areas of practice to meet and mingle in support of AVLF's work. Tickets can be purchased at www.avlf.org—we hope to see you there!

YLD Leadership Academy

Be on the lookout for the 2012 Leadership Academy application which will be posted on the Bar's website in October.

Judge's Chambers

Professionalism: More Important Than Ever for Young Lawyers

by **Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein**, Supreme Court of Georgia



The topic of professionalism is one I often choose to explore when addressing younger lawyers because I believe that the road to career satisfaction begins with a firm grounding in principles of professionalism. I am aware that, in many ways, these are challenging times for younger lawyers. The economic downturn has wrought changes and upheaval in the legal profession and has impacted the opportunities available to those beginning their legal careers. Law firm jobs have become less plentiful, and younger lawyers may choose to strike out on their own earlier in their careers or pursue paths different from those they envisioned. For a younger lawyer attempting to navigate career choices and define his or her career goals in the current environment, professionalism, in my view, is more important than ever.

I have no doubt that many younger lawyers in this state chose to pursue a career in law in the belief that the legal profession involves a higher calling. Indeed, law, medicine and theology traditionally have been considered the world's three true professions. Medicine preserves the body, theology preserves the spirit and law preserves civilization. But what does it mean to become a member of the legal profession, and what obligations does such membership entail?

Former Harvard Law School Dean and legal scholar **Roscoe Pound** defined a profession as "a group . . . pursuing a learned art as a common calling in the spirit of public service—no less a public service because it may incidentally be a means of livelihood." The ABA Commission on Professionalism specifically defined the legal profession as "[a]n occupation whose members have special privileges, such as exclusive licensing, that are justified" by certain assumptions, namely:

1. That its practice requires substantial intellectual training and the use of complex judgments;
2. That since clients cannot adequately evaluate the quality of the service, they must trust those they consult;
3. That the client's trust presupposes that the practitioner's self-interest is overbalanced by devotion to serving both the client's interest and the public good; and
4. That the occupation is self-regulating—that is, organized in such a way as to assure the public and the courts that its members are competent, do not violate their client's trust, and transcend their own self-interest.

Professionalism is difficult to define, but I believe that it encompasses character, judgment and conduct sufficient to justify the assumptions above. The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism sought to distill the meaning of professionalism in its lawyer's creed, which states:

To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.

To the courts, and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.

To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.

To the public and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all, and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients.

As younger lawyers confront decisions about the direction of their careers, I would urge reflection on the higher callings that drew them to the practice of law, including developing a body of expert knowledge, serving the public interest, assisting others and facilitating the search for truth. If you make choices that will best enable you to develop as a professional and fulfill the ideals of professionalism, your career will be rewarding. As Chief Justice **Harold Clarke** succinctly put it, professionalism "is the kind of standard which leads to satisfaction for a job well done or a life well spent."

Affiliate YLD Updates

Albany YLD

by *William T. Davis*

The Albany YLD started the summer off with a well-attended planning meeting at Loco's Grill & Pub in June. Hoping to increase its presence in the region, members plan to host more social and community service activities in Albany and Dougherty County for young lawyers.

Jim Edge and **Eric Hooper** helped arrange the first Albany YLD After Hours event held on Aug. 16, where YLD members had the chance to mingle with local judges while enjoying refreshments and a great meeting space generously provided by Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers. At the event, **Lisa Fox** and **Sarah Morris** arranged for members to donate school supplies to low-income students in Dougherty County. Future After Hours events and meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of every other month starting at 6:30 p.m. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming After Hours event locations.

If you are interested in participating in Albany YLD activities, please contact President **Will Davis** at wdavis@glsp.org for further information. Currently, the Albany YLD hosts members from Decatur, Dougherty, Terrell and Thomas counties, and attorneys from across Southwest Georgia are encouraged to participate.



Albany Area YLD members collect school supplies for the local Boys and Girls Club at an After Hours event on Aug. 16. (L-R) Shaleia Threadcraft, Casey Bowen, Cody O'Brien, Richard McLawhorn, Jim Edge, Lauren Brock, Randall Ivey, Chris Foreman, Will Davis and Eric Hooper.

Savannah YLD

by *Blake Greco*

The Savannah Young Lawyers Division had a successful 2010-11 Bar year, which continued into the summer months. On June 24, the Savannah YLD held its annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Chatham County's Guardian Ad Litem Program, a program which provides legal services to children and adults who need counsel in legal proceedings. This year's tournament was held at the Club at Savannah Harbor, the home of the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour, Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament. Thanks to all who participated in the tournament, including the organizers, the sponsors and the players. The tournament was very successful and again set a record for funds raised. The Savannah YLD plans to donate the proceeds raised in this year's tournament at a ceremony presided over by Superior Court Judge **Penny Haas Freesemann**. The ceremony will be held in her courtroom at the Chatham County Courthouse, where the board of the Savannah YLD will present a check in the amount of \$6,100 on behalf of the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar.

In addition to setting a new record in funds raised by the golf tournament, the Savannah YLD was also named "Affiliate of the Year" by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia at the State Bar Annual Meeting. The Savannah YLD held its summer happy hour at Congress Street Social Club on Aug. 4. The event was attended by young lawyers and summer associates from Savannah. In addition to networking, the Savannah YLD officers were installed for the upcoming Bar year. The officers for this year are as follows: **Jacob Masee**, president; **Quentin**



Attending the Savannah YLD Golf Tournament to benefit Chatham County's Guardian Ad Litem Program are (L-R) Jacob Masee, Patrick Connell, Blake Greco, Quentin Marlin, Jon Pannell and Jennifer Campbell.

Marlin, president-elect; **Nick Bruce**, treasurer; **Blake Greco**, secretary; **Jennifer Campbell**, committees coordinator; **Zach Thomas** and **Colby Longley**, social co-chairs; **Amanda Love**, philanthropy chair; **Lindsey Lovingood**, membership chair; and **Heather Hammonds**, logistics coordinator. All officers are excited about the successful year ahead.

The annual fall kick-off party will take place in September, so please look out for additional information in the near future. For more information on how to get involved with the Savannah YLD, contact Lindsey Lovingood at lindsey@tmlawpc.com or Zach Thomas at zhthomas@aol.com.

Macon YLD

by *Canon B. Hill*

The Macon YLD kept cool this summer by hosting its annual Summer Law Clerk Social in July. This event provided law school students clerking in Macon and the surrounding area with an opportunity to get to know the Macon legal community. The event was sponsored by Lynn Wood of SunTrust Bank. At the July social, the 2011-12 Macon YLD officers were introduced. The officers are as follows: **Canon Hill**, president; **David McCain**, vice-president; **Will Horkan**, treasurer; **Amanda Smith**, secretary; and **Ivy Cadle**, immediate past president. Officers are busy planning for the Macon YLD's upcoming fall events. The July social also provided the Macon YLD with the opportunity to honor **Sarah White** for her hard work and dedication to the Macon YLD. She has been instrumental in reorganizing and reenergizing the Macon YLD and remains one of its most active and dedicated members.



The Macon YLD officers thank Sarah White for her service to the Macon YLD. (L-R) Will Horkan, Canon Hill, Sarah White, Ivy Cadle, Amanda Smith and David McCain.

Committee Updates

Criminal Law

by *Kathryn Boortz & Hemanth Digumarthi*

On June 15, the Criminal Law Committee welcomed Hon. **Wesley B. Taylor**, State Court of Fulton County, for an informal meet and greet. The meeting, held over dinner at Manuel's Tavern, was sponsored by the Law Offices of Alex Susor, P.C. Taylor enlightened members by sharing valuable insights from a judicial perspective. Later in the summer, the committee hosted a happy hour for young prosecutors at the Prosecuting Attorney's Council Annual Summer Conference in Jekyll Island. Elizabeth Books, LLC, publisher of *The Code: A Reference Guide to Georgia Criminal and Traffic Law*, sponsored the Jekyll Island happy hour. The Code's author, **Parag Shah**, is a member of the Criminal Law Committee.

The fall kick-off meeting on Aug. 17, was a joint CLE and happy hour with the Business Law Committee at Manuel's Tavern. **Michael Shapiro**, former executive director of the Georgia Indigent Defense Council, presented on the topic: "Effective Use of Power Point Presentations." During the meeting, the committee collected school supplies to be donated to the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Kids in Need Project.

To get involved with the Criminal Law Committee, or for more information, please email **Kathryn Boortz** at kathryn@cs-lawyers.com or **Hemanth Digumarthi** at shdigumarthi@gmail.com.

Litigation Committee

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

The Litigation Committee is looking forward to another productive year of events for 2011-12. Upcoming events are:

- Sept. 28: planning meeting and lunch at the State Bar
- Sept. 29: fall happy hour at RiRa in Midtown
- Oct. 26: planning meeting and lunch at the State Bar
- Dec. 6: Annual Holiday Court Clerk's Lunch at Maggiano's Buckhead

All YLD members are invited to participate. Please let us know if you are interested in helping plan events or have ideas about ways to reach out to young lawyers. If you are not on the Litigation Committee email list and would like to be, please contact **Lara P. Percifield** at lpercifield@m-mlegal.com or **John D. Hadden** at jhadden@haddenfirm.com.

National Moot Court

by *Sarah Madden*

The YLD will host the Region V National Moot Court Competition in Atlanta, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18-19. Students from law schools throughout the southeast will compete with the hopes of making it to the national competition. To make this event a success, the National Moot Court Committee needs at least 70 volunteers to serve as judges for each of the rounds of competition. You do not need to be a litigator or have trial experience to volunteer; just an attorney who is willing to donate a few hours of their time on one of the days of the competition listed above.

If you are interested in volunteering as a judge, please email **Jessica Nix** at nationalmootcourtregionv@gmail.com.

Public Interest Internship Program

by *Colin Kelly*

In 2009, the YLD launched the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP), a new program to provide law school students and unemployed Georgia attorneys with the opportunity to work for public interest, government and non-profit organizations across the state of Georgia. PIIP was intended to address the paradox of spiking legal service needs in the face of steep declines in employment opportunities for young lawyers across the state. The inaugural PIIP class of 2010 served more than 500 people across the state and helped save approximately \$750,000 in legal fees and related costs.

This summer PIIP welcomed seven enthusiastic recipients who were paired with a range of government and non-profit organizations in Augusta, Atlanta and Savannah. As in years past, Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) was the top placement partner for PIIP in 2011. No organization has a better sense statewide of the daily legal issues facing our most needy citizens than GLSP. As funding for legal services continues to decline, this organization will continue to be PIIP's most strategic partner for future placements.

Please join me in congratulating this year's PIIP recipient class for all of the great work that they have done for public interest, government and non-profit organizations across Georgia:

- **Amanda Wick** (attorney) worked in the assistant U.S. Attorney's Office, Criminal Division.
- **Nicole Bergeron** (attorney) worked in GLSP's Savannah office.
- **Nazish Ahmed** (2L at St. Thomas University) worked in GLSP's Savannah office.
- **Robert Chan** (2L at Emory) worked at the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta.
- **Shannon Kyle** (2L at Emory) worked in the public defender's office in DeKalb County.
- **Janene Browder** (2L at Mercer) worked for the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, Appellate Division.
- **Shawn M. Merzlak** (1L at John Marshall) worked in the district attorney's office in the Augusta Judicial Circuit.

If you would like to partner with the YLD for future PIIP programs, please contact co-chairs **Colin Kelly** at colin.kelly@alston.com or **Sarah Cipperly** at scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org.

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



YLD 6th
Annual
Signature
Fundraiser

Casino Night and Silent Auction

Jan. 7, 2012

Loews Hotel Atlanta

1065 Peachtree Street NE

YLD Officers



President: Stephanie Joy Kirijan is the 65th president of the YLD. She is a senior media relations strategist at Southern Company and previously worked as a senior staff attorney for Georgia Power. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and earned her J.D. degree from the Georgia State

University College of Law. Kirijan was a founding member of the DeKalb County Bar Association YLD. She is a graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy and LEAD Atlanta, an Outstanding Atlanta honoree and a member of the Women in Leadership Steering Committee of the Commerce Club.



President-Elect: Jonathan B. Pannell (Jon) is a partner with the law firm Gray & Pannell 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. He is married to Kimberly and is a proud father to James and Paul.



Treasurer: Darrell Sutton practices law in Marietta, where he represents employers, insurers, self-insured companies and third-party administrators in Georgia workers' compensation claims. A native Georgian, Darrell received his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law in Macon

and his B.S. from Berry College in Rome. A graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy, he is also a past-president of the Cobb County Bar Association YLD.



Secretary: Sharri Edenfield practices at the firm of Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C., in Statesboro. She maintains a general practice, focused on litigating business, personal injury and constitutional law. She received her J.D. from Mercer University's School of Law and her B.A. from the

University of Georgia. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Future Business Leaders of America Foundation.



Immediate Past President: Michael Geoffroy is a solo practitioner for the Geoffroy Firm in Covington. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and received his law degree from the University of Georgia Law School. Geoffroy is a member of the Covington Zoning Commission

and, in his spare time, coaches his son's youth soccer team. He is married to Tara and the proud father of Mac and Hudson.



The YLD Review Co-Editor: Jennifer A. Blackburn is an associate at Troutman Sanders LLP. Her practice focuses on land use and zoning, regulatory compliance and general litigation. She received her J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and her B.A. from Georgia State University.

She is a member of the AVL Junior Board, GAWL and the Junior League of Atlanta. She resides with her two dogs Sadie & Sadler.



The YLD Review Co-Editor: Shiriki L. Cavitt currently serves as counsel for Oldcastle, Inc., the largest manufacturer of building products in North America, where her primary focus is on labor and employment issues. She earned her B.A. from Dartmouth College and her J.D. from Vanderbilt

University School of Law. Cavitt is co-chair of the Community Service Committee of GABWA and member of GAWL's Membership Committee.

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2010-12

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2011-13

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2010-12

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2011-13

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2010-12

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2011-13

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2011-12

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2011-12

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Knox Withers, Atlanta
Kevin Woolf, Atlanta
Rachael Zichella, Atlanta

YLD Meetings

Fall Meeting – Nov. 11-13, 2011, Athens – Foundry Park Inn

Midyear Meeting – Jan. 5-7, 2012, Atlanta – Loews Hotel

Signature Fundraiser – Jan. 7

Spring Meeting – May 11-14, 2012, Washington, D.C. – Sofitel

Supreme Court Swearing In – May 14

Annual Meeting – May 31- June 3, 2012, Savannah –

Westin Harbor Resort & Spa.

YLD 65th Anniversary Celebration – June 1

Past President's Pointers

Bar Wikipedia: The Online Research Engine for Associates Uninterested in Finding Primary Sources

by *William D. Barwick*



[Editors' Note: We present this feature of the YLD Newsletter to assist younger lawyers in finding answers to those career questions that most often arise during the first few years of practice. This should not be considered legal advice.]

Question: My firm rarely gives substantive feedback during associate reviews. How do I know I'm advancing and still on partnership track?

Answer: By "substantive feedback," I'm guessing the partners aren't as gushing with praise as Ms. Finster, your second grade teacher, after you had aced a spelling quiz. Actually, you may have already gotten a fair amount of "substance," albeit in code. For example, have the words "not irreversible" been used in a review? How about, "Everyone here really likes you a lot?" Or, "You've come a long way!"

Things, of course, can get more ominous. Your review is attended by a registered nurse. Or your review is scheduled to be given to you by the voice of the phone mail lady. Worse yet, while in the breakroom, you see your photo on a milk carton.

People on partnership track generally know it. The partners that promote them spill the beans in order to squeeze out every last oar stroke from them. If you have to ask, well, it's like buying a yacht.

Question: I'm a fifth year male associate at a large firm with an anti-nepotism policy. I am currently (and secretly) dating a third year female associate on a different practice group team. We are thinking about marriage and wonder what we should do. We both want to stay here.

Answer: Don't sweat it. Anti-nepotism rules were created to prevent idiot sons from inflicting their lack of talent on an otherwise profitable firm. If you are both valuable assets of the firm, it will find a way to keep you. The chances of any two particular associates making partner at a big firm are so infinitesimally small that the problem will resolve itself anyway.

Very few people know that the founding partners of one of Atlanta's most elite law firms were actually husband and wife back in the late 19th Century. To avoid the newly established firm anti-nepotism rule, the female gunner cut her hair and began sporting a bow tie, starting an unfortunate tradition for women attorneys that lasted through the early 1980s. Wikipedia has not verified this, of course, but you can always trust an online reference source.

My candid advice to you love birds is to get married. Just not to each other. That has reportedly been the formula for great law firm romances.

Question: My firm supposedly supports pro bono work by associates, but do they really care? I want to help those less fortunate, but my firm won't give me credit for these hours. How am I supposed to make my hours?

Answer: Oh, good. A "bleeding heart" question. Sigh.

Although your question is compound, there is a very simple answer. Your firm cares about billable, revenue producing hours that contribute to the bottom line. While the firm may strongly encourage you to do pro bono work, these hours are to be done on your own time and in addition to your billable hours. Your firm considers your pro bono commitment to be a hobby, and even if you should take home some Formica plaque from a bar meeting, it will resonate with the compensation committee as though you had won first prize in a pumpkin growing contest.

With regards to your clients, remember that the poor intuitively understand the value of free legal advice. It's the lesson of the widow's mite, if you want their attention, and their acceptance of your advice, charge them something, even if it's the change in their pockets.

Pro bono work is a moral obligation of our profession. It is like paying taxes or serving on a jury. You don't have to enjoy it or get praised for it. Just do it.

Question: What sort of ESI platforms does the firm support, and what is the process used for developing tagging protocols?

Answer: Huh? Did you just mistake me for the "Dungeons & Dragons" IT guy sitting in his office with the lights off? Oh, wait. I'll get back to you on this right after Dragon Con is over.

Wikipedia is designed to answer questions of the soul, and not of the machine. Plus, you might as well be speaking in Portuguese.

As long as you're here, though, can you help me figure out how to get around this video poker blocker on my browser . . . ?

[Editors' Second Note: We were going to solicit more questions for the next edition, but we may need to stop here. In our next issue, former YLD President **S. David Smith** will tell readers how to field dress road kill while still driving. "Heck, it's easier and safer than texting!"]

2010-11 YLD Awards

The following awards were presented during the YLD Dinner at the Annual Meeting of the State Bar on Friday, June 3.

- Distinguished Judicial Service Award – Hon. **Anne E. Barnes**
- Ross Adams Award – **Tina Shadix Roddenbery**
- YLD Ethics and Professionalism Award – **Tyronia M. Smith**
- Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Profession – **Shatorree Bates, Monica Dean, Orlando Pearson**
- Award of Achievement for Outstanding Service to the Bar – **Jennifer A. Blackburn, Jennifer Campbell, Jack Long, Sarah Madden**
- Award of Outstanding Service to the Public – **Marquetta Bryan, Shiriki Cavitt, Tamera Woodard, Rachael Zichella**
- Award of Outstanding Service to the YLD – **Josh Bosin**
- Joe Dent Hospitality Award – **Tommy Duck**
- Dedication to the YLD Award – **Doug Ashworth, Avarita Hanson, Derrick Stanley**
- Outstanding YLD Affiliate – Savannah Young Lawyers Division

Congratulations!

The Georgia YLD recently received Awards of Achievement from the ABA YLD during its Annual Meeting.

- Community Service Projects Committee, chaired by **Ana Maria Martinez** and **Meredith Wilson**, Department of Family and Children Services programming – First Place, Service to the Public
- Solo/Small Firm Committee, chaired by **Shatorree Bates**, Education Program – Second Place, Service to the Bar
- Minorities in the Profession Committee, chaired by **Marquetta Bryan** and **Adriana Yarbrough**, Law Student Mentoring Program – Second Place, Minority Programming
- Newsletter – Certificate of Performance
- Comprehensive – Certificate of Performance

Congratulations to **Michael Geoffroy** for a successful year as president of the YLD!



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Editor's Block

Jennifer A. Blackburn

As we celebrate the YLD's 65th anniversary, I fondly reflect on my past involvement. In comparison to 65 years of service, my mere seven years seems imperceptible. However, the relationships, opportunities and service the YLD has provided me over the years is without measure. I distinctly remember attending my first YLD function, a Community Service Committee meeting, with my dear friend, former colleague and newsletter co-editor, **Shiriki Cavitt**. Both being new associates at Troutman Sanders, we were ready to get involved. As the old adage warns, "be careful what you wish for," because involved we became. From that first committee meeting on, it has been a whirlwind of community service projects, fundraisers, happy hours, YLD meetings and much more. In considering the many benefits of YLD involvement, three areas stand out in my mind: the relationships, opportunities and service.

The YLD brings together a dynamic group of young lawyers from across the state with the similar desire to be involved and give back to the legal community and affords members 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 colleagues from the past and strengthened existing friendships.

The various opportunities the YLD provides are not to be overlooked. We are extremely lucky to have an incredibly supportive judiciary. Members of both the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court routinely participate in our events as both speakers and attendees. In addition, the leadership of the State Bar is also a strong supporter of the YLD, and its members often participate in many of our events. Such events provide a great opportunity to network with elected officials, members of the Bar and fellow young lawyers from across the state.

Finally, the YLD takes its designation as the service arm of the Bar very seriously. In addition to the Community Service Committee that provides regular service opportunities, many other YLD committees incorporate service projects into their calendar of events. Furthermore, the YLD hosts a Signature Fundraiser each year that raises substantial funds for various designated nonprofit organizations.

As my mentor and friend, Court of Appeals of Georgia Presiding Judge **Anne Barnes**, so pointedly proposes: "Half of life is showing up. Showing up, even if you're late, even if you're unprepared, even if you're not wearing the right shoes, is almost always better than not showing up at all." As we kick-off the YLD's 65th anniversary, I urge you to show up to a YLD event. We are all busy with hours to bill and commitments to keep; however, if you take the time to show up you will benefit from the relationships, opportunities and service the YLD has to offer.

As one celebrates a milestone year for any organization, it is easy to become nostalgic and look back over the years with amazement, wonder and sometimes disbelief at just how quickly time has passed and how much has been accomplished in what seems to be a fleeting amount of time. As we embark upon the 65th year of the Young Lawyers Division, it is no different. Throughout the years, the YLD has championed many great feats from celebrating and embracing the true meaning of diversity by encouraging young lawyers, regardless of their gender, geographic location, race, religion, cultural background, sexual orientation or positioning on either side of the political aisle, to come together to work hard and do good for their colleagues, the legal profession and the community as a whole.

The YLD has also served as the service arm of the Bar which throughout these 65 years has provided countless hours of pro bono legal advice to under-served individuals who would not otherwise have had access to justice; served countless meals to homeless individuals in shelters; donated time, money and talents to programs like "Great Debaters" that works to teach conflict resolution skills through debate to incarcerated youth; and raised money for many worthy causes through its annual Signature Fundraiser event. YLD members have also spent hundreds of hours with foster children as mentors through community service programs like the annual Hawks Night and Zoo Day, organized countless CLE programs that have trained young lawyers in many facets of the law, and served as the brainchild for such powerful programs as the Georgia Legal Services Program that provides free legal services to low-income people in civil matters in the 154 Georgia counties outside the five-county metro Atlanta area. Additionally, in these 65 years, the YLD has received many accolades and awards such as ABA Achievement Awards and awards for a nationally acclaimed newsletter.

So, as I sit back and write my first article as the newsletter co-editor, I am in awe of all that the YLD members have achieved in these 65 years. And though taking a trip down YLD's memory lane is a wonderful thing, I am more inspired by where I see the organization, and more importantly its members, going in the future. The YLD, through its committees and activities, is a wonderful platform to enhance your professional skills while having the opportunity to develop invaluable business contacts. You can also do good for the community which enhances the reputations of attorneys and the profession as a whole, all while forming friendships and relationships that will last long after you have aged out of the YLD. As you can see, the YLD and its members are indeed the epitome of the State Bar's motto of "Lawyers Serving the Public and the Justice System." I truly look forward to celebrating the YLD's 65th anniversary, by continuing the grand tradition of the YLD, through active participation. Won't you join me?



Editor's Block

Shiriki L. Cavitt