



The YLD Review

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

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YLD Signature Fundraiser Raises More Than \$45,000 for GLSP

by Shiriki L. Cavitt

On Saturday, March 5, the YLD celebrated in grand style its Fifth Annual Signature Fundraiser, "Black Tie and Blackjack," at the Hotel Palomar in Atlanta. Over 200 YLD members and friends of the YLD came dressed

in their best formal gowns, frocks and tuxedos to raise money for the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP). Attendees enjoyed a festive evening full of great food, dancing, a full bar, a photo booth, silent auction and casino style games.



Photo by Tommy Lockhart

YLD President Michael Geoffroy and Signature Fundraiser Committee members (L-R) Rachel Zichella, Marquetta Bryan, Shiriki Cavitt and Tamera Woodard present Sharri Edenfield the Signature Service Award.

The purpose of the Signature Fundraiser is to raise funds to support a non-profit selected by the YLD's board of directors. This year, the fundraiser raised more than \$45,000 for GLSP. The mission of GLSP is to provide access to justice and opportunities to overcome poverty for Georgians with a low income. GLSP was the brainchild of members of the YLD and since its inception in the early 70s, GLSP has grown to serve more than 10,000 residents in nearly 154 Georgia counties. Being the beneficiary of this year's fundraiser was especially significant for GLSP as it marked its 40th anniversary of tireless dedication to serving citizens in the most under served counties – those outside of the metropolitan Atlanta area – with needs that would otherwise not be addressed effectively.

See Signature Fundraiser on Page 3

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Affiliate Outreach Conference Brings Georgia's Young Bar Leaders

by Jennifer Campbell

On March 5, 16 YLD affiliate leaders from across the state met at the Bar Center for the inaugural Affiliate Outreach Conference. The goals of the conference were to promote unity among all of the YLD affiliates throughout the state as well as to share ideas on programming and membership. **Mike Terry**, president of the Atlanta Bar Association, was the guest speaker at the event. Terry shared stories about the successes and failures of procuring and maintaining memberships and sponsorships and personal insight into battling the demands between work and involvement in voluntary bar organizations. After the conference, the attendees engaged in a roundtable discussion about the challenges their organizations have faced as well as successful ventures. Additionally, attendees were informed of ways the YLD can provide assistance in communications to members and encourage participation.



(L-R) Stephanie Burton, Eastman YLD; Amelia Helmick, Columbus YLD; Amy Walters, Columbus YLD; Sarah Cipperly, Cobb County YLD; Graham McDonald, Cobb County YLD; Jennifer Campbell, Savannah YLD; Ivy Cadle, Macon YLD; Leslie Cadle, Macon YLD; Michael Geoffroy, YLD President; Stephanie Kirijan, YLD President Elect; Khurram Baig, South Asian Bar Association of Georgia; Jacob Massee, Savannah YLD; Nicole Iannarone, Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers; Charles Efstration III, Gwinnett County YLD; and Colby Longley, Savannah YLD.

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From the President

Taking Control of Your Legal Career or How Many 80s Movie References Can Be Crammed into One Article

by Michael Geoffroy

The early years of a lawyer's career are not unlike an 80s movie: angst-filled, overwrought, poorly acted at times, overdramatic, and, sometimes boring. Yet in retrospect, we did not realize as young lawyers how innocent, charming and lovable we were. Remember in your first job (and maybe you are still there) you were just like Patrick Dempsey mowing the lawn. Recall examining your first bill, consulting with your first client, and making that first deadline. Law school made those things seem so far away, almost from another world, like the "Neverending Story." But as you progress through your career, clients, bills, partners, judges and hearings become all too real and all too ordinary. Almost all of us work harder than Matthew Modine in "Vision Quest." (I know no one really saw that, but he trains hard as high school wrestler ... yes, that Matthew Modine ... somehow it works.)

I have been practicing law for 10 years this November, and I see my time as a "young lawyer" coming to an end soon, sort of like Crash in "Bull Durham." I now have my own firm and most of my law school classmates have been promoted to and settled in as senior associates, partners or in-house counsel. I remember wondering how that happens, how one goes from a young Charlie Sheen as Bud Fox to grow up and become ... scratch that, how one matures, basically. Specifically, how do you know you are ready to stand on your own two feet as an attorney? Surprisingly, I think it happens in a single moment, like when George McFly punches Biff in "Back to the Future." For me, the moment did not come as a result of my answering a question about the classic UCC battle of forms or referencing an obscure case that proved my readiness and

skill as a lawyer. Mine was what I like to call the "lesser idiot moment." I observed attorneys in prominent positions at work in their practice. I watched them for a while and came away utterly unimpressed. And I said to myself, "Self, if those guys can do it, so can you," just like Michael Keaton in "Mr. Mom." The point is not that the attorneys were imbeciles, but that they possessed no great secret to practicing law that I did not have. As professionals, they were my peers, nothing greater or lesser. They were the Alpha Betas and I was Lambda Lambda Lambda in a "Revenge of the Nerds" way.

Our lesson does not end with self-realization; like "Ishtar," it just keeps going. Just as important as personal growth is the decision each one of us makes to either be or not be committed to professionalism. Darth Vader or Obi-Wan, Sensei or Mr. Miyagi, Judge Elihu Smails or Al Czervik. Things like taking a pro bono case from the Georgia Legal Services Program, judging a high school mock trial or mentoring will not make you Gordon Gekko rich, but they are an important part of what keeps us from being a Billy Zabka bad guy (who was nominated for an Academy Award; look it up). Like the 80s, our journey at the State Bar is about learning, not in the studious "Real Genius" way, more in the "Breakfast Club" life's lessons way. You have to keep working to find out when you are ready for that next step in advancing your career so that it mirrors Toms Hanks more than Joe Piscopo. During that time, it is important to constantly evaluate who your peers are and what their practice is, as Rocky followed Apollo Creed, and, most importantly, being dedicated to becoming and being a true professional, like ... Howard the Duck (?).

Motion to Amend the YLD Bylaws

The Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia (the YLD) hereby presents this motion to the president of the YLD to amend the bylaws of the YLD. The proposed amendment adds the following article:

ARTICLE XIV MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Electronic Communications

Whenever any of these bylaws require publication, notice, request, mailings, or other forms of communication to members, such publication, notice, request, or mailing may be delivered electronically; provided, however, where such notice, request, or mailing is required to be delivered to an individual, and the YLD has knowledge that such individual does not have access to such electronic delivery, then such delivery shall be as provided in the rule.

The committee requests that this motion be published in the spring issue of the YLD Newsletter and that a vote on the proposed amendment be taken at the Annual Meeting of the members of the YLD, scheduled for June 3, 2011, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., or the first meeting thereafter at which a quorum is present. Any questions, comments or requests for a copy of the proposed amendment should be addressed to Stephanie Kirijan at skirijan@southernco.com.

2011 PIIP Program

Calling all public interest non-profit organizations and government agencies!

The YLD Public Interest Internship Program will soon be taking applications for summer 2011 internships.

We want to partner with organizations from across the state and need your help. If you would like to partner with the YLD and are interested in having a PIIP intern (at no direct cost) at your non-profit or government organization (state, county and local) please e-mail Colin Kelly (ckelly2001@bellsouth.net) or Shiriki Cavitt (shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlelaw.com) for further information.

Words of Wisdom for Young Lawyers

by *Hal Daniel*

When my friend and former law partner, Hon. **Sara Doyle**, delivered the commencement address to graduates of the Atlanta Girls’ School last spring, she gave them some good practical advice as they start a new phase of their lives. She told them what she wished someone had told her when she started college. Doyle’s advice to high school seniors made me think about what I wish someone had told me when I was a young lawyer. I offer these suggestions to young lawyers:

1. Choose your own mentor. Official appointed mentors may be very helpful, but they may not be. When I graduated from law school, I accepted a job with a small law firm because it had a partner who was considered one of the best trial lawyers in Atlanta. After I started work, this lawyer did not give me much work. I wanted to work with him, but he was always busy and hard to approach. Then one day at lunch, he mentioned that he liked to hike on the Appalachian Trail on weekends. I volunteered that I was an Eagle Scout and liked to hike and camp and asked him to let me go on one of his hikes. That led to a weekend hike in North Carolina which will always be called the “snow hike.” We got caught in an unexpected blizzard and had a much tougher hike than we had anticipated. But we bonded on that weekend hiking trip, and soon thereafter he started giving me work. He became my mentor, and I owe much of what I have accomplished in life to him, especially because 10 years later, I married his daughter. So, I would suggest that you identify the lawyer who is the kind of lawyer you

want to be and who is doing the type of work you want to do, and find a way to get on his or her radar screen.

- 2. Make yourself invaluable.** After you get an opportunity to work with your chosen mentor, make yourself invaluable. I cannot think of any partner in any law firm who has become a partner without help from someone higher up the ladder. The reason that senior lawyers promote younger lawyers is that they do not want to lose them.
- 3. Get out of the office.** The practice of law is very demanding, if it is done right. Therefore, you need to round things out and find some balance. One of the best ways to do this is to do some substantive work in a State Bar organization. If you sign up for a State Bar committee, for example, you will have an opportunity to meet and work with lawyers from other practices. You can make lifetime friends and you can help improve the profession. Work with the State Bar adds an extra dimension to the practice of law. And, you can have some fun doing it.
- 4. Dress like a lawyer.** If you want to be taken seriously as a young lawyer, look like a lawyer. A senior lawyer is not going to take you to a TRO hearing or an emergency client meeting if you are casually dressed. The express train will not wait for you to go home and change.
- 5. Live as close to the office as you can.** There is a reason that shopkeepers used to live above the store. You will spend a lot of time at your office. Any time spent commuting to your office comes off your free time ledger.

To quote Forrest Gump, “that’s all I have to say about that.” These suggestions have stood the test of time for me and I hope that they will be helpful to you.

Signature Fundraiser from Page 1

Black Tie & Blackjack began with a VIP reception for the host committee members, who were entered into a raffle to win several gift certificates from Taco Mac. After the VIP reception, guests were invited to have food and drink while trying their luck at blackjack, slot machines, roulette, craps and poker. Among the crowd were several distinguished guests including YLD past presidents **Amy Howell, Elena Kaplan, Josh Bell, Damon Elmore, Kendall Butterworth, Donna Barwick, Bill Barwick, Henry Walker** and **Joseph Dent**.

The focal point of the evening was the silent auction, which showcased more than 100 items including guitars autographed by Justin Bieber, Carrie Underwood, Jay-Z and Bono, custom-made jewelry, gift certificates to area spas and restaurants and hotel stays to destinations such as Lake Oconee and Amelia Island. **Phyllis Holmen**, executive director for GLSP, was the lucky grand prize raffle winner of two round-trip tickets on AirTran Airways. Other raffle winners took home the following prizes: a two-night stay at Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa and a \$100 gift card to Deckard’s American Tavern.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Signature Service Award to honor an individual attorney who embodies the mission, spirit and legacy of the YLD. The Signature Service Award honoree was **Sharri Edenfield**.

The evening came to a close with attendees dancing to the sounds of DJ **Jeff Gilman**, taking photos in the photo booth provided by Red Eye Photo Booth and posing for celebratory pictures being taken by Tommy Lockhart Studios (<http://770studio.smugmug.com/Events/YLD-Black-Tie-and-Blackjack/>).

The co-chairs **Marquetta Bryan, Shiriki Cavitt, Tamera Woodard** and **Rachael Zichella** would like to thank each and every individual who participated in making this year’s Signature Fundraiser a smashing success!

Affiliate from Page 1

Columbus YLD co-presidents **Amy Helmick** and **Amy Walters** were among the leaders attending the conference. Helmick and Walters have been working hard to re-energize the Columbus YLD program over the past year. Helmick stated: “We enjoyed meeting executives from other YLD chapters across the state. It was especially helpful to get ideas concerning fundraising, membership drives and potential community service ideas from other YLD leaders.”

At the conclusion of the conference, YLD President **Michael Geoffroy** announced that the YLD would award one YLD affiliate a grant of \$500 in recognition of a project it completed during the 2010-2011 State Bar year for service to its membership and/or community. Applications are due by May 1, with the winner to be announced at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C., June 2-5.

The conference will be an annual event and the YLD asks that each affiliate keep their leadership contact information updated with the YLD so that communications and future announcements can be shared. The YLD is committed to reaching out to all of the young attorneys throughout the state. By bringing together affiliate leaders from across the state, the conference ensures that the YLD can reach its goal. If you were unable to attend the conference and/or would like more information, please e-mail **Jennifer Campbell** at jcampbell@tmlawpc.com.

The YLD Wants You for Executive Council

Interested in serving as a representative on the YLD Executive Council? Now is the time to throw your hat in the ring! Elections for representatives will occur at the YLD Annual Meeting, which will be held at Kingston Shores in Myrtle Beach, S.C., from June 2-5.

The Executive Council is composed of 10 representatives from each of Georgia’s Federal Judicial Districts (Northern, Middle and Southern) and two representatives from outside Georgia. Representatives participate in the YLD’s five annual membership meetings, provide input and perspective with respect to YLD activities and serve on various YLD committees.

If you are interested in standing for election to the YLD Executive Council, please send a biography or resume to **Mary McAfee**, YLD director, at marym@gabar.org or fax it to 404-287-4990 by May 15. For more information about the elections, contact Mary McAfee, or YLD President-Elect **Stephanie Kirijan** at skirijan@southernco.com.



Photos by Tommy Lockhart



Event Co-Chairs:

Marquetta Bryan, Shiriki Cavitt, Tamera Woodard, Rachael Zichella

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Midyear Meeting

by **Matthew Crowder**

Despite a winter storm on the preceding Sunday that brought Atlanta and other parts of Georgia to a standstill, the YLD gathered at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville on January 14-15 in conjunction with the State Bar's Midyear Meeting.

As a result of the storm, all of the Midyear Meeting events which had been scheduled for Jan. 13 were cancelled and some events scheduled for Jan. 14 were moved to the afternoon in order to allow attendees to make the trek to Nashville safely. However, this did not deter those who attended from having a great time.

The YLD co-sponsored a CLE on Workers' Compensation Basics on Friday afternoon presented by **William F. "Trey" Underwood III**. Topics covered included: The Nuts and Bolts of Trying a Workers' Compensation Case; Workers' Compensation Forms and Checklists; Workers' Compensation Rainmaking and Ethical Considerations in Obtaining Workers' Compensation Clients; and the Use of Technology in a Workers' Compensation Practice. The YLD General Session was held late Friday afternoon with a reception afterward.

On Friday evening, Midyear Meeting attendees gathered for the Board of Governors dinner, which featured after-dinner entertainment by Nashville singer-songwriters **Casey Kelly, Leslie Ellis** and **Todd Cerney**.

On Saturday, no formal YLD events were scheduled, giving YLD members the opportunity to explore Nashville and the Opryland complex. YLD members met for dinner Saturday night at the Old Hickory Steakhouse in the hotel.

The YLD would like to thank BPC Financial, Georgia Lawyers Insurance Program, *The Daily Report*, ABA Retirement Funds and Thomson Reuters for their sponsorship of the Midyear Meeting.

Savannah Rings in the Holidays and New Year

by **Nick Bruce**

The Savannah YLD continued old traditions and started new ones as it continues to provide social, philanthropic and networking opportunities for Savannah's young lawyers.

The Savannah YLD spent the fall raising money for a newly constructed community kitchen at America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. Second Harvest provides food to school children, the elderly and those in rural communities without the means to buy food for their families, while at the same time offers training to individuals in need that are interested in pursuing a career in the culinary arts. The new kitchen allows an exponential increase in the number of meals Second Harvest can prepare on a daily basis. Second Harvest will now be in a position to meet the rising demand for their meals and assistance. For more information, please visit www.helpendhunger.org.

This spring, the Savannah YLD has volunteered three of its members to be a part of the "Savannah Boar Association," the Savannah Bar Association's team for the annual fundraiser for

the American Diabetes Association. The SBA will be hosting events in the community throughout the spring to raise awareness (and hopefully donations). If you would like more information, please contact **Jennifer Campbell** at jcampbell@tmlawpc.com.

As much as the Savannah YLD would like to pretend that philanthropy is all they do, they find ample time for fun and socializing. One such event is the annual "tacky sweater contest," which this year again proved to be a huge success. President **Patrick Connell** and First Lady **Louise** graciously hosted the party this year and provided both an oyster roast and jambalaya that was as good as any I've had this side of the Mississippi. In addition to a new crop of incredibly tacky sweaters, yours truly managed to sneak into the house dressed as a Christmas tree and took home the award for tackiest "sweater."

This spring, the Savannah YLD is planning events in conjunction with Law Day and the YLD Leadership Academy, among others. The events will include a golf tournament, trivia night, a roller derby game and a rumored "dance-off" fundraiser among the YLD board members. If you would like to get involved with the Savannah YLD this spring or summer, please contact **Blake Greco** at bgreco@olivermaner.com.



A snapshot of the competitors during the Savannah YLD Tacky Sweater Contest.

Macon YLD

by **Amanda K. Smith**

The Macon YLD kicked off the fall season with the first of many after-work happy hours. Partnering with the Macon Bar Association, the Macon YLD collected school supplies at a September event for the benefit of several underprivileged schools in the community. We soon realized what dire need these schools had for basic supplies and decided to extend the drive through the holiday season. The Macon Bar Association challenged members of the State Bar to fill Santa's sack at the annual holiday party, which resulted in a substantial donation. In October, the Macon YLD participated in a first-time event, during which the Macon Bar Association, the Macon YLD and Mercer Law School's Student Bar Association partnered to bring together the members of the local bar, law school faculty and the eager lawyers-to-be. This social was such a success that the Macon YLD hopes to plan a future gathering with the law students to facilitate a bridging of the gap between the rigors of law school and the realities of law practice.

The generosity and service-mindedness of the Macon YLD became even more apparent during our annual participation in the Bibb County Department of Family and Children Services gift drive for foster children. This year, members volunteered to sponsor 50 children.

Thus far, the Macon YLD has experienced great involvement in its spring activities. In February, members volunteered to help judge the regional High School Mock Trial competition and in March, the Macon YLD hosted the 2011 Leadership Academy participants.

For more information about the Macon YLD and upcoming events, please e-mail Sarah White at white.sarahliz@gmail.com, or look for us on Facebook.

6th Annual YLD Ethics and Professionalism Award

Do you know a young lawyer who exhibits exceptional fairness, integrity and diligence? Have you encountered a young lawyer who displayed professionalism under a difficult situation? Consider nominating the lawyer for the Seventh annual YLD Ethics & Professionalism Award.

For the past six years, the YLD has recognized individuals who exhibited such qualities. Although judges and senior partners have submitted recommendations, exceptional displays of ethics and professionalism often come to the YLD's attention only through nominations by their peers.

The YLD has seen many diverse nominees ranging from public interest litigators to in-house corporate lawyers, and the YLD would like to continue the tradition across a variety of fields and locations. Past award recipients include **Carl Varnedoe, Paul Fancher, David Mincey III, Andrew Goldner, Christopher Cohilas** and **Douglas Chandler**.

The nomination form will be posted to the YLD section of the State Bar website and distributed by e-mail. For any questions, please contact YLD Ethics & Professionalism Committee co-chairs **John Bush**, john.bush@bryancave.com, and **Jennifer Grippa**, jgrippa@millermartin.com.

Ask a Law Clerk

by *In Pleno*

In the Winter 2010 Issue of *The YLD Review*, the Judicial Law Clerk Committee began fielding, in an effort to foster communication with the courts, questions from young lawyers concerning various issues and concerns they face. To this end, the committee hopes to continue answering questions concerning various issues facing young attorneys throughout the state. In this, the second edition of "Ask a Law Clerk," the committee addresses a recently submitted anonymous question.

How much do law clerks rely upon introductions and reply briefs? I've heard from one law clerk that she begins with the reply brief. Is that something that most law clerks do? Along those same lines, how do law clerks review briefs – from cover to cover, or by issue?

Disclaimer: Like all attorneys, each law clerk is different, and thus, each clerk approaches the accomplishment of their responsibilities in differing manners. That being said, it is safe to say that most law clerks appreciate a succinct, direct brief. Indeed, introductions, which tend to be nothing more than space-fillers, often do not aid in the resolution of a dispute. As for reply briefs, or, as I like to call them, "nuh-uh briefs," they too are often fruitless. For the most part, "nuh-uh briefs" tend to contain regurgitated arguments or blanket denials of arguments and assertions contained in response briefs. Rarely, if ever, have I read a response brief and thought to myself, "Gee, I wish the movant would file a 'nuh-uh brief' so that I can get a better grasp of the issues!" If you find the need to file a reply brief, then try making all of your thoroughly researched and well articulated arguments in your motion the first time.

Finally, of course, law clerks read all briefs in their entirety, though some clerks may jump straight to the issues to be decided by the court instead of reading them from beginning to end. Moreover, law clerks read all exhibits attached to filings, deposition transcripts and the entire record from cover-to-cover. As you can imagine, courts have a tremendous amount of matters to address, and very little time to devote to each motion. Therefore, law clerks tend to approach motions and other filings in a manner that will allow the quickest legal resolution of a dispute.

Please submit your anonymous questions to askalawclerk@gmail.com. All questions and answers will be true. Only the names will be changed to protect the innocent.

Charles J. "Chuck" Driebe

Charles J. "Chuck" Driebe, a former city of Atlanta Alderman who graduated first in his class at the University of Georgia School of Law and was deeply involved in law and politics at the state and national levels, died March 1.



A native of the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, Chuck moved to Georgia while serving in the Army during the Korean War, serving as an MP at Ft. McPherson. He met and married a South Georgia woman, eventually fathering four children with Norma Mobley Driebe. He was a lifelong "Yellow Dog" Democrat, and an early supporter of a little-known candidate for governor named Jimmy Carter. Chuck later served as a delegate to several Democratic conventions, proudly casting his vote during the 1976 convention for Carter's nomination and vigorously supporting his successful campaign for president. Of Lebanese Catholic descent, Chuck was known for his quick wit, sharp legal mind, and dry humor, blended with a hefty dose of loving wisecracks.

Born on Nov. 11, 1933, Chuck attended Temple University before enlisting in the Army. Despite not having a college degree, Chuck was accepted to UGA Law School and finished No.1 in his class. He then clerked for the Georgia Court of Appeals and became the first president of the Younger Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia. Spurning offers from Atlanta law firms because he didn't want to "apprentice" for years as an associate, Chuck pursued his dream to "get right into the courtroom and represent people," opening his own law practice near the Clayton County Courthouse – then a distant outpost in a much smaller Metro Atlanta area. Chuck continued to live in Buckhead and, in 1972, he was appointed to the Board of Aldermen (City Council) of Atlanta by Mayor Sam Massell.

In the 1980s, Chuck was divorced and later remarried the former Gail Dubrof. In 1985, his son Charles joined Chuck in the Jonesboro law practice and worked with him there for many years. Featured on the cover of the 2007 *American Bar Association Journal*, Chuck also served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Solo*, the magazine of the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm division of the ABA, from 2006-2010. Chuck was a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia until the time of his death while continuing the practice of law, and was in his office working as recently as the week prior to his death. Chuck was diagnosed with both cancer and ALS two years ago and, true to form, he managed to direct even his illness to behave as he wished: the cancer "got him" before the ALS did!

A passionate Georgia Bulldogs football fan and a longtime member of the Inquiry Club, Chuck loved playing tennis every Sunday at Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. But the thing he loved the most was his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife Gail Dubrof Driebe, children Charles James Driebe Jr., of Atlanta, Mitchell Ward Driebe and Elizabeth Mobley Driebe, both of Flagstaff, Ariz. and Anne Driebe Vari of Davidson, N.C., and grandchildren Thomas and Charles Driebe, Charlotte and Griffin Vari, and Eleanor and Edward Sullivan (who described his grandfather as kind, generous and honest).

Committee Updates

Litigation Committee

by **Brantley Rowlen**

In December, the Litigation Committee hosted its Sixth annual Holiday Luncheon for metro Atlanta court clerks and committee members' paralegals and assistants. As has been the tradition, the event was held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Buckhead. True to form, Maggiano's provided the perfect setting for the luncheon with fantastic food and a large banquet room allowing attendees to freely mix and mingle and enjoy the festive holiday atmosphere.

More than 50 metro area clerks, committee members and staff were in attendance. The clerks in attendance this year reflected an even broader spectrum of surrounding area clerks and court staff than the previous years' luncheon. The committee would like to thank all of those who took time out of the busy holiday season to attend the event. The committee is excited about the tradition of this luncheon and is already actively planning next year's event.

Babies & Banquets – The Women in the Profession Committee Update

by **Jennifer A. Blackburn**

The YLD's Women in the Profession Committee (WiP), co-chaired by **Jen Blackburn**, Troutman Sanders LLP, and **Mary Woodson Felker**, M.W. Felker P.C., recently held two very exciting events. On Dec. 3, WiP teamed up with the Atlanta Bar Association's Women in the Profession Section, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, State Bar of Georgia's Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession and the YLD's Parents and Caregivers in the Profession Committee to host the Mommy Factor luncheon featuring a distinguished panel that included: **Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein**, Supreme Court of Georgia; **Myra Coleman Bierria**, vice president, AGL Resources; **Amy Howell**, deputy commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; **Jennifer Keaton**, founder, One Mediation, Inc.; **Elaine Levine**, partner, Levine & Dickman, LLP; **Jeong-Hwa Lee** "June" Towerly, partner, Nelson Mullins; and moderated by **Jamala McFadden**, of counsel, Sutherland. The event was a huge success with over 100 attendees. The panelists described their experiences as women and mothers in the law, provided helpful hints for balancing work/life commitments and candidly shared their struggles and successes. Each attendee most certainly left the luncheon with some new tips and fresh insight into balancing their many commitments.



(L-R) Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, Myra Coleman Bierria and Jeong-Hwa Lee "June" Towerly at the Mommy Factor luncheon.

WiP hosted a Holiday Tea at the Ritz on Dec. 9 at the Ritz Carlton Buckhead. The event provided an opportunity for women from various areas of practice to meet, mingle and commence the holiday season. Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia, provided some insightful comments on her experiences as a woman in the profession, both in private practice and as a jurist, and emphasized the importance of networking with other women in the profession. **Michael Geoffroy**, YLD president, braved the primarily female audience and presented some of his exciting upcoming programs and events for 2011. YLD President-Elect **Stephanie Kirijan** spoke briefly on the history of women leaders in the YLD and her initial plans for her upcoming presidential year, which will coincide with the YLD's 65th anniversary. Attendees generously brought new toys to the event to donate to Toys for Tots. The event was an excellent start to a festive holiday season! A huge thank you to our generous sponsor Esquire Solutions.

Community Service Projects Committee

by **Ana Maria Martinez**

This year has been filled with great opportunities for young lawyers to become involved and make a difference, and the YLD Community Service Projects Committee is excited to have been a part of it and continue with projects for the rest of the year. The committee kicked off the year with the annual Suits and Cell Phone Drive. Gently worn business clothing was collected for needy men and women who are re-entering the workforce. Cell phones and chargers were distributed to an organization that assists women in local shelters who are in danger of domestic violence. On Jan. 7, committee members attended the Atlanta Thrashers vs. Toronto Maple Leaves game with more than 15 children from the Fulton County Department of Children and Family Services (DFCS), thanks to ticket donations by various Thrashers' players. While the game did not turn out positive for Atlanta fans, both the children and YLD volunteers in attendance deemed the event a success! Volunteers had just as great a time at the Hawks vs. L.A. Clippers game with DFCS children on Feb. 4. The committee co-hosted a happy hour at Shout on Jan. 27, benefiting the YLD's Signature Fundraiser. One host committee ticket and one general admission ticket to the YLD Signature Fundraiser and a \$100 gift card to Here to Serve restaurants were raffled off at the event. In total, the event raised \$640. Many thanks to our event sponsor, Bernstein Brokers!

The committee will soon be seeking volunteers to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt with Nicholas House, a sandwich making party at Crossroads Community Ministries and to assist with the Special Olympics. In addition, the committee has formed a team to participate in the Atlanta Humane Society's Pet Parade on Saturday, April 30. Please come and join committee volunteers, with or without your furry friends, as they help the Humane Society raise money for pets looking for their forever homes.

If you are interested in participating in committee events or have ideas about a project you would like the committee to support, please contact **Ana Maria Martinez** at amartinez@og-law.com or Meredith Wilson at meredith.wilson@oldcastlelaw.com.

William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition

by **Nicholas P. Smith**

The YLD hosted the annual William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition at the Fulton County courthouse during the weekend of Nov. 19-21, 2010. Eighteen law schools from across the country came to Atlanta to compete head to head in a mock murder trial. The 2010 problem, developed by **Tom Jones**, a retired Fulton County Assistant District Attorney, involved a killing in the parking lot of Atlanta's Manuel's Tavern. Local lawyers volunteered their time to serve as judges and jurors for the trials. Without their help, this year's competition could not have happened.

All 18 schools competed in three preliminary rounds. After the preliminary rounds, four schools proceeded to the semi-finals: Emory University School of Law; Michigan State University School of Law; University of Buffalo Law School; and University of Houston Law School. In the final round, Emory University and University of Houston tried their case before the Hon. **Craig Schwall**, with Emory winning the competition.

Congratulations to all of this year's competitors. The teams invested much time and effort in preparing, and it showed.

Thanks to all of the local lawyers and judges who participated as evaluators for this year's competition; to Tom Jones for his devotion to this nationally recognized competition; to Hon. **Susan Edlein** and Hon. **Shawn LaGrua** for presiding over the semi-final rounds; to Schwall for presiding over the final round; to the judges who allowed the students the use of their courtrooms; and to the YLD. If you would like to volunteer for next year's competition, look for an article in a Fall issue of *The YLD Review*.

Will Your Participation in the YLD Be “Worth It”?

by *Derek White, past president of the YLD, 2002-03*



In no uncertain terms, YES! In June 2003, I wrote a bar article titled “Life’s Journey – The Values of Going on the Journey vs. Getting to the End of the Journey.” It was my intent to remind us as attorneys of our noble calling. The inspiration for that article came from the poem “Ithaca” written by C.P. Cavafy. The article paralleled Odysseus’ travels with the career of being an attorney – an advocate for others. I have copied it for you:

When you start on your journey to Ithaca,
Then pray the road is long,
full of adventure, full of knowledge,
Do not fear the Lestrygonians
and the Cyclopes and the angry Poseidon.
You will never meet such as these on your path,
if your thoughts remain lofty, if a fine
emotions touches your body and your spirit.
You will never meet the Lestrygonians,
the Cyclopes, and the fierce Poseidon,
if you do not carry them within your soul,
if your soul does not raise them up before you.

Then pray that the road is long.
That the summer mornings are many,
that you will enter ports seen for the first time
with such pleasure, with such joy!
Stop at Phoenician markets,
and purchase fine merchandise,
mother-of-pearl and corals, amber, and ebony,
and pleasurable perfumes of all kinds,
visits hosts of Egyptian cities,
to learn and learn from those who have knowledge.

Always keep Ithaca fixed in your mind.
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better to let it last for long years;
and even to anchor at the isle when you are old,
rich with all that you have gained on the way,
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.
Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
Without her you would never have taken the road.
But she has nothing more to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not defrauded you.
With Great wisdom you have gained, with so much experience,
you must surely have understood by then what Ithacas mean.

In place of the word “Ithaca,” enter the words “being an attorney” or “representing others” and you should immediately realize how the poem can be applied to describe our legal travels. You should realize how the poem captures the daily tolls of our dedication to our fellow citizens. Likewise, you should

realize how the poem describes the rewards of assisting those who are unable to assist themselves in legal matters.

In place of the word “Ithaca,” enter the words “making a difference in the lives of others” and you should realize how the poem can be utilized as an analogy to describe our professional endeavors and realize how the poem accurately reflects the wisdom and experience to be gained from our professional endeavors.

In place of the word “Ithaca,” enter the words “public service” and you should immediately realize how the poem veraciously echoes the demand of the proper soul needed for legal and public service. You should realize how the poem beckons one to face the demons legal and public service will present.

All in all, our legal journeys to our individual legal ends (our individual legal Ithacas) should be traveled with one goal in mind, the same goal espoused above in the poem. That goal should not concern riches; it should not concern glory; and, it should not concern recognition. That goal should concern ethical representation of others, honest representation of others, just representation of others, and a perseverance to see the lengthy journey completed. These concerns are the true calling of our profession as dictated in the Attorney’s Oath. These concerns will lead to an enriched journey’s end, a glorious journey’s end, and a well recognized journey’s end.

If you represent others pursuant to our Oath and when you reach your journey’s end, “you must surely have understood by then what Ithacas mean.”

When I wrote that article, little understanding did I have of the true significance of my involvement in the YLD and the impact the YLD would have on my career. The YLD has prepared me for my legal journey and can do so for you.

As importantly, you will meet talented and amazing attorneys across our state who are willing and eager to assist younger attorneys in their careers. If not for my involvement in the YLD, I would not have had the opportunity to befriend talented attorneys whom I can contact and seek guidance in those areas of the law in which I do not practice.

So, if you truly want your legal career to be “Worth It,” get and stay involved in the YLD and make a difference in your life, profession and the lives of others.

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Elizabeth Fite & Meredith Wilson

... editors of The YLD Review