

# The YLD Review

The State Bar of Georgia - Lawyers Serving the Public and the Justice System

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Young Lawyers Division

Fall 2008

# New Bar Year — New Opportunities: Local YLDs Give Back to Communities

#### **Wills for Heroes Workshop**

by Thomas V. Duck III

On July 12, the Albany YLD, in conjunction with the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association (DCBA), hosted a Wills for Heroes Implementation Workshop at Albany State University. The workshop provided hands-on training to attorneys from both the Albany area and across the state on how to implement the Wills for Heroes program. Attorneys **Brandee Kowalzyk** and **Keri Conley** from Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP's Atlanta office led the workshop and provided the necessary computer equipment. Lunch for attorneys and volunteers was provided by Sonic Drive-In. YLD President **Josh Bell** and Valdosta YLD President **Luanne Smith** were in attendance. During the workshop, participants drafted wills for members of the Albany State University Police Department, as well as other first responders from public service agencies in surrounding areas. All present agreed that the workshop was a success and are looking forward to statewide implementation of the program. The Albany YLD and DCBA are planning future Wills for Heroes events in the Albany area.

The Albany YLD also has several social events planned for the upcoming months. For information on these or any other Albany YLD events, please contact **Tommy Duck** at tduck@dougherty.ga.us or 229-431-3233, or **Lauren Mock** at lmock@langleyandlee.com or 229-431-3036.



(L-R) Luanne Smith, Tommy Duck and volunteers Gloria Anderson, Charity Anderson and Sybil Collins assist the Albany YLD with the Wills for Heroes Implementation Workshop.

#### **Cobb YLD Donates \$2,500 in School Supplies**

by Darrell Sutton



(L-R) Cobb YLD members Molly Barrett, Darrell Sutton and David Cole with the school supplies donated as a result of the Cobb YLD's school supply drive.

Each school year, students from low-income families throughout the state rely on the generosity of others to provide them with school supplies. This generosity often comes in the form of teachers using their own funds to purchase school supplies for students whose families cannot afford to do so.

Recognizing this fact, the Cobb Bar Association YLD recently undertook a drive to collect school supplies to be donated to students at three Cobb County elementary schools that have large populations of students from low-income families. The drive took place throughout July, and approximately \$2,500 worth of crayons, pencils and erasers, dry erase markers and erasers, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, composition books, scissors, notebook paper, rulers and other supplies were collected from lawyers and law-related businesses throughout Cobb County. The supplies were given to representatives from the three schools on August 8 during a ceremony held at Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele and hosted by Cobb YLD Immediate Past President **Darrell Sutton**, President-Elect **David Cole**, and Treasurer **Molly Barrett**.

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# New Bar Year Brings New Initiatives

by Joshua C. Bell

As I am writing my first article for the YLD newsletter, I have been thinking about all the great YLD presidents of the past. In fact, I read all of the first articles written by these presidents (all the ones I could find archived at www.gabar.org). While all of the presidents had different things to say, they all came back to one common theme: GET INVOLVED.

Of course I want all of you to become involved in the YLD. It makes the division better and it makes my presidency more successful. With that being said, the real reason I want you involved is for you. I can't imagine my life without the YLD. The YLD has made me a better lawyer. It's made me a better person. The YLD can do the same for you.

We have such a great year in store. Trips to St. Augustine for the Georgia/Florida game and to Atlanta for the Midyear Meeting. A trip to the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island and a trip to Amelia Island for the Annual Meeting. We just had our Summer Meeting in Austin, Texas. This was a joint

meeting with the Texas Young Lawyers Association and it was a huge success.

There are so many committees for you to join; so many opportunities for you to become enriched by the YLD. Enriched just as I have been and continue to be. Don't wait any longer. Get involved today!

On a personal note, I want to thank **Amy Howell**, president-elect, **Michael Geoffroy**, treasurer, **Stephanie Kirijan**, secretary, **Sharri Edenfield** and **Darrell Sutton**, co-editors of the YLD newsletter, the YLD Board of Directors and YLD committee chairs for allowing me to lean on them already for help and support. Most importantly, I want to thank **Elena Kaplan**, immediate past president, for her orchestration of as successful a year the YLD has ever had. I am glad I was fortunate enough to have learned how to be president of the YLD from her.

It's going to be a great year and I hope to see you soon!

# **Program Recognizes Graduates in Foster Care**

by Darice Good

On June 11, the 16th annual Celebration of Excellence (COE) honored 338 foster youth who graduated from high school or a GED program and 42 who graduated from college at the Ferst Center for the Arts at Georgia Tech. Over \$70,000 in Excellence in Education scholarships were awarded by Catalyst for Care.

The COE is a statewide graduation event and scholarship program that recognizes the academic achievements of youth who have grown up in Georgia's foster care system and graduated from high school, a GED program, vocational school or college. Studies have found that children living in foster care are twice as likely as the rest of the school population to drop out of school before graduation.

Darryn Moore, WSB-TV
Channel 2 reporter, emceed
the event. Georgia's First
Lady Mary Perdue provided
words of congratulations and
encouragement to the students.
Anthony Reeves, former foster
youth and current foster youth
advocate, provided an inspirational
message for the audience, and the
Inner Harbour EXCEL African
Drum Ensemble did an amazing
job both during the ceremony and
throughout the reception.

**Ebony Harris**, director of the Division of Family and Children Services Independent Living Program Unit and **Bobby Cagle**, the Family Services director, presided over the recognition of the graduates, calling each student's name as she or he crossed the stage for a photo with professional athletes **Rod Coleman** and **Willie Gary**.

YLD Member Beth Reimels addresses the audience. For a video highlighting the event produced by CNN, please visit www. cnn.com and search videos for "Foster Kids Fly High."

Founded by former DeKalb County Case Manager, Aundria Cheever, and a former DeKalb County Child Advocate Attorney and YLD Juvenile Law Committee Member, Dorothy **Murphy**, the event became an official project of the YLD's Juvenile Law Committee and has grown over the last 16 years through a partnership with Catalyst for Care (formerly Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children), the Division of Family and Children's Services Independent Living Program and hundreds of financial supporters and volunteers.

For more information or to see how you can contribute, please visit www. celebrationofexcellence.org or contact the Juvenile Law Committee at www.gabar.org.



#### 2008 YLD Fall Meeting

October 30 – November 2, 2008 St. Augustine, FL

> The Casa Monica YLD Rate: \$229/night

Events include
welcome reception, costume
dinner, YLD general session
meeting & CLE

Please visit www.gabar.org for a full meeting brochure and registration form or contact Mary McAfee, YLD director at 404-527-8778 for more information.

Hotel cut-off date September 30, 2008

Early Bird Registration cut-off date October 10, 2008

Leadership Academy Plans Exciting Year

**After '08 Graduation** 

#### by Sharri Edenfield

The 2008 Leadership Academy was a resounding success with nearly 200 applications for 40 seats. Due to the unanticipated demand, additional seats were created for the overwhelming number of applicants, increasing the 2008 class size from 40 to approximately 55 participants.

Founded in 2006, the Leadership Academy is a program that brings together young lawyers from across the state and from a variety of practice areas to develop them into leaders for their local bars, the YLD and the State Bar. The academy meets once a month for six months, with each session on a different topic. This year, participants were able to obtain all of their required CLE credit through their participation in the Leadership Academy, which was made possible through the cooperation of ICLE.

The 2008 academy kicked-off its first session during the Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. Class members participated in panel discussions with various Bar leaders and were treated to a tour of the Bar Center, which is housed in the old Federal Reserve Building. Many participants also attended the YLD signature fundraiser, Soiree de la Chance.

In February, the Leadership Academy had its first annual Day at the Capitol and was graciously hosted by Rep. **Wendell Willard**, who is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia. Gov. **Sonny Perdue** greeted the participants, and they were recognized from the floor of the House of Representatives and enjoyed a luncheon with members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and all Georgia lawyers in the General Assembly.

In March, participants traveled to Mercer University School of Law in Macon where they heard Macon Judicial Circuit Judges **Lamar W. Sizemore** and **Tillman E. "Tripp" Self III** discuss professionalism between lawyers from their perspectives as jurists. Additionally, pro bono and community service opportunities were discussed by **Phil Bond**, who serves as the Georgia Legal Services' Macon office's managing attorney, and **June O'Neal**, who serves as the executive director of Macon-based "The Mentor's Project."

The April session took place during the YLD Spring Meeting in Destin, Fla. Transition Into Law Practice Program (TILPP) Director **Doug Ashworth** presented a thought-provoking presentation on what professionalism means in the practice of law.



(L-R) Mawuli Davis, Leadership Academy 2007 alumnus, Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Harold Melton and Robert Bozeman, Leadership Academy 2008 alumnus attend the 2008 graduation

In May, participants visited the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, home to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. They toured the court and after a reception with the judges of the Northern District, listened to presentations by the clerk's office. Judge **Timothy Batten**, Magistrate Judge **Gerrilyn Brill**, and U.S. Rep. **Hank Johnson** also spoke to the group. They also had the opportunity to visit the State Judicial Building and participated in a lively discussion with Judge **John Ellington** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, who also facilitated a tour of the Court.

The last session of the 2008 class was a graduation ceremony that took place during the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. All Leadership Academy alumni were invited to attend the luncheon, resulting in record attendance. Supreme Court of Georgia Justice **Harold Melton** was the keynote speaker and gave a motivating and insightful talk on the practice of law. Afterwards, plaques were presented to all graduates from The Leadership Academy. In August, the Leadership Academy was awarded first place in the nation in the Minority Project category by the ABA YLD for it's diversity efforts.

The 2009 Leadership Academy will begin in January 2009. Applications and more information regarding the program are available online at www.gabar. org/young\_lawyers\_division/. The deadline for applying will be Nov. 7, 2008. Participants will be notified of their acceptance in early December.





# Savannah YLD Has Productive Summer — Presents \$3,000 Donation to Chatham County Guardian Ad Litem Program

#### by Robert Hughes and Ben Perkins

The Savannah Young Lawyers Division continued its successful 2007-08 Bar year into the summer.

On May 30, the SBA YLD held its annual Golf Tournament at the top-rated Westin Savannah Harbor golf course, home to the PGA Tour's Champions Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament. The tournament benefited the Chatham County Superior Court Guardian Ad Litem Program. Golf tournament committee members **Greg Sewell, Doug Herman, Patrick Connell, Ben Perkins, Robert McCorkle** and **Daniel Jenkins** were instrumental in making the tournament a tremendous success.

The \$3,000 in proceeds raised from the tournament was donated to the program on Aug. 5. Eastern Circuit Superior Court Judge **Penny Haas Freesemann** presided over the donation ceremony, which was held in her courtroom at the Chatham County Courthouse. Also in attendance were Superior Court Judges **Louisa Abbot** and **James F. Bass Jr.** Savannah YLD Philanthropy Chair **Miguel Cossio** and President **Robert Hughes** presented the donation on behalf of the Young Lawyers Division.

In June, the Savannah YLD held a summer happy hour at Saya Lounge in downtown Savannah, which attracted a record number of young lawyers and summer associates. In addition to having a good time, officers for the 2008-09 Bar year were elected. Officers for the upcoming year are: **Robert Hughes**, president; **Ben Perkins**, president-elect; **Susannah Pedigo**, secretary; **Patrick Connell**, treasurer; **Miguel Cossio**, philanthropy chair; and **Jon Pannell**, social chair.

The SBA YLD celebrated the end of summer with an event at Bonna Bella Yacht Club on August 7. The annual fall kick-off party is tentatively scheduled for September 25. For more information about how to get involved with the Savannah YLD, please feel free to contact Jon Pannell at 912-443-4040 or Ben Perkins at 912-236-3311.



Front row (L-R) SBA YLD Philanthropy Chair Miguel Cossio, SBA YLD President Robert Hughes, Eastern Circuit Superior Court Judges Penny Haas Freesemann, James F. Bass Jr. and Louisa Abbot; Back Row (L-R) SBA YLD Past President Chris Smith and SBA YLD President-Elect Ben Perkins.

# **Georgia YLD Recognized Nationally By ABA**

by Darrell Sutton

The ABA YLD held its Awards of Achievement Program on Aug. 9 during the Annual Meeting in New York. The program recognizes the achievements of ABA YLD affiliate young lawyer organizations throughout the country. Young lawyer organizations submit their service to the public, service to the bar and minority involvement projects, as well as their newsletters for evaluation by a panel of peers. This panel then selects the outstanding projects in a host of categories for recognition during the Awards of Achievement Program.

A number of Georgia young lawyers attended the ABA YLD Awards of Achievement Program on behalf of the Georgia YLD. Among those attending were YLD Immediate Past President **Elena Kaplan**, YLD President **Josh Bell**, YLD President-Elect **Amy Howell**, and YLD Members **Cristen Freeman**, **James Freeman**, **Neera Makwana**, **Ty Morrison** and **Tamera Woodard**.



President-Elect Amy Howell accepts an ABA Award of Achievement for Most Outstanding Single Project Service to the Bar for the YLD's work on the Model Juvenile Code from 07-08 ABA YLD Chair Justin Goldstein.

The Model Juvenile Code won the Most Outstanding Single Service to the Bar Project Award. This award is significant because it is not limited to any one division but is instead given to the best overall service to the Bar project.

The ABA YLD also awarded the Georgia YLD the following for 2007-08:

Second Place Comprehensive - Overall YLD, Division 1A

First Place Minority Project - YLD Leadership Academy

Second Place Service to the Bar Project – Model Juvenile Code

Second Place Service to the Public Project – 2008 YLD Signature Fundraiser – Soirée de la Chance

Second Place Newsletter - The YLD Review

In addition, the Savannah Bar Association YLD won First Place in its division in the Service to the Public Award category for its Slave Ship Wanderer Mock Trial Project.

Congratulations to all the award recipients, as well as the 2007-08 Georgia

# Scenes from the Annual Meeting



Amy Howell, Michelle Barclay and Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver accept the Distinguished Judicial Service Award on behalf of the late Judge Robin Nash.



Attendees rose early to enjoy the annual 5K YLD/LFG Fun Run.



YLD members Hillary Hague, Erika Patrick and Josh Bosin vote for Representatives at the Pool Party.



Supreme Court of Georgia Justice George H. Carley swears in the new officers.



Spencer Tolley, Jay W. Cook, Robin Clark and William Clark take first place in the golf tournament.



David Moreland, Chris Freeman, Molly Barrett and Dave Cole enjoy the live entertainment following the YLD dinner.



Outgoing Directors Jon Pannell, Darrell Sutton, Susannah Pedigo, Jason Pedigo and Carl Varnedoe are recognized for their service.

## **High School Mock Trial Needs Your Help**

The Georgia High School Mock Trial Committee is one of the largest YLD committees and each school year it's programs reach over 1,800 high school students, over 300 teachers and over 1,000 attorneys and judges statewide. This year, in addition to organizing our nationally acclaimed state mock trial competition, Georgia will host the 2009 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Atlanta in May. State champion mock trial teams from around the nation, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands and South Korea will compete in this event. Members of the YLD can help make this event the gold standard for all future host committees by volunteering to serve on judging panels during the tournament and/or donating to the Barnes Endowment at the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia. To donate to the Barnes Endowment Fund for Mock Trial, contact the Mock Trial office or Lauren Barrett at 404-659-6867. More information about upcoming state and national mock trial competitions is below.

2009 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Atlanta

Over 300 judge and attorney volunteers are needed to serve on panels during the national competition rounds at the Fulton County Courthouse, May 8 - 9, 2009. Sign-up forms may be found at www.georgiamocktrial.org under the Attorney Volunteer tab. At least two previous rounds of mock trial judging experience or one year of coaching experience is required for service on a national judging panel. If you've never served on a high school mock trial judging panel before, be sure to volunteer to serve during rounds at our regional or state finals in February and March.

2009 Regional Coordinators Needed in the Following Regions

To volunteer, please use the following contact information: Macon (HSMT Region #12) – contact **Mike Randolph** at 478-621-5950 or mrandolph@ co.bibb.ga.us; McDonough (HSMT Region #14) – contact **Shanda Delay** at 678-610-6624 or shandadelay@bellsouth.net; and Savannah (HSMT Region #16) – contact **Lauren Thomas** at 912-525-5537 or lthomas@scad.edu.

2009 Judging Panel Volunteers Needed in ALL REGIONS!

Complete the '09 HSMT Committee Volunteer form found at www. georgiamocktrial.org to indicate the city in which you'd prefer to serve. Regional competitions will be held in most cities the weekend of Feb. 7, 2009.

2009 State Finals Volunteers Needed

The state competition will be held March 14 - 15, 2009, in Lawrenceville. Volunteers are required to have at least one previous round of judging panel experience or at least one year of coaching experience in order to serve on a judging panel at the state level. Please complete the '09 HSMT Committee Volunteer form to sign up for judging panel service at the state competition.

Contact **Stacy Rieke** at the mock trial office (404-527-8779; mocktrial@gabar.org) for more information.

#### **YLD Officer Bios**



**President:** Joshua C. Bell received his bachelor's degree, a Master's in Public Administration and his law degree from the University of Georgia. Bell is a partner in the law firm of Kirbo, Kendrick & Bell, LLC in Bainbridge. He also serves as Municipal Court Judge for Cairo, Climax, Bainbridge and

Whigham and as Assistant Magistrate Judge for Grady County. In 2007-08, Bell served as president-elect of the YLD.



**President Elect:** Amy Howell is the Deputy Commissioner of Administration for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. She received her B.A. from Connecticut College and her J.D. from Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law. Howell has been active in the YLD since 2004,

when she chaired the Juvenile Law Committee.



**Treasurer:** Michael Geoffroy represents the Telrite Corp. in Covington. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and received his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2001. Geoffroy is working with Operation Patriot's Call in Covington and is also treasurer emeritus of

the Human Fund of Georgia. He is married to Tara McFarland Geoffroy and the proud father of Mac and Hudson.



**Secretary:** Stephanie Kirijan is a senior staff attorney at Georgia Power. She is a graduate of LEAD Atlanta, the former president of the DeKalb YLD and is a member of the Women in Leadership Steering Committee of the Commerce Club. She graduated with a journalism degree from the

University of Georgia and received a law degree from Georgia State University College of Law.



**Immediate Past President: Elena** Kaplan practices law with Jones Day where she advises clients with respect to employee benefits and executive compensation. She received her J.D., summa cum laude, from American University, her L.L.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida and

her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia where she studied costume design and historic preservation. She was named a "Rising Star" by Atlanta Magazine from 2005-07.



The YLD Review Co-Editor: Sharri Edenfield is an associate with the Statesboro firm of Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C. Prior to returning to her hometown to practice law, Edenfield practiced in Atlanta for several years. She received her B.A. from The University of Georgia and

her J.D. from Mercer University. For the past two years, Edenfield has served as the co-chair of the YLD Leadership Academy. She also serves as a trustee for the State Bar's Client Security Fund.



The YLD Review Co-Editor: Darrell Sutton practices general liability litigation and workers' compensation defense litigation at Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele in Marietta. Sutton received his B.S. from Berry College and his J.D. from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of

Law. He has been active in both the State Bar YLD and the Cobb County Bar Association YLD. He has served on both the Executive Council and the Board of Directors of the State Bar YLD and is immediate past president of the Cobb Bar Association YLD.

#### **Executive Council 2008-09**

#### **Board of Directors:**

**Jason Alloy**, Atlanta **Jennifer Blackburn**, Atlanta Robert Bozeman, Decatur Shiriki Cavitt, Atlanta Tommy Duck, Albany **Terri Gordon,** Decatur Trinity Hundredmark, Lawrenceville Scott Masterson, Atlanta

#### **District Representatives:**

Northern District

2007-09 Jennifer Blackburn, Atlanta Nicole Iannarone, Atlanta Matt Reeves, Lawrenceville Andrew Roper, Cedartown Rebecca Vandiver, Atlanta

Molly Barrett, Marietta Evan Kaine, Atlanta Ty Morrison, Atlanta Nedal Shawkat, Douglasville Tamera Woodard, Atlanta

#### **Middle District**

Jeremy Attaway, Macon Wendy Boston, Macon Jay Crowe, Albany Matt Eutzler, Valdosta Blake Sharpton, Macon

2008-10 Ivy Cadle, Macon Tommy Duck, Albany Paul Hamilton, Nashville Amy Stone, Tifton Sarah White, Macon

Whitney Mauk, Atlanta Shane Mayes, Marietta Ty Morrison, Atlanta **Sherry Neal**, Atlanta Jon Pannell, Savannah Ben Perkins, Savannah Luanne Smith, Valdosta Carl Varnedoe, Macon

#### Southern District

Helen Bacon, Savannah Patrick Connell, Savannah Rindi Harbeson, Thomson Robert Hughes, Savannah Ben Perkins, Savannah

Benji Colson, Statesboro Janna Custer, St. Simons Island Taylor Haley, Brunswick Jacob Massee, Savannah Christopher Smith, Savannah

#### Members-at-Large

Amy Averill, Atlanta Marquetta Bryan, Atlanta Nadia Deans, Atlanta Chris Freeman, Atlanta Andrew Goldner, Atlanta LeRoya Jennings, Decatur

Dar'shun Kendrick, Atlanta David Moreland, Atlanta **Stephanie Oginsky**, Atlanta **Juanita Passyn**, Atlanta Kiesha Storey, Gainesville

Caroline Vann, Atlanta

Out of State 2008-09 Nicole Habl, Jacksonville, FL Elizabeth Kay, Washington, D.C.

## 2008 YLD Awards

**Distinguished Judicial Service Judge Robin Nash** 

**Outstanding Service** to the Profession **Ashley Harris & Ben Vinson** 

#### **Outstanding Service** to the Public

Jennifer Blackburn, Melissa Carter, Leigh Cummings, Judge Sharon Hill, Amy Howell, Stephanie Kirijan Ari Mathe', Whitney Mauk, Professor Lucy McGough, Soledad McGrath, Beth Reimels, **Curtis Romig, Judge Velma Tilley** & Lea Thompson

**Ross Adams Memorial Kendall Butterworth** 

**YLD Ethics and Professionalism David Mincey III** 

**Outstanding Service to the Bar** Sharri Edenfield, Elizabeth Fite & John Jackson

#### **Outstanding Service** to the YLD

Deborah Craytor, Jeff Daxe, Terie Latala, Sherry Neal & Rep. Wendell Willard

#### **Dedication to the YLD Award**

Sharon Bryant, Sarah Coole, Michelle Garner, Jennifer Mason Johanna Price & Stephanie Wilson

## 'If You Can See It, You Can Be It'

#### Members of the MIPC Serve as Powerful Role Models... Again!

#### by Marquetta J. Bryan

The Minorities in the Profession Committee (MIPC) has spearheaded a massive effort to recruit elementary school students as future leaders in the legal profession. During the week of May 12-16, 2008, MIPC held the 2nd annual "If You Can See It, You Can Be It" school project. Over 30 minority attorneys and law students helped over 1,200 elementary and middle school students in 10 metropolitan Atlanta area schools realize that they already have what it takes to become a successful attorney.

The "If You Can See It, You Can Be It" school project was birthed as result of the frustration experienced by Mawuli **Mel Davis** after he read the ABA's Post Conference Report "Embracing the Opportunities for Increasing Diversity into the Legal Profession: Collaborating to Expand the Pipeline (Let's Get Real)." The report highlighted the disturbing fact that in 2005-06, African Americans represented only 6.5 percent of all law students, a decrease from the previous year. The report further discussed a general decline in the number of minority law students. The report encouraged collaborative efforts among bar organizations to help "increase the flow of diverse students into the legal profession's pipeline and patch its pervasive leaks that impeded the access of students of color." Davis concluded that the decline of minority law students, in general, and African American law students, in particular, inherently leads to the decline of attorneys of color and negatively impacts the diversity of the legal

profession and the public's confidence in the justice system.

The presentation of the flexible curriculum allowed each attorney to employ their own unique skills and experiences. Fulton County Superior Court Judge **Gail S. Tusan** willingly shared her experiences and pearls of wisdom to over 60 students and characterized her participation as "a very positive experience." **William Stiles**, an artist and an attorney with Carlock Copeland & Stair said, "If you can see it, you can be it' really says it all. I saw the opportunity to use art to allow the students to create an image of themselves as lawyers, advocates and judges. They see us while we are in the classroom — once the hour is up, we are gone. The picture they make of themselves is something tangible they can hold on to. Not only that, but we had a good time!"



The Hon. Gail S. Tusan poses with students at Fulton County's Woodland Middle School after spending two hours with the students affirming their potential to become successful attorneys.

Attorneys from all areas of the profession answered this urgent call to serve as role models. Participation in the project provided many attorneys with an opportunity to renew their commitment and responsibility to the success and development of youth and communities.

MIPC is excited about building upon the success of this project. They hope to expand the project in upcoming years by doubling the number of students that it reaches, and hope to reach students outside of metropolitan Atlanta. The program received such wonderful feedback from the participating schools and attorneys that Davis and **Marquetta Bryan** are already preparing for the 2009 project. Sponsorships are needed to provide the students with the most memorable experience possible. For more information about volunteer or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Bryan at mbryan@carlockcopeland.com or Davis at mdavis@davisbozemanlaw.com.

## Crisis Today, Cocktail Story Tomorrow

#### by Doug Ashworth

I remember when I was a "newly minted" attorney and the feeling in the pit of my stomach the first time I stood beside a client before a judge. I remember listening to the clerk reading the verdict in my first jury trial. Come to think of it, I can remember every jury verdict during the years of my practice – good and bad!

I remember listening – sometimes with awe, sometimes with boredom – at the "war stories" of attorneys with years of experience. Somewhere along the way, I earned war stories of my own. Well, perhaps "earned" is the wrong verb; I "endured" war stories of my own. But I digress.

#### Here are a few of the maxims I have personally learned:

- Attorneys develop reputations fairly quickly, even in metro areas of Georgia.
   Everyone, whether Bench or Bar, knows who can and cannot be trusted.
- There is a correlation between how an attorney treats his staff and how he treats
  opposing counsel. If they are rude to the people who are trying to help them
  make money, why should you expect better treatment as their opponent?
- Antagonizing a judge is stressful, even when done in the name of zealous representation of a client, but antagonizing a judge's assistant is fatal.
- Law practice can consume you if unchecked. I had to learn when and how to stop practicing law and to start practicing life.

- There will never be a time when attorneys win popularity contests among the professions. How could we? We do "unpopular" things like speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves and defending the rights of the poor and powerless.
- There is no feeling quite so good as walking out of the courthouse when you know you have made a positive difference in your client's life. There is no substitute, for example, for the look in the eyes of a parent toward their newly adopted child at the conclusion of a successful adoption hearing.

#### And, finally, as an added bonus for you, dear and perhaps irritated reader...

Today's Crisis Is Tomorrow's Cocktail Story. I have learned that there are those inevitable moments of stress in law practice that may appear to be a dark night of the soul. However, with the passing of time, the application of humor and the acceptance of humility, my "crisis" became a "war story".

As you earn – or endure – your own war stories, consider putting them to use as a Mentor in the State Bar's Transition Into Law Practice Program. You can help hasten the day when a beginning lawyer's crisis becomes his or her very own cocktail story. Learn more about the Transition Into Law Practice Program at www.gabar.org, or call (404-527-8703) or e-mail me (douga@gabar.org).



### **He Said**

by Darrell Sutton

"Every day is an opening day." For the City of Atlanta this is an often criticized marketing slogan. For me it's a reminder that every day presents a chance for new beginnings.

Think about it: Every handshake brings with it the chance for a new lifelong friend. Every case carries with it a chance to gain the trust of a new client or renew an existing client's faith in you. Every encounter with a judge or peer is a new opportunity to build upon your reputation. Every Fall is a new opportunity for your favorite football team to win a championship.

Each time I return from a Bar function, colleagues inevitably ask me, "How was it?" Maybe the question is nothing more than polite inquiry. It happens often enough, though, that I have concluded it is a reflection of the inquirer's true interest in what Bar activities are about. Regardless, I respond the same way each time, "It was great. It refreshed my faith in the profession and in what we do. You should come with me to a committee meeting, social, or local or state YLD meeting." Inevitably I get the same response, "I would love to, but I am so busy at work and home, I just don't have enough time in my day to add an outside event."

I'm sure that at one time or another you've been party to a similar conversation. Regardless of whether you are active with the Young Lawyers Division or you are the young lawyer who wants to get involved, this conversation presents a chance for a new beginning. For the active YLD member, it's a new opportunity to recruit a young lawyer to participate in Bar activities. It gives the YLD member a new chance to share what I consider to be the most worthwhile use of my professional time outside the office. For the uninvolved young lawyer, it's an opportunity to do what we so rarely do — become encouraged by a peer's experience and follow his or her advice into a new venture. It's a chance for a professional new beginning.

You should have received a brochure advertising the Young Lawyers Division and its many committees a few weeks ago. In this brochure, there is a sign-up form. I encourage you to look through it. Undoubtedly there is a YLD committee that piques your interest, or whose work dovetails with your practice. The best part is you're already a member of the YLD and membership in the YLD includes the ability to interact with each of the committees. So all you have to do to participate is take advantage of this new beginning and attend a committee meeting, a meeting of your local YLD or one of the State Bar YLD functions. After all, the thing with new beginnings is that as quickly as they come about, they disappear. Don't let this one pass you by.

## **She Said**

by Sharri Edenfield

As my co-editor just reflected, this time of year is about beginnings: a new Bar year, a new schedule of exciting YLD meetings and a new opportunity to get involved with the YLD. This is also the beginning of my tenure as co-editor of *The YLD Review*. Since this is my first day on the job, so to speak, I have been thinking about other first days at new jobs.

My first job out of college was as a consultant. I traveled across the country for months at a time. While this job was exciting for a new graduate who loved to travel, I had no experience in packing for long trips. On the first day of my travels, well before 9/11 and luggage restrictions, while headed off to parts unknown and with seven suitcases in tow, I entered the



baggage claim of a Midwest airport and located a cart for my luggage. I looked ridiculous, but I did have all of the shoes I wanted to wear for three months.

After being unable to find the elevator and being told by an employee that there was not one on that floor, I formed the conclusion that the carts were able to travel on the escalator. I pulled my cart onto the escalator and made my way to the top. I knew there was a problem when the cart reached the top but refused to roll forward onto the second floor. It then flipped over, pushing me down onto the folding steps and sending all seven of my suitcases rolling backwards, after knocking the wind out of me. There was a loud thumping noise as my head hit each one of the disappearing steps while I was pinned to the escalator by the cart. Thankfully, a gentleman picked me up and pushed my cart off of the escalator. Travelers handed me my suitcases, one by one, as they got off the escalator. The guards, who are probably still laughing, asked me if I needed an ambulance. Fortunately, while my pride might have needed some help, my body did not. I would live to fight another day, just not with an escalator and a cart full of luggage.

While this story is very embarrassing, awkward beginnings are something we can all relate to because they deal with the unknown and being outside of one's comfort zone. Most of the time, beginnings are the most difficult part of an experience. It's once you're involved in a new venture that the fun really begins. From that bruise-filled, mortifying first day of travel, I went on to have a wonderful year as a consultant, to meet many interesting people and to visit places I might have never have had a chance to see otherwise.

This is the time to take advantage of another beginning: a new Bar year. Why not take a chance and get involved in the YLD? Step outside of your comfort zone and come to a meeting, join a committee, or attend a social event. You can see the many opportunities to meet others and become active right in this newsletter. Some people have told me that they feel awkward coming to YLD events because they don't know anyone else; well, if you are uncomfortable not knowing anyone, come find me. I'll be standing next to the escalator.



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