

# THE YLD REVIEW

## Working for the Profession and the Public

# Meet the YLD

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## From the President

## YLD: Leaders in Service



**Will Davis**

As we begin the 2019-20 Bar year, I simply need to first start this column by saying how excited I am to lead this organization over the next 12 months. The YLD and the State Bar of Georgia have provided me with more professional and personal development in my past decade of practice than any other organization I have been a part of, and my primary goal this year is to encourage young lawyers statewide to jump in and find out what the YLD can offer you in your practice and in your community. The YLD is the service arm of the State Bar, and while that service focuses primarily on our service to the public, we also focus on how we serve the profession—including every young lawyer in Georgia.

There are nearly 10,000 YLD members across Georgia. Any Georgia lawyer under the age of 36 or in their first five years of practice regardless of age is automatically a member of the YLD. There are no additional dues, no additional paperwork, and you are immediately eligible to begin participating in our community and committee activities. While the majority of YLD members practice in the five-county metro-Atlanta area, we have active affiliates near you including in Augusta, Savannah, Macon, Houston County and Glynn County. Please see the article on page 2 written by Cobb County YLD President Katie Leonard detailing the programming of our Cobb County affiliate. Each year, YLD affiliate members participate in the Savannah Bar's Boat Ride, the Houston County YLD BBQ and the Glynn County YLD golf tournament fundraiser. Each February, YLD members in 16 regions serve as evaluators and attorney coaches for the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition. The YLD is active near you, and you do not have to drive to Atlanta to be a part of our organization. One of the highlights of our group is our statewide impact

and involvement which is something I hope increases over the course of the next year.

This edition of *The YLD Review* focuses on our signature programming that I hope encourages you to join us in the next year. Sarah Yaeger provides you with their summary of this year's YLD Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C., where members enjoyed trips to the Capitol, the White House, the monuments and the Pentagon! Read the Twenty-five YLD members were sworn in to the U.S. Supreme Court and enjoyed breakfast with Justice Clarence Thomas before having the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to also meet with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Brett Kavanaugh. You will find the article on page 10.

YLD meetings provide members with the opportunity to come together every few months for a general session, CLE and other networking activities. To make this year's YLD meetings accessible to all members, I've chosen to host all of them in Georgia. If you couldn't join us for the Summer Meeting on St. Simons Island, please join us in November at Lake Lanier, in January 2020 in Atlanta or in April 2020 in Athens. Meetings are a great opportunity to get your feet wet in YLD activities and to get know members from around Georgia over the course of a weekend!

2018-19 YLD Family Law Committee Co-Chair Kristen Files has contributed an article on page 7 detailing the amazing work the committee did in the 2018-19 Bar year. The YLD offers 29 committees covering every practice area imaginable as well as focus areas such as inclusion in the profession, women in the profession and community service projects. Our committees take the lead on our projects like wills clinics for first responders and Build A Better Georgia Day, and I've challenged committee membership to host at least one event outside of the metro-Atlanta area this year. Please make sure to log in to your State Bar account and register for committee updates! You can also opt-in to our biweekly email updates which provide information for all YLD activities.

Do not miss the article on page 8 from Autumn Cole detailing the YLD Leadership Academy. Leadership Academy is one of the YLD's most prestigious programs, and I hope you will consider applying for the class of 2020 once applications are released in October 2019.

In closing, I hope this edition of our newsletter invites you to become a part of our amazing group. The YLD is the State Bar's leader in service, diversity and programming, and there is a place for you with us. When I began practicing in January 2010, I was a young lawyer in Albany who knew absolutely nothing about the State Bar and the YLD. On a whim, I signed up for the Summer Meeting in 2012, and I haven't looked back since. The YLD is here to sup-

port you in your development as a young attorney, as you serve the public, your clients and your friends. We provide a network of young lawyers, similarly situated to you, that you can rely on as your friends and frankly, for me at least 10 years into practice, your family. Please take the time to join us at a meeting, a committee event or a fundraiser this year to see what we can do for you as the YLD of the State Bar of Georgia. I am proud to be a member, and I hope to share that pride with each young lawyer in Georgia this year. I look forward to seeing and meeting you this year! YLD

*Will Davis is an associate at Naggjar & Sarif in Atlanta and president of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.*

From the Editors

## Meet the Editors



**Ashley  
Akins**



**Audrey  
Bergeson**

Welcome to *The YLD Review*! We—Ashley Akins and Audrey Bergeson—are your editors for the upcoming Bar year.

Ashley is an associate in the School & Colleges Law Practice at Nelson Mullins in Atlanta. She practices in the areas of K-12 and higher education law and workers' compensation defense. Ashley is originally from Brooklet, Georgia. She completed her undergraduate work at Georgia Southern University and earned her law degree from Mercer University. Ashley has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since 2013.

Audrey is the managing attorney for the Family Law Program of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, which provides family law assistance and representation for survivors of intimate partner abuse and coordinates volunteer attorneys to represent survivors pro bono. Audrey has been a member of the Bar since 2013. She is an Emory Law grad and proud USC Trojan. She lives in Decatur and is a native Atlantan.

We hope to bring you a year of insightful and engaging content. To do that, we are counting on you, members of the YLD. We encourage young lawyers from all practice areas to consider submitting an article for the newsletter. This is a unique opportunity to showcase knowledge on a specific area of the law and highlight a skill set. We also publish articles on emerging issues surrounding professionalism, law firm life and pro bono practice. Thousands of lawyers receive our printed newsletter, including young lawyers and our young-at-heart law-

► SEE EDITORS, PAGE 9

### 2019-20 YLD Programs and Committees

Advocates for Students with Disabilities

Community Service Projects

Corporate Counsel

Criminal Law

Disaster Legal Assistance

Estate and Elder Law

Ethics and Professionalism

Family Law

Government Law

Health Law

High School Mock Trial

Inclusion in the Profession

Intellectual Property Law

Intrastate Moot Court Competition

Labor and Employment Law

Law School Outreach Program

Leadership Academy Alumni

Legal Food Frenzy

Legislative Affairs

Litigation

Business Law Subcommittee

Judicial Law Clerk Subcommittee

National Moot Court Competition

Public Interest Internship Program

Real Estate Law

Solo Practice/Small Firm

William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition

Women in the Profession

Workers' Compensation

## Professional Development

# Adulthood: Not for the Faint of Heart



**Tina  
Lute**

As an awkward, often clumsy child, I could not wait to grow up and be an adult who knew everything and had it all figured out. As I grew, I waited not-so-patiently for the secrets of the world to emerge from the depths of my brain. Spoiler alert: it never did.

As a full-blown adult with a child of my own, I can say with confidence, I have no idea what I am doing. This fact is made abundantly evident when my own child looks up at me as the alleged “all-knowing adult” and I stare back hoping he will not argue over how many corn dogs he must eat before he can watch YouTube.

Becoming an adult is not for the faint of heart. But somehow, day-by-day, we figure it out.

Being a lawyer in so many ways is similar to being a parent—someone hands you a baby or a law license and sends you off into the world to figure out how to survive with only a fraction of the knowledge you really need to succeed.

I credit law school with teaching us to think like a lawyer, but learning how to practice law is trial by fire with no secret how-to manual. Even if I figure out the secrets of practicing my specific area—workers’ compensation—it would be of little use to any lawyer in a different area of law.

Just as no two practice areas are alike, no two journeys in this profession are alike. Even two attorneys in the same practice area will have their own unique experiences and talents to help them land clients, make partner, open their own firm or achieve their goals. I think we instinctively know that no two paths to “success” are the same, yet most of us still look for the “right answer” about how to practice law and how to make it in this profession.

This search for the right answer is evidenced by the hundreds, if not thousands, of books and articles on professional develop-

ment. I often see young lawyers, like myself, try to find a one-size-fits-all approach to professional development. The thought is: “if I find someone who has what I want, and do what they do, then I will have what they have.”

Wrong.

There is no magic formula for learning how to practice law or to develop yourself as a professional.

Still, that does not mean that we do not need guidance as we build ourselves up professionally and I encourage you to read all the articles and books you can. In the meantime, I will share two important practice pointers I have learned over the years.

## 1 Know the law, then learn more than the law.

There is no way around this one, folks. You have to become an expert in your area of practice if you want to develop your legal practice. When we first start practicing law, our mind is in survival mode. We must learn the law, but also the rules of the courts, the preferences of the judges and, for the vast majority of young lawyers, what our partners need and expect. Once young lawyers have a handle on the basics, it is time to dive into the nitty-gritty of your practice area. Read new cases from the appellate and supreme court; find opinions written by judges you practice in front of and see how they reason through the issues you deal with regularly; and read articles written by other attorneys in your area of law.

Let me give you an example: I had a client call and ask for a legal opinion. I gave her an on-point opinion based on the law applied to the facts and half-expected her to sing my praises for my wealth of knowledge. But this adjuster had been working in insurance defense since I was in diapers and knew the law; she did not care that I could regurgitate the statute. What she needed to know was (1) The reputation of opposing



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counsel; (2) The reputation of the doctor we were considering as an expert; and (3) The reputation of the judge if this all went south. Thankfully, I knew opposing counsel, the doctor and the judge, and provided opinions about all three. Only then did she thank me for my knowledge.

## 2 Get out of your office and into the community.

Being an expert in your field means knowing the nuances in the law, but it is also crucial that you are known in the community. Who you know is just as important as what you know. We have all heard this phrase: “A good lawyer knows the law; a great lawyer knows the judge.”

Find and attend conferences, lunch-and-learns, seminars and other places where the judges are often present. Go meet your judges! Attending those events will also allow you to meet other attorneys and other important people in your practice area. I encourage you to find the key players in your practice area and get to know them. It will do wonders for your professional development. YLD

*Tina Lute is an associate at Goodman McGuffey in Atlanta and co-chair of the YLD Workers’ Compensation Committee.*



## Judicial Spotlight

# Judge Shukura Millender of the Superior Court of Fulton County



**Jena  
Emory**

One of the greatest privileges of serving in the legal profession is the opportunity to interact with people and influence their lives. Judge Shukura Millender of the Superior Court of Fulton County understands and respects that privilege.

My first interaction with Judge Millender occurred when I appeared in her courtroom for a peremptory calendar. I was at the time—and still am—a young lawyer. My case was dismissed because the plaintiff failed to appear. Then I spent the rest of the calendar sitting in the back of the courtroom wondering whether the dismissal was with or without prejudice. (A seemingly simple question, yet a perplexing one for someone beginning their legal career.) After everyone left the courtroom, I asked Millender whether the dismissal was with or without prejudice, and she was very gracious with me.

When I was given the opportunity to interview someone for the judicial spotlight in *The YLD Review*, I knew I wanted to meet and interview Millender because I know from experience of her support for young lawyers and respect for the people appearing in her courtroom. She is someone a young lawyer should aspire to be.

Prior to her appointment to the Superior Court of Fulton County, Millender was a judge for the Magistrate Court of Fulton County. As an attorney, she practiced both civil and criminal law as a senior assistant district attorney, assistant solicitor and senior associate at Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson & Tompkins LLP.

For our youngest lawyers, I asked Millender what advice she would have for someone who just passed the bar but cannot find a job. She recommended getting your foot in the door by volunteering in an area of

law that you are interested in. Tell the people you are volunteering with that you are interested in this particular area of law. Focus your search for a job in public service, such as legal aid, a public defender's office or a district attorney's office. Also, get active in your local bar and join committees where you can meet people and network.

Once you find a job as a young lawyer, Millender believes that Bar participation and community service are requirements, not suggestions. They will allow you to get the most out of your profession. The AVL Saturday Lawyer Program is a great way to get involved.

Millender stressed that when you get the opportunity to try a case or appear in court, remember that first impressions really do matter. Dress appropriately. Come prepared. Stand when you address the judge. Address the judge as "your honor." Learn the culture of the courtroom before you appear. Call seasoned attorneys or the judge's staff attorney to learn what the judge likes. Then do what the judge likes. When you make a mistake, own up to it. Tell the court, but do not offer excuses. Be prepared for the reality that you may not be able to correct the mistake. Be honest, and people will respect that.

When you face a career setback, Millender advises that you triage the issue. Figure out what led to the set back and try to find a way to move beyond it. If necessary, begin a new path.

To get the most out of your career, Millender says to make sure you like what you do. If you have a difficult boss, find a mentor within your organization to help you learn to work with your boss. If your job is



Judge Shukura Millender,  
Superior Court of Fulton County

not working out, do not leave your job until you have another job. If you do not like what you do, find out what you would like and adjust accordingly. If—God forbid—you decide not to be a lawyer, life goes on. Use your legal degree to find ethics or compliance work in a corporation or business.

For those who want to be judges, Millender recommends making a plan. Becoming a judge is a 10- to 15-year career arc. Make sure you are the person they would want for the job, and make sure on paper you are the person they would want for the job. Before becoming a judge, Millender practiced both civil and criminal law because a judge handles both. In short, if you want to be a judge, be like Judge Millender. *YLD*

Jena Emory is an associate at Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffet & Brieske in Atlanta and co-chair of the YLD Women in the Profession Committee.

## Affiliate Spotlight

## Cobb County YLD



**Katie Kiihnl  
Leonard**

Cobb County's slogan is "Expect the Best," and that's exactly what the Cobb County Bar Association endeavors to offer its members and the community. In May, the Cobb Bar's YLD closed out another amazing year under the leadership of Amanda Mathis Reidling. The Cobb County YLD has enhanced its focus on fundraising efforts supporting local charities, and this year was no exception. To begin the 2018-19 Bar year, the Cobb YLD participated in the Legal Aid Justice Jam lip sync competition, bringing home the title for the second year in a row with their rendition of '80s-inspired songs. Cobb YLD members also participated in a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, sending a group of volunteers to the Alexis Grubbs Memorial Golf Tournament, the Sleighbells on the Square 5K and the Law Day Golf Tournament. However, none of these events could match the Cobb YLD's March Madness fundraiser.

In its second year of operation, the March Madness fundraiser raised more than \$9,000 for the Cobb accountability courts. The event was hosted at Hawg n' Ale restaurant on the Marietta Square and offered a buffet of BBQ and beverages. Sponsors donated lottery items and attendees could participate in a basketball shoot-out competition. The event was heavily attended by Cobb judges and members of the "big Bar," and as a result of its ongoing success, the March Madness fundraiser has become one of the biggest fundraising events of the year.

In addition to hosting and sponsoring many fundraisers each year, the Cobb YLD is charged with organizing one of the biggest CLEs of the year. Hosted in connection with the Solo/Small Firm Section of the Cobb Bar, the Cobb YLD presents a CLE in the early months of each year on a variety of topics. Because of the success of the CLE, the Cobb YLD has been blessed with



Cobb County YLD promoting 2019 Justice Jam '80s Prom (L-R: Nicole McArthur, Katie Leonard, Lindsay Gardner and Amanda Reidling)



2019 Cobb Law Day Golf Tournament (L-R: Carlos Rodriguez, Tim Williams, Adam Rozen and Blake Hungerford)

some incredible guest speakers. Supreme Court Justice Michael P. Boggs presented on changes to the state's criminal justice reform, along with a number of Court of Appeals judges. The Cobb Superior Court bench regularly graces the CLE with lessons on diverse subject matter including practice pointers and tips for the courtroom. Similarly, the Cobb State Court and Juvenile Court benches are routine speakers, offering practice pointers and other subjects to the young lawyers in attendance.

All of the charitable and professional efforts aside, Cobb YLD members are more than just attendees at big events. The Cobb YLD meets every month for a general meeting, in most cases attended by a special speaker. These speakers have included local judges, financial planners, litigation strategists and lawyers of all varieties of practice. The Cobb YLD focuses on collegiality and

inclusion, helping its members become involved in the Bar at the most basic level and form relationships that will last throughout one's career.

The 2019-20 Bar year will be no different. This year, under the leadership of Katie Kiihnl Leonard, the Cobb YLD is focusing on expanding membership and involvement throughout this vast county. Toward that effort, the Cobb YLD will be hosting more happy hour or after-work events to allow attorneys practicing outside the central Marietta square location to attend. If you live, work or play in Cobb County, please be our guest. You can #expectthebest from Cobb County! <sup>YLD</sup>

*Katie Kiihnl Leonard is a partner at Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenberry in Atlanta. She is a past co-chair of the YLD Family Law Committee and a 2013 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy.*



## Committee Spotlight

# YLD Family Law Committee



**Kristen  
Files**

The YLD Family Law committee provides educational and networking opportunities to young lawyers whose practice involves family law. During the 2018-19 Bar year, the committee, chaired by Kristen Files and Donna-Marie Hayle, worked to revitalize the committee by hosting quarterly committee meetings, revamping the committee's Facebook page and engaging social media membership, sponsoring a networking event at the Family Law Institute and organizing the Supreme Cork, as well as other events.

In December 2018, Kristen Files and Donna-Marie Hayle's family law article, "How Do I Know if I Need a Prenup," was published in *The YLD Review* on behalf of the committee. The article was well received by the YLD community at large and gave young lawyers practical "Adulting 101" advice on prenuptial agreements.

In May 2019, the committee hosted the First Timer's Breakfast at the annual Family Law Institute held in Amelia Island, Florida, and attended the Diversity Committee's annual luncheon to speak about the committee. During both events, committee members were present to speak about the benefits of YLD involvement and invited prospective members to join and participate in upcoming events.

In June 2019, as a final hoorah for the Bar year, the committee hosted the successful return of the Supreme Cork. The event, held at 9 Mile Station at Ponce City Market, had an overwhelming turnout. Thanks to the generous donors, attendees and silent auction participants, the committee raised more than \$10,000 for Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's Safe and Stable Families Project, which serves survivors of intimate partner abuse in Atlanta in need of legal and social services. *YLD*

*Kristen Files is an associate at Smith & Lake, LLC, in Decatur. She is a past co-chair of the YLD Family Law Committee, past chair of the YLD Disaster Legal Assistance Committee and a 2018 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy.*

## 2019-20 YLD MEETINGS



### YLD FALL MEETING

Nov. 15-17, 2019  
Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge  
Buford, Georgia



### YLD SPRING MEETING

April 24-26, 2020  
Graduate Athens  
Athens, Georgia



### MIDYEAR MEETING

Jan. 9-11, 2020  
The Georgian Terrace and The Fox Theatre  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia*



### ANNUAL MEETING

June 11-14, 2020  
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort  
Miramar Beach, Florida  
*Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia*

# The YLD Leadership Academy Invites You to Apply



**Autumn  
Cole**

Founded in 2006, the YLD Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia is a program for young lawyers who are interested in developing leadership skills as well as learning more about their profession, their communities and their state. With more than 500 alumni including solo practitioners, judicial law clerks, judges, partners in large and small law firms, assistant district attorneys, public defenders, nonprofit lawyers, ADR specialists and in-house counsel, one major benefit of the Leadership Academy is making friends in practically every corner of the state and every practice area! If you are a YLD member with a history of involvement and leadership in your community, office and/or profession with a desire to become more involved with the YLD and State Bar, you should apply! To be eligible for the Leadership Academy, you must be a lawyer barred in the state of Georgia under the age of 36 or within the first five years of practice.

The YLD Leadership Academy class of 2020 will begin in January 2020 and will meet once a month for six months at events held across the state. Participants who attend all six sessions will receive 12 CLE credit hours and will be provided opportunities to network and learn from the state's legal leaders. Applications will be available October 2019—keep a look out! Applications will be available on the YLD website accessible at [www.georgiayld.org](http://www.georgiayld.org).

Still wondering if you should apply for Leadership Academy? Hear from recent alumni about the impact the program had on their careers. **YLD**

*Autumn Cole works at the Georgia Department of Administrative Services. She is co-chair of the YLD Leadership Academy.*

"When accepting a great opportunity to practice out of state there generally comes the presumption that you will not be able to participate in the State Bar or foster great foundational relationships with Georgia-based colleagues; however, through the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy I am happy to say my presumption was all wrong! The Leadership Academy is a great opportunity to build upon your leadership skills to contribute to the state and State Bar, even as a Georgia barred attorney practicing out of state. During my time in the Leadership Academy, I learned more about the numerous resources available at the State Bar than I knew even while I was practicing in state. Traveling throughout the state and seeing how your colleagues are working in their communities inspires you to become a better attorney and colleague that assists in their efforts. It is a worthwhile opportunity to gain some in-depth knowledge to further develop as an attorney and develop relationships with attorneys throughout the entire state of Georgia. I'm so grateful to have made the commitment to participate and I would wholly encourage anyone to apply for the next class!"

—Christina Calloway, Class of 2019

"I strongly recommend that all young Georgia lawyers invest the time to participate in the Leadership Academy. For me, this year has been a wonderful opportunity, first and foremost, to befriend other young attorneys from practice groups that do not usually intersect with my own practice, from parts of the state I am not familiar with, and from other law schools in the state. Working with this year's academy participants has shown me the excellent work that young lawyers are doing across our state, and provided me with connections to these wonderful folks across the state that I expect will last throughout my career. In addition, the programming for the Leadership Academy gave us the opportunity to meet and personally interact with several state representatives, appellate judges and Georgia Supreme Court justices, among many others. These valuable opportunities allowed us to see up close and personally the strength and health of our profession across the judiciary, government and private practice."

—Sara Fish, Class of 2019

"The Leadership Academy was an incredible experience for a young lawyer. We had opportunities to network with fellow young lawyers in many different areas of the law—from government to big law and everything in between. Our trips to D.C. and Vidalia offered us valuable CLEs that broadened our perspectives in the law. During that time, we were able to speak with judges, the attorney general and several established attorneys who provided us with wonderful advice as young lawyers. The Leadership Academy left me with great friends and associates which is extremely valuable for a young lawyer navigating the legal field. I have even referred clients to several of members of my Leadership Academy class. This was a great opportunity that I encourage every young lawyer to seek."

—Aaron Snipes, Class of 2019





The 2019 YLD Leadership Academy visited Chris Hopkins' farm in Lyons, Georgia, during session 3. (L-R: 2018-19 YLD President Rizza O'Connor, Toby Morgan, Chris Hopkins, Kenneth Mitchell, Co-Chair Autumn Cole, Nicole McArthur, Co-Chair Zack Howard, Stephanie Carman, Javier Becerra, Kayla Winters Strozier, Kristen Files, Amanda Webb, Kindall Browning, Madison Marcus, Erica Taylor, Taylor Hanks, Aaron Snipes, Nyonnohweah Seekie, Marcol Harvey, Nicole Pope, Shannon O'Reilly and Henry Brewer.)



Middle Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge Kathy S. Palmer spoke to the YLD Leadership Academy during session 3 about practicing law in rural Georgia. That evening, she put her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from the University of Georgia to use by cooking a delicious meal for all the participants that was served in the home of two local attorneys.



YLD Leadership Academy class of 2019 following the Graduation Luncheon at session 6 in Orlando, Florida. (Front row, L-R: Kenneth Mitchell, Aaron Snipes, Henry Brewer, Kayla Winters Strozier, Kindall Browning, Kristen Files, Amanda Webb, Milinda Brown, Shannon O'Reilly, Nicole Pope, Erica Taylor, Sara Fish, Blair Weatherly, Nicole McArthur, Nyonnohweah Seekie, Marcol Harvey, Emily Ward, Jacob Jackson, Nick Chandler and Christina Calloway; back row, L-R: J.D. Fichtner, Harry Dixon, Stephanie Carman, Co-Chair Autumn Cole, 2018-19 YLD President Rizza O'Connor, Co-Chair Zack Howard, Toby Morgan, Warren Tillery, Taylor Hanks and Javier Becerra; not pictured: Joe Cusack and Madison Marcus.)

## ► EDITORS, FROM PAGE 3

yers that have aged out of the YLD. If you are interested in writing an article, but don't know where to start, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to your article submissions and hope to see you at a YLD event soon. YLD

Ashley Akins is an associate at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta. She is a 2014 graduate and past co-chair of the YLD Leadership Academy. She has also served on the YLD Board of Directors.

Audrey Bergeson is managing attorney for the Family Law Program at Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. She is a 2016 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy. She also served on the YLD Board of Directors and as a co-chair of the 2017 YLD Signature Fundraiser.

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# 2019 YLD Spring Meeting



**Sarah  
Yaeger**

One of the amazing perks of being a part of the YLD is the opportunity to attend the meetings. The YLD has five meetings each Bar year: Summer, Fall, Midyear, Spring and Annual. This Spring trip was very special because we spent it in Washington, D.C., and 25 of the participants, myself included, were able to be sworn in to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. And yes, (gasp!) RBG was in attendance.

It can seem a little daunting at first to take a day or two off of work to go to meetings like these, but I cannot tell you how much you can gain from attending these events. I have met lifelong friends and have developed many valuable connections within the legal community by getting involved in the YLD and attending these meetings.

For my husband and I, we treat them as quarterly family vacations, which we don't even have to plan. In the case of the D.C. trip, we brought our daughter, Pfeiffer, and her grandparents. We certainly take advantage of the wonderful event programming and networking opportunities the YLD offers, and we also get the additional benefit of much needed downtime with our family.

We started the weekend off right by hitting up Big Ben's Chili Bowl as soon as we got into town. We stayed at the Hamilton Hotel, which is where most of the YLD programming was located, and it was in close proximity to some wonderful restaurants and local sites. We heard from several wonderful speakers and had the ability to earn CLE credit. Not only do you get the benefit of learning from your peers and counterparts in other cities that can open up your perspective on legal issues you deal with day in and day out, but you also get a bonding experience with young Georgia lawyers by interacting through "off-campus" activities as well. Some of the off-campus programming we were able to attend were a food



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. SUPREME COURT

Yep, that's me—Sarah Yaeger—standing within a few feet of the glorious, notorious RBG. Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Brett Kavanaugh also carved out time to spend with our group at the U.S. Supreme Court before and after our swearing-in ceremony. The day was pure magic.

tour of Georgetown, which included a visit to Julia Childs' home, as well as John Kennedy's home, a happy hour at the top of the Watergate Hotel (fun fact: RBG lives in a penthouse in the Watergate) and of course a couple of visits to the National Mall and several Smithsonian Museums.

The absolute highlight of the trip was of course the swearing-in ceremony at the Supreme Court. YLD Immediate Past President Rizza O'Connor organized the swearing-in ceremony and was able to secure face-to-face time with three of the justices. Justice Brett Kavanaugh spoke to us, and Justice Clarence Thomas spent much of the morning interacting with the young lawyers and taking pictures. Just when we thought it couldn't get better, the doors opened and the glorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg graced us with her presence. When she spoke everyone in the room hung on her every word.

The only downside to the swearing-in ceremony was that young children weren't allowed in the courtroom, so my daughter and husband had to hang back. But, as luck would have it, the three of us were eating our last meal in D.C. at Old Ebbit Grill and guess who was in a booth next to us? Justice Clarence Thomas! I introduced my family to him, and he generously took the time to meet them. I know, magical, right?

So the long and the short of it is, you never know who you are going to run into or what connections are in store when you take the time and leap of faith to attend a YLD meeting, but odds are the people you meet and the experiences you have will be unforgettable. *YLD*

*Sarah Yaeger is counsel at Balch & Bingham LLP in Atlanta. She is a past co-chair and a 2016 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy.*

# YLD Calendar of Events

For more information on the events listed below, visit [www.georgiayld.org](http://www.georgiayld.org).

## SEPTEMBER

### 24 YLD Litigation, Business Law and Judicial Law Clerk Committees Kickoff Meeting

State Bar of Georgia  
104 Marietta St. NW | Atlanta, GA  
YLD Litigation Committee  
YLD Business Law Subcommittee  
YLD Judicial Law Clerk Subcommittee

Join the YLD Litigation, Business Law and Judicial Law Clerk Committees on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 12 p.m. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to seeing you and kicking off a great year. For more information or to RSVP please contact Henry Brewer ([henry.brewer@cobbcounty.org](mailto:henry.brewer@cobbcounty.org)).

### 25 YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee Meeting

Steel City Pops  
312 Church St. | Decatur, GA  
YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee

Join the YLD Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Steel City Pops for complimentary popsicles and socializing. Bring any ideas you have for our meetings this Bar year. RSVP to Jenna Rubin ([jennabrubin@gmail.com](mailto:jennabrubin@gmail.com)) by Sept. 20.

### 26-27 Solo & Small Firm Institute

State Bar of Georgia  
104 Marietta St. NW | Atlanta, GA  
Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia

The Solo & Small Firm Institute is two jam-packed days of CLE offering 12 CLE credit hours presented in 10 Educational Tracks, and an exhibit hall featuring more than 30 leading technology and legal services experts providing new ideas and practical solutions for your firm.

## OCTOBER

### 1 Four Steps to Standout Legal Writing

State Bar of Georgia  
104 Marietta St. NW | Atlanta, GA  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia  
Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Designed for less experienced practitioners, this seminar should be a helpful course for law firm associates in all practice areas. Registration is \$50 for State Bar YLD members, which covers



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3 hours of Georgia CLE credit and a copy of speaker Ross Guberman's book *Point Made: How to Write Like the Nation's Best Advocates*. Visit [www.fedbaratlanta.org/events.php](http://www.fedbaratlanta.org/events.php) to register. No cancellations or refunds.

### 16 YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee Kick Off Meeting

Troutman Sanders  
600 Peachtree St., Suite 3000 | Atlanta, GA  
YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee

Join the YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee at our kickoff meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Troutman Sanders. At this meeting, we will begin planning the 2020 competition, which is scheduled for March 13-14 at the University of Georgia. This annual competition among the Georgia law schools is in need of volunteers to assist with recruiting judges, brief grading, fundraising, drafting the moot court problem and assisting with on-site logistics at the competition in Athens this spring. No prior moot court experience is necessary to participate. Please RSVP to Abbey Morrow ([abbey.morrow@legality.com](mailto:abbey.morrow@legality.com)).

### 26 Houston County YLD BBQ

The Walker's Barn  
2699 Marshallville Road | Perry, GA  
Houston County YLD

The Houston County YLD is ready to serve you some of the best BBQ around with a side of great fellowship. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 18, to [hocoyld@gmail.com](mailto:hocoyld@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER

### 15-17 YLD Fall Meeting

Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge  
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway | Buford, GA  
Young Lawyers Division





Ashley Akins, Editor  
Audrey Bergeson, Editor  
The YLD Review  
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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# 2019 FALL MEETING

Nov. 15-17 | Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge | Buford, Georgia  
Visit [www.georgiayld.org](http://www.georgiayld.org) for more information.