



# The YLD Review

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

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Stephanie Joy Kirijan, Atlanta  
skirijan@southernco.com

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### Newsletter Editors

Jennifer A. Blackburn, Atlanta  
jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com

Shiriki Cavitt, Atlanta  
shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlelaw.com

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## YLD Raises More Than \$70,000 for Georgia Legal Services Program

by *Brantley C. Rowlen*

On Jan. 7, the YLD held its 6th annual Signature Fundraiser, "Black Tie & Blackjack," at the Capital City Club in downtown Atlanta. The Signature Fundraiser's mission is to raise money for a nonprofit organization chosen by the YLD Board of Directors. This year's fundraiser, which benefited Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP), raised a record-setting \$73,175.

GLSP is an organization that provides legal services in civil matters to low-income Georgians residing in the 154 counties outside the metro Atlanta area. GLSP was founded by several young lawyers in 1971 after the then Younger Lawyers Section initiated a study of the need for lawyers to represent indigent citizens in civil matters throughout the state of Georgia.

The outstanding level of service provided by GLSP would not be possible without the philanthropy of many. Despite these difficult economic times, this year's Signature Fundraiser raised more money than ever before. The continued success of this special event would not have been possible without the generous support of many of the state's law firms and legal industry vendors, as well as attendance by members of the Bar. In addition,



(L-R) 2012 Signature Fundraiser Co-Chair Jessica Cabral, YLD President Stephanie Joy Kirijan, co-chairs Karen Kurtz and Kauleen Thatcher hosted an amazing event and helped raise a record-setting \$73,175 for GLSP.

this year's Signature Service Award was presented to **Rachael Zichella** for her continued support of GLSP. And a special thank you to event Co-Chairs **Jessica Cabral, Karen Kurtz, Kauleen Thatcher** and **Caroline Vann** for making the event a success. See the ad on page 5 for a complete list of host committee members, sponsors and donors.

The evening began with a reception for the Host Committee followed by the main event where there were more than 200 attendees. Guests enjoyed an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music courtesy of the band Reunion, while trying their luck at casino-like games such as Texas Hold'em, Craps, Blackjack and Roulette. The evening also included a silent auction featuring more than 70 items including sports memorabilia, artwork, recreation, travel and dining certificates, and jewelry. Whether a winner at the tables or in the silent auction, a good time for a great cause was had by all. Photos from the event can be viewed at [zachporter.photoshelter.com](http://zachporter.photoshelter.com) by searching "Galleries" for the fundraiser.

To learn how you can help Georgia Legal Services Program, please visit [www.glsp.org](http://www.glsp.org).



(L-R) State Bar President Ken Shigley and his wife Sally attend the YLD Signature Fundraiser and mingled with Paige and Jack Long.



## From the President

# YLD Recognizes the Service of Justice Carley

by Stephanie Joy Kirijan

As president of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD), I have the privilege to publicly thank **Justice George H. Carley** for his work with and dedication to this organization. Pending his retirement, Justice Carley has reminded me that it is unnecessary to honor him because he gets more out of his work with the YLD than he can contribute. But for more than three decades, Justice Carley has committed to supporting the YLD. I can think of no other judge who has given more to generations of young lawyers than he has and that is to be celebrated.

Justice Carley has enjoyed a storied legal career and will be the first judge in Georgia history to serve as both presiding judge and chief judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, as well as presiding justice and chief justice of the Supreme Court. He has achieved this level of success through his effective management of the courts and his unquestionable character. Justice Carley deserves our gratitude for his lifelong service to our great state.

Justice Carley was appointed to the appellate bench in 1979. He has been actively engaged with the YLD for much of his judicial career, most notably with the YLD officers swearing-in and the High School Mock Trial Program (HSMT). Justice Carley's dedication to young lawyers and service to our organization is unmatched.

When Chief Justice Carley administers his final oath to YLD officers at the annual meeting in Savannah, it will mark his 20th year serving in this role. The YLD gets a touch of Justice Carley's humor at this ceremony. His unique oath

reminds YLD officers "to work hard, without taking ourselves too seriously." He has taken an interest in the success of all the YLD presidents he has shepherded through the organization. I am personally grateful for the relationship I have developed with Justice Carley, and I know many past presidents and young lawyers have the same fondness for him.

Justice Carley judged the first Georgia HSMT final in 1988 and has served the YLD as a special consultant for the program since 1989. He sat on the national board until 2011, earning recognition for his service there. He is wholly committed to the success of the HSMT program and expects the same competence and preparation out of the volunteers as he gives to the program—and all else that he does. His leadership by example helps make the competition a success. In the YLD officer oath, Justice Carley asks the YLD officers swear to "volunteer to personally participate in the state competition as judge, evaluator, bailiff or general flunky." Although humorous, this line reveals the respect that Justice Carley has for HSMT volunteers. It does not matter how large or small the role in the competition, every participant is a valued member of the team. And with his strong sense of civility, Justice Carley treats people that way in all of his interactions, in the legal community and elsewhere.

Justice Carley does not seek out recognition or accolades, but leads with a quiet confidence. I am honored to thank him on behalf of the YLD for his service. I invite members of the Bar to attend the YLD dinner at the annual meeting as Justice Carley administers his final oath to YLD officers, which is reprinted below.

## Justice Carley's Oath for YLD Officers

Ladies and gentlemen: Since you all appear to be reasonably awake and alert, and, more or less, sober, I ask that you raise your right hand and repeat after me: I, (state your name), do hereby solemnly promise that I will perform the duties of the office for which, somehow, I have been selected for the Bar year beginning this day and continuing for one year, provided that I am not ousted therefrom sooner or do not get mad and quit. I further promise that I will perform each and every duty imposed upon me as an officer of the Young Lawyers Division, a/k/a YLD, f/k/a Younger Lawyers Section, a/k/a YLS, of the State Bar of Georgia. I further promise that, generally, I will accept and discharge the responsibility placed upon me and will always appear to act with good will and dedication.



The 1998-99 officers of the YLD are sworn in by Justice Carley at the Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, S.C. (L-R) Justice Carley, Ross Adams, Joseph Dent and Kendall Butterworth.

I further promise that I will continue to fully support the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition, a major project of the YLD, and I hereby volunteer to personally participate in the state competition as judge, evaluator, bailiff or general flunky.

I further promise to labor diligently on behalf of the YLD and to work with the big Bar, so long as the big Bar works with us. I further promise that I will encourage all members of the division to work hard, without taking themselves too seriously. I finally promise that I will urge all young lawyers to be active and ethical.

So help me God!



Justice Carley swears in the 2006-07 YLD officers in Hilton Head, S.C., at the Annual Meeting. (L-R) Joshua C. Bell, Elena Kaplan, Jonathan A. Pope and Justice Carley.



# Judge's Chambers

## Towards a Holistic Approach to the Law

by *Hon. Stephen Dillard*  
*Court of Appeals of Georgia*



One of the first things law students are taught is that, as lawyers, they will be expected to “zealously represent” their clients. But what exactly does this mean? Unfortunately, the imagery conjured up by this turn of phrase only serves to perpetuate the pernicious notion—held by many non-lawyers—that lawyers will do anything it takes to win a case. Thus, while the sentiment behind the charge to zealously

represent one's clients is no doubt well intentioned, I think it is long past time for lawyers to recast the manner in which they describe the nature of the attorney-client relationship. And any discussion along these lines should begin with the understanding that a lawyer has duties beyond those to his or her clients—i.e., to the bench, bar, community-at-large and to the rule of law. Indeed, the rules of professional conduct make this abundantly clear. But there is a compelling reason beyond mere ethical compliance for taking a more holistic (rather than mercenary) approach to one's law practice: it makes for far better lawyering.

At the heart of a holistic approach to law practice is a recognition that the disputes we handle as lawyers are not about us. Ideally, lawyers are servants. Our clients come to us when they are vulnerable and in dire need of guidance. And the last thing a client needs is a lawyer who merely fans the flames of discord. What a client does need is for someone to dispassionately analyze the situation and come up with a game plan for quickly resolving the dispute—i.e., a problem solver. Unfortunately, this approach is much more difficult to market to a person in the midst of emotional turmoil. Indeed, prospective clients will often express a desire for a “pit bull attorney” who will inflict pain and misery on their adversaries. But that is not what a client needs, and a lawyer has an obligation to channel the client's emotions in a constructive manner. This does not just promote the cause of professionalism, but also inures to the benefit of the client.

The reality is that many cases are won or lost due to the reputations of the attorneys involved, and a fanatical, win-at-any-cost lawyer is not doing the client's cause any favors. It may warm a client's heart to hear her attorney bluster on about how she has suffered a grave injustice, but if that rhetoric has no basis in the law or serves to undermine a valid legal position, then it ultimately serves no purpose. A good attorney knows this. A good attorney recognizes that effectively representing a client begins and ends with zealously guarding her reputation and going above and beyond the baseline of ethical standards imposed by our profession.

So, my challenge to the young lawyers of Georgia is this: spend a little time each week thinking about what it means to be a lawyer. Consider what an honor it is to serve our fellow citizens during their most challenging times. And remember that every time you file a pleading or brief or make an appearance in court, you are either harming or building up your reputation. It may sound trite, but the old adage really is true: your most precious asset as a lawyer is your reputation. Treat it as such.

# Call to Service

## GLA—A Unique Opportunity to Advocate for the Arts in Georgia

by *Liz Wheeler*



infringement and non-payment disputes.

Georgia Lawyers for the Arts (GLA), celebrating its 37th year in 2012, is unique among legal service organizations in Georgia as our mission is to provide artists and nonprofit arts organizations with crucial legal and educational services, and to foster relationships and understanding among members of the legal and arts communities. GLA works diligently to provide information and assistance to artists and nonprofit arts organizations on a variety of topics affecting their day-to-day creative industries and long-term rights and goals, such as copyright and trademark registrations; licenses and assignments; consignment and commission agreements for visual artists; publishing agreements for composers and authors; record deals; wills and estate issues; and

Through our referral program, seminars, clinics, workshops and resource library, GLA empowers artists and arts organizations to use better business practices, understand the legal implications of their actions, run more cost-effectively and efficiently, and more successfully navigate their professional lives. With this enhanced understanding and confidence, artists and arts organizations can spend more time concentrating on their creative endeavors and thus continue to contribute to their chosen medium in a manner that enriches us all.

GLA provides crucial assistance to many artists who would not otherwise have access to legal or business advice. Through our lawyer referral program, we provide pro bono referrals for low-income artists and low-budget nonprofit organizations. Additionally, each month any musician, painter, graphic designer, actor or other artist or organization representative with legal or business questions impacting them can take advantage of our free legal clinics and meet privately with an attorney for assistance. GLA also provides monthly 501(c)(3) nonprofit formation workshops for new organizations seeking formal tax-exempt status, and we are proud to say that we have been instrumental in assisting many of the most well-known arts organizations in Atlanta with obtaining their nonprofit status, without which these organizations would not be eligible for the grant funds that allow them to operate. Attorneys, artists and organization representatives also benefit from a number of other seminars GLA holds throughout the year on a variety of topics, including “Tax Issues for Artists,” “Legal Issues for Women in Film,” “Copyright Basics,” “Business Entities” and “Artist-Gallery Relationships.”

As funding for the arts continues to disappear, our clients' need grows exponentially and our call for the support of young lawyers increases. GLA is the perfect service opportunity for attorneys who are dedicated to improving the lives of Georgia's artists. To volunteer, please contact **Liz Wheeler**, GLA's director of volunteer services/staff attorney, at [gla@glarts.org](mailto:gla@glarts.org) or 404-873-3911.

## 8th 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 in a difficult situation? Consider nominating that lawyer for the 8th annual YLD Ethics & Professionalism Award.

For the past seven 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, Douglas Chandler** and **Tyronia “Ty” Smith**. The nomination form will be posted to [georgiayld.org](http://georgiayld.org) and distributed by email. Please submit all nominations to **Genie Iredale**, [giredale@fellab.com](mailto:giredale@fellab.com), and **Steven Moulds**, [steven.moulds@hklaw.com](mailto:steven.moulds@hklaw.com), by Friday, April 20, 2012.

# Affiliate YLD Updates

## Macon

by *Leslie Cadle*

In December, the Macon YLD held its annual Christmas gift drive for the local Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) foster children. Members of the Macon YLD, along with members of the Macon Bar Association, sponsored Christmas wish lists for 45 local foster children. Bibb County DFACS holds a gift drive each year in order to provide Christmas for the foster children in its care. Participants received and purchased items on a wish list for a local foster child. Special thanks to Macon YLD Vice President **David McCain** for allowing “secret Santas” to drop their donations at the offices of Childers & McCain.

## Savannah

by *Jennifer Campbell Mock*

The Savannah YLD has hosted several events to help local young attorneys network and have fun together. In December, the Savannah YLD held its annual Tacky Sweater Christmas Party at the home of **Jennifer Mock**. The event was sponsored by Deemer, Dana, and Froehle LLP, and everyone showed up in their tackiest Christmas attire. In the tacky sweater contest, **Quentin Marlin** and **Jessica Lyons** won best couple, and **Lindsey Lovingood** won best individual. Donations were collected to benefit Teen’s Hope and went toward setting up and furnishing a room for terminally ill teenagers at Memorial Hospital to use and enjoy during their stay. The Savannah YLD raised \$425 for this worthy charity.

Many additional exciting events are planned for the spring. If you are a young lawyer in Savannah or the surrounding area and would like more information about the Savannah YLD please contact Jennifer Mock at [jennifer@mocklaw.com](mailto:jennifer@mocklaw.com).



(L-R) Leslie Cadle, Christy Childers and David McCain at the Bibb County DFACS Christmas gift drive.



The Young Lawyers of Savannah wearing their tackiest Christmas attire for the annual Tacky Sweater Christmas Party.

# YLD Committee Updates

## Criminal Law Committee

by *Kathryn Boortz and Hemanth Digumarthi*

The law firm of Conaway & Strickler sponsored the YLD Criminal Law Committee’s Holiday Party on Dec. 7. In attendance were Hon. **Dax E. Lopez**, state court of DeKalb County and Hon. **Wesley B. Tailor**, state court of Fulton County. Attendees donated toys that benefitted the Toys for Tots program. The committee would like to extend thanks and appreciation to **Dan Conaway** and **Meg Strickler** for graciously hosting the party at their firm. Additionally, the committee thanks **Zach Porter** with Zach Porter Photography for photographing the event.

The committee is currently requesting members of the bench and bar to nominate young lawyers from the prosecution and defense communities to be considered for the annual Commitment to Justice Award. The award recognizes the professional accomplishments and commitment of members of the prosecution and defense communities who work to improve the criminal justice system as a whole. Nominations will be accepted through May 11. Please send letters of nomination to **Amanda Clark-Palmer** at [aclark@gsllaw.com](mailto:aclark@gsllaw.com). In the nomination, please explain how the nominee meets the selection criteria by including specific instances which exemplify the individual’s commitment to ethics, integrity, fairness, diligence, good judgment, knowledge of the law and exceptional advocacy skills. The winners will be honored during our annual CLE in June.

If you are interested in participating in committee events, please contact Co-Chairs **Kathryn Boortz** at [kathryn@cs-lawyers.com](mailto:kathryn@cs-lawyers.com) or **Hemanth Digumarthi** at [shdigumarthi@gmail.com](mailto:shdigumarthi@gmail.com).

## Intellectual Property Committee

by *Laura Ashby*

On Nov. 16, the Intellectual Property (IP) Committee hosted a networking event at Tap in Atlanta. In addition to helping young IP attorneys in the Atlanta area get to know each other, the event raised awareness of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, which provides legal and educational services to low-income artists and nonprofit arts organizations throughout the state.

On Feb. 13, the IP committee co-sponsored a lunch and learn on the intersection of intellectual property and social media. An experienced panel of corporate and outside counsel discussed key IP-related social media topics and strategies, focusing on the intellectual property and other legal issues associated with the widespread use of social media.

## Litigation Committee

by *Brantley Rowen*

In December, the Litigation Committee hosted its 7th annual Holiday Lunch for metro Atlanta area clerks and committee members’ paralegals and assistants. Keeping with tradition, the event was held at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Buckhead. Maggiano’s once again provided the perfect setting and delicious food for the occasion.

Clerks from the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals of Georgia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and many metro-Atlanta area superior and state courts were in attendance. The committee enjoyed the attendance of several court staff accepting their invitation for the first time. In all, more than 50 area clerks, committee members and staff attended.

## 2012 Public Interest Internship Program

The YLD Public Interest Internship Program will soon be taking applications for summer 2012 internships.

PIIP partners with organizations from across the state. 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 email **Colin Kelly** at [colin.kelly@alston.com](mailto:colin.kelly@alston.com) for further information.

For young lawyers and law students interested in becoming a PIIP Scholar, the application will be posted at [georgiayld.org](http://georgiayld.org) in April.



# Minorities in the Profession Committee

by *Shalamar Parham and Tiffany Yamini*

The Minorities in the Profession Committee (MIPC) started 2012 off by giving back to the law schools. On Jan. 31, attorneys spoke to the committee about how not to get burned out in the practice of law in a CLE at the Bar Center. On Feb. 29, MIPC sponsored law school panels at Emory University School of Law and Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School, where attorneys shared their experiences and advice. Additionally, a networking event was hosted for John Marshall law students to meet MIPC members on Feb. 22.

In keeping with the goals and missions to give back to the legal community and help the community at large, MIPC will continue community service events throughout the spring. During Black History Month, the committee performed community service at the Atlanta Children’s Shelter as part of its meeting. Additionally, the group will be co-sponsoring John Marshall’s Diversity Program CLE. The committee will also direct its efforts to helping the community at-large by participating in the elementary school program “If You Can See It, You Can Be It” in May. If you would like to get involved with MIPC and any of our community outreach programs, please email **Shalamar Parham** at [sparham@parhamlaw.net](mailto:sparham@parhamlaw.net) or **Tiffany Yamini** at [tkyamini@yandllaw.com](mailto:tkyamini@yandllaw.com).

## William Daniel Invitational Mock Trial Competition

by *Nicholas Smith*

Eighteen law schools from across the country came to Atlanta to compete in the annual William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition at the Fulton County Courthouse. The YLD hosted this competition from Nov. 18-20. The 2011 problem, developed by **Tom Jones**, a retired Fulton County assistant district attorney, involved a killing during the robbery of a liquor store. Local lawyers volunteered to serve as judges and jurors for the trials. Without their help, the competition would not have been possible.

All 18 schools competed in three preliminary rounds. Four law schools proceeded to the semi-finals: the University of Georgia School of Law; Emory University School of Law; the University of Houston Law Center and Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The teams from Emory and Thurgood Marshall went on to try their case before Hon. **Craig Schwall** with the Emory team 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 lawyers and judges who acted as evaluators for the competition; to Tom Jones for his devotion to this nationally recognized competition; to Judge Schwall for presiding over the final round; to the judges who allow the students the use of their courtrooms; and to the YLD.



The mock trial team from Emory accepts the award for winning the competition.



Tachelle and Yari Lawson proudly display their silent auction purchase.



Attendees of the fundraiser enjoy testing their luck at casino style gaming.

### Event Co-Chairs:

Jessica Cabral, Karen Kurtz, Kauleen Thatcher and Caroline Vann

### Host Committee:

- |                          |   |                          |                                 |
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2012 Signature Service Award Recipient Rachael Zichella with friends and members of her firm. (L-R) Amanda Hyland, Kristi Dosh, Seth Trimble, Alison Arnu, Jeff Kuester, Joe English, Rachael Zichella, Shawntel Hebert, Sarah Catherine Lyon, Eric Fisher and Jessica Fisher.



(L-R) Immediate Past President Michael Geoffroy, President-Elect Jonathan Pannell, President Stephanie Joy Kirijan, GLSP Executive Director Phyllis Holmen, Secretary Sharri Edenfield, Newsletter Co-Editors Shiriki Cavitt and Jennifer Blackburn, and Treasurer Darrell Sutton at the fundraiser.

Photos by Zach Porter Photography



# Midyear Meeting Recap

by **Brantley Rowlen**

The YLD kicked off this year's Midyear Meeting at the Loews Hotel with a happy hour for the Signature Fundraiser on Jan. 4. The event was hosted by the following YLD Committees: Aspiring Youth Program, Business Law, Community Service Projects, Criminal Law, Ethics & Professionalism and Real Estate. Attendees donated \$10 in support of Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) in exchange for a chance to win two tickets to the Signature Fundraiser. A fabulous time was had by all in attendance and the event raised \$390 for GLSP.

On Thursday and Friday the YLD hosted a two-part CLE on Transactional Law, which included a discussion on the important topics of Accounting & Finance for Lawyers by **Ivy N. Cadle**, Avoiding Legal Malpractice by **Peter Werdesheim** and Real Estate Closings by **Vanessa Goggams**.

## Young Lawyers Division Spring Meeting

Washington, D.C.

May 11–14, 2012

Sofitel - Lafayette Square

*register online at [georgiayld.org](http://georgiayld.org)*



(L-R) Alex Brown, Darrell Sutton, Jack Long and Judson Bryant attend a reception following the YLD General Session at the Midyear Meeting.

Thank you to **John “Jack” R.B. Long** for coordinating these successful programs. The YLD held its General Session meeting on Friday afternoon, which was well attended by many young lawyers from across the state and, specifically, the 2012 Leadership Academy class. After wrapping up official business, the meeting adjourned for a reception. Many members of the big Bar stopped by to meet and mingle with YLD members.

The Midyear Meeting wrapped up on Saturday with the Signature Fundraiser at the Capital City Club. It was an amazing event that raised more than \$70,000 for GLSP.

## Past President's Pointers

by **Amy V. Howell**



With more than a few years having passed since that special, sunny day that marked my graduation from law school, I paused recently to reflect on some of the lessons learned since I began my legal career. Needless to say, there have been triumphs and trying moments, each presenting important instants in my growth as a lawyer and as a person. Taking time to reflect on the ups and downs of our personal history is no easy task. However, without self-reflection, we lose the opportunity to grow.

So, I went back to where it all started—the day after graduation and me, eager to try out my shiny new juris doctorate. In putting my newly minted credentials to work, I was determined to save the world. Indeed, I was convinced that there was nothing I couldn't accomplish, so long as I put my mind to it and had a sufficient source of caffeine. I was impatient, fearless and undaunted. I was willing to work hard to prove myself, to prove my worth. Thank goodness this personal motivation was supported with such a full quiver of energy, as I also lacked any real experience. Sure, I'd taught school and made a difference in my students' lives, but I had not yet experienced the world as a lawyer. Ten years later, having gained that previously lacking experience, here are a few things I learned along the way.

Courage fades as your career grows, but the truly meaningful feats require a degree of fearlessness. Early in my career, I was fearless because I was cloaked with anonymity and blessed with low expectations. Unfortunately, experience and success can breed fear—the more you have, the more you have to lose, the harder it becomes to take risks. Moreover, with experience and success come those to whom you feel obligated. No longer a lone wolf with a cause, the weight of others' needs and expectations threatened to slow me down. The more I accomplished in my career, the more cautious I could become. However, that fear of failure can cause paralysis. Now, I purposefully seek out new challenges because with them come the opportunity to practice fearless ignorance and a willingness to fail. Without fear, the possibilities are endless.

Change doesn't just happen—it takes the conscious effort of many. However, like most of our generation, we are impatient for change, and we expect something new around every turn. Our expectations are well-founded. In just my lifetime, I've seen computers and technology change the law, providing precedents at the push of a button, making immediacy the norm. Yet, when it comes to taking care of ourselves and our communities, our impatience does not

always immediately follow. Rather than looking for what's new, we resist new ways of thinking. We fight for tradition, even if we don't have any understanding of what got us there in the first place. If we know that people's lives are at stake—their futures on the line—why must change be slow? If you stand by and wait for change, you will likely see none. Just like you demand the “newest” in technology, expect it from yourself.

Grey hair does not earn respect, but maturity and strategic thinking do. At the start of my career I was certain that, as soon as I had grey hair, others would accept my ideas without objection. However, it is that doubt—the anticipated questions, the naysayers opining—that drives my work. I aim to answer the challenge, and I work harder to prove my position. Age alone does not garner true respect. It may ensure the use of proper manners, but engaging social niceties is not the same as showing respect. Just because you are early in your career doesn't mean that you shouldn't have the courage of your convictions and act in a manner that inspires respect from others.

You can't build a full life out of a career, but your personal practice of law can bring fullness to your life. Intelligence got us into law school. Street smarts and survival skills help us endure the early years of professional life. Wisdom and compassion make you a good lawyer no matter where you measure your career. My profession alone does not define me. My life doesn't begin and end with the law. It is my life beyond my career that allows me to relate and communicate with a client and to translate the law into solutions for everyday life. And, as I bring my life experience into my practice of law, I also balance the energy of my early days with an earnest interest in making a mark on the rest of my life.

No one can write your story but you. Your career, like your life, is a journey. It will present highs and lows, and there will be twists and turns. Just buckle up, breathe and pace yourself.



# Georgia Legal Food Frenzy

by Jonathan R. Poole

Donate food and help fellow Georgians. The YLD is partnering with Attorney General **Sam Olens** and the Georgia Food Bank Association to organize a statewide food drive. The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy will take place April 23-May 4, and is patterned after a long-standing and successful drive in Virginia. The goal of the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy is to sign up as many law firms and legal organizations as possible to commit to compete in a food drive in an effort to gather food and raise money for the seven regional Feeding America food banks in Georgia. Those regional food banks partner with more than 2,500 nonprofits that offer food assistance programs in all 159 counties in Georgia.

Last year, an astounding 1.4 million Georgia households sought help to feed their families, which represented a 35-40 percent increase in demand for food from the previous year. This year, it is estimated that more than 1.6 million Georgians will be in need of food assistance. More than half a million Georgia children live in poverty and 1 out of 6 Georgians lack access to adequate food. Those numbers are astounding and the hunger of our fellow Georgians should concern us all. The timing of the food drive is also noteworthy, as it occurs just as the school year ends, a time when 702,000 children no longer receive free or subsidized lunch at school each day.

The YLD was approached to assist with this project because we are the community service arm of the State Bar. More than 10,000 members strong, we have a footprint that reaches across the state. This is a great opportunity to not only collect much needed food for Georgians, but for us to band together and show how extraordinary the YLD can be when we rally for a good cause. Olens is very much behind this project and will be making appearances across the state to help promote our efforts. Through the work of the YLD’s Community Service Projects Committee and the two Georgia Legal Food Frenzy co-chairs, **Deepa N. Subramanian** and **Kristi W. Wilson**, we have already signed up more than 40 YLD City Representatives from across the state and that number continues to grow. These city representatives have been working hard to get the word out to their colleagues and surrounding community. In early February packets were sent to more than 2,500 law firms inviting them to compete in the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy. If your firm or organization has not yet received a Food Frenzy packet and is interested in participating in the drive, please contact the co-chairs or your city representative. Contact information can be found at [www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org](http://www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org).



YLD President Stephanie Kirijan (second from left) and several Food Frenzy City Representatives join Attorney General Olens on the State Capitol steps for a photo opportunity during the Food Frenzy Press conference on February 1.

representatives from all seven regional food banks. The goal is to raise 600,000 pounds of food in the first year of the drive. While it may seem like a high goal for the inaugural drive, the legal community can come together and raise well over that amount for deserving Georgians. As the statistics show, there has never been a greater need for action. One of the most attractive aspects of the food drive is that all of the food raised in a community is donated to the food bank serving that community. This is a statewide campaign that directly benefits local communities.

Anyone interested in learning more about the food drive should visit [www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org](http://www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org). The website has all of the information about the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, including links for firms and legal organizations to sign up for the drive. After signing up, each firm or organization is sent an electronic “Campaign Packet” that has all the information needed to run a successful campaign. The website also links to the contest rules and the identity of your city representative. Through this partnership, the legal community can positively impact the lives of Georgians all across the state and nourish our communities.

The organizers of the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy held a press conference at the State Capitol on Feb. 1, to announce the program. A number of YLD City Representatives came together and met with Attorney General Olens; **Kenneth L. Shigley**, president of the State Bar of Georgia; **Stephanie Kirijan**, YLD President; and organizers from the Georgia Food Bank Association, including **Danah Craft** and



## City Representatives

<b>Albany</b> Kevin Armstrong	<b>Eastman</b> Stephanie Burton	<b>Savannah</b> Andrew Gorman Buckley Levins John Manly
<b>Athens</b> Kevin Sweat	<b>Fayetteville</b> James Clifton	<b>Rome</b> Andrew Garner
<b>Atlanta</b> Elizabeth Fite Nicole Leet	<b>Gainesville</b> Dustin Marlowe	<b>Roswell</b> Alex Kaufman
<b>Augusta</b> Alex Brown	<b>Hinesville</b> Carl Varnedoe	<b>Sandy Springs</b> Graham McDonald
<b>Blackshear</b> Adam Ferrell	<b>Jonesboro</b> Andrea Alabi	<b>St. Mary's</b> Kevin Yackel
<b>Brunswick</b> Ashley Browning	<b>LaGrange</b> Mitchell Key	<b>Statesboro</b> Bob Mikell
<b>Carrollton</b> Rebecca Dobras	<b>Lawrenceville</b> Holly Hance	<b>Thomasville</b> Raleigh Rollins
<b>Cartersville</b> Will Owens	<b>Macon</b> Amanda Morris	<b>Tifton</b> Hillary Sauls
<b>Columbus</b> Amy Walters	<b>Marietta</b> Darrell Sutton	<b>Valdosta</b> Hansell Watt
<b>Covington</b> Michael Geoffroy	<b>McDonough</b> Zach North	<b>Warner Robins</b> Bo Sammons
<b>Dalton</b> Curtis Kleem	<b>Milledgeville</b> Hoganne Harrison-Walton	<b>Waycross</b> Kristi Lowery
<b>Decatur</b> Yari Lawson	<b>Newnan</b> Anne Barrow	
<b>Duluth</b> Matt Reeves	<b>Norcross</b> Yari Lawson	



Jennifer A. Blackburn, Editor  
Shiriki L. Cavitt, Editor  
**The YLD Review**  
104 Marietta Street NW  
Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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## Editor's Block

Jennifer A. Blackburn

One of the most cherished benefits of my YLD involvement is the connections I have made with young lawyers from across the state. The YLD is unique to other organizations in that it has active participation from members throughout Georgia. While most groups focus on a regional area, YLD events routinely include lawyers from Gainesville to Valdosta and Augusta to Columbus. This geographical diversity allows the opportunity to expand your network beyond the community in which you practice. When you have a matter in another part of the state, it is very helpful to be able to pick up the phone and call a lawyer that practices in that area and knows the lay of the land, can introduce you to opposing counsel or may even be the opposing counsel. Furthermore, these statewide connections are a great source of referrals. When approached about a referral, I first look to my YLD contacts to see if there is anyone that can handle the case. It is always good to know people and the YLD offers young

lawyers a great opportunity to know other young lawyers from across the state. With spring right around the corner there will be happy hours, community service projects, CLEs and endless opportunities to get involved. Make plans to get out of the office, come to an event and meet some new people.

## 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 the Westin Harbor and Resort Spa in Savannah on June 1.

The Executive Council is composed of 10 representatives from each of Georgia's Federal Judicial Districts (Northern, Middle and Southern), two representatives from outside Georgia and 12 members-at-large. 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](mailto:marym@gabar.org) or fax it to 404-287-4990 by May 18. For more information about the elections, contact Mary McAfee, or YLD President-Elect **Jonathan Pannell** at [jonpannell@gpwlawfirm.com](mailto:jonpannell@gpwlawfirm.com).

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "networking" as a noun meaning "the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups or institutions; specifically: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business." Though the definition above sounds a bit generic and the thought of actually engaging in networking often makes one's heart palpitate and palms sweat, the idea behind networking can be reduced to a very simple concept: an opportunity to expand one's social and professional circles through stepping outside of one's office and daily routine to interact and forge a relationship with other individuals. With that idea in mind, I love the dictionary's use of the word "cultivate" in the definition of networking because it brings to mind the idea and imagery of new beginnings, first harvests and fostering growth through the breaking of new ground. Cultivation of personal and business relationships is exactly what networking is when it is done properly.

So now that we have established what it means to network, I am sure you are asking just how you can go about actually putting the definition into action. To assist in our pursuit of effective networking, what follows are a few tips that have been truly helpful to me: (1) Get there at the start time of an event because the organizer is not usually as inundated with tasks and attendees and it is often easier to talk to people; (2) DO NOT spend all night talking to the person you came with; branch out and meet new people; (3) don't be afraid to be yourself; (4) maintain eye contact, but don't stare . . . and definitely do not scan the room looking for your next target; (5) make the person you are talking to feel as if they are the most important person in the room; and (6) follow up with the individuals you meet because cultivating real relationships comes with genuine follow through.

I encourage you to attend some of the YLD activities in the coming months and put the above pointers to the test. With hosts of social, professional and community service activities, the YLD is fertile ground to get your 2012 networking resolutions off to a strong start. Happy cultivating!



## Editor's Block

Shiriki L. Cavitt

To view a calendar of upcoming YLD events or join a committee, please visit  
[www.georgiayld.org](http://www.georgiayld.org).