



The YLD Review

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

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2010 YLD Leadership Academy Class Reaches Milestone with Graduation

by Carl Varnedoe

The Leadership Academy has enjoyed another successful year, beginning with nearly 200 applications from highly qualified young lawyers around the state. The 50 young lawyers selected for this year's class met once a month for six months, and each monthly session covered a different topic. Those who participated in each session obtained one year's worth of CLE credit.

The first session of the 2010 Leadership Academy was held during the State Bar's Midyear Meeting. Academy members met with and were addressed by Bar leaders, including YLD President **Amy Howell**, State Bar President **Bryan Cavan** and State Bar



(L-R) Leadership Academy Co-Chair Carl Varnedoe, YLD President Amy Howell, Leadership Academy Co-Chair Sharri Edenfield and Justice David Nahmias at the graduation of the fifth Leadership Academy class at the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting.

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YLD Committees Host Bipartisan Attorney General Candidate Forum

by Christopher Abrego



(L-R) YLD President Amy Howell, YLD Juvenile Law Committee Co-Chair Kirsten Widner, attorney general candidates Ken Hodges, Rob Teilhet, Sam Olens and Max Wood; and YLD Litigation Committee Chair Christopher Abrego.

On April 5, the YLD held its first Attorney General Candidate Forum at Park Tavern in Midtown with the four candidates vying to be Georgia's next attorney general. The candidates—**Ken Hodges** (D-Albany), **Sam Olens** (R-Marietta), **Rob Teilhet** (D-Marietta) and **Max Wood** (R-Macon)—discussed their views on a wide range of issues affecting the citizens of Georgia, from challenging the new federal health care legislation to combating financial corruption. Prior to the forum, a cocktail reception was held where the candidates mingled with more than 100 attendees. A replay of the forum can be seen on the State Bar and *Fulton County Daily Report* websites. The forum was organized by the YLD Litigation and Juvenile Law Committees. Special thanks to the sponsors who made this event possible: **Ford & Harrison, LLP**, **Waddell & Reed**, **Voices for Georgia's Children** and the **Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce**.

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From the President

In a Year of Challenges, the YLD Rises to the Occasion

by Amy V. Howell

When I took office as YLD president, there was no question the year ahead would be filled with challenges. The economic climate was the most difficult any of us had ever known. Georgians were losing jobs in record numbers, and the legal profession was not immune from the hardships of the times.

A year later, the economy's downward arrows appear to have flat-lined, and there are hopeful signs we are in the beginning stages of rebounding. Nevertheless, people are still hurting. The economic recession did not occur overnight, nor will the recovery.

My message to you in the summer of 2009 was simply this: We know this is going to be a tough year for a lot of our neighbors and a lot of our colleagues. As an organization, let's do all we can to provide help to those who need it. After all, helping others is why most of us became lawyers in the first place.

Twelve months later, I have to say I am truly humbled by your response. Through hard work and with a sincere spirit, the Georgia YLD has risen to the occasion time after time. I am proud to report that all of our three major goals for this year have been met with great success.

Creating Innovative Programs and Projects

Our major new initiative for 2009-10, the Summer Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP), started with a goal of providing at least one internship with a \$5,000 paid stipend in each of Georgia's three federal judicial districts. Thanks to the tremendous success of our fourth annual Signature Fundraiser, "Black Tie and Blackjack," PIIP was able to fund 10 such internships in this inaugural summer. As a result, these law school students and recent graduates will gain invaluable legal training and experience while helping meet the legal needs of the indigent and underprivileged—a true win-win situation.

Promoting the Leadership of Young Lawyers

The YLD Leadership Academy has been strengthened by the development of an alumni network, which will foster the continuing leadership of academy participants and a new law school outreach program. The first class-wide Leadership Academy service project, which provided computers, sports equipment and other much-needed supplies to the West Broad Street YMCA in Savannah, was a huge success. The Leadership Academy is helping produce a new generation of "Big Bar" leaders, with more graduates seeking election to the Board of Governors.

Supporting Children and Families

At the beginning of my term, I charged each of our 26 committees to identify meaningful efforts to support the "Children and Families" theme, and each of our 42 Executive Council members to develop and implement a service project in their communities. Your response has been absolutely amazing. Dozens of local and statewide service projects helping Georgia's children and families have been carried out, some of which have been reported in the YLD newsletter, but many of which have not. We also addressed the "Children and Families" issue internally, establishing a Parents and Caregivers in the Profession Committee to provide networking and CLE opportunities that are family friendly and to give lawyers a forum in which to address our common challenges.

If you don't think young lawyers are making a difference in Georgia, read the testimony of Leadership Academy Co-Chair Sharri Edenfield about the class-wide service project at Savannah's West Broad Street YMCA:

I have to say that rarely have I, and I believe I can speak for the rest of the group present, ever felt like such a small gesture made such a big difference in the lives of so many. Mr. Doliber (the YMCA director) and his assistant were overcome to the point of tears. It's one thing to hear about people's needs on television or to read about them in a newspaper, but when you meet people who are overwhelmed to the point of tears by a gift of \$500 in gift cards and a \$30 set of tools, it really makes you think about how lucky you are. There, but for the grace of God, go I.

As the excitement of the beginning of a new Bar year approaches and I hand the YLD gavel to Michael Geoffroy, I urge you to keep helping others. Inside and outside the courtroom, Georgia young lawyers are making a difference in our profession and in the lives of others.

I am extremely grateful to the YLD officers, directors, executive council and committee chairs for making this an incredibly productive year. It is their leadership and hard work that has made this year such an outstanding success. I am indeed blessed to be part of such an outstanding group of lawyers, leaders and citizens. Thank you all for turning a year of such great challenges into one of opportunity and making the most of it.



(L-R) Ben Perkins, Josh Stein, Judge Charles Pannell, Chief Judge Yvette Miller, Judge John Ellington, Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, Justice David Nahmias, Justice Robert Benham, Justice Hugh Thompson, Justice Harris Hines, Judge Alan Blackburn, YLD President Amy Howell.



(Back row, L-R) YLD President Amy Howell, Elizabeth Fite, Jen Blackburn, Ty Smith, Stephanie Kirjjan, Janet Scott, Shiriki Cavitt. (Front row, L-R) Terri Gordon, Trinity Hundredmark, Whitney Mauk, Marquetta Bryan, Meredith Wilson and Ari Mathé.

Five Ways to Save Your Law Practice (and Sanity)

by Natalie R. Kelly

Pressures of practicing law got you down? Feel like you need to get more control over the stress and strain of balancing life and law practice? Here are five ways to chip away at any negative experiences you may have while practicing law in this day and age:

- Get plenty of rest, exercise and nourishment. I don't like water, but it's necessary, just like getting at least five hours of sleep each night and moving around at least a little bit each day. Keep a short journal of activities you undertake outside of your work. If you find you spend less than four hours per week on taking care of yourself, then make some adjustments.
- Learn "you." Despite what you might have had time to pay attention to in law school, you should really listen to yourself now that you are in law practice. You are no longer a law student, you are a practicing lawyer. Know when you are most productive at what you do. What bores you? What excites and motivates you? What's the last thing that you tried to tell yourself and when did you actually listen? Stay in tune with yourself.
- Take annual vacations and "mini" weekly vacations. Plan a vacation and then do your best to follow through with disconnecting and vacating your work environment for rest and relaxation. Practice vacation in "mini" form by taking time to meditate, go for short walks or even just stare at some abstract art that catches your eye.
- Go to the doctor. Plan an annual visit to the doctor for a complete physical. This trip can help you set goals for health concerns and ensure that all is going well with your body. Ask your doctor how he or she handles their stress to find some interesting new ways to deal with your own stressors.
- Brag on your rest—not just your work. Share not only how many long hours you've been working, but how many extra hours of sleep you've been able to get or how many times you've reached your exercise and diet goals for the week. The sharing of your "relaxation and caring for yourself" successes can help not only you, but inspire others to take time out to care for themselves as well.

The State Bar's Law Practice Management Program has many resources to help with any life balance concerns you may have. Even if you feel totally in control, now might be a good time to give the program a call and check out a resource to help you plan how to stay in your own "happy and balanced" place in practice.

Just Waiting for Bread

by Michael L. Monahan

I pause and clear my throat. Another caller, another awkward conversation to be had—one already formed and well-rehearsed, yet always stilted, always sad and energy-sapping.

My telephone rings frequently throughout the business day. I have caller ID. Series of numbers flash across the small LCD screen as the day progresses, yet it's the same caller, always a similar plea.

I listen intently to each person. As usual, the caller has already spoken to legal aid or the neighborhood pro bono program. Now, she dials me up. I try to sum up the facts and repeat them back, not so much to understand

She has a name. I wrote it down in my call log. I wonder who else shares that name. A young child or two? An elderly father? Who else on the other end of that telephone line, in that house or trailer or apartment, is hearing half of a conversation? Occasionally, I hear a baby crying in the background of the call.

I recall many names, many voices. I hear myself sometimes in their stories. I recall as a child using rubber bands to hold up my old, lifeless socks under my navy blue parochial school uniform pants. And eating dry cornflakes as meals for a few days before my father's payday.

I have broken my cardinal rule I preach to our volunteer coordinators: Speak in the language of opportunity, not in the language of emergency or chaos.

(because I do), but to bide time while my brain processes some—no, any—resource that I can provide to her. My office is a last resort for people with civil legal problems, people who can't afford a lawyer.

I don't have volunteer lawyers for the callers. I don't provide advice. My work involves developing and supporting the community of pro bono providers, especially in rural areas of this state, all 159 counties in the largest state east of the Mississippi. I recruit volunteers for independent programs. I build web resources for the public and for advocates. I help local and voluntary bar associations launch special pro bono programs.

I clear my throat again. I provide explanations to her. I try to validate her fears and concerns. If there are "magic words" to be formed that might open the door to the legal aid office, I work with her to form those loaded phrases and sentences. I explain that legal aid and pro bono programs are like legal emergency rooms, and that the programs can handle only the most critical legal needs. Silence. I'm sure she is still on the line and I continue. "There are long lines for legal help." I know she's thinking, "My problem is important. Are you saying my problem isn't important?"

*They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,
Why should I be standing in line,
just waiting for bread?*

— "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)

They're just waiting for bread. I understand.

So, we stay on the line. Sometimes, the caller just needs basic legal information or a form. I can help with information and forms. Often, they need to know how to talk with a lawyer about a reduced fee.

For some callers, I make it a point to intervene on their behalf with the local legal aid or pro bono program.

So many times, they need a brief lesson on how the justice system works. They already know how it doesn't work for them.

Volunteer for your local legal aid or pro bono program today. They're waiting for bread—and they are waiting for you.

This article first appeared as a blog on Martindale Connected in the pro bono community hosted by Pro Bono Net, www.Martindale.com on April 20, 2010.

Can you work for them?

For more information, visit and join

www.georgiaadvocates.org/gojc

our statewide volunteer lawyer support website.

What I've Learned Since Law School

by **Douglas G. Ashworth**

The State Bar of Georgia's Transition into Law Practice Program—a mandatory mentoring program and the first of its kind in the United States—is nearly five years old, and more than 2,500 experienced members of the State Bar have served as mentors. Last fall, I asked some of these experienced lawyers to share the “Top Five Things I've Learned Since Law School.” Their responses are too good to be filed away in a program booklet on a shelf somewhere, so they have been reproduced here.

Here are observations about the responses. First, the more experienced the mentor, the more concise their response. Second, the more experienced the mentor, the more the words “professionalism,” “integrity” and “relationships” appear in his or her response. With those observations in mind, here are the lessons learned from the mentors, beginning with the most recently admitted and ending with the most experienced.

Jonathan D. Goins (admitted 2005): “Whatever you're going through at your job, someone has gone through it before. Stay strong and keep your eyes on the prize.”

Todd Duffield (admitted 2005): “A first draft should never be your ‘first’ draft.”

John Marty (admitted 2001): “Take immediate responsibility for your mistakes.”

Katrina Quicker (admitted 2000): “Be professional to opposing counsel; you never know when they'll work for your firm or become an in-house client.”

Charles Clay (admitted 1999): “Be honest with yourself and others about your workload and whether you can take on additional assignments.”

Tim Buckley (admitted 1991): “E-mail is the greatest single plague ever visited on the practice of law; the BlackBerry is e-mail on Red Bull.”

Kimberly Dyrnecki (admitted 1990): “Have a life outside of being a lawyer; it will make you a better person and bring you business.”

State Bar of Georgia Secretary **Robin Frazer Clark** (admitted 1988): “When the client says that it's not about the money, it's *all* about the money. It's *always* about the money.”

State Bar of Georgia Past President **Robert Ingram** (admitted 1984): “Never guarantee results and avoid predictions. Lawyers, like doctors, sometimes can render good treatment but not cure the illness.”

Susan Gouinlock (admitted 1985): “Being on time and prepared is much more important than wearing a wrinkle-free suit.”

Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia **Yvetter Miller** (admitted 1981): “No. 1, always be prepared. No. 2, never say never. No. 3, lawyers are leaders, [so] lead by example.”

Charles “Chuck” Olson (admitted 1981): “Credibility is your best asset; lose it and you may never get it back.”

Anne Baird Bishop (admitted 1976): “Read the code; read the [expletive deleted] code.”

Edwin Marger (admitted 1971): “The Golden Rule works.”

State Bar of Georgia Past President **Harold “Hal” Daniel** (admitted 1970): “Dress like a lawyer every day. If you want to be treated seriously, look like a lawyer should.”

State Bar of Georgia Immediate Past President **Bryan Cavan** (admitted 1967): “Learn to listen. Answer calls or e-mails promptly.”

Harvey Weitz (admitted 1965): “Be early, be prepared, be organized and be brief.”

State Bar of Georgia Past President **Paul Kilpatrick** (admitted 1964): “You make more money from the cases you do not take, than those you do.”

John T. Marshall (admitted 1962): “Today's disaster is tomorrow's cocktail story.”

For information about the Transition into Law Practice Program or how to become a mentor, contact **Doug Ashworth** at douga@gabar.org or 404-527-8703, or visit the program's page at www.gabar.org/programs/transition_into_law_practice_program/.

Save the Date

YLD Summer Meeting

Aug. 19 - 22

Wild Dunes Resort

Charleston, S.C.



Committee Updates

Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee Hosts Annual Competition

by *Sarah Cipperly*

The YLD Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee again sponsored the statewide law school moot court competition the weekend of March 26-27. Students from the moot court programs at the University of Georgia School of Law, Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law, Georgia State University College of Law, Emory University School of Law and host John Marshall School of Law competed for the coveted titles of best appellate brief, best team overall, best team runner-up and best individual oralist.

The future young lawyers submitted a technically-compliant appellate brief based upon a hypothetical legal problem involving an array of legal issues arising from a hypothetical wrongful death claim brought by would-be parents of a nine-week-old fetus negligently killed in an automobile accident while being carried to term by a surrogate mother. Each team's brief score was combined with their oral argument score to determine which teams advanced through preliminary, semi-final and final oral argument rounds.

After two days of oral argument, a team from the University of Georgia won the best appellate brief and best team overall titles, while a team from Georgia State secured best team runner-up and **Carson Walden** from John Marshall won the best individual oralist title. The final round of this year's competition was judged by Fulton County Superior Court Judge **Wendy L. Shoob**, **Paul J. Kaplan**, **Allen F. Wallace**, **Delia T. Crouch** and **Andrew Capobianco**. In addition to the competing teams and those who volunteered to judge the competition, the committee would like to thank its co-chairs, **Sarah Cipperly** and **Jamie Woodard**.



The University of Georgia team secures the best appellate and best team overall titles.

Community Service Projects Committee

by *Jen Blackburn*

The Community Service Projects Committee has been busy with more exciting service projects and events. In February, committee members volunteered at the Justice Benham Community Service Awards. March was packed with both an Atlanta Hawks Night with children from the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services and an Easter Egg Hunt at Nicholas House. The Hawks pulled out a victory in overtime against Charlotte and a good time was had by all. Despite some light showers, the kids at Nicholas House had a wonderful time searching for eggs and making arts and crafts.

In April, the committee hosted its first Sandwich Making Party at Crossroads Community Ministries. A group of accomplished sandwich assemblers volunteered their time on Easter weekend to make more than 1,000 sandwiches for Crossroads to distribute to the homeless. The

committee further benefited the homeless in May with its annual Toiletries Drive in conjunction with the YLD Spring Meeting in Key West. The items collected were distributed to homeless shelters throughout the Metro Atlanta area.

Interested young lawyers can get information about upcoming projects and joining the committee by contacting **Jen Blackburn** at jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com.



Community Service Committee members after spending time with children from Fulton County DFACS at an Atlanta Hawks game.

Law-Related Education Committee Awards Middle School Essay Prizes

by *Rachel Krause*

The Law-Related Education Committee is proud to announce the winners of its first Middle School Essay Contest.

1st Place - **Evan Mercer**, Lost Mountain Middle School (Kennesaw)

2nd Place - **Dannielle O'Buckley**, Arnold Magnet Academy (Columbus)

3rd Place - **Eli Guidry**, Perry Middle School (Perry)

The winning students received prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Honorable mention also is made of the essays submitted by **Anderson Wheatley** of Fulton Science Academy (Atlanta); **Andrew Warner** of Bear Creek Middle School (Fairburn); and **Tristan Hill Youmans** and **Gaby Vigh** of Oglethorpe Charter School (Savannah).

More than 185 essays were submitted from across the state. Thank you to all the student participants and the teachers who encouraged their participation.

YLD Litigation Committee

by *Christopher Abrego*

On March 12, the Litigation Committee hosted its annual Trial and Error CLE at the Bar Center. More than 100 lawyers attended. **Scott Coulter** of ICLE remarked, "The program was a great success because of the excellent faculty recruited by the Litigation Committee."

On March 25, the committee held its annual Spring Mixer. More than 60 young lawyers attended the event, which was held at



(L-R) John Hadden, program chair, War Stories in Litigation; Emmet Bondurant; and Christopher Abrego chair, YLD Litigation Committee.

Rí Rá Irish Pub in Midtown Atlanta, including third-year law students from UGA, Emory, Georgia State and Mercer law schools. Committee members and guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers and socialized well into the night. The committee gives special thanks to its sponsors for a great event: **Esquire Court Reporting, BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services, Eagle Investigative Services, Capstone Financial and RLSS, Inc.**

On April 28, the committee held the final installment of its 3rd Annual War Stories in Litigation Speakers Series. Nearly 120 attorneys attended the series' three installments. This year's roster of speakers included **Tommy Malone, Tom Carlock** and **Emmet Bondurant**. The committee is thankful for its sponsors: **Forge Consulting, Metro Court Reporting, Absolute Reporting, TrialGraphix** and **New England Financial** for making the War Stories Series possible.

The committee holds its general membership meetings the last Wednesday of every month at the Bar Center. Please contact Co-Chairs **John Perry** at joperry@wcsr.com or **Laura Percifield** at lpercifield@m-mlegal.com if you would like to get involved with or learn more about the committee.

Cobb County YLD

by Sarah Cipperly

The Cobb YLD started its new bar year with a flurry of activity. It began with the YLD's first quarterly social of 2010 on April 1 at Hemingway's on the Marietta Square. This social, just as each quarterly social, gave YLD members and guests a chance to mingle, network and have fun. The YLD's next quarterly social will be an outing to the see the Atlanta Braves take on the Milwaukee Brewers on July 16.

The Cobb YLD celebrates its dedication to service each year with a Great Day of Service, held in conjunction with the Cobb Bar's Law Day celebrations. This year, the Cobb YLD partnered with Legal Aid of Cobb County and Cobb Senior Services to assist in preparing advance directives for low-income seniors. On May 21, volunteer lawyers from the YLD helped seniors complete advance directives and powers of attorney. It was indeed a great day of service for young lawyers in Cobb County.

The Cobb YLD is a section of the Cobb County Bar Association, the second-largest voluntary bar in Georgia. If you are a young or newer lawyer who practices or lives in Cobb County, join the YLD at its meetings the third Tuesday of each month at noon at Willie Rae's on the Marietta Square, or contact Cobb YLD President **Sarah Cipperly** at scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org.

Do you have news to share about your YLD committee or local YLD? Send it to marym@gabar.org. Don't forget to include a photo!

Key West Plays Host to YLD Spring Meeting

by Elizabeth Fite

The 2010 YLD Spring Meeting was held April 29 - May 2 in Key West, Fla., at the Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa. Young attorneys from across Georgia gathered to enjoy the beautiful scenery and entertaining nightlife that Key West has to offer. The Pier House, located on Key West's



Attendees at the YLD Spring Meeting in Key West, Fla.

famed Duval Street, was within walking distance of many of the city's most beloved attractions, including The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, Pirate Soul Museum and the Southernmost Point in the continental United States, only 90 miles from Cuba.

The meeting kicked-off with a welcome reception on the beach, but this meeting was not limited to sightseeing and exploring the former pirate haven. Attendees participated in a panel discussion about the State Bar's Journey to Diversity and Inclusion. The panelists included **Avarita Hanson**, executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism; **Lester Tate**, 2010-11 president of the State Bar of Georgia; **Damon Elmore**, YLD past president; and **Tamera Woodard**, YLD member and associate in the Atlanta office of Schiff Hardin, LLP. The panelists were selected for their varied backgrounds, and the panel was designed to represent small and large firms, in-house counsel and public service attorneys. The CLE presented a history of the State Bar of Georgia—from a voluntary, invitation-only organization to the Bar as we know it today—and the Bar's diversity initiatives past, present and future. You can learn more about the State Bar's Diversity Program under the "Programs" link at www.gabar.org.

Key West boasts some of the best snorkeling and scuba diving in North America, so the YLD took a sunset sail and snorkel cruise. Although the sunset was gorgeous and the water crystal-clear, a few members discovered as the catamaran rocked back and forth, much to their discomfort, that admiralty law was the closest they needed to get to the ocean.

All YLD members are invited and encouraged to attend meetings, and we look forward to seeing you at the Summer Meeting to be held at the Wild Dunes Resort in Charleston, S.C., from Aug. 19-22.

Continued from Page 1

Executive Director **Cliff Brashier**. The session educated academy members on the financial workings of the State Bar and introduced them to the countless service opportunities afforded young lawyers through the YLD committee system.

In February, the Leadership Academy enjoyed its annual day at the Capitol. State Rep. **Wendell Willard**, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, hosted the class and recognized it from the House floor. Willard also arranged a meeting for the class with Gov. **Sonny Perdue**. This session concluded with a Legislative Luncheon that was held in conjunction with the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee. Numerous lawyer-legislators, members of the House Judiciary Committee and judges and justices from the Court of Appeals of Georgia and Supreme Court of Georgia attended the luncheon where Speaker **David Ralston** shared insight into being a lawyer in the General Assembly. Attorney **Nels Peterson**, Perdue's special counsel, also joined the group and shared his experiences as a lawyer in the governor's office. Special thanks to the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee and Leadership Academy alumna, **Tippi Burch**, for assisting in the coordination of this session.

The class went on the road for its March session at Mercer University School of Law in Macon. Class members were told about the opportunities for pro bono and community service by **Mike Monahan**, director of the State Bar's Pro Bono Project. Monahan provided an overview of the Georgia Legal Services Program and the services they provide, the overwhelming need for pro bono assistance from the private bar and the numerous resources and support systems in place to assist lawyers in their pro bono efforts. Prof. **Sarah Gerwig-Moore** then discussed the ethical implications of pro bono service and her monumental pro bono efforts through Mercer Law School's Habeas Project. The March session concluded with a presentation by **Puja Vadodaria** with Georgia Appleseed on their many initiatives including the "Heir Property" effort.

The class visited Savannah for its fourth session. On April 15, the Savannah YLD co-hosted a happy hour for the Leadership Academy, which allowed the class to mingle with friends and colleagues in the Savannah bar. Friday's session was hosted by **Linda Edwards** at the State Bar's Coastal Georgia Office and featured **Doug Ashworth's** program on backpack professionalism. For the first time since the academy's inception, a class community service project was added to the agenda, and the class concluded the Friday session by visiting the West Broad Street YMCA and presenting Executive Director **Peter Doliber** with athletic equipment, laptop computers and a cash gift. The class also relocated and erected playground equipment and prepared hundreds of informational gift bags for an upcoming public health and safety outreach program.



(L-R) Brook Davidson, Odie Williams, Holly Hance, Jonathan Poole and Brooke Parris mingle with the Savannah YLD during a joint reception with the Leadership Academy on April 15.

In May, the class was hosted at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by Chief Judge **Julie Carnes** and Clerk of Court **Jim Hatten**. Following a reception with northern district judges and court personnel, the class was addressed by District Judge **William Duffey Jr.** and Magistrate Judge **Russell Vineyard** and was introduced to key court personnel and staff. The class concluded the day by visiting the Court of Appeals of Georgia where Judge **John Ellington** explained the day-to-day operations of the court, including the inner workings of the infamous "Batman door." The class was also treated to an impromptu discussion by Judge **Herbert Phipps** about the important role lawyers play in shaping and maintaining a civil, ordered society.

The final session and graduation of the 2010 class was held on June 18 during the State Bar Annual Meeting. All appellate judges and justices, State Bar leaders and Leadership Academy alumni were invited to attend and hear **Justice David Nahmias'** keynote speech.

2010 Annual Meeting Highlights



Attendees at the YLD Pool Party & Meet the Candidates Reception.



Supreme Court of Georgia Presiding Justice George H. Carley swears in the 2010-11 Young Lawyers Division officers: President Michael Geoffroy, President-Elect Stephanie Kirijan, Treasurer Jon Pannell, Secretary Darrell Sutton, Newsletter Co-Editor Meredith Wilson, Newsletter Co-Editor Elizabeth Fite and Immediate Past President Amy Howell.



Newly sworn in YLD President Michael Geoffroy with 2010-11 Bar President Lester Tate.



Ty Smith, Shiriki Cavitt and Janet Scott enjoy their time at the YLD Dinner.



Editor's Block

He Said

by Darrell Sutton

I am certainly not the movie buff that I am sure many of you are. What I am, however, is a sucker for sports movies. "Hoosiers," "Rudy," "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams"; they are all fixtures on my top 10 movies list. I'm unsure why. Maybe it's because, like most boys, I was obsessed with sports as a kid. Maybe it's because most sports movies feature an underdog story, and I've always been drawn to tales of triumph against all odds. Maybe, on the other hand, it's because these movies highlight various manifestations of good in a setting to which I can easily relate.

This is certainly the case with "Field of Dreams," the last of the movies listed above.

Even though I have seen the film at least 10 times before, it was not until a viewing the other night that James Earl Jones's monologue really caught my attention. For those of you who haven't seen it, James Earl Jones plays an author who, during one of a series of emotional climaxes near the end of the movie, explains why baseball is so important to Americans that the sport would inspire unsuspecting strangers to visit a baseball field in the middle of an Iowa cornfield to see (or maybe not see) ghosts of baseball legends play ball and, in turn, save Kevin Costner's character's farm.

... The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game: it's a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good and it could be again. ...

I feel the same way about the Bar and its relationship to our profession. The practice of law has continued to roll forward unimpeded, and change time and again. But the Bar has been there to ensure that the profession remains consistent. And it is active participation in the Bar that, every time I begin to forget, reminds me why I became and continue to desire to be a lawyer.

See, all I've ever wanted to be is a lawyer (despite my periodic threats to find another profession). And I feel that the Bar is the manifestation of all that is good about the practice of law. The friendships I have made through the Bar inspire me to be a better lawyer. Promoting Bar initiatives designed to improve and enhance our profession renews my belief that it is still a noble profession. My interaction with other lawyers from all over the state encourages me to do more, better and different things with my practice.

Let the Bar remind you too why you chose and continue to pursue this profession.

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank my co-editor for a wonderful two years of editing this fine publication. As I move on to secretary of the YLD, I welcome **Elizabeth Fite** and **Meredith Wilson** as the new co-editors of The YLD Review. I know they will continue the tradition of making this newsletter an award-winning publication.*

She Said

by Sharri Edenfield

As this is my last column as co-editor of *The YLD Review*, it occurs to me that I have not written about how I got involved in the YLD, and more importantly, who I have to thank. There are many people who have encouraged me along the way.

In late 2005, I received an invitation from YLD Past President **Laurel Landon** to join the first YLD Leadership Academy. It sounded like a great opportunity to get involved in the State Bar and to get to know other young lawyers; however, I was still working in Atlanta for a law firm that was not very active in the State Bar. I wavered over whether to seek their support, but finally broke down and asked. The senior partner of my firm, **Bob Casey** of Casey Gilson, was supportive and told me to go for it. That's where my YLD involvement began.

At the first session, I recognized a sorority sister, **Nicole Iannarone**, and a high school friend, **Jennifer Auer Jordan**. The ice breaker activities required me to talk to the young lawyers sitting around me and I met **Leigh Martin May**, **Amy Howell**, **Elena Kaplan** and **Stephanie Kirijan**, among others. I had no idea that I had just met three future YLD presidents. Later that spring, I attended the State Bar Annual Meeting in Hilton Head. I recognized a law school classmate, **Carl Varnedoe**, at the YLD brunch and was introduced to **Damon Elmore** and **Jon Pope**, the YLD president and president-elect. Everyone was pretty nice, so it wasn't too hard to meet more people. A few months later, Damon asked me to co-chair the second Leadership Academy, to which I agreed, and the rest is history.

As I write this article now, it seems funny to me that there was a time when I was reticent to get involved in the YLD. The truth is, I would not have gotten involved were it not for the encouragement of those mentioned above. Perhaps the more difficult proposition is staying involved, especially with the demands of work and family. I would not have stayed involved were it not for the support of **Darrell Sutton**, **Josh Bell**, **Michael Geoffroy**, Stephanie Kirijan, Carl Varnedoe, **John Jackson**, Amy Howell, **Mary McAfee** and especially my law firm, **Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C.** (ECBCPC).

When I moved to Statesboro in 2007, I wanted to stay actively involved in the YLD, even though I lived three hours away from Atlanta. It would have been easy for my new firm to tell me that they couldn't support my involvement. Fortunately for me, they never take the easy way out. I know that not everyone is as lucky as I am in this respect, so I want to thank **Susan Cox**, **Marc Bruce**, **Michael Classens**, **Benji Colson** and **Charlie Aaron** for supporting me and allowing me to be as involved in the YLD as I am. I also want to thank all of the support staff at ECBCPC for helping me manage my caseload, especially my assistant, **Shelby Mullinax**, who really ran the operations of the Leadership Academy for the first year or two that I was co-chair. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my father, **Gerald Edenfield**, for encouraging and supporting my YLD involvement from the very beginning. Before I even passed the bar, he told me that I should get involved in the YLD as soon as possible because it was an outstanding group of young lawyers who accomplished great things. He was right, as usual, but please don't tell him that.



Editor's Block