



The YLD Review

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

Volume 47, Issue 2

Young Lawyers Division

Winter 2005

Young Lawyers Host Fall Meeting in Athens as Bulldogs defeat Arkansas Razorbacks

The Fall Meeting of the Young Lawyers Division was held in its traditional location at the Foundry Park Inn and Spa in Athens, Ga. on the weekend of Oct. 21-23. Friday afternoon began with a CLE video replay of Justice Kennedy's address at the Bar Center Dedication on Jan. 15, 2005 followed by the YLD's business meeting.

Friday evening's welcome cocktail reception was held at the Foundry Park Inn's Pavilion, and was followed by a group dinner. The hospitality suite was located in the hotel's Presidential Suite and was open throughout the weekend. A tailgate party (arranged by Chuck Auslander and Rich Connelly) took place at the Tate Center Parking lot before the 12:30 p.m. kick off between UGA and Arkansas. For more photos from the 2005 Fall Meeting, please see page 5.

Right: Jennifer Auer Jordan, Andrew Flake, Sherry Neal, Lew Landon and Jason Alloy at the group dinner on Oct. 21.

Below Left: Josh Wages, John Baker and friend

Below Center: YLD Treasurer Elena Kaplan, Beth Martin, Jonathan Martin and YLD President-Elect Jon Pope

Below Right: YLD Past President Laurel Payne Landon, Deana Bell, YLD Secretary Josh Bell and Suzy Alford



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from the President

Winter Issue Useful, Enjoyable

By Damon Elmore

With each edition of *The YLD Review*, we attempt to highlight some of the recent work done by your YLD. We attempt to offer a medium to convey helpful practice pointers aimed at providing a bit of guidance to anyone who may open it when it hits his or her desk. This edition is no different.

You'll get a few snapshots from our summer and fall meetings. We are excited about the increased attendance and we conducted meaningful and important business during the meetings. We look forward to having you join us at the Midyear Meeting, as well as at our Spring Meeting in Las Vegas.

In what can only be described as the "food for the soul side," we are fortunate to have two of Georgia's distinguished jurists, the Hon. Harold Melton and the Hon. Randy Rich, provide their "Lessons Learned" in Part II of our continuing series. The angle this time, *Lessons Learned...from the Bench*. We hope you will enjoy the messages conveyed. We have to deliver a special thanks to Justice Melton and

Judge Rich for their time and support of the YLD by preparing these pieces.

Turning to the other "meaty" parts of the Review, Lea Thompson shines a spotlight on the One Child, One Lawyer program. Holly Geerdes gives us an update on the work performed by our Minorities in the Profession Committee. We take a tour around the state to look into the work being done by local YLD organizations. With 2006 bearing down on us, the good folk at Momentum Inc. provide a few tips to help you get organized and eliminate some of that paper. Jess Davis and Anna Sumner update us on the work being done, and the help still needed for the ARLSG. Finally, I am excited that we are rolling out the feature editorial from our new YLD Review Co-editor for 2005-2006, Amy Howell.

Alas, there is simply not enough room to cover it all! But don't worry, watch for occasional e-updates from us; check-in with the Bar's Web site from time to time, or, for specific information, do not hesitate to contact us directly. ✎

YLD Around the State

Albany: Hugh Morris Jr. is helping kick-start a young lawyers division for the Albany area. For more information or, to sign-up, contact Hugh at 229.420.4104.

Carrollton: A little further north, John Jackson is not only starting a Carrollton YLD going, but is also an instrumental player in revitalizing the Carrollton bar at-large! John and his team are still in the very beginning stages of that task but, special thanks to him and TSINGER, TSINGER, VANCE AND GREER, P.C., for allowing John to devote some time to these worthwhile efforts. For more information, John can be reached at 770.214.5119.

Savannah: Jennifer Vardeman with MCCORKLE, PEDIGO & JOHNSON reports that the young lawyers in Savannah have gotten their bar year off to its traditional busy start. The activities included a "kick off" happy hour and other social gatherings to plan for the new year. The annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 16. In addition, they are sponsoring a 5K walk/run this spring to raise money for a slate of worthwhile causes.

In conjunction with the Christmas Party, the Savannah YLD will be sponsoring a family from the Savannah Safe Shelter and will col-

lect toys, presents and food to deliver to a deserving family. Over the past 30 days, a number of Savannah YLD volunteers served as judges for the Armstrong Atlantic State University moot court tournament.

On the advocacy side, they have been meeting with representatives from the Savannah Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) and the Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA), to determine ways the Coastal Empire's young lawyers can get involved in volunteering their time to these groups.

Macon: As you have seen in past editions, Macon's YLD remains an active arm. They have been instrumental in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and also held a social event in September, where YLD Director Caren Cloud Barnes made a presentation related to the Truancy Intervention Project. Like most of the YLD meetings for the 2005-2006 bar year, Moore Financial served as a sponsor of this event. Thanks to them, as well as the Macon Arts Gallery for serving as host.

As for upcoming events, they are planning a social in January at the historic 1842 Inn. This event will be sponsored by Brown Reporting. Additionally, the Macon YLD is working with the Bibb County Department of Family and Children Services to adopt-a-child for Christmas and get each participating

lawyer to buy presents for a particular child currently in DFCS custody.

Finally, the Macon YLD is donating furniture and equipment to the Georgia Children's Museum, which will be given to the museum to be used in conjunction with its after school and weekend programs that teach culture, art and theatre to elementary and middle school children. The museum takes no public money and relies solely on memberships, grants and volunteers. For more information, their Web site is <http://www.georgiachildrensmuseum.org>

We would like to extend an invitation to all young lawyers in these, and all areas across the state, to participate with and support your local young lawyer divisions. We also ask that if any of you can assist in procuring financial support for the newly formed YLDs from your firms, local businesses or any other entities with which you have contacts that would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, for the cities or areas not listed above, if any of you work in those areas and are interested in forming a local YLD of your own, please contact Cristen Freeman at 478.752.0714. ✎

2006 Legislative Affairs Breakfast

The YLD Legislative Affairs Committee announces its 18th Annual Legislative Affairs Breakfast on Jan. 6, during the Bar's Midyear Meeting. Breakfast begins bright and early at 7:30 a.m. in the Empire Room of the Sloppy Floyd Building, which is across the street from the Capitol. Rub shoulders with legislators, appellate judges, and fellow YLD members.

Invited speakers include Sen. Preston Smith (R-Rome), Sen. Kasim Reed (D-Atlanta), Sen. David Adelman (D-Decatur), Rep. Rob Teilhet (D-Smyrna), and Randy Evans of McKenna, Long & Aldridge. Get inside scoop on issues of interest in the 2006 session. Tickets are \$25 per person or a firm can sponsor and purchase a table for 8 for \$150.

If you are interested in tickets or sponsoring, please call Deidra Sanderson, 404.527.8778, Jon Stewart, 404.614.7400, or John Rogers, 404.522.8220, or mail the information below, along with check payable to State Bar of Georgia to : Deidra Sanderson, State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta St., Atlanta, GA 30303.

Name: _____
Firm: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____



Left: Jake Kennedy, Laurel Payne Landon, Deidra Sanderson, Damon Elmore, David Gruskin, Terri Gordon, Jason Mayberry, Natalie Whiteman, Ashley Gruskin and Elizabeth Garvish have fun during the pub crawl in Charleston.

Below: David Marvell, Hugh Morris, Crystal Morris and Jason Alloy have fun at the reception.



Katrina Quicker, Cathy Auslander, Chuck Auslander, Josh Bell and Blair Enfield at the welcome cocktail reception during the summer meeting on Aug. 26.



Top: Ashley Gruskin, David Gruskin, Jake Kennedy and Laurel Payne Landon

Bottom (clockwise from front): Jen Agnew, Suzanne Temple, Ryan Prescott, Jason Alloy, Suzy Alford and John Agnew at a group dinner.

Charleston Hosts YLD Summer Meeting

The Young Lawyers Division hosted its Summer Meeting over the weekend of Aug. 26-28 at the Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, S.C. The meeting weekend was full of activities, beginning with a welcome cocktail reception sponsored by Brown Reporting Company on the evening of Aug. 26. The reception was followed by a group dinner in the Palmetto Garden at Charleston Place.

The hospitality suite, sponsored by Mass Mutual/Moore Financial Group, opened after dinner and remained a constant fixture for activities throughout the weekend.

Saturday morning began with an optional one-hour CLE program, "What I Now Know: Legal Lessons Learned: A Conversation with Bar Leaders Old and New," and wrapped up with the YLD business meeting, chaired by YLD President Damon Elmore.

Saturday afternoon was free for relaxing by the pool, shopping, spa activities, group golf, or joining a group for a carriage tour of the city of Charleston. Saturday evening's activities included a Pub Crawl around some of Charleston's favorite haunts, including Henry's, Tommy Condon's and The Brick, followed by a group dinner at Magnolia's. 🍷



Lessons I've Learned On the Bench

From the High Court

By Hon. Harold Melton
Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia

- Preserve all objections at trial by getting them on the record in order to lay the proper foundation for an appeal; trial lawyers are the captain of the ship and in charge of making the best record possible
- For every appeal check both the appellate procedure provisions set forth in the applicable appeal statute as well as the Court Rules governing an appeal to insure that your appeal is in the right court and done in the right manner
- If in doubt about whether to file an application for discretionary appeal or a direct appeal, it does not hurt to file both. If you have to choose between one or the other, filing an application will more likely preserve your client's opportunity to appeal and avoid prejudice
- Make your liability insurer happy by meeting all jurisdictional deadlines; make sure you are familiar with the rules for counting days from the order or judgment you are seeking to appeal
- If it is not apparent on its face why your appeal is timely, make it apparent
- Request extensions of time as far in advance of the deadline as possible but be aware that statutory deadlines cannot be extended, even on motion
- Draft briefs that flow logically and are succinct
- Make an honest argument. If there are problems with your case, don't ignore them. Address them and state why they are not fatal to your position
- Do not be sloppy with citations or record cites. We need to know exactly where to find the proof you are arguing
- Dress professionally when appearing before any judge, be it a magistrate or a Supreme Court Justice
- Stop talking when a judge begins to ask a question and show courtesy to the court at all times
- Do not read your arguments
- Many judges are visual; charts or graphs are good to help clarify both facts and points of law
- Attach copies to your brief of key controlling documents that exist in the record; do not rely just on excerpts. While judges have access to the actual record, the briefs give parties an opportunity to make sure the key documents reach a judge's desk. If the case is controlled by a contract, will, or even a prior opinion, attach a copy at the certiorari or application stage, briefing stage and the motion for consideration stage
- A motion for consideration which rants that a case is the dumbest decision ever written is unlikely to do much good for your client
- We all enjoy receiving friendly visitors.



On July 1, Harold Melton was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Prior to joining the Court, Justice Melton served as Executive Counsel to Gov. Perdue, representing the Governor on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government. Justice Melton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1991.

A native of Washington, D.C., Justice Melton grew up in East Point and Marietta. He currently resides in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children.

From the Trial Court

By Hon. Randy Rich
Gwinnett State Court

- The wheels of justice sometimes spin rather slowly
- There's no such thing as being too courteous to the judge's staff
- The judge's staff often communicates directly with the judge
- It is nearly impossible to obtain a continuance after the trial has started
- Photocopies from "Milich on Evidence" from the downstairs county law library made on the morning of trial are not the ideal format for requests to charge
- No matter how much you prepare, a jury trial will not go exactly as planned
- Be ready for trial, even when reached
- When possible, try to copy notes from cocktail napkin to notepad before you get to court
- Reading your brief verbatim at oral argument does not often add to the brief itself
- It usually works out better if you stand when you speak in the courtroom
- The black robe is much hotter than it looks
- If you prevail at trial, your chances on appeal are usually pretty good



Randy Rich is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Georgia State College of Law, and a former member of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee. In 2004, Randy was elected to a vacant seat on the State Court of Gwinnett County out of a field of seven candidates. He is married to Bonnie Rich (a lawyer and full time mom), and is the proud parent of Miller Rich, 3, and Holland Rich, 1.

Save the Date

YLD Spring Meeting 2006
April 20-23, 2006
MGM Grand Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nev.

Room rates \$179/night
Request State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division rate
Reserve by March 20, 2006
1-877-880-0880

Group activities and CLE to be offered. For more information, please contact YLD Executive Director Deidra Sanderson at 404-527-8778 or e-mail deidra@gabar.org.

We are trying to get our meeting numbers together, so if you are interested in attending, please let us know!

Letter to the Editor

Damon,

As an inactive member of the Georgia bar, I still get all the blast e-mails.

Although we haven't been directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita here in Monroe, La., we certainly are housing our share of evacuees and are dealing with the resulting effects. I have passed on information I've received in previous e-mails to our various bar organizations, and I just wanted to let you know personally that we Louisiana lawyers are deeply appreciative of the efforts being made by the Georgia Bar. I'm especially proud since Georgia was the first place I practiced, and I always knew lawyers in Atlanta had big hearts when they were called upon to respond.

Best regards,

Kayla Dye May, Career Law Clerk to the Hon. Robert G. James, United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, Monroe Division

ARLSG Assists Animal Victims of Katrina

By Jess Davis and Anna Sumner

In 2004 the Animal Rescue Legal Society of Georgia (ARLSG), a group designed to match animal rescue organizations in need of legal assistance with lawyers willing to provide pro bono services, was launched. With the strong backing of Alston & Bird LLP and the YLD, the group's success has exceeded our most optimistic expectations. Both our case load and our network of volunteer lawyers continue to rapidly grow, and the thriving model we have built is in the process of being replicated in other states.

The ARLSG's sole mission is to provide legal services to Georgia's animal rescue groups. Remaining true to this core objective, and avoiding being drawn into peripheral activities, has been essential to our success. However, following the hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast, our group made an exception. So when the Humane Society of the United States issued a call for help in the aftermath of Katrina, the ARLSG responded by packing up and heading to Louisiana.

The Lamar-Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, La. – the primary staging area for the New Orleans animal rescue efforts – was quickly transformed into Noah's Ark on dry land. The complex, which is a series of open-air barns with stalls, a YMCA building (where Katrina evacuees were housed in a gym), and a large arena, is usually used for horse shows and other major events. But after Katrina, it was turned into the world's largest animal shelter. The accommodations were primitive, but seeing the complete devastation of the surrounding communities, complaints among volunteers were few.

Rescue teams met at dawn each morning, loaded up their cars and trucks with supplies (including large pry bars used to forcibly enter homes where animals could be seen or heard), and headed for New Orleans's most devastated areas, where they faced a mix of toxic mud, stagnant and chemically laced water, fragile buildings, intense heat and humidity and stressed animals. And each evening, just after darkness set in, the same cars and trucks – now full of tired and hungry dogs and cats (and volunteers) – formed a long time of headlights in front the facility's in-take tent. As the vehicles pulled up to the tent, teams of volunteers removed the rescued animals and carried them to triage

stations, where each animal was medically evaluated and treated. The line of vehicles that formed each night, and the hopeful yelping and meowing that came from each, was a defining snapshot of what Lamar-Dixon was all about.

After receiving appropriate medical care, animals were assigned to one of five barns, each of which housed approximately 300 animals. ARLSG folks were assigned to barn five, where we joined an investment banker from Chicago and a lawyer from Pennsylvania as part of a team that cared for a group of pit bulls – all of which were friendly and very grateful to have been rescued. The barn five manager was an eccentric retired surgeon from California whose dedication to the rescue effort was truly awe inspiring. Dr. Rich McClellan spent six weeks in Gonzales managing barn five, sleeping in a small trailer next to the barn so that he could hear what was going on at night, just to make sure the dogs were okay. His contribution to the Lamar-Dixon shelter was extraordinary, but the spirit that drove him was embodied by everyone in Gonzales.

Because the State of Louisiana placed a 1300-animal limit on the facility, once capacity was reached, each night's new arrivals meant that an equal number of animals had to exit the facility. Typically, animals were sent in groups of 50 to 100, via large air-conditioned trucks, to animal rescue organizations all around the country.

On Oct. 13, the Lamar-Dixon shelter closed, ending what many believe was the largest animal rescue and sheltering operation in our nation's history. 6,036 animals passed through facility – and many have ended up here in Georgia due to the large number of excellent rescue organizations around our state that are rising to the challenge presented by Katrina's devastation.

Not surprisingly, these groups are calling on the ARLSG more frequently, and with an increasing variety of legal needs. Consequently, our group's need for additional volunteers is growing. If you would like to help, or just learn more about the ARLSG, please contact us at jess.davis@alston.com, or asumner@alston.com.



Damon Elmore flips burgers at the tailgate on Oct. 21.



YLD President Damon Elmore and Section Liaison Johanna Merrill at the YLD Fall Meeting tailgate party.

Thank You to Our Meeting Sponsors:

Josh Bell, Candidate for YLD Treasurer 2006-2007

Amy Howell, Candidate for YLD Secretary 2006-2007

Sherry Neal, Candidate for YLD Secretary 2006-2007

J. Franklin Burns, P.C.

Hill, Kertscher & Wharton, LLP

Moore Financial Group/Mass Mutual: Blair Enfield, Brian Held and Brad Nichols



Stacy Daxe, Jeff Daxe, Jonathan Martin and Darryl Sutton at the welcome reception held in the Foundry Pak Inn & Spa's pavilion.



Jon Stewart and Brennan Moseley at the welcome reception.

Lawyers' Challenge for Children: Spotlighting One Child, One Lawyer

By Lea Thompson

Georgia Public Defenders Standards Council

The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's newest program, One Child, One Lawyer, provides the opportunity for private lawyers to represent the city's youngest and, oftentimes, most vulnerable clients – children in Atlanta's foster care system. The presence of a lawyer makes a material difference in the outcome of almost every legal matter. Not surprisingly, the impact of denying appropriate legal services is particularly pronounced for children who are in the custody of the state child welfare system.

Even though the program is still in its infancy, One Child, One Lawyer has already produced a series of success stories and proves that dedicated volunteers can have a powerful impact on the lives of child clients. One such example is where a volunteer with One Child, One Lawyer represented infant "Brian" after his mother abandoned him at the hospital. The volunteer discovered that Brian had a two-year old sister, "Stephanie." Stephanie's foster parents welcomed Brian into their family, and after it became apparent that the mother of the children was not capable or willing to take care of her children, the volunteer lawyer pressed the state to pursue the termination of the parents' rights so that their foster parents could adopt Brian and Stephanie. Another example of a One Child, One Lawyer success story is when a volunteer with the project urged the juvenile court to order special tutoring services for "Torrean," who had failed 7th grade math the year he was placed into foster care. One final example is when another volunteer with One Child, One Lawyer worked with three successive child welfare workers on the case of two-year old "William," whose mother had abandoned him in the park one day. By working with each new social worker after the resignation of the former social worker, the volunteer lawyer helped to ensure that William's case did not languish in the juvenile court for lack of attention by the state. William will soon be adopted by his foster mother.

These are only a few of the children who have received the attentive legal

representation and advocacy of a One Child, One Lawyer volunteer. The law mandates permanent, safe homes for our foster children, but without dedicated lawyers, that goal is often allusive. One child in need of a permanent home benefits from the advocacy of one volunteer lawyer.

For further information or to volunteer, e-mail Lila Newberry

Bradley at lnbradley@avlf.org or view the Web page at www.avlf.org. ☎

The Young Lawyers Division, in partnership with the Juvenile Law Committee, is dedicated to raising awareness of, and support for, critical legal services programs for children and youth across the state. As part of a new initiative, the Lawyers' Challenge for Children Campaign has been developed by the Juvenile Law Committee with the goal of highlighting innovative programs that serve Georgia's most vulnerable populations. Throughout the coming year, each edition of the YLD newsletter may profile some of these exceptional programs. The need for appropriate legal representation is particularly profound for children. Please look for ways to offer your support throughout the coming year. For more information about the Lawyers' Challenge for Children Campaign, please e-mail Lea Thompson at lea@childwelfare.net.



Lila Newberry Bradley and Lynn Goldman lead the One Child, One Lawyer seminar.

Get Organized! Five Tips for Organizing Your Incoming Paper

By Sherry V. Neal, J.D. & Wendy Ellin
Momentum, Inc.

Ever stress out about all that clutter in your office? Ever not been able to find what you need when you need it? Then this column is for you. Let's talk about organizing the paper that you receive each day. The following are our top five tips for dealing with your incoming paper.

Tip #1: Be decisive! If you have paper piled up, it's because you haven't made a decision about it. Try this for one week, and you'll be hooked: when paper comes to you, make one of five decisions – discard (or recycle) it, delegate it, take immediate action on it, file it for follow-up later, or put it in a reference file. Lots of paper enters your life without any effort on your part, but it will take some effort to get it out of your life!

Tip #2: Toss it! Learn to let go. Shred those credit card offers. Throw out the million-and-one solicitations from insurance companies. If you don't need it, THROW IT AWAY... immediately.

Tip #3: Delegate it! You don't have to do everything yourself. In fact, some people are better than you at some things. And some of you are responsible for helping those that aren't to learn! Let those who are better help you. Teach those who aren't as good to help you. Help others help you!

Tip #4: Do it now! Many lawyerly tasks can be completed quickly. Sign up for your YLD committee meeting, fax the RSVP to the committee chair and

move on. Flip through that journal routed to you, copy any articles relevant to your cases or practice (see tip five), and send it on. Clutter is distracting. Don't let it distract you.

Tip #5: File it away! That article you copied? Don't let it sit on your desk. If you have an assistant, (and we're combining Tip #5 with Tip #3 here!) pass it on for filing. Otherwise, file it yourself in a reference file with a label that makes sense to you. Ask yourself, "How do I need to label this so I can find it in six months?" At the very least, have a "TO FILE" file easily accessible on your desk, put the article in, and go empty that file into your reference files once a week.

We know, we know, we didn't touch on filing things for follow up later. That's because it's such an important area, it deserves its OWN top five! Stay tuned and get organized! ☎

Sherry is currently the YLD director for CLE and former Co-chair of the YLD Women in the Profession Committee for the previous three years. Momentum, Inc., is a company dedicated to helping you get more LIFE out of life through time, space, and information management. For more information, contact sherry_v_neal@yahoo.com or wendy@momentumtmo.com. For more on these tips, check out *Getting Organized: Learning How to Focus, Organize and Prioritize* by Chris Couch.

MIPC Kicked Off New Bar Year with 'Steppin' into 2005'

By Holly Geerdes

Minorities in the Profession Committee, co-chair

Minorities in the Profession Committee (MIPC) kicked off the new Bar year by hosting its first social event "Steppin' into 2005" on Sept. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the State Bar Building. The event was sponsored by the Gary Andrews Law Firm and the Chicago steppin class was presented by "Touch Presents." Approximately 30 former and new members attended the event. Mawuli Davis, co-chair of MIPC, ensured that everyone had a great time while steppin Chicago style by providing apple martinis. After a night of steppin', eating, and sipping on some martinis, MIPC was able to collect cash donations for Hurricane Katrina victims that have relocated to Atlanta.

Continuing the traditions of past years, MIPC intends to pack this upcoming year with everything from happy hours, CLEs, mentoring, community service projects to the annual "can't miss event" barbeque.

In November, MIPC will host one of many happy hours at the Harlem Bar, located at 262 Edgewood Ave. In January, MIPC will be conducting a full day CLE. Topics and speakers are still to be determined. In February, MIPC will host a panel discussion on minority attorneys in the law for students at Georgia State and Emory law schools. Definitely mark your calen-

dar for March. MIPC is hosting "History in the Making," which will be a fireside chat with minority Georgia living legends at Troutman Sanders. In either April or May, MIPC members will be coordinating with other minority bar and community organizations to further assist Hurricane Katrina victims. Finally, to end the year with a bang, MIPC will be hosting its annual barbeque in June.

This year we have a great group of MIPC members committed to the mission of MIPC of increasing minority participation in the bar, addressing problems affecting minority lawyers, and expanding the opportunities for minority lawyers in the profession. Although we have a great group of MIPC members helping to accomplish our year end goals, we are always looking to reach out to more minority lawyers to join and participate in MIPC.

Every second Thursday of the month is MIPC's monthly meeting held at the State Bar Building from 12 to 1 p.m., which is open to all MIPC members. If you are interested in joining, you can contact either of the co-chairs. This year's MIPC co-chairs are Holly Geerdes at holly.geerdes@gmail.com and Mawuli Davis at mdavis@mawulidavis.com. ☎



Top: MIPC Co-Chair Mawuli Davis, Co-Chair Holly Geerdes and Gary Andrews



Bottom: Temika Williams (center) and friends enjoy the MIPC event.



2005-2006 YLD Meetings and Events

2006 Midyear Meeting

Jan. 5-7

Renaissance Waverly Hotel
Atlanta, Ga.

2006 Spring Meeting

April 20-23

MGM Grand Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nev.

2006 Annual Meeting

June 1-4

Westin Hilton Head
Hilton Head, S.C.

Other YLD Events

Jan. 6, 2006: Legislative Affairs Breakfast

January – June 2006: Leadership Academy

January 2006: Aspiring Youth New Semester

June 14, 2006: Celebration of Excellence

For additional information on these, or other YLD programs, please contact Deidra Sanderson at deidra@gabar.org.

Volunteers needed for the 2006 season!

Attorney Coaches

Regional Coordinating Teams

(Decatur & Savannah)

Judging Panel Volunteers

(Regionals – February 2006 & State Finals – March 2006)

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

CLE CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR COACHING A MOCK TRIAL TEAM!

CLE CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR JUDGING A MOCK TRIAL ROUND!

(Contact the mock trial office for more information on CLE credit)

For more information about the program and volunteer opportunities, contact the mock trial office at 404/527-8779 or toll free 800/334-6865 ext. 779

or e-mail: mocktrial@gabar.org

for online sign-up go to:

www.gabar.org (click on the YLD link, then the HSMT link)



from the
Editor

Why the YLD?

By Amy V. Howell

So why get involved in the YLD? I have to admit, I think of myself as sort of an unlikely or reluctant YLD member. If, like me, you have strong memories of Bridge the Gap, you too recall being informed that you are automatically a YLD member regardless of interest. That's right, if you are under the age of 36 or have been practicing for less than five years, you are a member. Like some of you, I read the newsletter, looked at the pictures, and concluded this was a group in which I didn't feel like much of a member. Sure, the happy hours and meetings looked like they were fun and after a few issues the faces became pretty familiar, but it still didn't seem like something for me. Well, three years of law school, studying for the bar and trying to prove my mettle in a new practice had also pretty much voided me of any social time or skills. So I was a member, but I still didn't have much interest in becoming involved.

It was a colleague who invited me to attend my first Juvenile Law Committee meeting. I was reluctant but this felt pretty safe. The committee was directly related to my practice area and I knew at least one member. The meeting was more interesting than I anticipated. I enjoyed the speaker, the committee projects were impressive, and the members were engaging. After a couple of meetings I realized not only did I appreciate the information shared by the speakers, but I enjoyed the comfort of being around other young lawyers. At these meetings I had a chance to socialize with lawyers with whom I felt comfortable asking stupid questions and agonizing about the learning

curve. There was something else, after some days where professionally I felt uncertain at best, being involved in projects that served the community provided me with a much needed sense of certainty and accomplishment.

Well while I am making admissions I must admit I was really uninformed about the YLD. There is a lot more to the YLD than even this newsletter can capture. The YLD is comprised of 27 committees ranging in topics from intellectual property to community service. We have more than 8,000 members, some whom I happen to know.

Of course one of the most important functions of the Young Lawyers Division is service to the public, and honestly sometimes it can be difficult deciding in which way to give back. In this issue alone you were informed about the accomplishments of pro bono lawyers in the One Child, One Lawyer Project and the contributions of lawyers in pet rescue projects.

So why get involved? What I am suggesting is that becoming involved with this group has more benefits than may appear. What I am suggesting is that even though we try our best, the newsletter can never fully capture the magnitude and impact of committee service to the public, or the camaraderie and the sense of belonging for young lawyers who are just finding their way on the path of their career. Looking back, I guess my membership turned into involvement when I agreed to co-chair the committee or co-edit the newsletter, but it never felt like an obligation and still doesn't. ✎

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