

Young Lawyers Gather on Jekyll Island for 2005 Spring Meeting

The YLD held its 2005 Spring Meeting at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel in Jekyll Island the weekend of March 18-20. Young lawyers from around the state gathered on Friday evening for a welcome cocktail reception sponsored by Legalink. Guests then enjoyed dinner in the hotel's Grand Dining Room before moving on to the hospitality suite, which was sponsored by Mass Mutual/Moore Financial Group.

Saturday morning began with a business meeting followed by a cookout lunch on the croquet lawn. Afternoon activities enjoyed by YLD members included golf at Jekyll Island's Pine Lakes course, bicycling throughout the island, and spa activities for those who just wanted to relax. Saturday evening, the group dinner featured an oyster roast held on the riverfront lawn of the hotel. Two members of the band Strawberry Nixon played acoustic guitar and sang songs, which had the group singing along in no time. The hospitality suite remained the gathering spot for the remainder of the evening.

The Community Service Projects Committee wrapped up the toiletries drive at the meeting, accumulating a massive amount of travel-sized toiletries that were donated to Atlanta-area shelters for women and children.



Above left: Jeff and April Rusbridge attend the YLD Spring Meeting on Jekyll Island.



Above right: James Freeman and YLD President-elect Damon Elmore during the group dinner on March 18.



Caren Cloud Barnes (right) and her mother, Bonnie Gissendanner

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from the President

President Gives Special Thanks

by Laurel Payne Landon

As I write my final column for the YLD newsletter, I am amazed at how fast the year seems to have gone by. It seems like only yesterday we were in Orlando getting ready to start a new Bar year. I cannot tell you what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as the YLD President in 2004-2005. As usually happens when we serve, we gain so much more than we give. That has certainly been true for me. I would be remiss if I did not try to thank some of you for what you have done for the YLD and for me during this year.

I first must thank Deidra Sanderson, our director, who keeps the YLD running. As much as you and I might want to serve, we are volunteers who have to practice law on occasion. Deidra handles the day-to-day management of the YLD with skill and grace. The rest of the State Bar staff, led by Executive Director Cliff Brashier, are amazing and do so much to help all of us, most of the time behind the scenes. Special thanks to General Counsel Bill Smith who always provides sage advice and guidance.

I also owe a special thanks to State Bar President Rob Reinhardt and the entire Executive Committee of the State Bar. Thank you for your leadership and guidance. Getting to know all of them has truly been an inspiration to me. I also want to thank the Board of Governors for their support of the YLD and for all they do for the Bar.

I certainly owe a debt of gratitude to the YLD officers,

directors, executive council members, committee chairs and committee members. It would take more than this entire newsletter to thank each of you individually for your service to the YLD this year. You should be proud of all you have accomplished this year in service to the public and profession. Thank you for your service and your friendship.

I must certainly thank my law firm, Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, who has supported me during this year. I am proud to be part of a firm with such a strong commitment to service. I owe a special thanks to the lawyers and staff in the Augusta office who have covered for me and helped me on numerous occasions over the last year. I am privileged to work with people that consider one another family.

Finally, I must thank my friends and family who have supported and encouraged me in this role for the past year. I could not have done this without you. A special thanks to my husband Lew who has shouldered far more than his share of responsibilities this past year, mostly without complaint!

Although this part of my journey is ending, I leave with much more than I started with thanks to all those mentioned above. I also leave the YLD in good hands. I look forward to watching Damon Elmore and the YLD accomplish fantastic things next year and into the future. The YLD has a great legacy and a great future. I thank you for the privilege of being a small part of such a wonderful organization. ✎

Georgia State University Wins Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition

by Laurie Speed-Dalton

The Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia was completed on April 1 and April 2 at Emory University School of Law. Students from Georgia State University Team B won the competition, having the overall best combined brief and oral argument scores. The winning team was comprised of Stephen Graham, Blake Eno and Deborah Hunter. Also advancing to the final round was Mercer University Team A comprised of Ann-Patton Nelson, Zach McEntyre and John Weeks.

The University of Georgia took home the best brief and best oralist honors. The best oralist award went to Jason Burnette of University of Georgia Team A. University of Georgia Team A composed of Saturna McPherson, Jason Burnette and Andy Tuck also received the best brief award.

More than 50 practitioners from around the state contributed to the competition by grading briefs and judging oral argument rounds. Additionally, the competitors had the benefit of a top-notch final round oral argument bench led by the Honorable J.D. Smith of the Georgia Court of Appeals. Also serving as final round judges were Laughlin McDonald, director of the ACLU Southern Division; B.J. Bernstein of the Bernstein Firm, P.C.; John R. Renaud, counsel at Turner Entertainment Group; Christopher Kellner, partner at Kilpatrick Stockton; and S. Derek Bauer, associate at Powell, Goldstein, LLP.

The competition was organized and planned by the Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition committee chaired by Laurie Speed-Dalton of Chambers, Aholt & Rickard, LLP. The problem, written by Chris Kellner, involved issues of national security, terrorism, privacy, and freedom of association. The first issue the competitors argued was whether use of technology that monitored e-mail address and domain names through a wireless account constituted a "search"



GSU Intrastate Team 2005 competitors and their coaches. L-R: Adwoa Gharthey-Tagoe (coach), Blake Eno, Brandee Kowalzyk (coach), Stephen Graham, and Deborah Hunter.

within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. The second issue argued by the competitors involved whether a defendant's conviction for providing money and food to a known terrorist organization violated the First Amendment's protection for freedom of association and the Fifth Amendment's requirement that criminal guilt be "personal" in the absence of a specific intent to further illegal activity.



Chad Torri, Jen Blackburn, Paul Greenspan and Nathan Byerly



Top: Suzanne Deddish, Cassandra Kirk, Rikki Turner and Lisa Szafranic socialize during the Community Service Project Committee's charity happy hour on April 13.

Bottom: Alixe Mooney, Jessica Royko, Jennifer Butler and Chris Grippa

Charity Happy Hour at Dantanna's

The Community Service Committee recently continued its tradition of hosting a quarterly happy hour to raise funds for charity. On April 13, dozens of young attorneys from around Atlanta gathered on the patio at Dantanna's in Buckhead to enjoy the beautiful spring weather while munching on tasty appetizers, sipping on delicious libations, and enjoying the company of friends and colleagues. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Ernst & Young's Investigative and Dispute Services practice group, all proceeds raised from the event will go to the Emergency Food Bank of the Fulton County DFACS.

If you missed out on the fun this time, don't worry because the next Charity Happy Hour is just around the corner and the summer event is always the biggest and best of the year! Please join the committee on June 22 at 6 p.m. at Cherry (1051 W. Peachtree St., at the corner of 11th Street) for the final Charity Happy Hour of the Bar year. In return for a small donation, you'll receive free appetizers, a free drink, and a discount if you stay for dinner that evening. Summer Associates are welcome!



Jenna Barresi and Rachael Zichella



2004-2005 YLD BAR YEAR IN REVIEW



Left: Deana Bell, Josh Bell, and YLD Fall Meeting in Athens.

Below: Amy Loggins and S. Jekyll Island.



Above: Jim Standard and YLD President-Elect Damon Elmore at the LRE Golf Tournament in September 2004.

Above Right: Brian Held, Curtis Mann II, Elizabeth Garvish, Mike Krause and Christian Fichter at the Community Service Project Committee's Charity Happy Hour on April 13.

Right: Paulette Elmore and YLD President-elect Damon Elmore



Cristen Freeman, YLD Pre

, Karen Cross and Angela Spivey at the 2004
s on Oct. 2.

Sherry Neal at the 2005 Spring Meeting on



Left: Melissa and Mark Williamson at the Summer Meeting at Barnsley Gardens in August 2004.

Below Left: Shaun Daughtery at the LRE Golf Tournament.

Below: Lew Landon and YLD President Laurel Payne Landon.



Above left: YLD President Laurel Payne Landon and YLD Director Deidra Sanderson at the Summer Meeting at Barnsley Gardens in August.

Above: Charlene Swartz, YLD President-elect Damon Elmore and Katie Lahnstein at the Fall Meeting in Athens.



President Laurel Payne Landon and James Freeman on Jekyll Island.



Lori Brennan and Alaina Howard each brought their children to the 2005 Spring Meeting.



YLD Creates IP Law Committee

by Michael Krause

There exists a myth that intellectual property lawyers are a little on the geeky side. Any lawyer with an unhealthy obsession with Star Wars probably drafts patents for a living. Many firms relegate their IP attorneys to the floor furthest away from the main lobby where clients are received. No "upstanding" attorney wants their clients subjected to the sloppily dressed, pocket protector wearing employees of their firm. They might mistake the 400-attorney law firm for a dot-com company about to file for bankruptcy. In my case, my firm initially offered me an office located underground to prevent any potential clients who happen to be looking in the windows from seeing me.

Obviously, anyone who has ever worked with an IP attorney, or God forbid, actually works as an IP attorney, knows that these perceptions are untrue and outdated. This mental picture that potential clients and non-IP attorneys have must be changed. But how?

The time has arrived for the inception of the YLD Intellectual Property Law Committee. The community of IP attorneys in Atlanta specifically, and Georgia as a whole, has grown exponentially over the last few years. The reason for this boost is two-fold. First, there has been a recent influx of people with technical backgrounds going to law school for a variety of reasons. I left my job as a computer programmer when the shares of stock I was getting paid started trading at two cents a share. Second, many times overlooked in the common perception of IP attorneys, is that IP litigation is a growing field, with exciting cases that require more than just legal proficiency.

IP litigation no longer requires an engineering background. It now attracts many of the best and brightest young attorneys to a place that they felt foreclosed from because they didn't get their PhD in nuclear physics. This transition has significantly diversified the Georgia IP community. It has become more important than ever for young IP lawyers to establish a presence in their field and make non-IP attorneys aware of their capabilities. Nothing is more frustrating than when a fellow associate turns away a potential client that needed advice that you could have provided, but no connection was ever made as the associate does not understand your capabilities.

The YLD Intellectual Property Law Committee is being created to help assist younger IP attorneys find ways to build their practice, to have specialized CLE opportunities concerning the various facets of IP law, and to promote networking between IP and non-IP attorneys to help educate the entire legal community about what we do and what we are about. Not to mention the social opportunities such a committee can provide to the ever-growing mass of young IP attorneys in town.

The committee is now organizing, and is looking for potential members and officers. If you are interested in participating or would like to know about new opportunities, please contact Mike Krause at michael.krause@sablalaw.com and help defy the myths about intellectual property practitioners.

Litigation Committee Update

The YLD Litigation Committee has had a very busy Spring. We have had monthly business meetings, three social events, our all-day litigation CLE, a tort reform as well as an e-discovery lunch-n-learn CLE. We also recently helped out with the Legal Run Around as our Great Day of Service project.

We also have a number of events just around the corner. We are a co-sponsor of the Meet the Candidates Pool Party at the Annual Meeting in Savannah in June. Our Macon contingent is planning a "Cocktail Law" CLE Social, and similar CLE socials are in the works for Savannah and Augusta. Lastly, we are finishing up with a sponsor paid membership directory to be used as a networking tool for all committee members.

Whether you are a member of our committee or not, if these events are of interest to you, please let us know and plan on attending. For more information, contact committee chair Jeff Daxe at 770.429.1499 or jad@mijs.com.

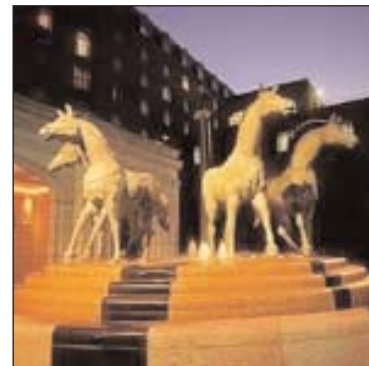
YLD Celebrates Great Day of Service in Two Cities

Augusta

In conjunction with the Augusta Bar Association's Law Day events, lawyers in Augusta helped with Derby Day, an annual fundraiser for the Augusta Training Shop for the Handicapped. The Augusta Training Shop is a non-profit agency that provides a structured workshop where physically and mentally challenged persons can earn income and self-fulfillment through learning marketable skills such as refinishing furniture and product assembly. Derby Day is an annual fundraiser held on the day of the Kentucky Derby at the Augusta Riding Center and features food and beverages, a live band, a hat contest and two large screen televisions so patrons can watch the derby. Lawyer volunteers helped set up for the event and worked at the event as well.

Atlanta

The Ethics and Professionalism Committee celebrated the Georgia Bar Association's Great Day of Service on April 30 by pitching in at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Committee co-chairs Michael Geoffroy and Curtis Romig were joined by Stephen Kinney and Sean Park at the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Product Rescue Center. The group sorted and packaged donated food and other items for distribution to shelters, churches and other programs that provide food for the needy. The efforts of the group and Atlanta Community Food Bank help serve not only Atlanta but also 38 counties around North Georgia. The Atlanta Community Food Bank relies on over 15,000 volunteers a year and is a great place for your firm, church, or other group to give back while working together. For information on volunteering at the Atlanta Community Food Bank call Sarah Fonder-Kristy at 404-892-3333 x1230 or go to their Web site at www.acfb.org.



YLD Summer Meeting 2005

Aug. 26-28

Charleston Place Hotel — Charleston, S.C.

CLE, group dinner at the Riviera Theatre, and Saturday evening pub crawl will be offered!

Reserve your room today!

Hotel cut-off deadline: July 27

Room Rate \$179

Call hotel directly to reserve: 1-800-831-3490 or

E-mail: groupres@charlestonplace.com

When making reservations, reference the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division to get the discounted rate.

Questions?

Contact YLD Director Deidra Sanderson at
404-527-8778 or deidra@gabar.org



Savannah Young Lawyers Participate in Great Day of Service

For this year's Great Day of Service event, the Savannah Bar's Younger Lawyers Division conducted a Living Will Clinic on April 30. On the heels of the Terry Schiavo situation, which highlighted the importance of having in place "advance directive" documents, the Savannah YLD decided to assist seniors and low-income individuals with the drafting of living wills, healthcare powers of attorney, and financial powers of attorney.

The morning began with an hour-long training session to familiarize the participating YLD members with the documents themselves, and with the counseling that such documents require. The YLD attorneys were then paired up with clients to discuss the various issues that these "advance directives" entail. With the clients' input, the YLD lawyers then assisted with the drafting and execution of the documents.

Our clinic was conducted in partnership with the Pro Bono Project of the Georgia Legal Services Program, which was gracious enough to provide office space, training and overall guidance to the YLD lawyers.

Participating lawyers included Colin McRae, Andy Loveland, Robert Long, Jennifer Dickinson, Bates Lovett, Shonah Jefferson and Tiffany Bloom from Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn; Rhett Zeigler and Charla Hall from Oliver Maner & Gray; Brian Dennison from Bouhan Williams & Levy; Monica Patel from the Middleton Law Firm; and Mat McCoy from McCorkle, Pedigo & Johnson.

Many thanks go out to Bill Broker, Robert Bush, and Wanda Andrews from the Savannah office of the GLSP for giving up their Saturday mornings to help out with the event.



Top: Rhett Zeigler speaks with Bill Broker, director of the Savannah office of Georgia Legal Services Program.

Bottom: Brian Dennison and Colin McRae.

Young Lawyers From Macon Help Out for Great Day of Service

The Macon area project of the 2005 Great Day of Service was held on April 30. Attorneys in Macon painted the interior of a house which will eventually house adolescent girls who are in foster care and have substance abuse problems. The house and the program are a joint effort of River Edge Behavioral Health Center and Bibb County DFCS.

The following people gave volunteered their time and hard work on Saturday:

- Myra Kline
- Nick Kline
- Kice Stone
- Bryan Scott
- Carl Varnedoe
- Ed Love
- Jessica Huntx
- James Freeman
- Cristen Freeman
- William Noland

The law firm of Boston Passante donated breakfast and River Edge Behavioral Health Center provided lunch and T-shirts. The project was organized by the newly formed Macon Young Lawyers Division.

Special thanks to William Noland of Groover & Childs in Macon, who assisted in making the project a successful event. Everyone worked hard, had a good time and enjoyed some great company and fellowship.



Jessica Hunt (top), Carl Varnadoe (middle) and Cristen Freeman (bottom) help paint the interior of a house which will eventually house adolescent girls who are in foster care and have substance abuse problems for the Macon's YLD Great Day of Service Project.



Upcoming YLD Meetings

Annual Meeting
June 9-12
Westin Savannah Harbor
Resort
Savannah, Ga.

Summer Meeting
August 26-28
Charleston Place Hotel
Charleston, S.C.

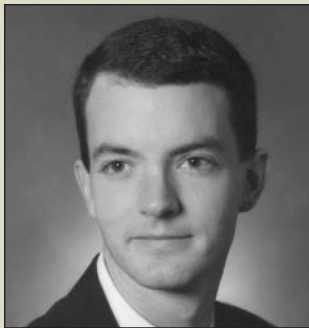
Fall Meeting
October 21-23
Foundry Park Inn & Spa
Arkansas vs. UGA
Athens, Ga.

2006 Midyear Meeting
Jan. 5-7
Renaissance Waverly
Hotel
Marietta, 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.





from the
Editor

Your Word is Your Bond

By Bryan D. Scott

Recently, the Younger Lawyers in Macon did a service project for the Great Day of Service. I listened in on a meaningful conversation between an older, experienced attorney and another fellow younger attorney as we painted the walls of a building that will be used to house and help at-risk youth. During the conversation, the seasoned attorney spoke highly of certain other attorneys. The essence of the compliments was that when these attorneys told him something, he knew he could trust what they said and never had to question their going back on their word.

Have you ever committed to something for a client, fellow attorney or anyone else and not followed through with the commitment you made? I think every attorney has experienced that at some point in time. If you are like me, I tend to downplay the importance of that particular matter in my mind and address the more “pressing” concerns (or sometimes, admittedly, the concerns of my “better” cases and clients). What we fail to realize is the damage we do to our credibility when we do not follow through with what we say we will do. When we commit to something, and it does not happen, our failure to keep our word erodes others’ confidence and trust in us.

To ensure clients, fellow attorneys and others feel as though we are dependable and trustworthy, we need to remind ourselves of certain fundamental things. Clients and others probably do not actualize that we have fifty other cases bidding for our time. Our client’s case may not be the most important case on our agenda, but it is the most important case on their agenda. When we remind ourselves of these things, we have more of an incentive to meet their expectations by following through with the oath we gave them.

We should also be careful not to make commitments that we are unsure we will be able to keep. For instance, if

I tell a fellow attorney or client, “I’ll get that to you today,” but I know I have two hearings later in the afternoon and a complaint or answer that needs to be filed by tomorrow, I am setting myself up to break my word. It would have been better to shoot straight with the person, set a reasonable deadline, and then, most importantly, follow through with the deadline to which I have committed.

If we fail to keep our word, it could lead to unmerited excuses, relational distrust, conflict between parties, termination of representation by the client, or, worse, a malpractice action. When we keep our word, the seeds of dependability, trustworthiness and reliability are planted and grown.

We should be attorneys of character, which means that we keep our oath, even when it hurts. We follow through with what we said even when we know it may mean not working that higher paying client’s case. We get out of bed an hour early to make sure our actions meet with the commitment we gave. We may need to address that task on our not-so-interesting case as opposed to another more delightful matter in order that we might be dependable and trustworthy to others.

When we let others down by not being true to what we say, we undermine the credibility among our clients, colleagues and others that we so desperately need in our practice. However, when we follow through with the commitments we make to others, we gain a reputation for honesty, dependability, forthrightness and trustworthiness. Our goal as attorneys should be to have such character that no one would have a reason to question our dependability and trustworthiness. Purpose in your heart to be more careful about the commitments you make, and then, having considered the costs, commit to following through with the commitments you give others. ✎

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