

YLD Hosts Events at Midyear Meeting

The State Bar of Georgia held its 2005 Midyear Meeting Jan. 13-15 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center and the Bar Center in downtown Atlanta, and the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) hosted several events in conjunction with the meeting.

For the first time at a Midyear Meeting the YLD co-sponsored an ICLE seminar, “Basics for the New Lawyer,” which was offered in two parts: litigation and transactional. On Jan. 13, the Community Service Projects Committee held their quarter-

ly Bar Night, a happy hour for charity, at Sidebar, where they raised money for the Fulton County DFACS Emergency Food Shelter. On Jan. 14 the YLD partnered with the Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers (ACYL) for the Third Annual Midyear Mingle, which was held following the Board of Governors dinner at the Omni Hotel. On Jan. 15, many young lawyers enjoyed a group dinner at ONE.midtown kitchen in Atlanta.

The YLD also held a business meeting and committee chair roundtable during the two-day Bar meeting.



Gil May, Leigh Martin May, Jeff Notrika, Elena Kaplan, Kevin Snyder and Sonya Snyder at the YLD group dinner at ONE.midtown kitchen on Jan. 15.



Above: Terri Gordon and Michelle Thomas at the YLD group dinner on Jan. 15 at ONE.midtown kitchen.

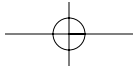


Left: Kendall Butterworth and John Ashbaugh during the YLD Midyear Mingle at the Omni at CNN Center on Jan. 14.

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from the
President

Georgia Legal Services - A Child of the YLD

by Laurel Payne Landon

Many lawyers, especially many young lawyers, do not realize that the Young Lawyers Division (then the Young Lawyers Section) was the moving force behind the starting of Georgia Legal Services, which provides representation in civil cases to very low income Georgians who live outside the Atlanta metro area, in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In 1967, four young lawyers in Georgia (Jim Elliott, Philip Heiner, Bill Ide and Betsy Neeley) recognized the need for an organization that provided lawyers for the poor. They established the YLS Legal Aid Committee and looked at the need for such services. They issued a comprehensive report in 1968 that concluded that there was a “distressing disproportion between the actual need for legal services by those who cannot afford them and the present supply of legal services available to them.” Report of the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Legal Aid Programs (1968).

Georgia Indigent Legal Services was incorporated in

March 1970 but, due to funding issues, a new corporation, Georgia Legal Services Program, was incorporated on May 3, 1971. Since that time, Georgia Legal Services has become an important part of the legal profession in the state of Georgia. There are 11 regional offices providing services to low-income Georgians outside the Atlanta metro area. In 2003 there were 13,882 case closings which do not include the 2,798 cases assisted through the landlord/tenant helpline services.

I wanted to highlight Georgia Legal Services for two reasons. First, it is an organization worthy of the support of all lawyers in our state and I want to especially encourage young lawyers to give to this worthwhile organization even if you can only give a small amount. Second, I think this is an excellent example of how young lawyers can make a difference in their profession and in their communities when they put their minds to it. The YLD has a great past and a great future. Become involved today. 🙏



Seventeenth Annual Legislative Affairs Breakfast a Success

by John C. Rogers

The YLD’s Legislative Affairs Committee held its 17th annual breakfast on Jan. 14. As in past years, this breakfast attracted a number of early-bird young lawyers who got a chance to meet legislators, judges and others and hear about the latest news from the Gold Dome.

The speakers were Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher and Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight, LLP. Mr. Highsmith, a former member of Governor Sonny Perdue’s staff, spoke about upcoming legislative proposals, including tort reform. Chief Justice Fletcher spoke primarily about the new indigent defense program and how it may be funded.

Also attending were Justices Robert Benham and Harris Hines, Judge Debra Bernes of the Court of Appeals, Senator Dan Moody (R-Roswell), YLD President Laurel Landon, and YLD President-Elect Damon Elmore. 🙏

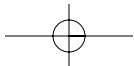
Left: Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher spoke at the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee breakfast on Jan. 14.

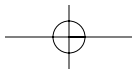


YLD Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chair Jon Stewart introduces the speakers at the YLD Legislative Affairs Breakfast on Jan. 14.



Robert Highsmith of Holland & Knight spoke at the breakfast on Jan. 14.





Left: Don Edwards, Mike Krause, Terri Gordon and Lexi Liner at the holiday party held to honor the Executive Council and committee chairs of the YLD.

Below left: Antavius Weems, YLD President-elect Damon Elmore and David Gruskin

Below right: Curtis Romig and Michael Geoffroy



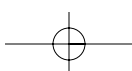
YLD Honors Executive Council, Committee Chairs with Holiday Party

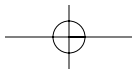
The Executive Council and Committee Chairs of the Young Lawyers Division were honored at a holiday cocktail party at the Four Seasons Hotel in Atlanta on Dec. 7, 2004.

It was a chance for the YLD leadership to thank the committee chairs for all of their hard work throughout the Bar year while socializing in the holiday spirit.

It's easy to become involved in the YLD; there are 27 committees, as well as numerous Executive Council spots available throughout the state of Georgia. If you would like to become more involved, or for more information on the committees please contact Deidra Sanderson, YLD director, at 404-527-8778 or e-mail deidra@gabar.org. 📧

Left: Michael Geoffroy, YLD President Laurel Payne Landon and Jan Bozeman at the holiday party held at the Four Seasons on Dec. 7.





2005 Midyear Meeting

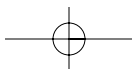


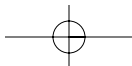
Above: C. Shane Keith, Mike Krause, YLD Director Deidra Sanderson, Tom Pope, Jonathan Tuggle and John Lange at the Community Service Projects Committee's charity happy hour at Sidebar on Jan. 13. The happy hour raised money for Fulton County DFACS Emergency Food Shelter and was one of several YLD events during the State Bar's Midyear Meeting.

Right: Kendall Butterworth, John Ashbaugh, Karen Cross and Terri Gordon at the YLD group dinner on Jan. 15.



Victor Lai, Lexi Liner and Rob Capobianco at Sidebar on Jan. 13.





Left: Mike Krause, Laura Fahey Fritts, C. Shane Keith, Bobby Scott and Leslie Thomasson spend time together at Sidebar during the Community Service Projects Committee's charity Bar Night on Jan. 13.

Below Right: YLD Director Deidra Sanderson, Kendall Butterworth, a YLD past president, and Stephanie Westfield at the YLD/ACYL Midyear Mingle held at the Omni at CNN Center on Jan. 14.

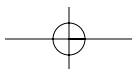


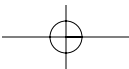
Below Left: Dan Munster and Tasha Olivi at the YLD/ACYL Midyear Mingle.



Above: Steve Marino and Charlene Swartz at the Midyear Meeting YLD group dinner on Jan. 15. The dinner was held at ONE.midtown kitchen in Atlanta.

Left: Bobby Scott and Mike Krause at the YLD/ACYL Midyear Mingle on Jan. 14





Criminal Law Committee Seeks Award Nominations

YLD Criminal Law Committee reminds all interested YLD members to join us for our monthly meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at the State Bar Center. Our next meetings will be March 2, 2005 and April 6, 2005 from 12 p.m to 1 p.m.

The committee has also begun to take nominations for its Commitment to Justice Award given out every year at the State Bar Annual Meeting. The committee is seeking nominations of prosecutors and defense attorneys. The award honors an outstanding “young” prosecutor and defense lawyer for his or her commitment and dedication to criminal justice. A “young lawyer” is any attorney age 36 or younger or in practice less than five years, regardless of age. Other qualities a candidate for nomination should possess are demonstrated professionalism, social and community awareness, a high degree of integrity, a strong working knowledge of the law and exceptional advocacy skills.

If you know of someone who meets the qualifications set forth, please send us a letter of nomination that includes the following information about the candidate:

- Candidate’s name and age
- Number of years in practice
- Short explanation as to why this young lawyer is exceptional

Please send your nominations to Deidra F. Sanderson, YLD director, by:
Fax: (404) 527-8717
E-mail: deidra@gabar.org
Mail: 104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA, 30303

All nominations need to be received NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, April 15, 2005. The award will be presented to the recipient during an awards ceremony at the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting in Savannah on June 11, 2005.

WIPC Sponsors Estate Planning CLE

The Women in the Profession Committee is sponsoring a half-day CLE entitled “Estate Planning Basics: The Essentials for Creating Your Own Estate Plan & Getting Your Affairs in Order” on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. at the State Bar of Georgia, 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta. Three CLE credit hours are offered.

The program is designed to teach lawyers that do not practice in the wills and estates area the basics for creating their own estate plan. There will be a legal component taught by Rebecca Godbey of Bird & Godbey, LLP and a financial component taught by Scott Italiaander, Blair Enfield and Brad Nichols of MML Investors Services, Inc. Issues such as beneficiary designations, wills, trusts, estate taxes, gifts, and business plans will be addressed.

The cost of the event is \$25, which includes a light breakfast. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parking is free for members of the Bar in the Bar Center parking deck. Contact Janet Bozeman, Lipshutz, Greenblatt & King, LLP, (404) 688-2300, jL.Bozeman@att.net for more information.

Ethics and Professionalism Seeks Nominations

Premier Young Lawyer Ethics and Professionalism Award

“Always do right—this will gratify some and astonish the rest.”
Mark Twain, message to Young People’s Society, Greenpoint Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, New York, Feb. 16, 1901.

The Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia invites nominations for a “young lawyer” (see eligibility guidelines below) who demonstrates/exemplifies professional and ethical conduct in the practice of law.

Eligibility:

- Member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia;
- Less than 36 years old, or have been admitted to practice in their first bar within the past 5 years; and
- Not a member of the YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Selection Criteria:

The nominee should embody the Lawyer’s Creed adopted by the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism. Such criteria include: fairness, integrity, diligence, good judgment, and professionalism. The nominee should demonstrate exceptional ethical qualities or judgment relative to his or her peers, in one respect or another.

Required Information:

- Nominating Party: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail
- Nominee: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail
- Narrative: Explain how the nominee meets the selection criteria provided above, including, if applicable, specific instances where the nominee’s ethical qualities were evident.

Send nominations to:

Deidra Sanderson, YLD Director
State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Deadline for receipt of submissions: May 20, 2005

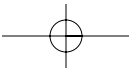
Community Service Committee Reaches Out

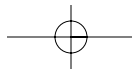
Tunes for the Troops

In December 2004, the YLD Community Service Committee organized Tunes for the Troops in conjunction with the YLD Winter Meeting. Tunes for the Troops was a CD collection that provided music for U.S. troops stationed in Iraq during the holidays. The project was a huge success, with over a dozen Atlanta-area firms sponsoring collection sites. By the time the drive was over, over 1,000 CDs – ranging from country to R&B to gospel to heavy metal to everything in between – had been donated and seven bankers boxes full of music were shipped to several U.S. bases in Iraq. Thanks to all of the attorneys and firms who volunteered as collection sites and to everyone who contributed CDs. In addition, the YLD would also like to thank EMI Records, which generously contributed an entire box full of brand-new CDs.

Charity Happy Hour

The committee continued its quarterly tradition of hosting a happy hour for a good cause when dozens of young lawyers braved icy temperatures and pouring rain to gather downtown at Sidebar on Jan. 13. In addition, the Committee was pleased to welcome attendees from the YLD Midyear Meeting, which was taking place just blocks away at Bar Headquarters and the Omni Hotel at CNN Center. As always, everyone in attendance had a great time and all of the money raised went to the Emergency Food Bank of Fulton County DFACS. We hope to see you at the next charity happy hour, which will take place in early April in Buckhead!





Above: Justice Robert Benham presents Christian Torgrimson with the community service award.

Right: Justice Robert Benham with Antavius Weems



Torgrimson, Weems receive Justice Benham award

Two members of the Young Lawyers Division were selected as recipients of the 2005 Justice Robert Benham Community Service Award. Antavius Weems of the Fulton County Juvenile Court and Christian Torgrimson of Pursley Lowery Meeks LLP were presented with the award on Jan. 13 during the Justice Robert Benham Community Service Awards Presentation and Reception, which took place in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia's Midyear Meeting at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.

The State Bar created the award in 1997 to honor lawyers and judges who have made outstanding contributions in the area of community service. During Justice Benham's five-year term as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia he focused the attention of lawyers and judges on the community and public service aspects of professionalism. Justice Benham explains: "The public impression of the legal profession is not shaped just in the courtroom. It is shaped in all kinds of activities. When lawyers are involved in community activities, people will see them as neighbors, swimming team coaches, house builders and a whole host of other community servants. And if lawyers are also community servants, people will see the legal profession as a community-spirited profession. Such an impression can't help but benefit the profession and increase the understanding of the role of law and lawyer."

YLD Litigation Committee Update

The YLD Litigation Committee has returned from a short holiday break to kick-start an array of late winter and early spring activities.

We began our winter with our most recent monthly business meeting held at Legalink, where we were provided with a presentation on the use of emerging technology in depositions and in the courtroom. In February, we are planning a social event in conjunction with the pro-bono committee, as well as a lunch-n-learn CLE concerning the use of financial experts (and understanding accounting documents). That CLE will take place in metro Atlanta.

In March, we will have another social in conjunction with the professionalism and ethics subcommittee. We are also in discussions with the P&E committee to discuss a joint CLE involving litigation and professionalism/ethics issues.

In April, we are planning another Metro area lunch-n-learn CLE regarding discovery disputes. In addition, our Macon contingent is planning a "Cocktail Law" CLE

Social which is sure to be a hit. Similar events with other topics are planned for Savannah and Augusta. April 22nd is the date of our all-day litigation CLE. This year the topic will be a "day in the life" of a case; with speakers on topics from filing, discovery, motion practice, evidence and trial. Making the CLE stand out, an afternoon mock trial will be held. This will not only provide trial practice CLE, but which will also provide professionalism/ethics CLE by way of judicial analysis of the counsel's conduct and the manner in which the trial was handled.

By year end we will also conduct another service project through the Great Day of Service, and we will distribute a member directory to be used as a networking tool. Finally, while the details remain sketchy, we plan on hosting (or co-hosting) an event at the Annual Meeting.

The Litigation Committee meets every 4th Wednesday of the month. Our next lunch meeting will take place on February 26. We look forward to seeing all members, and those interested in joining.



Upcoming YLD Meetings

Spring Meeting
March 18-20
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
Jekyll Island, Ga

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

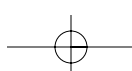
Summer Meeting
August 26-28
Charleston Place Hotel
Charleston, SC

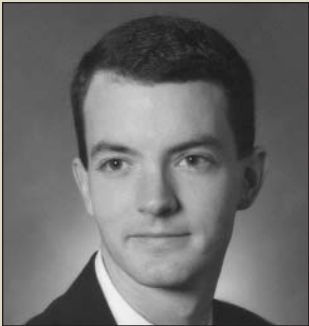
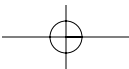
Fall Meeting
October 21-23
Foundry Park Inn & Spa
Arkansas vs. UGA
Athens, Ga

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

2006 Spring Meeting
April 20-23
Las Vegas, Nev.
Hotel TBD

2006 Annual Meeting
June 1-4
Westin Hilton Head
Hilton Head, SC





from the
Editor

Making Margin A Reality

By Bryan D. Scott

What is margin in practicing law? Margin is the difference between what we are bearing and the most we can bear. It is the difference between our load and our limit. Margin in practicing law is that “space” between the comfortable, balanced, and sustainable amount of work that we can carry, and the unsustainable and unhealthy amount of work that exhausts our every last ounce of physical strength, emotional stability, financial resources or opportunity to rebound. Margin is our resources held in reserve for contingencies or unexpected situations.

When unanticipated difficulty comes, you tap into your margin. If you do not have margin built into your work life or if you deplete your margin when contingencies arise, then worry, stress, fatigue, exhaustion, overload, and, eventually, burn-out consumes you.

Our limits are real. A strong, healthy attorney builds and maintains margin into his or her practice, a buffer upon which the attorney can encroach in the event of contingent or unanticipated circumstances.

Have you built into your daily work life margin which will act as a buffer before you reach absolute total stress and maximum overload?

An inappropriate margin for an attorney might be evidenced by a constant need for rest which you cannot take because of your schedule. Do you constantly stay stressed out because of the demands and requirements of your job? I remember often feeling “pressure” on my chest (literally) because of the stress I experienced at work. Are the demands of work negatively affecting your family life? Do you “take work home with you,” whether literally or figuratively? Attorneys without margin often work very long hours, weekends and holidays, and do not take vacations. And when they do take vacations, they take work

with them. If this describes you, maybe it is time to re-evaluate your practice and build in margin for yourself.

You will not be able to avoid encroaching on your margin. There is a time and place for everything. But if your life is *characterized* by repeated and consistent intrusion and exhaustion of your margin, perhaps it is time for a change.

Truth is, we would be remiss if we viewed margin only in terms of work. Sometimes it is work, in combination with “real life,” that drives us to consistently exhaust our margin and produce an unhealthy lifestyle. This is especially true for attorneys, because the law is a “jealous mistress” that consumes our time and physical and emotional energies. Maybe if we first seek to change our work margin, we would find that our life margin would fall into place as well.

What do we do if we consistently encroach upon and deplete our margin, as opposed to withstanding the unexpected and unanticipated in a healthy, sustainable fashion? Maybe we need to cut out an area of practice, some cases, or a client or two to free up our resources to live a healthier lifestyle. Perhaps it means realizing that saying “no” is an acceptable answer for the good of our own life and our family’s life. Or, perhaps it means something more radical – a character change – whereby we “loosen” our love and desire for money (which often drives our work obligations) and commit to be willing to “make less” in order to “live more.”

So, here is the challenge: Take a moment to evaluate your “margin” after reading this article. Then, purpose in your heart to put into place *whatever it takes* to bring about a healthy, sustainable lifestyle and pratice. You will never regret having done so. ☛

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