

# Swearing In!

## YLD Leaders Take Oath of Office



Justice George H. Carley (right) swears in YLD's 2003-2004 officers: Secretary Jon Pope, President-Elect Laurel Landon, and President Andrew Jones.

On June 14, 2003, the 2003-2004 Young Lawyers Division leadership change took effect at the swearing in ceremony held at the YLD Awards Brunch at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Fla.

The new officers include Andrew Jones, president; Laurel Landon, president-elect; David Gruskin (not pictured), treasurer; and Jon Pope, secretary.

The Oath of Office was administered by Justice George H. Carley of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Jones said the one of his goals for the year is to increase YLD participation among the young lawyers from the large Atlanta firms. He explained that for years the YLD leadership has viewed the Atlanta legal community as an untapped resource. Jones is convinced that participation from a few energetic lawyers from each large Atlanta law firm could take the YLD to new heights.

For more photos from the YLD Awards Brunch, see page 7. 📷

# Annual Bar Night Another Overwhelming Success

On June 24, over 100 young lawyers gathered at Cherry Restaurant in Midtown Atlanta to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones, all while having a few cold drinks. But this was no ordinary happy hour; the Community Service Projects Committee of the YLD sponsored this event.

In addition to the fun, these young attorneys also focused on

raising funds to help Georgia's foster children.

Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance as well as some matching funds from the YLD, the event raised \$900 for two worthy organizations: the Emergency Food Fund of the Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Celebration of Excellence, an annual event that celebrates the

academic achievements of Georgia's foster children. These donations continued the committee's ongoing commitment to Georgia's foster children. Other committee events in the past year included escorting foster children to Zoo Atlanta and an Atlanta Hawks game and wrapping donated holiday gifts for DFCS.

The Charity Happy Hour is an *Bar Night continued on Page 4*



Paul Greenspan and Deidra Sanderson present Miriam Bowens of the Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services with a check from funds raised at Bar Night.

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## from the President

# What is the YLD doing next?

by Andrew W. Jones

**A**ugust 15 - 17, members of the Young Lawyers Division met in Highlands, N.C. for our summer meeting. Several younger lawyers from around the state got together to discuss the good work the YLD committees are doing, and also to have a little fun.

For those of you who could not make it to the summer meeting, the next opportunity to meet is Oct. 3-5 in Athens for the Georgia versus Alabama football game.

The YLD has reserved a block of rooms at the Foundry Park Inn and Spa and has tickets to the game for the first 75 people who sign up. For those of you who have never been to a YLD meeting, this would be a great place to start. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Deidra Sanderson at the State Bar at (404) 527-8778 or [deidra@gabar.org](mailto:deidra@gabar.org).

Over the past several weeks I have met with many YLD committee chairs. As usual, a group of energetic and talented younger lawyers have stepped up to the plate to make the YLD committees a tremendous success. I want to thank all of the chairs who are serving this year. I appreciate your time commitment and your dedication to the YLD. Without

good people, the YLD committees would not prosper. If you would like to get involved in a YLD committee, please contact Deidra at the Bar office.

I hope everyone likes the new look of the YLD Newsletter. Thanks to the hard work of Deidra Sanderson, State Bar Communications Director Tyler Jones and Bryan Scott we have a new newsletter format complete with color photographs. In the past, the Georgia YLD Newsletter has received National recognition for its quality and content. The positive changes that you see will continue that successful tradition. If you have any articles or committee information which you would like to report in the newsletter, please forward those to Deidra. We welcome your input and your articles.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the members of the YLD Board of Directors and Executive Council who are working tirelessly to insure that the YLD has another successful year. Without their help, my job as president would be impossible. Bar service takes time and commitment. I thank you, the Bar thanks you, and most importantly, the people and the communities we help thank you.

**See you in Athens - - - Go Dawgs!!!!**



## FORE!

Jon Pope, Jeff Ingram, Rob Register and Tom Pope enjoy an afternoon of golf at the Ocean Links course at the YLD Golf Tournament at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation.

# A Special Thanks to YLD Sponsors

**T**he YLD wishes to thank the following sponsors from our summer meeting in Highlands, N.C. for their help in making the meeting successful and fun:

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### **Jon Pope for YLD Treasurer**

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# Jonesboro High Places at National Mock Trial

By Beth Green

Alexander High School, Douglasville

The 2003 National Mock Trial Competition took place May 9-10 in New Orleans, La.; the 20th National Competition since the program's start in 1983. The Jonesboro High School mock trial team traveled to this competition as the state champion and representative of Georgia, placing 16th out of 44 teams. Jonesboro's team was also state champion in 1988 and in 2002 placed 10th out of 44 teams.

The mock trial program allows high school students the opportunity to compete on teams as attorneys and witnesses in a staged trial. Mock trial committee members at the state and national levels write new cases yearly, and most states begin the competition with regional contests. When the regional and state competitions are completed, each participating state and/or territory sends a single high school team to the national tournament.

The national competition consists of four preliminary rounds and a final round for the top two teams. Each trial can last up to three hours and all five rounds are completed in two days.

The Jonesboro team consisted of student attorneys Karen Smith, Jennifer Lucas, Joy Gray, and Lauren Johnson; and student witnesses Nykia Burke, Blake Millie, Janelle Ludaway, and Cynthia Saunders. Accompanying this group were the state artist champion Travis Overstreet and state journalist champion Beth Green.

Also accompanying the team were other Jonesboro team members and mock trial coaches Judge John C. Carbo, Bonnie Smith, Tasha Mosley, Matthew Ford and Crystal Wessinger. Georgia State Coordinator Stacy Rieke represented the Georgia High School Mock Trial Committee at the tourna-



Justice George H. Carley (Georgia Supreme Court) presents Beth Green of Alexander High School (Douglasville) with a plaque recognizing her achievement as the Overall Winner in the Journalism Contest (contest sponsored by the HSMT's Special Projects Task Force) for the 2003 mock trial season.

ment, and friends and family members of the team also attended.

This year's 44 teams included numerous continental states as well as Alaska, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Georgia went

head to head with teams from Wisconsin, Oregon, Virginia and Rhode Island, winning two rounds and losing two rounds. Overall, several teams from the Southeast placed in the top ten, with Tennessee winning the national championship. Florida placed fourth, Mississippi seventh and South Carolina ninth.

Though Jonesboro did not win this year, the practice and persistence that brought the team to the top level will undoubtedly bring victory again, perhaps in next year's national competition.

Though saddened after hearing the results of the competition, the members and coaches agreed during the concluding team meeting that, in Judge Carbo's words, they should "not put [their] heads down in shame, but be proud" of what the team had accomplished.

The judge and other Jonesboro coaches reminded the team, "We are not disappointed in this team," to which the team members, family, and friends agree.

In accordance with the team's motto "One Team, One Dream," the Jonesboro group decided that they had fulfilled the dream of attending nationals for a second time, and most importantly, had accomplished this dream together.

The 2004 National Mock Trial Competition will take place in Orlando, Fla., in May 2004. The Georgia High School Mock Trial Committee is working hard to bring the National High School Mock Trial Championship to Atlanta in 2008. ☛

## Attorney Coaches are Needed for High School Teams Throughout Georgia

**VETERAN MOCK TRIAL ATTORNEY COACHES NEEDED TO SERVE AS FACULTY MEMBERS FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL LAW ACADEMY NOV. 7-8 AT THE UGA LAW SCHOOL**

For more information on coaching a team or serving as a faculty member for the Law Academy, contact the Mock Trial Office **before Oct. 1** at (404) 527-8779 or toll free (800) 334-6865 ext. 779 or e-mail [mocktrial@gabar.org](mailto:mocktrial@gabar.org).

For online sign-up go to [www.gabar.org/mtjoin.asp](http://www.gabar.org/mtjoin.asp)





# Bar Night

## Raising Money for Charity

*Bar Night continued from Page 1*

annual summer event sponsored by the Community Service Projects Committee. In addition to celebrating the end of the current Bar year, the committee is also able to introduce itself to summer associates working in the city. However, based on the positive feedback from June's happy hour, the YLD and the committee have decided to host Charity Happy Hours more frequently. Now, YLD members will have more opportunities to network, socialize and raise even more money for a great cause.

The next Charity Happy Hour will be at Cherry Restaurant in October. For more information, keep an eye out for flyers or contact the event chairperson, Paul

Greenspan, at [Paul.Greenspan@ey.com](mailto:Paul.Greenspan@ey.com) or (404) 817-4766.

In addition to the events mentioned above that focus on foster children, last year the committee also organized a cleanup of Piedmont Park, a toiletries drive for women's shelters across the state, and a business clothing drive for community organizations that help people entering the workforce, among other things.

For more information on the Community Service Projects Committee, contact Deidra F. Sanderson, YLD director at (404) 527-8778 or [deidra@gabar.org](mailto:deidra@gabar.org) and sign up for the committee's listserver to receive notice of the committee's monthly lunch meetings. 



Andrea Muller, Deidra Sanderson, Damon Elmore, and Suzanne Deddish.



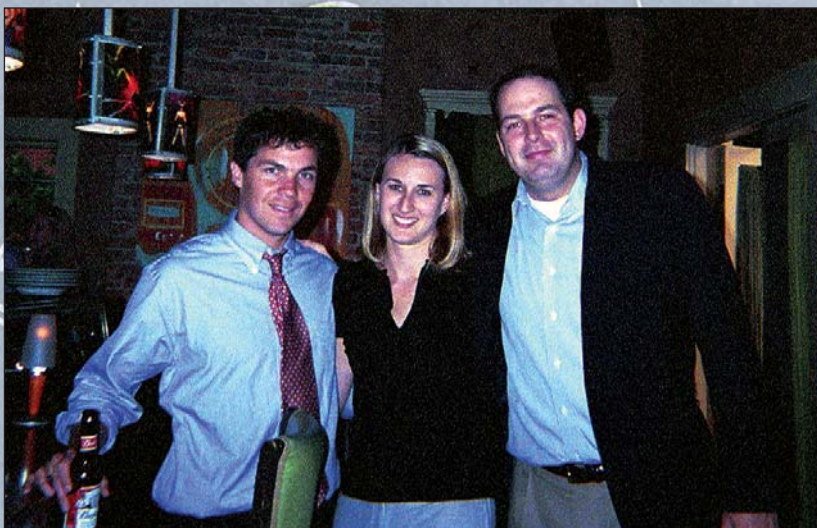
ABOVE: Kevin Snyder and Andrew Jones.

LEFT: Shelley Senterfitt.



ABOVE: Eric Maurer, Deidra Sanderson, and Damon Elmore.

RIGHT: Amy Alcock talks to some Bar Night participants.



John Hocutt, Amy Hoffman, and Scott Masterson.



# YLD Summer Meeting Sizzles



Scott and Kimbrell Kimbrough, Chuck and Christi Hodges, and Andrew and Ashley Jones.



J.K. and Keisha Robbins, Josh Bell, and Sara and Jay Doyle.



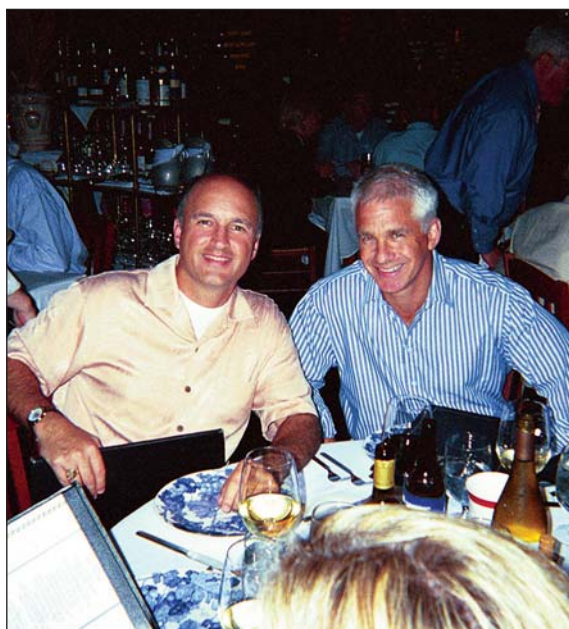
David and Ashley Gruskin.



Michelle Adams, Laurel Landon, Kim Stracke, Brian Rutland.



Laurel Landon, Deidra Sanderson, and Lori and Dan Snipes.



Sponsors Jeff Ingram and Frank Burns.

***Celebrating  
Good  
Friends,  
Food,  
and  
Fun***





# Make a Difference in a Child's Life

by Mike McCleary  
Kids and Justice Committee Chair

Looking for a fun way to get involved in your local community? Want to make a difference in a child's life and motivate them about learning? Want a good excuse to get out from behind the stacks of paperwork that are piling up on your desk? Try getting involved with a local Kids and Justice project.

Kids and Justice is a YLD sponsored program that gets practicing attorneys into local elementary school classrooms to teach fifth graders some basics of Georgia law and what it means to be an attorney. The program uses lesson plans developed by the Law Related Education (LRE) Consortium that provide a great structure to your local project. However, you can work with your local school to develop a program that meets the needs of both the attorney volunteer(s) and the 5th grade classes.

The project in Athens had about a dozen attorneys who rotated teaching two lessons per month during the school year. The lessons are coordinated with the 5th grade curriculum. For example, Constitutional Law topics are taught by attorneys at the same time the students are learning about the signing of the Constitution in American History. In the Spring, the Athens project was culmi-

nated with a simple Mock Trial. Students assumed the roles of judge, attorneys, witnesses, etc. while they were coached by local practicing attorneys.

The time involvement is between you and the sponsoring teacher. You could visit the class once a week or just a few times during the school year; whatever you are willing and able to commit to and your school is willing to support.

With the school year just starting, now is the time to contact your local elementary school and introduce yourself and the Kids and Justice program. The difference between sitting behind your desk while talking on the phone and standing in front of twenty-five fifth graders teaching them about Georgia's laws on robbery and forgery is amazing and a tremendous break during your work week. You also get the benefit of showing your face in the local community and gaining a real sense of service to your local schools.

If you are interested in establishing a local Kids and Justice project or joining an existing project in your area, contact the Kids and Justice Committee Chair - Mike McCleary at (706) 548-1151 or by email at [mjm@fbglaw.com](mailto:mjm@fbglaw.com) for more information. ☛

## Celebration of Excellence 2003 - Largest Class Ever

by Allyson Anderson  
YLD Juvenile Law Committee, Celebration of Excellence Committee Chair  
Policy Director, Office of the Child Advocate

On June 17, 2003, the Celebration of Excellence recognized its largest class ever of 255 graduates at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. This represented a 10.4 percent increase over last year's own record class of 231.

The Celebration of Excellence is an annual statewide graduation event and scholarship program that recognizes the academic achievements of youth who have grown up in Georgia's foster care system and who are graduating from high school, a GED program, vocational school, and college. Many of these youth have overcome the challenges of changes in placements and schools, often during the school year, thereby missing the opportunity of a traditional high school experience. The Celebration also serves the important purpose of recognizing those who work in our child welfare system and by sharing their successes with the public, who often only hear about that system when it fails.

The Celebration is organized by community partners in Georgia's child welfare system, including the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, the Division of Family and Children Services, the volunteer and non-profit community, and especially the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children and Office of Child Advocate.

This year's event was a grand suc-

cess! Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor opened the ceremony with encouraging remarks for our graduates, followed by an inspirational message from Abdoul Sanogo, who grew up in Georgia's foster care system and is now a college graduate! Shane Salter, our keynote speaker, is an alumnus of the New York foster care system who overcame overwhelming odds against him to survive and thrive as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor of Washington, D.C. and as a parent to his own children, including those he has adopted. Shane delivered an incredible message on the power of faith and not giving up on yourself, even when others do. Our Mistress of Ceremonies, Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge Peggy Walker and Division of Family and Children Services Director Juanita Blount Clark announced and congratulated the 2003 class.

Governor and Mrs. Sonny Perdue also made an appearance via video to deliver a congratulatory greeting to the graduates and to express appreciation to the caseworkers, independent living coordinators, and foster parents who walked alongside our youth to help them reach the milestone of graduation!

Despite a difficult economic and fundraising climate, Cara Fox, Celebration Project Director with the Georgia Association of Homes and



Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor congratulates the Celebration of Excellence graduates.

Services for Children, raised \$51,000 in scholarships for our youth! These scholarships will help our youth defray the expenses of post-secondary education on their way to a college degree!

The evening concluded with a reception and talent show featuring eight of our youth performing for the audience and showcasing their unique talents and gifts. We are so proud of the Class of

2003. Save the date because we have set the date for the 2004 Celebration of Excellence for June 10, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

For more on the Celebration of Excellence, please visit [celebrationofexcellence.com](http://celebrationofexcellence.com). For more information about the Juvenile Law Committee, please visit [www.juvenilelawcommittee.org](http://www.juvenilelawcommittee.org). ☛






# YLD Awardees Honored at Annual Meeting

**Y**LD recognized the contributions of many outstanding young lawyers during the Annual Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation. Their commitment and dedication made the 2002-2003 Bar year an overwhelming success.

Congratulations to all award winners, and thank you for your continued service.

Judge Steve C. Jones (not pictured) was awarded the Distinguished Judicial Service Award. 



ABOVE: Layla Hinton addresses the audience after receiving the Commitment to Justice Award.

RIGHT: Amy Alcoke, Shelley Senterfitt, and Tonya Boga, receive the Distinguished Service Award. Not pictured: Ryan Schneider.



Brad Gardner, Elvin Sutton Jr., Jan Bozeman, and a colleague accepting on behalf of Sherry Neal, receive the Best Service to the Bar Award.



RIGHT: Kevin Snyder, Leigh Martin and Dan Snipes receive the Best Service to the Public award. Not pictured: Caren Cloud and Marc D'Antonio.



(Left to Right) Leigh Martin, Damon Elmore, Doug Kertscher, Beth Kertscher, Janne' McKamey-Lopes, and Beth Ellen Sullivan receive the Outstanding Service Award for Leadership and Continued Dedication. Not pictured: Marc D'Antonio.



Pete Daughtery receives the Person of the Decade award from 2002-2003 YLD President Derek White.



Elena Kaplan receives the Award of Achievement for Outstanding Commitment and Service to the YLD. Not pictured: Chandra Tutt.



**Join Us at the YLD Fall Meeting**  
at the Foundry Park Inn  
in Athens, Ga.  
October 3-5, 2003  
and attend  
the Georgia vs. Alabama Football Game



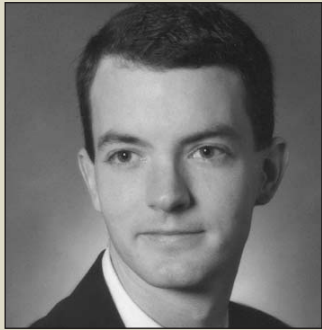
Registration Options-Must be Received With Payment by September 19, 2003.

\*Game Package (75 tickets available) -- \$75 per person, includes Georgia vs. Alabama game ticket and transportation from Foundry Park Inn to the tailgate party prior to kickoff (food and beverages included). The football tickets will be handed out following the business meeting on Saturday morning.

For more information about the Fall meeting call Deidra F. Sanderson, YLD Director, at 404-527-8778.







from the  
Editor

## Tips for Young Lawyers

# What a Difference a Year Makes!

By Bryan D. Scott

It has been a little over a year since I started my own practice after leaving Jones, Cork & Miller, LLP in Macon. Since that time, I have learned some lessons (sometimes the hard way), picked up advice over the course of my journey and given thought to some life issues in general. In this column, I offer three things to younger attorneys - a reminder, a piece of advice, and an encouragement.

### The Reminder

People appreciate a prompt return phone call. You do too, do you not? You have heard it a hundred times, but here's number one-hundred and one. Make it a priority to return phone calls. Right now, I operate without a legal assistant. So it is important that my clients, attorneys and other contacts have assurance they will be contacted promptly by me. Over time, if you stick to this commitment, clients will begin to realize that if they call you, and you

are not there, they will be speaking to you sooner rather than later.

Remember, their case may not be the most important case on your agenda, but it is the most important case on their agenda.

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No money can pay  
for the happiness  
and fulfillment  
you will have in doing  
what you enjoy doing.

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### A Piece of Advice

Do what you enjoy. If you are not, make a bold move and eliminate the areas of your practice you do not enjoy. For instance, if you enjoy the criminal side of your practice, but struggle to make the most of your domestic cases, begin moving out of that area. If you do not enjoy an area of your practice,

begin cutting back gradually from that area. Turn down some cases. Take the extra time to market yourself in the areas you do enjoy. No money can pay for the happiness and fulfillment you will have in doing what you enjoy doing. And if you enjoy it, odds are you're good at it.

### A Word of Encouragement

What do you value the most in life? God? Family? Time? Money? Is your work keeping you from the things you value most in life? If so, cut back on your case load. Raise your rates by 20 percent, work 20 percent less, and spend the extra 20 percent of your work time with the people or things you value most in life. "Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint." Prov. 23:4.

Hey, I don't have all the answers, but I can share from my experience . . . limited as it is.

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