



The YLD Review

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

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Lawyers in a Frenzy

by Yari Lawson and Kevin Patrick



Hancock County is located between the Oconee and Ogeechee Rivers off of I-20 in east Georgia. The county's location amid those natural resources allowed the local economy to once thrive during the 1800s as cotton farmers found success growing and trading product along the rivers. As it did to many Georgia towns, the Civil War dramatically changed and ultimately destroyed the once prevalent local economy in Hancock County. With almost no current industry, Hancock County is one of Georgia's poorest counties. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that more

than 30 percent of Spartans (county seat) live below the poverty line, far above the average in Georgia of 18 percent.

Of course, where poverty exists, related concerns such as housing, education, jobs, and more basic needs, like nutrition, will emerge. Almost 19 percent of Georgians are food insecure; they don't know where their next meal is coming from. The national average is 15.9 percent. In Georgia, more than 700,000 children live without food or access to food. Sadly, many of those children are not eligible for free or reduced lunch programs during the summer months.

The Legal Food Frenzy began in 2012 as a service project in the Georgia Young Lawyers Division when the success of a similar program in Virginia impressed Attorney General **Sam Olens**. The objective of the program is to raise enough food and funds to feed Georgia's food insecure children away from school during the summer. Each year, the Food Frenzy is strategically coordinated toward the end of the school year so that the Georgia Food Bank Association can assess and distribute food according to the summer's need.

Georgia's Legal Food Frenzy has strengthened each year that it's been produced, largely due to the leadership in the State Bar of Georgia and the Young Lawyers Division. When Attorney General Olens first sought to bring the service project to Georgia, he consulted then State Bar President **Ken Shigley**, and together they tapped then YLD President **Stephanie Kirijan Cooper** who installed the program as a signature service initiative of the YLD. Every year since, State Bar and YLD leadership has challenged committees, lawyers and legal organizations to expand the popularity and the success of the program. For instance, during the fourth annual Legal Food Frenzy, 270 firms and 18,000 members of the legal community competed and raised 1,181,412 pounds of food, (\$289,242.50 + 24,442 pounds) an increase of more than 3.6 percent from 2014.

To date, the Legal Food Frenzy has brought lawyers together to raise a total of 3,777,852 pounds of food for the Georgia Food Bank Association since 2012. Still, there is room for growth. "We would like to bring our



(L-R) Attorney General Sam Olens and YLD President Jack Long get ready to congratulate winners of the 2015 Legal Food Frenzy at a reception at the Bar Center.

2016 YLD Signature Fundraiser

by Ashley Akins

Please join us for the 10th annual YLD Signature Fundraiser on Jan. 23, 2016, at The Biltmore in Atlanta!

The Signature Fundraiser is a black-tie gala hosted by the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division each year to raise awareness and funds for a local charity. The event will feature live music from The Answer Band, dancing, open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and more! The VIP Hour will begin at 7 p.m., while the main event begins at 8 p.m.

We are excited to announce that this year's beneficiary is Camp Lakeside. The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta and Children's Hospital of Georgia at GRU are collaborating to ensure that children of all abilities have access to life-changing outdoor recreation and therapeutic programs. The renovated Camp Lakeside will be transformed from its limited, rustic condition to serve children with disabilities or serious and chronic health conditions in a medically safe environment, along with able-bodied children from around the region.

The success of the YLD's Signature Fundraiser and its beneficiaries would not be possible without our generous sponsors and attendees, who year-in and year-out lend their names and financial support to make the fundraiser a success. For more information about how to become a sponsor or purchase tickets, please visit www.georgiayld.org. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact **Ashley A. Akins** (ashley.a.akers@gmail.com) or **Elizabeth Pool O'Neal** (eoneal@smithwelchlaw.com). YLD



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From the President

New Year's Resolutions

by Jack Long

New Year's resolutions are always something that elude me, as most are broken not long after they are made. Most resolutions start out well-intended, but life gets in the way and they are soon forgotten. This year, however, I challenge you to not only add giving back to the public and our profession as a resolution, but to remember and stick to it.

"Giving back" to the public takes many forms, and as I have referenced in past articles, many opportunities await. Whether by taking on a pro bono matter or committing your time or financial resources to the Georgia Legal Services Program or another legal aid entity, make 2016 a priority to give back to the public. The YLD has many places you can start. Our 10th annual Signature Fundraiser will be held on Jan. 23, 2016, at The Biltmore in Midtown Atlanta. The fundraiser beneficiary, Camp Lakeside, is a worthy project that serves the needs of physically ill or disabled Georgians, most of whom are children. Once completed, it will be a haven for children with disabilities or serious and chronic health conditions to experience summer camp in a medically safe environment, along with able-bodied children from around the state. Visit www.georgiayld.org to purchase tickets or sponsorship packages, or to make a donation. After attending the fundraiser, you can volunteer with the Estate and Elder Law Committee which is resuming its wills clinics across the state. Here, first responders and their spouses can have basic estate planning documents drafted at no cost to them, requiring only a moment of your time. In the spring, you can compete with your colleagues in the 5th annual Legal Food Frenzy, working together to raise millions of pounds of food for Georgia's hungry. Law Day events held by each local bar in May provide ample opportunity to serve the community.

In addition, there are opportunities to give back to our profession. Volunteer to teach a CLE. Join one of the many committees working toward goals set forth by the Bar's new strategic plan. Work with one of our 30-plus committees to improve their programs, or pitch an idea for a new one. Attend State Bar and YLD meetings, and contribute your ideas and talents. Regardless of which of these you choose to focus your efforts, remember that our calling in this profession as well as our ethics rules encourage giving back.

When I was sworn in as your YLD president, I promised to improve our existing programs, and I am resolved in continuing to further that promise. One way that this is happening is by partnering with other state and affiliate young lawyer organizations, both at the local level and with

the American Bar Association (ABA). We are making strides in developing relationships with other YLD leaders across the nation and developing programs in collaboration with each other. Recently, we hosted **Barrett Thomas** of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) at our Fall Meeting. The following week, I traveled to Texas to learn about their TYLA operations. Texas and Georgia are working together to share ideas and develop joint projects that can be used as a model and replicated in other states. One example is a handbook for divorcing military spouses, which will guide practitioners and pro se parties alike in navigating issues which are unique to a divorce where one party is a service member. This will be a model that, once perfected, can be used as a template project by multiple states.

We have been also working with our neighbors in the South Carolina YLD to plan a meeting of ABA affiliate leaders. In June 2016, YLD leaders from our partners in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee will convene in Atlanta for our first ever Southeastern Regional Summit. The summit will provide a forum for leaders to collaborate, share ideas and projects, and identify problems and successes among the different YLDs in the Southeastern states. If you chair or otherwise are involved in a YLD committee, this summit will be a great opportunity to refine and develop your programming.

In closing, I'd like to encourage you all to resolve that in 2016, service to the public and to the Bar will be a priority. I'll also take the opportunity to recognize some of our YLD leaders who have worked particularly hard this fall to do just that, all while continuing to deliver quality programming and organizing successful events. **Morgan Clemons** has worked hard to ensure the Women in the Profession Committee consistently delivers relevant, interesting programs for its members. In addition to monthly events, Morgan has taken it upon herself to plan a first ever Committee Retreat for the next Bar year. **Dustin Davies** has planned and successfully executed law school outreach events at each of Georgia's law schools this fall. **Jana Edmonson-Cooper** has been diligent as a director of member outreach to ensure that the committees which fall under her oversight are kept to task. **Ashley Akins, Elizabeth Poole** and our four sponsorship co-chairs have been working around the clock to finalize details for the Signature Fundraiser in January. Finally, **Garon Muller** is working with the other directors of affiliate outreach to plan events with each of our local affiliates, all while being sworn as president of the Young Lawyers of Augusta. On behalf of the YLD, I thank each of you for your service. YLD

2016 YLD SPRING MEETING

L A S V E G A S

March 10-13, 2016 | The Cosmopolitan Hotel

Learn more at georgiayld.org

Behind the Bench

Tips from a Judicial Law Clerk

by LaKeisha R. Randall



“The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour.” – Japanese proverb

With few exceptions, the same is true for our legal reputations. Whether one hour is the time spent reading your pleading or hearing your argument, the court and his or her staff will be creating a narrative about you, your firm, your intellect and integrity through your presentation. This time is great for some and an uphill battle for others. Here are my top three tips:

1. Honesty is critical.

Candor to the tribunal is paramount and extends both in person and prose. Be cautious of misstating facts or case law for persuasion.

A lawyer shall not knowingly: 1) make a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal; 2) fail to disclose a material fact to a tribunal when disclosure is necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act by the client; 3) fail to disclose to the tribunal legal authority in the controlling jurisdiction known to the lawyer to be directly adverse to the position of the client and not disclosed by opposing counsel; or 4) offer evidence that the lawyer knows to be false. If a lawyer has offered material evidence and comes to know of its falsity, the lawyer shall take reasonable remedial measures.

[Rule 3.3(a), Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct]

Oh, yes, staff attorneys really do check each citation. Do not lose or fail to gain the trust of the court by citing wrong authority.

2. Be considerate of your reader.

While you’ve slept with the facts of your case, considered it from every angle and may believe it’s the most important legal issue of American jurisprudence, be considerate of your reader.

In reality the idea of the captive reader is a myth. It is a myth because readers, like all people everywhere, yearn for freedom and rebel against captivity. They do this by taking revenge and tuning out, by failing to get the writer’s message.

[Ernst Jacobi, *Writing at Work: Dos, Don’ts, and How To’s* 11 (1976)]

- Write with brevity: think value, not word or page count.
- Eliminate redundancies, string cites and minimize the use of block quotes.
- Guide your reader: use effective headings and topic sentences.
- Write with precision: every word should advance your point—to persuade or inform.

3. Edit!

- Avoid legalese.
- Read your draft aloud to catch errors.
- Simplify wordy prepositions: with respect to, in connection with, etc.

P.S. Courtesy copies of cases and pleadings are life savers. Good luck! YLD

Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy

by Hannah Yardley

Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy Program (ELSSCAP) is the only student-run Supreme Court advocacy program in the United States. The program allows students to write petitions for *certiorari* and *amicus curiae* briefs for clients who would otherwise be unable to pursue an appeal to the Supreme Court.

As part of this program, students wrote both the petition for certiorari and the merits briefs for *Bullock v. BankChampaign, N.A.* in 2013. In a unanimous opinion written by U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice **Stephen Breyer**, the Court determined that “the term ‘defalcation’ in the Bankruptcy Code includes a culpable state of mind requirement involving knowledge of, or gross recklessness in respect to, the improper nature of the fiduciary behavior,” a position put forth in ELSSCAP’s petition and brief.

More recently, ELSSCAP has been awarded the International Municipal Lawyers Association Amicus Service Award for exemplary work in the advance of local government interest. In addition, ELSSCAP has filed a petition for certiorari in the case of *D’Antiganc v. Deere & Company*, another bankruptcy case, whether or not, judicial estoppel should be allowed to bar Title VII claims based on bankruptcy schedules.

For many students, ELSSCAP presents a real opportunity to interact with clients and practicing attorneys before their legal careers begin. The interactions between students, professionals, the faculty advisor and clients permit students to gain invaluable experience in writing, editing, communication and the internal process of producing a legal document at the highest level. This has led many of ELSSCAP’s past members to become contributing members of the YLD, including **Rachel Erdman, Justin Chey** and **Kyle Winchester**.

ELSSCAP is always looking for new opportunities to partner with attorneys to help clients litigate their rights at the highest level. ELSSCAP is happy to write petitions and briefs for clients in any practice area. More information can be found at <http://law.emory.edu/academics/academic-programs/elscap.html>. YLD



(L-R) Gillian Blitzer, Katie Rookard, Rachel Myers, Daniel Ledesma, Hannah Yardley, DeWitt Perkins, Hena Vora and Hamp Watson. *Not pictured: Caroline Mills.*

Committee Updates

High School Mock Trial

by *Will Davis*

The High School Mock Trial Committee (HSMT) is actively preparing for the 2016 state competition. Coming off of an amazing year in which the 2015 HSMT State Champion Northview High School won second place nationally, members of the HSMT committee have drafted a criminal law competition problem that is sure to challenge participating students as well as their attorney and teacher coaches.

During the weekend of Sept. 24, the HSMT committee hosted more than 40 high school students for its annual Law Academy at the State Bar offices in Atlanta. Law Academy allows competitors to learn the ins and outs of trial preparation including opening statements, closing arguments, and direct and cross examination. High school students enjoyed their weekend in Atlanta, which included visits to the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia. There were presentations by Justice **Keith Blackwell** and Judge **Stephen Dillard**. All participating students sat for the Student Bar Exam at the end of the weekend which included questions on all subjects presented during Law Academy. The committee thanks HSMT Director **Michael Nixon** as well as Hon. **John Carbo, Will Davis, Kevin Epps, Lee Ann Feeley, Adam Hebbard, Righton Johnson, Megan Pearson, Jon Setzer, Parag Shah** and **Bonnie Smith** for their assistance in organizing, chaperoning and presenting during this year's Law Academy.



Law Academy participants pose outside the State Bar of Georgia.

Judges and silent evaluators are needed for the statewide regional competitions on Jan. 30, 2016, in 16 locations around the state. Additional volunteers are needed at the district competitions and state finals on Feb. 27 and March 19, 2016. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Michael Nixon at michaeln@gabar.org or Will Davis at will.davis@knclawfirm.com. Additional information can be found under the "Volunteer for the Program" link on the mock trial website: www.georgiamocktrial.org. All YLD members should also book their calendars for May 2019 as, due to the hard work of Michael Nixon and Kevin Epps, the National High School Mock Trial Championship will be held in Athens at the Classic Center and the University of Georgia School of Law. ^{YLD}

Family Law

by *Jonathan Brezel*

The YLD Family Law Committee hosted their 10th annual Supreme Cork fundraiser on Oct. 22 at 5 Seasons Brewing Company in West Midtown. The fundraiser featured a beer and wine tasting along with a silent auction. The event raised more than \$10,000 for the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's (AVLF) Guardian ad Litem Program and Domestic Violence Program. The YLD Family Law Committee Co-Chairs **Katie Kiihnl**, Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle, LLC, and **Jonathan Brezel**, Ordway Law Group, LLC, contributed to the overwhelming success of this event. Additionally, the service and dedication of their committee members played a major role in mobilizing the legal community in support of this worthy cause. The event would not be possible without the contributions of the committee members, sponsors, and the merchants who provided items for the silent auction and the entire family law community. The committee and AVLF extend their gratitude to all of this year's generous sponsors:



AVLF Executive Director Marty Eillin (far right) addresses the crowd at the 10th annual Supreme Cork on Oct. 22 at 5 Seasons Brewing Westside.

Fifty-five young attorneys from across the state gathered to hear the guest speakers. Highlights of the evening included insights on how to devote a life to public service even while balancing the often-controlling billable hour, perspectives on

Platinum

Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle
Hawk Private Investigations
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Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Callaway Geer Certified Public Accountants
The Holder Group
Huff Woods & Steele
Ichter Kresky
Kessler & Solomiany, LLC
Levine Smith Snider & Wilson, LLC
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Professional Document Services

This year's event marks the fourth time that AVLF has been named as the beneficiary of the Supreme Cork with the funds raised specifically aimed to benefit AVLF's family law programs. AVLF's Guardian ad Litem Program provides volunteer attorneys, trained and supervised by AVLF, to serve as guardians ad litem in contested custody cases for low-income households. AVLF's Domestic Violence Program operates the Safe Families Office in conjunction with Partnership Against Domestic Violence. This program provides free legal and safety planning assistance to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. This program also trains and places volunteer attorneys to represent survivors of domestic violence at hearings regarding temporary protective orders. ^{YLD}

Legislative Affairs

by *Will Fagan*

On Nov. 13, the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee held a successful "Lawyers in Public Service" event at the Chatham Club in Savannah. Working with the local Savannah YLD chapter, the event celebrated local lawyers who devote all or part of their practices to public service and offered the young lawyers in attendance the chance to converse with those leaders about the importance of, and ways to get involved in, public service. Sharing insights were **Shawn Kachmar** and **Julie Wade**, attorneys and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System representatives; **Brian Tanner**, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia; Sen. **Ben Watson** (R-Toccoa) and U.S. Rep. **Buddy Carter** (R-GA1).



(L-R) Bobo Mullins, Rep. Buddy Carter and Will Fagan at the "Lawyers in Public Service" event at the Chatham Club on Nov. 13.

Fifty-five young attorneys from across the state gathered to hear the guest speakers. Highlights of the evening included insights on how to devote a life to public service even while balancing the often-controlling billable hour, perspectives on

upcoming state and federal legislation, and a well-received joke made at the expense of the Auburn football team. After each of the special guests addressed the gathering, the guests mingled with the young lawyers and everyone enjoyed refreshments and samplings from the venue with a view. Two hours after the event began, guests filtered into the night all the happier, having seen a friend or two and made a couple more for good measure, and leaving, hopefully, all the wiser for their invested time in listening to speakers with experience, passions and interests dear to the civic heart of the lawyering profession.

The YLD Legislative Affairs Committee hopes to hold events similar to this throughout the state, including Macon and Augusta, in the months to come. If interested in spearheading such an effort, please contact **Bobo Mullens** at dbmullens@olivermaner.com or **Will Fagan** at willfagan3@gmail.com. YLD

Litigation

by **Jake Evans**



(L-R) Litigation Committee Co-Chairs Win Cook and Jake Evans.

The YLD Litigation Committee had a busy start to the year, and multiple events are planned through the holidays. The Litigation Committee's first event was a college football-themed happy hour at Ormsby's on Thursday, Sept. 3. The committee hosted a lunch meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10, where the agenda for the year was discussed. Featured speakers, **Gus Makris** of Turner Broadcasting and **Paul Nam** of Mando America Corporation discussed their experiences

practicing law in an in-house counsel role. On Thursday, Oct. 8, the Litigation Committee co-hosted a lunch meeting with the Business Law Committee where the fall agenda was finalized, and featured speaker **David Grant** talked about ethical practices for young lawyers based on his experience as counsel for Enron.

In addition to these events, the YLD Litigation Committee held a lunch meeting at the State Bar on Thursday, Nov. 12, the annual Clerk's Luncheon at Maggiano's in Buckhead on Wednesday, Dec. 2, and a holiday-themed happy hour and gift drive on Thursday, Dec. 10. For more information about these events, or other ways to get involved in the YLD Litigation Committee, please contact **Jake Evans** at jake.evans@thompsonhine.com or **Win Cook** at edwin.cook@bryancave.com. YLD

Military Support

by **Katie Dod and Katie Willett**

On Oct. 17, the YLD Military Support and Community Service Committees partnered up to provide volunteers to a project hosted by the Veterans Administration at Ft. McPherson called the Stand Down. The Stand Down provided medical and legal services to homeless veterans as well as necessary supplies. Volunteers passed out food, assisted with crowd control, navigated veterans with mobility issues through the process and partnered with the State Bar's Military Legal Assistance Program to provide legal advice to veterans on criminal and civil issues. Georgia has a very high concentration of veterans, and the effort was incredibly moving and reminded us of the startling struggles so many men and women deal with after serving our country. Although it was rewarding to help the hundreds of veterans who attended the Stand Down, the event provided a stark reminder of some of the basic challenges that veterans experience in civilian life. In addition to providing volunteers, the YLD collected clothing and personal care items before the event to distribute to veterans. Items were initially collected as the service project at the YLD Summer Meeting and additional

items were collected at the Bar Center. The Military Support Committee and Community Service Committee wish to thank every person who donated items to this important effort as well as our volunteers at the Stand Down: **Andrew Becker, Will Davis, Katie Dod, David Dod, Matt Gruber, Rebecca Katz, Katie Kiihnl, Nicole Leet, Patrick McShane, Mandy Moyer, Jared Parrish, Helen Peters, Alla Raykin, Jatrean Sanders, Mariel Sivley, Angie Thompson and Katie Willett**. If you are interested in getting involved in further efforts to assist veterans through the Military Support Committee, please contact Katie Dod at kdod@merbaumlaw.com. YLD



(L-R) Volunteers Alla Raykin, Will Davis, Andrew Becker, Katie Willett and Katie Dod in front of the Stand Down check-in area at Ft. McPherson.

Public Interest Internship Program

by **Kerry Nicholson and Jennifer Weaver**

The 2015 PIIP finalists, as well as past interns from the program, were honored at a reception on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Bar Center. Guests celebrated public interest work and mingled with colleagues and friends. **Michael Lucas**, deputy director of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF), talked about the importance of public interest work and 2015 grant recipient **Zack Greenamyre** spoke about his experience this summer with the Southern Center for Human Rights.



(L-R) YLD President Jack Long; PIIP Co-Chairs Kerry Nicholson and Jennifer Weaver; 2015 finalist Benjamin Lynde; 2014 grant recipient Leyna Palmer; 2015 finalist Adam Kaddoura; 2010 grant recipient Monique Keane; 2015 finalist Heather Baker; 2015 grant recipient Zack Greenamyre; PIIP founder and YLD Past President Amy Howell; and 2015 finalist Lucile Miller.

Members of the YLD PIIP and Community Service Committees teamed up on Nov. 7, to volunteer for AVLF's Saturday Lawyer Program—a public service program providing legal counseling to low-income clients in landlord-tenant and employment matters. YLD



(L-R) Michelle Gettinger, Mark Weaver, Jennifer Weaver, Lucy Shin, Chinny Law, Katherine Dunn, Kevin Fogle, Tennille Hoover, Kerry Nicholson, Benjamin Lynde and Matt Gettinger volunteer at AVLF's Saturday Lawyer Program on Nov. 7.

Three's a Crowd

The Triplets of Protecting Your Intellectual Property

by **Sonia Lakhany**

Unlike other areas of law, like criminal defense or immigration, the job of an intellectual property lawyer is not widely familiar. I am often asked to “patent a logo” or “copyright an idea,” but those terms are incorrect. Below is a summary of the three areas of intellectual property law to help you better understand what the needs of your client may be.

Trademarks

Trademarks are a form of protection that apply to words, design marks (also known as logos) or symbols. The purpose of a trademark is to help a customer identify the source of a particular good or service. Trademarks are registered through the application process with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. You can recognize a trademark by the ™ or ® symbol under a mark. The use of ™ means that the trademark has not yet been registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The use of ® indicates that the owner of the mark has a trademark registration.

Copyrights

Copyrights are a form of protection that apply to original works of authorship, such as books, songs, movies, photographs and computer software. Copyright owners have six exclusive rights in relation to their copyrighted work. These include the right to reproduce the work, prepare derivative works, distribute copies of the work, perform the work publicly (as applicable), display the work publicly (as applicable) and publicly perform the work by means of digital audio transmission (as applicable). Copyrights are registered through the application process with the U.S. Copyright Office. You can recognize a copyright by the © symbol located somewhere on the work of authorship. Copyright protection begins the moment the work is “fixed in a tangible medium,” but registration with the U.S. Copyright Office offers additional protections beyond the rights the author has by simply creating the work.

Patents

Patents are a form of intellectual property protection that apply to inventions. Ownership of a patent registration provides the inventor the right to exclude anyone else from making, using, offering for sale or selling the invention. The inventor also has the right to exclude others from importing the invention into the United States for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted. Patents are registered through the application process with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. YLD

Frenzy from page 1

five-year total to 5 million pounds of food. Which means, we will need to raise about 1.3 million pounds of food and funds,” said Olens. In recent years, government law firms, large law firms and law schools have become fiercely competitive amongst one another. Even solo and small law firms have competed to raise thousands of pounds of food. Olens would love to see an increase in participation amongst in-house counsel and lawyers in more rural areas.

For lawyers, firms and legal organizations that have never been involved in the Legal Food Frenzy, here are some basics. In early March, a press release marks the initial online registration period where firms can register their members. As employees in a registered firm donate more funds or food, more points are awarded to that organization. The competition itself generally lasts between the third week of April and the first week of May. There are various levels of participation based on firm size, law school, legal and corporate legal organizations. At the end of the competition, awards are presented for each category. Financial contributions are tax deductible.

Certainly, the desire that many participating firms have to win this competition drives their participation. But fundamentally, the participation of all lawyers statewide produces a win-win for Georgia and the legal profession. Olens was adamant that “this program has always been about lawyers doing work in the community for those who need it the most, the young and the old.” YLD Immediate Past President **Sharri Edenfield** stated, “Nothing embodies the YLD’s commitment to helping others more than the Legal Food Frenzy and the drive’s mission to provide families with food assistance when they need it most.” **William Jenkins**, winner of the Solo Proprietor Award in consecutive years championed, “The Food Frenzy allows Jenkins & Roberts another important opportunity to show our support for our community.” Of course, their firm is looking to win their division for a third consecutive year.

If your firm has never participated in the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, 2016 is a great year to be a part of history. Visit galegalfoodfrenzy.org to find out more about the competition, rules and registration. Every lawyer in Georgia can make a donation toward this pro bono project and all Georgians will benefit. YLD

Affiliate Updates

Augusta YLA

by **Adam King**

Young Lawyers of Augusta (YLA) had another excellent year. In August, we got together for a happy hour at Southbound Smokehouse. Members were able to reconnect and unwind over excellent food and drinks. In October, YLA President **Alex Brown** hosted the YLA Halloween Party and even provided his remarkable culinary prowess!

YLA features a robust membership and near-monthly opportunities to get to know the future of the legal profession in Augusta. For details on how to join or for more information, contact yla.augusta@gmail.com. YLD

Savannah YLD

by **Philip Thompson**

The Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association began the 2015-16 year on Sept. 24 with its annual Kick-Off Happy Hour at Congress Street Social Club, generously sponsored by ProLegal Copies. The Savannah YLD welcomed those lawyers new to the State Bar of Georgia, those awaiting Bar Exam results and those only new to Savannah, and afforded great networking opportunities for current and prospective members. On Oct. 22, the year continued with a happy hour event at Leoci’s Trattoria, graciously sponsored by Coastal Court Reporting. YLD members and guests enjoyed an evening of great food and weather at a stand-out example of Savannah’s burgeoning restaurant industry.

On Oct. 30, the YLD, the Savannah Bar Association and the Savannah YLD welcomed its newest members at the annual Chatham County Swearing-In Ceremony. Chatham County Superior Court Judge **Timothy R. Walmsley** presided over the ceremony.



Savannah Law School graduates pose with Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley (center) after being sworn in.

On Nov. 12, the YLD hosted another happy hour event at CO’s upstairs bar in Savannah. In December, the Savannah YLD hosted its annual “tacky sweater” Christmas Party.

Anyone interested in joining the Savannah YLD should contact Membership Chair **Kate Lawson** at klawson@huntermaclean.com. YLD



AFFILIATE YLDs AROUND THE STATE

- Albany
- Augusta
- Cobb County
- Columbus
- DeKalb County
- Glynn County
- Gwinnett County
- Houston County
- Macon
- Rome/
Northwest Georgia
- Savannah
- Valdosta
- Western Circuit



2016 YLD

Signature FUNDRAISER

Benefitting Camp Lakeside

01.23 | THE BILTMORE



Please support the 10th annual

Signature Fundraiser

benefitting **Camp Lakeside**. The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta and Children's Hospital of Georgia at GRU are collaborating to ensure that children of all abilities have access to life-changing outdoor recreation and therapeutic programs. The renovated camp will be transformed from its limited, rustic condition to serve children with disabilities or serious and chronic health conditions in a medically safe environment, along with able-bodied children from around the region.

The event will feature live music, dancing, open bar, food, silent auction and more!

For tickets or sponsorship packages, please visit thefamilyy.org/index.php/young-lawyers-division

Have questions or need more information? Contact **Ashley Akins** at ashley.a.akins@gmail.com or **Elizabeth Pool O'Neal** at honeal@smithwelchlaw.com.

YLD Fall Meeting

by Jessica Fagan

The mountains of West Virginia provided a picturesque backdrop for this year's YLD Fall Meeting, which was held at the well-known historic resort, The Greenbrier, over the first weekend in November.

The resort and its grounds have been enjoyed by guests since 1778, and while YLD members enjoyed great activities thanks to the "Directors of Competitions" **Bert Hummel** and **Matt Wilkins**, the highlight of the weekend was a private tour of The Bunker, a 112,544-square-foot declassified emergency Cold War fallout shelter that served as a top secret U.S. government relocation facility for Congress.

At the General Meeting, YLD President **Jack Long** welcomed all attendees, both in person and online, and discussed the enthusiasm and positive momentum of the YLD this year. He then introduced another special guest, **Barrett Thomas** from the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Sponsorship Co-Director **Jessica Fagan** also discussed available YLD sponsorship opportunities, including for the upcoming YLD Signature Fundraiser on Jan. 23. A committee report summary was circulated and many chairs provided reports on the success of previous events and plans for future events, including **Will Davis** who made a friendly plea for volunteers to the upcoming mock trial and moot court competitions.

YLD and Leadership Academy alumnus **Ivy Cadle** led an "Accounting for Lawyers" CLE for attendees, an abbreviated version of his class at Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. Between hilarious war stories and cups of coffee, Cadle shared his knowledge of accounting and how to conduct a detailed review of financial statements. Later that evening YLD members enjoyed a delicious multi-course, wine-paired dinner, attended by many special guests, including Cobb County Superior Court Judge **Robert D. Leonard II** and representatives from YLD diamond level sponsor Collision Specialists, Inc.

YLD members were also invited to donate their time and gift wrapping talents to The Greenbrier's "Dream Tree for Kids" holiday gift drive. YLD members wrapped hundreds of games and toys, which will be added to the more than \$1 million in toys that will be given to local and national charities this holiday season.

The YLD 2016 Spring Meeting will be held March 10-13, at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. (See ad on page 2.) For more information about future meetings and getting involved with the YLD, please visit www.georgiayld.org. YLD



(L-R) Nathan and Susan Huff with YLD Secretary Rizza O'Connor and her husband, Dan, at the group dinner on Friday evening.



(L-R) Quentin Marlin and Sarah Martin wrap gifts as part of the service project benefitting The Greenbrier's "Dream Tree for Kids."



Bert Hummel prepares to roll during Saturday's bowling competition.



(L-R) YLD President Jack Long and YLD alumnus Ivy Cadle following the "Accounting for Lawyers" CLE on Friday morning.

Hic et Nunc



Editor's Block

by Yari D. Lawson

When I was a juvenile prosecutor in Fulton County, I sought to sentence a young man as a designated felon for his role in an aggravated assault on two senior citizens. I felt sympathy for the young man when he explained to the judge that he had “never met a lawyer or seen a lawyer in his life” until he had been arrested for the aggravated assault. I could only help but wonder that the impact on the young man’s life would be if perhaps he had met a lawyer after school, at a community awareness function or some other program designed to motivate and inspire young people.

I have come to respect the legal profession as more than just an industry where the professionals assist their clients in times of life-altering crises. It is true that many in our society look to lawyers for support in a number of ways outside of the courtroom. And to me, that’s what makes being a lawyer so unique and rewarding. I was delighted when a young lady recently informed me that her first year in college resulted in a 3.6 grade point average, the best grades that she had ever achieved in school. She thanked me for writing her a letter of recommendation and urging her to dream big. She went to college undecided on a major. Today, she has plans to become a prosecutor.

Before I entered law school, my good friend **Eugene Felton** invited me to lunch in Macon where he was a prosecutor at the time, and offered some valuable insight on the legal profession—its potential highs and lows. I always thank Eugene for that meeting. It made a big impact on me. Now, I am always eager to talk to young people interested in becoming lawyers or young lawyers entering the profession.

The biggest piece of advice that I can offer to new lawyers is to find a mentor and value that relationship. Take him or her to lunch sometime. The next piece of important advice that I offer is to become a mentor to someone else. Visit a Boys and Girls Club or a local gang intervention program and inspire a young person to dream big. The William Daniel Mock Trial Competition is another excellent way for young lawyers to find a mentee. I can assure you, Matthew Jones, chair of the William Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition Committee, will echo me. YLD

by Kevin Patrick

As we begin a new year, we often set expectations and goals for our future legal endeavors, like beginning a new practice, making partner or simply trying a case. These plans inspire us to forge ahead into the upcoming year. A mindfulness of our past experiences, especially the role of mentors, should also guide these future aspirations. So accordingly, I would like to devote this editorial to a mentor of mine, Chief Judge **John H. Bailey Jr.** of the Northern Judicial Circuit Superior Court, and share one of the many important lessons that he taught me during my clerkship with him several years ago.



Editor's Block



(L-R) Kevin and Tracy Patrick with Chief Judge John H. Bailey Jr.

Mentors help us bridge the gap between the technical aspects of law school and the life of the law, which according to Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., is experience. To illustrate this point: first, Judge Bailey knew from experience that the practice of law extends well beyond a bare interpretation of a statute. Non-lawyers have a tremendous amount of wisdom to offer all of us. By listening to the bailiffs and deputies, we learned about the root causes of disputes and dynamics in the local community. Second, the experience with Judge Bailey fostered an enduring appreciation for individuals, like Mrs. Pam and Mrs. Susan, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure an efficient calendar and timely transcripts. Third and most importantly, Judge Bailey instilled a fundamental sense of fairness in all of us. He would often remark, “No matter how small the pancake, it always has two sides.” At the most basic level, he taught us that the practice of law is distinctly human.

The lessons learned from Judge Bailey continue to grow in meaning even after the clerkship. A mentor is truly a life-long friend. Judge Bailey celebrated with us at our wedding and shared in our joy when we welcomed our first child. Fellow young lawyers, I respectfully ask that each of you take a moment to thank the mentors in your lives. One day we can carry on this fine tradition of mentoring others in our profession. YLD