

Vote America!: YLD Promotes Voter Education Initiative



YLD members with Jehmu Greene, former president of Rock the Vote and narrator for *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* during a voter registration rally.

by Shiriki Cavitt and Stephanie Kirijan

The YLD is continuing its strong tradition of community service with *Vote America!*—a joint education project created by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) to educate high school seniors about the right to vote. At the YLD and TYLA joint Summer Meeting held in Austin, Texas, from Aug. 14-17, TYLA President **Sylvia Cardona** presented the *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* video to the YLD, local elected officials and educators. Young lawyers from Texas and Georgia also partnered in a community effort to launch the project with a screening of the video for the local chapters of the League of Women Voters and other community organizations on the campus of the University of Texas.

The *Vote America!* project educates students about the fundamental right to vote held by every adult American citizen regardless of race, gender, religion or socio-economic background. The video portion of the project highlights the efforts made for equality and democracy, including the struggles of the civil rights era, passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 15th, 19th, and 26th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The historical video can be viewed at <http://www.tyla.org/voteamerica/>.

At the screening, YLD President **Josh Bell** pledged to bring the *Vote America!* project to Georgia by organizing video presentations at high schools

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Summer Meeting in Austin, Texas

by Darrell Sutton

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) hosted the Georgia YLD during the Summer Meeting at the historic Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas, Aug. 14-17.

The meeting began with a reception on Thursday night that was attended by members of both the YLD and TYLA. Both the reception and a group dinner afterward allowed members of both groups to meet and mingle while growing a partnership between the two organizations that was begun by YLD President **Josh Bell** and TYLA President **Sylvia Cardona**.

On Friday afternoon, a local teachers' workshop was presented by TYLA and attended by both TYLA and YLD members where *Vote America!* was introduced. The *Vote America!* project includes a curriculum and video chronicling the history of minority voting rights in America and is narrated by the former president of Rock the Vote and native Texan, **Jehmu Greene**. As part of the workshop, local residents were sworn in as deputy voter registrars.

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(L-R) YLD Newsletter Co-Editor Sharri Edenfield, YLD President-Elect Amy Howell, YLD Newsletter Co-Editor Darrell Sutton and Brian Howell at the YLD Summer Meeting welcome reception.

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From the President

There Will Be Better Days

by Joshua C. Bell

For the past several months, I have watched the nation enter into an economic crisis. The legal community is not and has not been immune. This economy has been especially hard on young lawyers. The phrase “last hired, first fired” has been put into practice all too often over the past few months. I heard of a recent law school graduate who worked at a firm for two summers during her first and second years of law school. She was told after her first year a position would be there for her after she graduated. Through no fault of her own, the firm could not hire her. The firm had to lay off many of its existing attorneys and there just wasn’t a job.

I have seen many new attorneys laid off, not because of their skills or problems with their work; rather, because of the inability of firms to keep up with growing overhead and decreasing revenue. I have seen entire real estate departments of several major firms cut to bare bones. In most cases, the young lawyers are laid off first.

All of us have felt the effects of this slow economy. I can tell you, however, that there will be better days. There will be days where multiple firms are pursuing you. There will be days where job choices are plentiful. There will be days where we all can once again concentrate on being a better lawyer and not concentrate on the economics of the practice of law.

What do we do until the better days get here? “The Young Lawyers Division can’t find me a job,” you may say, but maybe it can. The people you will meet at any YLD function

can be a resource that could tell you of one of several potential job openings that you may not have otherwise known about. The YLD will also provide you with a great support network. Perhaps the leadership role you have taken on a YLD committee or in your local YLD will lead you to your next job.

For those of you who have found yourself unemployed, don’t lose hope. A job will come. The better days will appear. Don’t sit around and wait. Make your own better day. Apply everywhere you can. Look at all job openings even if it’s not in the area of law you want to practice. Don’t be scared to take a job out of the legal field. If you find a job you like, take it. You can always return to the practice of law. Just think, you might like it so much you may change your entire career outlook.

For those of you who are employed but are worried that your firm may be looking to cut back, work as hard as you possibly can. Make it impossible for your firm to let you go because you have become too valuable. Don’t be scared to ask the ranking members of your firm about the future. It’s always better to be prepared and have advance notice than to one day be told that you have been let go without warning.

The YLD is here to help you get through these trying economic times in any way it can. I am here to help all lawyers throughout the state in any way that I can. I am only a phone call or e-mail away. Hang in there. There will be better days.

Listening to Our Leader:

An Interview with YLD President Joshua C. Bell

by Amy Howell

YLD President-Elect Amy Howell sat down with YLD President Joshua C. Bell to find out more about our fearless leader.

Howell: You are halfway through your term. What have you learned?

Bell: Several things. I’m amazed, really, at the folks that volunteer, that continue to give of themselves and their time to make things better. I’ve also learned to take disappointments in stride because you can’t get everything you want, and you can’t accomplish everything you want. It’s disappointing but you just can’t let it wreck you. You have to move on and make the best out of the situation that you can.

Howell: What would people be most surprised to learn about you?

Bell: Probably that I don’t hunt. I’m just not a typical South Georgia male, I guess, according to what I think is the public’s general perception about men from my area of the state. I don’t own a gun. I don’t believe in them, and I don’t think you need them. I’m not saying that folks shouldn’t have guns: it’s their constitutional right. If you want to have a gun, you certainly should have one. To all my liberal friends, I’m a lot more conservative than they think I am, and to all my conservative friends, I’m a lot more liberal.

I guess that I fall somewhere in the middle. Still, that’s always a surprise for folks.

Howell: Why do you think young lawyers who are not in Atlanta generally do not get as involved in the State Bar as those in Atlanta do?

Bell: Well, it’s really a combination of things. I think that the perception around the state is that the State Bar is the Atlanta Bar Association. That’s just because there are so many more Atlanta lawyers than there are lawyers anywhere else. Of course, Atlanta is a big city and Georgia is so big, I think you feel the farther you get away from Atlanta, the more removed you feel from the Bar. I live 4.5 hours away from Atlanta. It just feels so far away from the Bar. There are also some preconceived notions about folks from Atlanta and folks outside of Atlanta that just aren’t true. That leads to the continuing divide between Atlanta and the rest of the state and it just needs to be addressed so it continues to get better. I think the more inclusive we are of folks around the state and in our Bar and the Bar leadership, it will make that divide diminish because I don’t think the State Bar is the Atlanta Bar.

Howell: I often say your commitment to the YLD is really impressive because, as you mentioned, you really have to travel to come to a committee meeting or to participate. So why has the YLD been important to you?

Bell: I think that the YLD and its members are fantastic role models on how one ought to live. Our members give a lot of themselves in service to others. That was, and is, really impressive to me to see year in and year out.

Howell: Why have you stayed involved?

Bell: When I made a decision to get involved in the YLD, it was a decision that I didn’t make lightly. It was a big time commitment for me in terms of travel, but I wanted to be involved for a lot of reasons. First, I love serving others, and I wanted to help in any way that I could, and the YLD was a good vehicle. Second, in my own small way, I wanted to break down some stereotypes of lawyers from inside of Atlanta and lawyers from outside of Atlanta that I don’t think are true. My belief was that if I became involved and stayed involved, I could show folks from outside of Atlanta that they can be involved too. My drive is as far as anybody’s in the state, but if I can do it coming from a small firm, then anyone can do it. You just need to make the commitment and do it.

Howell: What would you say to other young lawyers about how to encourage their employers to support their activities in the YLD?

Bell: Some employers have a one-sided view of Bar involvement. They want to know how it is going to benefit the firm. When you get down to the benefits of YLD involvement, firms look at it financially first.

I think the way to sell it is to say: "Look, I'll have a network of lawyers throughout the state of Georgia that will eventually need something from this firm." If you can cultivate those contacts to think of you and your firm first, the benefit for becoming active in the YLD is very real and is a benefit your firm can see.

Howell: Why is diversity important to you?

Bell: I think the YLD has done better promoting diversity in leadership roles than the Bar as a whole. Just look at the make-up of the YLD leadership, and you can tell that has been the case. However, we still have a long way to go. It's amazing to me that we have just elected the first African-American president of the United States, yet we have not had an African-American president of the State Bar. We need to work very hard as a Bar to be more inclusive. It's not to say that we're keeping folks out, we just haven't given folks the opportunity to know how to fit in and take those leadership roles.

Howell: I understand how diversity improves us as lawyers in regards to society as a whole, but I'm sure

there are those who would question how it improves the practice?

Bell: I think diversity among lawyers improves the practice of law because there is a wide spectrum of people who need legal representation. I don't pick the race, gender or sexual orientation of all my clients. So if I can interact with and learn more about folks who are like my diverse spectrum of clients, it makes me a better lawyer and it makes my practice better. I don't think there's any question about that.

Howell: What do you hope is your legacy and how do you hope to impact the YLD?

Bell: I hope people can look at me and say, "If that guy can do it, by God, I can too." I had a lot of obstacles cutting against me as far as being a leader in the YLD. I'm from outside of Atlanta, I'm 4.5 hours away, and I'm from a small law firm. So when people tell me they don't have enough time to volunteer, I almost giggle to myself because if I can make the time to be involved, I know they can too. The other lasting impression I want to leave

is to make the YLD more inclusive of everybody—geographically and otherwise.

Howell: What will you do after your term is over?

Bell: Well, you know it's funny. I'm not the type of person that will be able to do nothing except work and be with my family. Don't get me wrong, that is wonderful, but I'm just not that type of person. I don't know what will be next for me. My partners have asked me if I am going to get active in the big Bar, and I don't know. I know that I will be involved on some level. I'm going to give a hard look at the ABA and see if I want to get involved on a national level with a lawyers group. The ABA certainly seems like the logical fit for me since I've been active in it now and have been an ABA member since I graduated from law school. I'm keeping my options open. I enjoy my practice. You never know what's around the corner. There might be some political opportunities out there for me or some traditional opportunities that I might be interested in. That would be something I would just keep my eye on. But we'll just see. Certainly I won't be on the sideline for too long. I wouldn't be able to take that.

YLD Fall Meeting a Huge Success!

by Sharri Edenfield

The Georgia YLD had a successful and fun-filled Fall Meeting in the country's oldest and most haunted city, St. Augustine, Fla., over Halloween weekend. Between Oct. 30 and Nov. 2, YLD members traveled south of the Georgia-Florida border to stay at the historic Casa Monica Hotel and enjoy networking with YLD members, obtain CLE credit, attend a general session celebrating the YLD's success so far this year and have fun.

On Thursday night, YLD members were treated to a poolside reception and joined by Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) President-Elect **Cori Harbour** and her husband **Tavo Vidal**.

YLD members and guests enjoyed sightseeing in St. Augustine and the Halloween-themed costume dinner party on Friday. TYLA President **Sylvia Cardona** joined the group for dinner and then a walking tour of St. Augustine's haunted jaunts, many of which are certified by the Northern Florida Paranormal Society. Thankfully everyone made it back from the tour in one piece.

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(L-R) YLD President Josh Bell, YLD President-Elect Amy Howell, YLD Secretary Stephanie Kirijan and YLD Treasurer Michael Geoffroy at the YLD Fall Meeting welcome reception.

Outstanding Atlanta Awards



Back Row (L-R): Rev. Taft Heatley; Jonathan Goins; Paul Towne; Navneet Narula. Front Row (L-R): Stacey Godfrey Evans; Kimberly Haynes; Joyce Yamaato; Lynn Wong; Stephanie Kirijan; Phaedra Parks.

Five young lawyers were chosen to receive the Outstanding Atlanta Award for community service. The recipients include **Stacey Godfrey Evans**, associate at Powell Goldstein; **Jonathan David Goins**, associate at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP; **Kimberly K. Haynes**, owner and chief consultant of OMBI Group, LLC; **Stephanie Kirijan**, senior staff attorney at Georgia Power; and **Phaedra C. Parks**, managing partner of The Parks Group. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Outstanding Atlanta, a nonprofit organization that honors community involvement by professionals ages 21-36. The honorees were selected for exemplifying excellence in work ethics, diversity and volunteerism. Founded in 1968 as the Outstanding Young People of Atlanta, the organization recognizes civic-minded professionals who distinguish themselves in their professions and who help better the city of Atlanta.



SAVE THE DATE
YLD Spring Meeting
April 17-19, 2009
King & Prince
St. Simons Island, Ga.

YLD Committees Hard at Work

The Third Annual Supreme Cork a Grape Success!



(L-R) Kelly Webb, Suzanne Prescott, Traci Weiss, John Lovett, Whitney Mauk, Leigh Cummings, Katie Connell, Payal Kapoor, Tracy Reese, Gillian O'Nan and Tyler Browning.

The Family Law Committee is pleased to report another huge success with the Third Annual Supreme Cork, the committee's wine tasting and silent auction event. Raising more than \$21,000 for The Bridge made this Supreme Cork the best yet.

The committee's continued relationship with The Bridge is a source of pride for committee members. Since 1970, The Bridge has been dedicated to helping severely abused adolescents in the foster care system achieve independence by providing a residential facility, solution-oriented therapy, family counseling and an on-campus school that emphasizes vocational readiness and community involvement.

The Family Law Committee would like to thank our sponsors for their support of the committee, The Supreme Cork and The Bridge:

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Did You Get Your Start in Georgia's High School Mock Trial Program?

Georgia to Host 2009 National Competition: Volunteers Needed

by Stacey Godfrey Evans

The High School Mock Trial Committee is willing to bet that many of you out there started down the path toward law school because you participated in the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition when you were in high school. Now is the time to give back to the program responsible for making you the lawyer you are today!

On May 8-9, 2009, Georgia will host the National High School Mock Trial Competition. This is no small feat! Teams from 39 states, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and South Korea will descend on Georgia to fight for the national title. To have a successful competition, we'll need over 300 attorney volunteers to serve as evaluators and judges for the competition.

In order to be an evaluator or judge at the national competition, you must have evaluated or judged at least two rounds of either a regional or state competition. This year's regional competitions will occur during the weekends of Feb. 7 and Feb. 14 statewide, and the state competition is March 14-15 in Lawrenceville. Don't miss out on your opportunity to help Georgia shine during this competition. If you don't already meet this criteria, please make plans to help out at a regional or the state competition today! You can sign up to volunteer by visiting www.georgiamocktrial.org (the Attorney Volunteer section) and download a volunteer form.

Informational happy hours about the national competition will occur in January throughout the state. Keep a lookout for a happy hour near you!

Whether you participated in mock trial when you were in high school or not, we all have an interest in keeping Georgia's High School Mock Trial Program strong. It serves as a launching point for interest in the law and it teaches future lawyers (not to mention their parents) about the law. Teaching legal principles to non-lawyers is not always easy and mock trial provides a way for us to demonstrate these principles to students who then discuss them with their parents, teachers and friends. Think of the Mock Trial Program as a "grassroots" effort to increase the reputation of and knowledge about lawyers and the legal system. Please consider being a part of this tremendous effort!

Community Service Projects Committee Off to Exciting Start

by Shiriki Cavitt

The Community Service Projects Committee is off to a busy and exciting start to the Bar year with activities that include the implementation of the Vote America! project in Georgia and the committee's participation in a Habitat For Humanity build. The committee began the year by collecting book bags and school supplies for foster children, which were then handed out during a health fair hosted by the Department of Family and Children Services on Aug. 9. On Sept. 27, several YLD volunteers staffed the concession tents at the PGA Tour's Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club. The hard work of these young lawyers benefitted the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy.

The committee also hosted its first quarterly happy hour at Steamhouse Lounge in Midtown on Oct. 9, to raise money for this year's Signature Fundraiser benefiting Kids Against Hunger.

Swearing In Ceremony

The mass swearing in for the Northern District of Georgia, the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia was held on Oct. 27, at the state judicial building. More than 50 lawyers were sworn in to practice in these courts. Judge Orinda Evans of the Northern District of Georgia and Judge John Ruffin of the Court of Appeals of Georgia gave remarks. YLD President **Josh Bell** encouraged the new admittees to get involved in the YLD and serve the Bar community.



YLD members take oath of admission delivered by Northern District Judge Orinda D. Evans and Court of Appeals of Georgia Presiding Judge John H. Ruffin Jr.



(L-R) Whitney Mauk, Meredith Wilson, Shiriki Cavitt, Jennifer Blackburn, Elizabeth Fite, YLD Past President Bill Barwick (1984-85), YLD Past President Damon Elmore (2005-06) and Terri Gordon

This event was a rousing success as more than 30 attorneys were able to attend the happy hour and raise money for this worthy cause. Be sure to keep an eye out for the committee's next happy hour to raise money for Kids Against Hunger, which will occur in January during the Midyear meeting.

The committee is in need of volunteers for several of its upcoming events including the business suit and cell phone drive to be held in conjunction with the Midyear meeting in January (start going through those closets and collecting gently-worn suits!) and Hawks night with DFACS children. Please stay tuned for more information on these upcoming events and feel free to contact committee co-chairs **Jennifer Blackburn**, jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com, or Shiriki Cavitt, shiriki8@gmail.com, for more information or if you would like to join the Community Service Committee!

Legislative Affairs Luncheon Coming in February

by Ashley Harris

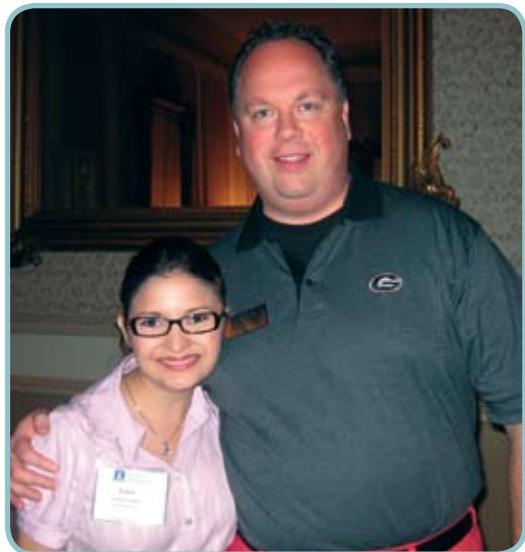
The YLD Legislative Affairs Committee will hold its Annual Luncheon in February. Come rub elbows with legislators, appellate judges and fellow YLD members. The date for the luncheon will be announced in January. This will be the Third Annual Luncheon held in place of the legislative breakfast hosted by the committee for nearly 20 years. Previous special guests include Speaker **Glenn Richardson** (R-Paulding), Sen. **Preston Smith** (R-Rome), Sen. **Kasim Reed** (D-Atlanta), Sen. **David Adelman** (D-DeKalb), Rep. **Stacey Abrams** (D-Fulton) and various judicial leaders from across the state. The speakers this year will be equally as impressive and will provide YLD members with insightful information on issues of interest for the 2009 legislative session.

Individual tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact **Ben Vinson** at bvinson@mckennalong.com or **Ashley Harris** at aharris2@wm.com.

Vote America!, Continued from page 1

throughout the state. Through this effort, the YLD has made huge strides in reaching out to young voters across Georgia. The YLD has received significant support from metro area school systems, including the city of Atlanta, and Fulton, Cobb and Gwinnett counties. It is estimated that the video has been shown to more than 30,000 high schools seniors in the Atlanta area. The Vote America! video has also been viewed in the Albany and Bainbridge school systems. The video has been met with great enthusiasm as the various superintendents and social studies department chairs have lauded its timeliness and expressed the great need for such a tool that can be utilized to remind and encourage high school seniors of their civic duty to vote.

Thanks to all of those individuals who helped make the Vote America! project a success in Georgia.



TYLA President Sylvia Cardona and YLD President Josh Bell at the Summer Meeting.

Litigation Committee Hosts Fall Kickoff Happy Hour

by Christopher Abrego

On Oct. 16, the Litigation Committee held its Annual Fall Kickoff Happy Hour. Over 80 young lawyers attended the event on the rooftop terrace of Shout in Midtown. Committee members and guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers while socializing well into the night. The committee gives special thanks to its sponsors for a great event: JPA Reporting, Bay Mediation, Secure Impact, RLSS, Inc. and TrialGraphix.



(L-R) Committee members Benjamin Chastain, Edward McAfee (co-chair), Christopher Abrego (co-chair), Scott Masterson (past co-chair) and Shane Mayes (immediate past co-chair) celebrate another successful happy hour hosted by the YLD Litigation Committee.

The Litigation Committee is the largest committee within the YLD. The committee has a number of events planned for the current Bar year, including its 4th Annual Holiday Luncheon, the 2nd Annual 'War Stories' Lunch n' Learn Series, the Spring 'Trial & Error' CLE Program and several more happy hours. The committee

also holds general membership meetings on the last Wednesday of every month at the Bar Center. Please contact committee co-chairs **Edward McAfee**, emcafee@carlockcopeland.com, or **Christopher Abrego**, cabrego@wznd.net, if you would like to get involved or learn more about the committee.

Women in the Profession Committee to Honor Women in the Judiciary at Upcoming Event

by Trinity Hundredmark

The Women in the Profession Committee is hosting an event to honor women in the judiciary. Chief Justice **Leah Ward Sears** and Presiding Justice **Carol Hunstein** of the Supreme Court of Georgia and Chief Judge **Anne Barnes** and Judges **Yvette Miller** and **Debra Bernes** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia are scheduled to attend. The event will allow members to network with the most accomplished women in the profession from Georgia's courts. A panel discussion will further enable members to learn from and about these accomplished female jurists. Please join the committee for this exciting event from 5:30 - 7 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2009, at the Commerce Club.

Summer Meeting, Continued from page 1

Following the workshop, TYLA Board of Directors member **David Courreges**, gave the YLD a tour of the Texas Capitol building. During the tour, Courreges presented the YLD with a state flag of Texas that had been flown over the Capitol.

Friday evening, the TYLA and the YLD held a second reception which was followed by dinner in the Driskill Hotel ballroom. After dinner, members competed in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament which benefited Kids Against Hunger, this year's selected charity. Everyone watched as Bell outlasted all other tournament entrants and emerged victorious.

A CLE and general session were held at the Driskill on Saturday morning before YLD members joined TYLA at the University of Texas for the public launch of the Vote America! project. Bell assisted Cardona in the presentation, which included a public screening of the video. After the public debut of the video, Cardona announced that TYLA had agreed to make the video and project curriculum available to the YLD so that its members could distribute it to high schools throughout Georgia.

The meeting concluded with a dinner on Saturday evening at Moonshine Restaurant in Austin. Attendees enjoyed local Austin fare and entertainment.

Bell and the members of the YLD who attended the meeting wish to thank Cardona and TYLA for serving as gracious hosts for the weekend. Also special thanks to HG Litigation Services, LP, HIRECounsel, Kirbo Kendrick & Bell LLC and Capstone Financial Partners for sponsoring the Summer Meeting.



The YLD Presents...
CASINO ROYALE
 An evening to benefit **Kids Against Hunger**
 January 9, 2009

Please join

the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia for our Signature Fundraiser "**Casino Royale**," an evening to benefit

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www.kidsagainsthunger.org

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Shiriki L. Cavitt	Jennifer L. Little	Justin Wood
Ben Chastain	Jeremy Littlefield	Rachael Zichella

For tickets or other info, contact:

Mary McAfee, YLD director, 404-527-8778 or marym@gabar.org

Jennifer Blackburn, event co-chair, 404-885-3061 or jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com

Whitney Mauk, event co-chair, 770-953-4300 or wmauk@lawbck.com

Savannah YLD Hosts Swearing In Ceremony

by Robert Hughes



(L-R) State Bar of Georgia President-Elect Bryan Cavan, Beth Hough, Chatham County Superior Court Chief Judge Perry Brannen Jr. and Tully Blalock.

The Savannah YLD in conjunction with the Savannah Bar Association, held a Swearing In Ceremony before Chatham County Superior Court Chief Judge **Perry Brannen Jr.** on Nov. 5. After the ceremony, new lawyers were welcomed at a reception attended by members of the local bench and bar.

On Nov. 6, the Savannah YLD held its annual "Trolley Ride," a trolley tour of Historic Savannah's most haunted destinations after a visit to the infamous downtown watering hole, WG's.

Congratulations to Ben Perkins for winning the Savannah YLD's annual Tacky Christmas Sweater Contest, which was held on Dec. 6 and benefited the Adopt-A-Family program.

Macon YLD Hosts Series of Happy Hours

by Sarah White

The Macon YLD kicked off the new Bar year on Oct. 2 with a First Thursday Happy Hour at The Downtown Grill. The happy hour was a great success as young attorneys from throughout the profession gathered to enjoy fellowship. The Macon YLD plans to make this a monthly tradition with first Thursday happy hours each month throughout the year. Make plans to attend!



(L-R) Macon YLD Treasurer Sarah White, Canon Hill and Leslie Cadle enjoying the first social of the year.

The Macon YLD also hosted a new member social in the wine cellar at Luigis on Nov. 13 which was sponsored by Westlaw and ProLegal Copies.

The Macon YLD will continue to serve the community this year by spearheading the Bibb County Department of Family & Children's Services' annual Christmas Toy Drive. This project was a great success last year and the new executive committee hopes to continue this great tradition.

The 2008-09 Macon YLD Executive Committee is: **Kelli Hill**, Constangy Brooks & Smith, president; **Jed Hill**, Buzzell, Graham & Welsh, president-elect; **Sarah White**, James, Bates, Pope & Spivey, treasurer; and **Ivy Cadle**, Baker Donelson, secretary. For more information about the Macon YLD and its events, please e-mail Ivy Cadle at icadle@bakerdonelson.com.

Albany YLD

by Tommy Duck

On Sept. 29 and 30, members of the Albany YLD implemented the Vote America! program at all Dougherty County high schools. As part of the program, a prominent Albany attorney alumnus of each school was the featured speaker. The speakers included Hon. **Denise Marshall**, **Tommy Coleman**, **Greg Edwards** and Hon. **Willie Weaver**. **Carlos Keith**, deputy superintendent for the Dougherty County School System, also participated in the programs at each high school.

Members of the Albany YLD also participated in "A Boo from the Bar" on Oct. 31. Each Halloween, the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association conducts a "reverse trick or treat" event where members dress in costume and travel to area nursing homes to distribute goodies to the residents.

On Nov. 15, the Albany YLD hosted a fundraising tailgate event at the Albany Museum of Art in conjunction with the Georgia/Auburn game. Big screen TVs were available for game watching and live music was provided by the Groove Merchants.

Several social and service events are planned for the coming months. For information on these or other events, or on the Albany YLD, please contact Tommy Duck at tommy@m-lawfirm.com, 229-446-7425, or Lauren Mock at lmock@langleyandlee.com, 229-431-3036.



(L-R) Gerald Williams, Shanna Aderhold and Tommy Duck participate in Albany's Vote America! program.

Fall Meeting, Continued from page 3



YLD members Jason Alloy and Kelly Campanella attend the costume dinner at the YLD Fall Meeting.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, YLD Past President **Bill Barwick** (1984-85), **Knox Dobbins**, and YLD members **Amy Averill** and **Mary Felker**, led the CLE, "You're Never Too Young (or Too Old) to be a Mentor." Afterwards, a general session was held which included highlights of the YLD's accomplishments to date this year. Upcoming events and projects like the Signature Fundraiser, benefitting Kids Against Hunger, the 4th Annual Leadership Academy and the Legislative Committee's Luncheon with Legislators to be held in February were also discussed.

After the general session, a chartered bus took YLD members into Jacksonville to tailgate and attend the Georgia/Florida game. Many thanks to Magistrate Judge **Chuck Auslander** of Clarke County for organizing the tailgate just outside of the stadium's entrance. While the outcome of the game delighted some and discouraged more, everyone had a great time.

The YLD also wishes to thank **Jon Pannell** for sponsoring the Fall Meeting.

Notification of Elections

YLD Officers 2009-10 Bar Year

In accordance with Article VII, Section 4 (a) of the YLD Bylaws, the following shall serve as Notification of Elections for YLD Officers for the 2009-10 Bar Year. The positions of President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary shall be filled by election by mail-out ballot.

You must be a YLD Member (as defined in the YLD Bylaws, but not an Honorary or Associate Member) at the time of the election to be eligible to serve as an Officer of the Young Lawyers Division. The President-Elect position may not be filled by a Resident of any one (1) Federal Judicial District for more than two (2) consecutive years.

There are two ways for a person to be nominated as a candidate for a YLD Officer position:

- (a) The Nominating Committee (listed below) shall nominate one or more candidates for each office at its meeting on January 9, 2009. You are invited to submit recommendations to members of the Nominating Committee prior to its meeting.
- (b) Nominations may be made in the form of a nominating petition signed by two YLD Members submitted to the Election Committee (listed below) no later than March 2, 2009. The nominating petition must be in the form prescribed in Article VII, Section 5(b) of the YLD Bylaws, which may be found at <http://www.gabar.org/public/pdf/yld/yldbylaws.pdf>.

The Election Commencement Date shall be April 1, 2009. Ballots will be mailed on this day to all YLD members. Members may return these paper ballots or use the code number on the ballot to vote online. Ballots must be cast by 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2009. Election results will be available on the State Bar of Georgia website.

Nominating Committee

Amy Howell, chair (Northern)
Jennifer Blackburn (Northern)
Janna Custer (Southern)
Tommy Duck (Middle)
Nicole Iannarone (Northern)
Ben Perkins (Southern)
Amy Stone (Middle)
Darrell Sutton (Northern)

Election Committee

Amy Howell, chair (Northern)
Molly Barrett (Northern)
Jennifer Blackburn (Northern)
Wendy Boston (Middle)
Jay Crowe (Middle)
Janna Custer (Southern)
Ben Perkins (Southern)
Nedal Shawkat (Northern)

Members of these committees may be reached at their contact information found in the Bar Directory at http://www.gabar.org/directories/member_directory_search/.



Editor's Block

He Said

by Darrell Sutton

I, like many people, was greatly influenced by my father. My dad is a lifelong employee of the automotive industry and has always been impressed by the industry and its leaders. One of those leaders in particular had a profound influence on him and, in turn, on me.

About the time I came into this world, Lee Iacocca was president of Ford Motor Company and shortly thereafter assumed the helm of Chrysler, a company that many say he saved from bankruptcy. Regardless, his leadership skills are unquestioned, and it is these skills that my dad studied and tried (sometimes painfully—for both of us) to instill in me.

Both during and since his career as a leader in the automotive industry, Iacocca has been an accomplished author on the topic of leadership, and his book, *Where Have All the Leaders Gone*, was published last year. According to Iacocca, and therefore my dad, every leader should have the following nine qualities that he calls the “9C’s”: curiosity, creativity, communication, character, courage, conviction, charisma, competence and common sense.

When I read this for the first time, I was struck by how lawyers, perhaps more than any other professionals, combine all of these qualities. Indeed, I would say that all nine are prerequisites to a successful legal career. What struck me even more was the conclusion that followed: while lawyers are some of the most highly trained and experienced leaders, our ranks among those who we traditionally consider leaders—politicians, executives and heads of organizations—are dwindling.

Other organizations can survive and grow without the influence of lawyers and their unique leadership skills—though maybe not as well as they could otherwise. But the Bar and its divisions, including the YLD, are run solely by lawyers. Accordingly, the Bar can only survive and flourish if its members tap these skills and assume leadership roles.

The Bar, and the YLD in particular, have benefited from outstanding leadership throughout their history. In the four years that I have been actively involved in the YLD, I have seen four outstanding presidents lead it deftly to the accomplishment of its mission as the service arm of the State Bar.

However, this chain of leadership can continue only if the membership of each new class of YLD members embraces that role. The Leadership Academy is an outstanding program designed to train those who wish to take on that challenge. But the Academy and the YLD’s other committees and projects are only as successful as those who lead them are devoted to making them so.

There is a place on Iacocca’s website, www.leeiacocca.net, where you can download a form that allows you to rate a political candidate, or any other leader for that matter, on each of the 9C’s. I invite each of you to rate yourselves as leaders. If after doing so you realize you have what Iacocca says it takes to be a leader, then do as my dad would tell you: follow his advice and lead.

She Said

by Sharri Edenfield

By the time we pass the bar exam and begin our first legal job, many of us have spent what seems like the vast majority of our lives volunteering for charities and holding leadership positions in various organizations. Once we begin working as young lawyers, we have to prioritize how we spend our time outside of work. Many times, it is our civic involvement and leadership positions in these organizations that fall to the wayside so that we can meet our professional and family obligations.

As a self-confessed “joiner” (my sister says that I would join a conga line if they were soliciting applications), I have had to struggle to find a balance so that I can meet my work obligations and fulfill my love of getting involved in organizations that are important to me. I know that many of you face this same struggle, but I hope that you will take the opportunities outlined in this newsletter as encouragement to continue the balancing act so that you can be a leader in the YLD.

Why is it important that young lawyers in Georgia get involved and take leadership roles in the YLD when we are already so busy with work? I believe that the very nature of our profession requires us to help others, and the YLD is the service arm of the State Bar. Our ability and legal training make us natural leaders; but, a leader is not just someone who calls a meeting to order. In all of my leadership experiences, the one recurring truth that I have found is that for any organization to succeed there must be people with vision driving and committed volunteers supporting the organization. If we have great people in officer roles but no committed volunteers, then we can accomplish nothing. If we have dedicated volunteers but no officers with vision, then we fail because we have no direction. Success occurs at the intersection of commitment and dedication on the parts of both the individuals in leadership and the volunteers.

I had a college roommate who used to say, “It takes a chief and all of his Indians to get something done.” One person, no matter how talented, cannot make an organization succeed. It requires everyone’s involvement. You may be interested in getting more involved in a leadership role in the state YLD or in your local YLD. You may feel uncomfortable leading a YLD committee, but would be happy to contribute by participating in soliciting sponsorships for a YLD event. Whatever your interest, the YLD has a place for you. What I know for sure is that the YLD can only succeed with your participation in whatever role you choose.

While I mentioned my first job out of college in the last edition of this newsletter, I didn’t mention what kind of job it was. I was a Leadership Consultant or “LC” for my college sorority. Yes, it’s a real job. In fact, that job gave me plenty of funny stories, often making *Legally Blonde* look more like reality television than comedy. You may remember in the sequel that Elle Woods tried to team-build Congress by reading notes of encouragement from Congressional members to each other that had been placed in a snaps cup and urging everyone to “snap” their congratulations instead of clapping. Yes, I used a snaps cup when I was in college and so did all of the other sorority girls you know. Don’t let them lie to you. So, let this be my “snaps” to you: “snaps” to you for reading to the end of this column and hopefully being interested enough to find a way to get involved and be a leader in the YLD.



Editor's Block



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