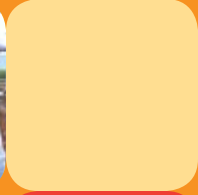




How to Get Involved



President's Message

Dear Friends:

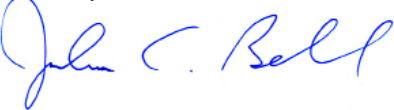
With the beginning of the 2008-09 Bar year upon us, there is no better time to get involved with the Young Lawyers Division (YLD). Whether you join one of our 25 committees, become a member of our Executive Council or attend one of our upcoming meetings in Austin, St. Augustine or St. Simons, I encourage you to get involved.

This brochure will provide you with an overview of the YLD, its purpose, history, and various committees. Without a doubt, the backbone of the YLD is its committees. As the "service arm" of the State Bar, the YLD committees offer a wide range of opportunities for members to work within the community and for the profession. The hard work and dedication of these committees has resulted in the Georgia YLD repeatedly receiving national recognition from the American Bar Association. These committees cannot maintain their success without participation from young lawyers around the state like you. I urge you to join one or more of the committees and participate. Even if you have signed up for a committee before, we need you to sign-up again this year.

I also encourage you to attend one or more YLD meetings this year. The meeting dates and locations are included in this brochure. Each meeting provides an opportunity to earn CLE hours, get caught-up on the work of the various committees and, most importantly, have a little fun with other young lawyers.

If you have any questions about the committees, YLD membership or, have any new ideas for YLD projects, do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I look forward to working with all of you!

Sincerely,



Joshua C. Bell
2008-09 YLD President



What is the Young Lawyers Division?

Prior to 1946, the Constitution of Georgia and the State Bar rules prohibited anyone under the age of 40 from practicing law. Shortly after the law change, on May 31, 1947, what is now the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, commonly known as the YLD, was formed. All members of the Bar who have not yet reached their 36th birthday or who have been admitted to their first bar less than five years are automatically members. Today, the YLD is one of the most dynamic arms of the Bar, offering outreach to both the profession and the public through various legal programs and projects.

Over the years, the YLD's various committees have accomplished amazing things. For example, the Young Lawyers Division is recognized as the moving force behind the Georgia Legal Services Program. In 1968, the YLD initiated a study to address the needs of the poor, concluding that "there was a distressing disproportion between the actual need for legal services by those who could not afford them and the present supply of legal services available to them." As a result of reports like these, the YLD created the Georgia Legal Services Program in 1971.

The YLD is also the source of the Georgia High School Mock Trial program. Founded in 1987, it has the greatest state-wide activity in terms of number of volunteers and dollars raised and spent of all of the YLD's current committees and has grown into a nationally recognized educational program. In fact, Georgia was chosen to host the 2009 High School Mock Trial National Championship at the Fulton County Courthouse in Atlanta for the May 2009 national finals.

The YLD produces a quarterly newsletter, *The YLD Review*, to keep all members updated on YLD happenings and programs, which is mailed free of charge to all members of the State Bar.

The YLD has been recognized numerous times throughout its 61 years with various awards, most recently being named the Best Overall Young Lawyers Division nationwide by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Awards of Achievement.



Who are “Young Lawyers”?

Membership in the Young Lawyers Division is automatic for Georgia attorneys who are under the age of 36 or who have been admitted to their first bar less than five years. The YLD is comprised of almost 10,000 “young lawyers” statewide.

Did You know?

There are 40,486 total Bar members, and 24% of the Bar is under age 36

59% of young lawyers work in the five county Metro Atlanta area

Savannah has the second highest concentration of young lawyers (178), followed by Macon (156)

25% of all Bar members are out-of-state; 20% of young lawyers reside out-of-state

14,111 Bar members are women; 4,820 of those are YLD members (50% of the YLD is female)

How can you get involved?

Sign Up For Committees

The YLD is comprised of 25 committees—one for every interest! Sign up for a committee on the sign-up form found in this brochure.

Attend A Meeting

The YLD has five meetings a year, and all are described in this brochure. Sign up to receive notice of meetings and other events on the sign-up form found in this brochure.

Be A Leader

The YLD has a variety of leadership opportunities that are described in this brochure. To get involved, contact Mary McAfee, YLD director, at 404-527-8778 or e-mail marym@gabar.org.

What can the YLD do for you?

Great Networking Opportunities

The various activities and projects of the YLD put you in touch with lawyers in your practice area, others who have similar interests and with Georgia's legislative and judicial leaders.

Leadership Opportunities

There are many opportunities within the YLD to develop and grow leadership skills and abilities. These include chairing a committee and serving on the YLD Executive Council.

Committee Chairs

The success of YLD committees depends heavily on the initiative, leadership and foresight of its members. If you have vision and leadership potential, we invite you to request appointment by the president as a chair or co-chair of a committee.

Executive Council

For those with long-range leadership goals, you may wish to seek office in the YLD. The governing body of the YLD, the Executive Council, includes representatives from each of the three federal judicial districts, at-large representatives and out-of-state representatives. The Executive Council helps direct and implement the various programs of the YLD. If you would like more information about serving as a representative, contact Mary McAfee, YLD director, at 404-527-8778 or e-mail marym@gabar.org.

2008 - 09 YLD Officers

President – Joshua C. Bell, *Bainbridge*

President-Elect – Amy Howell, *Atlanta*

Treasurer – Michael Geoffroy, *Covington*

Secretary – Stephanie Kirijan, *Atlanta*

Immediate Past President – Elena Kaplan, *Atlanta*

Newsletter Editors – Sharri Edenfield, *Statesboro*
Darrell Sutton, *Marietta*

Committees

Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee

The Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee provides technical support and networking opportunities to the growing community of attorneys whose practice or passion includes students with disabilities and their families. The committee works to ensure the number of attorneys involved with families continues to grow and these attorneys have excellent continuing education opportunities, as well as a network of colleagues. In addition to educational issues, the committee provides support on issues such as estate planning, civil rights, healthcare issues, power of attorneys, juvenile justice and guardianships.

Appellate Admissions Committee

The Appellate Admissions Committee arranges the biannual ceremonies for admission of new Bar admittees to the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Court of Appeals of Georgia and the U.S. Northern District Courts.

Aspiring Youth Program Committee (Atlanta Program)

The Aspiring Youth Program Committee assists at-risk middle school students by increasing their aspirations to graduate from high school and college by demonstrating the importance of education, hard work and commitment. All program activities take place during the “latch-key” hours when youth are often unsupervised and include tutorials, mentoring, study groups, programs directly related to issues facing teenagers and recreation time. Young lawyers serve as positive role models while developing mentoring relationships with the students. This program meets twice a year: two afternoons a week for six weeks in the fall and six weeks in the spring. Attorneys are needed to volunteer at middle schools in metro-Atlanta in two-hour blocks, as often as they like during the fall and spring programs.

Business Law Committee

The Business Law Committee addresses issues specific to young lawyers whose practice involves either commercial litigation or commercial transactions. The committee monitors and addresses legal developments in the areas of business, commerce and finance, on both federal and state levels.

Celebration of Excellence Subcommittee

The Celebration of Excellence Subcommittee, a part of the Juvenile Law Committee, organizes and co-sponsors the Celebration of Excellence, a graduation ceremony for youth in the state foster care system who have graduated from high school or college. The event includes a formal awards ceremony much like a commencement exercise with celebrity presenters and guests, notable speakers and

Meeting Dates and Locations

Summer: August 14-17, 2008

Austin, TX – The Driskill

Fall: October 30 – November 2, 2008

St. Augustine, FL – The Casa Monica

Georgia vs. Florida Football Game

Midyear: January 5-10, 2009

Atlanta, GA – State Bar of Georgia Headquarters

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia

Spring: April 17-19, 2009

St. Simons Island, GA – The King &

Prince Beach & Golf Resort

Annual: June 18-21, 2009

Amelia Island, FL – Amelia Island Plantation

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia



a social gathering with food and entertainment. Graduates receive certificates of recognition for their outstanding achievement and graduation gifts. The Excellence in Education scholarships are also awarded at the event.

Community Service Projects Committee

The Community Service Projects Committee provides opportunities for young lawyers to participate in local, state or national service projects focused on various social issues, such as working with organizations that address the needs of underprivileged children, hunger, domestic violence and the environment.

Corporate Counsel Committee

The Corporate Counsel Committee serves the professional needs of younger attorneys who practice in the legal departments of corporations and other private sector organizations. CLE programs are offered each year covering topics of particular interest to in-house attorneys, including, but not limited to, corporate governance and compliance, ethics, diversity, technology solutions and partnerships with private law firms. In addition to providing a forum for committee members to communicate, the committee sponsors networking events between corporate counsel and business lawyers from private practice.

Criminal Law Committee

The Criminal Law Committee strives for the improvement of the criminal justice system, and where appropriate, seeks to implement changes. The committee annually sponsors CLE seminars and the Commitment to Justice Award.

Disaster Legal Assistance Committee

The Disaster Legal Assistance Committee coordinates emergency legal assistance for victims of disasters who are located in Georgia.

Elder Law Committee

The Elder Law Committee is involved in the delivery of legal services to the elderly, monitoring legislation and other legal developments affecting the elderly community and providing general information to older Georgians.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee

The Ethics & Professionalism Committee develops programs to assist lawyers in achieving the ethical and professional standards set forth for the legal profession and to make the public aware that lawyers are striving to meet and exceed these standards. This committee works with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Each year since 2005, the committee has recognized one young lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding professionalism with its Ethics & Professionalism Award.

Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee provides educational and networking opportunities to young lawyers whose practice involves family law. The committee sponsors a networking event as part of the annual Family Law Institute, as well as an annual signature fundraising event to raise money and awareness for causes involving family-related issues in Georgia.

High School Mock Trial Committee

The High School Mock Trial Committee provides educational litigation experience to hundreds of high school students by sponsoring a statewide mock trial competition, sending a team to the national competition and holding an intensive weekend law academy. Young lawyers, judges and teachers throughout Georgia are involved in all levels of the competition as coaches, judges and committee members.

Intellectual Property Committee

The Intellectual Property Law Committee promotes communication among young lawyers practicing in the various areas of intellectual property law as well as networking with other practice groups to enhance the availability of business opportunities. The committee provides CLE programs as well as social activities that promote networking and Bar participation.

Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee

The Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee sponsors the annual Intrastate competition among students from Georgia law schools. It organizes and conducts all aspects of the competition.

Juvenile Law Committee

The Juvenile Law Committee is responsible for studying and recommending changes in the areas of juvenile law, juvenile facilities and juvenile rehabilitation. The committee encourages and celebrates excellence in juvenile law practice across Georgia through sponsorship of an annual CLE event and child advocate awards. The committee organizes and co-sponsors the Celebration of Excellence, described separately above. In addition, the committee has just completed the process of researching, drafting and editing recommended revisions to Georgia's Juvenile Code.

Labor and Employment Law Committee

The Labor and Employment Law Committee produces two CLE programs each year (one in the fall and one in the spring) for attorneys representing employees and employers in labor and employment matters, including, but not limited to, harassment and discrimination issues, wage and hour law, worker's compensation concerns, non-compete agreements, collective bargaining, employee benefits, and other federal and state laws applicable to the employer-employee relationship.

Law Related Education Committee

The Law Related Education Committee supports and encourages the growth of law related education in the state, particularly through the inclusion of law-related curriculum in the schools. These efforts include preparing an *Introduction to Law* textbook, hosting an annual teachers' workshop and participating in various classroom and field trip activities.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee serves as the clearinghouse for YLD-initiated legislation and aids legislators and other YLD committees in various matters. The committee also holds an annual Legislative Luncheon.

Litigation Committee

The Litigation Committee addresses the needs of younger litigators by sponsoring litigation themed lunch-and-learns, CLE and CLE/Socials both inside and outside the metro Atlanta area. The committee also places an emphasis on social activities as well as service to the community, fostering networking among the members. Monthly lunch meetings are held September through May.

Minorities in the Profession Committee

The Minorities in the Profession Committee encourages increased participation by minorities in the Bar and the YLD, examines the problems affecting the minority lawyer and expands the opportunities for minority lawyers within the profession. Monthly lunch meetings are held September through June.

National Moot Court Competition Committee

The National Moot Court Competition Committee conducts the Region V competition of the National Moot Court Competition.

Real Estate Law Committee

The Real Estate Law Committee promotes communication among young lawyers practicing in the various areas of real estate law as well as networking with other practice groups to enhance the availability of business opportunities. The committee provides CLE programs as well as social activities that promote networking and Bar participation.

Signature Charity Fundraiser Committee (August through January; Atlanta)

The Signature Charity Fundraiser Committee organizes and orchestrates an annual fundraising event in Atlanta to raise money to support law related non-profits.

William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Committee

The William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Committee hosts an annual criminal mock jury trial competition among law students in November. The talented competitors are law students hailing from law schools across the country. All of the Georgia law schools are also invited to participate each year. Every summer, the William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Committee sends hundreds of applications to ABA accredited law schools. Only 18 schools are invited each year to compete in this well known and well respected national mock trial competition named in honor of the late Judge William W. Daniel of the Superior Court of Fulton County.

Women in the Profession Committee

The Women in the Profession Committee's mission is to ensure the success of women attorneys just beginning their legal careers by providing a forum for the exchange of dialogue and ideas on concerns of women, sponsoring programs directed to business and professional development of women attorneys, organizing networking activities, and supporting organizations and causes which advance the status and progress of women in society.

YLD Committee Sign-Up Form

Name

Firm

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

E-mail Address

Bar Number

- I am interested in serving as a representative on the YLD Executive Council.
- I would like more information about getting involved in the American Bar Association YLD.
- Please keep me up to date about future YLD meetings by adding me to the e-mail/event distribution list.

Check the box next to the committees you are interested in joining:

- Advocates for Students With Disabilities
- Appellate Admissions
- Aspiring Youth Program (Atlanta)
- Business Law
- Celebration of Excellence
- Community Service Projects
- Corporate Counsel
- Criminal Law
- Disaster Legal Assistance
- Elder Law
- Ethics & Professionalism
- Family Law
- High School Mock Trial
- Intellectual Property Law
- Intrastate Moot Court Competition
- Juvenile Law
- Labor & Employment Law
- Law Related Education
- Legislative Affairs
- Litigation
- Minorities in the Profession
- National Moot Court Competition
- Real Estate Law
- Signature Charity Fundraiser (Atlanta)
- William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial
- Women in the Profession

Please fax, mail or e-mail this completed form to:
Mary McAfee * YLD Director * State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 100 * Atlanta, GA 30303
Fax 404-287-4990 * marym@gabar.org

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