



The YLD Review

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Young Lawyers Division

Fall 2013

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Leadership Academy

by *Katie Willett*

This year's YLD Leadership Academy consisted of 54 participants of diverse backgrounds and practice areas from all parts of Georgia. The class met once a month for six months, with each meeting organized around different essential themes for future lawyer leaders.

The 2013 Leadership Academy kicked off on Jan. 11, at the State Bar's Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. The class was introduced to the inner workings of the State Bar and the YLD, participated in a tour of the State Bar facilities, and learned of the countless service opportunities the YLD offers young attorneys. That evening, the Leadership Academy attended the YLD Midyear Meeting and the YLD/Legislative Reception at the St. Regis. The following morning, the class participated in a humorous ice-breaking exercise that set the tone for an invaluable Leadership Academy experience.

During the second session on Feb. 21, the Leadership Academy spent the morning touring the State Capitol and learning about the state's legislative process. The class then joined the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee for the 25th Annual Legislative luncheon, honoring lawyers in the state legislature. Keynote speaker Gov. **Nathan Deal** discussed his political initiatives and the importance of lawyer legislators. During the afternoon, former Chief Judge **John Ellington** acquainted the class with the Court of Appeals of Georgia and Supreme Court of Georgia Justice **David Nahmias** spoke on the importance of professional leaders in the legal community. A number of class members were then sworn in to each court.

The Leadership Academy met on March 21 to learn about pro bono work in Georgia. **Mike Monahan**, director of the State Bar's Pro Bono Program, provided an overview of the Georgia Legal Services Program. **Erica V. Mason**, a shareholder at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, lead a diversity discussion which was followed by a diversity panel at Maggiano's in Buckhead. The panel featured Judges **Herbert Phipps**, **Sara Doyle** and **Carla Wong McMillian** from the Court of Appeals of Georgia and Judge **Dax Lopez** from the State Court of DeKalb County.

The Leadership Academy traveled to St. Simons Island for the fourth session on April 4, organized in conjunction with the YLD Spring Meeting.



The 2013 Leadership Academy class with Gov. Nathan Deal.

This session presented the Backpack Professionalism program headlined by **Doug Ashworth**. For the 2013 Leadership Academy's service project, classmates spent the afternoon at the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia doing yard work. Participants were rewarded with playtime with the cats and dogs waiting to be adopted at the shelter.

On May 3, the fifth session went to Savannah. The class was invited to attend a reception with federal judges at the Savannah Convention Center. The following morning, the class attended the Young Lawyers Roundtable and Swearing In Ceremony for the U.S. Supreme Court and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Clarence Thomas** aimed his keynote address at the young attorneys in the room, emphasizing the significance of giving your word when being sworn in to the bar. Eligible members of the Leadership Academy were then sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. A special thank you to President-Elect **Sharri Edenfield** for orchestrating the event as well as the first swearing-in ceremony for the U.S. Supreme Court outside of Washington, D.C.

The Leadership Academy graduation was held in Hilton Head on June 22, in conjunction with the State Bar's Annual Meeting. Hon. **Stephen Dillard** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia presided over the commencement and presented each classmate with a plaque. During the commencement, **Jon Pannell**, YLD immediate past president, encouraged the class to find its replacements and to embolden next year's Leadership Academy. **Darrell Sutton**, YLD president, closed the commencement by highlighting the significant opportunities awaiting Leadership Academy Alumni as well as his expectations for future successes in the YLD and the State Bar.

The 2013 Leadership Academy class offers its gratitude to **Ivy Cadle** and **Adriana Capifali** for organizing sessions that equipped its members with new leadership skills, strong friendships and a desire to become more involved in the YLD.

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From the President

Great Lawyer: Scholar, Orator and Servant

by *Darrell L. Sutton*

When we lawyers hear the word “professionalism,” we immediately think about conflicts of interest; the lawyer-client relationship; duty; how we conduct ourselves with judges and other lawyers; abusive litigation tactics; and, in general, being truthful. All of these are important things.

Professionalism is more than that, though. It is the grander concept of a lawyer’s professional responsibility. And lawyers, along with doctors and the clergy, are members of noble professions; professions set apart from all others by their one shared characteristic: service, especially service to others. We cannot, therefore, truly fulfill our professional responsibility unless we are serving others.

Service is not only a necessary ingredient to the fulfillment of our professional responsibility; it is the key to becoming a great lawyer. State Bar of Georgia Past President **Lester Tate** once told me that to be a great lawyer, you have to be all three of the following: scholar, orator and politician. You can be a lawyer by being just one of those three, and a good lawyer by being two of the three. But to be a great lawyer, you have to be all three.

The first two of these three traits are self-explanatory, and lawyers are rarely confused about what they mean as they are learned in law school and legal practice. But the third of these traits—politician—is often misunderstood.

When we think of a politician, we are generally led to the caricature of the demagogue. One who is running for some elected office, and who in doing so is willing to tell others whatever they need to hear to be convinced to vote for him or her. But that is not what I mean by “politician.”

The politicians I am referring to are the lawyers who make themselves available to others. The lawyers who are devoted not only to their practice, but also to their profession and community. The lawyers who don’t just consume what others have to offer, but who seek to produce what others who are similarly situated

— whether it be by geography, profession, or otherwise—can consume. The lawyers who, in other words, serve.

Don’t get me wrong: doing this is neither natural, nor easy. It requires effort. It requires taking yourself out of your comfort zone and putting yourself into uncomfortable circumstances. It requires sacrifice—both of your time and your talents. It is a skill that the vast majority of us do not naturally possess but instead have to work to achieve. It is for these reasons, that politician is the most elusive and most difficult trait to achieve.

The good news, though, is that not only can it be achieved, but the means of achieving it are at your disposal due to your membership in the YLD. The YLD is the service arm of the Bar and has dedicated its 67-year existence to service, both to the profession and the public. It has 26 committees dedicated to either service to the profession or the public.

Perhaps your chosen path to becoming a great lawyer—the servant lawyer—is instead on the local level. There are 13 affiliate young lawyers divisions spread throughout the State. From Albany to Blue Ridge, Augusta to Columbus and everywhere in between, there is a local YLD near your home or office that will benefit from having you as part of it.

Perhaps you see interacting with other young lawyers as the means by which to become a complete lawyer. The YLD holds five meetings each year at various locations. So far this year the YLD has held a meeting in Chicago, and we will hold meetings in Chattanooga, Atlanta, Charlotte and Amelia Island. Each meeting offers CLEs and interaction with young lawyers from across the state, not to mention a little fun here and there.

When you became a member of the State Bar of Georgia, and thus the YLD, you passed through a proverbial gate of opportunity. But with that opportunity comes responsibility to be noble and to serve. How will you seize that opportunity? How will you be professionally responsible? How will you be noble? How will you serve?

YLD Launches Non-Traditional Legal Careers Committee

by *Damon Elmore, YLD Past President 2005-06*

In July, the YLD launched a new committee focusing on non-traditional legal careers. The committee mirrors the State Bar’s special committee which I chair. I sat down with **Taylor Sellers**, chair of the new YLD committee, to discuss the purpose, mission and how the committee will serve members of the Bar.

Elmore: Why did you want to create this committee?

Sellers: I just thought there was a need for it. I was happy working as a contracts agent and did not feel represented by any of the current YLD groups. From talking with my peers, there are a lot of young attorneys who do not practice traditional law and are unaware of their options. It would be beneficial to create a committee to educate young attorneys on their career opportunities outside the law and engage those young attorneys that are already in those positions.

Elmore: Who should become a member of this committee?

Sellers: The group is broad. According to a recent article in the *ABA Journal*, only 56.2 percent of 2012 law school graduates were working in a long term, traditional law firm setting. Meaning, almost 44 percent were doing...something else.¹ And, it is likely to increase. Recent statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics project 74,000 new jobs will be created for new lawyers in the next seven years but over that same period, American law schools will graduate more than 300,000 students² resulting in many working outside of law firms, legal departments or judicial clerkships, etc.

Elmore: What feedback have you received related to the idea?

Sellers: The feedback has been very positive. The current YLD leadership has been very receptive. The consensus is that this committee is necessary and shows that being a lawyer is more than just an occupation, even if you are not practicing, you are still a lawyer and the YLD wants you to feel engaged and represented.

Elmore: What are the next steps as the committee rolls out?

Sellers: We need active members from all around the state to spread the word and assist with sponsorship. We hope to meet, have forums to educate and conduct a CLE or other professional update that presents information relevant to the target group.

Elmore: How can one become a part of the new committee?

Sellers: Sign up at www.georgiayld.org or email me at taylor.sellers1@gmail.com.

Endnotes

1. *ABA Journal*, “Job Market for would-be lawyers is even bleaker than it looks, analysis says.” April 1, 2013.
2. *The Fiscal Times*, “Graduate from Law School, Pass the Bar, Get Unemployment.” March 21, 2013.

Judge's Chambers

by Hon. Victoria Darrisaw, Dougherty County State Court



The road to legal professionalism is anything but yellow brick. Precious little guidance exists on what constitutes the full breadth of professionalism. Like defining obscenity, we know professionalism when we see it and perhaps sooner when we don't. Some lawyers, especially those new to our profession, tend to think that if they follow "common sense" (quite a legal rarity) and the Golden Rule of treating others in our legal endeavors as we would wish to be treated, it'll all work out. Why isn't that all, then?

Well, there's tradition. Law is one of the most venerated professions and the bar, both literally and figuratively, is set very high. Indeed, we have offered up a great deal of blood, sweat and money to stand before the altar of the bar. When I joined the Bar in 1993, I was recognized as the 25,000th member in Georgia's history. But no matter my numerical designation, I was overjoyed because it means something to be a lawyer. Ours is a noble profession, but can only remain so if we seek a standard of behavior consistent with the esteem we hold for ourselves and which we seek to receive of others. Unprofessional conduct demeans our tradition of excellence and tarnishes the hard work we undertook to rank among the bar.

Then there are those virtues that you set for yourselves and add to our collective vision of professionalism. What is professional conduct for lawyers is subject to interpretation, perhaps because we are lawyers after all. But I think it is safe to say that we all know someone, or have had contact with someone, whose conduct leaves something to be desired—i.e., someone who is unprofessional. My own observations of professionalism come as both a state and federal law clerk, an assistant district attorney and as a jurist. In each of these phases, common characteristics of those considered most professional and proficient from the bench are:

- **Punctuality.** Judges may be more lenient or understanding with a delay in a bench trial, but not very understanding when it comes to a jury trial. Jurors equate to a large body of gathered voters and make assessments of the judge's ability to keep things moving efficiently.
- **Be prepared.** Simple and straight-forward.
- **Remember, especially during a trial, you are always ON.** You must project the image of being prepared and knowing your case from the moment you leave your home or office until the moment you return. Jurors, witnesses, etc., drive on the same roads, park in the same parking lots, enter the same building and eat at the same restaurants on break that you do. Don't be mistaken, they are always watching you.
- **Formalities are not empty in the courtroom.** The judge is "Your Honor" at all times you are addressing the court. You and your client must rise when the judge and jury enter and exit the courtroom. Ask permission to approach a witness or the bench and when you wish to question a witness. Stand when you wish to be heard.
- **Respect the rulings of the court, even when you don't like them.** No judge sets out to be reversed. Preserve your objection and move on.
- **Know your judge.** No one goes into successful battle without some plan of attack or knowledge of the battlefield.
- **Return your phone calls within 24 hours.** This is major. In this age of communication, not returning a phone call to a client, a colleague or a judge is a serious breach. Many of the complaints that I hear from parties and witnesses revolve around, "I just couldn't get him or her to return my phone calls."
- **Be honest with the court.** I wholly subscribe to this quote from Hon. Lynn N. Hughes: "Honesty in fact and law determines not only the outcome of the case but also your future as a lawyer. If you appear before me well prepared and if you present your case with integrity and class, I will forget you by dinner. But if you misrepresent your facts or law or if you try cute evasions, I will remember you after you have turned gray. Do not sell off your integrity for any client. No matter how smart you may be, if I cannot approach your presentation with trust, you are but half heard at best."

That's it. The advice is simple and, in fact, nothing that you don't already know. The challenge, as with so many areas of life, is not in the knowing, but in the doing. Go forth, young lawyers, and be professional.

Professionalism: A Perspective

by Kimberlee Hillard

When I learned that I would be the recipient of the Seventh Annual YLD Award for Ethics and Professionalism, I thought about what kinds of things I would say if I were asked to speak on the topic. Upon reflection, I realized that the most important thing I would say is this: As members of a profession that arguably has the greatest impact on societal rules, we have a duty to serve the most vulnerable of society. We act as gatekeepers for many other professions because we generally make the rules they follow.

As a prosecutor, I am confronted with people who are facing one of the worst experiences in their lives. The defendants often have either criminal mindsets or poor judgment and victims have been taken advantage of. Whatever the reason, the circumstances under which they come to the criminal justice system's attention are always unpleasant. To reconcile the sorrow in my practice, I rely on one of my favorite quotes taken from a letter that Martin Luther King Jr. wrote while in the Birmingham jail in 1963: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

There is a fine line that the purveyor of justice must walk. As a prosecutor, it is my duty to rage against injustice. As a Christian, it is my duty to love all people, while not excusing bad acts. It is a balance to not become callous by the hypersonic pace with which criminal cases are assigned. Case files can begin to represent defendants—faceless, nameless situations to be resolved. Victims can be categorized as disinterested and frequently unavailable or hypersensitive and needy. What we must remember is the humanity found in each file, the humanity of both the victim and the defendant. Sometimes, we have to be the psychiatrist's couch for an outpouring of emotion; never giving advice, but just allowing the person to be heard. Sometimes, we are the parent for the unparented, explaining that all actions have consequences. Sometimes, we have to be the hammer enforcing the rule of law.

In general, once it becomes known that you are an attorney, the expectation of the public is that you are held to a higher standard. In the courthouse, a house of worship or the grocery store, you are being watched. In the line at Dairy Queen, the left lane on the highway and the mall, your behavior is judged. On Facebook, Twitter and your Motion to Dismiss, your integrity is being evaluated. As gatekeepers, we can be human, but we cannot be unethical, dishonest or even mean. We are held to a higher standard and need to represent the opposite of what gives the public the wrong impression of attorneys. Even when my family makes fun of me by calling me a "lie-awyer," I work to make sure I am not. In closing, I will leave you with my favorite quote about our profession. In "Reflections on Habeas Corpus," *Journal of Public Law*, Emory University Law School, Hon. **Elbert P. Tuttle**, Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, stated:

The professional man is in essence one who provides service . . . He has no goods to sell, no land to till. His only asset is himself. It turns out that there is no right price for service, for what is a share of a man worth? If he does not contain the quality of integrity, he is worthless. If he does, he is priceless. The value is either nothing or it is infinite.

. . . Like love, talent is only useful in its expenditure, and it is never exhausted. Certain it is that man must eat; so set what price you must on your service. But never confuse the performance, which is great, with compensation, be it money, power, or fame, which is trivial.

Affiliate Updates

Albany

by *Amy Purvis*

On May 2, the Albany Area YLD hosted its end of the year After Hours event at Harvest Moon. After receiving nominations from the general membership, the slate of officers for 2013-14 was announced on June 24, with **Amy L. Purvis** serving as immediate past-president, **James H. “Jim” Edge** as president, **David S. Ballard** as president-elect, and **Valerie Cochran** as secretary/treasurer. The Albany Area YLD is set to host its first After Hours event for this fiscal year in late September. For more information about how to become involved with the Albany Area YLD, please email Amy Purvis at amy.purvis@gwsh-law.com or Jim Edge at jedge@mcd-r-law.com.

Augusta

by *Justin T. Jones*

After an active first half of the year consisting of a Kickoff party, a Green Jackets game, a Goodwill boat race and other miscellaneous gatherings, the YLD of Augusta is seeing more of the same this fall. In August, members gathered at Wild Wing Café and participated in a service project bringing in school supplies to donate to children in need. The event was well-attended and contributed to a good cause. In September, members will gather at a local restaurant, and later in the fall a Savannah River boat cruise is planned, complete with CLE credit. For more information contact **Justin Jones** at jjones2@augustaga.gov.

Cobb

by *Will Davis*

The Cobb YLD had a very active summer including its regular lunch meetings, Bar activities and other social outings. The Cobb YLD meets monthly at Willie Rae’s in Marietta with each lunch featuring a different speaker. This summer’s speakers included the Hon. **Rob Leonard**, attorney **Michael Manely** and Cobb County Young Lawyer of the Year **Rob Swartwood**. Members of the Cobb YLD also began a “Tour of the Square” this summer, hosting after hours events at bars and restaurants in downtown Marietta.

On Aug. 1, Cobb YLD members competed in the annual Cobb Bar Trivia night to benefit the Children’s Emergency Fund. **Reagan Bush**, **Cara Convery**, **Will Davis**, **April Holloway** and **Greg Shenton** represented the Cobb YLD while **Matthew Gettinger**, **Ashley Masset**, **Mary McAfee**, **Alex Susor**, YLD President **Darrell Sutton** and **Matt Wilkins** represented the statewide YLD. The Cobb YLD also held Braves night on Aug. 16. Anyone interested in joining the Cobb YLD should contact President **Chase Swanson** at cswanson@awjoneslaw.com.

Macon

by *Leah Aiken*

Summer 2013 has been very productive for the Macon YLD. The group hosted its inaugural charitable fundraiser in June at the Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences, raising more than \$3,000 on behalf of Central Georgia CASA. Hon. **Stephen Dillard** gave remarks and spoke about the importance of public service and giving back to the community. July marked the end of summer activities which was celebrated with the annual Summer Intern Social. The event serves as an introduction to the Macon YLD for the summer interns hosted by many Macon law firms and is a way to say thank you to the law students for a summer of hard work.

The Macon YLD looks forward to another exciting season of happy hours and community service, which will commence in September. For more information please contact Macon YLD President **Amanda Smith** at asmith@glsp.org.

Savannah

by *Heather Hammonds Lundy*

It has been a busy and fun summer for the Savannah YLD! The Eighth Annual Savannah Guardian Ad Litem Charity Golf Tournament took place in June at the Plantation Course at The Landings. With 80 players participating, the tournament set a record for attendance and resulted in a record donation of \$8,000 to the Guardian Ad Litem Program. The Savannah YLD would like to congratulate **Colby Longley** and **Bryan Schivera** for helping to make this year’s tournament a success. The Savannah YLD would also like to extend a sincere “thank you” to all who participated in the tournament, whether by playing or sponsoring.

On June 20, Savannah YLD members gathered at Congress Street Social Club to enjoy happy hour beverages and good company. This particular happy hour presented an opportunity for summer law clerks to mingle with Savannah YLD attorneys.

The Savannah YLD is excited to announce its Executive Board for the upcoming 2013-14 term. The Board will be comprised of President **Blake Greco**, President-Elect Colby Longley, Treasurer **Heather Hammonds Lundy**, Secretary **Lindsey Hobbs**, Social Co-Chairs **Amanda Love** and **Thomas Gore**, Sponsorship Chair Bryan Schivera, Membership Co-Chairs **Zach Thomas** and **Carson Penney**, Philanthropy Chair **Kate Lawson** and Logistics Coordinator **Philip Thompson**. For more information about upcoming events and how to become involved with the Savannah Bar YLD, please email Zach Thomas at zhthomas@aol.com or Carson Penney at cpenney@huntermaclean.com.

Golden Isles

by *Melissa Cruthirds*

The Glynn County Young Lawyers Division has just finished its inaugural year as the Golden Isles chapter of the State Bar YLD. During its first year, the Golden Isles YLD volunteered for the CASA Jingle All The Way 5k and Fun Run in December on Jekyll Island. They also organized and hosted the CLE “How to Build Your Book of Business” for the State YLD Spring Meeting on St. Simons Island and participated in the Spring Meeting volunteer event at the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia.

Recently, the Golden Isles YLD hosted the first annual Summer Intern/Law Clerk/Law Student Networking Event to meet and welcome those who are just beginning their journey as lawyers. All had a great time networking and overlooking the marsh at St. Simons Island. The newly installed officers for 2013-14 year are President **Casey Viggiano**, Vice-President **Melissa Cruthirds**, Secretary **Lacey Houghton**, Treasurer **Glenn Jones**, Immediate Past President **Patrick Powell**, Membership Chair **Hadley Hayes**, Community Service Chair **Amanda Jones** and Social Chair **Emily Hancock**. For information on joining the Golden Isles YLD, please contact Melissa Cruthirds at Melissa@williamslg.com.



Attendees of the Summer Inter/Law Clerk/Law Student Networking Event get together for a group picture. (L-R) Top Row: William S. Mann, Emily Hancock, J.D. Blevins, Will Gallagher; Middle Row: Amanda Lee, Madeline Mitchell, Samantha DiPolito, Stacy Patrick, Bonnie Turner, Christina Jones, Isabella Edmundson; Bottom Row: Hadley Hayes, Lindsey Stewart, Amanda Jones, Casey Viggiano, Patrick Powell, Melissa Cruthirds, Lacey Houghton, Jennifer Case.

Want to apply for the 2014
Leadership Academy Program?

Visit georgiayld.org for an application
in October.

Committee Updates

Aspiring Youth Program

by **Tamika Sykes**

The Aspiring Youth Committee organizes an annual “Great Debaters” program to teach conflict resolution skills to our youth. This year the group partnered with a local community outreach center located in the Roosevelt Park Community in College Park. Each week, the group met with students between ages of 6-13 and encouraged them to use analytic skills, voice their opinions, and get excited about debate through fun interactive games.

In previous years, the committee has worked with youth incarcerated in the DeKalb County Youth Detention Center between the ages of 14-17 and looks forward to serving as many youth as it can. Please consider joining the Aspiring Youth Program Committee. For more information contact Committee Chairs **Lindy Kerr** at lindy.kerr@kendavidlaw.com or **Tamika Sykes** at tamikasykes@sykesladson.com.



(L-R) Meagan Pearson, Tamika Sykes, Vanessa Leo, Lindy Kerr and Dwayne Brown Jr. with participants in this year's program. The students made thank you cards for the committee members.

Criminal Law

by **Nedal Shawkat**

On June 18, the YLD Criminal Law Committee held its first CLE focusing on Georgia's firearm laws. The three-part course included two segments titled, “Georgia Firearm Carry Laws” and “Criminal and Civil Liabilities Arising from Violations of Firearm Safety Rules.” **Nedal Shawkat** and **Jason Hammer** were the CLE instructors. After the CLE, attendees were given a firearm safety briefing by the staff at SharpShooters USA and were permitted to complete various scenarios on a state of the art simulator as well as shoot on the range for “live” firearms training. Attendees were also given the opportunity to shoot a fully automatic, .45 caliber, KRISS Vector SMG. The CLE was filled to capacity and deemed a huge success for the committee.

In other news, three receptions were held at prosecutor conferences this spring and summer. The committee would like to give special thanks to the following criminal defense attorneys for their donations which made the receptions possible: **Gunner Pak, Jean Sperling, Matt McNally, Parag Shah, Judy Kim, Alex Susor** and **Jennifer Little**, as well as the band GoodbyeMachine, comprised of attorneys **Bert Reeves** and **David Willingham**, for providing great live music at the July reception. To learn more about the Criminal Law Committee, please contact chairs **Amanda Clark Palmer** at aclark@gsllaw.com or **Rebekah Shelnett** at rshelnett@cherokeega.com.

Intellectual Property Committee Eyes Expansion

by **Clark A.D. Wilson and Liz Wheeler**

The Intellectual Property Committee's main priority for the coming year will be expansion of the committee through networking events and CLE opportunities specifically focused on the interests of younger lawyers and newer practitioners. On Sept. 26, the IP Committee will host a Happy Hour from 6-8 p.m. for anyone interested in networking with other copyright, trademark and patent practitioners. If you would like to get involved in the IP Committee, please contact **Clark A.D. Wilson** at cwilson@gardnergroff.com or **Liz Wheeler** at liz@themoorefir.com.

Juvenile Law

by **Donald Lee**

The Juvenile Law Committee capped off its summer by hosting the Celebration of Excellence. The Celebration of Excellence is an annual event co-sponsored by the Juvenile Law Committee, Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services and other organizations that publicly recognize the educational achievements of Georgia's foster youth. Joining this year's celebration was Keynote Speaker **Eric Tyler Anderson**, a motivational speaker and magician, but also a former foster youth like many of his audience.

More than 250 GED, high school, vocational school and college graduates entered Georgia State University's Rialto Center on June 26, and loved every moment of the event. The evening began as all of the graduates from across the state were welcomed with a red carpet treatment. Professional photographers took pictures as paparazzi would on the red carpet at the Oscars. The graduates then entered into a cauldron of cheering family members, friends and volunteer “fans.” Once seated, the graduates and guests were treated to a magic show accompanied by a moving speech focused on remaining positive and achieving one's goals. Afterwards, the graduates were called onto stage individually. Dressed in caps and gowns, each received a gift bag as they crossed the stage. At the end of the ceremony, they were invited to the stage's podium in order to share their thoughts, feelings and thanks with the audience.

Every year, the Juvenile Law Committee helps coordinate the Celebration of Excellence. The event really is one of the most tangible manifestations of what it means to be an attorney working in child welfare: to witness the foster children you advocate for overcome the harsh obstacles life has thrown in their path. For further details about volunteering with the Juvenile Law Committee, please contact committee co-chairs **Stephanie Mason** at smason@law.ga.gov or **Donald Lee** at donald.lee@fultoncountyga.gov.

Labor and Employment

by **Stan Hill**

The YLD Labor & Employment Committee hosts occasional happy hours and monthly lunch meetings to discuss current topics in traditional labor, employment discrimination, wage and hour, and state employment law. The committee maintains a LinkedIn Group for discussing recent labor and employment cases and trends. Membership includes solo practitioners, government attorneys and law firm associates. This year's speakers will include mediators, arbitrators, federal judges and seasoned practitioners from both the plaintiff and defense bar. For members outside the metro-Atlanta area, lunch meetings will be broadcasted by teleconference. To receive notice of future lunch meetings and happy hours, please join the YLD Labor & Employment Committee by clicking the “Join a YLD Committee” link at www.georgiayld.org or email co-chair **Stan Hill** at stanhill@rafusehill.com.

William Daniel Invitational Mock Trial Competition

by **Matt Jones**

Jewelry Store Armed Robbery – Help Needed

On Nov. 22-24, law schools from around the country will send teams of students to Atlanta to try a mock criminal case in the 2013 William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition. This annual event, sponsored by the YLD, consists of several rounds that take place over a three-day period at the Fulton County Courthouse.

The committee needs attorneys to serve as judges for all rounds. No trial experience is necessary. After each round, the judges evaluate and give a brief critique of each team's performance. Part of what makes the experience meaningful for the students is getting feedback from attorneys. Attorney participation is one reason why many schools return each year.

The problem's creator, **Tom Jones**, is a former Fulton County Assistant District Attorney who practiced before Judge Daniel. This year's problem is adapted from a case he tried involving a police shooting during the commission of an armed robbery of a local jewelry store. If you would like to volunteer in November, please send an email to **Matthew Jones** at mjones@deflaw.com.

YLD Officers



President: Darrell Sutton practices law in Marietta, where he and his firm, Sutton Law Group, LLC, represent employers, insurers, self-insured companies and third-party administrators in Georgia workers' compensation claims. A native Georgian, Darrell received his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and his B.S. from Berry College. In addition to his service as YLD president-elect, Darrell has served as YLD treasurer, secretary, newsletter co-editor and is a graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy. He also is a past president of the Cobb County Bar Association YLD and has been a trustee of the Cobb County Bar Association since 2007.



President-Elect: Sharri Edenfield is a partner with the law firm of Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C., in Statesboro. She maintains a general practice that focuses on litigating business/contract disputes as well as product liability, personal injury, agriculture and environmental law claims. She received her J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and her B.A. from the University of Georgia. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce and the Averitt Center for the Arts. She has completed pro bono work in support of Safe Haven in Statesboro and was honored by the YLD with the inaugural Signature Service Award in 2011.



Treasurer: Jack Long is a solo practitioner in Augusta, where he lives with his wife Paige. He maintains a general practice focused on civil and domestic relations litigation, criminal defense and appellate practice. He received his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law, and received his B.S. from Georgia Tech. A graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy, he is also currently the president of the Young Lawyers of Augusta.



Secretary: Jennifer Mock practices law with The Mock Law Firm in Statesboro. She primarily focuses on commercial and residential real estate law as well as juvenile law. She received her J.D. from the University of Georgia and a B.B.A. from Georgia Southern University. She is a YLD Leadership Academy graduate and has served on the Board of Directors of the YLD for several years. She is an active member of Professional Women of Statesboro and serves on the Board of the Statesboro Exchange Club. Mock lives in Statesboro with her husband, Jared, and their two daughters, Kate and Ada.



Immediate Past President: Jon Pannell is a partner with the law firm Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP in Savannah. His practice specializes in public finance and municipal bond law. A native of Savannah, Jon received his J.D. from Georgia State College of Law and his B.B.A. from the University of Georgia. In addition to state and local bar activities, Jon is the 2013 Alumni Chairman for Leadership Georgia, a member of the Chatham County Board of Registrars, a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and serves on the finance committee for Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. Jon is married to Kimberly White Pannell and is a proud father to James and Paul.

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The YLD Review Co-Editor: Crystal Conway practices law in Atlanta at the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP in the general litigation and appellate practice groups. She received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College, M.P.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and J.D. from Pennsylvania State University. She has been very active in the YLD by serving for two years as the co-chair of the Juvenile Law Committee and is a 2012 graduate of the YLD Leadership Academy. She has been a big sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of metro-Atlanta, serves as a Teen Court Judge for the Fulton County Juvenile Court and is a member of the American Bar Association and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.



The YLD Review Co-Editor: Will Davis is an associate with the law firm Garrett McNatt Hennessey & Carpenter 360 LLC in Marietta. His primary practice focuses on family law and criminal defense as well as outreach to the Latino community. A Cobb County native, Will received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi and his B.A. from the University of Georgia. Prior to practicing in Marietta, Will served as a staff attorney for the Georgia Legal Services Program in Albany where he was named one of Southwest Georgia's 40 Under Forty young professionals and served as president of the Albany Area YLD. Will is an active member of the Cobb County Bar Association, Cobb YLD and the Marietta Kiwanis Club.

The YLD at the 2013 State Bar Annual Meeting



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1. Tradition continues as YLD President Jon Pannell gets tossed into the pool at the YLD Pool Party. 2. Sean Ditzel and Robin Casey enjoy the YLD Pool Party. 3. Brantley Rowlen, Scott Masterson, Darrell Sutton and Ryals Stone (not pictured) took first place at the annual Golf Tournament. 4. YLD Past Presidents pose at the dinner sponsored by SEA Limited and ARAG. (L-R) Bill Barwick, Kendall Butterworth, Jon Pannell, Amy Howell, Josh Bell, Elena Kaplan and Stephanie Kirijan. 5. The 2013-14 YLD Officers are sworn-in by Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Keith Blackwell. (L-R) Immediate Past President Jon Pannell, Newsletter Co-Editor Will Davis, Secretary Jennifer Mock, Treasurer Jack Long, President-Elect Sharri Edenfield and President Darrell Sutton. Not Pictured: Newsletter Co-Editor Crystal Conway.

YLD Has Good Showing at ABA Annual Meeting

by Mary K. McAfee

The Georgia YLD had a strong showing at the ABA's Annual Meeting Aug. 9-12 in San Francisco. YLD Immediate Past President **Jon Pannell** and other delegates were on hand to accept the ABA Awards of Achievement, including first place in the Comprehensive category, which highlights the broad range of programming conducted by state YLDs and is based on the totality of programs throughout the past year. The YLD also took second place in the Single Project/Service to the Public category for the development of "Think About It, First!" consequence cards by the group's Law-Related Education Committee and earned special recognition in the Single Project/

Service to the Bar category for the Young Lawyer Roundtable with the Federal Judiciary event, hosted by the YLD in conjunction with the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Conference.

In addition to receiving awards of achievement, YLD Board of Directors Member **Tyronia M. "Ty" Smith** was presented with the 2013 Rosner & Rosner Young Lawyers Professionalism Award by the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility. The award honors young lawyer commitment to legal and judicial ethics, lawyer professionalism, client protection and professional regulation. Smith is the first Georgia lawyer to receive the award.



(L-R) YLD President-Elect Sharri Edenfield, YLD Board Member Ty Smith, YLD Immediate Past President Jon Pannell and ABA District 12 Representative Heather Hale at the ABA's Annual Meeting.



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Editor's Block

Crystal Conway

As a part of our inaugural newsletter remarks, Co-Editor **Will Davis** and I have chosen to focus on professionalism in legal practice. Our interest in this topic spurs from situations we have encountered or heard of where lawyers displayed actions that found their professionalism skills to be lacking and because as young lawyers we are constantly placed in positions where we are not fondly, but unprofessionally treated like the “newbie.” Most times we are fortunate to have an older, friendly and experienced lawyer to point us in the proper direction, but sometimes we are left struggling to learn how to fend for ourselves. And it is in those times that our true professionalism is determined.

Recently, as I was observing oral argument in our Court of Appeals, I saw a lawyer attempt to acknowledge and greet opposing

counsel with a smile. This gesture was obviously ignored by the other lawyer and arguments began without as much as a hello. Well into the argument, the lawyer who ignored the kind gesture constantly peppered the other side with ill placed barbs and character attacks. As I sat watching, I remembered something that a partner in my firm told me after visiting Canada. There for an appellate specialist conference, she was discussing professionalism with Canadian lawyers. They explained to her that before and after oral argument all lawyers shook hands with opposing counsel, and after the hearing all of the lawyers on the case often went to lunch together as a show of cordiality. In addition, during arguments there was no demeaning banter directed toward opposing counsel or their clients. In fact, the entire process of litigation was conducted professionally and with decorum. So after observing the disaster at the Court of Appeals I wondered; why in our pursuit to succeed and win in our legal careers have we wandered away from the path of civility?

Although the legal profession is adversarial in nature, we by no means have to be adversarial in our demeanor. In fact, the argument can be made that as attorneys we are all part of a fraternity. We all suffered through years of legal training and the Bar exam to be able to use our degrees. We save the day, every day as a regular part of our job duties and should really take pride in what we do when we do it well. We shouldn't seek to disparage, dissuade or disrespect one of our fellow brethren. We should at the very least take a cue from our childhood through a quote from Dr. Seuss, “today I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered.” We should act accordingly and make sure we are remembered for the exemplary, professional lawyers that we are.

Last June, I sat in wonder as daredevil Nik Wallenda crossed the Grand Canyon on a tightrope without any safety equipment. Rather than focusing on his being a crazy person, I should have been more confident in his abilities as he easily made it across. Nik had his doubters, but he followed his training and earned a world record in the process.

Although not as extreme as Nik Wallenda's walk, much of my practice as a young lawyer is spent finding balance. There is a balance in being confident enough in my skills to best represent my client but not being overly confident as to be unprepared. There is a balance in walking into a courtroom with experienced opposing counsel and judges but knowing that I too passed the Bar exam and that they were also once a young attorney. Last but not least, there is a balance in making sure that a personal life is not sacrificed for all things professional. Life is a marathon and not a sprint, yet many young attorneys burn out as they fail to strike a work-life balance.

I have been an active member of the YLD for four years, and that involvement has allowed me to grow as an attorney and has furthered my commitment to professionalism. I am able to work with young lawyers from across the state, sharing our own war stories, offering each other advice and becoming friends in the process. If you have not attended a meeting or joined a committee, I encourage you to take the plunge and do so this year. The YLD offers the opportunity to learn from other young attorneys so that you can take their experiences and blend them with your practice. It is a great outlet for encouraging camaraderie, and it helps to strike a perfect balance with a career that can often be stressful and litigious.

None of us went to law school because being a lawyer was easy, and we owe it to our families, our friends, our clients and ourselves to be at our best. This means finding a balance in many aspects of our lives while maintaining the professional integrity of being a lawyer at all times.

Like Nik Wallenda, we walk a fine line everyday to ensure that we are being our best in carrying out the duties for which we all took an oath. Walking the professional “tightrope” can be difficult, and I am happy to have the YLD support me in finding that balance everyday. I hope that you take advantage of the opportunities that it has to offer you through our meetings, committees, and service projects and become involved as we start off the new Bar year.



Editor's Block

Will Davis



The 8th Annual Supreme Cork!

Join the Family Law Committee of the YLD for our annual fundraiser on Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at 5 Seasons Brewing Westside, 1000 Marietta St. NW, Atlanta.

The event includes a wine tasting and silent auction to benefit the Guardian ad Litem and Safe Families Programs of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

To purchase tickets, go to www.avlf.org.

