



How to Get Involved



President's Message

Dear Colleague:

This is your opportunity to become involved with the Young Lawyers Division (YLD). The YLD offers you the chance to stand out as a leader in the profession while building networks that will last throughout your career. Whether you join one of our 26 committees, become a member of our Executive Council or attend one of our upcoming meetings, I encourage you to get involved.

This brochure will provide you with an overview of the YLD, its purpose, history and various committees. The committees are the foundation of the YLD. 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 innovative programs, hard work and excellent service of these committees has garnered the YLD national recognition. The success of these committees is built upon the leadership and participation of young lawyers around the state. This is why I urge you to join one or more of the committees and participate. Even if you have signed up for a committee in the past, we need you to sign-up again this year.

The committees are just one of many ways to get involved in the YLD. I also encourage you to attend one or more YLD meetings or events this year. The meeting dates and locations are included in this brochure. Each meeting provides an opportunity to earn CLE hours, to participate in a service project, receive information about YLD and Bar activities, all while enjoying fellowship 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,



Amy Howell

2009-10 YLD President

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 41,953 total Bar members, and
22% of the Bar is under age 36

60% of young lawyers work in the five
county Metro Atlanta area

Savannah has the second highest
concentration of young lawyers (166),
followed by Macon (159)

25% of all Bar members are out-of-state;
19% of young lawyers reside out-of-state

14,854 Bar members are women;
4,778 of those are YLD members
(51% of the YLD is female)

How can you get involved?

Sign Up For Committees

The YLD is comprised of 26 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 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 statewide 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 hosted the 2009 High School Mock Trial National Championship at the Fulton County Courthouse in Atlanta.

The YLD produces an award-winning 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 62 years with various awards, most recently it received five Awards of Achievement (four second place and one first place) from the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

What can the YLD do for you?

Great Networking Opportunities

The activities and projects of the YLD put you in touch with lawyers in your practice area, others with similar interests and 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, serving on the YLD Executive Council and applying to the Leadership Academy.

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 and out-of-state representatives. The 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 at 404-527-8778 or e-mail marym@gabar.org.

2009 - 10 YLD Officers

President – Amy Howell

Department of Juvenile Justice, amyvhowell@gmail.com

President-Elect – Michael Geoffroy

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Treasurer – Stephanie Kirijan

Georgia Power, skirijan@southernco.com

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dlsutton@baileydavis.com*

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 estate planning, civil rights, health care, powers of attorney, juvenile justice, guardianships and more.

Appellate Admissions Committee

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

Aspiring Youth Program Committee

The Aspiring Youth Program Committee works to teach conflict resolution skills through the “Art of Debate” to incarcerated youth in the DeKalb Regional Youth Detention Center. This committee assists at-risk youth by working to increase rehabilitation rates and their aspirations to graduate from high school and college by demonstrating the importance of education, hard work and commitment. Young lawyers serve as positive role models while developing mentoring relationships with these youth. This program requires a yearlong commitment.

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. The committee also sponsors an annual Nuts and Bolts of Business Law CLE in the Spring and offers networking events throughout the year.

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 and Professionalism Committee

This committee promotes the ethical and professional responsibility of members in achieving standards set forth for the legal profession and in making the public aware that lawyers are striving to meet and exceed these standards. The committee produces programs and publications designed to work with YLD members to achieve this goal. This committee also works directly with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism to develop programs designed to promote these standards for lawyers who have recently entered the profession. Each year, the committee recognizes one outstanding young lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding professionalism with its Ethics & Professionalism Award.

Family Law Committee

This committee provides educational and networking opportunities to young lawyers whose practice involves family law. The committee sponsors a networking reception as part of the annual Family Law Institute, as well as hosting The Supreme Cork, an annual 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 Law 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, facilities and 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, a graduation ceremony for youth in the state foster care system. In addition, the committee drafted a Proposed Model Juvenile Code that is now contained within Senate Bill 292 and will be presented to the Legislature in 2010.

Labor and Employment Law Committee

The Labor and Employment Law Committee produces two CLE programs each year for attorneys representing employees and employers in labor and employment matters, including, but not limited to, harassment and discrimination issues, wage and hour law, workers' 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 clearing-house 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 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 meetings and networking opportunities are held September through May.

National Moot Court Competition Committee

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

Parents and Caregivers in the Profession

This committee's mission is to further the success of attorney caregivers by providing a forum to access and share information about resources necessary to successfully balance career with a healthy home environment. The goals are to encourage participation in Bar and YLD activities and programs; to examine the problems unique to attorney caregivers; to expand opportunities within the profession; to sponsor programs that further the business and professional development of, and networking opportunities for, attorney caregivers; to educate members of the Bar on the importance of flexibility and diversity in the workplace; and to support organizations and causes that advance the status and progress of caregivers in society.

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 Fundraiser Committee

(August through January)

The Signature Fundraiser Committee plans an annual fundraising event held in connection with the State Bar Midyear Meeting to raise money to support non-profit entities and/or scholarship programs throughout Georgia.

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 competitors are students from law schools across the country. Georgia law schools are also invited to participate. Every summer, the committee sends applications to ABA accredited law schools. Only 18 schools are invited to compete in this distinguished national mock trial competition.

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.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Summer: August 27-30, 2009
Asheville, N.C. – The Grove Park Inn

Fall: October 16-18, 2009
Savannah, Ga. – Avia Hotel

Midyear: January 7-9, 2010
Atlanta, Ga. – W Hotel (Midtown)
Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia

Spring: April 29-May 2, 2010
Key West, Fla. – The Pier House

Annual: June 17-20, 2010
Amelia Island, Fla. – Amelia Island Plantation
Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia

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 committees you are interested in joining:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocates for Students With Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Law and Celebration of Excellence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Admissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiring Youth Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Law-Related Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Litigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> Minorities in the Profession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law | <input type="checkbox"/> National Moot Court Competition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Legal Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents and Caregivers in the Profession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics and Professionalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Fundraiser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School Mock Trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Profession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property Law | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intrastate Moot Court Competition | |

Please fax, mail or e-mail this completed form to:
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