

HOW TO GET INVOLVED  
IN THE YLD



YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION



STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as the 72nd president of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) for the 2018-19 Bar year. The YLD is known as the “service arm” of the State Bar of Georgia because, over the years, the division has been responsible for many outstanding projects which serve both the public and the profession. For instance, the YLD was instrumental in the creation of the Georgia Legal Services Program as well as the High School Mock Trial Program. The YLD is also well known for its leadership development programs and education initiatives like the Leadership Academy and the Public Interest Internship Program.

YLD programs are successful because of our enthusiastic and devoted YLD members, who pool their talents through the work of our committees. In fact, there are more than 25 YLD committees dedicated to a variety of issues, interests and projects. These committees are comprised of members around the state and are the heart of how the YLD accomplishes its goals. Whether or not you are already involved in the YLD, this brochure is helpful because each committee has an updated description to accurately reflect the group's current program of work. The YLD has many meaningful (and fun) ways for young lawyers to give back to their community and the legal profession, all while making connections with other young lawyers and Bar leaders across the state.

Regardless of where your interests lie, the YLD has a place for you. I encourage you to attend one or more of our five YLD meetings this year or join a committee. The YLD also has affiliate chapters across the state, so no matter where you live, there are opportunities for involvement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the YLD.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Sincerely,



Rizza O'Connor

2018-19 YLD President

# 2018-19 OFFICERS



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## 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. There are almost 10,000 “young lawyers” statewide.

## How Can You Get Involved?

### Join a Committee

The YLD is comprised of more than 25 committees—one for every interest! Sign up for a committee online at [georgiayld.org](http://georgiayld.org) or on the form found on page 15.

### Attend a Meeting

The YLD has five general membership meetings a year (listed on page 12). Sign up to receive notice of meetings and other events online or on the form found on page 15.

### Be a Leader

The YLD has a variety of leadership opportunities that are described in this brochure. To get involved, contact the YLD at [yld@gabar.org](mailto:yld@gabar.org).

## What is the YLD?

On May 31, 1947, what is now the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, commonly known as the YLD, was formed. 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 Georgia Legal Services Program was created in 1971.

The YLD is also the source of the Georgia High School Mock Trial Program. Founded in 1987, it has grown into a nationally recognized educational program.

Another project credited to the YLD is the rewrite of Georgia's Juvenile Justice Code. In 2004, the YLD secured funding to create a model juvenile code, and the YLD's Juvenile Law Committee spearheaded an entire overhaul of the previous code. The governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council focused on reforms to Georgia's juvenile law and legislation was passed unanimously by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2013 legislative session to rewrite and recognize Georgia's juvenile law.

The YLD has been recognized numerous times since its inception with various awards both regionally and nationally from the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

**There are  
almost 10,000  
"young lawyers"  
statewide.**



## What Can the YLD Do For You?



### Opportunities for Service

With a mission of service, the YLD offers many avenues for young lawyers to give back to their communities and to the profession. As you read the committee descriptions that follow, please note the opportunities that each offer for service. Additionally, the YLD conducts a service project at each of its general membership meetings.



### 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 from every corner of the state.



### 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 Committee or Representative 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 Committee:** For those with long-range leadership goals, you may wish to seek office in the YLD. There are five elected officer positions: president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and immediate past president. Further, the president appoints the newsletter editors and a board of directors.
- **Representative Council:** The governing body of the YLD includes the Executive Committee and the Representative Council, which is comprised of elected representatives from each of the three federal judicial districts, as well as at-large and out-of-state representatives. The council helps direct and implement the various programs of the YLD.

- **Leadership Academy:** The YLD Leadership Academy is a program for young lawyers who are interested in developing their leadership skills as well as learning more about their profession, their communities and their state, all while earning a year's worth of CLE credit. The academy meets once a month for six months beginning in January. Participants are selected through an application process that begins in October.

## Committees

### **Advocates for Students with Disabilities**

This committee provides technical support and networking opportunities to the community of attorneys whose practice or passion includes students with disabilities and their families. The committee works to expand the number of attorneys for this practice area and to provide continuing education opportunities. The committee also provides support on issues such as estate planning, civil rights, health care issues, power of attorneys, juvenile justice and guardianships.

### **Community Service Projects**

This 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**

This committee addresses issues specific to young lawyers who practice in corporate legal departments, as well as those in private law firms that interact/represent corporate legal departments. The committee monitors and addresses legal developments in the areas of corporate governance and compliance, regulatory matters, mergers and acquisitions, ethics, human resources, technology solutions, privacy and partnerships with private law firms.

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## Affiliate YLDs Around the State

Albany • Augusta • Cobb County • Columbus •  
Glynn County • Houston County • Macon •  
Savannah • West Georgia • Western Circuit

DID YOU KNOW?



THERE ARE

50,532

TOTAL BAR MEMBERS



18%  
OF THE BAR IS  
UNDER THE AGE  
OF 36

19,841 Bar members are women;  
4,453 of those are YLD members  
(49 percent of the YLD is female)



## Criminal Law

This 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

This committee coordinates emergency legal assistance for victims of natural disasters.

## Estate & Elder Law

This 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. This committee also oversees the Wills Clinic, which is a pro bono service project where attorney volunteers assist first responders in the preparation and execution of basic estate planning documents. The documents offered by the Wills Clinic include a last will & testament, a financial power of attorney and an advance health care directive.

## **Ethics & Professionalism**

This 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 and the State Bar's Committee on Professionalism. The committee recognizes one young lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding professionalism with its Ethics & Professionalism Award.

## **Family Law**

This 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, the "Supreme Cork," to raise money and awareness for causes involving family-related issues in Georgia.

## **Government Law**

This committee provides professional and networking opportunities for government attorneys, such as prosecutors and public defenders. This committee develops ways for government attorneys to make connections statewide and gain professional development outside of the normal training they receive from their respective associations.

## **High School Mock Trial**

This committee provides educational litigation experience to hundreds of high school students by sponsoring an annual statewide mock trial competition, sending a team to the national competition, and holding a fall law camp. Young lawyers, judges and teachers throughout Georgia get involved in all levels of the competition as coaches, judges and committee members.

## **Inclusion in the Profession**

This committee facilitates, analyzes and presents initiatives and programs which promote and increase participation, retention and representation of Georgia's diverse young lawyers to more accurately reflect the makeup of our state. The committee includes young lawyers who have been historically underrepresented and is open to all YLD members interested in supporting these goals and interests.

DID YOU KNOW?



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SAVANNAH HAS THE  
**SECOND  
HIGHEST**  
CONCENTRATION OF  
YOUNG LAWYERS

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**196**

SAVANNAH YOUNG  
LAWYERS FOLLOWED  
BY MACON (168)

### **Intellectual Property Law**

This 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**

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

### **Labor & Employment Law**

The Labor & Employment Law Committee provides educational and networking opportunities by: (1) enhancing the role and skill of young lawyers engaged in the practice of labor and employment law through the development and dissemination of materials and discussion on subjects of interest to young labor and employment law practitioners; (2) assisting in the formation, administration and implementation of programs, forums and other activities for the education of members in matters pertaining to labor and employment; and (3) recognizing and discussing means of improving the practice of law in the field of labor and employment through meetings and other social events.

### **Law School Outreach Program**

The Law School Outreach Program seeks to communicate with each of Georgia's law schools and plan events where

young lawyers can speak to students about getting involved in the YLD.

## **Leadership Academy Alumni**

This committee provides continuing leadership development, community service, pro bono opportunities and networking opportunities for Leadership Academy alumni. The committee annually hosts a holiday luncheon and other events and programs to encourage members to sustain the relationships formed with their class, as well as forge new relationships with other alumni while serving the community. Members must be Leadership Academy graduates.

## **Legal Food Frenzy**

This committee partners with the Office of the Attorney General and the Georgia Food Bank Association to host the statewide “Legal Food Frenzy,” a food drive and fundraising competition among Georgia’s law firms, law schools and other legal organizations. The committee partners with community legal leaders across the state to spread awareness about Georgia’s hunger problems, and to make a significant impact by gathering both food and monetary donations to help those affected by hunger in the state. Community leader sign-ups begin in March, and the competition runs from late April to May 1.

## **Legislative Affairs**

This committee promotes education and involvement in the state legislative process. Working with the State Bar, the committee promotes Bar and/or YLD-initiated legislation and assists other YLD committees in legislative-related matters, including co-hosting the annual legislative luncheon with the Leadership Academy.

## **Litigation**

This committee addresses the needs of younger litigators by sponsoring litigation themed lunch-and-learns, CLEs and socials. The committee also places an emphasis on social activities as well as service to the community, fostering networking among members.

### **Litigation – Business Law Subcommittee**

The Business Law subcommittee addresses issues specific to young lawyers whose practice involves either commercial litigation or commercial transactions.



## Summer

Aug. 23–26, 2018  
The DeSoto  
Savannah, Ga.

## Fall

Nov. 9–11, 2018  
The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee  
Greensboro, Ga.

## Midyear

Jan. 10–12, 2019  
Macon Marriott City Center  
Macon, Ga.  
*Held in conjunction with the  
State Bar of Georgia*

## Spring

April 25–29, 2019  
Hamilton Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

## Annual

June 6–9, 2019  
The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes  
Orlando Fla.  
*Held in conjunction with the  
State Bar of Georgia*

The subcommittee monitors and addresses legal developments in the areas of business, commerce and finance on both federal and state levels.

### **Litigation – Judicial Law Clerk Subcommittee**

This subcommittee serves the professional needs of, and addresses issues specific to, young lawyers serving as staff attorneys or judicial law clerks in either state or federal courts throughout the state. In this regard, the subcommittee monitors and addresses legal developments and issues facing the courts. Moreover, the subcommittee provides a forum for young, practicing lawyers to gain insight from other young

lawyers serving in the courts. The subcommittee also sponsors CLE programs, covering topics of interest to staff attorneys and judicial law clerks, and offers networking events throughout the year.

## **National Moot Court Competition**

This committee conducts the Region V competition of the National Moot Court Competition.

## **Pro Bono**

This committee works to identify opportunities for young lawyers to perform pro bono/low bono work and partners with other organizations working on access to justice issues across the state.

### **Pro Bono – Public Interest Internship Program Subcommittee**

This subcommittee oversees the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP) and acts as a liaison to other public interest organizations.

## **Real Estate Law**

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.

## **Solo Practice / Small Firm**

This committee seeks to provide opportunities for and support to solo practitioners and young lawyers who work in small firms. Recognizing that the economy and many other factors contribute to young lawyers hanging their own shingles, this committee focuses on providing discounted CLEs, organizing networking events and creating projects aimed at sharpening the skills and increasing the success of active member participants.

## **William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial**

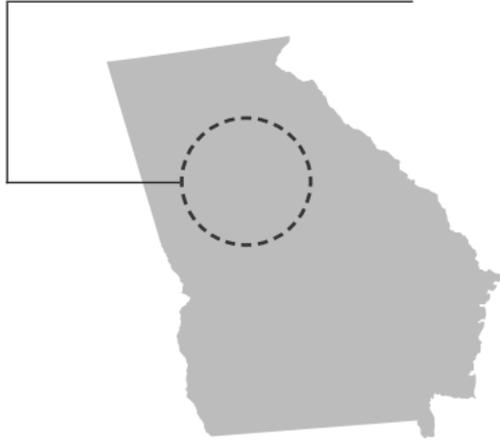
This committee hosts an annual criminal mock jury trial competition among law students. The talented competitors are law students hailing from law schools across the country. All Georgia law schools are also invited to participate. Every summer, the William W. Daniel National Invitational

DID YOU KNOW?



# 60%

OF YOUNG LAWYERS  
WORK IN THE FIVE-COUNTY  
**METRO-ATLANTA AREA**



OF ALL BAR  
MEMBERS  
RESIDE OUT  
OF STATE



OF YOUNG  
LAWYERS  
RESIDE OUT  
OF STATE

Mock Trial Committee sends hundreds of applications to ABA accredited law schools. Only 18 schools are invited to compete in this well-known competition named in honor of the late Judge William W. Daniel of the Superior Court of Fulton County.

## Women in the Profession

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

# YLD Committee Sign-Up Form

This form may be completed online. Go to [www.georgiayld.org](http://www.georgiayld.org) and click on "Join a YLD Committee."

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Name

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Firm

---

Address

---

City

State

Zip

---

Phone

Fax

---

Email Address

Bar Number

- I am interested in serving on the YLD Representative 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 and events by adding me to the email distribution list.

## Join Committees by Selecting Below:

- Advocates for Students with Disabilities
- Community Service Projects
- Corporate Counsel
- Criminal Law
- Disaster Legal Assistance
- Estate & Elder Law
- Ethics & Professionalism
- Family Law
- Government Law
- High School Mock Trial
- Inclusion in the Profession
- Intellectual Property Law
- Intrastate Moot Court Competition
- Labor & Employment Law
- Law School Outreach Program
- Leadership Academy Alumni
- Legal Food Frenzy
- Legislative Affairs
- Litigation
  - Litigation - Business Law Subcommittee
  - Litigation - Judicial Law Clerk Subcommittee
- National Moot Court Competition
- Pro Bono
  - Pro Bono - Public Interest Internship Subcommittee
- Real Estate Law
- Solo Practice/Small Firm
- William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial
- Women in the Profession

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YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION



STATE BAR OF GEORGIA<sup>®</sup>

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