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Future Meeting Dates

FALL

October 16-18, 2026
The Westin Hilton Head Island
Resort & Spa
Hilton Head Island, South
Carolina

MIDYEAR

January 15-17, 2027
Omni Hotel at The Battery
Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

SPRING

March 4-7, 2027
Fairmont El San Juan Hotel
San Juan, Puerto Rico

ANNUAL

June 10-13, 2027
Gaylord Palms Resort &
Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

YLD Annual Meeting General Session
June 12, 2026 | 2 p.m.
Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa | Fernandina Beach, Florida

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to OrderVeronica

Welcome from the State Bar of Georgia..... William C. “Bill” Gentry
President-Elect, State Bar of Georgia

Executive Director’s Report.....Damon Elmore
Executive Director, State Bar of Georgia

Recognition of SponsorsVeronica

Recognition of Special Guests and First-Time Meeting Attendees..... Virginia

[Rethreaded Inc.](#)Lisa Kiral
Director of Business Development, Rethreaded Inc.

Presentation of the Distinguished Judicial Service AwardVeronica

Presentation of the Award of Excellence for Dedication to the YLD.....Veronica

Recognition of 2026 YLD Leadership Academy Class.....James Banter,
Matt Caudell and Kelsie Mattox
Leadership Academy Committee Chairs

Executive Council Reports

- Board of Directors
- Representative Council
- Committee Chairs
- Affiliate Leaders

Officer Reports

- President’s ReportVeronica
- Presentation of Officer and Director’s Gift
- Past President’s Report Kenneth
- President-Elect’s Report Virginia
- Treasurer’s ReportKindall
- Budget
- Secretary’s ReportCaleb
- Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes
- Newsletter Updates Alec and Carlos

Old Business

New Business

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment



June 12, 2026

Dear Board of Governors:

It is my honor to share my final report for the 2025 to 2026 Bar year as the 79th President of the Young Lawyers Division. From the outset of this year, my guiding goal was to "Celebrate the YLD." That theme was rooted in two priorities: bringing young lawyers together across Georgia and spotlighting the Division's impactful programming.

This year, we were intentional about turning that vision into action. As I have shared throughout the year, the YLD represents a significant and largely untapped opportunity for engagement within our Bar. While thousands of young lawyers are members by virtue of their admission, only a small percentage actively participate in YLD programming and leadership. Increasing that engagement remained a central focus of the YLD. Through expanded communication efforts and a renewed emphasis on meaningful, accessible programming, we worked to create more entry points for involvement and connection.

A key component of that effort was strengthening collaboration across Georgia's diverse legal community. For the first time, the YLD established a Multi Bar Committee, bringing together young lawyer leaders from a wide range of affinity, specialty, and local bar associations. This initiative not only broadened our reach, but also enriched our programming with new perspectives and ideas, reinforcing that the YLD is strongest when it reflects the full diversity of the profession it serves.

We also focused on creating consistency in our programming by ensuring that each quarterly meeting offered a well rounded experience through education, service, and social connection. At the same time, we were proud to revive successful pre pandemic events and further establish traditions that will continue to serve the Division in the years ahead.

Our Spring Meeting in Asheville, held in partnership with the North Carolina Young Lawyers Division, exemplified this year's theme in action. Centered on pro bono service and collaboration, the meeting also provided an opportunity to contribute to ongoing recovery efforts in the region. It was a meaningful reminder of the role young lawyers play not only within our profession, but in responding to the needs of broader communities.

Two cornerstone programs further highlight the YLD's impact. The 15th Annual Legal Food Frenzy once again demonstrated the legal community's commitment to addressing food insecurity across Georgia. Likewise, the 20th Leadership Academy marked an important milestone, continuing its legacy of developing thoughtful, service oriented leaders who will shape the future of our profession.

Throughout the year, I have emphasized that the YLD is often the front door to the Bar, where young lawyers first find connection, purpose, and a sense of belonging within the profession. This year's work reflects a continued commitment to fostering that experience by creating opportunities for engagement, encouraging leadership at every level, and ensuring that service remains central to our mission.

In many ways, this year has been about reflection, renewal, and recognition. We have honored the legacy of the YLD, re-energized our membership, and celebrated the extraordinary work of young lawyers across

this state. It has been a true privilege to lead this remarkable group. I am deeply proud of the dedication, creativity, and professionalism demonstrated by our YLD leaders and members, and I am confident the YLD is well-positioned for continued growth and impact for the future.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 30 committees working to support our motto of service to the community and profession. Each committee works diligently to provide substantive programming in their respective focus areas. Below are some of the events, activities, and accomplishments of our YLD committees this year:

YLD Business Litigation Subcommittee

Nathan Miles, Chair

The YLD Business Subcommittee will have a joint CLE on Generative AI in Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution on May 7, at the State Bar Center. It is being co-planned with the State Bar ADR Committee and State Bar E-Discovery & Technology Section.

YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee

Zipporah Tillman and Mary Kathryn Vasquez, Co-Chairs

The YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee partnered with the YLD Workers' Compensation and YLD Labor and Employment Law committees for the Briefs and Bites, a networking event. It was successful with over 20 attendees.

YLD Criminal Law Committee

Devin Rafus and Erin Wingo, Co-Chairs

The YLD Criminal Law Committee held an "Accountability Court Judges Virtual Q&A" on March 6, 2026. We had two judges - Judge Gallant and Judge Wright - answer questions about their Accountability Courts and their take on what defense attorneys need to know about Accountability Courts as an option. The event was held virtually and 1 CLE credit was given to attendees.

YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee

Chelsey Haun and Benjamin Walker, Co-Chairs

The YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee held a Wills Clinic on April 11 at Peace Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. Committee paired with Atlanta Legal Aid Society to put together a pro bono Wills Clinic for low-income homeowners. We had 15 clients attend for estate planning. We had between 20 and 30 volunteers. All Clients were offered a Last Will and Testament, Financial Power of Attorney, and Advanced Directive for Healthcare free of cost.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee

Meagan Hurley and Meghan Pittman, Co-Chairs

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee continues to actively advance programming and initiatives designed to promote ethical practice, professionalism, and engagement among young lawyers across Georgia.

Ongoing Initiatives Rule of the Month Series The Committee has officially relaunched its “Rule of the Month” initiative, which highlights key provisions of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and provides practical guidance for application in everyday practice. The Committee plans to continue expanding this series and welcomes member contributions.

Upcoming CLE Programming Artificial Intelligence CLE (May 29, 2026) The Committee is co-hosting a virtual CLE program with the Privacy & Technology Section titled: “Augmented Practice, Unchanged Duties: Professionalism and Ethics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.” This free program (2.0 CLE hours: 1 ethics / 1 professionalism) will address emerging issues related to AI in legal practice, including competence, confidentiality, supervision, and maintaining independent professional judgment. Confirmed speakers include academic and regulatory perspectives, with participation anticipated from the Office of General Counsel. Lawyers in Public Office CLE (June 25, 2026) In partnership with the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, the Committee is organizing a second virtual CLE: “Juggling Professionalism, Ethics and Public Office.” This program will explore how attorneys balance legal practice with service in public office and will feature a diverse panel of legal professionals serving in various public roles across the state. The program is intended to inform and encourage young lawyers considering public service.

Awards & Recognition YLD Ethics & Professionalism Award Nominations are currently open for the 22nd Annual YLD Ethics & Professionalism Award, which recognizes a YLD member who exemplifies the Lawyer’s Creed. The nomination deadline is April 27, 2026. Following the close of nominations, the Committee will review submissions and select a recipient to be honored at the State Bar Annual Meeting in June. Member Engagement & YLD Programming Committee members remain actively engaged in YLD programming and outreach efforts.

In March, the Ethics & Professionalism Committee co-sponsored the YLD Kickball Tournament as part of the Leadership Academy programming in Savannah. Committee members also attended and participated in additional Savannah-area YLD events, strengthening connections with members across the state. The Committee looks forward to continued engagement at upcoming events, including the YLD Spring Meeting in Asheville (April 24–26, 2026) and the State Bar Annual Meeting at Amelia Island (June 11–14, 2026). The Committee will continue hosting monthly virtual check-ins, as well.

YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee

Caleb Grant and Maggie Martin, Co-Chairs

The YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee is holding a spring hike together with the Wellness Committee on May 9 at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park in Macon, Georgia. We are planning on inviting several local judges to the event to make this a relaxed networking opportunity for our committee members. An optional lunch will follow in Macon. We are also planning on holding a Clerkship War Stories event in late May where several former law clerks will give advice and tell stories about challenging aspects of the job.

YLD Law School Outreach Committee

Tom Church, Chair

The YLD Law School Outreach Committee has held a study break handing out ice cream at UGA Law School on April 7 and giving out cookies to students at Mercer Law School on April 21.

YLD Leadership Academy

James Banter, Matt Caudell and Kelsie Mattox, Co-Chairs

The 2026 Leadership Academy completed our 3rd session March 6th and 7th in Savannah, GA. The session began with a Southern District swearing-in ceremony led by Judge Baker on Friday. The following morning, the Leadership Academy spent several hours volunteering at Harvest Food Bank. Afterward, the group participated in a YLD kickball game, where Judges Colbert, Middleton and Huffman served as referees. To conclude the session, the leadership academy enjoyed a mixer at Starland Yard. Session 4 of Leadership Academy will be in Ashville, NC on April 24th-26th and will be held in conjunction with the YLD Spring Meeting. During session 4, Leadership Academy will volunteer at ABCCM Hominy Valley Crisis Ministry, attend a CLE with Ashville Mayor Esther R. Manheimer, and enjoy a mixer with the North Carolina YLD.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Alexa Dato-Caudell and Jack Wareham, Co-Chairs

The Legal Food Frenzy (LFF) competition begins April 20th and ends May 1st! Our goal is \$1 million, or individually, each attorney donates the equivalent of 1 billable hour. You can register a team for your firm, organization, or company at any point during the competition, and resources for fundraising, email templates, etc. can be found at: <https://legalfoodfrenzy.org/>. In the event you do not want to register a team but would still like to participate, we encourage you to donate to your regional food bank's fundraising page and to spread the word regarding LFF amongst your coworkers, colleagues, and local or affiliate bar organizations.

YLD Sports Law Committee

Joy Bonner, Chair

The YLD Sports Law Committee has completed its programming for the Bar year. For the month of March, we collaborated with the Leadership Academy and held two YLD kickball events in Savannah on March 7th and in Atlanta on March 21. We had an amazing turnout and feedback.

YLD AFFILIATES

The YLD currently has seven recognized active affiliates around the state: Young Lawyers of Augusta, Cobb County Younger Lawyers Division, Columbus YLD, Gate City YLD, Glynn County YLD, Houston County YLD, Macon YLD and Savannah YLD. If you know anyone interested in joining the affiliates, please let us know.

YLD MEETINGS

Annual Meeting | Jun. 11-14

Omni Amelia Island Resort
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica R. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' and 'C'.

Veronica R. Cox
YLD President



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Treasurer's Report

June 12, 2026

Fernandina Beach, FL

Committee	Budget 2025-26	YTD Expenses	YTD Income	Balance
Advocates for Students with Disabilities	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Business Law	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Community Service Projects	\$1,250.00	\$89.00	\$0.00	\$1,161.00
Corporate Counsel	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Criminal Law	\$500.00	\$638.00	\$0.00	(\$138.00)
Disaster Legal Assistance	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Estate and Elder Law	\$500.00	\$410.00	\$0.00	\$90.00
Ethics and Professionalism	\$850.00	\$286.00	\$0.00	\$564.00
Family Law	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
High School Mock Trial	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inclusion in the Profession	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Intellectual Property	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Intrastate Moot Court	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Judicial Law Clerk	\$650.00	\$271.00	\$0.00	\$379.00
Labor and Employment	\$750.00	\$789.00	\$0.00	(\$39.00)
Law School Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$1,235.00	\$0.00	\$765.00
Leadership Academy	\$22,000.00	\$18,681.00	\$0.00	\$3,319.00
Leadership Academy Alumni	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legal Food Frenzy	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Legislative Affairs	\$700.00	\$519.00	\$0.00	\$181.00
Litigation	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,750.00	\$250.00
Membership Initiatives	\$1,300.00	\$1,083.00	\$0.00	\$217.00
National Moot Court Competition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Public Interest Internship Program	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
Real Estate	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$380.00
Signature Fundraiser	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solo & Small Firm	\$500.00	\$624.00	\$420.00	\$296.00
Sports Law	\$1,000.00	\$4,819.00	\$0.00	(\$3,819.00)
Standing Committees	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Wellness	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
William Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Women in the Profession	\$1,250.00	\$4,309.00	\$4,040.00	\$981.00
Workers' Compensation	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$55,350.00	\$48,023.00	\$6,210.00	\$13,537.00



**YLD SPRING MEETING
GENERAL SESSION
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2026
Kimpton Hotel Arras
Asheville, NC**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

YLD President Veronica Cox called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

President-Elect, Virginia Josey, recognized the special guests attending which included many first-time attendees including Courtney Russell from Atlanta, Cory Tillman from Gwinnett and Sydney Painter from Cartersville, Georgia and several others that are members of the 2026 Leadership Academy class.

CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUE CONTEST

Megan Golden discussed the Connect with a Colleague Contest in partnership with the Chief Justice Committee on Professionalism. The deadline is April 30, 2026 and encouraged members to connect with other attorneys that they did not already have a connection or relationship with and get to know them, take a selfie and submit it to the committee. Several great prizes are available for those that submit their information along with the connected colleague.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Luegering, a staff attorney with the Brunswick Office of Georgia Legal Services, spoke on the importance of pro bono work around the state with Georgia Legal Services. Georgia Legal Services provides services to 154 of 159 counties in Georgia. She emphasized that rural counties with small numbers of practicing attorneys face many challenges that can only be alleviated by pro bono service. She encouraged members to go to glsp.org to register to provide assistance or to connect on their app to share your availability.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

- Board of Directors
 - No report was given.
- Representative Council
 - No report was given.
- Committee Chairs
 - Alexa Dato-Caudell – spotlighted the Legal Food Frenzy Competition that would

be taking place April 20 – May 1, 2026. As of the date of the meeting, there was 87 active teams that had contributed close to \$187,000. The goal is to have \$1,000,000 donated this year.

- Mallory Flemming (Judicial Law Clerk Committee) – highlighted upcoming hike being done in collaboration with the Wellness Committee on May 9, 2026 at 10 a.m. at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park in Macon, Georgia. Children, pets and spouses are welcome to join members in the hike.
- Chelsey Haun (Estate and Elder Law Committee) – held a wills clinic on April 11, 2026 in Decatur at Peace Baptist Church. There were close to 20 volunteers, included 2 from the newly created Senior Lawyers Division and they served approximately 15 clients.
- Affiliate Leaders
 - The Gate City Bar Association held a records restriction clinic in collaboration with the Georgia Justice Project. They helped approximately 20 people in the clinic and there will be ongoing monthly opportunities to partner with them to participate in those type clinics.
 - Mallory Flemming (Macon YLD) – held an event with Mercer Law School where they made sandwiches for a local community kitchen on April 15, 2026. They are also scheduled to host a judicial reception sponsored by James Bates Brannan Groover in Macon on April 28, 2026. All are invited to register and attend.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report

YLD President Veronica Cox thanked all attendees for making the trip to Asheville and making the weekend a success with the great attendance. She reported that so far in the bar year that the YLD had hosted over 50 events, including CLEs, social events and service projects. She highlighted the remaining agenda for the Spring meeting that included a CLE with the mayor of Asheville and the city of Asheville attorney and their roles in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and a networking event with the North Carolina YLD at Burial Brewery at 6 p.m.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting at the Omni Amelia Island beginning on Thursday, June 11, 2026 and continuing through Sunday, June 14, 2026, with Friday, June 12, being the primary focus of YLD events with multiple CLEs, early morning wellness activities, YLD Leadership Academy Mixer and the YLD Dinner and Swearing In Ceremony on Friday evening. The service project for the Annual Meeting will be donation drive with the Senior Lawyers Division providing care items for a human trafficking survivor center. On Saturday evening, the State Bar will hold the Annual President's Gala. She encouraged committee chairs and those in leadership to use the remaining time in the year to make their impact felt in the YLD.

She congratulated Kelsie Mattox on her being elected as the YLD Secretary for the 2026-2027 Bar Year.

Immediate Past President Report

Immediate Past President Kenneth Mitchell provided his report in that he stated that he had nothing to report. He encouraged members to stay involved in the Bar in some capacity.

President-Elect's Report

President-Elect Virginia Josey reported that she is still finalizing her committee chair members other members of leadership for the 2026-2027 Bar Year. She encouraged anyone interested to reach out to her and let her know what area(s) that they would be interested and willing to serve in. She stated that one of the things that makes participation within the YLD great is that there are so many diverse backgrounds from all over the state from different practice areas that are involved so it makes being involved so much more rewarding. She also stated the importance of bar service and highlighted her involvement in the Bar disciplinary board and encouraged members to check in on each other often as we are in a tough profession that can be difficult if faced alone. She stated that we have a wide range of people involved that all bring something unique to the table for each other and wants to really bring more of that out in her upcoming year as President.

Treasurer's Report

YLD Treasurer Kindall Browning-Rickle announced that she distributed the budget in the materials provided through the QR code at the meeting and encouraged members to use their budgets allocated to their committees. She stated that we only have about two months remaining in the Bar year and only roughly half of the budget for the YLD had been spent. If anyone has any questions concerning the budget, she encouraged members to reach out to her.

She also encouraged members to participate in the connect with a colleague initiative mentioned earlier in the meeting and highlighted its importance for members from smaller areas of the state. She also asked members to register to volunteer with their local pro bono coordinator and shared that she has reaped many benefits from providing those services.

Secretary's Report

YLD Secretary Caleb Ratliff requested that all meeting attendees sign in via the QR code that was provided so that we can accurately account for attendance. He reported on the mid-year meeting minutes in the meeting materials. After being moved and properly seconded, the Mid-Year Meeting minutes were approved.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter Co-Editor Carlos Fernandez highlighted the Legal Writing Summit that was a great success that was held on March 13, 2026. He encouraged members to submit articles. The upcoming issue will be in all Spanish. The deadline for submission of articles for the summer issue is May 1, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

The Ethics and Professionalism Award nominations are still open and will remain open through Friday, May 1, 2026.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

YLD Treasurer Kindall Browning-Rickle recently obtained ducks and chickens on her farm and she celebrated her fifth wedding anniversary the day before.

Taylor Wilson recently gave her first sermon as a minister.

Alex Clark helped put on a moot court competition with help from the leadership academy class.

Virginia Josey's law firm has a new building in Macon, Georgia.

Alec Chappel has moved into private practice.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

**Respectfully,
Caleb Ratliff**

**YLD Secretary
State Bar of Georgia**