YLD Holds Record-Breaking Signature Fundraiser to Benefit PIIP

by Meredith Sutton

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the YLD held its 8th annual Signature Fundraiser at the Biltmore in Midtown Atlanta. This year’s goal was to raise funds to contribute to YLD President Darrell Sutton’s effort to endow the YLD’s Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP).

Under the leadership of fundraiser co-chairs Jessica Sabbath and Meredith Sutton, records were set in every category. The 289 lawyers, judges, businesspeople and guests helped raise more than $90,000, nearly $20,000 more than any prior Signature Fundraiser. More than $66,000 will be donated to the PIIP endowment!

Launched during the 2009-10 Bar year, PIIP matches law students and unemployed or underemployed young lawyers with summer internships at Georgia’s public interest legal organizations and provides the interns with a $5,000 stipend to defray living expenses during the internship. Since its inception, 24 PIIP interns (out of 274 applicants) have provided legal services at Georgia Legal Services Program, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, DeKalb County Public Defender’s Office, DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center, Federal Defender Program, Gideon’s Promise and Augusta District Attorney’s Office.

The fundraiser saw the return of the Black Tie & Blackjack theme. The evening began with a reception for the Host Committee and sponsors. Fulton County State Court Judge and bourbon aficionado Wes Tailor guided attendees through a bourbon tasting by providing useful tips to enjoy this complex alcohol. At the main event, guests enjoyed an open bar, heavy hors d’oeuvres, and live music and dancing courtesy of Atlanta’s very own DJ TJ. The night also included a silent auction featuring more than 50 items including: sports tickets and memorabilia; artwork; recreation events; travel and dining certificates; and jewelry. Attorney General Sam Olens auctioned an African photo safari, a weekend trip to The Cloister at Sea Island, and a professional photo shoot.

Pictures from Black Tie & Blackjack, taken by Zach Porter Photography, can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/yld. A special thanks goes to the members of the State Bar, their guests, local businesses and community members for helping make this year’s Signature Fundraiser the most successful since its inception.

YLD Officers enjoying the evening at the Biltmore. (L-R) Jennifer Mock, secretary; Darrell Sutton, president; Sharii Edenfield, president-elect; Jack Long, treasurer; and newsletter co-editors, Crystal Conway and Will Davis.
For as long as I have been a young lawyer, the YLD has been known as “the service arm of the Bar.” Indeed, “to foster among YLD Members the principles of duty and service to the public” is the third of the YLD’s six stated purposes in Article I, Section 2 of its Bylaws. More than any of the other five, though, it is this purpose that is fulfilled everyday by the current crop of young lawyers. One needs to look no further than this issue of The YLD Review to see that.

Why are “duty and service to the public” so important that they’re a stated purpose of the YLD? Why do so many young lawyers devote time to organize a fundraiser when they have so little time to give? Why does the Leadership Academy devote a full session each year to service to the public? Why did two young lawyers on their own develop a program devoted to serving this state’s first responders by conducting clinics where wills and other estate planning documents are prepared for them? To paraphrase YLD Past President Josh Bell, they do so because it’s the only means we have to pay the debt we owe the public for the privilege of being a lawyer.

As lawyers we have been given an opportunity to succeed that few others have. Before we were lawyers we were given the opportunity to obtain a first-rate education. Once we became lawyers we were given the daily opportunity to influence justice with our every professional move, and be handsomely rewarded for it. How many other professionals find themselves regularly with another’s fate in their hands—whether the accused criminal or the victim of a crime, the injured plaintiff or the alleged tortfeasor?

But with every opportunity comes a corresponding obligation. In other words, nothing in life is free. We cannot continue to reap the benefits, financial and otherwise, our profession provides us without acting to fulfill the obligation that comes with it. How you fulfill this obligation is not important; that you do so is.

It is not lost on me that doing so is difficult, though. It requires that you make the hard choice to serve the public, the community and the Bar. This choice is hard because the benefit of service is not only uncertain, but is unquantifiable. And everyone knows that lawyers like certainty and tangible results. We want to know how a provision will be construed before it is inserted into a contract.

The choice to serve is also hard because it requires time, of which there is a finite amount. In our business, time truly is money. So the choice to allocate an hour to a pro bono case means the choice to take that hour away from a paying case. The choice to spend a day volunteering for charity means making the corresponding choice to allocate that day to a non-revenue-generating pursuit. The choice to attend a Bar function means the choice to spend time with other lawyers in a context where money likely won’t be made.

When deciding whether to make this hard choice, remember that excellence, professionally and otherwise, can be achieved only by making the hard choice. While doing so might lead to monumental failure if you make the wrong choice, it will lead to roaring, lasting success if you make the right choice. It is no secret that the hard choice requires a willingness to take risk. You have to convince yourself to go after a result that is uncertain and far from guaranteed. And at the same time you have to ignore the easy choice, which is the pursuit of a result you feel reasonably confident will occur. To use a gambling analogy, only with high risk do you acquire high reward.

The only certain thing about the hard choice to serve a cause other than our practices is that the result of doing so is uncertain. But if there is a tangible result to be gained by doing it—and I truly believe there is—the only way you’ll find it is to take the risk and head down that uncertain path.

So start your journey down that uncertain path. Join the Community Service Projects Committee in one of its upcoming ventures. Volunteer to serve as an evaluator for the Georgia High School Mock Trial competition. Volunteer to participate in one of the YLD’s Wills Clinics. Go beyond the YLD and volunteer to take a case pro bono, either on your own or from Atlanta Legal Aid or Georgia Legal Services Program. Volunteer for a local charity. Organize a school supply drive for local schoolchildren.

No matter your chosen outlet for service, just find time to serve. It is vital because it positively impacts the Bar and everything beyond it.

YLD Spring Meeting
Save the Date!

May 15-18
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge
Charlotte, N.C.

Events will include a Welcome Reception, CLE, General Session, Group Dinner and NASCAR All-Star Race!

Service: Our Duty and Our Honor

by Darrell L. Sutton

We want to know how a provision will be construed before it is inserted into a contract.

The choice to serve is also hard because it requires time, of which there is a finite amount. In our business, time truly is money. So the choice to allocate an hour to a pro bono case means the choice to take that hour away from a paying case. The choice to spend a day volunteering for charity means making the corresponding choice to allocate that day to a non-revenue-generating pursuit. The choice to attend a Bar function means the choice to spend time with other lawyers in a context where money likely won’t be made.

When deciding whether to make this hard choice, remember that excellence, professionally and otherwise, can be achieved only by making the hard choice. While doing so might lead to monumental failure if you make the wrong choice, it will lead to roaring, lasting success if you make the right choice. It is no secret that the hard choice requires a willingness to take risk. You have to convince yourself to go after a result that is uncertain and far from guaranteed. And at the same time you have to ignore the easy choice, which is the pursuit of a result you feel reasonably confident will occur. To use a gambling analogy, only with high risk do you acquire high reward.

The only certain thing about the hard choice to serve a cause other than our practices is that the result of doing so is uncertain. But if there is a tangible result to be gained by doing it—and I truly believe there is—the only way you’ll find it is to take the risk and head down that uncertain path.

So start your journey down that uncertain path. Join the Community Service Projects Committee in one of its upcoming ventures. Volunteer to serve as an evaluator for the Georgia High School Mock Trial competition. Volunteer to participate in one of the YLD’s Wills Clinics. Go beyond the YLD and volunteer to take a case pro bono, either on your own or from Atlanta Legal Aid or Georgia Legal Services Program. Volunteer for a local charity. Organize a school supply drive for local schoolchildren.

No matter your chosen outlet for service, just find time to serve. It is vital because it positively impacts the Bar and everything beyond it.

Service: Our Duty and Our Honor

by Darrell L. Sutton

We want to know how a provision will be construed before it is inserted into a contract.

The choice to serve is also hard because it requires time, of which there is a finite amount. In our business, time truly is money. So the choice to allocate an hour to a pro bono case means the choice to take that hour away from a paying case. The choice to spend a day volunteering for charity means making the corresponding choice to allocate that day to a non-revenue-generating pursuit. The choice to attend a Bar function means the choice to spend time with other lawyers in a context where money likely won’t be made.

When deciding whether to make this hard choice, remember that excellence, professionally and otherwise, can be achieved only by making the hard choice. While doing so might lead to monumental failure if you make the wrong choice, it will lead to roaring, lasting success if you make the right choice. It is no secret that the hard choice requires a willingness to take risk. You have to convince yourself to go after a result that is uncertain and far from guaranteed. And at the same time you have to ignore the easy choice, which is the pursuit of a result you feel reasonably confident will occur. To use a gambling analogy, only with high risk do you acquire high reward.

The only certain thing about the hard choice to serve a cause other than our practices is that the result of doing so is uncertain. But if there is a tangible result to be gained by doing it—and I truly believe there is—the only way you’ll find it is to take the risk and head down that uncertain path.

So start your journey down that uncertain path. Join the Community Service Projects Committee in one of its upcoming ventures. Volunteer to serve as an evaluator for the Georgia High School Mock Trial competition. Volunteer to participate in one of the YLD’s Wills Clinics. Go beyond the YLD and volunteer to take a case pro bono, either on your own or from Atlanta Legal Aid or Georgia Legal Services Program. Volunteer for a local charity. Organize a school supply drive for local schoolchildren.

No matter your chosen outlet for service, just find time to serve. It is vital because it positively impacts the Bar and everything beyond it.
**Caselaw Update**

**Criminal Law**


The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled on when and why a roadblock can be implemented. The decision to implement a roadblock must be made by a supervisor acting in advance as opposed to an officer in the field making a spontaneous decision. Also, a checkpoint program needs to have a primary purpose other than a general interest in crime control.

**Family Law**

*Smith v. Smith*, S13F0682

The parties were divorced on March 2, 2012, by Final Judgment and Decree of Divorce. Later, Husband was found in contempt for his failure to pay Wife’s health insurance premiums, to make mortgage payments on the marital home where Wife resided and to turn over personal property awarded to Wife. The facts at the hearing revealed that Husband claimed no knowledge of the whereabouts of the personal property and during the pendency of the divorce proceedings, he had removed at least one truckload of personal property from the home. Wife presented uncontested evidence establishing the fair market value of the missing property. As such, the lower court ordered Husband, inter alia, to pay to Wife the fair market value of the personal property.

On appeal, Husband argued that the trial court improperly modified the Final Judgment and Decree of Divorce by awarding Wife monetary compensation in lieu of the personal property originally awarded to her. The Supreme Court of Georgia denied Husband’s appeal, reasoning that the nature of the relief ordered by the lower court did not modify the Decree of Divorce, but rather remedied the harm caused by Husband’s contemptuous conduct. In making its ruling, the Court relied upon O.C.G.A. § 23-4-31.

Husband likewise complained that the Final Judgment and Decree of Divorce is void on its face, as it failed to award specific items of personal property to either party and to designate a date upon which Wife would take possession of the marital home. The Husband’s argument was rejected on appeal, as the Court provided that “the failure to dispose of all marital property within a final judgment does not render [a] judgment itself void or unenforceable,” and “[W]ife’s right of possession of the home, became enforceable on the date [the Decree] was entered.”

Finally, Husband argued that the lower court improperly denied his motions for new trial, to set aside and/or to correct the judgment in which he alleged newly discovered evidence of adultery. Again, the Supreme Court of Georgia denied Husband’s claim, finding that he failed to show that “wanton or undue diligence was not the reason the evidence was not acquired sooner,” as is required by Georgia law.

**Juvenile Law**

*In the Interest of H.B., R.G., and D.G.*, 2013 WL 5364864

In October 2012, DFCS (the Department) investigated an incidence of domestic violence between the mother and boyfriend that was witnessed by the children. The boyfriend was arrested after the mother called the police when he fled from the house. The police officer who spoke with the children said they were “shook up” from the incident. While investigating, a DFCS case worker found the boyfriend in the home alone after being released on bond. Taking the advice of her attorney, the mother declined to sign the safety plan prepared by the department. The juvenile court found that the children were “without proper parental care or control” and placed the children with other family members.

The Court of Appeals cited *In the Interest of H.S.*, 285 Ga.App 839, 841, 648 S.E.2d 143 (2007) to explain that there has to be proof by clear and convincing evidence that the parent is unfit in order for a child to be found deprived and for the parent to even temporarily lose custody. The unfitness of the parent can be intentional or unintentional misconduct that results in the abuse or neglect of the child. The clear and convincing evidence standard applies to help eliminate the risk that families will be disrupted based on a few exceptional occurrences.

The court explained that the mother was the victim of one incident of domestic violence, there was no evidence of violence toward the children and there was no evidence that the children suffered any emotional or physical harm from the one incident of domestic violence. Furthermore, there was no evidence that the children lacked adequate food, shelter or education.

The department argued that the children’s deprivation was the result of the mother not meeting with the department and the mother letting the boyfriend return to her home. The Court of Appeals explained that the mother was not required to sign the safety plan with the department. Furthermore, the evidence failed to show how the children were in danger when the boyfriend was in the home by himself on one occasion.
Committee Updates

Litigation

by Ryals Stone, Kevin Patrick, Brandon Smith and John Jett

The Litigation Committee is pleased to announce that it has finalized two of the speakers for the annual “War Stories” Lecture Series. On March 26, the committee will host Adam Malone of Malone Law. He and his father are renowned trial attorneys known for their consummate professionalism and have handled some of the highest profile cases in the state. For example, Malone successfully argued against capping non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases. On April 30, Chief Justice Hugh Thompson of the Supreme Court of Georgia will speak. He is a Milledgeville native and has served on the Court since 1994. The lectures will be held from 12–1:30 p.m. at the Bar Center and lunch will be provided. For more information on this series, please contact Ryals Stone at ryalstone@booneandstone.com or Kevin Patrick at kpatrick@gmlj.com.

Community Service Projects

by Nicholas Bedford

In addition, the Litigation Committee has planned a number of other exciting events. Everyone is invited to attend a reception, hosted in conjunction with the Family Law Committee, honoring the Fulton County Judiciary on May 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Glenn Hotel. Please contact John Jett at jjett@kilpatricktownsend.com or Brandon Smith at bsmith@cssfirm.com for additional information.

National Moot Court Competition, Region V

by April Holloway

The National Moot Court Competition, Region V, hosted preliminary rounds at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on Nov. 15, thanks to the coordination and assistance from Fred Childers, chief deputy clerk; Michael Smith, chief deputy of information technology; and Jennifer Jones, human resources administrator. Schools from across the Southeast competed for the honor of representing the Region in New York in the National Competition. After hosting teams in the preliminary rounds, six teams advanced to the quarter-finals.

The semi-finalists were the University of Georgia, Stetson University, the University of Miami and Emory University. After facing a tough judging panel consisting of Soo Hong, Devin Franklin, Allen Wallace, Candis Jones, Grant Tall and Austin Gillis, the University of Georgia and Emory advanced to the finals. The final round judges, composed of Hon. Kimberly Esmond Adams, Hon. Angela Brown, Jacqueline Bunn, Will Varrihay, Darrell Sutton and Katie Powers, also presented a vigorous bench. The University of Georgia was named the overall winner and also won awards for Best Oralist and Best Petitioner’s Brief. Stetson won the award for Best Respondent’s Brief. Both the University of Georgia and Emory will represent Region V in New York.

The committee extends a heartfelt thanks to all volunteer judges and brief graders as well as to Attorney General Sam Olens for addressing the competitors. It additionally thanks the following sponsors: Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP; Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, LLP; and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Finally, the committee thanks Bert Hummel and Cara Convery for their dedication to this year’s competition.

Affiliate Updates

Augusta YLD

by Garon Muller

Young lawyers in Augusta have been quite busy in the past few months. In October, there was a happy hour at Edgar’s Grille where members heard from a representative of Nurse Consultants about the services they provide. In early November, the Augusta YLD held a happy hour at 5 O’Clock Bistro, joined by Elliot-Davis, a local accounting firm. Attendees enjoyed meeting local young professionals and building new relationships within the community. In December, the cold was braved for a good cause, taking part in the annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Members were stationed at businesses throughout Augusta and filled the air with that familiar Christmas sound. The 2014 Kick-Off was held at Teresa’s Mexican Restaurant in February where upcoming activities were planned.

Columbus YLD

By Matt Massey

On Feb. 19, members of the YLD Executive Committee visited the Columbus YLD affiliate at the Loft Columbus. Hon. Frank Jordan and William Rumer attended the event where members enjoyed meeting the Executive Committee members and learning about other YLD chapters around Georgia. This was the first outing since the holiday party in December. Admission to the December party required a toy for Santa’s Castle, a charity that provides toys at Christmas to military children in the Fort Benning area. The current officers are: Matt Massey, president; Heather Garrett, vice-president; Shaun O’Hara, treasurer; and Megan Scheller, secretary.
An Invitation to Serve

by Jake Evans

In John F. Kennedy’s 1961 inaugural address, he spoke the venerable words, “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” The artful splendor of these words is equally intelligible as is their message. He challenged Americans to engage in civic action and public service to strengthen and unite the country during the Cold War. He knew that, during a time of such severe adversity, nothing could inspire and signal a formidable and reviving nation than a selfless nation.

Savannah young lawyers ended 2013 by raising money for two of Savannah’s worthy causes. They competed to see which YLD Executive Board member would go “Over the Edge” by raising the most donations for the Boy Scouts of America Coastal Empire Council. The member who won would rappel down the Manger Building in Savannah on Dec. 13. YLD President Blake Greco earned the honor of representing the organization and went “Over the Edge” at the event. The YLD raised more than $1,100 for the Boy Scouts as part of the fundraiser.

At the annual Tacky Sweater Christmas Party, young lawyers donned their favorite tacky Christmas attire and gathered to enjoy delicious food and great company. Lindsey and Steven Hobbs won the best couple’s costume, while Kate Lawson won the best individual outfit. For the second year in a row, meals were prepared at the Ronald McDonald House for the families in residence. Money was raised for the charity at a trivia night in January.

The Savannah YLD hosted a happy hour after the Atlanta Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia’s ethics CLE at the State Bar Coastal Office on March 6. The group is in the process of finalizing the details for 2014 events, such as a Picnic in the Park later in the spring.

Glynn County YLD

by Melissa Cruthirds

Glynn County YLD and CASA make a great team! As a response to a need by Glynn County CASA, Lacey Houghton, secretary of the Glynn County YLD, organized a panel training and discussion on courtroom procedures for CASA volunteers, which was held on Nov. 4. The panel provided information to CASA volunteers on general courtroom etiquette, what to do if they receive a subpoena, preparing for and giving testimony, the rules of evidence and the difference between the various courts in Georgia.

Run for the YLD Executive Council

Now is the time to throw your hat in the ring! Elections for representatives will occur at the YLD Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, Amelia Island, Fla., on June 6.

The Executive Council is comprised of 10 representatives from each of Georgia’s federal judicial districts (Northern, Middle and Southern), two representatives from outside Georgia and 12 members-at-large. Representatives participate in the YLD’s five annual membership meetings, provide input and perspective with respect to YLD activities and are appointed to serve on various YLD committees.

If you are interested in standing for election to the YLD Executive Council, please send a biography or resume to Mary McAfee, YLD director, at marym@gabar.org or fax to 404-287-4990 by May 16. For more information about the elections, contact Mary McAfee or YLD President-Elect Sharri Edenfield at sharri@ecbpc.com.
The YLD Review

February 8, 2014

The YLD Review

6

BL ACK TIE & BLACK JACK

BENEFITTING

YLD PUBLIC INTEREST INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 8, 2014

Co-chairs:

Jessica Sabbath and Meredith Sutton

Host Committee

Amy T. Andrews
Andrew J. Becker
Jennifer Blackburn & Ralph Alewine
Joshua I. Bosin
Craig & Ana Buckthal
Kelly E. Campanella
Sarah Cipherly
Carol V. Clark

James Clifton
C. Sutton Connelly
Joe Dent
Hemanth Digumarthi
Sean Ditzel
David & Katie Dod
Sharri Edenfield
Simone and Ava Elmore
Blake & Margaret Head
Sarah Kjellin
Mary McAfee
Terry L. Miller
Jennifer Campbell Mock
William Nabors
Julia W. Newman
Jon Pannell
Leslie Ann Powell

$500
• Amy & Brian Howell
• King & Spalding
• LexisNexis

$2,500
• Alston & Bird LLP
• Cobb County Bar Association
• Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC
• Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

$1,000
• Balch & Bingham LLP
• Constany, Brooks & Smith, LLP
• Duane Morris LLP
• Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, P.C.
• Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP
• John R.B. Long, P.C.

Sponsors

• Kutak Rock LLP
• Law Offices of Betty Nguyen Davis
• Law Offices of Joshua C. Bell, LLC
• Merrill Corporation
• Judge Michael P. Boggs
• Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Sinoak & Stewart, P.C.
• Oliver Maner, LLP
• Paragon Legal Tech Support
• Patrice Perkins-Hooker
• Polsinelli
• Ricoh Legal
• Robbins Ross Alloy
• Belinfante Littlefield LLC
• Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC
• Sutton Law Group, LLC
• Tina & Hansell Roddenbery
• Watson Spence LLP

$500
• Andrew W. Jones PC
• Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
• Baur & Forman LLP
• Carl R. Varndoe, Jones, Osteen & Jones
• Charles “Buck” Ruffin
• Children’s Schlicting & Smith, LLC
• David S. Lipscomb
• First Landmark Bank
• Hartley Rowe & Fowler, P.C.
• Jessica Cabral Odom
• Jones Day
• LaMalva, Geoffroy & Oeland PC
• Law Office of Alex Susor, P.C.
• Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLC
• Lucas Group
• LWG
• Merbaum Law

Group, P.C
• O’Daniel McDonald, LLC
• Robin Frazer Clark, PC
• Schiff Hardin LLP
• SEA, Ltd.
• Shred-X Corporation
• Tilley, Deems, Helton & Trotter, LLC

In-Kind
• Avalon Catering
• DJ TJ
• Georgia Crown
• Glass Dee Entertainment
• Ricoh Legal
• The Biltmore Ballrooms
• Zach Porter Photography

Additional Donors
• Avarita Hanson
• Jacob Poole
• Kori Flake
• Rita Sheffey
• Shiriki Cavitt

Silent Auction Items Donated By

3 Chicks Jewelry
Agave Restaurant
Alston & Bird LLP
Amber O’Neal
Atlanta Braves
Barnsley Resort
Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa
Children’s Museum of Atlanta
CNN
CrossFit Terminus

Cruz & Associates, P.C.
Darrell Sutton
David Turrentine
Decatur Yoga & Pilates
Dick Vitale
Edward McAfee
Fifth Group Restaurants
Four Seasons Hotel - Atlanta
Georgia Aquarium
Helene Courault-Toure
Hometown Yoga

Jazmin Spa
Just In Time Consign
Kate Byars
Lake Lanier Islands Resort
Larry Feldman
Leigh Tyson
Meredith Sutton
OniYoga
P3 Lab
Precise Pens
Pure Barre
Regency Fine Art

Sherry Rosen Photography
Slappey & Sadd, LLC
Sq. Ft.
Squash Blossom
Stone Mountain Park
The Knot Co.
Toutman Sanders LLP
UGA Athletics Department
Vivid Hair Salon
Zoo Atlanta

The YLD Review
Tips for Service

by Lyndosha Jamison

Mahatma Ghandi said it best, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Although easier said than done, it is important for each of us to discover the unique ways we were created to serve. Our profession demands a servant’s heart. We give our days, weeks and years to clients who entrust us with their deepest secrets, wildest dreams and most prized possessions.

November 2013 marked my one year anniversary as a practicing attorney. In an effort to ensure that I remained aware of my duty to serve, I examined my first year of practicing attorney. In an effort to ensure that I remained aware of my duty to serve, I examined my first year of practice for nuggets of wisdom. I realize that it is a privilege just to recognize these truths and use them as a guide on practice for nuggets of wisdom. I realize that it is a privilege just to recognize these truths and use them as a guide on this beautiful journey through the practice of law. I hope that these lessons encourage you as you undertake an act of service as much as they have encouraged me!

Ten lessons learned in service from my first year of practice:

1. Be direct. You experience instability when you operate with ulterior motives. Serve with purpose.
2. There are multiple truths that you must consider in any given situation. Examine them ALL and then make a decision.
3. You can only control yourself. Don’t bother trying to control another person. You can only guide and influence others if they want to be led.
4. Think and decide before you act. And give the same response whether your client is paying or not.
5. Life is interdependent. Your decisions are not isolated. People depend on you.
6. Preserve your name and position for the future. Make decisions today that open up opportunities for tomorrow.
7. Engage in purposeful dialogue on social media.
8. The best way to keep things balanced is to plan! Don’t drop the ball just because something is pro bono.
9. Organization reduces stress!
10. The invisible gives birth to the physical (your thoughts produce your reality—be aware of them). Approach service with an open mind and heart.

Characteristics of a Professional in Service

by Tiffany Simmons

As I reflect on opportunities for service, I realize there is much more that goes into service than just undertaking some action. Recently, I’ve noticed that new attorneys struggle with professionalism, and I began to think about how this relates in service and what I did not know in my first year of practice. As a mentor told me, “Tiffany, the ‘real work’ starts after you pass the bar.” I received that pearl of wisdom a few years back, and by experience, I now know it is true. I motivate myself with this wise reminder when I’m having challenges as a young lawyer in the profession. New lawyers will quickly learn that what people think you do is different from what you actually do. Moreover, you will learn that what you thought about the profession is different than your current reality. As we welcome our newest members of the Bar, they may be employed or still looking for employment. Whatever the situation, now is a time to serve and put into action what some dream of becoming since childhood.

While figuring out what “real work” is differs by the attorney, what remains constant are the characteristics of a professional person. A professional lawyer is ethical, diligent, hardworking and willing to learn, whether paid or unpaid. As professional conduct is an important key in building a successful legal career and worth remembering during acts of service, I share with my friend, the new lawyer, a few things that I’ve learned over the years.

My Dearest Friend,

It is always good to be kind to everyone you encounter. You never know who that person is or what their story may be. Early is on time. Whether it is court, a meeting or the office, be on time. Be prepared and willing to work. Be an asset not a liability. You are new! Show what you have before you ask about what you can get. Be adaptable and willing to try. Ask questions and pay attention to details. Be open to change in the legal profession. Have reasonable expectations for where you are in the profession. Be a confident attorney and have confidence that you can succeed.

Be respectful to the court and your client, and respect judges' decisions because people will remember your behavior. When leaving an employer, provide a two week notice. Keep your pro bono client apprised of your work. Each job is an opportunity to learn. Treat others how you want to be treated.

Take care of yourself mentally and physically. Be patient with yourself as you find your way as an attorney. You’ve come this far, don’t give up, and be persistent. If you do not know something, learn it. Keep asking until you get your YES. Be a self-motivated overachiever. Whether you work for yourself or another, be motivated to do your best. Professionalism and service are important parts of building relationships with clients and others within the legal community. In order to have career longevity, remember that every day is a new opportunity to serve, to practice and to develop. Try to practice all of these tips and make it a point to pass them on to another young professional that you meet.

Your friend,
Tiffany

10th Annual YLD Ethics and Professionalism Award

Do you know a young lawyer who exhibits exceptional fairness, integrity and diligence? Have you encountered a young lawyer who displayed professionalism in a difficult situation? Consider nominating that lawyer for the 10th annual YLD Ethics & Professionalism Award.

For the past nine years, the YLD has recognized individuals who exhibited such qualities. Although judges and senior partners have submitted recommendations, exceptional displays of ethics and professionalism often come to the YLD’s attention only through nominations by their peers.

The YLD has seen many diverse nominees ranging from public interest litigators to in-house corporate lawyers, and the YLD would like to continue the tradition across a variety of fields and locations. Past award recipients include: Kimberlee Hillard, Ivy Cadle, Carl Varneroe, Paul Fancher, David Mincey III, Andrew Goldner, Christopher Cohilas, Douglas Chandler and Tyronia “Ty” Smith.

The nomination form will be posted to georgiayld.org and distributed by email. Please submit all nominations to Kristy Offitt, kristy.offitt@ogletreedeakins.com, and Raj Shah, rs@phrd.com, by Tuesday, April 15, 2014.
Many people who have not studied economics are not aware of the tertiary sector of the economy. This economic sector consists of industries where people offer their services as goods instead of producing goods, such as in manufacturing or agriculture. The tertiary sector, which should be noted as the largest sector of our economy, includes those careers that fall under the service industry. As purveyors of legal information or services, lawyers often do not realize that we fall into this category, and are listed alongside those in the hospitality and retail industries, among others. In short, we are meant to serve.

A quote by Hon. Louis Brandies reflecting on opportunities in the law states, “It is, as a rule, far more important how men pursue their occupation than what the occupation is which they select.” While we have every right to be compensated for our services, sometimes we should set aside our financial motivations and work unpaid for the greater good.

If we enlist ourselves into a pro bono or mentoring project, we are commended for being good people. And when our communities and society begin to see that we lawyers are, at our core, good people who are willing to serve, service become contagious and we become a part of the rising tide that lifts all boats. You see, service that is rendered without remuneration is important because it exposes our willingness to truly help.

So as spring begins, it offers not only a time of renewal in nature, but also a time for us to really dig into what we would like to accomplish in the current year. We will have many choices on what we each do with our time. I urge you to reevaluate how you are spending yours in pursuit of your occupation. If you are at a point where you are experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, the inability to detach from the office or general dislike of how you spend your days, I suggest that you take time out to serve. You will be amazed by the feeling of achievement you get when you are able to positively impact someone’s life by just doing a bit of legal work. Or if you are completely happy with where you are in your career, now is the perfect time to spread your happiness and give back. The point is to remember that you as a lawyer are a member of a very valuable industry that also includes the underlying responsibility to serve. If you are uncertain where to start, look no further than the State Bar. There are endless opportunities for pro bono projects, or committees that are in need of your ideas, so one shouldn’t be timid in approaching the act of service. After all, service is our assigned industry. We, as lawyers—always known for blazing the path—should naturally be the industry leaders.