



# The YLD Review

THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA | LAWYERS SERVING THE PUBLIC AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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## PIIP Makes Major Impact with 10 People in Only 10 Weeks

by Colin Kelly

I believe the quote that Ugo Betti said in 1949; “we cannot bear to regard ourselves simply as playthings of blind chance.” More than a year ago, I ran into then President-Elect **Amy Howell** in the parking lot of a South Fulton church. During this encounter, we discussed the cruel irony that there were so many qualified lawyers and law students who were unemployed while the legal needs of those most vulnerable in our community were exploding.

That conversation was a catalyst in the launching of the YLD’s Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP). With strong support from past and current YLD leadership, **Shiriki Cavitt** and I developed the PIIP to pair unemployed/underemployed lawyers and law students with local public interest organizations in need of interns for the summer. After the YLD raised \$50,000 from the 2010 Signature Fundraiser, partnerships were established with service organizations such as the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) and Atlanta Legal Aid Society. The YLD was able to provide PIIP stipends to 10 people in the



(L-R) PIIP Committee Co-Chair Shiriki Cavitt; YLD Immediate Past President Amy Howell; PIIP participants Monica Kinene, Monique McCoy-Keane, Krista Dunning, Alexandra Vasquez, Cynthia Coulange, Stefanie Winston and Eden Fesshazion; GLSP Executive Director Phyllis Holmen meet in July to discuss the internships.

summer of 2010 so that they could work in public internships throughout Georgia’s three federal districts. The response to PIIP exceeded expectations! We had applicants apply from all over the state and from as far north as Washington, D.C., and as far west as New Orleans.

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## Georgia YLD Wins First Place for YLD ABA Awards

by Tyronia M. Smith



Immediate Past President Amy Howell accepts the ABA Awards on behalf of the Georgia YLD.

The Annual Meeting for the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) was held in San Francisco, Calif., from Aug. 5-8. On Saturday, Aug. 7, the ABA YLD announced the 2009-10 Awards of Achievement winners. The Awards of Achievement program is an opportunity for state and local young lawyer organizations affiliated with the ABA YLD to submit their

best projects for evaluation and recognition by a jury of their peers. The program is designed to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort and skills expended by young lawyer organizations in implementing public service and bar service projects in their communities. Additional recognition is given to minority attorney involvement projects and affiliate newsletter programs. There are five program award categories:

Comprehensive, Service to the Public, Service to the Bar, Minority and Newsletter.

The YLD received the following awards: (1) first place for the Comprehensive Award of Achievement for its broad range of programming conducted during the 2009-10 Bar year; (2) first place for the Service to the Bar Award in the I-A division for its Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP); and (3) Most Outstanding Service to the Bar Award for PIIP. In addition, the YLD also received: (1) special recognition in the Minority Project category for the “Pathways to Endless Opportunities Series” sponsored by the Minorities in the Profession Committee; (2) special recognition in the Newsletter category for *The YLD Review*; and (3) a certificate of performance in the Service to the Public category for the statewide service projects that members of the YLD Executive Council developed and implemented in their local communities to benefit children and families.

Accepting the awards on behalf of the YLD was Immediate Past President Amy Howell. YLD President Michael Geoffroy and Director of ABA Tyronia Smith were also in attendance.





## From the President

# Ten Surprising Things About the YLD

by Michael Geoffroy

As your new YLD President, I am making an effort to reach out and engage our members to become more active in professional organizations. You should be proud to be an attorney (if you are not an attorney, please stop reading). As professionals, attorneys consistently place priorities like justice and equality above pecuniary interest and put service above self. More justice is administered in the small Newton County Courthouse in one year than in all of 17th century England. This is a noble thing. But it is also important to realize any gathering of lawyers is usually as much frivolity as it is fundamental.

My hope is that you get involved with the YLD by joining a committee and coming to one of our meetings. But equally as good is getting involved in your local bar, State Bar section or many of the other volunteer lawyer organizations in Georgia. To encourage engagement, and to generally knock you on your . . . hold on . . . got carried away there, here are “Ten Surprising Things About the YLD.”

1. **Free Parking at the Bar Center.**
2. **Statewide.** We work to have a statewide presence by holding YLD and committee meetings all across the state, from Cohutta to Whigham, Pooler to Cedartown.
3. **Chance to meet a Supreme Court Justice.** Unlike Match.com or Eharmony, we do not evaluate 27 different traits to best match you with your justice, but we regularly feature the justices as speakers at our programs. **Justice George Carley** works with the High School Mock Trial Program every year (you can sign up to be a volunteer judge on our website) and **Chief Justice Carol Hunstein** spoke at our Women in the Profession program.
4. **Real Practice Tips in the Newsletter.** If you are reading this, it is not a surprise. Most people who don't

read this newsletter are shocked to find practical help on research, oral arguments and writing among other topics.

5. **CLE Opportunities in Your Practice Area.** This one seems kind of disingenuous. I do not know your practice area and it could be really obscure like taxidermy copyright and trademark law.
6. **Social Networking.** The YLD has both a Facebook and LinkedIn page. Come join us!
7. **Programming and Membership for Law Students.**
8. **Free Beer and Wine.**
9. **Award Winning.** The YLD was recently recognized by the American Bar Association for having the No. 1 Programming for Young Lawyers in the country!
10. **Team YLD.** Ten years ago, the YLD was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These attorneys promptly escaped from a maximum security stockade to the Georgia underground. Today, still wanted by the government, they survive as soldiers of fortune. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire. . . The YLD.

I hope you found this list surprising, informative and entertaining. The YLD wants you to get involved to serve our fellow lawyers, our community and not least of all, to meet other attorneys and have fun. I hope you join a committee today and meet us at one of our upcoming meetings.

### TRIVIA QUESTION

Whose picture currently hangs in the YLD president's office at the State Bar?

ANSWER on page 6

## An Interview with the President

by Stephanie Kirijan

**Q. What are your goals for the YLD during your term?**

A. I will reach out to get more attorneys involved in State Bar activities, educate young lawyers about what their State Bar is doing to serve them and their community, particularly those young attorneys negatively affected by the economy and make sure all our members have a great time at our events.

**Q. How do you plan to enhance participation in the YLD?**

A. I am going to improve the YLD's web presence through our website and social networking sites like Facebook and LinkedIn and by adding more practice-oriented content to the newsletter and offering more substantive CLEs at meetings.

**Q. The YLD recently selected the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) as the beneficiary for its 2011 Signature Fundraiser. Why is the program so important and how will the YLD's efforts further this cause?**

A. GLSP is one of the truly great programs working for those in need. It provides legal assistance to thousands of Georgians from Valdosta to Blue Ridge. I am personally proud to be an attorney volunteer for GLSP and enjoy my pro bono work. GLSP is a unique

beneficiary because, for the first time, the YLD is not only raising money but recruiting volunteers to sign up and take a pro bono case for GLSP.

**Q. What is the biggest challenge for a solo practitioner?**

A. I have talked about this with **Shatorree Bates**, chair of our new Solo/Small Firm Subcommittee, and we think it is the difficulty of wearing two hats—being a practitioner of the law and managing the practice. You have to take time away from actually performing the service your clients require to work on your business plan, make sure non-legal issues are being dealt with and market yourself by networking.

**Q. What is your most embarrassing moment?**

A. When I was young, I went to summer camp at Georgia State University. On the first day, I had to fill out a form that had a “nickname” line. I had always gone by Michael and I thought, “Wow, now is when I get to pick my own nickname.” I put down “Sport.” I am not sure why. No one at the camp called me Sport and I soon forgot. Graduation day came and as they were giving out awards, the announcer said “Sport Geoffroy” and I just stood there looking around for this fella. I think it took a painfully silent 90 seconds before I realized it was me.

**Q. What is the biggest challenge facing the profession today?**

A. Right now, it is the recession. Entire practice areas like real estate law saw revenues cut to a fraction. I have heard many small town general practitioners say this was the first time they ever saw the criminal and divorce practices suffer. Younger lawyers are being hurt the most with recent law school graduates getting delayed placement at big firms, and as many as half of the graduates receiving temporary and non-legal positions. Young lawyers who are employed have little mobility and no leverage with employers, which means they aren't moving to the practice area where they can best serve clients and advance their careers.

**Q. You have named Chuck Driebe as your favorite YLD Past President. Why?**

A. Hearing Chuck speak with such fondness of his time as YLD President in 1963-64 makes me realize what an impact young lawyers can make.

**Q. What is the most exciting thing about your hometown of Covington?**

A. The General Mills plant! A cereal factory may not sound titillating, but how lucky am I to wake up every day and smell a different cereal? Some days it's Lucky Charms or Golden Grahams or Honey Nut Cheerios. Life in Covington is magically delicious.



# Five Must Haves for a Successful Solo Law Practice

by *Shatorree Bates*

This article addresses the necessary mental state, business knowledge, financial resources and human capital that young lawyers branching out on their own will need to maximize their success at flying solo.

**Ambition:** You'll need enough ambition to propel yourself out of bed and into your office each morning, to stare into the internet abyss researching all day, to comb your city during your part-time networking night job and to play catch-up when you would really prefer to do something else on weekends. The premium benefits of having a solo practice are that it offers tremendous flexibility in prioritizing your days, choosing your clients and setting your hourly rates. Set clearly delineated goals to serve as your internal manager—your level of ambition to reach them will ultimately determine your success.

**Business Savvy:** Your level of business savvy will be tested daily as you manage your finances, marketing, vendors, administrative duties, clients and support staff. Consulting with the State Bar Law Practice Management Program will be a great step in the right direction in some of these areas. While you're there, ask for a copy of the latest CD which provides a template to guide attorneys in constructing a well thought-out business plan.

**Cash & Credit:** From day one, identify how you will pay for research materials, cover your overhead expenses and support yourself for at least one year. Count on pouring all of your first year earnings right back into your firm. You can minimize your expenses by running a virtual law office, office sharing or practicing from home; however, few can escape the constant stream of living expenses that must still be paid as you build your practice. Unless you have access to a bottomless money pit, you're probably like many attorneys trying to ignore the monstrous price tag affixed to your J.D. Deferment offers some short term relief, but plan to build your income stream large enough to repay your student loans on top of all of your living and business expenses as soon as possible.

**Clients:** Know where your clients will come from and how to convince them to hire you. Unless you are walking away from a firm with a client roster long enough to sustain you, you'll need reputable contacts that are able and willing to help you promote your practice. If you're not familiar with the term "target market," Google it and make all decisions regarding your law firm with this group in mind.

**Support:** Make sure you have solid mentors, emotional support from your family and friends and support from your colleagues and peers. All of them can provide you with a healthy energy boost when you feel exhausted from your efforts. Surround yourself with a support group of seasoned attorneys who sincerely want to help you succeed. **Doug Ashworth**, director of the State Bar's Transition into Law Practice Program, is an excellent resource. He will help connect you with a mentor in the first year of your career and give any young lawyer a great checklist of activities you should engage in with your mentor.

Finally, the ethics plug that I know you couldn't live without. Utilize the State Bar's ethics helpline when you have questions about issues that arise in your practice. And no matter how small your budget, invest in malpractice insurance. All the best to you with your firm!

# YLD Helps to Deliver “Justice For All”

by *Phyllis J. Holmen*

Bonnie N., a 27-year-old mother of two young children, was holding down a job where she worked 12-hour shifts, sometimes the graveyard shift, to support her family. She came to us because she had been fired by a previous employer who claimed she had been absent too many times. Ms. N. had been disqualified from the unemployment benefits which she needed for her family, although she had evidence to show that the employer was wrong. She had been unable to attend the hearing on her benefits because it was the first day of her new job. Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) attorneys represented her and succeeded in reversing the denial of benefits. Although Ms. N. had a new job, she needed the back benefits to which she was entitled to catch up on the bills that had mounted while she was unemployed.

These days, GLSP attorneys are representing many clients with problems like Ms. N's. The economic recession has been especially hard on Georgians who don't have resources to fall back on, whether that's a bank account or better-off family members. We've been prioritizing cases to help people get benefits to which they're entitled, save their homes from threats of eviction or foreclosure, address consumer frauds or collection efforts on debts they don't owe and get protection from the domestic violence that can accompany increased financial stress. Many poor families are surviving because of our intervention.

GLSP has an office in 11 of Georgia's small towns and cities. Staff "circuit-ride" to see and help clients in 154 of Georgia's counties, all of them outside the five core metro Atlanta

counties. Our staff attorneys handle civil cases for people with incomes of less than 200 percent of the poverty line, which for a family of four is about \$44,000 and for a single person is about \$22,000. Most of our clients have much less income than that and most work, at least when they can find work.

A group of young Georgia lawyers, working with the then Younger Lawyers Section, saw the need for legal services to low-income Georgians outside metro Atlanta more than 40 years ago. Although "justice for all" is one of the core principles of our democracy, it was a promise that was not kept for low-income Georgians. Those innovative young lawyers worked hard to overcome opposition, funding challenges, and politics to plant and nurture the seeds of the organization that has become GLSP. Young lawyers are still active with our work as volunteers, financial supporters and board members. Our own young lawyers are active in the YLD in many areas. GLSP will mark its 40th anniversary in 2011 and is now the largest non-profit law firm in Georgia offering civil legal services without charge for individuals who meet income guidelines. While resources still don't meet the need, the venture is a success, and young lawyers can be proud.

This is the first in a series of articles about GLSP over the next year in which we hope to tell you much more about what we do, our successes and ongoing challenges, and how you can help deliver on that promise of "justice for all." Please visit our website at [www.glspl.org](http://www.glspl.org), and our volunteer support website at [www.georgiaadvocates.org](http://www.georgiaadvocates.org) for more information, including how you can get involved.

## Volunteers Needed

The YLD will host the 5th Annual Signature Fundraiser on March 5, 2011, at the Palomar Hotel in Midtown Atlanta. The Signature Fundraiser Committee is actively seeking volunteers for the following committees:

Silent Auction Committee  
Sponsorship Committee  
Program Committee  
Honorary Host Committee

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Shiriki Cavitt at [shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlelaw.com](mailto:shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlelaw.com) or Tamera Woodard at [twoodard@schiffhardin.com](mailto:twoodard@schiffhardin.com).

# Local YLDs Around the State

## No Summer Vacation for Savannah YLD

by **Nick Bruce**

The Savannah YLD continued its successful 2009-10 State Bar year into the summer.

On June 4, the Savannah YLD held its annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Chatham County's Superior Court Guardian Ad Litem Program. This year's tournament was held at the top-rated Westin Savannah Harbor course, a regular stop on the PGA Champion's Tour. Golf tournament organizers **Blake Greco** and **Daniel Jenkins** were instrumental in making the tournament a successful and record-breaking fundraising event.

The proceeds raised in this year's tournament were donated to the Guardian Ad Litem Program on Aug. 2. Superior Court Judge **Penny Haas Freeseemann** presided over the donation ceremony and accepted the record amount of \$5,250 on behalf of the program. The ceremony was held in her courtroom at the Chatham County Courthouse followed by a quick photo opportunity. Savannah YLD tournament Chair Blake Greco and Savannah YLD President **Patrick Connell** presented the donation on behalf of the Savannah YLD.

On July 7, the Chatham County Board of Education (BOE) recognized the Savannah YLD for its outstanding Law Day presentations. The BOE continues to get great feedback from participating schools on this wonderful outreach opportunity. Patrick Connell attended on behalf of the YLD and coordinated Law Day this past spring as president-elect.

The annual fall kick-off party is scheduled for Sept. 23 at Local 11 Ten. For more information on how to get involved with the Savannah YLD, please feel free to contact Blake Greco at 912-236-3311 or Zach Thomas at 912-233-6600.



Presenting the Guardian Ad Litem Program proceeds are (L-R) Ben Perkins, Blake Greco, Nick Bruce, Jennifer Campbell, Jacob Masee, Hon. Penny Haas Freeseemann, Daniel Jenkins, Guardian Ad Litem Director Susie Hoover, Colby Longley, Patrick Connell, Helen Bacon, Zach Thomas and Quentin Marlin.

## Augusta YLD Maintains Busy Summer Schedule

by **Jennifer Campbell and Alana Kyriakakis**

The Augusta YLD is enjoying another successful year hosting monthly events for its members. At a recent happy hour sponsored by **Patrick Smith**, the Augusta YLD collected donations for a local non-profit group, When Help Can't Wait (WHCW). WHCW provides quality of life items to local nursing home residents without financial resources. The group collected several hundred dollars worth of cash and goods for this worthy non-profit organization. According to President **Alana Kyriakakis**, the Augusta YLD is continuously making an effort to give back to the community through service and donations.

The Augusta YLD also hosted an ethics CLE in August for YLD members en route to the summer meeting in Charleston, S.C. Those in attendance heard comments from Hon. **Danny Craig** and received professionalism CLE credit.

Kyriakakis is joined by three other officers for the 2010-11 year: **Mark Reeves**, president-elect; **Charlsie Paine**, treasurer; and **Adam Hatcher**, secretary. Additionally, **Jack Long** was recently elected to serve as a representative for the Southern District on the State Bar YLD Executive Council.

The Augusta YLD held its annual barbecue event with the Augusta Bar on Sept. 16, and will be co-hosting the annual Augusta Bar Christmas party on Dec. 10. Additionally, the Augusta YLD is working to organize a day of service in the community as well as several other great happy hour events.

If you live in the Augusta area and you are not on the e-mail list, contact Adam Hatcher at [ahatcher@burnsidewall.com](mailto:ahatcher@burnsidewall.com) and he will gladly add you to the list so that you can stay informed about upcoming events. You can also join the Augusta YLD Facebook group.

## Albany YLD

by **Sarah Kjellin**

Over the past quarter, the Albany YLD has been busy helping our local community. In response to the recent economic crisis and the growing number of out-of-work individuals in our area, the Albany YLD held a professional clothing drive throughout the months of May and June. The several thousand suits and other pieces of professional clothing collected by the YLD were donated to local non-profit organizations for the purpose of assisting those wishing to go back to work with interview and work clothes.

We also have many exciting upcoming opportunities for networking and helping our local community. For information on joining the Albany YLD, please contact **Lauren Brock** at [lbrock@langleylee.com](mailto:lbrock@langleylee.com).

## Cobb YLD

by **Sarah Cipperly**

The Cobb YLD celebrated its annual Great Day of Service on May 21 with an Advance Directives Clinic. In four hours, 25 volunteers assisted nearly 80 senior citizens with Advance Directives for Health Care and Powers of Attorney. Volunteers included not only members of the Cobb YLD, but several members of the Cobb County Bar as well. The event was co-sponsored by the Cobb Bar's Elder Law Section and Legal Aid of Cobb County, an office of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

The Cobb YLD is a section of the Cobb County Bar Association. Its mission is to provide professional development, networking and opportunities for service for younger and new-to-practice attorneys who work and live in Cobb County. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Cobb YLD, contact Cobb YLD President **Sarah Cipperly** at [scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org](mailto:scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org).



Volunteers in Action: Volunteer attorneys assist low-income Cobb seniors with advance directives at the 2010 Great Day of Service.



# Committee Updates

## Juvenile Law

by *Stacie Kershner and Lynn Goldman*

The Juvenile Law Committee honored eight deserving legal and non-legal advocates from across Georgia for their efforts on behalf of Georgia's children, youth and families at a ceremony on June 16. The Child Advocate Awards are designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership, exhibit creativity or otherwise have a significant impact on programs, practices or policies affecting positive outcomes for children in Georgia's juvenile courts. The advocates work with children who are abused or neglected (considered deprived children in Georgia), children who are involved in delinquency or unruly proceeding, or children who are at-risk for becoming court-involved. The awards were bestowed on individuals who truly go above and beyond the requirements of their jobs when working with vulnerable children and families, even amidst difficult working conditions, state budget shortages and high caseloads. During the ceremony held at the State Bar, many of the honorees described their jobs as "a calling" and stated that they genuinely love the work they do for Georgia's children.

Following is the list of categories and honorees for each:

- Juvenile Court Judge: **Hon. Sandra Miller**, Paulding County
- Deprivation—Legal Advocate: **Leo Beckmann**, Chatham County
- Deprivation—Non-legal Advocate (including case workers, independent living coordinators, etc.): **Margarete Greene**, Fulton County and **Kathy Norton**, Hall County
- Delinquency—Legal Advocate: **Caren Cloud**, Fulton County
- Delinquency—Non-legal Advocate (including probation officers, program staff, etc.): **Jean Urrutia**, Coweta County
- Community Advocate: **Linda Shepard**, Douglas County
- Policy Advocate: **Melissa Carter**, statewide

## Community Service

by *Jennifer Blackburn*

The YLD Community Service Committee wrapped up a very busy year with a trip to the Georgia Aquarium with children from the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services. A great time was had by children and chaperons alike. The committee would like to give a special thank you to our generous sponsor—Neel & Robinson—for providing souvenirs to all of the children in attendance. In the spring, the committee also conducted a very successful school supplies drive to donate to Families First. Finally, the committee organized a children's book drive that was held in conjunction with the 2010-11 Executive Committee Retreat at Reynolds Plantation. The YLD Executive Committee generously donated more than 50 books to Ocmulgee CASA, Inc. The books will be given to children to read while they are at the CASA Center.

Congratulations to the committee for an outstanding year and the completion of more than 20 service projects held across Georgia. Thank you to everyone who helped make each event such a huge success. The committee had several new volunteers step up to the plate and organize exciting new events. Hopefully, many of these events will become an annual tradition.

If you are not already involved, please consider coming out to a committee event. The committee organizes events throughout the year that provide an excellent opportunity to mingle with fellow young lawyers while also giving back to the community. If you would like to get involved, please contact the newly appointed 2010-11 committee co-chairs—**Meredith Wilson** at [meredith.wilson@oldcastlelaw.com](mailto:meredith.wilson@oldcastlelaw.com) and **Ana Maria Martinez** at [amfmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:amfmartinez@gmail.com).



(L–R) Juvenile Law Committee Co-Chair Kirsten Widner; honorees Leo Beckmann, Hon. Sandra Miller, Melissa Carter, Jean Urrutia, Linda Shepard, Margarete Greene, Kathy Norton and Caren Cloud; and awards sub-committee Co-Chairs Stacie Kershner and Lynn Goldman at the Child Advocate Awards.

## Judicial Law Clerk

by *T. Orlando Pearson*

This Bar year, the YLD will be launching a Judicial Law Clerk Committee. Through participation in this committee, young lawyers serving as law clerks and staff attorneys, as well as former clerks and staff attorneys actively practicing in their respective areas of expertise, will be afforded a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences and gain insight from one another in an effort to bridge the gap with the bench. Although in its infancy, the committee promises to serve the professional and networking needs of all young lawyers seeking to improve the overall practice of law in Georgia.

All young lawyers interested in participating in the committee should contact its co-chairs, **T. Orlando Pearson** at [todd.pearson@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:todd.pearson@fultoncountyga.gov) or **Monica R. Dean** at [mdean@co.henry.ga.us](mailto:mdean@co.henry.ga.us).

## Disaster Legal Assistance

by *DeAngelo Norris and Matt Crowder*

We are honored and humbled to be elected co-chairs of this vital YLD committee. Unfortunately, our committee's activation, and work, is preceded by a disaster in Georgia. Hopefully, we will not have the opportunity to use the intended services offered by it. However, if disaster does strike and our services are needed, rest assured that we will come together with other members of the State Bar and community at-large to offer legal guidance and assistance for Georgia's citizens during their time of need. Our committee strives to offer assistance to victims of disaster in Georgia by securing Federal Emergency Management Assistance, State Emergency Assistance and other governmental resources available. Additionally, we plan to offer help navigating life, medical and property insurance claims issues, replacement of wills and legal documents, consumer protection remedies, landlord/tenant problems and any other legal issues that inevitably occur when disaster strikes.

If a disaster strikes in Georgia during our tenure and an emergency is declared by federal or state officials, a toll-free number will be established in cooperation with the State Bar and the YLD to request legal assistance. At that time, we will recruit volunteer lawyers in affected areas to handle victim's cases. Victims and volunteers should be aware that the committee cannot assist in all cases. Some matters, such as those that will produce a fee (i.e. cases where attorneys are paid part of the settlement by the court) will be referred to a local lawyer referral service.

To be successful, we will need the support and help of all members of the community and State Bar throughout Georgia. Even if you are not able to handle a specific legal matter, your help will still be needed if a disaster strikes. We must all pull together during times of need.

If you have any questions about disaster legal assistance services, or would like to pledge your support, please contact: **DeAngelo Norris** at [dnorris@gmh.edu](mailto:dnorris@gmh.edu), 404-616-0680, or **Matthew Crowder** at [mattcrowder@kinglawgroup.net](mailto:mattcrowder@kinglawgroup.net), 478-275-2255.



# Parents and Caregivers in the Profession

by *Tawanna Morgan*

The YLD's Parents and Caregivers in the Profession Committee is in its second year. Recognizing the difficulty in balancing home and work life, specifically within the legal profession, the committee seeks to further the success of attorney caregivers by providing a forum for parents (and other caregivers) to access and share information about resources necessary to ensure a successful career, balanced with a healthy home environment.

The committee is dedicated to encouraging increased participation in YLD activities and programs by parents and examining the problems unique to attorney caregivers within the profession. Other goals of the committee are to expand opportunities for attorney caregivers, educate members of the State Bar on the importance of flexibility and diversity in the workplace, and support organizations and causes that advance the status and progress of caregivers in society.

The committee's signature meeting series "Cupcakes and Conversation" consisted of a seminar titled "Women of the Bar" held on Saturday, June 26, at Sutherland. The seminar addressed the challenges that women encounter within the legal profession. The luncheon keynote speaker was Hon. **Leah Ward Sears**, who spoke with candor sharing her own experiences and thoughts. The participants left seeking to not only be a good attorney and woman, but to be a good woman attorney, confident in herself and with the informed decisions she makes.

Thanks to all of our sponsors, especially Platinum level sponsors Sutherland and A Friend of the Family, which provided childcare. Women of the Bar was a free event. For more information on the committee please send an e-mail to [yld-parents-caregivers@live.com](mailto:yld-parents-caregivers@live.com). Also, keep an eye out for Women of the Bar II, tentatively scheduled for March 26, 2011.

# Celebration of Excellence

by *Darice M. Good*

More than 200 Celebration of Excellence graduates shone as they waved to family and friends during the procession at the Rialto Center for the Arts on June 9. The 18th Celebration of Excellence was off to a great start and those in attendance were ready to celebrate the graduation of foster children from high school, GED and technical programs, college and graduate schools.

The Celebration of Excellence started in 1993 when DeKalb County's Chief Child Advocate Attorney **Dorothy Murphy** and investigator **Audria Cheever** sought to honor graduating youth in foster care in DeKalb County. Today, the annual graduation event includes a scholarship program and recognizes graduates from a variety of different schools and programs.

This year, **Gov. Perdue** and first lady **Mary Perdue** greeted the students with encouragement and praise for their accomplishments. Sinfo-Nia Youth Orchestra and Chorale of Metropolitan Atlanta provided the evening's entertainment. **Victoria Rowell**, an actress and author of "The Women Who Raised Me," shared her experience in foster care and challenged the graduates to continue aspiring for greatness. The Juvenile Law Committee was truly honored by the attendance of the original founders, Audrey Cheever and Dorothy Murphy, who were recognized for their amazing legacy.



(L-R) Juvenile Law Committee Co-Chairs Kirsten Widner and Darice Good pose with Celebration of Excellence founders Dorothy Murphy and Audrey Cheever.

The 2010 Celebration of Excellence could not be achieved without the help of sponsors including: Nsoro Foundation, The L.E.A.D. Foundation and Interfaith Children's Movement. The hard work of members of the Juvenile Law Committee contributed to the success of the evening: in particular, co-chairs, **Darice Good** and **Kirsten Widner**, and members **Amber Walden**, **Stephen Reba** and **Laurie Ann Fallon**. The committee also collaborated with Georgia's Department of Human Resources, the Georgia Independent Living Program coordinators and the Project Coordinator for the Floyd-Bryant Agency.

The members of the Juvenile Law Committee thank and congratulate our dedicated volunteer Celebration of Excellence Committee. For more information on how you can participate or contribute to the event, please see the website at [www.celebrationofexcellence.org](http://www.celebrationofexcellence.org).

# Litigation

by *Lara Percifield and John Perry*

The YLD Litigation Committee held its final happy hour of the year on May 20. Attendees socialized and enjoyed cocktails and appetizers well into the night. During the event, the committee honored its outgoing chairman, **Christopher Abrego**. During his tenure, the committee developed numerous events, including the "War Stories in Litigation" Speaker Series and the 2010 YLD Attorney General Candidate Forum. Abrego was instrumental in planning and organizing these events so, as thanks, the committee presented him with a crystal gavel in honor of his longstanding service and commitment to the profession.

The committee also gives special thanks to its sponsors: Regency-Brentano, Eagle Investigative Services, BAY Mediation & Arbitration Services and RLSS, Inc.

The committee holds general membership meetings the last Wednesday of every month at the State Bar. Please contact committee Co-Chairs **John Perry** at [JoPerry@wcsr.com](mailto:JoPerry@wcsr.com) or **Lara Percifield** at [LPercifield@m-legal.com](mailto:LPercifield@m-legal.com) if you would like to get involved or learn more.

**TRIVIA ANSWER**  
Kenny Rogers. "The Gambler" was voted favorite male vocalist in 1989 by the readers of *People* magazine.



(L-R) YLD President Michael Geoffroy; Past Chair Whitney Mauk; YLD Immediate Past President Amy Howell; Immediate Past Chair Christopher Abrego; Past Chair Edward McAfee; and Co-Chair Lara Percifield during the Litigation Committee's final happy hour.



Below is a list of experiences from the PIIP participants:

- **Cynthia Coulange** (2L at Loyola College of Law) interned with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Atlanta. She assisted a fair housing attorney on a variety of cases dealing with race and disability discrimination in housing and helped ensure compliance with the federal fair housing laws.
- **Alexandra Vasquez** (1L at Emory University) and **Monique McCoy-Keane** (2L at Emory University) both interned with the DeKalb County Public Defender's Office. They developed a very deep appreciation for how the criminal justice system works first-hand by interviewing clients and witnesses, negotiating with prosecutors, researching and writing memos, attending and assisting at arraignments and preliminary hearings, and preparing for trial through such tasks as writing questions for direct/cross examination and drafting opening/closing arguments.
- **Stefanie Winston** (2L at Emory University) interned with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health in Atlanta. She worked with the mental health community in Georgia and helped individuals with guardianship issues and other legal concerns from state facilities. She also helped develop legislation designed to affect the mental health and behavioral disabilities programs throughout the state for years to come.
- **Jennifer Malizia** (Augusta) interned at the Augusta Regional Office of the GLSP. She spent time analyzing poverty rates, unemployment and food stamp participation in the 13 counties served by the office. She has also assisted in hearings concerning housing, unemployment and domestic violence issues.
- **Krista Dunning** (Savannah) interned at the Columbus Regional Office of the GLSP and worked on a variety of landlord/tenant issues, specifically dealing with evictions and helping to keep people in their homes.
- **Eden Fesshazion** (Stone Mountain) interned with the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council Appellate Division. She worked on matters aimed at providing adequate legal representation to indigent defendants charged with felony and juvenile offenses in the superior courts of Georgia.
- **Monica Kinene** (Decatur) interned with the Supreme Court of Georgia Equal Justice Commission. Under the Child Support Collaborative Project, she researched legal issues involving child support guidelines, child support related issues and Title IV-D matters. Additionally, she assisted in various projects that the Committee on Civil Justice is developing to promote access to the courts.
- **Laura Demastus** (2L at Georgetown University) interned with Atlanta Legal Aid Society. She worked on civil cases such as social security appeals and landlord/tenant disputes. Her representation helped clients deal with some of life's most basic needs—a safe home, enough food to eat, a decent education, protection against fraud and personal safety.
- **Stewart Fisher** (2L at John Marshall Law School) interned with the Augusta District Attorney's Office. He was sworn in under the Third Year Practice Act and was responsible for a modest caseload in the Superior Court.

Each intern was responsible for tracking the number of individuals to whom he or she provided legal services for over the 10 weeks to help measure the impact of the program.

In recognition of this year's success and in order to help sustain PIIP as a flagship project of the YLD, the State Bar approved funding for seven PIIP internships in 2011. If you know of an organization that is interested in hosting an intern next summer, please contact **Colin K. Kelly** at [colin.kelly@alston.com](mailto:colin.kelly@alston.com).

## William Daniel Invitational Mock Trial Competition

by **Nick Smith**

On Nov. 19-21, law schools from around the country will send teams of students to Atlanta to try a criminal case in the 2010 William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition. This annual YLD-sponsored event consists of five rounds of mock criminal trials over a three-day period. The first round begins on the evening of Nov. 19 followed by two rounds on Nov. 20. The semi-final and final rounds will be held on Nov. 21.

In order to continue to make this event a success, we need your help. We need attorneys to serve as judges for the rounds. You do not need to be a litigator or have trial experience. You only need to be willing to donate about four hours of your time. At the end of each trial, the judges complete form evaluations of the teams and give each student a brief critique of his or her performance. Part of what makes the experience meaningful for the law students is that they get feedback from practicing attorneys. This is one reason why so many schools return year after year.

The competition is named in honor of Hon. **William W. Daniel**, who served as a judge for the Superior Court of Fulton County. He authored the eponymous Daniel's Georgia Criminal Trial Practice. Former Assistant District Attorney **Tom Jones** is the author of each year's criminal problem. Jones practiced before Daniel and typically models the problem on cases he handled.

If you would like to volunteer, please send an e-mail to **Nick Smith** at [nsmith@deflaw.com](mailto:nsmith@deflaw.com).



Matt Jones, a Georgia State law student, plays victim in the Daniel crime scene photos for a past competition.

# YLD Leadership Academy

Be on the lookout for the 2011 Leadership Academy application which will be posted on the Bar's website in October.

# How a Young Lawyer Helped Establish the State Bar

by Chuck Driebe, past president of the YLD, 1963-64



The State Bar was created in the mid-1960s. What previously existed was the Georgia Bar Association, a strictly voluntary group serving mostly social purposes and lacking any disciplinary authority. Lawyer discipline was solely in the hands of the local district attorney and there was only one punishment: disbarment. When I started practicing in Jonesboro, there was a tale of a local lawyer who gathered signatures on a petition against expansion of the Atlanta Airport. The signers were actually signing a contract for the lawyer to represent them in Airport condemnation cases. Did

anything happen to the lawyer? No! The district attorney was afraid to try such a case because it was disbarment or nothing.

suspension from the practice of law. This provision led to the first test of the constitutionality of the State Bar in Clayton County, where I was practicing.

The challenge arose from a contested election for district attorney in Clayton County in 1968. The Georgia Constitution required three years law practice to be eligible to run for district attorney. Prior to 1968, the office was part-time and was held by Albert B. Wallace. The 1968 election was for a full-time district attorney. There was a local attorney known as Ed Wallace—his full given name was Albert E. Wallace Jr. He qualified for the primary under this name and won. Albert B. Wallace qualified as a write-in candidate in the November general election, but as might be expected, Albert E. Wallace Jr. still won.

Interestingly, I was a law partner of Albert B. Wallace, the “real” Albert Wallace, and immediately brought suit against Albert E. Wallace Jr. on the grounds that he was ineligible to hold office because he failed to register with or pay his State Bar dues since the creation of the State Bar. The defense was primarily that the State Bar was unconstitutional. After a hearing on the matter, the court found that Albert E. Wallace Jr. was ineligible to hold this office and that the numerous constitutional attacks were without merit.

## The Beginning

Your not-so-humble author’s connection to the transition from the Georgia Bar Association to the State Bar was unique. In the late 1950s, Bob Heard was the State Bar president and was extremely interested in the creation of a unified state bar. He asked me to write an article about the experience of other states with the incorporation of their bars. Twenty-seven states had incorporated or integrated bars at that time. The result was an article entitled “Incorporation of the Georgia Bar,” 21 Ga. Bar Journal 527 (1959).

## The Creation

Later efforts to pass a law authorizing the creation of the State Bar finally led to legislation, championed by then Gov. Carl Sanders, delegating the formation of the State Bar to the Supreme Court. See 1963 Ga. Laws 70. That summer, the Supreme Court appointed a committee to propose the governing structure and rules for this new organization. By happenstance, I was the president of the Young Lawyers Section at that time and served on that committee. There I was a mere lad of 29 serving with giants of the State Bar, including a number of past presidents. We hammered out the rules and regulations during the day and had bull sessions at night in the old Dempsey Hotel in Macon. Our handiwork was submitted to the Supreme Court and, in December 1963, the formation of the State Bar was approved. See 219 Ga. 873 (1963).

The primary thrust of the rules related to discipline. The previously local discipline authority was assigned to the new State Bar. The American Bar Association Canons of Ethics were adopted to provide guidance to attorneys. The Canons provided “bright line” guidance to attorneys as to the severity of offenses. Disbarment was not the only choice: lesser offenses could result in public or private reprimands or suspensions so that punishment would “fit the crime.” A Grievance Tribunal of three lawyers from the offender’s circuit would be appointed. An appeal process was laid out. Finally, lawyer discipline was in the hands of lawyers, and an effective system was set up.

## Constitutionality

The new and unified State Bar required that each lawyer register and pay a 1964 license fee of \$15. Failure to pay this fee was said to lead to a

The “fake” Albert Wallace immediately appealed to the Supreme Court. The case was argued in January 1969, and decided in early February 1970. Justice Benning Grice’s opinion upheld the constitutionality of the State Bar and also held that Albert E. Wallace Jr. was not qualified to be district attorney because he had not legally practiced law for three years. (See *Wallace v. Wallace*, 225 Ga. 102 (1969) (two justices dissented and one did not participate)).

Through this interesting confluence of circumstances, I was involved in the State Bar concept from its creation to the case upholding its constitutionality. During this entire time, I was still a member of the Young Lawyers Section (now the YLD). This remains one of the highlights of my legal career.

***\*What happens to those active in the YLD when they “age out” of that group? Please note that I still claim to be the oldest living “young lawyer.” Many have gone on to be presidents of the State Bar. I am a member of the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division of the American Bar Association, which seems to be the traditional home of former young lawyers. Whatever appeals to you, there are many ways you can contribute to your State Bar.***

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