

YLD Hosts High School Mock Trial National Tournament

by Stacy Rieke

The 26th Annual National High School Mock Trial Championship was hosted by the YLD's High School Mock Trial Committee (HSMTC) May 8-10. Forty-two teams, including the 2009 Georgia State Champion mock trial team from Henry W. Grady High School and the mock trial team from Decatur High School, gathered in Atlanta to participate in an outstanding academic event that was an amazing experience for all involved.

"When we started working on this project over five years ago, I hardly imagined how well-received the problem would be, or how much the kids would enjoy our capital city. We hoped to set an example for how to host a national competition on every level: from the quality of the case to the quality of the kids' souvenirs. I think we broke the mold," said **Christy Barker**, former YLD executive committee member and National Competition Planning Board co-vince chair.

The mock trial staff, **Stacy Rieke** and **Peggy Caldwell**, along with the HSMTC's National Competition Planning Board, Barker (Chatham County District Attorney's Office), **Roy Manoll** (Fortson, Bentley & Griffin), Judge **Jennifer Mann** (DeKalb County Public Defender's Office & Gwinnett County Magistrate Court) and **Justice George H. Carley** (Supreme Court of Georgia) led a team of dedicated mock trial volunteers.

"I am especially grateful to and proud of the committee members and the volunteers who so generously gave both time and money to make the national



NHSMT participants enjoy the Georgia Aquarium.



The NHSMT team from Guam is awarded the 2009 Professionalism Award by Judge Brenda Cole.

competition in Atlanta a huge success. Without their dedication and hard work, this remarkable experience for tomorrow's leaders would not have been possible," said Manoll.

Tournament-related events were held at several venues throughout downtown Atlanta. A cocktail reception honoring judging panel volunteers was sponsored by the Council of State Court Judges and held at the Bar Center. Mock trial teams participated in a reception honoring their state titles at the Hyatt Regency. During that reception, the team from South Carolina's Fort Mill High School was honored by **Erin Bennett Banks** (Savannah College of Art & Design) as having the "Best State Champion T-shirt Design." Teams and volunteers alike were impressed by the social event held at the Georgia Aquarium. The beluga whales were frisky and the otters asleep, but the jazz was cool and the food was great!

Trial rounds were held at the Fulton County Courthouse, with the support and assistance of both the Superior and State Court Administrator's Offices and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. It was at the courthouse where the talent and dedication of these students were on full display.

"I was impressed with the obvious amount of hard work that the teams had put in to prepare for the competition. The ability of these high school students to stand up and argue a complex criminal case was outstanding. The students were prepared and poised. I couldn't help but think to myself that if even half of these high school students grow up to be attorneys, our profession will be in good

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From the President

Where Does the Time Go?

by Joshua C. Bell

It seems like only yesterday that I was being sworn in as president of the Young Lawyers Division. Now I'm writing my last article for the newsletter. Where did the time go?

It seems like just a moment ago when I was planning the joint service project with the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA). Because of that project, over 30,000 high school seniors from Georgia saw the "Vote America!" DVD. A big thanks to **Sylvia Cardona** and the great people from TYLA for taking a chance on a partnership with us. We have also joined together with Florida to exchange ideas and information on YLD projects. Maybe more states will join together to do more good for more people.

It seems like just a few days ago we were beginning to plan our signature fundraiser. Our Board of Directors unanimously chose to support Kids Against Hunger as the beneficiary of this year's fundraiser. That choice led to over 191,000 meals being provided to children in need. Less people will go to bed hungry tonight because of the generosity of the YLD. To everyone who was involved with the fundraiser, great job!

It seems like last week I was asking **Amy Stone** to chair the Disaster Legal Assistance Committee. Within a week of me asking her to do so, I was asking her, at the request of GEMA, to write a response plan for legal issues that arise from disasters. She did and that plan is in place today.

I can remember like it was yesterday when **LeRoy Jennings** and **Janet Scott** told me that they wanted to do a project for the Aspiring Youth program that was modeled on the movie "The Great Debaters." What a successful project! I hope they know how proud I am of them.

It seems like just a little while ago I met people like **Stephanie Kirijan**, **Whitney Mauk**, **Shiriki Cavitt** and **Sharri Edenfield** to name a few. It truly is awe-inspiring to see how much these people give of themselves for the YLD. There are so many others who give so much, and I hope they know how much they have meant to me this year.

It feels like it was just a few months ago when **Mary McAfee** was hired to be YLD director. What a great day that was for the State Bar of Georgia and the YLD. Mary does so much for the YLD. The next time you see her, please tell her "thanks" for all she does. She deserves it.

It was just a moment ago (June 2001) when I was telling my then future law partners that I was a representative on the YLD Executive Council and that it would not be that much of a time commitment. All I had to do was attend three out of five business meetings a year. A few things have changed since then. A large thank you goes out to my partners **Bruce Kirbo Jr.** and **David Kendrick**, as well as my assistant **Melissa West** and all the people at Kirbo, Kendrick and Bell, LLC. Their hard work and sacrifice has allowed me to be president of this fine organization.

I remember when I was telling my wife, **Deana**, that I was planning to run for YLD secretary and, hopefully, president-elect. She was so supportive and has been there every step of the way. Our lives became joyously



Deana and Josh Bell at the YLD Fall Meeting in St. Augustine, Fla.

more complicated with the arrival of not one, but two children, **Finnley** and **McCartney**, during the height of my YLD leadership and involvement. Yet my wife didn't complain when I had to leave her at home while I went and performed my duties for the Bar. She knew the YLD's work was important to me. She has supported us as much as anybody. If you see her, tell her "thank you" as well. I, more than anyone, know she deserves it.

I'm not quite finished with the YLD, but I'm already wondering where the time has gone. Time will fly by for you just as it has for me. Enjoy all the time you have in the YLD. I know I have.



(L-R) Florida YLD President Jewel White Cole, Josh Bell and TYLA President Sylvia Cardona adorn costumes at the Fall Meeting.



(L-R) Damon Elmore, Josh Bell, Amy Howell and Elena Kaplan



Josh Bell wins a charity poker tournament at the summer meeting in Austin, Texas.

Lessons Learned...

As we come to the close of one Bar year and look to begin a new one, we asked two appellate judges who are also going through periods of transition in their professional careers to give us some insight into lessons that they've learned.

Lessons I've Learned as I Have Transitioned to Being a Judge on the Court of Appeals

by Judge Sara Doyle, Court of Appeals of Georgia

After winning election to the Court of Appeals on Dec. 2, 2008, I had one month—a month that included Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve and Day and a myriad of Holiday parties—to transition from my law practice to the bench. After quickly hiring staff, being sworn-in and managing to get through the blur that was the holidays, I started my new career as Court of Appeals judge on Friday, Jan. 2, 2009. So far, this is what I have learned that I believe may be helpful to young lawyers everywhere:

- There are numerous “trail” courts in the state of Georgia. Apparently, you can file virtually any type of case in a “trail” court, as I read about them in briefs in both civil and criminal matters. The biggest problem with these “trail” courts is that they are typographical errors like them are distracting. So for the practitioner: do not simply rely on spell check. As you see, it would not help you here. If you cannot catch typos on your own, then have someone read your brief before you file it. You want the judge to focus on your legal arguments, not your typos.
- There is an infinite amount of law out there on an infinite number of subjects. This fact, coupled with the large number of appeals involving each subject, means that there is a chance even the hardest working judge might miss the authority that makes a difference in your appeal. Thus, make sure to highlight the case most helpful to your case in your main brief. If you lose, do not be afraid to file a motion for reconsideration to again bring the case to the court's attention.

Overlooking a decision that would require a different judgment from that rendered is one of the reasons a motion for reconsideration is granted.

- Appellate judges know very little about a case and rely on the lawyers to provide the information they need. As a result, make sure that if it is important, you point it out in your brief and accurately cite to the record. Also, make sure that the record is not only complete, but that things are in order. Judges and their staff will not sift through lengthy records searching for support for your position.
- Your brief is your first impression, make sure it is a good one. See the “trail” court example. This is truly the most important thing for attorneys to remember. Even at the lower court level, oftentimes the only thing the court will see of you is your written work product. If it is not good, it can affect the court's opinion of the case in a negative way.

I was always told by more senior partners that these things were important, but I did not realize how important until I began to sit on the other side reading briefs all day. It has also become crystal clear to me how important doing a good job for your clients is—after all, it is the client who counts on you as an attorney to properly plead their case. By taking the time to produce a quality work product, you are not only making the judges' jobs easier, but you are doing what is best for your client and contributing positively to the overall reputation of the legal community.

Lessons I've Learned From Serving on the Supreme Court of Georgia

by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia

(The following is an excerpt from the 2009 State of the Judiciary address by Chief Justice Sears. After 17 years on the Supreme Court bench, she will step down on June 30.)

It's never easy to say good-bye. I have been truly blessed. When I embarked on my judicial career 26 years ago, I never imagined that it would turn out as it has. Indeed, the world has changed much since I first became a judge. I was a mere 27 years old when Mayor Andrew Young appointed me to Atlanta's traffic court. It was 1982—the year *USA Today* was first published, Diet Coke was born and the Weather Channel aired for the first time. Voicemail was patented that year, and back then, most of us lived without cell phones, e-mail or laptops. Imagine that!

To some extent, my career as a judge has been a metaphor of how much our great state has changed. In 1988, when I ran to become a Fulton County Superior Court judge, there were only four African-American superior court judges in the whole state and only six women. I still remember my first day on the bench. I was trying a simple zoning case when I noticed that the room was standing room only. Deputies, court reporters, administrative assistants and other spectators were lining the walls and peering through the windows. They were there to watch me try my first case, as if I were an alien who had landed in Fulton County.

Permit me to tell you a few of the things I have learned in the 26 years I have been a judge. I have learned that people are far more complex than the labels we sometimes affix to them. As judges, we would not be doing our jobs if we paid attention to labels because we have but one purpose: to know and uphold the laws of the state of Georgia and the United States, regardless of where the chips may fall. That means that in our work we can espouse no ideology, no partisan political views and we must ignore the false assumptions people sometimes make.

I have learned that the people of Georgia are fortunate to have attorneys of the highest quality. I am always amazed at the ability of Georgia's lawyers to present vigorous, well-reasoned arguments on both sides of complicated issues

and to answer the probing questions of the justices of our Court. I commend the State Bar of Georgia for all it does to maintain the exceptional quality of Georgia lawyers.

I have learned that sometimes a whisper is better than a roar. I now know that to get your point across, you don't always need to carry a big stick. I've also learned that while you should never shy away from standing up and speaking out for that which you believe is right, you have to pick your battles. On a court like ours, the only way to succeed is with your intellect and your integrity. The best judges listen more than they talk. And they are patient. That often means that when your position doesn't prevail, you have to let it go and move on.

I have learned that the most rewarding part of my career has not been the offices I have held but the people I have met and with whom I've had the privilege of working. Since I've been chief justice, I have only been treated with generosity and kindness. The fact is that I have had the exceptional privilege of working with exceptional people who have dedicated years of hard—and at times heartbreaking—work to make Georgia's judicial system the very best in the nation.

I am confident that even in the face of economic turbulence, the future of our judiciary is as bright and solid and undaunted as is the bedrock optimism of our people. After all, we are Americans. And we are Georgians. That means that, working with you and the Governor, we will be bold. We will learn to do more with less. And for the safety and security of our state, we will endure and we will prevail.

That is in large part because Georgia is fortunate. This state's judges are among the best in the nation. I am honored to have stood with them all these years. Like me, many have devoted their careers to guaranteeing that all citizens of our state receive fair and impartial justice. I will miss being a part of “the brotherhood.” And I will miss all of you.

Committee Updates...

Juvenile Law Committee Hosts Free CLE

by *Kirsten Widner*

On April 29, the Juvenile Law Committee co-sponsored a free CLE on Interviewing the Child Client. The program featured panelists **Dawn Smith**, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation; **Trenny Stovall**, DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center; **Randee Waldman**, Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic at Emory Law School; and **Tony DeMarco**, Boston College Law School's Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project. The session centered on the ABA Section of Litigation video "Interviewing the Child Client," with panelists adding further insight and practice points. Attendees learned child-specific skills for building relationships, explaining roles and responsibilities, communicating, and interviewing. Other co-sponsors of the CLE included the American Bar Association Section of Litigation, the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic and the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children.

Litigation Committee Holds CLE and Hosts Annual Spring Mixer

by *Edward McAfee and Christopher Abrego*

On March 13, the Litigation Committee held its annual CLE, Trial and Error, at the Bar Center. The CLE was a great success with nearly 120 attendees. **Scott Coulter** of ICLE remarked, "the excellent faculty [the committee] recruited for this program is the reason for its success." Please join the committee for the next installment of Trial and Error in March 2010.

On April 9, the Committee held its Annual Spring Mixer. Over 60 young lawyers attended the event which was held at Fuego Spanish Grill in Midtown. The committee also invited third year students from UGA, Emory, Georgia State and Mercer law schools. Committee members and guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers and socialized well into the night. The committee gives special thanks to its sponsors for a great event: Esquire Court Reporting, Bay Mediation and the Hawkins Firm.

The committee holds its general membership meetings the last Wednesday of every month at the Bar Center. Please contact committee co-chair **Christopher Abrego** at cabrego@wznd.net if you would like to get involved or learn more about the committee.



(L-R) Judge Beverly M. Martin, Christopher Abrego, Edward McAfee and Court of Appeals Judge Sara L. Doyle

YLD Ethics & Professionalism Committee Continues Professionalism in the Practice Speaker Series

by *Nicole Iannarone*

The Ethics & Professionalism Committee is continuing its popular Professionalism in the Practice Speaker Series. Started in 2008, the series provides an opportunity for young lawyers to interact with leaders in the Bar and the practice in an intimate setting and discuss various topics of ethics and professionalism. Past speakers have included current and former State Bar Presidents **Jeffrey O. Bramlett** of Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore and **Harold T. Daniel** of Holland & Knight, and mediator **Richard Strauss**.

On July 8, **John Marshall**, Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein, will deliver the summer session of the series: "A Little Straight Talk Among Friends." The program will be a casual gathering focusing on real-world experiences. Drinks will be provided beginning at 5 p.m. and the talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein; located at One Atlantic Center, 14th Floor, 1201 West Peachtree St. For more information or to RSVP, please contact **John Bush** at john.bush@bryancave.com.

The committee is pleased to continue the series with such a highly distinguished speaker. Marshall has received numerous honors in his 47 years of legal practice. These recognitions include the State Bar's Distinguished Service Award, the State Bar's Tradition of Excellence Award (service to bar and community), the State Bar's A. Gus Cleveland Award (service to continuing legal education), the Atlanta Bar's Charles E. Watkins Jr. Award (service to Bar), the Atlanta Bar's Leadership Award, the Atlanta Bar's Professionalism Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeast Region of the Anti-Defamation League.

The Sept. 9 session will feature State Bar President **Bryan Cavan**, partner at Miller & Martin. Cavan's session will provide an opportunity for young lawyers to meet the president of the State Bar in an intimate setting. More details will be announced as the event approaches.

The Ethics & Professionalism Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon. In addition to the Speaker Series, the committee works with the State Bar's Professionalism Committee on the professionalism seminars for first year law students at each of Georgia's law schools and presents the annual Ethics & Professionalism Award. For more information or to join the committee, please contact Chairs **David Adams**, david.adams@wcsr.com or **Nicole Iannarone**, iannarone@bmelaw.com.

Intrastate Moot Court Committee Hosts Annual Competition

by *Sarah Cipperly*

The Young Lawyers Division's Intrastate Moot Court Committee hosted the 2009 Intrastate Moot Court Competition at Emory University School of Law on March 27-28. The law schools of Emory University, Georgia State University, Mercer University, John Marshall and the University of Georgia sent teams to compete.

The Georgia State and University of Georgia teams met in the final round of the competition. The judging panel included members of the YLD Intrastate Moot Court Committee and **David Webster**, appellate practice expert and General Counsel of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. The University of Georgia team prevailed and the Best Oralists Awards went to **Marie Greene** of the University of Georgia and **Ellenor Stone** of Georgia State. The Best Brief Award went to the winning team from the University of Georgia.

The committee thanks its wonderful volunteers for their efforts and gives special thanks to the competition sponsors: McKenna Long & Aldridge; Fincher, Denmark & Williams; Fisher & Phillips; Ford & Harrison; Holland & Knight and King & Spalding.

The annual competition among the five Georgia law schools is run by the YLD Intrastate Moot Court Committee and is hosted by a different Georgia law school each year. YLD members create the problem, grade the briefs, plan the competition and judge oral arguments. YLD members interested in being involved with next year's competition should contact **Mary McAfee** at 404-527-8778 or marym@gabar.org.

The 2009 YLD Leadership Academy Draws to a Close

by John Jackson



The 2009 Leadership Academy with Rep. Wendell Willard and Gov. Sonny Perdue during their “Annual Day at the Capitol.”

The Leadership Academy has enjoyed another successful year, beginning with nearly 200 applications from highly qualified young lawyers located around the state for 50 coveted spots. Started in 2006, the Leadership Academy is designed to bring together young lawyers from across the state and from a variety of practice areas and develop them into leaders for their local bars and communities, the YLD and the State Bar. The Academy meets once a month for six months, with each monthly session covering a different topic. The participants are able to obtain all of their required CLE credit for the year through their participation in the Leadership Academy.

The first session of the 2009 Leadership Academy was held during the Bar’s Midyear Meeting. Academy members participated in panel discussions with various Bar leaders and toured the Bar Center. The members were taught about the State Bar and how gratifying service to the Bar can be, both professionally and personally.

In February, the Leadership Academy had its annual “Day at the Capitol” and was graciously hosted by Rep. **Wendell Willard** (R-Atlanta), who has been a great friend to the Academy. Participants were greeted by Gov. **Sonny Perdue**, recognized from the floor of the House of Representatives, and enjoyed a luncheon with members of the State House and Senate Judiciary Committees and all Georgia lawyers in the General Assembly.

For the March session, participants traveled to Mercer University School of Law in Macon where they heard Law Professor Sarah Gerwig Moore discuss her pro bono efforts through Mercer Law School’s Habeas Project. **Carl Varnedoe** led a class discussion on each participant’s own pro bono experiences, which was followed by small group discussions on the topic.

The fourth session took place in April at the YLD Spring Meeting in St. Simons Island. **Doug Ashworth**, director of the Transition Into Law Practice Program and member of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, presented a thought-provoking presentation on what professionalism means in the practice of law. He conducted an interactive presentation that led to a thought-provoking class discussion on how to handle problems with other attorneys who do not act professionally.

In May, participants visited the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, home to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. They were treated to a tour of the court, a reception with the judges of the Northern District and presentations Judge **Timothy Batten** and Magistrate Judge **Gerrilyn Brill** and by the Clerk’s Office. Participants also visited the State Judicial Building and participated in a lively discussion with Judge **John Ellington** of the Court of Appeals of Georgia who also graciously led a tour.

The last session of the 2009 class was a graduation ceremony that took place during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Amelia Island in June. All Leadership Academy alumni were invited to attend the luncheon. Georgia Attorney General **Thurbert Baker** was the keynote speaker. All of the graduates were recognized and plans for the Leadership Academy Alumni program were discussed.

The 2010 Leadership Academy will begin in January 2010. Please look for the application for the 2010 class on the State Bar website beginning in September.

Women In The Profession Committee Hosts “Cocktails and Conversation,” — A Reception to Honor Women in the Appellate Judiciary

by Trinity Hundredmark

The Women in the Profession Committee hosted a wine and cheese reception at the Commerce Club in Atlanta on Feb. 17 to honor women in the state’s appellate judiciary. Supreme Court of Georgia **Presiding Justice Carol Hunstein**, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia **Yvette Miller**, former Chief Judge **Anne Barnes** and Judge **Sarah Doyle** were in attendance. The judges spoke frankly in a panel discussion moderated by **Jennifer Blackburn** and answered questions ranging from career paths to work/life balance. Close to 200 YLD members registered for the event.



(L-R) WIPC members Whitney Mauk, Trinity Hundredmark, Stephanie Kirijan and Jennifer Blackburn with Court of Appeals Judges Sara Doyle and Anne Barnes.

SAVE THE DATE!

YLD Summer Meeting 2009

August 28-30

The Grove Park Inn

Asheville, NC

Savannah YLD

by Robert Hughes

After a busy winter highlighted by the first Appellate Court Swearing-In Ceremony in Savannah in more than 10 years, the Savannah YLD joined with the Savannah Bar Association to enjoy a relaxing day on the water. The Annual Savannah Bar Association Boat Ride was held on April 17. More than 100 lawyers and judges traded in their suits for flip flops and set sail on the luxury yacht “The Spirit of Harbour Town,” all the while enjoying great conversation, great food and great views—including the 18th Hole at the PGA Tour’s Verizon Heritage Tournament.

In May, Savannah YLD members gave presentations at local high schools in observance of Law Day. On May 14, Savannah YLD President-Elect **Ben Perkins** presided over the Savannah Bar Association Law Day Awards Ceremony, recognizing four award recipients for their contributions to the profession and the community as a whole.

The Savannah YLD’s feature summer event was its annual golf tournament that benefited the Chatham County Guardian Ad Litem Association. The tournament was held at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort on June 12.



(Back Row, L-R) Court of Appeals Judge G. Alan Blackburn, Jennifer Blackburn, Darrell Sutton, Whitney Mauk, (front row, L-R) Shane Mayes and Shiriki Cavitt enjoy the Savannah Bar Association Boat Ride.

The YLD would like to congratulate the following YLD members on being selected to join the State Bar of Georgia’s Board of Governors:

Elizabeth L. Fite, Atlanta Circuit Post 19

Elena Kaplan, Atlanta Circuit Post 12

Catherine Koura, Atlanta Circuit Post 5

Whitney D. Mauk, Atlanta Circuit Post 3

Patrick N. Millsaps, South Georgia Circuit Post 2

Mock Trial

Continued from page 1

hands. They were top notch across the board,” said **Stacey Evans**, first vice chair of the YLD High School Mock Trial Committee.

When the four preliminary rounds of intense competition had concluded, the teams adjourned to the atrium of the Fulton County Government Center to await the announcement of the two teams that had advanced to the championship round on Saturday afternoon. The wait was short and soon the teams from Minnesota’s Lakeville North High School and Indiana’s John Adams High School were on their way back to courtroom 7-E to try the 2009 problem case, *State of Georgia v. Ashley Dougherty*, for the final time.

William Noland, chair of the HSMTTC, noted after the final round, “It was a real honor to watch these high school students, who had obviously worked so hard and prepared so diligently, perform at such a high level. I was very impressed.”

The final performance was outstanding and when it was over, all of the teams gathered at the Hyatt Regency for the awards banquet. Justice Carley presented the Indiana team with the national champion trophy, which is an original oil painting by Walterboro, S.C. artist **Joanna Diehl Angell** titled “The Cherokee Rose.” The painting was commissioned by Chatham County Magistrate Court Judge **Michael Barker**, chair of the National Problem Subcommittee, as the centerpiece of the mock trial case tried during this year’s national tournament. The Grady High School team placed eighth and student team member **Gus Rick** was honored with three outstanding witness awards. Fulton State Court Judge **Brenda Cole** was on hand to present the 2009 Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism Award to the team from Guam.

Reflecting on the tournament, Justice Carley said, “I really believe that the teams get better and that the attorneys, teachers and volunteers become increasingly enthusiastic about this wonderful program. I cannot help but repeat what I have often said: The National High School Mock Trial championship demonstrates what is good, wholesome and positive about the youth of America... and indeed the world!”

The national tournament experience in Atlanta has provided the Georgia program and volunteers with renewed enthusiasm for high school mock trial and we look forward to the upcoming mock trial season and to sending another outstanding Georgia state champion to compete against the best of the best in Philadelphia next spring.

Macon YLD Hosts “Meet the Candidates” Forum and Socials

by Sarah White

The Macon YLD caught spring fever and hosted happy hours at the Downtown Grill and The Shamrock and held a Cinco de Mayo celebration at El Azteca in Macon. They also hosted a “Meet the Candidates” forum for the entire Macon Bar Association. Members were invited to meet candidates for the Macon area’s seats on the State Bar Board of Governors. The forum was a great success with all Board of Governors candidates present and eager to mingle with fellow Bar members.

The Macon YLD also recently elected its new executive committee: president, **Sarah White**, James, Bates, Pope & Spivey; president-elect, **Ivy Cadle**, Baker Donelson; secretary, **Canon Hill**, Jones, Cork & Miller; and treasurer, **David McCain**, Sell & Melton. For more information about the Macon YLD and its events, please e-mail Canon Hill at canon.hill@jonescork.com.



Macon YLD Officers (L-R) Canon Hill, Ivy Cadle and Sarah White

King and Prince Plays Host to YLD Spring Meeting

by Darrell Sutton

The King and Prince Golf and Beach Resort in St. Simons Island was the site of the 2009 YLD Spring Meeting, April 17-19. YLD members from across the state and distinguished guests, including State Bar President **Jeffrey O. Bramlett** and President-Elect **Bryan Cavan**, gathered to conduct the YLD's business and enjoy the amenities that the resort and island have to offer.

The meeting began with a group reception and dinner on Friday night. Attendees enjoyed fine food and drinks as they took the time to catch-up with old friends and get to know new one's. After dinner, everyone moved to the hospitality suite where they continued to enjoy each other's company.

The business meeting was held Saturday morning. Attendees were treated to an address by **Phyllis Holmen**, executive director of the Georgia Legal Services Program. Holmen explained to the crowd why now, more than ever, it is imperative that the state's young lawyers volunteer to provide pro bono legal services and implored them to volunteer.



(L-R) Elena Kaplan, Michael Geoffroy, Josh Bell, Edward McAfee, Scott Masterson and Amy Howell brought a sense of style to the '80s themed Karaoke party Saturday night.

Florida YLD President **Jewel White Cole** also addressed the group. She described the Florida YLD's law school initiative: a program designed to make participation in the Florida YLD possible for students at all Florida law schools. She explained how the Georgia YLD could implement a similar program and gave pointers on how to do so.

Saturday's business meeting concluded with a discussion of and vote on an amendment to the YLD's bylaws concerning eligibility to serve as YLD president-elect. Rules and Bylaws Committee Chair **Darrell Sutton** made a presentation on the history of the YLD's bylaws and the eligibility provisions for serving as president-elect, including the history behind the development of the current provision. He then reported on the committee's discussion of the amendment before opening discussion on it to those in attendance.

After a spirited debate, a second amendment to the eligibility provision was made from the floor by **Edward McAfee**. The proposed amendment eliminated all geographical restrictions on who can serve as president-elect. This amendment was debated and passed by a majority vote.

Most YLD members spent Saturday afternoon by the pool or on the golf course before reconvening for an '80s themed karaoke party Saturday night. YLD members donned their best '80s garb and took to the microphone, belting out one pop and rock hit after another. Sounds of Bon Jovi, Devo, Michael Jackson and others were heard throughout the resort as YLD members concluded yet another successful and enjoyable meeting.



Tyler Browning serenades the group with a popular '80s hit.



(L-R) Matt Crowder, Daveniva Fisher and Amy Stone get ready to rock.



Neera Makwana and Dave Skurky show us why '80s fashion should stay in the '80s.



Editor's Block

He Said

by Darrell Sutton

Ours is a brotherhood forged in classrooms and library carrels. One forged in Macon's restaurants and bars; on the front and back porches of its homes and in the living rooms of its apartments. It is one maintained by long trips across the rolling hills and plains of Georgia and the rest of the Southeast, and through long conversations held as often over e-mail as around a campfire.

We were once scattered about the Southeast and our personalities are as different as the roads we took to get to where we met. We spent but a relatively brief time together before we scattered again. There is a variety among the places where we now live that is similar to the variety among our

practices. Some of us live and practice in big cities, others in small towns. Some of us are criminal lawyers, others civil (in area of practice, certainly not personality). Some are members of big firms, others solo practitioners. But neither geography, variety, nor the binds of family and practice can keep us from reuniting.

Every reunion is similar. It begins each time with a trip—sometimes alone, sometimes not. Across the Southeast's interstates, highways, back roads and dirt roads we travel. To cities like Atlanta, Charlotte, Macon or Nashville and small towns like Carrollton, Bogart and Spring Hill. Into one another's homes, campers and camp sites. Once there, we meet and embrace.

We spend days at a time around a campfire, on a lake, in a bar or sitting in a living room or on a porch. We catch up, but there is never any effort required to pick up right where we left off. We ride—in four wheelers, golf carts, the back of a truck—across fields and fairways, through the forest, to restaurants or to a bar. Some of us enjoy “adult beverages” and some of us don't; the latter saved from the wrath of one member of the group who never believes we consume at a quick enough pace.

Despite the variety in our personalities, where we're from and where we live, our practices, where we reunite, or what we do once there, one thing is always the same: a true and effortless enjoyment of each other's company. It brings us from hundreds of miles apart to places we otherwise never would have traveled to do things we otherwise might never have done. But before there was each other, there was the law. It also brought us from hundreds of miles apart to a place (Mercer University School of Law) we otherwise never would have traveled to do things (study and eventually practice the law) we otherwise might never have done.

I've dedicated my first three editorials of this Bar year to involvement, service, both to the Bar and the community, and leadership. All three are very important in their own right, but none of them as important as friendship. I hope you use the law to become involved, serve and lead. But above that, I hope you use the law as I have to find a kinship with others I might not have discovered without it. After all, the ride down the long road to Damascus (Georgia, that is) isn't quite as exciting without seven other lawyers piled into the cab of a Ford truck with you.

She Said

by Sharri Edenfield

As you have probably noticed by now, my co-editor and I have tried to put our own personal stamp on the newsletter by creating this “He Said/She Said” column. We have also tried to gear each newsletter towards a different theme. Sometimes these themes have been subtle; other times, not so much. To be honest, I am more of the theme generator and Darrell paints with a broader brush, which is great, especially if you don't like one of my ideas.

For this newsletter, however, I have tried to make our theme about transitioning into the new Bar year. In the preceding pages, we have Lessons Learned from Judge **Sara Doyle**, and from **Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears**. They have both written their impressions of the transitions that they have gone through or are going through from private practice to the bench and vice versa. Like the very first column I completed last summer when I recounted my first day in my first job out of college and likened it to my first day on the job as a newsletter editor, these columns made me reflect on the lessons that I've learned and observations I have made this Bar year as I transitioned from being a YLD member to a YLD officer.

First of all, I am excited about the things that I've seen happen and pray that they will continue to grow even bigger and better next year. I am thrilled that the YLD Signature Fundraiser raised more money for charity this year than ever before. I am proud that the number of applications for the Leadership Academy increased this year to a record number of outstanding applicants. I am enthusiastic about all of the hard work that the YLD committees have put forth in our communities and around the state. I am glad that the Georgia YLD has forged close friendships and ties with YLDs from Texas and Florida. And on a personal note, I'm humbled by the people who have called, written or e-mailed to tell me that my column has made them laugh or think. I am hopeful that we can convert this past year's successes into greater successes this upcoming Bar year.

Just as Darrell has used the practice of law to find a kinship with others, I have enjoyed using my involvement in the YLD this year to forge new friendships with others whom I might have never met otherwise. It is my hope that you have been encouraged by the newsletters this year to get involved with the YLD or at least had your interest piqued enough not to throw the newsletter away right when you get it. It is my hope that if you have not already gotten involved, that you will get involved in the YLD this upcoming Bar year. It is also my hope that if you are already involved, reading the newsletter and seeing your accomplishments in black and white has been motivation for you to continue your good works.

Motivational speaker, Jim Rohn, says, “Get around people who have something of value to share with you. Their impact will continue to have a significant effect on your life long after they have departed.” I guess if I have to sum up what lessons I have learned this year as co-editor of the newsletter, it would be simple: I enjoy being around other YLD members because they inspire me with their thoughtful acts, hard work and dedication to our organization. As we transition into this new Bar year, I hope that you will become more involved in the YLD so that you can experience this as well.



Editor's Block