

## YLD Donates Over \$43,000 to Kids Against Hunger



(L-R) Quentin Marlin, Belinda Landers, Betty Nguyen Davis and Jay Davis at Casino Royale.

by Jennifer Blackburn and Whitney Mauk

On Jan. 9, 2009, the YLD held its third annual Signature Fundraiser, Casino Royale, at the Biltmore in Midtown Atlanta to benefit Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization that packages and distributes food to starving children worldwide. There are over 30 packaging satellites across the U.S. The only one located in Georgia is run by attorney **Melvin Horne** in the small town of Cairo. This year's event raised over \$10,000 more than 2008 despite the hard economic climate. This could not have happened without the generous support of the State's law firms and law-related vendors and the generosity of Georgia's attorneys—young and old.

The event began with a reception for the Host Committee, where attendees were served the event's signature drink, the Casinotini. At the close of the reception, more than 175 attendees clad in black tie attire entered the beautiful ballroom to try their luck in mock casino games such as Craps, Roulette, Blackjack and Texas Hold'Em. Several notable guests joined the event to show their support for the YLD. These guests included Court of Appeals of Georgia Judges **G. Alan Blackburn** and **John Ellington**, State Bar Officers **Bryan Cavan** and **Lester Tate** and Past YLD Presidents **William Barwick**, **Stan Brading**, **Henry Walker**, **Kendall Butterworth**, **Damon Elmore** and **Elena Kaplan**.

*Continued on page 7*

## The Next Generation of Leaders

by Michael L. Monahan

We are on the cusp of a major demographic change in the lawyer population in this country. The Boomer generation of lawyers is entering retirement. Many of the generation's lawyers, if not retiring, are already slowing down their practices and planning the next phase of their lives. These lawyers, who came of age in the 50s and 60s, have made a profound impact on our legal culture, particularly in the area of pro bono publico.

The Boomer generation has been hailed and assailed. But they leave us with a question for discussion here: have they raised up their successors—have they raised up you—in the ways of pro bono and community service in a manner that will ensure a healthy future for the legal profession and respect for the courts?

In presentations I make to local bar associations around the state, I often urge the members in attendance to reflect on their role as mentor and guardian—mentor of new lawyers and guardian of the keys to the courthouse. If each one of us has a responsibility to make life better for succeeding generations, then, too, a lawyer has a similar obligation for those within his or her profession. That obligation goes beyond seeing that new lawyers are technically prepared for their work.

Perhaps I should express the generational transfer of professional values as a covenant rather than a duty. We often speak of the promise of pro bono and of a time in the future when justice will rush down like the waters. Who among us will choose to enter into that covenant to march toward perfect justice and fair play? One might argue that we all do that work in our ordinary role as lawyer; however, we need strong and visible pro bono leaders in every generation of lawyers.

As a new lawyer and YLD member, you are following in the footsteps of young lawyers who became leaders for justice. The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar has played an effective (if not key) role in bridging the gap between one generation of lawyers and the next. The YLD's history reflects quality leadership—in giving birth to what is now the Georgia Legal Services Program, in addressing special legal needs in our communities, and for creative responses to disasters.

The stage is set for the next performance. I urge you not to wait to fill a void; that you actively plan now an agenda for pro bono publico and community service. Honor your pro bono forebears by imitation. Let them know you have been watching and listening.

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## From the President

# The Stress Will Melt Away...

by Joshua C. Bell

Most, if not all, young lawyers suffer from a tremendous amount of stress. Stress with new jobs and new situations. The stresses that goes along with the demands of the practice of law and that are placed on young lawyers do not go away as you get older—it just changes. With all that being said, I can give you an idea of how to make your stress melt away.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, I started my day by packing my suitcase for an overnight visit to Atlanta. On my way to Atlanta, I stopped in Albany in order to be an evaluator for the regional competition of the High School Mock Trial Tournament. This wasn't the first time I was involved with a mock trial tournament, but these days I seem to look at things a little differently than I used to. What I saw was a tremendous amount of hard work and passion in the students who participated. It was wonderful to see that type of energy on display. What a great couple of hours I spent with those young men and women.

After that, I drove to Atlanta to watch the Hawks play. I did not go alone. I joined approximately 20 other Georgia young lawyers and 20 young people ranging in age from 6 to 15. These children were all in foster care, under the

supervision of the State Division of Family and Children Services. The YLD Community Service Committee organized this event.

For a few hours at the Mock Trial Tournament and for a few hours at the Hawks game, I forgot about all the deadlines that I face. I forgot about all the work that remained at my office. I forgot that I had any stress whatsoever. As faces lit up and smiles got bigger, the stress just melted away.

There are opportunities for you everyday to provide help and hope to people who may not be able to get it any other way. If you have trouble finding a way to serve, the Young Lawyers Division can help you find your place. The Community Service Committee is constantly helping the youth of our communities. The YLD's Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee and the Aspiring Youth Program always have exciting and worthwhile functions. The Law-Related Education Committee also provides programs that focus on children and the law.

I am constantly asked, "What can the YLD do for me?" For one, the YLD can help you melt your stress away. It has for me for many years.

## YLD Spring Meeting 2009 April 17-19

St. Simons Island, Ga.

The King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort

YLD Rates: \$216-247/night

Events include: welcome reception, group dinner with '80s karaoke, YLD general session meeting and CLE

Please visit the State Bar's website for a full meeting brochure and registration form or contact YLD Director Mary McAfee at [marym@gabar.org](mailto:marym@gabar.org) or 404-527-8778 for more information.

Early Bird registration cut-off date: March 23  
Registration cut-off date: April 8  
Hotel cut-off date: March 23



## Calling All Candidates—YLD Wants You for Executive Council

Interested in serving as a representative on the YLD Executive Council? Now is the time to throw your hat in the ring! Elections for representatives occur at the YLD Annual Meeting, which will be held this year at the Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Fla., from June 18-21.

The Executive Council is composed of 10 representatives from each of Georgia's Federal Judicial Districts (Northern, Middle and Southern) and two representatives from outside Georgia. Representatives participate in the YLD's five annual membership meetings, provide input and perspective with respect to YLD activities and 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](mailto:marym@gabar.org) or fax it to 404-287-4990. For more information about the elections, contact Mary McAfee, or YLD President-Elect Amy Howell at [amyvhowell@gmail.com](mailto:amyvhowell@gmail.com) or 404-508-7284.

## Motion to Amend YLD Bylaws

The Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia (the YLD) hereby presents this motion to the President of the YLD to amend the bylaws of the YLD. The proposed amendment changes the eligibility requirements for serving as President-Elect of the YLD as set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws. The committee requests that this motion be published in the spring issue of the YLD Newsletter and that a vote on the proposed amendment be taken at the Spring Meeting of the members of the YLD, scheduled for April 17-19, 2009, in St. Simons Island, Ga., or the first meeting thereafter at which a quorum is present. Any questions, comments or requests for a copy of the proposed amendment should be addressed to Darrell Sutton at 678-385-0385 or [dlsutton@baileydavis.com](mailto:dlsutton@baileydavis.com).

# Savannah Bar YLD Hosts Socials and Swearing-In Ceremony

by Ben Perkins

On Dec. 6, 2008, the Savannah Bar Association YLD held its third annual Tacky Christmas Sweater Party and Fundraiser at YLD member Zach Thomas's condominium in downtown Savannah. Those attending donated a total of \$600 to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. The funds were used to purchase toys, books and clothing for four children, as well as to provide each child's family with gift certificates to a local grocery store. **Ben Perkins** won first place in the Tacky Christmas Sweater contest, while **Sally Perkins**, **Louise Connell** and **Robert Hughes** all took home honorable mentions.

The SBA YLD has a busy schedule ahead, including a March reception with local judges and a boat trip to Ossabaw Island. The group also sponsored the first ever mass swearing-in ceremony in Savannah for young lawyers seeking admission to practice before the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia. Over 50 lawyers from across southeast Georgia participated in the ceremony. The event was held at the Westin Savannah Harbor on March 6.



(L-R Front Row) Robert Hughes, Micaela Carter (Middle Row) Louise Connell, Sally Perkins (Back Row) Patrick Connell, Ben Perkins and a bear participate in the Savannah Bar YLD Tacky Christmas Sweater contest.

# Blue Ridge—YLD's Newest Affiliate

by Erin Fortney

The Blue Ridge Bar Association YLD was formed in October 2008 to meet the needs of the growing community of young lawyers in the Cherokee County area. Specifically, the three focus areas of the BRBA YLD are professional development, philanthropy and social networking.

A primary goal of the professional development committee of the BRBA YLD is to provide resources and information to the circuit's young lawyers, many of whom are solo practitioners practicing in small firms. The YLD's bi-monthly meetings have a "lunch-and-learn" format, where lawyers, judges and other professionals are invited to speak to the group about issues germane to a young lawyer's practice. The group's inaugural lunch-and-learn meeting was held on Nov. 25, 2008, and featured former Court of Appeals of Georgia Judge **Marion T. Pope Jr.** as the keynote speaker. Pope shared bits of practical wisdom interspersed with stories about his own experiences as a young lawyer when the circuit consisted of five counties (the current Blue Ridge, Appalachian and Bell-Forsyth Judicial circuits) and had a total of 40 practicing lawyers. In the near future, the BRBA YLD plans to offer more professional development opportunities through mentoring and workshops in addition to the bi-monthly lunch-and-learn gatherings.

Recognizing the need for young lawyers to give back to the community, the BRBA YLD places a heavy emphasis on philanthropy, including quarterly community service projects in the Canton and Cherokee County area. This past holiday season, the BRBA YLD adopted a needy family to ensure that three very deserving brothers received a wonderful Christmas that they otherwise would not have had. In future years, the BRBA YLD hopes to expand the program and involve the BRBA as a whole in helping even more underprivileged families. With prom season around the corner, the BRBA YLD is gearing-up for its next quarterly philanthropy project, a prom dress drive to collect gently used prom and bridesmaids dresses for deserving high school girls so that they can attend their prom in style.

Finally, the BRBA YLD seeks to provide opportunities for the young lawyers in the community to socialize. Because numerous attorneys practice either exclusively criminal or civil law, there are many young lawyers who simply don't know each other. With several upcoming happy hours and other events, the BRBA YLD hopes to bring together the entire community of young lawyers in the circuit.

# Macon YLD Continues Monthly Socials

by Sarah White

The Macon Bar Association YLD had a successful fall and winter. The monthly happy hours have proven to be a hit and will continue in 2009 with locations to be announced. Recently, the Macon YLD's new member social hosted over 50 young lawyers along with their mentors at the Wine Cellar at Luigi's. The Macon YLD would like to thank the two sponsors of the event, Westlaw and Pro Legal Copies.

The Macon YLD also held a monthly happy hour at the Tic Toc Room on Feb. 5, which was sponsored by **Jeff Ingram** of Esquire.

The Macon YLD is working on a Law Day event and recently assisted with the regional High School Mock Trial Competition. For more information about the Macon YLD or its events, contact **Kelli Hill** at [khill@constangy.com](mailto:khill@constangy.com).

# Committee Updates...

## Community Service Projects Committee Continues Invaluable Work

by Shiriki Cavitt

The members of the Community Service Committee continued spreading their good cheer and good works during the cold winter months. On Dec. 13, volunteers helped the Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) sort and wrap holiday gifts that were donated to foster children in Fulton County. Volunteers spent an entire Saturday morning in the DFACS gift warehouse organizing, sorting and wrapping toys, books, games, dolls, bikes and more. It was an ideal opportunity for everyone to enjoy the holiday spirit and remember the importance of fellowship and giving to others during the holiday season. On Dec. 20, about 15 volunteers went to the Atlanta Community Food Bank Headquarters to sort and pack non-perishable food items for those in need. In just one Saturday morning, the volunteers managed to pack 12,632 pounds of food which would then provide 8,421 meals for deserving families and individuals.



Community Service Committee volunteers help sort and wrap holiday gifts at the DFACS warehouse.

In January, the committee co-hosted a happy hour with several other YLD committees at Steamhouse Lounge in conjunction with the Signature Fundraiser. The committee's annual Suit, T-shirt and Cell Phone Drive filled more than three SUVs with donations that were given to the Atlanta Union Mission and The Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence.

On Feb. 7, a group of 25 young lawyers and 25 foster children attended the Atlanta Hawks vs. L.A. Clippers game. Thanks to the generosity of the Hawks' **Joe Johnson** and the "Hawks Assist" program, the children enjoyed a night full of basketball, food, entertainment and even some mentoring from the committee's volunteers. At the end of the evening, they met and interacted with Hawks' guard **Ronald "Flip" Murray**.

The coming months are guaranteed to provide just as many great volunteer activities. Anyone interested in the Community Service Projects Committee should contact co-chairs **Jennifer Blackburn**, [jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com](mailto:jennifer.blackburn@troutmansanders.com), or **Shiriki Cavitt**, [shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlematerials.com](mailto:shiriki.cavitt@oldcastlematerials.com), for more information on upcoming events and projects.



(L-R) The Hon. John Ellington poses with Josh Bosin, Meredith Wilson, Shiriki Cavitt and YLD President-Elect Amy Howell at Steamhouse Lounge.

## Judging Panel Volunteers Still Needed in 2009

### State Finals

Gwinnett Justice Center, Lawrenceville,  
March 14 & 15

At least 2 rounds of HSMT judging panel experience or 1 year of coaching experience required to serve at State.

Volunteer forms at [www.georgiamocktrial.org](http://www.georgiamocktrial.org) under the "Attorney Volunteer" section

### Nationals

Fulton County Courthouse, Atlanta,  
May 8 & 9

At least 2 rounds of HSMT judging panel experience or 1 year of coaching experience required to serve at Nationals.

## MAKE A DONATION TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT!

Visit our website: [www.nhsmtc-ATL-09.org](http://www.nhsmtc-ATL-09.org) and click the "Donate Now" section

We have \$75,000 left to meet our fundraising goal—please help today!

Visit our website at [www.georgiamocktrial.org](http://www.georgiamocktrial.org) or contact the mock trial office for information 404-527-8779 or toll free 800-334-6865 ext. 779 or e-mail: [mocktrial@gabar.org](mailto:mocktrial@gabar.org)



## Aspiring Youth Program Committee: The “Great Debaters”

by *LeRoya Chester Jennings and Janet C. Scott*

The YLD Aspiring Youth Program Committee launched a new project this year: the “Great Debaters Project.” On Jan. 10, committee members began teaching the young men of the DeKalb Regional Youth Detention Center about the “Art of Debate.”

Committee members met with the young men every Saturday for seven one-hour sessions. The sessions became a learning experience for everyone involved. Debate topics included everything from “Who is the better rapper - T.I. or Lil Wayne?” to “Should young adults have curfews?” and “Are athletes good role models?” The participants have been enthusiastic and creative in constructing and supporting their arguments.

The committee held the final “Great Debate” competition and reception on Feb. 24 at the DeKalb Regional Youth Detention Center. The “Great Debaters” were recognized and honored for their hard work and participation in the program.

If you would like to get involved with or learn more about the Aspiring Youth Program Committee, please contact committee co-chairs **LeRoya Chester Jennings** and **Janet C. Scott** at [aspiringyouth08@yahoo.com](mailto:aspiringyouth08@yahoo.com).



(L-R) Aspiring Youth Program Committee members LeRoya Chester Jennings, Janet C. Scott, Natalie Davis and Jennifer Grippa at the DeKalb Regional Youth Detention Center.

## Juvenile Law Committee Presents Education CLE

by *Kirsten Widner*

Approximately 100 attorneys practicing in juvenile law had the opportunity to learn how to advocate for children, parents and families in the education arena. On Dec. 3, the Juvenile Law Committee hosted “Education Law: What Every Attorney in Juvenile Court Needs to Know.” The all-day CLE included a keynote address from Superintendent **Andrew Broy** from the Georgia Department of Education, as well as an overview of No Child Left Behind and the laws governing special education by legal aid attorney **Craig Goodmark**. Break-out sessions offered instruction in school disciplinary processes and procedures, gang recognition, the IEP process, addressing mental health needs and the effect of sleep on student performance.

The Juvenile Law Committee is also active in the revision of Georgia’s Juvenile Code, in promoting excellence in the representation of children and families in the Juvenile Courts, and in honoring the accomplishments of children in the foster care system through the Celebration of Excellence.

## Litigation Committee Holds Annual Clerks and Staff Holiday Luncheon

by *Christopher Abrego*

On Dec. 16, the Litigation Committee held its fourth annual Holiday Luncheon for metro area court clerks and committee members’ staff at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Buckhead. The event was once again a success, as more than 80 metro area clerks, committee members and staff attended this year’s event. The committee thanks those who attended the luncheon and West Court Reporting for its generosity in sponsoring the event.

The committee is planning next year’s luncheon and will continue to expand its list of invitees to include clerks from more metro area counties. As Chief Deputy Clerk for the U.S. District Court Northern District of Georgia, **Rob Minor**, remarked, “This is a truly wonderful event that the clerks greatly appreciate. I am already looking forward to next year’s luncheon.”

## Intrastate Moot Court Hosts Annual Appellate Advocacy Competition

by *Sarah Cipperly*

The YLD will again host the Intrastate Moot Court Competition on March 27-28 at Emory University School of Law. The annual event is an appellate argument competition between the five Georgia law schools: Emory University School of Law; Georgia State University College of Law; Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School; Mercer University School of Law; and the University of Georgia School of Law. Each school sends two teams of students to compete in brief writing and oral argument. Briefs and oral arguments are judged by volunteer attorneys and judges. This year’s problem involves 4th and 14th Amendment search and seizure unanimous jury verdict issues.

The final round of competition will take place at Emory University School of Law on March 28. For information on how to volunteer for the competition, or for sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Sarah Cipperly**, committee chair, at 770-528-2568 ext. 232 or [scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org](mailto:scipperly@atlantalegalaid.org).

## Criminal Law Committee Kicks-Off Busy Year

by *Nedal Shawkat*

The YLD Criminal Law Committee is partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlanta to give aid and support to a program for mentoring the children of incarcerated parents. The committee hopes not only to have its members take on mentoring roles, but to also assist with the basic needs of the children, such as food, clothing, school supplies and transportation to visit their incarcerated parents.

The committee is looking for nominees for its Commitment to Justice Award. Each year the committee recognizes and honors a member of the YLD who has demonstrated a commitment to justice. Nominations will be accepted through April 15 and nomination forms can be found at [www.gabar.org/young\\_lawyers\\_division](http://www.gabar.org/young_lawyers_division).

If you would like to join the YLD Criminal Law Committee, be added to its mailing list, or have a comment or suggestion, please e-mail either **Nedal Shawkat**, [nshawkat@co.douglas.ga.us](mailto:nshawkat@co.douglas.ga.us) or **Alex Susor**, [alex@ldavidwolfe.com](mailto:alex@ldavidwolfe.com).



(L-R Back Row) Alex Susor, Andrew Lynch and Nedal Shawkat (Front Row) Gunner Pak, Helen Peters, Tunde Akinyele, guest speaker Nikki Thornton, LeeAnne Anthony, Lindsay Reese and Jessica Harris at Manuel’s Tavern.



**Event Co-Chairs:**

Jennifer Blackburn and Whitney Mauk

**Host Committee:**

Jason Alloy  
 Emily Aten  
 Kelly Atkinson  
 Amy K. Averill  
 Christina M. Baugh  
 Joshua & Deana Bell  
 Emily Rose Bernstein  
 & Noam Paransky  
 Jennifer Blackburn  
 Joshua I. Bosin  
 Lindsey Bowen  
 Tyler J. Browning  
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 Kristy Michelle Byrd  
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Anthony C. Kalka  
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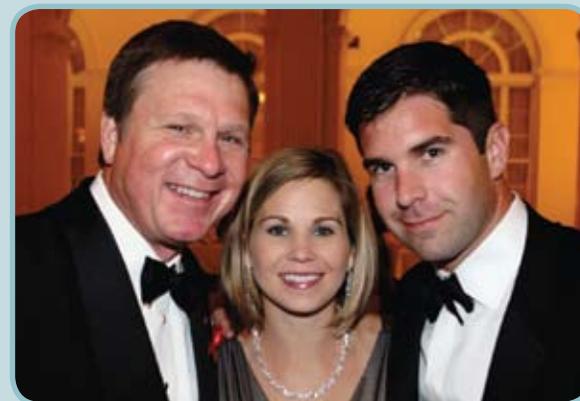
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# National Moot Court Committee Hosts Region V Competition

by Cecily McLeod

Each year the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia hosts the Atlanta National Moot Court Region V Competition, one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the country. **Stephanie L. Oginsky** of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, served as the chairperson of the YLD National Moot Court Competition Committee and **Cecily J. McLeod** of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, LLP, was the co-chairperson. This year's competition was sponsored by Bondurant, Mixon & Elmore, LLP.

The National Moot Court Region V Competition was held at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia Nov. 21-22, 2008. The participating law schools included Barry University, Emory University, Florida Coastal School of Law, Georgia State University, John Marshall School of Law, Mercer University, Stetson University, University of Georgia, University of Florida, University of Miami and University of South Carolina.

Advancing to the semi-final rounds were: Emory University, Florida Coastal School of Law, Mercer University and University of Florida. The following distinguished attorneys and judges served on the semi-final round panels:

- **Joshua C. Bell**, Kirbo Kendrick & Bell, President, YLD, State Bar of Georgia
- Judge **Diane E. Bessen**, Fulton County State Court
- **Damon E. Elmore**, NAPA Rayloc, Past President, YLD, State Bar of Georgia
- **John C. Jones**, Freeman, Mathis & Gary, LLP
- **Mark G. Trigg**, Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- **Allen Wallace**, Law Clerk to U.S. District Judge Robert L. Vining Jr.

Emory University, represented by **Kelly L. Frey**, **Steven J. Merritt** and **Michael D. Stacy**, and Mercer University, represented by **Anastasia Furgason** and **Kathryn Powers**, advanced to the final round. The following distinguished attorneys and judges served on the final round panel:

- Judge **Cynthia J. Becker**, DeKalb County Superior Court
- **Jeffrey O. Bramlett**, Bondurant, Mixon & Elmore, LLP, President, State Bar of Georgia
- Justice **Harold D. Melton**, Supreme Court of Georgia
- Judge **E. Clayton Scofield III**, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- **Amy Totenberg**, Law Office of Amy Totenberg

Mercer University won the regional competition for the second year in a row, and both Mercer and Emory will advance to the national competition held in New York City. Kathryn Powers of Mercer University was named the best oralist for the final round. **Robert Thomas** of the University of Georgia was named the best oralist for the preliminary rounds. The University of Florida won the best brief award.

Please contact Cecily J. McLeod at [cmcleod@lockelord.com](mailto:cmcleod@lockelord.com) or Stephanie L. Oginsky at [oginskys@gtlaw.com](mailto:oginskys@gtlaw.com) or [nationalmootcourregionv@gmail.com](mailto:nationalmootcourregionv@gmail.com) to get involved with the National Moot Court Competition Committee.



(L-R) Kelly L. Frey, Judge E. Clayton Scofield III, Amy Totenberg, Michael D. Stacy, Judge Cynthia J. Becker, Steven J. Merritt, State Bar President Jeffrey O. Bramlett, Anastasia Furgason, Justice Harold D. Melton and Kathryn Powers.

Continued from page 1

The silent auction included over 70 items ranging from jewelry and artwork to tennis lessons and Hawks tickets. There were also plenty of signed sports and entertainment memorabilia to bid on. Lucky lady **Jeremy Littlefield** won the raffle at the end of the evening featuring a registration and hotel package to the State Bar Annual Meeting to be held in Amelia Island, as well as two round-trip AirTran Airways tickets to anywhere in the United States.

In addition to gaming and camaraderie, guests enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, an open bar and great music from the DJ. A photographer was available to capture the evening and photos can be viewed at [www.flickr.com/photos/yld](http://www.flickr.com/photos/yld). By all accounts, the event was not only a success financially, but a great time was had by all!

## The Fifth Annual YLD Ethics and Professionalism Award

The Ethics and Professionalism Committee of the YLD invites nominations for a "young lawyer" who demonstrates and exemplifies professional and ethical conduct in the practice of law.

### Eligibility:

A YLD member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia and not a member of the YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

### Selection Criteria:

The nominee should embody the Lawyer's Creed adopted by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

### Required Information:

1. Nominating Party: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.
2. Nominee: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.
3. Narrative: Explain how the nominee meets the selection criteria above, including specific instances where the nominee's ethical qualities were evident.

### Send Nominations to:

Nicole Iannarone at [iannarone@bmelaw.com](mailto:iannarone@bmelaw.com) or David Adams at [daadams@wcsr.com](mailto:daadams@wcsr.com).

A complete nomination form with instructions can be found at [www.gabar.org/young\\_lawyers\\_division](http://www.gabar.org/young_lawyers_division).

**Deadline for receipt of submissions:** April 24, 2009

## Get Involved!

The YLD invites you to join any of our upcoming committee meetings or activities. For an up-to-date listing of events, please see the YLD Calendar at [www.gabar.org/young\\_lawyers\\_division](http://www.gabar.org/young_lawyers_division)



## Editor's Block

# He Said

by Darrell Sutton

For as long as I can remember, 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. This purpose, more than any of the other five, is fulfilled everyday by the current crop of YLD members. One needs to look no further than the preceding pages of this *YLD Review* to see that.

But why is “duty and service to the public” so important that it’s a stated purpose of the YLD? Why do so many young lawyers devote time to organizing a fundraiser when they otherwise have so little

time to give? Why does the Bar have a Pro Bono project and employ a full-time director? Why does the Leadership Academy devote a full session each year to service to the public? To paraphrase a current officer of the YLD, 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 opportunity to daily influence justice with our every professional move and be handsomely rewarded—financially and otherwise—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?

I have long been told that with every opportunity comes a corresponding obligation. In other words, nothing in life is free. We cannot continue to reap the benefits 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. YLD membership brings with it many ways to serve. Join the Community Service Projects Committee in one of its upcoming ventures. Volunteer to serve as an evaluator for the upcoming State and National High School Mock Trial competitions. Go beyond the YLD and volunteer to take a case pro bono, either on your own or from Atlanta Legal Aid or one of its affiliate organizations. Volunteer for a local charity or organize a school supply drive for local school children.

In one respect, serving the public is just like serving the Bar: everyone wants to do it, but there’s never enough time to actually do so. Where the two differ (and the primary reason why you must find time to serve the public) is the scope of the impact your service will have. Service to the Bar is vital because it positively impacts the organization charged with promoting your professional interests. As important as that is, service to the public is even more vital because it positively impacts the Bar *and* everything beyond it (including you).

# She Said

by Sharri Edenfield

This newsletter is focused on community service. The eternal question for young lawyers is how to incorporate community service when there are so many demands on our time. Everything revolves around our time: how much time we have before a deadline; how much time we have billed for the month; how much time we are able to spend with our families. When I am with lawyers, time seems to be all we talk about. Our vacations and other important events in our lives are scheduled around our work. What this tells me is that lawyers, for the most part, don’t “accidentally” do anything. We don’t accidentally show-up at committee meetings or accidentally volunteer to raise money for a charity. Young lawyers must and do plan and prioritize everything we do.

This reminds me of a story. There was a very poor family that consisted of a mother and three children. She taught her children that it was more important to give and to serve others, no matter how little they had. At church one Sunday, this family heard the pastor speak of a very poor family who needed assistance for the basic necessities of life. The pastor said that the children had holes in their clothes and no one had a winter coat. After the sermon, the family went home and discussed how they could donate to this family. Each family member resolved to cut back on something they enjoyed so they could give to this poor family who had so little. The family then made their donation.

The next week at church, the pastor again passed around the offering plate, talking about the poor family who had so little that they truly needed assistance from the congregation. Again, the family donated all that they could.

The following week, the pastor talked about this poor family again and how they might starve if the congregation did not do all that they could to help them. Not wanting this family to starve, the mother and her children gave half of their meager grocery budget to the offering plate to help sustain the family that the pastor spoke of so passionately.

Later that evening, the mother heard a knock on the door and it was the pastor and members of their congregation. They came into the modest home and gave a check to the family and said they were the ones he had been speaking of and asking for help. The mother was amazed. She had not asked for or expected any help. She looked at the check and the amount was almost the exact amount that her family had donated. I believe everyone in the congregation had intentions to help this family, but they thought someone else would donate and no one ever did.

With our economy down, it can be very tempting to focus on our practices and neglect charitable giving, even when the need for charity has never been greater. My first employer had a very insightful phrase, “If not me, then who?” If I’m not the one serving others, then who will? Service to others is a conscious act and it does not happen by accident. Let this be the day that you look around your community, find a wrong that should be righted, and ask, “If not me, then who?”



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