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The YLD Review

The State Bar of Georgia — Working for the Profession and the Public

Volume 45 , Issue 3

Young Lawyers Division

Spring 2004

YLD Honors Committee Chairs at Four Seasons

The Young Lawyers Division's Executive Committee honored the chairs of the 31 YLD committees with a reception at the Four Seasons Hotel on Dec. 11, 2003.

YLD President Andrew Jones, President-Elect Laurel Landon, Treasurer David Gruskin, Secretary Jon Pope and State Bar President William D. Barwick were on hand to thank the committee chairs for their hard work and commitment to the YLD and the Bar.

Committee chairs also mingled with several members of the YLD Board of Directors while enjoying

cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a festive atmosphere in the ballroom. After the reception, a grand time was had by those who joined the group downstairs at the hotel's Park 75 Lounge.

YLD Committees focus on three main areas:

- Service to the Bar
- Service to the Profession
- Service to the Public

To get involved, or to get more information about the 31 YLD committees, contact Deidra Sanderson at (404) 527-8778. See more photos on page 7. 📷



Jan Bozeman, David Gruskin, Michelle Adams, Laurel Landon and Charlene Swartz.



Damon Elmore.

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from the
President

YLD Midyear Meeting—A Huge Success

by Andrew W. Jones

On Jan. 16, 2004, the State Bar of Georgia held their Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. The YLD had several events in conjunction with the meeting, which proved to be a tremendous success.

The events began on Friday morning with the 16th Annual YLD Legislative Breakfast. This year's legislative breakfast was very well attended with over 75 younger lawyers, judges and legislators participating. The great turnout was attributable to the distinguished panel of guest speakers that included Justice Robert Benham of the Georgia Supreme Court, Justice John Ellington of the Georgia Court of Appeals, Senators Chuck Clay and Charlie Tanksley and Representative Tom Bordeaux. Many thanks go out to Michael Watson and Stephen Lowry, co-chairs of the Legislative Affairs Committee, who did a great job organizing the breakfast.

The YLD Midyear Business Meeting took place following the breakfast. During the meeting, several committee chairs gave updates of the great work they are doing. Thanks to their hard work, the YLD committees are accomplishing great things throughout the state.

For the first time, the YLD hosted a Judicial Reception, which we hope to make a fixture at future Midyear Meetings. The reception provided a great opportunity for younger lawyers to meet and speak with local judges in a social setting. The reception was organized by Antavius Weems, Laurie Jablow



Tanksley

and Michael Goldberg of the YLD Judicial Liaison Committee.

After an active day, the YLD co-sponsored the Midyear Mingle with the Atlanta Counsel of Younger Lawyers. Thanks to the hard work of Jon Pope and Rob Register the event was hugely successful. Jon and Rob did such a fantastic job choosing the entertainment that attendees were reluctant to leave the dance floor at the end of the night! The mingle followed the Bar's Board of Governors Dinner, which took place at the Capitol City Club in Brookhaven.

As I have written in several of my columns—get involved in the YLD. Younger lawyers are doing great things throughout the state of Georgia. New committee members bring fresh ideas and a renewed spirit, which make YLD projects more successful and beneficial to the committees they support. A good place to start would be the upcoming State Bar Annual Meeting, which will take place in Orlando, Fla. at Universal Studios. Several great events have been planned for the Georgia YLD. If interested in attending the Annual Meeting, contact Deidra Sanderson at 404.527.8778.



Ellington



Bordeaux



Clay

The YLD would like to thank the following Midyear Mingle sponsors:

- Alexander Gallo & Associates
- Josh Bell for YLD Secretary
- DocuForce/The Partners Group
- Damon Elmore for YLD President-Elect
- Robert Ingram for State Bar of Georgia President
- Legalink
- Jon Pope for YLD Treasurer 🍷



Brad Gardner, Antavius Weems, Chuck Auslander, David Cannon Jr., Josh Bell, Andrew Jones.

Spellbound 2004

A Speed Scrabble Tournament to Benefit Adult Literacy

The Literacy Volunteers of America - Metro Atlanta (LVA-MA) provide free, confidential tutoring to adults who read below a fifth grade level and to recent immigrants who need help with survival-level conversational English. In addition to one-on-one tutoring, the LVA-MA has a family literacy program that targets parents of pre-school children to help break the cycle of illiteracy in Atlanta.

The LVA-MA provides these services with the help of a dedicated network of volunteers who work one-on-one with students in need. You can be proud to support the LVA-MA. The LVA-MA's national parent (the Literacy Volunteers of America) was featured in Worth magazine as a standout among non-profit organizations because 90 percent of each dollar raised for the organization goes directly to services.

For several years, LVA affiliates all over the country — in conjunction with the National Scrabble Association — have sponsored local Scrabble tournaments to raise funds for their literacy programs. The 5th Annual Spellbound tournament, will be held on Thursday, June 10, at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All proceeds from the event and auction will benefit the programs of LVA-MA.

Event Description

SPELLBOUND 2004 is a Scrabble Tournament for Atlanta's professionals and corporate executives. Last year Spellbound entertained 200 plus attendees from firms and businesses including UPS Capital, Smith, Gambrell & Russell, Kilpatrick Stockton, North Highland Group, Alston & Bird, Citizens of Georgia Power, King & Spalding, Maggiano's and more. This year, Atlanta businesses are expected to enter over 40 five-person teams in the competition at a cost of \$360 per team.

Each team of five will compete in two rounds of speed Scrabble with a brief break between each



Members of one of Alston & Bird's 2003 scrabble teams.

round. The "speed" element is what makes the event so much fun. At the beginning of each Round, Teams start with the same word (e.g. "Volunteer"). When time is called each team empties their bag of letters and has 15 minutes to fill their board with the highest scoring words possible. Although "quixotic" pops up on many boards, "cat" and "dog" show up on plenty, leaving room for competitors and spectators alike. A special lightning round has been added this year in which the speed of completion, not complexity of the verbiage helps decide the winners. At the end of each round, volunteer judges will tally each team's total score. Trophies and small prizes for the first, second, and third place teams will be awarded along with bragging rights for the upcoming year!

A silent auction will be held throughout the event featuring items donated by area businesses. This year's items include a signed copy of Hillary Rodham Clinton's autobiography, two tickets on Air Tran, art from local Atlanta artists and more. Si Man, Baby from FM Classic Soul 102.5 will oversee the event as Master of Ceremonies and brings back his own "Battle of the Sexes" trivia to enter-

tain the audience while judges tally the final scores. Jake's Ice Cream is back providing sponsorship and tasty treat for attendees! You don't want to miss out on this fun, worthwhile event. Please contact us for more information about how you might participate as a sponsor, team, or donate for our auction!

For more information, contact Event Chair Colleen Grogan at 770-354-8129, Executive Director Colette Duncan at 404-377-READ (a_litera@bellsouth.net), or Development Director Melissa Lawson at 404-377-READ (mlawson_lvama@yahoo.com).

LVA-MA would like to thank members of the 2003 Spellbound Teams:

- Constangy, Brooks & Smith LLC
- Alston & Bird (2 teams)
- Arnall, Golden & Gregory
- Holland & Knight
- Jones Day
- Kilpatrick Stockton (3 teams)
- King & Spalding (2 teams)
- McKenna, Long & Aldridge
- Miller & Martin
- Smith, Gambrell & Russell (2 teams) 🏆



(Above) Members of one of Smith, Gambrell & Russell's 2003 scrabble teams.

(Right) Members of one of Kilpatrick Stockton's 2003 scrabble teams.



Community Service Committee Holds Successful Suit, Cell Phone Drive

The YLD Community Service Committee held its annual Suit and Cell Phone Drive in conjunction with the Georgia Bar Midyear Meeting, and once again it was a great success. The committee placed collection boxes throughout the greater Atlanta area and then also advertised the drive in the *Georgia Bar Journal* to allow other Bar members from throughout Georgia to bring their donations to the meeting in January. The collection box at the Midyear Meeting overflowed with donations, as did the collection boxes placed throughout Atlanta.

On Jan. 17, the committee as well as other volunteers met at the Sheraton Colony Square to organize all of the donations. Cell phones were then taken to the Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence, in Decatur.

Women's clothing donations were taken to the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children. Men's clothing donations were taken to the Atlanta Union Mission. The clothing donations alone filled the back of a U-Haul cargo van from top to bottom!

The Committee wishes to thank all the volunteers who came out to help with the donation sorting, the Georgia legal community for all the donations, and the employees of the Sheraton Colony Square for their cooperation throughout the collection drive and clothing sort. Of course, the drive would not have been possible without Committee co-chairs Andrew Goldberger and Lexi Liner and the very dedicated volunteers who managed the collection sites: Michelle Adams, Kali Wilson Beyah, Heather Blackwelder, Sally Bright, Kimberly DeWitt, Lori Haydu, Yoon Kim, Sherry Neal, Bill Pinto, and Amy Alcoke Quackenboss. 🙏

It is one of the beautiful compensations of life,
that no man can sincerely help another
without helping himself.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Volunteer for the Great Day of Service

The Great Day of Service is the State Bar of Georgia's annual day committed to community service. Lawyers and their friends and family will come together throughout the state to work on different community service projects. This year's Great Day of Service is set for Saturday, May 1.

Although the Young Lawyer's Division of the State Bar sponsors the Great Day of Service, the projects are open to volunteers from all segments of the Bar association. The Great Day of Service is also a great opportunity to get your family and friends involved. Most projects begin around 9 a.m. and end around 1 p.m. Past projects have included working on Habitat for Humanity homes, park clean ups, and landscaping projects.

The Great Day of Service is a great opportunity to educate non-lawyers about the contributions lawyers provide to the community. It also presents an opportunity for you to network with lawyers who practice in other practice areas and to meet members of the judiciary in an informal setting.

To make this year's projects a success, we need your help. Please consider volunteering or sponsoring a project in your part of the state. To find out more information about the project in your part of the state or to volunteer to host a project, please contact Leigh Martin May at Butler, Wooten, Fryhofer, Daughtery & Sullivan LLP, 2719 Buford Highway, Atlanta, GA 30324, ph. 404-321-1700, Leigh@ButlerWooten.com. I look forward to hearing from you. 🙏

Aspiring Youth Committee Seeks Volunteers for Spring Program

By Damon E. Elmore

Make plans now! A spring program by the Young Lawyers Division- Aspiring Youth Committee will begin soon. Volunteers are needed to support and work with this worthwhile program.

The AYP assists middle school students by increasing their aspirations to graduate from high school and, subsequently college. This is done by demonstrating the importance of education, hard work, and commitment. During 2-3 brief hours on Tuesday and Thursday each week, volunteers match-up with children who have decided to participate in the program for tutoring and talk. Typically, students and volunteers also participate in a sportsmanship component of the program, usually involving kick-ball or some other organized physical activity.

Celebrating its seventh year helping Atlanta's inner city youth, this YLD program has "graduated" over 400 students. Well over 100 young lawyers have given their time and been rewarded with a memorable experience. "People come wanting to do something good, but usually when they leave they are surprised at how much they've gotten back from the kids," said original Aspiring Youth Committee Chair Doug Kertscher.

The program serves an acute need, occurring during the "latch-key" hours of 3:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., when youth can often be unsupervised. The volunteers/younger lawyers serve as positive role models while developing mentoring relationships with the students. Previous guests, speakers and friends of the program include Justice Robert Benham and other members of the judiciary, state legislators such as Senator Vincent Forte, as well as athletic figures like Billy "White Shoes" Johnson.

For the spring, an abbreviated program of 3 weeks is being organized at a school to be determined in the City of Atlanta. The Committee, chaired by Malcolm Wells, Suzanne Deddish, and Antavius Weems, will hold a meeting soon. As a new feature, the committee is seeking teams of no less than 5 people from firms, companies, governmental organizations or friends, to ensure participation each day and full attention. Naturally, individual volunteers are welcome.

So sign-up today! For more information contact Antavius Weems (Antavius1@aol.com), Suzanne Deddish (Sededdish@martensonlaw.com), or Deidra Sanderson, director of the YLD (Deidra@gabar.org). 🙏



Sushi, Cool Drinks, Good Company Make for a Great Time

YLD Hosts Another Successful Charity Happy Hour

On Wednesday, March 10, approximately 60 younger lawyers came together at Cherry Restaurant in Midtown Atlanta for a Charity Happy Hour organized by the Community Service Projects Committee of the YLD. All in attendance agreed that the perfect weather, delicious appetizers and sushi, cool drinks, and great company combined to make the event a big success. As always, attendees enjoyed a free drink, free appetizers, and a dinner discount in exchange for making a small \$5 donation to charity.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Ernst & Young's Global Investigations and Dispute Advisory practice, all of the proceeds from the Charity Happy Hours go to the Emergency Food Bank of the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services. For this event, Ernst & Young also donated dozens of VIP tickets and parking passes for the PGA Tour's BellSouth Classic, and these valuable prizes were raffled off to 20 lucky winners! When combined with the proceeds from the previous happy hours this year, young lawyers will have contributed well over \$1,000 to the Food Bank simply by having a few drinks with old friends and meeting some new ones!

Join YLD members for the upcoming Charity Happy Hour June 23 at Cherry Restaurant and Bar, 1051 West Peachtree Street from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 and each attendee receives one drink ticket. All proceeds go to the Emergency Food Bank of the Fulton County Department of Family and Child Services. 🍷



(Left) Michelle Adams, Joe Mattern, Yoon Kim and Eric Sender

(Below) Peter Varney, Sally Bright, Therese Molinaro and Jason Coffman.



(Above) Eric Maurer, Deidra Sanderson and John Christensen.

(Left) Jeff Ingram, Sam Brannen, Keisha Robbins and J.K. Robbins.

YLD Atlanta Hawks Day a Slam Dunk for Volunteers

On Jan. 29, the Community Service Committee of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) held its annual Atlanta Hawks day. Twenty YLD volunteers chaperoned 25 foster children from the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services at the Hawks game against the Portland Trail Blazers. Although the Hawks lost, the children had a great time. The children ate, dunked basketballs on low baskets and, of course, watched the game.

This project would not have been possible without the generous donations provided by:

- The Atlanta Hawks
- Alexander Gallo & Associates
- McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP
- Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP
- Troutman Sanders, LLP
- Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP
- Nall & Miller, P.C.
- Devlin & Robinson, P.C.
- Novoste Corporation



Establishing a Tradition of Pro Bono Service:

Women in the Profession Committee Hosts Pro Bono Fair

The Women in the Profession Committee, chaired by Sherry V. Neal, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, and Janet L. Bozeman, Lipshutz, Greenblatt & King, sponsored a Pro Bono Fair on Oct. 24, 2003 at the offices of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP in Atlanta. The Fair was designed to introduce lawyers to the wide and varied opportunities to provide pro bono legal services. Rule 6.1 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct provides that each lawyer in Georgia should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year. However, many new lawyers don't perform any pro bono services because they simply don't know how to get started.

Justice P. Harris Hines of the Supreme Court of Georgia gave the keynote address, discussing the importance of pro bono services in the legal profession. Justice Hines talked about how rewarding pro bono work can be and about the difference that it can make in the client's life. Although Justice Hines leads a busy life as a Supreme Court Justice, he still finds time to handle pro bono cases, setting an inspiring example for young lawyers.

Amy Alcoke with Hunton & Williams, LLP, discussed how to fit pro bono clients into a hectic schedule. Paula J. Frederick, Deputy General Counsel for the State Bar of

Georgia, discussed ethical obligations to nonpaying clients, and Michael L. Monahan with the State Bar's Pro Bono Project introduced Georgia's new Website Guide to Legal Information and Legal Services. Kilpatrick Stockton generously provided space for the Fair and co-sponsored lunch for the attendees along with the Women in the Profession Committee.

The pro bono legal service organizations attending the Fair to provide information about their services and organizations included the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Catholic Social Services, the Georgia Association for Black Women Attorneys, Georgia Law Center for the Homeless, Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, Georgia Legal Services Program, the Pro Bono Project, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project, TeamChild Atlanta, and the Truancy Intervention Project.

The program was a big success, and the Women in the Profession Committee hopes to begin a tradition by presenting the program on an annual basis. If you would like more information about performing pro bono work, please contact co-chair Sherry V. Neal for a list of participating organizations and their contact information. 📧

Litigation Committee Hosts a Variety of Events

The litigation committee has had a tremendous year so far, with at least one more event still to come. Since meeting for the first time at the end of September, the committee has organized two entertaining and informative CLE lunches for the state's young lawyers.

On December 4, 2003, the first of two luncheons took place at the State Bar's offices in Atlanta. Dennis Cathey, Esq. of Cornelia spoke to the group of 30 lawyers and judges about tips for taking depositions. Judges Barnes and Tusan from Fulton County were in attendance and shared their thoughts throughout the presentation.

On Feb. 5, the second luncheon took place at the Georgian Club in Cobb County, with 40 lawyers in attendance to network, enjoy a good lunch, and listen to former Georgia Supreme Court Justice G. Conely Ingram discuss his views on the jury selection process.

Thanks to our sponsor, LegaLink, both lunches were free for all in attendance. Attendees were also entitled to receive one general CLE credit and one trial practice credit for a \$5 charge.

On April 23, the committee will sponsor its annual full day CLE seminar at the Westin Hotel in Buckhead. Attendees will be entitled to 6 CLE hours. A complete agenda will be distributed soon, but confirmed speakers include Georgia Supreme Court Justice Leah Ward Sears, United States District Court Judge Duross Fitzpatrick, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, DeKalb County State Court Judge Alvin T. Wong, Linda Klein, Esq. of Gambrell & Stolz LLP, and Mark Grantham, Esq. of Hunton & Williams LLP. Two additional speakers will be presenting as well.

If time allows, the committee also hopes to organize one more CLE lunch before the year is up. Should you wish to become involved in the committee or should you have any questions concerning any of the upcoming litigation committee events, please contact Joe Hession at 404-888-4156 or jhession@hunton.com. 📧

Special thanks to the following sponsors for their support of the State Bar of Georgia

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We wish to express our sincerest appreciation to those who volunteered to serve as attorney coaches, regional coordinators, presiding judges and scoring evaluators during the 2004 mock trial season and to those financial sponsors who have already made pledges or contributed funds during the 2004 season, thus far:

Georgia Bar Foundation
Council of State Court Judges
The Lawyers Foundation of Georgia
The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia
Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia
General Practice and Trial Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia
And many individual donors

Thank you for your generous support!

The 2004 Regional Champion Teams are:

Central High School (Central GA - Macon); South Forsyth High School (Cherokee Co. - Canton); Ware County High School (Coastal GA - Brunswick); The Walker School (Cobb Co. - Marietta); Decatur High School (DeKalb Co. - Decatur); Grady High School (Fulton Co. - Atlanta); The Wesleyan School (Gwinnett Co. - Lawrenceville); The Paideia School (Metro Atlanta - Atlanta); Northwest Whitfield High School (North GA - Dalton); Clarke Central High School (Northeast GA - Athens); Cartersville High School (Northwest GA - Rome); Savannah Country Day School, regional champ and Sol C. Johnson High School, regional runner-up (Southeast GA - Savannah); Jonesboro High School (Southern Crescent - Jonesboro); Lee County High School (Southwest GA - Columbus); Chapel Hill High School (West GA - Douglasville)

The State Champion Team will be crowned March 14th and will represent Georgia at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Orlando, Fla. May 5-9, 2004.

For sponsorship or donation information, please contact the mock trial office:
(404) 527-8779 or toll free (800) 334-6865 ext. 779
or email: mocktrial@gabar.org





from the
Editor

Business Goes Where It Is Invited and Stays Where It Is Appreciated

By Bryan D. Scott

I read a great quote recently. It read: Business goes where it is invited and stays where it is appreciated. Think about that for a moment.

There are two ways you can view that quote. The first is from the “me-centered” perspective. That view says, “I’ll take my business to those persons or places that appreciate me, that show value to me as a customer, that treat me right.” Isn’t that true? When a business or person treats you with respect and value and appreciates you as a customer, you probably have more of a desire to continue your relationship with them – to stay with them. “They treated me right, they treated me fairly. I will use them again.” Appreciation for the business you give has staying power on you.

The second way to view that quote is from the “others-centered” perspective. This perspective is much more difficult to reach (at least for me it is) because it requires that we think of someone other than ourselves. That view says, “Other people who use my services want to know that I appreciate their business.” In other words, it is a realization that other people feel exactly the way you do. And because of that, you commit to letting all of your clients know that you appreciate their business. Not just the best clients, or only the “good” clients, but all of your clients.

After I read “business goes where it is invited and stays where it is appreciated,” a client who I am helping in a

probate matter came to mind, so much so that I even shared this example with my bride after being struck by the truth of the phrase. This client has stuck with me through thick and thin. Costs and expenses have exploded. The case has taken longer than what would have ever been desired. But this client has been committed to pay his bills, to rough it out, and to wait patiently until the matter is resolved – an ideal client by anyone’s standard. But you know what? I have never told my client that I appreciate his business.

Which perspective we adhere to and live by really turns on the answer to the following question: Am I doing them a favor by taking their business, or are they doing me a favor by giving me their business? Your answer to that question will profoundly affect the way you practice law.

Do you desire client loyalty if problems arise in their future? Show all of your clients you appreciate them. Do you want clients not to “shop around” the next time they need legal advice? Treat them the way you want to be treated. Do you want people in your community to say you are “their attorney”? Live like every client you have is doing you a favor and not vice-versa.

Oh, and by the way, I’m going to tell that client I mentioned above that I appreciate his business. 🙏

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