Legal Food Frenzy: Mission Possible!

by Justin Oliverio, Mandy Moyer and William L. Knott Jr.

Fellow Young Lawyers:

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to compete in the 2015 Legal Food Frenzy (LFF). Your local food bank is in dire need of cash and food donations to feed the nearly 700,000 children and 1.8 million Georgians that rely on the food banks for survival. If you are caught participating, our Attorney General Sam Olens, the YLD, the Georgia Food Bank Association and the citizens of Georgia will praise your involvement.

The objective of the LFF is for 60 cities to compete to raise a combined 1.25 million pounds of food. Attorney-to-attorney marketing is the competition’s best chance of succeeding. Challenge your friends, colleagues, local bar association, YLD and State Bar Sections and/or attorneys you want to defeat, to participate in the 2015 LFF competition.

More than 60 percent of Georgia’s public school children qualify for free or reduced lunch, but less than 15 percent have access to a lunch program in the summer. More than 28 percent of children in Georgia don’t know where their next meal is coming from, or if it ever will. Studies show that hungry children are at a physical and mental disadvantage in school.

Typically, donations to food banks slow in the spring and summer just as demand peaks. The LFF raises resources prior to the summer months when children are out of school and do not have access to free or reduced-cost meals.

Cash, check, credit/debit and money order donations are preferred and tax deductible. Every dollar raised equates to four pounds of food in the competition. (The food banks can use $1 to obtain $9 worth of food with subsidies and their volume buying power.) Your donations will go to the regional food bank that serves your community. Make checks payable to the regional food bank that serves your city. A map is available on www.georgiafoodbankassociation.org. If you know corporate clients or other deep

YLD Donates $60,000 to Augusta Warrior Project

by Aimee Sanders

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the YLD held its 9th annual Signature Fundraiser, “Stars and Stripes,” at Terminal West in the King Plow Arts Center in Downtown Atlanta.

This year the Augusta Warrior Project (AWP) was selected as the recipient. AWP was chosen in an effort to highlight and advance the interests of Georgia’s substantial military community. YLD President Sharri Edenfield created the military focus initiative to challenge the legal community to remember and honor our veterans and active-duty service members, and if the event was any indication, the community has certainly risen to the challenge.

Under the leadership of fundraiser Co-Chairs Ashley Anne Akins and Jessica Reece Fagan, the evening was a lot of fun and a great success. More than 200 lawyers, judges and guests helped raise $87,795, of which more than $60,000 will be donated to AWP.

AWP, based in Augusta, is an organization that works to connect service men and women with life-changing resources, including local, state and federal agencies and organizations. AWP serves to provide access to local employment opportunities, housing, job training, college resources, health care and countless other community services, as well as providing advocacy for veterans seeking VA-related benefits.
Young Lawyers Do Make a Difference

by Sharri Edenfield

I recently had the privilege of addressing the newest crop of Georgia young lawyers during the Transition Into Law Practice’s Beginning Lawyers Program. I was asked to give the approximately 250 brand new lawyers present an overview of the YLD and to showcase the opportunities for involvement. As I was waiting for the program to start, I heard snippets of conversations about billable hours and trying to obtain the mystical “work/life balance.” Others were concerned about the learning curve they were navigating as they tried to transition from law school into law practice. Still others talked about trying to find a job and the difficulties they were encountering.

I wondered what I could say to encourage these young lawyers in their professional development in addition to promoting YLD involvement. I began to think about how overwhelmed I felt that first year of practice and how humble the learning curve of transitioning into being a lawyer from a law student made me feel. I remember worrying that I didn’t even know what I didn’t know, something I think many young lawyers feel when they first begin practicing. I thought I’d share with you what I shared with this group of young lawyers. I hope it encourages you.

You already know that the practice of law is very difficult. I have been practicing for more than 10 years now, but I don’t think it ever gets easy. Certain aspects of being a lawyer become simpler over time with practice, but just as soon as you feel comfortable with one facet, you are faced with the daunting task of learning a little bit more about another aspect. The vast majority of us make our living through how we spend our time, which is not something we can neatly package and sell to non-lawyers. In short, we are a profession, not a job. It is easy to get burned out when your job is resolving other people’s problems, and lawyers spend a lot of time doing that. Thanks to technology, practicing law has become a 24/7 endeavor. At the same time, dreams of Atticus Finch are what led many young lawyers to law school. While these dreams may change over time, I think most young lawyers yearn to contribute to society in a positive way. Besides the obvious professional benefits of statewide networking, the YLD offers a tremendous opportunity for personal fulfillment for interested young lawyers. The Young Lawyers Division is known as the “Service Arm of the Bar” because so many good projects and programs have originated and/or flourished with young lawyers at the helm. For instance, the Georgia Legal Services Program, the Public Interest Internship Program and the Juvenile Code re-write have been some of the YLD’s most visible accomplishments in the past. This year, the YLD has been actively supporting military veterans through pro bono legal clinics and becoming certified to represent veterans on VA benefits appeals, as well as raising more than $60,000 for the Augusta Warrior Project, a Georgia-based military charity. Additionally, for the fourth consecutive year, the YLD is partnering with Attorney General Sam Olens for the 2015 Legal Food Frenzy. In its first three years, the YLD has helped to raise more than 2 million pounds of food for regional food banks around the state.

I could fill this column with all of the good things that the YLD does, and you can see that by just perusing this newsletter, but what I really want you to know is that if your soul is in need of some chicken soup, the YLD is a great place for you. YLD members around the state are working together to make a difference. As anthropologist Margaret Mead famously opined that, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.” I encourage you to check out the opportunities available to you at www.georgiayld.org and make your mark not only professionally, but personally. YLD

From the State Bar President

by Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker

I know that YLD is the acronym for the Young Lawyers Division, but it could be an acronym for Young Lawyers Doing. What are they doing you ask? They are doing amazing things in their communities and for our profession. The current officers have an ambitious schedule planned for 2015 and a phenomenal agenda of programs. For example, the YLD will once again take an active role in Georgia’s Legal Food Frenzy spearheaded by Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, and they are working with legal service programs for veterans throughout the state.

The Legal Food Frenzy’s goal this year is to collect 1.25 million pounds of food. It is a lofty goal, but I feel certain they will encourage all of us to achieve it because their commitment to service is unwavering. The goal to reduce hunger in the state of a Georgia is a noble one. As YLD President Sharri Edenfield said, “The Young Lawyers Division takes great pride in being the Service Arm of the State Bar. Nothing embodies the YLD’s commitment to helping others more than the Legal Food Frenzy and the drive’s mission to provide families with food assistance when they need it the most.”

YLD volunteers are also working with me to coordinate and provide teacher resources to classroom instructors involved with the iCivics program that the State Bar started this year as a pilot project. This program will make a difference for children in our state. The YLD’s commitment to making a difference in the community is truly inspiring. Whether conducting a wills project, volunteering to help veterans or working with high school mock trial participants, young lawyers are doing it all. Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.” Similarly, Booker T. Washington said, “If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.” These quotes remind young lawyers and those more seasoned of the importance of giving back to their communities in a tangible way.

I truly appreciate what the YLD has done for the citizens of Georgia and the members of the State Bar. Keep up the great work! YLD

Run for the YLD Representative Council

Now is the time to throw your hat in the ring! Elections for representatives will occur at the YLD Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Marriott Evergreen Conference Resort in Stone Mountain on Friday, June 19.

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

If you are interested in standing for election to the YLD Representative Council, please send a biography or resume to Mary McAfee, YLD director, at marym@gabar.org or fax to 404-287-4990 by May 29. For more information about the elections, contact Mary McAfee or YLD President-Elect Jack Long at jlongattorney@aol.com.
Networking for the Introverted Young Lawyer

by Shalamar J. Parham

Networking is a vital skill for young lawyers to master whether they are entrepreneurial solo attorneys, associates at a law firm or attorneys that work for the government. It goes without saying that networking and making the right connections can help a young lawyer market and brand themselves or even to land their ideal legal position.

If you are introverted and meeting new people in large groups makes you uncomfortable, don’t allow networking to overwhelm you. Here are some tips to make networking work for you.

1. **Keep in mind that networking is not about “networking” per se.** Networking is about being genuine and authentic and building trust and relationships. People form relationships and connections based on common ground and interests. When you meet someone for the first time, talk about the interests that brought you to the same event or simply ask them about their interests. Attend meetings for groups that you genuinely care about rather than just attending a function to meet people. When you have a genuine interest in a topic or group, it makes for a more natural conversation with the people that you meet as you will automatically have a common interest. If you try to fake an interest, others will notice and not connect with you as easily.

2. **Volunteer with organizations.** Use your natural traits to your advantage. Introverts tend to seek out opportunities to help others, so volunteer with a YLD committee or other bar association. This is a great way to meet new people in an environment where you are most comfortable while giving back at the same time.

3. **Ask open-ended questions in networking conversations.** This means questions that ask, “who,” “what,” “where,” “when” and “how” as opposed to those that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.” This form of questioning opens up the discussion and shows listeners that you are interested in them. Until you get more comfortable at meeting new people in larger settings, you may want to have a few open-ended questions prepared ahead of time.

4. **Follow-up with the people you meet.** This tip circles back to tip No. 1. Networking is about forming relationships, and you cannot form a relationship if you never speak with the person again. When following up with a new acquaintance with an email or phone call, share how pleased you were to meet and ask about getting together and talking over coffee or lunch. Staying in contact is the first step in developing relationships.

5. **Carry business cards everywhere.** Networking can happen anywhere, not just at a function or happy hour. By carrying your business cards, you are making it easier to stay connected to the new people that you meet.

The Importance of Public Service: Effective Ways to Turn Interest Into Involvement

by Edward H. Lindsey Jr. and Kevin C. Patrick

Our unique backgrounds and experiences in the law lay the foundations for us to make valuable contributions to legislation that will inevitably shape our professional practices and personal lives. Younger attorneys hail from all over the state, ranging from the granite capitol of the world in Elberton to our very own state capitol in Atlanta, and have experience in diverse practice settings such as civil litigation, domestic relations and criminal law. Despite these attributes, there has been a retreat from participation in public service over the last several decades. For example, 76 of the 180 members of the Georgia House of Representatives were lawyers in the early 1980s. Now, the number of lawyer-legislators in our state hovers in the low 20s. Lawyer-legislators were not kicked out of politics, but rather walked out for various reasons. Young lawyers have a duty to help reverse that trend by turning their basic interest in the workings of government into long-term involvement in legislative affairs.

During each legislative session, there are many bills for consideration and, almost assuredly, at least one of them will involve an issue that is important to you. These types of bills often range from agricultural initiatives and criminal justice to educational reforms. Legislators are the voices of the community and welcome thoughtful discussion on these issues. There are many avenues available for younger attorneys to become directly involved. For example, you are always welcome to attend the debates taking place in one of the various committee rooms during the legislative session. We also have the ability to be an important resource for legislators to turn to during these debates given our specialized knowledge coupled with the obvious budgetary constraints for the general assembly. Even during the recess, there are a number of other simple and effective ways to engage in this process. Some of the most basic, but often overlooked avenues, include writing a letter to your representative and asking for a face-to-face meeting or just picking up the phone and calling your representative’s office to ask for more details about a piece of legislation that is important to you.

So often, a younger lawyer’s interest in politics wanes due to some easily avoidable pitfalls stemming from ineffective involvement in this process. During the legislative session, large, vocal crowds would often gather at the steps of the Capitol for rallies on certain issues; however, many of the demonstrators would go home right after conclusion of the event without ever setting foot in the Capitol itself. Younger attorneys should transform that energy and passion to long-term commitment by promoting a piece of legislation as it works its way fully through both the house and senate and then to the governor for approval. Similarly, Griping to family and friends is an easy way to reit emotions to little, if any, avail. Younger attorneys can gain so much more traction by having a positive dialogue about the actual steps they took to make a difference in the legislative process. Finally, avoid the easy solution of the ‘click-and-send’ feature to contact your representative because you often will be unaware of the exact nature of the e-corrrespondence.

Most importantly, a commitment to public service by younger attorneys is rooted in giving back to the community as opposed to self-interest and personal gain. George Washington once remarked, “I have no other view than to promote the public good and am unambitious of honors not founded in the approbation of my country.” We encourage all the younger attorneys throughout the state to heed the call to public service. By engaging thoughtful and constructive discussions, we cement the noblest aspects of our profession and, ultimately, forge a lasting legacy for our great state of Georgia.
Women in the Profession

by Nadia Deans and Sarah Statz

On Dec. 11, the YLD Women in the Profession Committee hosted a holiday luncheon at the Swan Coach House in Buckhead. The committee was honored to introduce guest speakers Linda Klein and Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker. Klein was the first female president of the State Bar of Georgia (1997–98) and is the president-elect of the American Bar Association. Perkins-Hooker is the current president of the State Bar of Georgia, serving as the first African-American and third woman to hold the position. The committee enjoyed an intimate lunch with their honored guests who shared their insights regarding legal practice, including what inspired them to pursue law careers; challenges they faced and overcame during their practice and service with the State Bar; inspirational anecdotes; and invaluable advice. The committee members in attendance also provided donations to Toys for Tots. The luncheon was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Family Law

by Shalamar Parham

The YLD Family Law Committee continues its year consciously engaged in the community. The committee volunteered with Atlanta Legal Aid’s Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Holiday Adopt-a-Family Project to donate more than $400 in Christmas gifts to the committee’s adopted family. The committee members delivered the gifts directly to the family who were appreciative beyond words. The committee was grateful to be able to participate in this Atlanta Legal Aid project, as the project brightens the holidays of children in need that are unable to live with their own parents.

On Dec. 2, committee members attended a planning meeting for the future Fulton County Family Law Workshops at the Fulton County Courthouse. The attendees began preparing to participate in the newly developed project to aid pro se litigants in navigating family law cases in Fulton County.

On Feb. 7, the committee worked with Youth Connections, Inc.’s, Street Outreach Program. Committee members assembled “survival kits” of food, clothes and hygiene items. Committee members also actively participated in street outreach and passed out the “survival kits” around the downtown area. Youth Connections is a nonprofit organization focused on providing positive youth development for at-risk youth.

In addition to its community service projects, the YLD Family Law Committee is planning a “Meet the DeKalb County Judges” happy hour for this spring. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

The YLD Family Law Committee will continue to engage in the community and hold social events for its members. To join the committee or for more information on committee events and sponsorship for the “Meet the DeKalb County Judges” happy hour, contact co-chairs Jamie Perez at jamie@hollandroddenbery.com, Katie Kihnl at kk@bcntlaw.com or Kelly Reese at kelly@stern-edlin.com.

Minorities in the Profession

by Morgan Clemons

On Jan. 16, the YLD Minorities in the Profession Committee held a happy hour/pre-reception and screening of the Golden Globe nominated film “SELMA” in advance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The film chronicles King’s quest to obtain equal voting rights through a march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The pre-reception was sponsored by Arnall Golden Gregory LLP, and the committee collected donations to support The King Center.

Litigation

by Kevin Patrick

The YLD Litigation Committee was truly honored to host its annual Clerks’ Luncheon over the holidays at our traditional location, Maggiano’s Buckhead. The clerks of court were recognized for playing such a pivotal role in the efficient administration of justice. They are tirelessly committed to the public and profession. We received the support of many generous sponsors, and, most importantly, this luncheon benefitted Youth Villages. This charity assists children that face behavioral challenges, as well as their families. We appreciate all of the hard work of the subcommittee co-chairs, Win Cook and Megan Pearson.

For 2015, the Litigation Committee is keeping with its goals of involving young litigators and law students throughout our entire state. We will be taking our “War Stories” lecture series on the road. The first event was held at the University of Georgia School of Law on March 18. Emory University School of Law hosted the second lecture on April 9. The third part of the series will be held at Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law on May 7. For more information on the series, please contact the co-chairs Jake Evans at jake.evans@lewishrishbois.com or James Stone at jamesstone@booneandstone.com.
The YLD Ethics & Professionalism Committee hosted its annual CLE on March 5, at the Bar Center, featuring a diverse and knowledgeable panel of distinguished speakers who spoke on the topic: “The Age-Old Question: Who is the Client?” The goal of the program was to provide young lawyers with insight and advice on this common issue, as well as address some of the related ethical considerations as it arises in various contexts of the law.

The YLD Ethics & Professionalism Committee encourages all those interested to attend its meetings and events. For more information please contact Co-Chairs Ami Rodrigues at amikolhekar@gmail.com and Neal Weinrich at nweinrich@bfvLaw.com.

## Affiliate Updates

### Augusta YLD

**by Garon Muller**

Young Lawyers of Augusta (YLA) rang in the New Year by taking part in the annual bell-ringing for the Salvation Army. Our members were stationed at businesses throughout Augusta and filled the air with Christmas spirit.

The YLA has exciting things planned for 2015. We hosted the annual YLA Kick-Off at Teresa’s Mexican Restaurant on Feb. 12. Our members are looking forward to a Happy Hour at the Indian Queen in March and attending the Augusta Green Jackets game in a joint event with the Young Professionals of Augusta in April.

We have also planned a community service project with Turn Back the Block for June. There, the YLA will help renovate turn of the century homes and restore a neighborhood to its past prominence.

For further information or to receive the Young Lawyers of Augusta emails, please email us at yla.augusta@gmail.com.

### Glynn County YLD

**by Brian Corry**

The Glynn County YLD is looking forward to a very productive 2015. The YLD hosted an event at the Half Shell restaurant on St. Simons Island to benefit the Sparrows Nest Food Pantry, a nonprofit organization that provides food to low-income households throughout Glynn County. (They provide more than 45 households with food on any given day!) They have a special request for food that runs out quickly, mainly items for children. Glynn County YLD looks forward to supporting the ongoing effort of Faithworks Ministries and YLD member Shanelle Booker in helping spread the word on this great cause.

The YLD affiliate is also continuing to pursue the Legitimation Project introduced by member Jason Hodges at the Oct. 31 event held at the King & Prince on St. Simons Island. Through this project, volunteer attorneys can represent fathers pro bono in legitimating their children in Juvenile Court so they can meaningfully participate in a DFCS case. Clement Cullens secured a prize from Southeast Adventures for the attorney with the most volunteerism in the project in the next six months.

Lastly, the Glynn County YLD hosted its 2nd annual Ides of March Invitational Golf Tournament at Sea Palms Resort & Conference Center on St. Simons Island on March 21. This year’s tournament was a great success with the proceeds going to the Davis Love III Foundation and CASA. Congratulations to the winning team, Rock Lobster! Longest drive went to Jason Hodges (2nd year in a row!) and Lee Giles won the award for Closest to the Pin!

Please check out our Facebook page for any information or questions regarding the Glynn County YLD.

### Savannah YLD

**by Bryan Schivera**

The Savannah YLD ended 2014 with its annual “Tacky Sweater” Christmas Party at the house of President Colby Longley and First Lady Beth Longley. Amid controversy, Brett Lundy won the best individual sweater award and Billy Otto and Heather Lundy won the best couple’s sweaters. The party was graciously sponsored by the law office of Roden + Love, LLC, voted 2013’s best new two-man worker’s compensation and personal injury law firm by the Savannah YLD select voting committee.

For the first social event of 2015, the YLD gathered at B&D Burgers for trivia and socializing with the accountants of Hancock Askew & Co., LLP, which sponsored the event and meticulously audited the bill and tip. Host Emeritus Thomas Gore delivered non-stop blistering trivia questions and in the end, a team of lawyers demonstrated their mastery of knowledge in useless information and arose victorious over the accountants. Also in attendance were YLD Secretary candidates Brett Longley and First Lady Colby Longley house of President . Amid controversy, Savannah YLD voted 2013’s best new two-man worker’s compensation and personal injury law firm by the Savannah YLD select voting committee.

Please check out our Facebook page for any information or questions regarding the Glynn County YLD.

### Macon YLD

**by Terri Benton**

The Macon YLD hosted a social event at Downtown Grill on Jan. 15. Approximately 15 young attorneys attended the event, including Macon YLD President Will Horkan and Macon YLD President-Elect Collier McKenzie. The Macon YLD also hosted a social outing and dinner for the YLD Affiliate Conference in Macon on Feb. 21. For information regarding membership and upcoming events, please contact Will Horkan at whorkan@jamesbatesllp.com or Collier McKenzie at collier.mckenzie@jonescork.com.

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The Savannah YLD is in the process of finalizing the details for other 2015 events, such as a visit to the Ronald McDonald House to prepare dinner and a “Picnic in the Park” in the spring to coincide with the rumored Taylor Swift Forsyth Park Concert Series. On May 29, the 10th annual YLD Charity Golf Tournament, aka “A Tradition Unlike Several Others” will be held, an event quickly growing in prestige among the golfing community in southeast Chatham County. As usual, all proceeds will benefit the local Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Anyone interested in joining the Savannah YLD should contact Membership Chair Kate Lawson at klawson@huntermaclean.com.

### Augusta YLD

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The YLA has exciting things planned for 2015. We hosted the annual YLA Kick-Off at Teresa’s Mexican Restaurant on Feb. 12. Our members are looking forward to a Happy Hour at the Indian Queen in March and attending the Augusta Green Jackets game in a joint event with the Young Professionals of Augusta in April.

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For further information or to receive the Young Lawyers of Augusta emails, please email us at yla.augusta@gmail.com.
Midyear Meeting

by Katie Willett

This year’s YLD Midyear Meeting exemplified President Sharri Edenfield’s focus on leadership and service. YLD members were invited to attend a VA Accreditation CLE as well as the YLD Next Step Institute.

The YLD Military Support Committee and the Military/Veterans Law Section of the State Bar hosted a VA Accreditation CLE, which all lawyers must take if they wish to represent veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals with issues such as benefits. Attendees learned of ways they can volunteer to assist veterans pro bono through the Military Legal Assistance Program and through clinics run by Emory University School of Law and Georgia State University College of Law. They also learned about ways to incorporate representing veterans as part of a private practice. The YLD would like to thank all of the speakers who volunteered their time to this interesting and informative event: Dr. Lauren Ramshur, Chief Veterans Law Judge Robert Sullivan (Ret.), Patricia Elrod-Hill, Victoria Watkins, Drew Early, Norman Zoller and Cary King. If anyone would like more information on how to get involved in assisting veterans through any of these programs they can contact Katie Sullivan Dod, Ed Piasta, Kristie Piasta or Quentin Marlin.

The YLD Midyear Meeting had an overwhelming turnout welcoming this year’s Leadership Academy class. Attorney General Sam Olens kicked off the meeting with remarks about the upcoming Legal Food Frenzy. Notably, Attorney General Olens conveyed that more than 1.8 million Georgians need food assistance, including 700,000 children who especially need food during the summer months when school lunches are not available. The Legal Food Frenzy competition runs April 20 through May 1.

YLD President-Elect Jack Long announced next year’s YLD meeting locations which feature a special trip to Las Vegas. Afterwards, Jessica Fagan and Ashley Akins gave a colorful announcement about the YLD Signature Fundraiser, “Stars and Stripes” benefitting the Augusta Warrior Project.

Rachel Wilson and Amy Walters promoted the first joint YLD Affiliates Conference and Small/Solo Firm Conference. Many other committee chairs gave reports on the success of previous events and plans for future events as the meeting wound down. For more information about future meetings, please visit www.georgiayld.org.

Next Step Institute

by Titus Nichols

On Jan. 8, at the State Bar of Georgia’s Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, the co-chairs for the Leadership Academy Alumni Committee, Titus T. Nichols and Adriana Sola Capifuli, were proud to present the very first session of the Next Step Institute. The Next Step Institute’s purpose was two-fold: first, to re-engage graduates of the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy who might otherwise not still be involved with the YLD or the State Bar. Second, the Institute was designed for mid-level lawyers who wish to take their respective practices to the next level.

The Institute consisted of two CLE panels that focused on law practice management topics such as how to start a law practice and how to develop a client base. The second panel discussed how to use traditional and current social media for marketing and extending the firm’s reach to potential clients.

The third panel was a non-CLE roundtable discussion that featured lawyers who discussed their experience with maintaining a legal practice while also running for and serving in their respective political offices. Each panel was hosted by a particular moderator who did a phenomenal job in guiding the flow of discussion in an effective manner.

“Law Practice Management and Development”
Moderator: Damon Elmore
Speakers: Michael Geoffrey, Frank Burns and Derric Crowther

“Social Media”
Moderator: Kelly Campanella
Speakers: Mawuli Davis and Heather Riggs

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On Jan. 8, at the State Bar of Georgia’s Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, the co-chairs for the Leadership Academy Alumni Committee, Titus T. Nichols and Adriana Sola Capifuli, were proud to present the very first session of the Next Step Institute. The Next Step Institute’s purpose was two-fold: first, to re-engage graduates of the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy who might otherwise not still be involved with the YLD or the State Bar. Second, the Institute was designed for mid-level lawyers who wish to take their respective practices to the next level.
Fundraiser continued from page 1

D.J., access to the VIP balcony overlooking the venue, a private bar, a swag-bag and an opportunity to check out the silent auction and begin bidding. The main event began at 8 p.m., featuring an open bar, heavy hors d’oeuvres, D.J., dancing and the silent auction. The party kicked it up a notch from 9-11 p.m., with live music provided by Bogey & The Viceroy. The silent auction featured more than 50 items, including: artwork, photography, fitness, jewelry, home goods, restaurant gift certificates, sports tickets and memorabilia, and hotel/travel accommodations, including a trip to Antigua!

Damon Elmore was named the 2015 recipient of the Signature Service Award. Elmore has spent the last year cycling in each of Georgia’s 159 counties in an effort to raise money and awareness for the Georgia Legal Services Program. The Signature Service Award is given annually to honor an individual attorney who embodies the mission, spirit and legacy of the YLD.

Pictures from “Stars and Stripes,” taken by Creighton Bryan, can be viewed at http://carribellandclaystudiosclectic.com. Special thanks go to the members of the State Bar, their guests, members of the Augusta Bar, local businesses and community members for helping make this year’s Signature Fundraiser so successful.

Social Media Hashtag & Websites

#GaLFF • www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org • www.georgiafoodbankassociation.org

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pockets, consider contacting them about making a donation. Attorney General Olen may want to give them a call to say thanks (which would make you look great).

The LFF Committee needs your help regardless of where you live. We are especially in need of assistance in Augusta, Savannah, Columbus and Macon/Warner Robins/Middle Georgia. If you are interested in becoming a City Representative, contact your LFF Committee Co-Chairs Katie Dod, Mandy Moyer, Lisa Robinson or Justin Oliverio via galegalfoodfrenzy.org or find them in the online membership directory at www.gabr.org. THIS MESSAGE WILL NOT SELF-DESTROY.

Important Deadlines

• April 20—May 12: 2015 LFF Competition
• May 1: Last day to collect money and food.
• May 8: Deadline to deliver monetary and food donations collected during the LFF.
• May/Junete: Competition winners announced and awarded.

Silent Auction Items Donated by

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- Young Lawyers of Augusta

Special Thanks

- Bogey & The Viceroy
- Chris Watson, DJ AirWolf
- Creighton Bryan, Photographer
- Red Eye Photo Booths
- Robert McLevy, Actor
- Ricoh Legal
- Terminal West
- WifeSaver North Augusta

1. 2015 Signature Service Award recipient Damon Elmore and wife Paulette.
2. (L-R) Alyssa Peters, Katie Willett, Anwar Ahmad, Matt Gruber and Jerry Davis take a moment to enjoy the photo booth.
3. YLD Officers show up to support the Augusta Warrior Project. (L-R) Darrell Sutton, immediate past president, Sharri Edenfield, president, Jack Long, president-elect, Nicole Lott, secretary; Rizza O’Connor, newsletter co-editor.
4. Thanks to the 2015 Signature Fundraiser Co-Chairs (L-R) Ashley Akins and Jessica Fagan for organizing a successful and entertaining event!
Before my grandfather passed, I wished that he had explained to me the significance of the Purple Heart that he received for his bravery in World War II. The more I think of it, I never recall my grandfather talking to anyone about war, even though he served in three of them. I do remember him battling serious bouts with cancer. I remember going to the Veterans Hospital in Dublin to visit with him in the latter stages of his life, when I was too young to appreciate the final precious moments I had to ask him about that old dusty box that he seemed to care so little about. One thing I can remember vividly is my mother and aunts missing no doctor’s appointment or business matters relating to my grandfather’s affairs.

During the past decade, our nation has experienced the re-entry into civilian life of thousands of service men and women who fought multiple duties in Afghanistan and Iraq. In many cases, these service men and women have gone back to their homes only to find that they are ill-equipped to fight the battles they are facing at home alone. In some instances, veterans are having difficulty getting approved for the intense medical attention they need to treat combat wounds or the depression that often follows the trauma of war. Others struggle to get approved for housing, to find jobs, to pay for attorneys or even to get basic support in applying for veteran benefits. Some veterans simply do not know where to begin to seek help for any significant challenge they may be facing.

YLD President Sharri Edenfield created the YLD Military Support Initiative as a way for young lawyers to provide some basic legal assistance to our nation’s military veterans and service members, especially those here in Georgia. In its inaugural year, this initiative has helped to raise awareness in young lawyers on just how plentiful the needs are to help veterans with wills, domestic relations, veteran benefits appeals and even criminal matters. Many participating lawyers have discovered no shortage of matters facing veterans.

No document means more to the legal profession than the Constitution of the United States. No institution means more to our Constitution than our nation’s military, the men and women who defend the Constitution. My humble message to any lawyer, young or not so young, reading this edition of our newsletter is to join Sharri Edenfield, Rizza O’Connor and myself in thanking our military veterans. In doing so, please do more than writing a thank you card to an Iraq war veteran who you know. Consider contacting the YLD Military Support Committee or the State Bar of Georgia Military Legal Assistance Program to find out what legal assistance you can provide to the service men and women and veterans in your community. If your firm is looking for help, consider hiring a qualified veteran looking for work. If you have clients who are hiring or friends who may offer specific services that may benefit these valiant heroes, please consider the referral.

The men and women who enlist come from all different walks of life and join for many different reasons. For some, it may be a sense of duty and honor for our country. For others, it may be the opportunity for adventure or a sense of a personal accomplishment. Regardless of the reasons a person enlists, what remains true is the soldier will make sacrifices in order to serve our country.

According to Lee, while in active service, soldiers get accustomed to the military taking care of them in all aspects. Soldiers know that even though they are exposed to dangerous situations, the military will take care of them and their families. However once they are out, many veterans find that they miss the sense of security and order felt during military service.

This lack of security can be challenging for a soldier, especially one injured physically or psychologically, trying to reacclimate to civilian life. A veteran may feel uncomfortable with the lack of structure and goals as compared to military life or miss the life-challenging situations. These stresses could lead to veterans being homeless, having work-related problems or financial and legal issues. Some veterans suffer from mental disorders or chronic pain which poses additional challenges.

Our president, Sharri Edenfield, has devoted a significant part of her term as president of the YLD to support our military veterans through the formation of the YLD Military Support Committee. This year the YLD has provided opportunities to serve veterans and their families through probono clinics at VA medical centers. In addition, the YLD and the Military/Veterans Law Section of the State Bar put on a VA Accreditation CLE session at the Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. This CLE enabled attorneys to become certified to represent veterans on VA appeals.

The YLD Signature Fundraiser was held on Feb. 28, at Terminal West in Atlanta. This year’s beneficiary was The Augusta Warrior Project (AWP). AWP’s mission is to connect warriors with resources that will improve their lives. AWP has helped find veterans permanent housing, assisted them in enrolling in school and helped them find employment. All proceeds from this year’s Signature Fundraiser support this worthy cause.

YLD