



## **A History of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division**

Thirty-three attorneys formed the first Georgia Bar Association in 1883. The purpose was to "advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice throughout the state, uphold the honor of the profession of law and establish cordial dealings between members of the profession." Prior to 1946 the Constitution of Georgia and the State Bar rules prohibited anyone under the age of 40 from practicing law. After World War II, however, a change of opinion occurred.

The Younger Lawyers Section (YLS) was created on May 31, 1947. The basic structure of the Section consisted of four Officers and Executive Committee and Council. The YLS was created in order to further the original goals of the charter members of the State Bar of Georgia. It was formed with the further purpose of giving young lawyers an "opportunity to have an impact on the profession and provide a training ground for future leaders of the bar." Since then, its mission and purpose have essentially remained the same.

When the YLS was first enacted, all members of the State Bar who had not reached their 36th birthday were automatically members of the YLS. It was later added that attorneys, regardless of age, who had been admitted to their first bar less than five years were also considered members. The basic structure and purpose of the organization remain the same today. In June of 1998 the Section was renamed the Young Lawyers Division.

## 2. \* Division (Figures are for the young lawyer membership of your organization)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	State Affiliate: 8000 or more		1	100%
2	State Affiliate: Between 3000 and 8000		0	0%
3	State Affiliate: 3000 or less		0	0%
4	State Affiliate: New Affiliate (within last 3 years)		0	0%
5	Local Affiliate: 2000 or more		0	0%
6	Local Affiliate: Between 800 and 2000		0	0%
7	Local Affiliate: 800 or less		0	0%
8	Local Affiliate: New Affiliate (within last 3 years)		0	0%
9	National Affiliate		0	0%
	Total		1	

## 3. \* How did you hear about the AOA program? (Select all that apply)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Friend/Colleague		0	0%
2	Local Affiliate		0	0%
3	YLD Email		0	0%
4	YLD Website		1	100%

## 4. \* Number of young lawyers in your affiliate

### Text Response

10,000+

## 5. \* Is your organization affiliated with a senior bar?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		1	100%
2	No		0	0%
	Total		1	

## 6. If YES, is membership in your organization automatic?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		1	100%
2	No		0	0%
	Total		1	

7. If a state organization, which are you?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Mandatory		1	100%
2	Voluntary		0	0%
	Total		1	

8. \* When does your fiscal year begin and end?

Text Response

July 1 - June 30

9. \* First Name

Text Response

Michael

10. \* Last Name

Text Response

Geoffroy

11. \* Address

Text Response

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100

12. \* City

Text Response

Atlanta

14. \* Zip Code

Text Response

30303

15. \* First Name

Text Response

Mary

16. \* Last Name

Text Response

McAfee

17. \* Address

Text Response

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100

18. \* City

Text Response

Atlanta

20. \* Zip Code

Text Response

30303

21. \* Email Address

Text Response

marym@gabar.org

22. \* Telephone

Text Response

404-527-8778

23. \* Please indicate number of exhibits being submitted

#	Question	Publications	CD or DVD
1		0.00	0.00

24. \* Single Project Title

Text Response

LAWS Mentoring Program (Law Students and Attorneys Working Toward Success)

## 2. \* Division (Figures are for the young lawyer membership of your organization)

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1	State Affiliate: 8000 or more		1	100%
2	State Affiliate: Between 3000 and 8000		0	0%
3	State Affiliate: 3000 or less		0	0%
4	State Affiliate: New Affiliate (within last 3 years)		0	0%
5	Local Affiliate: 2000 or more		0	0%
6	Local Affiliate: Between 800 and 2000		0	0%
7	Local Affiliate: 800 or less		0	0%
8	Local Affiliate: New Affiliate (within last 3 years)		0	0%
9	National Affiliate		0	0%
	Total		1	

## 3. If Comprehensive Application, Project Number

### Text Response

SPM1

## 4. \* Type of Project

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Educational		0	0%
2	Legislative		0	0%
3	Commemorative Events		0	0%
4	Pro Bono Projects		0	0%
5	Diversity		1	100%
6	Disaster Recovery		0	0%
7	Competitions		0	0%
8	Special Events		0	0%
	Total		1	

## 5. \* Degree of Change or Growth

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	New Project		1	100%
2	Continued Project		0	0%
	Total		1	

## 6. \* Project Description (Please provide a brief description (750 words or less) of your project. Be sure to include a description of the role(s) played by the young lawyer volunteers in the undertaking of this project; any products resulting from the project; and in the case of continuing projects, if they have been expanded, explain how.)

### Text Response

Our program pairs minority attorneys with minority first year law students at John Marshall Law School and anticipates that this mentor-mentee relationship will continue as the students matriculate through law school, and the beginning stages of their career as attorneys. MIPC chose to focus the program on first year law students because this is the stage in law school when students are most confused, lost, and vulnerable to the choice of not completing their legal education. MIPC determined that as students struggle with the pressures of law school, the absence of guidance and professional resources from someone that has already traversed the path they seek could potentially detrimental to their hopes to become attorneys. The mentoring program has not simply paired students with attorneys, but has also hosted supplemental programs to further enrich their experience in the program. Some of these programs included a networking reception for students to meet minority attorney leaders in the bar and in the community and a workshop offering information on balancing law school and the practice of law with familial responsibilities.

7. \* Needs Assessment(What was the reason for undertaking this project? e.g. was the project internally or externally motivated; was there a need in the community for the project; was there a target audience?)

#### Text Response

In the process of identifying how we could best assist minority law students, we contacted Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and decided to focus our efforts on their students. Though a respected institution and a wonderful place of academic exchange, John Marshall Law School, which recently became accredited, has historically had poor bar passage rates, which are the lowest amongst all law schools in the state of Georgia. The poor bar passage rates have especially affected minority law students, which has left many students with a large tuition debt, and no license to practice law. In order to help address the discrepancy in the performance of minority law students with the general body of law students at John Marshall, we decided to launch a pilot first year mentoring program.

8. \* Achievement of Goals / Impact (What were the goals and objectives of this project?)

#### Text Response

The goal of the mentoring program is to help first year minority law students succeed in their legal education and ultimately in their law practice by helping them achieve their full potential early in their legal careers. Through the program we presented a vehicle for students to simply have resources and access to successful minority attorneys - and allowed them to form relationships with practicing attorneys and judges, which will better assure that, as graduates, they are equipped to deal with the realities of the practice of law and understand the challenges of ethics and professionalism. Based on feedback received from students, the aforementioned goals were met, and exceeded, because we learned that most mentees, if not all, had no exposure or relationships with attorneys before being paired with their mentors, and therefore had no guidance regarding how to excel in their classes, secure an internship, network, or to accomplish any important steps on the road to legal professionalism. In addition, administrators at John Marshall revealed that this was the first mentoring program within its history that was specific to minority students, and had also received wonderful feedback from the students.

9. If goals were not met, why not?

#### Text Response

n/a

10. \* Will this be a recurring affiliate project?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		1	100%
2	No		0	0%
	Total		1	

11. If yes, will you make any revisions?

#### Text Response

This will be a recurring program, as John Marshall Law School has requested that we continue and expand the program. Mentees will remain with their current mentors as they matriculate through the program, and now that the mentor-mentee relationship is established, mentors will have different and growing obligations toward their mentees. The program will require that mentees and mentors in the second year of the program focus their relationships on real results, moving beyond with respect to setting goals and developing plans to work toward those goals. We will also incorporate additional programming focused on professionalism, courtroom etiquette, and a golf outing to focuses on networking. Our opportunities to share new and different information with the students are limitless- which makes the program great.

12. \* How many young lawyer members actually participated in this project?  
(Consider young lawyer involvement in all the different stages of the project...planning, organization, implementation, and/or presentation.)

#	Question	How many young lawyer leadership (officers, directors, board membership)?	How many young lawyer committee members?	How many young lawyer general membership?
1		2.00	10.00	8.00

13. \* Was the project conducted with the Senior Bar?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		0	0%
2	No		1	100%
	Total		1	

14. \* What other groups or individuals participated and in what numbers?

**Text Response**

We have had members of other Georgia YLD committees participate as mentors and co-hosted a substantive development workshop with the Parents and Caregivers Committee of the Georgia YLD.

15. \* What do you think is the optimum amount of members needed to carry out this project?

**Text Response**

Not sure yet. The more members, the more mentors the students will have.

16. \* How much time did it take to organize the project?

**Text Response**

3 months.

17. \* How much time did it take to recruit members for the project?

**Text Response**

3 months.

18. \* How much time did it take to carry out the project from beginning to end?

**Text Response**

3 months.

19. \* What was the cost of this project excluding in-kind/donated services?

**Text Response**

\$600.00 (costs for receptions, programs, etc.)

20. \* How was the project funded?

**Text Response**

The program was funded with committee funds.

21. \* How long did it take to raise the funds needed for this project?

**Text Response**

n/a



22. \* What suggestions/recommendations would you make to other young lawyer groups who would consider undertaking a similar project?

Text Response
n/a