

# **The Source, Function, and Process of Resolutions**

## **I. Source**

Resolutions that come before the YLD Assembly and Council originate from one of several sources: YLD committees, YLD affiliated organizations, other ABA entities, members of the ABA Houses of Delegates, and active members of the YLD. In accordance with 45.2 of the ABA Constitution and Bylaws, resolutions may be considered only if the recommendation proposes new policy or a change in policy, or reaffirms existing policy that has not been approved within the last ten years.

## **II. Function**

The YLD debates resolutions that emanate from other entities because it is important that the YLD, which represents approximately 40% of ABA membership, express its opinion through its policy-making bodies and representatives to the House of Delegates on matters proposed for adoption as Association policy. Otherwise, the YLD membership would be disenfranchised. The YLD does not, however, debate all items on the House agenda. The YLD leadership selects those items that are of particular interest to young lawyers or are of such overriding concern to the profession or society that the YLD should take a position.

## **III. Process**

Once it is determined which resolutions will be debated by the YLD, they are assigned to the Assembly and/or the Council for debate. In general, the Assembly considers policy and bylaw matters while the Council considers procedural matters except when it is important that the Council give its recommendation to the Assembly, or when there is insufficient time to have the Assembly vote before action is needed. The Speaker or Council Coordinator contacts the sponsors of each resolution, known opponents, and those YLD committees with substantive interest in the resolution. Each is informed of the intent to debate the resolution and invited to participate in the debate. After the Assembly or Council takes action, that action is communicated to the sponsoring entities, and the YLD's delegates to the House are instructed accordingly. In this way, the YLD actively participates in the policy-making activities of the Association, and the YLD's voice is heard.