

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**

2010 YLD INFORMATIONAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Young Lawyers Division is the home for young lawyers. Composed of more than 150,000 members and 300 affiliated young lawyer groups, the YLD is committed to serving as the voice in the profession for young lawyers, ensuring that it reflects the community it serves, and providing young lawyers with the tools and opportunities for professional and personal success. Individual membership in the YLD is open to American Bar Association members under 36 years old or admitted to practice for five years or less. Affiliate membership is open to young lawyer organizations and special interest bars.

Through the **Disaster Legal Services Program**, the YLD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency continue to provide immediate and temporary legal assistance to disaster victims at no charge. Since August 2009, hotlines have been established for Georgia Disaster #1858 and American Samoa Disaster #1859. Additional information about the program is available at www.abanet.org/disaster/legal_assistance.html. *ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

The YLD kicked off its 2009-2010 public service project, ***They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement*** at the YLD Fall Conference in Birmingham, AL. Modeled after an initiative developed by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, *They Had A Dream Too* is a yearlong initiative that is designed to educate 11th and 12th grade students on the unrecognized roles of children in the civil rights movement and to inspire them to become future leaders. The kick-off events included: more than 120 children from two Birmingham schools participating in the project implementation; over 100 young lawyers marching “for a better tomorrow”; and 200+ young lawyers attending the film screening and related program in historic Kelly Ingram Park. Press coverage included: local CBS, FOX and NBC affiliates; *The Birmingham News*; and *ABA Now*. Additional information about the project is available at www.abanet.org/yld/thadt. *ABA Goal III: Eliminate Bias and Enhance Diversity*

As part of the 2009 Section Officers Conference, the YLD brought ABA leaders together for an hour of **SpeedNetworking**. During the fast and furious session where you “meet, greet and repeat” in three-minute intervals, leaders networked with more than 60+ individuals and took home a new tool to implement at their in-person meetings. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members*

The YLD Secretary-Treasurer, local District Representative, and Director participated in the second **ABA Day** in Illinois law schools. All reviewed resumes and the Director created and facilitated a program on image and career questions posed by lawyers. One of the Loyola Career Counselors wrote, "I think the program was terrific, and we are hearing rave reviews! It was nice working with all of you and ABA staff. . . . Thank you for all you did for us and your generosity with Loyola students." *ABA Goal II: Improve our Profession*

The National Outstanding Young Lawyers Award annually recognizes an YLD member who exhibits professional excellence, service to the profession and the bar, service to the community, and/or a reputation for the advancement of legal ethics and professional responsibility. Twenty people were nominated for the 2009 award, which will be presented during the YLD Assembly on February 6, 2010. Justin Heather of Chicago, IL was chosen as the winner and Keathan Frink of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Cheryl Camin of Dallas, TX were finalists. Additional information about the award is available at www.abanet.org/yld/awards/noyla/. *ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

The YLD plans to launch **ABA YLD Touch 10,000**, a member-to-member outreach program designed to connect current YLD members (Ambassadors) with new bar admittees (NBAs). The Ambassadors will be matched with approximately 20 NBAs (10 twice a year) based on law school and location. The Ambassadors will personally connect with the NBAs by email and phone to share their ABA experiences, answer questions, and serve as a valuable resource for the association's newest members. Additional information about the program is available at www.abanet.org/yld/touch10k/. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members*

The YLD plans to release **100 Plus Pointers for New Partners** in early 2010. The easy to read electronic publication includes such tips as understanding your firm's governance, structure and economics, personal strategies for business and client development, and the skills and knowledge needed to step up into this new leadership position. The release will coincide with an ABA Midyear Meeting presentation and will eventually lead to a 2010 teleconference series and a New Partners Conference in early 2011. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members*

Respectively submitted,

Kelly-Ann Clarke, Chair