

The  
**a**FFILIATE  
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The newsletter and resource guide for bar leaders nationwide

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## Sharing the Collective Insight: First-of-Its-Kind "Young Bar Leader Summit"

By Ryan C. Reed

Ordinarily, a handful of young bar association leaders getting together to discuss strategies for improving their organizations is a good thing. At the first-of-its-kind "Young Bar Leader Summit" in Charlotte, North Carolina, in October, the gathering of several dozen such leaders was an extraordinary thing.

Held in conjunction with the ABA YLD's Fall Conference, the Young Bar Leader Summit gathered leaders from state and local bar organizations around the country, with over 100 people representing more than forty young lawyer organizations. The goal was simple: to share the collective insight of experienced leaders on the most pressing issues confronting young bar leaders today.

The Young Bar Leader Summit featured several simultaneous large-group discussions among leaders of state young lawyer organizations and of local young lawyer groups. These large-group discussions were followed by strategy sessions among more intimate, diverse groups of seven-to-ten young bar leaders each. The Summit wrapped-up with intensive instruction on developing future bar leaders, an annual report, and a model diversity plan, three "hot topics" identified through surveys conducted in advance of the gathering.

Premised upon the experience of a handful of young lawyer organizations that recently faced some "growing pains," the plenary discussion challenged participants to think critically about the concept of young lawyer organizations as they currently exist. Confronted with the pointed question of whether young lawyer groups would even be created if they did not already exist, Summit attendees expressed a consensus that young lawyers would indeed organize themselves for purposes of professional development, technical training, and the collective impact of projects serving the public interest. The discussion also included commentary on topics ranging from the effectiveness of the structural and financial models presently followed by affiliates, to the continued role of pro bono and public service work in the mission of those organizations. In addition, Summit attendees expressed some rather strong opinions on the preference for interdependence with, rather than independence from, the parent bar organizations with which most young lawyer groups are connected.

The most apparent themes detected from the group discussion were that young lawyer organizations are vitally important to their members and are also important to the broader organizations of which they are a part. That is, young lawyer groups are very relevant: (1) to their members because they provide a number of valuable tangible benefits and a professional "home" for young lawyers unrivaled by any other community or civic group; and (2) to their parent bar organizations because they train a future generation of bar leaders and enhance the group image of the legal profession through public service work.

Having established the relevance of young lawyer organi-

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## Thanks for the Hospitality, Charlotte

By Josiah J. Puder

A heavy influx of Northern transplants tempered by characteristic Southern charm made Charlotte, North Carolina, the ideal venue for the ABA YLD's 2007 Fall Conference. From October 4–6, more than 250 young lawyers descended on the city's predominately bank-driven "uptown" area. This year's Fall Conference focused on education, public service, and leadership.

### Education

A full day of plenary and CLE programming brought together panelists and participants from Hawaii to Florida and featured such programs as "Sorry, I Don't Speak 'Lawyer'" and "Top 10 Things That Get Tax Lawyers in Trouble (Ethics)." One program, entitled, "Movie Magic: How the Masters Try Cases," garnered particular popularity for its use of film clips

Mecklenburg Police Department, where approximately 202 first responders received a basic, notarized will as a result of the efforts of close to forty young lawyer volunteers. "Wills for Heroes" has continued to increase its reach since its kickoff at the ABA's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, in August 2007. "The participation and help from the North Carolina Bar Association was incredible and allowed us to better market the program, which brought about greater involvement from both the first responder and volunteer communities," said Daniel McKenna of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the ABA YLD's Public Service Coordinator. "This enabled us to increase the fluidity of the program and implement procedures to accommodate the needs of both groups. Such procedures included a kids' room, which allowed parents to get their wills without the need of a babysitter, and a shuttle bus, which made it easier for both volunteers and spectators to attend."

Heath Gilbert, a member of Fall Conference Host Committee and a Division Director for the North Carolina Bar Association YLD, also volunteered his time at the Mecklenburg Police Department in order to help first responders. "A friend of mine who is a police officer and who I had not seen since college showed up. It was just extremely gratifying to help those who help us every day," Gilbert said. He added that "people were really touched by what the attorneys did for them and I think many of the participants here would like to make this a permanent program in this state."

### Networking

As is always the case at ABA YLD meetings, this year's Fall Conference allowed young lawyers to network and compare notes on how to strengthen their local young lawyer organizations. A "First Timers Reception," complete with name tags and "first timer" ribbons, engaged new attendees and introduced them to conference veterans. Chris Rogers, a District Representative from Dallas, Texas, and a member of the Public Service and Conferences Team, indicated that the "first

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## What First Timers Had to Say

### Why did you decide to attend the Fall Conference?



*Christele Demuro, Irvine, California:*  
I decided to attend the conference for a few reasons. I hope to get involved in ABA leadership in the future, and I thought this would be a good way to learn more about the organization as a whole. Also, there is an immigration program tomorrow that is of interest

to me. This is also a great opportunity to network and meet other bar leaders.



*Shelly Stokes, Woodbury, Connecticut:*  
I decided to attend the conference because I wanted to know more about the ABA. This meeting in particular was a good start because the location is convenient and there's a program tomorrow dealing with the tri-partite relationship in insurance.

Also, I am considering attending an insurance section meeting and this was a good way to see how the meetings work. **a**

to highlight ways to handle common trial problems. Sylvia Cardona from San Antonio, Texas, and president-elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, found the program "entertaining" and noted that it "added some good points and useful trial tidbits that litigators sometimes ignore."

Some ABA YLD conference attendees were also panelists and provided engaging CLE programming to their colleagues. For example, Elizabeth Bleakley from Chicago, Illinois, who is chair of the ABA YLD Business Law Committee, found it very comfortable presenting to other young lawyers and emphasized the usefulness of conducting a CLE. "It gave me a chance to meet and interact with other attorneys, and the preparation allows me to hone my understanding of the material. Speaking at an ABA event gives me credibility on a national level," said Bleakley. "The networking opportunities [at ABA YLD conferences] are enormous," she added.



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### Public Service

An implementation of this year's Public Service Project, "Wills For Heroes," was held at the Charlotte-

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## Upcoming in . . .

### January/February

- YLD Women's Summit Recap (November 7–9, 2007, Chicago, IL)
- Spring Conference Preview (April 16–19, 2008, Washington, DC)

### March/April

- Midyear Meeting Recap (February 7–9, 2008, Los Angeles, CA)
- Membership Summit Recap (Midyear Meeting)

## On the Road with Justin Goldstein

After taking over as ABA YLD Chair at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August, I was immediately off and running (literally). My first stop was the Annual Meeting of AIJA (International Association of Young Lawyers) in Toronto, where the ABA YLD's Officers and Directors joined with AIJA members to partake in the creation of guidelines for establishing young lawyer organizations.

Next, I traveled to Montreal to participate in the opening of the legal year with our friends from the Young Bar Association of Montreal and from around the world. From Montreal, I went to Chicago for the ABA Section Officers Conference, where I met with officers from some of the other ABA entities. While in Chicago, I stopped by the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and Chicago Bar Foundation "Casino Royale" fundraiser. Thanks to Bill Oberts, Michael Bergmann, and Carolyn Amadon for their hospitality.

My next stop was Arizona to participate in a "Wills for Heroes" day and shoot an instructional video for the implementation of "Wills for Heroes." Of course I couldn't leave Arizona without entering the Maricopa County Bar Young Lawyers "Race Judicata" event, where I won first place in my category. (It helped being the only entrant in that bracket!). Thanks to Heather Anson, LaShawn Jenkins, Jeff Jacobson, and Allen Kimborough, for making me feel so welcome. After a quick detour to Los Angeles for a site visit with Kendyl Hanks (thanks to Jennifer Fisher and Seth Levy), it was off to London for "International Weekend" held in conjunction with the opening of the legal year.

From London, I traveled back across the Atlantic to Charlotte, North Carolina, for our ABA YLD Fall Conference. I'm excited to report that the Young Bar Leader Summit was a huge success, and I am looking forward to the white paper and online toolkit produced from our work. Make sure you look for this information and that you are familiar with the story of the California Young Lawyers Association. I know that the year's other summits will be just as successful—the Young Lawyer Summit (Midyear Meeting, Los Angeles, California, February 7–9, 2008), and the Diversity Summit (Spring Conference, Washington, D.C., April 16–19, 2008).

After Charlotte, I visited with the Birmingham Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and the chair and chair-elect of the Alabama State Bar Young Lawyers Section. Thanks to Michael Vercher, Andy Buck, Lynlee Palmer, Janine Smith, George Parker, Jimbo Terrell, Latanishia Watters, Clark Cooper, Erin May, and everyone else in Alabama for their generosity. The next day, I stopped to see the Vulcan and Civil Rights Museums in Birmingham, and



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## Meet the ABA YLD International Affiliates

By Julia A. Bahner

In addition to the approximately 300 ABA YLD affiliates across the United States, the ABA YLD is proud of its affiliation with three international groups: the Young Bar Association of Montréal, the European Young Bar Association, and Le Jeune Barreau de Québec.

### Young Bar Association of Montréal

The Young Bar Association of Montréal (AJBM) was started on November 4, 1898, and is now over 100 years old. In the 1950s, the AJBM became socially oriented by opening the first public legal aid office, and this service continues today. Every year the charitable and nonprofit chapter of the organization implements a program to donate clothes to those less fortunate and organizes a dinner to serve food to the homeless.

The AJBM officially represents all Montréal lawyers who have ten years or less legal practice experience, and it has a total membership of more than 4,600. The association has ten committees and offers other benefits to members, including a six-month mentoring program in which a young lawyer is matched with an experienced lawyer (free of charge) and employment assistance workshops. In addition, the AJBM has a program in which members can sit as observers on the executive boards of nonprofit organizations. Many

ABA YLD members are now very familiar with this fabulous group after the success of the recent joint ABA YLD/AJBM conference in Montréal, with over 500 young lawyers from across the United States, Canada, and Europe in attendance. For more information on the AJBM and its committees, please visit its website at [ajbm.qc.ca](http://ajbm.qc.ca).

### European Young Bar Association

The ABA YLD's newest international affiliate is the European Young Bar Association (EYBA). The organization was established to encourage links between, and to promote the interests and welfare of, young lawyers throughout geographical Europe. Annalisa Checchi, the EYBA's Chair, reports that the



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## YLD Supports International Young Lawyer Associations

By Christina Plum

Over the past year, the ABA YLD has had several unique opportunities to interact with and support international young lawyer associations, thereby allowing the YLD to offer its experience and assistance to young lawyers worldwide.

First, the YLD was asked to partner with the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) and the International Bar Association (IBA) Young Lawyers' Committee to create a written guide for young lawyer associations ("Guide"). The seventeen-page Guide offers advice to those young lawyers who want to start or reinvigorate their young lawyer associations. It includes suggestions from the 2004 ABA YLD *Leadership Academy Handbook*, as well as a checklist that was created specifically for the Guide. Once approved by the ABA YLD, AIJA, and the IBA, the Guide will be available for use



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whenever young lawyer associations seek assistance and advice on related topics.

Next, YLD officers, directors, coordinators, and publications editors held their August planning meeting in conjunction with AIJA's "Annual Congress" in Toronto. The YLD's leaders attended AIJA's meeting at which the Guide was approved and spent an afternoon with several hundred attendees from around the world. "With AIJA meeting so close to home, we were thrilled to have an opportunity to meet with so many of its leaders to talk about the challenges facing young lawyer associations globally," said YLD Chair Justin Goldstein.

Finally, several YLD leaders were invited to participate in "International Weekend" in London in late September, hosted by the European Young Bar Association (EYBA). The weekend's highlights included a full day of bar leadership training, at which former YLD Chairs Jay Ray and Christina Plum addressed topics including motivating young lawyer volunteers, running effective meetings, long-range planning, and chairing young lawyer associations. **E**

then it was off to Nashville for the Georgia State Bar Young Lawyers Division meeting (think Georgia vs. Vanderbilt). Thanks to Elena Kaplan, Josh Bell, Diedra Sanderson, Joe Dent, and all of the Georgia Young Lawyers for allowing me to take part and for showing me a great time (Go Dawgs!). Also, thanks to past YLD Chair, Jonathan Cole, for joining us for part of the meeting. Finally, I headed to Albany, New York, to the New York State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Fall Meeting. Thanks to Valerie Cartwright, Sherry Levin Wallach, and everyone else for allowing me to join the meeting at the last minute.

I appreciate hearing what is going on around the country and bringing the ABA YLD to your young lawyer affiliates. I have plans to continue my journey to Texas, Washington State, Utah, Florida, and anywhere else you would like to invite me. Thank you for your gracious invitations and please continue to let me know about your upcoming meetings at [justin.goldstein@nationalcity.com](mailto:justin.goldstein@nationalcity.com).

Thanks again for welcoming me into your young lawyer organizations, and I'll see you on the road. **E**

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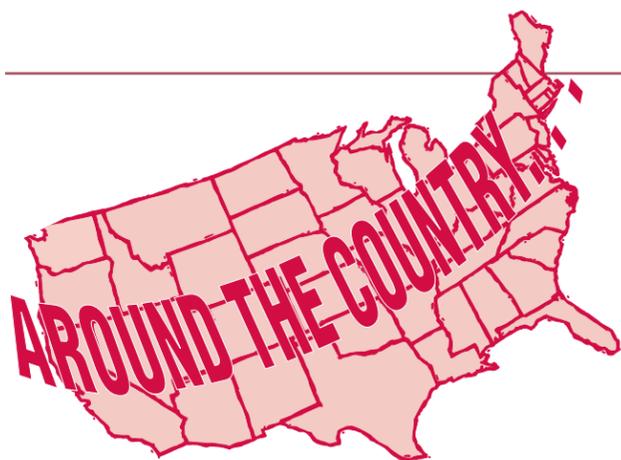
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In addition to conveying information to bar leaders around the country as to events, meetings, subgrants, and other resources offered through the Young Lawyers Division, *The Affiliate* seeks to inspire new projects through feature articles highlighting individual affiliate projects and persons involved in public service and membership support.

For information about services and resources available to affiliates through the Young Lawyers Division, contact Jill Eckert McCall, YLD Director, at 312/988-5614 or [mccallj@staff.abanet.org](mailto:mccallj@staff.abanet.org).

*The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the American Bar Association or its Young Lawyers Division.*

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Compiled by Rachel E. Kopp

Even though the bar year has just begun, YLD affiliates have been busy kick-starting their programming. From educating students about the law to assisting with disaster relief to fundraising, our affiliates are making a difference in their local communities.

#### Mingling with Judges

The *Barristers Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco* held its twenty-third annual "Judges' Reception" the evening of July 12, 2007. The highlight of the event was honoring the U.S. Magistrate for the Northern District of California, Edward M. Chen, with the Barristers Choice Award. The award was voted on by the entire Barristers Club membership and recognized Judge Chen's extraordinary efforts to educate and encourage new lawyers in the courtroom. More than 350 members of the Bay Area legal community, including more than fifty state and federal judges and their clerks, attended the "Judges' Reception." Among those in attendance were California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George and San Francisco Superior Court Presiding Judge David Ballati. The funds raised from this event help to support Barristers programs that encourage mentoring of area students, increase diversity in the legal profession, and help law students bridge the gap between school and practicing law.

#### Attracting Future Bar Leaders

The *Illinois State Bar Association YLD* created the *Young Lawyers Survival Guide*, which is given to new lawyers at their swearing in ceremony and provides useful tips for young lawyers entering the profession. The ISBA YLD has also made membership free for all law student members, with section newsletters available to them online at no additional cost. It is working with the law student division to create a mentorship program to pair young lawyers with law students as they transition into the legal profession.

Although the Kentucky Bar Association's bylaws provide for a law student division, that division has been defunct for many years. The *Kentucky Bar Association YLS* is working to revitalize the Division by reaching out to law schools to encourage interest in bar activities and public service and to encourage these future lawyers to join the section.

The *Knoxville Barristers' (Tennessee)* Mock Trial Committee hosted a local High School Mock Trial competition featuring nine teams from area high schools in February. The winning team from Bearden High School placed fourth in the statewide competition sponsored by the *Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (TBA YLD)*. Also in February, its Law School Mentor Committee conducted mock interviews for over forty first-year law students at the University of Tennessee College of Law. In addition, the affiliate's Law Week Committee presented the educational mock trial video "Curly Pig v. B.B. Wolf" to third graders at over twenty area elementary schools and sponsored an art contest featuring the Law Day theme of "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy." The winner of its local competition, a fourth grade student from Cedar Bluff Intermediate School, placed first in the statewide competition sponsored by the TBA YLD. On May 4, the Knoxville Barristers co-sponsored the annual "Law Day Luncheon" at which Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen was the featured guest speaker.

#### Community Outreach

The *Washington State Bar Association YLD* membership committee co-sponsored the "Second Annual Race Judicata 5K" run on October 14, which raised money for University of Washington law students to work in public interest internships.

The *Pennsylvania Bar Association YLD* and the *Berks County Bar Association*



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## ABA YLD Chair Justin Goldstein has been around the country with . . .



*The International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) in Toronto.*



*The Birmingham Bar Association YLS Executive Committee.*



*The Georgia State Bar YLD in Nashville.*



*The Alabama State Bar YLS Chair and Chair-Elect in Birmingham.*



*The Charlotte Host Committee at the ABA YLD Fall Conference.*



*The New York State Bar Association in Albany.*

*Young Lawyers Section (Pennsylvania)* co-sponsored a successful Zone 2 and 3 caravan on July 15 at a Reading Phillies baseball game.

The *Hennepin County Bar Association New Lawyers Section (Minneapolis, Minnesota)* arranged attorney panel presentations at local high schools at which attorneys discussed what they do and how they got to where they are. The HCBA NLS also continued to serve meals at People Serving People, a local homeless shelter.

Members of the *Iowa State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division* and other Iowa attorneys presented the "Trial by Jury" program at the Iowa State Fair, August 9-19. This is a program in which lawyers put on a mock trial for the public, and the audience acts as a jury. In addition, the Iowa YLD organized a "Justice for All" golf tournament on August 31, to raise money for its Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The *Nebraska State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section* held its annual "Golf Scramble" fundraiser on July 27.

#### Giving Back

In August, the *Fayette County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (Kentucky)* concluded its sixth annual "Fayette County School Supply Drive." The affiliate was able to collect over \$400 and several boxes of supplies for the Fayette County Schools. The FCBA YLS also co-sponsored the fourth annual "Grape Expectations" competitive wine tasting/silent auction event held on August 23 to benefit Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

#### Kudos . . .

- To the *Snohomish County YLD (Washington)*, which was recently approved as a new ABA YLD affiliate!
- To **Tim Burns**, treasurer of the *Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (PBA YLD)* and a sole-practitioner in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, who was recently named an "Up and Comer 35 and Younger" by *Johnstown Magazine* for his volunteer legal efforts to save an historic bandshell slated for demolition by the city of Johnstown. Two years ago, Johnstown City Council voted to approve the demolition of the historic Roxbury Park Bandshell, a municipal stone pavilion built by President Roosevelt's Work's Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. Burns worked to secure a preliminary injunction on behalf of several concerned citizens to block the demolition. After an eight month court

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#### General ABA Information:

Call 800/285-2221 to join the ABA, to report an address change, to check on your membership status, to order ABA publications and products, to check the ABA-wide CLE calendar for upcoming programs, and to receive registration information about the ABA Annual and Midyear Meetings.

# Websites That Work: Making Effective Use of Your Affiliate Website

By Melissa Dewey Brumback

These days it seems that everyone has a website. And yet, many websites are sadly lacking in visual appeal, content, and timeliness. If you want your affiliate's website to be the powerhouse communication tool that it can be, read on.

## 1. Update the Website Regularly

The number one mistake many organizations make—affiliates included—is not updating their websites on a regular basis. Some websites reviewed for this article listed “upcoming” events as far back as 2002! Even sites that list events from several months back tell the browser that nothing of current interest can be found on the site.

At a bare minimum, your website should only include timeless information that does not “expire,” such as information for the public or informational handbooks. To truly maximize the benefit of having a website, however, it must be maintained regularly. How often a website should be updated depends on the affiliate—the more activities going on, the greater the need for regular updating.

An up-to-date website can assist in bringing members back to the website again and again, for example, to check out the address of an affiliate event—information they know can reliably be found on the site. By updating regularly, you are halfway to your “goal”—scoring yourself a spot among members’ “favorites” or “bookmarks.”



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## 2. Provide Visual Appeal

A second mistake many websites make is lack of clarity. The ideal affiliate website should quickly and clearly identify who you are, how your group relates to any broader group, and contact information. Consider also making your affiliate's leadership team a feature, such as the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (Missouri), which publishes its officers' pictures online at [www.kcmba.org/YLS/ylsboard.htm](http://www.kcmba.org/YLS/ylsboard.htm).

A second step to visual appeal is to provide easy navigation. Use links to subpages and group similar information into categories. If your affiliate publishes a number of downloadable pamphlets, group them together under a “Publications” link. If you have many social opportunities or continuing legal education programs, consider a link to a subpage with that information to keep the homepage streamlined. The State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division's webpage ([www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Young\\_Lawyers](http://www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Young_Lawyers)) is a good example of this concept, in which the webpage offers several links to its projects and publications, job search information, and an entire educational resource library of state law.

## 3. Content, Content, Content

Your website will only be as strong as its content. Need ideas for great content? Look no further than your fellow affiliates' websites.

The State Bar of Arizona Young Lawyers Division's webpage ([www.myazbar.org/SecComm/Sections/YLD/](http://www.myazbar.org/SecComm/Sections/YLD/)) is a model of useful information, providing a Q&A hyperlink section of common questions and ways to volunteer for the affiliate's projects, including the “Wills for Heroes” public service project and the state speaker's bureau database.

The King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (Washington) ([www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/YLD/index.cfm](http://www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/YLD/index.cfm)), through links on its publications subpage, provides browsers with a small claims handbook, a state practice manual, and a pro se handbook. The Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (Oregon) provides links to its leadership board, publications (including pro bono opportunities, domestic violence, and new bar admittee guides), continuing legal education programs, and committees, at [www.mbabar.org/MBA\\_yls-home.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/MBA_yls-home.htm).

Do you need an article for your peers explaining why they should be involved in your YLD? Check out the Iowa State Bar Association Young Lawyer Division's “Top Ten” reasons at [www.iowabar.org/YLD.nsf/\\$about!OpenAbout](http://www.iowabar.org/YLD.nsf/$about!OpenAbout).

## 4. Consider Cross-Selling with Your Other Communication Tools

Another concept to consider is publishing your newsletter online. A separate link to the newsletter subpage easily directs readers to the newsletter without cluttering the homepage. See the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division's newsletter at [www.flayld.org/articles/newsletter](http://www.flayld.org/articles/newsletter) or the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division's newsletter at [www.gabar.org/young\\_lawyers\\_division/newsletter](http://www.gabar.org/young_lawyers_division/newsletter).

If you do publish your newsletter online, consider the content appeal of your newsletter as well. One great piece is in the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference's most recent newsletter ([www.vayounglawyers.org/docketcall/docketcurrent.pdf](http://www.vayounglawyers.org/docketcall/docketcurrent.pdf)), which provides a quick tip sheet for procedures concerning the Virginia Supreme Court.

Does your affiliate maintain a listserv? If so, consider following the example of the Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers Section, which provides directions to subscribe and unsubscribe directly on their webpage at [www2.mnbar.org/sections/new-lawyers/discuss.asp](http://www2.mnbar.org/sections/new-lawyers/discuss.asp). This is a good way to keep the number of requests to unsubscribe from overwhelming the list itself, while cross-selling both communication tools.

## 5. Tying It All Together

Now that you know easy navigation, timely information, and content are the keys to a website success story, check out the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's webpage ([www.tba.org/YLD/index.html](http://www.tba.org/YLD/index.html)) for a good model to follow as you develop, or redefine, your own. The webpage offers a quick link to make the page the user's homepage, provides regional weather information, and offers links to an online search engine, several Tennessee newspapers, and a membership directory. These types of features keep the reader coming back again and again, resulting in a website that works! [a](#)

# Making Meetings Matter—A How to Guide

By Dustin K. Hunter

Have you ever participated in a meeting at which it seemed as though no one knew where they were going and there was no particular hurry to get there? The meetings of your affiliate young lawyer organization can and should be different. It is possible to hold a meeting that your members actually look forward to attending and that serves as an effective motivational tool to implement your strategic plan. That is because running a meeting, like any other leadership activity, is a skill that can be learned and refined through planning and preparation.

## Use a Detailed Agenda

The effective use of an agenda is the single most important element to ensuring that you will have a successful meeting. An agenda is more than a list of topics to cover; it is an identification of your goals as they affect your strategic plan and your roadmap for getting those goals accomplished. In developing your agenda, you should evaluate your goals for your affiliate organization and specify the items you want to accomplish in order of importance. Next to each agenda item, note whether it requires action or a vote or whether it is for informational purposes only. You should also put the name of the person

responsible for the item as well as the time allotted for dealing with this specific item during the meeting. “Putting the name of the person responsible for the item to be discussed is critical,” said Lashawn Jenkins, treasurer of the Maricopa County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division in Phoenix, Arizona. “It provides accountability and helps to ensure that projects are completed timely.”

After you have created your proposed agenda, it is a good idea to send a draft to your key members and ask

for input. This serves the dual purposes of reminding your members of what they previously agreed to do because they see their names on the agenda and enlisting their aid in implementing the organization's strategic plan for the year by enabling them to make your plan theirs. Both are critical to maintaining motivated members.

During the meeting, be sure to use the agenda and do not deviate from it. “Follow the agenda and stick to the time allotted for each item,” recommended Hope Caldwell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, editor of *The Young Lawyer*. “By running the meeting, you are expected to bring everyone back to the tasks at hand if the discussion gets off track. If you fail to keep on task and schedule, your members will not want to attend the next meeting.”

## Facilitation During the Meeting Is Your Primary Responsibility

The goal of the meeting is to accomplish everything that you have set forth in the agenda. Once the meeting has begun, however, your primary responsibility is to act as a facilitator to address all items of concern facing your young lawyer organization. In doing so, you must remain neutral. If you need to take a position on an issue, you should ask someone else to temporarily run the meeting while you make your case. If you fail to remain neutral in your position while leading the meeting, you will lose credibility and the appearance of impartiality that is essential to effectively facilitate challenging issues. Moreover, as the leader, you are responsible for setting the ground rules for discussion, keeping the meeting on task and on point, and also encouraging participation from all young lawyer members. The agenda will be your roadmap to make sure that you stay on track and address the right topics.

## Start and Finish on Time—No Exceptions

Expect meetings to begin and end at the times stated in the agenda. One of the greatest impediments to start-

ing a meeting on time is the decision to “wait five minutes” after the scheduled time to see who else shows up. This is a huge mistake that actually encourages your members to arrive late because they know that the meeting will wait for them. Instead, start the meeting without the late attendees. When they arrive and see that the meeting has already begun, they will get the message and will be on time for the next meeting. Jeffrey Mayer, *If You Haven't Got the Time to Do It Right, When Will You Find the Time to Do It*, at 98–101 (Fire-side, 1st ed. 1991).

Similarly, when the time to end the meeting has arrived, do it. Because you planned out your agenda carefully, dealt with the most important topics first, and kept to the scheduled times listed in the agenda, you will have accomplished everything you set out to cover during the meeting and you will be able to adjourn the meeting at the scheduled time.

## Final Recap

If any important decisions were made at the meeting that require follow-up or action by the members, these decisions need to be confirmed again in a final recap. Try to make sure that everyone leaves the meeting knowing what is expected of them and what next steps should be taken. Make sure that those members who are to take action understand that they are accountable for these tasks. It is also a good idea to specify the time-frame for completion. Bill Collier, *How to Run an Effective Meeting*, St. Louis Business Monthly, Oct. 2005. Since the members accomplished everything on the agenda and they know what to do next, the meeting was a success and you are on your way to a successful year.

Additional resources on running your meetings and motivating your members are available at the ABA YLD website at [www.abanet.org/yld/affiliate.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/yld/affiliate.shtml). [a](#)



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## Important Issues: Stay Relevant and Improve Communications

By Timothy R. White

You didn't have to be a NASCAR fan to appreciate the sights and sounds of Charlotte, North Carolina, home to the ABA YLD's 2007 Fall Conference. You did have to be in attendance, however, to get all of the inside information discussed at the Young Bar Leader Summit held in Charlotte on October 6 . . . that is, *until now*.

According to Affiliates Director Ryan Reed of Bowling Green, Kentucky, representatives from at least thirty-eight different states attended the Young Bar Leader Summit, which focused on hot issues currently facing local and state young lawyer organizations and the young lawyers that lead these groups. At the Summit, attendees expressed an interest in two themes common to all young lawyer organizations: the importance of keeping your affiliate "relevant" to its big bar counterpart and the best way to improve communication between various affiliates in a given state. Improving communication among a state's young lawyer organizations will help to cultivate more effective young lawyer leaders and demonstrate the organizations' value to their senior bars.

Although not every young lawyer leader from every young lawyer organization was able to attend the Summit, the programming made clear how important it is for affiliates to discuss these pressing issues with their members. This can be done in a variety of ways, including holding mini-affiliate summits, working with the ABA YLD's Affiliate Assistance Team, and using the resources on the ABA YLD's website and archives.

### Mini-Affiliate Summits

The benefit of increasing communication among a state's young lawyers has proven to be indisputable and immediate. Some states have been practicing this idea of increased internal communication for years, while others are just realizing its importance. To promote such communication, several ABA YLD affiliates across the country have begun to hold their own summit-type events to discuss issues facing their young lawyer members.



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Texas young lawyer organizations hold an annual meeting of local and state affiliates called the "Bar Leaders Conference," which takes place in a manner similar to the ABA YLD's Young Bar Leader Summit. The purpose of this two-day event is to bring together local young lawyer leaders to interact

and learn about the various member and public service projects happening all over the state. Davis Chapman of Fort Worth, Texas, a director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) and co-chair of TYLA's Local Affiliate Committee, described the conference as a great opportunity for all local young lawyer leaders to get together and "see what is going on at the state bar level." This year's Bar Leaders Conference was held in Houston, Texas, from July 27–28, 2007, and according to Chapman it was a huge success with "participation from all of the active TYLA affiliates." Throughout the conference, Texas young lawyer affiliates discussed exciting new projects, such as "Wills for Heroes," the TYLA "Cancer Guide," and *They Had a Dream Too*, and how affiliates across the state could implement them.

The State Bar of Nevada Young Lawyers Section plans to use its upcoming Midyear Meeting to continue discussing the issues addressed at the ABA YLD Young Bar Leader Summit in Charlotte. According to Jasmine Mehta of Reno, Nevada, Chair of the Nevada YLS, one of the objectives of the meeting will be to "train current members of the bar leadership on how to be more effective." Mehta also stated that the meeting will be an opportunity to "encourage young lawyers to become more involved in bar leadership," which she is confident will continue to increase communication within the Nevada Young Lawyers Section.

### Affiliate Assistance Team

While meeting with other local young lawyer leaders is a great way to foster communication and make your local bar organization more active, it is not the only way. The ABA YLD's Affiliate Assistance Team is a group of ten experts dedicated to training young leaders and prepared to assist affiliates with any project. The Affiliate Assistance Team is the Division's primary tool for providing direct assistance to ABA YLD affiliates and supplying local young lawyer affiliates with the tools they need to become thriving executive leaders. The Team offers affiliates everything from broad appeal assistance to one-on-one advice that is specifically tailored to individual affiliates and their particular needs. Affiliates can receive advice through e-mail, written materials, or phone consultations with Team members, who will provide training materials, program information, and other assistance about the ABA, the ABA YLD, and all aspects of running a successful young lawyer organization.

Jasmine Mehta of Nevada has already contacted the Affiliate Assistance Team to help with preparation for the Nevada Young Lawyers Section Midyear Meeting. The

Affiliate Assistance Team responded with planning strategies as well as ideas about speakers and topics. Mehta said, "We are really excited about the breadth and depth of experience that the Team can provide."

### Online Materials

The ABA YLD also provides affiliates with several other resources that all young lawyers can easily access from anywhere around the country. In fact, an entire section of the ABA YLD's website is devoted to topics relevant to its affiliated young lawyer organizations ([www.abanet.org/yld/affiliate.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/yld/affiliate.shtml)). You will find links to information that is particularly useful for local and state young lawyer leaders, including public and member service projects, affiliate reimbursement forms, a leadership handbook, details regarding conference funding for affiliates, the ABA YLD's *Year At A Glance 2007–2008*, online versions of *The Affiliate* newsletter, and importantly, materials from the Young Bar Leader Summit held in Charlotte.

The website also contains contact information and resources provided by the Affiliate Assistance Team, essentials about the various awards and subgrants available to ABA YLD affiliates and their members, descriptions of the YLD's affiliates and representatives, links to ABA YLD affiliates' websites across the nation, lists of affiliate-specific programming at upcoming meetings and conferences, a form to update your affiliate leaders' contact information, and countless other helpful materials. All of these materials are a great way to keep in touch with fellow affiliates and to get ideas for new projects.

In addition, one of the goals of the Young Bar Leader Summit at the Fall Conference was to generate discussions in local young lawyer organizations. During the Summit, YLD affiliates shared many exciting suggestions on how best to achieve this goal. These suggestions were documented on Action Sheets, which Affiliates Director Ryan Reed expects to consolidate and make available in an online toolkit in the next few months. Make sure to check the ABA YLD Affiliates webpage regularly for updated materials.

No matter how your affiliate chooses to obtain information on communicating with your young lawyer members, the most important thing to remember is to take advantage of all resources available to you as an ABA YLD affiliate. As long as you continue to communicate with your fellow affiliates and use the ABA YLD, your young lawyer organization should consistently remain one step ahead. **a**

## Louisiana District Rep Named 2006 "Up and Coming Lawyer"

By Alexander P. Ryan

Beth Abramson's telephone rings a lot. She is, after all, a litigator in a busy New Orleans, Louisiana, law firm. A couple of years ago, however, Abramson's phone was ringing constantly. That was in early September 2005, after Hurricane Katrina had just wrought havoc in New Orleans and throughout the state of Louisiana.

Abramson had just begun her two-year term as Louisiana's district representative to the ABA Young Lawyers Division. As district rep, she was tasked with, among other projects, coordinating pro bono legal services in the event of a federally declared disaster. Louisiana had experienced disasters in the past. However, when Abramson signed on as district rep, she could not have known that the area's worst-ever natural disaster awaited her.

As no one in Louisiana will ever forget, least of all Abramson, Hurricane Katrina struck the area on August 29, 2005. By contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the ABA YLD provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals affected by federally declared disasters.



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In Louisiana, in the pre-Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita era, the ABA YLD and FEMA partnered with the Louisiana State Bar Association when disasters struck. In typical situations, the President of the United States would declare a disaster, and the state's ABA YLD district rep would move quickly to establish a "hotline," where those affected by the disaster could turn for legal help. Per the agreement with FEMA, the ABA YLD district rep is tasked with determining

where the hotline will be housed, who will work the hotline, and how the response will run. Generally, Louisiana's hotline is run on a volunteer basis, by Louisiana attorneys who donate their time to assist those in need with answers to disaster-related legal questions.

This process is daunting enough in a typical disaster situation. But, when Hurricane Katrina hit, it was immediately clear that this was not a typical event. For one thing, New Orleans and much of the surrounding area was immediately put under an emergency evacuation order, forcing residents to relocate to escape the hurricane's destruction. One of these residents was Beth Abramson, who resided in Orleans Parish. Setting up a disaster hotline is always difficult, because of the immediacy and urgency of the situations, but in this case, up against the worst disaster the area had ever known, Abramson was forced to relocate and do her work remotely.

Abramson wasted no time. As a commercial litigation associate with McGlinchey Stafford, she is adept at handling challenging tasks. Normally, the hotline would have been set up in the offices of the Louisiana State Bar Association, which partners with the ABA YLD and FEMA in these situations. Unfortunately, however, the LSBA was itself a New Orleans resident and was forced to evacuate. Therefore, Abramson had to adopt plan "B" for the hotline—Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Unable to work effectively in the New Orleans area and caught in the grip of nature's wrath, Abramson and her team opted to relocate the hotline to the Baton Rouge Bar Association's offices. With the BRBA's help, Abramson and crew had the hotline up and running by September 1, just three days after Hurricane Katrina hit.

Securing the hotline was just one of Abramson's many challenges in those first few days of September 2005. An-

other was finding enough attorneys to work the phones. The calls were coming quickly. The problem was, the attorneys who would normally volunteer to answer the phones were themselves affected by the hurricane. At the time, approximately 16,000 attorneys lived in Louisiana. Of these, nearly 15,000 would eventually be affected by Hurricane Katrina and, later, Hurricane Rita. Still, Abramson was able to solicit support from a group of local attorneys, largely through the assistance of local bar associations, pro bono organizations, and legal services corporations.

Abramson and her team caught a bit of a break in October 2005, when the hotline moved to Louisiana State University Law School, expanding the number of available incoming phone lines in the process. That was fortunate, because the calls continued—rapidly. Indeed, the demand got to the point that the Louisiana State Bar Association brought in paid attorneys in an attempt to handle the flow. Many of the calls involved issues relating to landlord/tenant questions. Some involved insurance and domestic matters. The callers were tired, worried, and wondered what to do next.

The disaster recovery efforts also benefited from several measures approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court. In October 2005, the court approved a temporary measure that permitted non-Louisiana-admitted attorneys to render pro bono legal assistance to the survivors of the hurricanes. The court approved a similar rule in January 2006. In January 2007, the court extended this rule, through January 19, 2008.

For all her efforts, Abramson was identified by Lawyers USA ([www.lawyersusaonline.com/upandcoming2006.cfm#abramson](http://www.lawyersusaonline.com/upandcoming2006.cfm#abramson)) as an "Up and Coming Lawyer of 2006." Congratulations, Beth! **a**

# Midyear Meeting: Membership Summit and More

By Melissa Dewey Brumback

Sun, shop, and summit! All young lawyers should make plans to attend the ABA YLD Midyear Meeting, scheduled for February 7–9, 2008, in Los Angeles, California. The ABA YLD meetings are a great chance to meet and mingle with hundreds of your professional colleagues from across the country. This year's Midyear Meeting is specifically focused on topics that are important to young lawyers, including a Young Lawyer Summit to address the unique issues facing new(er) lawyers practicing today. It is also your chance to make connections and future client contacts, while you continue your professional education through quality CLE programming. And, don't forget that there will be plenty of time to socialize, shop, and (weather-permitting) sun-worship!

The Midyear Meeting will include extensive networking opportunities, various receptions (including a first-timer's orientation session), and a group dinner dance. Although the final touches are being put on the programming as you read this article, the meeting will also feature a wide variety of educational seminars providing a chance for one-stop continuing legal education credits for most, if not all, state licensure programs. CLEs will focus on topics including



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"Ethical Issues in Intellectual Property Pretext Investigations," "How Civil Juries Really Decide Cases," and "The Mortgage Crisis in America." Other much-anticipated programs will include financial planning for young lawyers, speed networking, and a sports and entertainment law program. The ABA YLD Assembly will also convene at the Midyear Meeting, to debate and vote on important resolutions affecting the legal profession as a whole and the ABA YLD in particular.

Featured at the meeting will be this year's third of four Summits—a roundtable discussion and forum concept initiated by ABA YLD Chair Justin Goldstein. According to Summit Coordinator Griselda Vega of Yakima, Washington, ABA YLD leadership "envisions [the Summits as] forum[s] for discussion" to share ideas from around the country.

While the first Summit at Charlotte's Fall Conference discussed affiliate leadership issues, the Midyear Summit, entitled "Young Lawyers: The Next Generation," is all about membership-related topics. According to Michael Pellicciotti, ABA YLD Membership Director for 2007–2008 and a prosecutor in Seattle, Washington, this Summit is for the entire Division membership, whether or not you are in a position of leadership and whether or not you have ever attended a prior ABA YLD meeting. The Young Lawyer Summit is an effort to make the Division a strong voice in young lawyer issues. Summit participants will discuss issues important to newer lawyers, including managing student loans and debt repayment, finding a work/life balance, establishing your niche, and exploring career options. Pellicciotti stated, "We're hoping to bring a lot of different people to the table and to have them involved in the process."

The Summit will begin with a plenary session to discuss the current state of young lawyers today, after which participants can choose to attend two of six breakout sessions. Facilitators will ask the smaller groups what issues are facing young lawyers today and how the ABA can or should help to address those issues, explained Christina Vassiliou, Summit team leader and a lawyer with Sterns & Weinroth in Trenton, New Jersey.

According to Vassiliou, the goal is to gain information and ideas at the Summit. After breakout discussions and group presentations, the Membership Board plans to use the ideas generated and concerns addressed to create a new white paper addressing ABA YLD members' needs.

This white paper could lead to future programming in the Division and future ABA YLD Assembly resolution proposals. In addition, the Division plans to establish an online tool kit containing member resources following the Summit. If you want more information about the Summit as it becomes available, you can sign up for the Summit listserv by going to [www.abanet.org/yld/midyear08](http://www.abanet.org/yld/midyear08).

In addition to CLE programming, networking activities, and the Young Lawyer Summit, the ABA Midyear Meeting will see a return of the ABA YLD's Public Service Project, "Wills for Heroes," which provides basic wills to emergency first responders in local communities. Volunteer lawyers will be asked to review estate planning documentation previously completed by the first responders so that each responder can leave the program with a fully-executed, basic will.

If the opportunities for networking, public service, CLE credit, and the chance to address everyday young lawyer issues are not enough reasons for you to attend, did I mention that the meeting is in sunny southern California in midwinter? The conference this year will be held at the Beverly Hills Hilton ([www.beverlyhilton.com](http://www.beverlyhilton.com)).

In addition to world-famous shopping on Rodeo drive, you can tour famous celebrity homes by trolley ([www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org)), double-decker bus ([www.starlinetours.com](http://www.starlinetours.com)), or even segway ([www.segway.com/tours.htm](http://www.segway.com/tours.htm)). Screen over 140,000 television and radio programs and advertisements at the Paley Center for Media (formerly Museum of Television & Radio, [www.paleycenter.org](http://www.paleycenter.org)). Or, unwind from the conference at one of Beverly Hills' many parks, including Greystone Mansion and Park, featuring over a dozen acres of green flora and lush gardens open to the public ([www.greystonemansion.org](http://www.greystonemansion.org)). Now, doesn't that sound better than spending your February shoveling snow? **a**

## The Winding Road to Promoting Justice: Obstacles for Government Attorneys in Providing Pro Bono Service

By Mercedes Pino

*I was taught that the world had a lot of problems; that I could struggle and change them; that intellectual and material gifts brought the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others less fortunate; and that service is the rent each of us pays for living, the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.*

—Marian Wright Edelman

One of the most important ways in which we, as a legal community, can promote justice is by providing pro bono legal services, including providing services to disadvantaged persons, assisting organizations that deal with the poor or indigent, and raising awareness of the legal system and/or the legal profession. Performing pro bono work also supports the general mission of the American Bar Association (ABA)—to be the national representative of the legal profession, serving the public and the profession by *promoting justice*, professional excellence, and respect for the law. In fact, giving back to the community is so integral to the legal profession that Goal II of the ABA is "to promote meaningful access to legal representation and the American system of justice for all persons regardless of their economic or social condition."

### Obstacles

Ronald Reagan once said, "No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers." Ironically, it is often government attorneys who face the biggest obstacles in providing pro bono services. By definition, a government attorney is any lawyer employed within local, state, or federal agencies, including public defenders and the military. According to the 2007 National Summary Report put out by the National Association for Law Placement, over 4,000 graduates from the class of 2006 went into government practice. When you consider the large



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number of attorneys working in the government, the obstacles preventing them from performing certain types of pro bono work become even more significant. Government attorneys have to be particularly careful when it comes to using public agency resources or volunteering during business hours, and they have to be mindful of any federal rules, statutes, or regulations establishing a specific ethical code of conduct for federal employees. When providing pro bono legal services, government attorneys also have to be aware of the various circumstances that may constitute a conflict of interest for them due to subject matter or cases involving their employer. In addition, because they have to work outside of their area of expertise, government attorneys may lack the legal skills necessary to work in a particular, specialized area of practice.

### Rewards

Now for the **GOOD NEWS!** There are quite a few federal and state agencies that have recognized the specific challenges that government attorneys face when deciding to perform pro bono legal services, and these agencies have established policies dealing directly with these issues. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a statement that established its pro bono policy. The policy sets out definitions, limitations, approval requirements, and specific conflicts of interest and prohibited activities.

In addition, a number of other organizations have developed opportunities or projects that cater specifically to the needs of attorneys in the government sector. For example, The King County Bar Association works with a day laborers' organization to provide legal advice on wage claims and conducts legal clinics at homeless and women's shelters.

### Tips

If you live in an area that does not have a pro bono program for government attorneys, or your bar association wants to create a program, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, when planning a project, remember to provide opportunities in the evenings or weekends and a place for government attorneys to meet with clients. Second, as an organization, you may be able to provide some of the office support/supplies needed to adequately carry out the assigned task; this could be very beneficial for government attorneys. Third, you might consider concen-

trating your pro bono program in an area of law that does not pose a conflict of interest for your target government agency. If the subject matter is outside an attorney's normal practice area, you can provide training or CLE programs to get attorneys up to speed.

Whether you are a government attorney seeking a pro bono opportunity or a bar association wanting to start a new project, the most important part is reaching out to your community and making a difference. As Bill Clinton said, "Citizen service is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community, with all of us working together. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service. . . . Volunteers are vital to enabling this country to live up to the true promise of its heritage."

For more information on the participation of government attorneys in pro bono services, visit the Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service and the Center for Pro Bono website at [www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono). **a**

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312/988-5612 for a list of options.

# Why You Want to Attend the YLD “Assembly” at the Midyear Meeting in Los Angeles!

By Deborah A. Smith

The ABA Midyear and Annual Meetings can be overwhelming, especially if you are attending your first ABA meeting as a young lawyer. The program book you receive during registration is jammed with CLEs, committee meetings, and social events, and you may be confused about what to attend and how to choose. If you are wondering where to find all the young lawyers at the Midyear Meeting, come to the hotel designated for the ABA Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD). You will find us there, and you will find our “Assembly” Meeting.

**What is “Assembly” and why should I attend?** The ABA YLD Assembly convenes at both the Midyear and Annual Meetings. Pursuant to the ABA YLD Bylaws, the Assembly is the policymaking authority for the ABA YLD. In other words, Assembly is our business meeting where ABA YLD delegates gather to share their opinions and ideas. Assembly has multiple purposes, but importantly, it is where we debate resolutions and recommendations, which, if passed, are then taken up to the “big” ABA via its House of Delegates by our Young Lawyer Representatives to the House for debate and consideration. An equally important purpose of Assembly is to provide a forum for our distinguished leaders from different sections and divisions within the ABA to share their goals and plans for the current bar year and beyond. Finally, Assembly is a place for you to network. You will have the chance to meet people, not only within your state delegation and district, but also from every other district in the country. We also frequently have special guests from our sister organizations across the globe join us at our meetings.

**How easy is it to become a delegate?** If your state or local bar as-

sociation is an affiliate of the YLD, it can send delegates to the Assembly meeting. The number of delegates each state can send is determined by the current number of young lawyers within the state who are members of the ABA. The number is adjusted once each year. If you are involved with your local or state bar association, you can ask to serve as its delegate. (For more detailed information about what to do after you become a delegate and how to get certified, see the article below by Assembly Clerk Chauntis Jenkins.)

**What can I expect when I come to Assembly?** Assembly is a business meeting (requiring business attire) governed by parliamentary procedure. You can expect an open forum where you, the delegates, get to voice your opinions and be heard on important issues affecting our profession. Resolutions will be debated and if you have an opinion on an issue that you want to share, you are encouraged to do so. Also, you can expect to hear from distinguished speakers within the ABA who want to share their ideas with you—ideas that you can and should take home and share with your state and local affiliates. You can also expect to meet other young lawyers with whom you can exchange ideas and have fun!

**Where do I find the Assembly?** Assembly is held in the ballroom of the Young Lawyers Division hotel. At the Midyear Meeting, the Assembly will meet on Saturday morning. (Make sure you are certified during the posted hours. You will not be able to vote in Assembly if you do not have your name badge and delegate ribbon.) When you arrive at Assembly, look for the table sign containing your state and district, which will designate where your delegation sits.

**What if I have an idea for a resolution?** If you have an idea for a resolution or a recommendation that you believe the YLD should consider and debate, please contact Assembly Speaker Deborah Smith at [dasmith@gordonrees.com](mailto:dasmith@gordonrees.com). I will guide you through the process and make sure you are in contact with the appropriate sections, divisions, and/or committees.



Deborah A. Smith is the 2007–2008 YLD Assembly Speaker and senior counsel with Gordon & Rees, LLP, in San Francisco, California.

## The A to Z Roadmap to Becoming an Assembly Delegate

By Chauntis T. Jenkins

Recently chosen as an assembly delegate and you don't know what to do next? Do you want to be a delegate for your state, but you are unsure about what to do or who you need to contact? If any of these questions have crossed your mind, the following will be a helpful guide to becoming a delegate at the 2008 Midyear and Annual Meetings:

- **What rules govern the certification process?** Rule 1 of ABA YLD Assembly Standing Rules. See [www.abanet.org/yld/delegate/rule1.html](http://www.abanet.org/yld/delegate/rule1.html).
- **How can I become a delegate?** Easy—submit your name to your local affiliate leader and/or state chair for selection. The state chair will forward the official list of state delegates and apportion the number of delegates pursuant to the ABA YLD Bylaws.
- **Who is eligible to be a delegate?** All delegates/alternates: (1) must have their principal office in the state of which they are a delegate; (2) must be members of the affiliate they are representing as a delegate; (3) must be members of the ABA YLD and list their ABA ID# on the form. Please note, delegates may apply for ABA membership at the time they request certification. They should provide a copy of their application and proof of payment with the certification materials; and (4) delegates must be registered for the Annual Meeting.



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• **Who can be an alternate?** The Assembly Clerk may certify an alternate as a delegate if your affiliate is entitled to more delegates than have been certified at the meeting, and either (1) the affiliate's chair instructs the Clerk to certify the alternate as a delegate; or (2) the published deadline for certification has

passed or is imminent, and the Clerk (a) declares that any alternate present may be certified in preference over any delegate who has been designated but not yet certified, and (b) so certifies each available alternate.

- **What does certification mean?** The certification of your credentials to be a delegate at the Midyear or Annual Meeting gives you the exclusive right to vote in the Assembly.
- **When does certification take place?** According to the Assembly Standing Rules, the Assembly Clerk must hold one or more sessions totaling at least six (6) hours. Notice of the scheduled sessions will be provided. The sessions are usually held on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning before the Assembly meets.
- **Should I be on the list of delegates submitted prior to the meeting?** Yes. The deadline for our next meeting is December 17. Refer to Rule 1 of ABA YLD Assembly Standing Rules section 1.3(c)(4) for limited exceptions. The rule is available at [www.abanet.org/yld/assembly/home.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/yld/assembly/home.shtml).
- **Do I have to be pre-registered for the Midyear or Annual Meeting to be a delegate?** Yes.
- **Once I arrive at the meeting, what do I do next?** Go to the official ABA registration area to obtain your ABA name badge. Your badge is *not* available at the YLD registration desk. In order to be certified and receive a delegate ribbon from the Assembly Clerk and/or the Credentials Committee, you *must* present either your ABA name badge or a copy of your pre-registration statement at the certification table. In order to vote in the Assembly, you *must* have an ABA name badge and an ABA YLD delegate ribbon.

Your role as an Assembly delegate is an important one because your presence represents the strength and influence of the YLD. I look forward to making your time in the Assembly a noteworthy experience at the upcoming 2008 Midyear and Annual Meetings. [a](#)

If you have any questions about Assembly, please do not hesitate to contact me. On Saturday morning of Midyear, prior to the start of Assembly, I will be holding an informational meeting regarding the resolutions scheduled to be debated for all interested delegates. Additional details TBA. I look forward to serving as your Assembly Speaker this year. See you in Los Angeles! [a](#)

## Young Bar Leader Summit

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zations through the large-group discussion, the small-group discussions focused on developing practical strategies for demonstrating such relevance to the parent bar organizations in particular. Dozens of ideas were created and catalogued through this process, and many of those were reported to the Summit audience during a concluding session. Some of the ideas were familiar, some were unique, and some were ingenious.

All of the ideas constructed during the Summit will be compiled and evaluated by the Affiliate Assistance Team before being disseminated back to the community of young bar leaders through a number of post-Summit resources designed to help further, if not perpetuate, the fruitful discussions begun in Charlotte. Those resources include an anticipated white paper addressing the timeliest topics identified by young bar leaders before and during the Summit. The white paper will be drafted and revised through the fall with publication following thereafter. The other chief resource to be developed is an online “toolkit” intended to equip a young bar leader with the strategies and techniques necessary to make a good young lawyer group a great one, or to make a great young lawyer group an exemplary one. It is anticipated that at least a portion of the “toolkit” will be available online this fall.

As these resources are being developed, however, the immediate legacy of the Summit is the opportunity presented for state and local bar organizations to continue the discussion in their home communities. Young bar leaders of every description—state and local, current and future, officer and director—should act with measured urgency to facilitate the examination of why and how they serve their members and their parent bar associations. [a](#)

## Thanks, Charlotte

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timer” turnout in Charlotte was “larger than usual,” and he was extremely pleased by the interaction between perennial attendees and first timers. Harsharn Makkar of Duluth, Georgia, a first-time attendee, vice-chair of the Asia-Pacific Committee (ABA Section of International Law), and co-editor of the *Asia Law News*, “had a great time” at the conference and was “thrilled to meet people from across the country.”

### Leadership

The ABA YLD kicked off its year of Summits on October 6 with the Young Bar Leader Summit. The Summit presented affiliate leaders with important programming such as “Developing an Annual Report,” “Developing a Model Diversity Plan,” and “Developing Future Bar Leaders,” which they could immediately begin to implement in their local young lawyer organizations. During the Summit, affiliate leaders discussed ways for young lawyer groups to demonstrate value and relevance in an era of cost-cutting and restructuring.

Upcoming ABA YLD summits include the ABA YLD Membership Summit (ABA Midyear Meeting, February 7–9, 2008, Los Angeles, California) and the ABA YLD Diversity Summit (ABA YLD Spring Conference, April 16–19, 2008, Washington, D.C.). For more information on the ABA YLD's Fall Conference, please visit [www.abanet.org/yld/fall07/home.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/yld/fall07/home.shtml) [a](#)

## Around the Country

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battle, the Johnstown City Council finally reconsidered its decision and turned control of the bandshell over to a private nonprofit group formed by Burns, who serves as its solicitor.

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To highlight the achievements and successes of your affiliate, please send updates of member service or public service projects and related pictures to [Affiliate\\_Newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:Affiliate_Newsletter@yahoo.com). We look forward to recognizing your projects in future editions of *The Affiliate* and may even use them to lay the foundation for national outreach! [a](#)

# 2006-2007 Awards of Achievement Winners

## Comprehensive Applications

### Comprehensive Applications

#### Division IA—Young lawyer membership of 8,000 or more

1ST PLACE  
Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference

2ND PLACE  
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Texas Young Lawyers Association

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

#### Division IB—Young lawyer membership of more than 3,000 and less than 8,000

1ST PLACE  
State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section

2ND PLACE  
North Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

Division IC—Young lawyer membership of less than 3,000  
1ST PLACE  
Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

2ND PLACE  
South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
New Mexico Young Lawyers Division

#### Division IIA—Young lawyer membership of 2,000 or more

1ST PLACE  
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers

2ND PLACE  
Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers  
The Barristers Club of The Bar Association of San Francisco

#### Division IIB—Young lawyer membership of more than 800 but less than 2,000

1ST PLACE  
Allegheny County Bar Association

2ND PLACE  
Houston Young Lawyers Association

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Austin Young Lawyers Association

#### Division IIC—Young lawyer membership of 800 or less

1ST PLACE  
Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association

2ND PLACE  
Collin County Young Lawyers Association

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association

### Single Project—Service to the Bar

#### Division IA—Young lawyer membership of 8,000 or more

2ND PLACE  
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division  
First Annual Networking Mixer for New Admittees and 3Ls

Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference  
Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Texas Young Lawyers Association  
Ultimate Resources for New Lawyers

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division  
2007 Affiliate Outreach Conference

#### Division IB—Young lawyer membership of more than 3,000 and less than 8,000

1ST PLACE  
North Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
CLE: "Politics and Professionalism: The Lawyer Legislator"

2ND PLACE  
State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section  
YLS Telephone Seminar Series (Expanded)

#### Division IC—Young lawyer membership of less than 3,000

1ST PLACE  
Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
Attorney Mentor and Referral Network

2ND PLACE  
South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Disaster Relief Training Seminar

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
New Lawyers Section of Maine State Bar Association  
Survival Guide for the New Attorney

#### Division IIA—Young lawyer membership of 2,000

1ST PLACE  
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers  
Diversity Forum

2ND PLACE  
Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association  
Texas Hold 'Em Tournament for Benefit of Chicago Bar Foundation

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers  
Barristers Moot Court Competition  
The Barristers Club of The Bar Association of San Francisco  
The Judges Reception

Division IIB—Young lawyer membership of more than 800 but less than 2,000  
1ST PLACE  
Bar Association of Metropolitan Saint Louis Young Lawyers' Division  
Young Lawyers' Division Trial Advocacy Competition

2ND PLACE  
Houston Young Lawyers Association  
Unaccompanied Children's Representation CLE Training

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Allegheny County Bar Association  
Carnivale Benefiting ACBA Loan Repayment Assistance Program  
Austin Young Lawyers Association  
Government Coffee  
Maricopa County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
Mock Interviews

Division IIC—Young lawyer membership of 800 or less  
1ST PLACE  
Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association  
The Nuts & Bolts of Appellate Practice Before the Seventh District Court of Appeals

2ND PLACE  
Texarkana Young Lawyers Association  
The Truth Behind Bench-Bar Relations; "The Incredibles and the Court of the Lost Resort"

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association  
Baseball with the Bench

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
The Young Lawyers Division of the Clearwater Bar Association  
The Judicial Reception  
Collin County Young Lawyers Association  
Judicial Reception  
The Committee on Young Lawyers—Assoc. of the Bar of the City of New York  
57th Annual National Moot Court Competition

### Single Project—Service to the Public

Division IA—Young lawyer membership of 8,000 or more  
1ST PLACE  
Texas Young Lawyers Association  
They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement

2ND PLACE  
Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference  
Juvenile Rights Handbook

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Governmental Affairs Symposium: Real World Lobbying  
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division  
Mardi Gras Casino Night

Division IB—Young lawyer membership of more than 3,000 and less than 8,000  
1ST PLACE  
North Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
When Duty Calls

2ND PLACE  
State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section  
Back-to-School BBQ to Benefit Homeless Youth August 19, 2006

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division  
2007 Law Day

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Houston Young Lawyers Association  
They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement

Division IC—Young lawyer membership of less than 3,000  
1ST PLACE  
South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Justice Jam 2007

2ND PLACE  
Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
Legal Food Frenzy

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Young Lawyers Division of the Hawaii State Bar Association  
YLD Marketing Video

Division IIA—Young lawyer membership of 2,000 or more  
1ST PLACE  
Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association  
State v. Bean Mock Trial Video

2ND PLACE  
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers  
Back to School Backpack Drive and Party

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers  
Law Day Pro Bono Legal Clinic  
The Barristers Club of The Bar Association of San Francisco  
The Summer Associate in Public Service Program  
New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

Division IIB—Young lawyer membership of more than 800 but less than 2,000  
1ST PLACE  
Austin Young Lawyers Association  
They Had a Dream Too

2ND PLACE  
San Antonio Young Lawyers Association  
SAYLA Cares

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Allegheny County Bar Association  
Community Involvement Fair  
Cincinnati Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section  
Run for Kids

Division IIC—Young lawyer membership of 800 or less  
1ST PLACE  
Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association  
Kinship Fair

2ND PLACE  
Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association  
Kids' Law Library  
Clearwater Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
Legal Eagles Back to School Backpacks and Tutoring Program

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association  
Monster Bash Benefiting the Make-A-Wish® Foundation

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
Fort Bend County Young Lawyers Association  
Wills for Heroes  
Collin County Young Lawyers Association  
Wills for Heroes

### Minority Projects

#### Division IA—Young lawyer membership of 8,000 or more

1ST PLACE  
Texas Young Lawyers Association  
TYLA Diversity Series

2ND PLACE  
Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference  
Minority Pre-Law Conference

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Diversity Workshop/Seminar  
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division  
If you can see it, you can be it: School Project"

#### Division IB—Young lawyer membership of more than 3,000 and less than 8,000

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
North Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
Panel Discussion: "Pathway to Diversity: Diversity's Role in Shaping Charlotte's Future"

#### Division IC—Young lawyer membership of less than 3,000

1ST PLACE  
South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Minority Pre-Law Conference

2ND PLACE  
State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section  
Choose Law (Expanded Version)

#### Division IIA—Young lawyer membership of 2,000 or more

1ST PLACE  
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers  
Dinner and Dialogue

2ND PLACE  
Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers  
8th Annual Summer Associate Mixer

### Newsletter Projects

1ST PLACE  
Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference  
Docket Call

2ND PLACE  
Texas Young Lawyers Association  
TYLA eNews

SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
Collin County Young Lawyers Association  
Collin County Young Lawyers Association  
Newsletter

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE  
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division  
The YLD Review

Houston Young Lawyers Association  
Pocket Parts

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers  
The Dicta

North Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division  
The Advocate

San Antonio Young Lawyers Association  
Docket Call

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division  
Across the Bar

State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section  
Inter Alia

South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division  
The Bar Tab