

How Your Bar Association Can Implement *They Had a Dream Too*

By Michele Hyndman

Are you fired up? Are you ready? Then let's go! In our last issue, we ignited lots of enthusiasm when we introduced this year's public service project entitled *They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement*. The project is designed to educate and inspire students to learn about the laws applicable to the Civil Rights Movement and the young people who made a difference through courageous acts.

After reading about *They Had a Dream Too* and viewing the film at www.abanet.org/yld/thadt, we know you and your fellow local bar members will be fired up and ready to implement this year's public service project.

They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement focuses on young leaders who changed the world between 1950 and 1960 by working toward equality for all before the law. As young lawyers, we also need to change the world for the better; and by learning from our past, we can create a better future.

In October, this year's service project, led by Kara Nyquist and Keathan Frink, was rolled out in Birmingham, Alabama's Kelly Ingram Park, in remembrance of those young leaders who stood up for their rights and their future. If you missed the rollout event of *They Had a Dream Too*, don't worry, there are plenty of upcoming opportunities when you can get involved. At each ABA YLD conference this year the twenty-eight-minute film and curriculum will be available to view and bring home to your local area. At the conferences you can also participate or observe the project at work when it is offered in locals schools of every city we visit. The goal this year is to promote the project in all fifty states. In fact, you can sponsor your own *They Had a Dream Too* event by going out to high schools and showing the film or organizing a local event to reach out to as many young people as possible.

You and your fellow local bar members can also implement *They Had a Dream Too* by using the curriculum as part of your mock trial competition or come up with a creative event to showcase the film. Suggestions on how to implement this year's project include presentations:

- in high school classrooms or school assemblies,
- at local recreation centers, and
- at mock trials during
 - Law Day (May 1),
 - Martin Luther King Day (January 18),
 - the 50th Anniversary of Woolworth Sit-In/Greensboro Four (February 1, 2009),
 - Color of Justice events, or
 - Black History Month; or
- be creative.

And remember to share your experiences with us at www.abanet.org/yld/thadt.

At the 2010 ABA YLD Annual Meeting one affiliate will be rewarded for its outstanding job in promoting the project on the local level. The prize is still to be determined, but stay tuned and make sure you notify the ABA YLD Public Service Project Team of your implementation at www.abanet.org/yld/thadt.

Among the other events occurring throughout the year will be a speakers series at each ABA YLD conference during which lawyers and other speakers will discuss the basic rights of Americans.

The Affiliate will continue to update you on how other local bar associations are implementing the *They Had a Dream Too* public service project in their communities. Please stay tuned! You may be reading about your own local bar's implementation of *They Had a Dream Too* and its successes in the next issue. For more information or if you have ideas about implementing *They Had a Dream Too*, please contact Kara Nyquist, Public Service Co-Coordinator, at karajd2000@aol.com.

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