Guidance for Leadership on Involving YLRs in Committee Activities

The Antitrust Section’s Young Lawyer Representative (YLR) program is an important initiative designed to attract young lawyers to the Section and to spur their participation on Committees. The Section’s annual YLR survey has revealed that many YLRs would like more guidance from Committee leadership about specific projects that they could perform or goals that they could undertake to help further Committee objectives. To assist Committee leadership in fostering a rewarding and productive environment for YLRs, below is a representative list of YLR activities that you might discuss with your Committee’s YLR:

1. **Organizing Law School Programs**: A good law school outreach method is for YLRs to visit law schools and put on career panels for students interested in the area of law pertinent to the YLR’s committee. These programs usually include speakers from diverse professional backgrounds and can include a substantive component introducing students to the basic area of law. Career development offices are often happy to facilitate such programs.

2. **“Blogging” on ABA Connect/ListServ**: A great way for YLRs to help generate timely Committee content is by committing to a weekly or bi-weekly “blog” posting on the Committee’s ABA Connect page or ListServ. Summarizing an interesting case or development takes very little time and offers Committee membership a useful tool for staying apprised of issues that might otherwise escape attention.

3. **Organizing “Nuts and Bolts” Programs**: These programs are similar to law school programs, but they are conducted via telephone and intended for young attorneys already in practice. The program speakers are typically more experienced attorneys who introduce young attorneys to substantive aspects of the relevant law.

4. **Interviewing Notable Attorneys**: An important benefit of the YLR program is to introduce YLRs to experienced attorneys from other law firms and organizations. One way to achieve this goal is by having your Committee’s YLR interview an accomplished attorney about a relevant topic and then write a short article summarizing the discussion for the rest of the Committee’s membership.

5. **Moderating Committee Brown Bags and Panels**: Consider asking your Committee’s YLR to serve as moderator for Committee brown bags and panels. In this role, the YLR will help organize and facilitate the presentation while at the same time having an opportunity to meet and interact with the speakers.

6. **Spearheading Case Law Update Newsletter**: A substantial task for YLRs is to organize a team of writers to create a newsletter summarizing all relevant case law developments in a relevant area of law on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

7. **Establishing Young Lawyer Advisory Group**: Your Committee’s YLR might consider organizing a sub-group of other young lawyer members who are interested in taking a more active role in Committee activities.

8. **Writing for and Editing Committee Publications**: It is good practice to involve YLRs in Committee publications both as authors and as editors whenever possible.

9. **Updating Social Media**: YLRs are often savvy social media users who can help maintain and improve the Committee’s Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn platforms.

10. **Recording Committee Meeting Minutes**: YLRs can be called upon to record minutes during monthly Committee leadership calls.