Assembly and Resolutions

Dave Scriven-Young
2014-2015 Assembly Speaker
Overview of ABA YLD Assembly
Overview of ABA YLD Assembly

The Assembly meets twice each year:

• During the Midyear Meeting (Saturday)

• During the Annual Meeting (Friday and Saturday)
Overview of ABA YLD Assembly

The Assembly is a gathering of young lawyers representing affiliated national, state, and local bar associations from across the country.

The Assembly is the principal policy-making body of the ABA YLD.
Overview of ABA YLD Assembly

Fun and Excitement at Assembly:

• Debate and vote on resolutions impacting the justice system and the lives of young lawyers

• Hear from the ABA YLD's officers and the ABA's top leaders
Overview of ABA YLD Assembly

Fun and Excitement at Assembly:

• Celebrate achievements of young lawyers and ABA YLD affiliates through award presentations

• Elect the ABA YLD's Officers and Constitutional Representatives
Overview of Resolutions
A Young Lawyer's Idea Can Become ABA Policy

Young Lawyer Proposes Idea and Drafts Resolution

ABA YLD Assembly Considers & Approves Resolution

ABA House of Delegates Considers and Approves Resolution
ABA Policy Does Matter

ABA Governmental Affairs Office

ABA Day in Washington

Grassroots Action Center

Amicus Curiae Briefs

ABA Presidential Statements & Initiatives
ABA Governmental Affairs
Office Advocates Policy

Arranges for ABA witnesses to testify before congressional committees and other governmental bodies

Submits numerous written statements, position papers and letters advocating ABA policy on issues of interest to Congress

Meets regularly with Members of Congress and their staffs to convey the ABA’s concerns and views on matters of importance to the legal profession

Maintains an active grassroots lobbying effort and distributes periodic "alerts" to ABA entities and state and local bar groups advising them of legislative developments that call for concerted action
How Young Lawyers Can Be Involved in Preparing Resolutions

1. Young Lawyer Submits Idea via "YLD Assembly Resolution Idea Form"
2. Young Lawyer Prepares Resolution with Assistance from ABA YLD Resolutions Team
3. ABA YLD Assembly Considers Resolutions
Resolution Ideas
Resolution Ideas Can Come From Anywhere Within ABA YLD

Affiliates (National, State, & Local Young Lawyer Bar Associations)

Boards

Teams

Committees

Individuals
Resolution Ideas Should Preserve and Foster Ideals of the Division

• Division's Long Range Plan: Goal III is to "serve as the recognized voice of young lawyers" by "develop[ing] resolutions that preserve and foster the ideals of the Division and all young lawyers".
Resolution Ideas Should Preserve and Foster Ideals of the Division

What ideas do you have for improving the justice system and the lives of young lawyers?

• Providing young lawyers with resources that foster professional and personal development
• Strengthening and improving ABA YLD affiliates
• Promoting diversity in the profession
• Promoting public service
Resolution Ideas Should Preserve and Foster Ideals of the Division

How do young lawyers submit an idea?

- Use the YLD Assembly Resolution Idea Form
- Submit by:
  - March 31, 2017 for Annual Meeting
Ideas Become Assembly Resolutions
Ideas Become Assembly

Resolutions

Resolutions consist of:

(1) Concise recommendation (e.g., "RESOLVED, that the American Bar Association encourages all law schools to create Veterans Law Institutes for the purpose of ensuring that all veterans, especially those who are unemployed or are otherwise financially strained, have unfettered access to legal services"), and
Ideas Become Assembly Resolutions

(2) Written report that supports the recommendation with relevant facts, authority, and argument.

---Members of the Resolutions Team are available to assist with drafting of resolutions.

---Complete resolutions must be submitted by:

  – May 2017 for Annual Meeting
YLD Assembly Resolutions Become ABA Policy
YLD Assembly Resolutions Become ABA Policy

• ABA YLD Assembly elects young lawyer representatives to the ABA House of Delegates.

• YLD representatives to the House will advocate for the passage of resolutions that have passed the YLD Assembly.
YLD Assembly Resolutions Become ABA Policy

YLD Representatives to the ABA House of Delegates:
• Myra McKenzie-Harris
• Andrew Schpak
• Lacy Durham
• Stefan Palys

YLD Nominating Committee Representative: Mario Sullivan
Assembly Procedures
Assembly Standing Rules

Typical Motions

• Motion to reopen delegate certification
• Motion to amend a resolution (must be in writing)
• Motion to postpone a resolution indefinitely
• Motion for the previous question/to limit debate
• Motion for extend the time limits for debate
• Call for a division of the Assembly (counted vote)
• Motion to adopt the negative vote as policy
Questions?

Dave Scriven-Young
Peckar & Abramson, P.C.
30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 4126
Chicago, IL 60602
312-239-9722
dscriven-young@pecklaw.com