International Guidelines
For Creating A
Young Lawyer Association
DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING AND MAINTAINING A YOUNG LAWYER ORGANIZATION

FORWARD

The Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats (International Association of Young Lawyers “AIJA”), the ABA Young Lawyers Division, and the International Bar Association Young Lawyers’ Committee endorse the following Guidelines for setting up young lawyers divisions among the local and national bar associations (“Guidelines”). The Guidelines are based on the ABA Young Lawyer Division’s YLD Leadership Academy Handbook and addresses the points raised at the meeting of the Young Lawyers’ Committee at the IBA Congress in Chicago on September 20, 2006. The purpose of the Guidelines are to assist new Young Lawyer Organizations (“YLO”) address many issues raised by the development, implementation and maintenance of a YLO.

I. OVERVIEW

Starting or reactivating a YLO can be complicated, overwhelming and time consuming. However, the potential benefits of a YLO to the community and its young lawyers will likely outweigh the initial difficulties of developing the YLO.

The first item to consider in starting or reactivating a YLO is whether the community has had a YLO in the past and, if so, the failures and successes of the old YLO. A historical review of the YLO will help you avoid past failures and reinventing the wheel. Secondly, consider the reasons and justifications for having a YLO in your community. Do factors and needs exist in the community that will allow the organization to be successful? For example, is there a need for an organization to provide training for young lawyers or an opportunity for young lawyers to network? If the senior bar is simply a social organization for very senior members of the bar, such a need may exist. Do young lawyers in the community have an opportunity to influence their profession through the senior bar? Is a portion of the legal community ignored or excluded, such as governmental attorneys or small firm attorneys? Do the young lawyers in the community want an excuse to get together for social activities, such as participating in sport leagues? Do the young lawyers or the senior bar want to provide more service to the public?

Once you determine that a YLO would be beneficial to the community, you must analyze the resources available to the YLO to determine whether it can be successful -- importantly, are there a sufficient number of young lawyers in the community willing to operate and build the YLO?, Are existing bars willing to cooperate with the new YLO?
Before going public with the YLO, you should carefully draft a mission plan and recruit a well-balanced and responsible group of individuals to serve as the organization’s initial leadership. Once you have your plan for the YLO and your initial core leaders, you are ready to introduce the YLO to the community using large-scale marketing and promotional efforts.

After you recruit new YLO members, you have to provide them with meaningful opportunities, whether it’s providing certain motivated individuals with leadership positions, or creating social functions for all members to attend. Keep in mind that the first few years of a YLO’s existence are the most important, as the direction and potential of the organization will, to a large extent, be determined during this time period. Even after the first years of running a successful YLO, you must continue to analyze the purpose, goals, successes and failures of the YLO, which should continue during the lifetime of the YLO.

YLOs should supplement and not compete with an existing local or national bar, or engage in any activity that violates the rules or bylaws of an existing bar. Importantly, YLOs should be politically, religiously and socially neutral and non-discriminatory.

For assistance in creating a YLO, please contact any of the sponsoring organizations of these Guidelines identified at the end of this document.

II. UNDERSTANDING THE YLO

It is absolutely essential for YLO leadership to thoroughly understand the activities, policies, organizational structure, procedures, constitution, bylaws and other organizational documents of the YLO. You, as the incoming chair, and other YLO leaders should review the minutes, agendas and newsletters of the YLO from the prior years. Often, history will repeat itself and you will be considering similar topics at similar times of the year. You and other YLO leaders should also meet with your respective immediate predecessors to get a sense of the YLO’s history and purpose.

III. CHAIRING A YLO

Your year as chair of a young lawyer organization should be exciting, time-consuming and stressful. It is helpful to limit your year to one or two overall themes. After you have picked a particular theme, stick to it. Being a leader also involves presenting a role model of an individual who has a commitment to the profession and the community, someone who can somehow find the time to work as a lawyer and be a leader in the bar.

To get it done you will want to sponsor an orientation program during the summer for committee chairs and Board members to set forth the objectives for your year and to delegate responsibility for getting each program done. Prepare a YLS calendar as part of creating your working plan, which will be extremely helpful in getting you organized as Chair. Make and revise lists of things to do, which will help you sort out the many tasks you need to take care of and help you avoid forgetting important events and activities, and prioritize tasks.

IV. STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

The first steps in planning your year as chair of the YLO should occur well before you are ever
elected or appointed to become chair. Once the bar year has commenced, it is too late to begin planning.

Prior to creating the YLO working plan, it is essential that the incoming leadership have thorough discussions with existing leadership, seeking their suggestions, criticisms and complaints. Creation of this working plan should begin at least three months prior to the incoming leadership’s assumption of office, but preferably six months to a year in advance. Also, be ready to modify your plan when necessary.

During your year as chair of the YLO, you should meet with staff to discuss objectives and set priorities for the next year. You should discuss with staff members the issue you find important, the areas you are interested in changing and the goals you would like to accomplish during your term. Keep in mind that your goals can include setting up mechanisms or laying groundwork for projects that will occur long after your term has ended.

Also, during the bar year, you should emphasize public service and consider creating programs around that theme. In addition, you should properly convey a commitment to the legal profession and the community. Chairing means leadership, and leadership involves channelling the efforts of people with strong, often contrasting opinions towards a common goal as well as motivating people and making them feel important and good about what they are doing for the organization and the community. However, chairs cannot do everything themselves. They must delegate responsibilities to officers, council members, committee chairs and staff. Chairs must also prepare a YLO calendar (as part of the working plan) containing all programs, officer and/or executive committee meetings, council meetings, etc.; make and revise lists of things to do and set deadlines for YLO members; prepare meeting agendas well in advance; attend most, if not all, of the YLO events; and treat all volunteers and members with sincerity and respect. The overall goal is to communicate to all your constituents what the YLO is doing (e.g., make calls, write letters, and “meet and greet”).

V. NEEDS AND GOALS OF THE YLO

A. Needs

You should understand the needs and desires of your members, including: the services or benefits that your members demand or like; the services or benefits that would make non-members join; the services or benefits that were successful in past years; and which services or benefits should be altered or discontinued.

Further, the YLO should look at how it can provide services to the public. Thus, you need to understand the public service projects that your members want to undertake; the public service projects that are needed in your community; which of these projects the YLO can successfully implement; and which of these projects will most benefit the YLO.

The financial needs of the YLO should be reviewed and performed on an annual basis. The review should include consideration of (1) the funds on hand, (2) the normal expenditures each bar year, (3) the normal income revenues each year, (4) expected increases or decreases in expenses or revenues your bar year, (5) the need for fundraising or changes in dues, (6) reasonable expectations of fundraising, (7) the need for different investment strategies, (8) financial controls, and (9) reimbursement policies.
Also, the YLO’s articles and bylaws should be reviewed and any necessary changes should be formally made to them. A related determination is whether liability insurance is needed for the organization or the directors and officers. In addition, the annual review should consider whether additional employees (or replacements), including an executive director, are needed to manage the YLO. Further, the annual review should determine whether the leadership effectively communicates with YLO members and the public.

B. Goals

After determining the needs of the YLO, it is time to determine whether your goals are compatible and acceptable by your board and members. Accomplishing your goals requires thorough planning, which should include consulting with leaders and members of the YLO, and determining specifically what goals for member services, public services, and other areas you intend to accomplish. Prepare a calendar for your year as soon as possible and, if possible, develop a theme of your bar year that can be shared with others -- the theme should explain in a few simple words what you hope to accomplish and the focus of your bar year. Importantly, effective communication is key and you must communicate your message to as broad a group of people as possible. You will also need to designate committees and individuals to help you implement new projects. Lastly, be sure to include the board in planning sessions and discuss the goals of the board members.

VI. LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Although short term planning and day-to-day operations are crucial for the operation of a YLO, long range planning is a necessity in order to avoid stagnation and to ensure that the YLO continues to meet the changing needs of its members and the community. Once completed, a long-range plan provides the organization with a philosophical framework and ensures continuity from one administration to the next. Long range planning will aid the organization in avoiding reinventing the wheel and frequently altering the organization’s focus and projects, which may prevent the organization from accomplishing anything of lasting value. The first step in developing a long-range plan is to form a long-range planning committee. The second step is for the committee to identify areas of challenge and opportunity for the YLO. The third step is to develop goals, which should be put in writing. Finally remember that a plan on paper will not benefit the YLO if it is not implemented or if it is not periodically reviewed and modified.

A. Developing a Long-Range Plan

As the YLO and the environment in which it finds itself change over the years, those goals may change or need to be changed. By systematically determining both its internal needs and the needs of those it serves, as well as available financial and manpower resources, long-range planning enables a YLO to make conscious and informed decisions about the broad goals of the YLO and the narrower objectives that, if achieved, will result in the goals being met.

The first step in developing a long-range plan is a needs assessment to determine the needs of the YLO and your community. Generally, your assessment should inquire not just into current needs, but rather also seek to identify needs and issues that are expected to emerge over the next five years. The areas to assess fall into two broad categories: (1) the environment in which the YLO
operates; and (2) the YLO itself. Since the general purpose of any bar organization is to serve the profession and the public, it is necessary for the YLO to assess the needs of the profession and the public in order to fulfill your underlying purpose. In conducting your organizational assessment, you will find it helpful to trace the development of the YLO in addition to looking at its current status and future development. Getting information about its history is usually necessary to understanding current organizational policies and politics.

There are two basic ways to doing a needs assessment: personal interviews and surveys. Interviews should be conducted with a cross-section of individuals in the justice system, the bar, and the community -- try not to limit your interviews to people in leadership positions. While surveys provide you with richer information because they are open-ended and provide for greater flexibility, your resources will probably restrict how random they may be. Make sure that you are covering a cross-section of organizations and political/social attitudes. As to your membership, statistical reliability is more important and a survey is strongly recommended. Obtaining an accurate reading of the needs and interests of your membership is critical to defining your purpose and developing your programs. A long-range planning committee should be appointed with the responsibility for conducting the needs assessment and developing the long-range plan for the YLO.

B. Implementing a Long-Range Plan

You should allow about six months to complete the needs assessment; the exact amount of time depends on the extensiveness of your assessment. The actual development of the plan will likely take another few months. The Guidelines suggest planning in five-year cycles, since it is unlikely that there will be significant changes across a broad range of items included in the needs assessment in a shorter period of time, and the needs assessment process is sufficiently volunteer-intensive that most organizations would not want to repeat it more frequently.

You need to decide which organizations and/or individuals will be doing the needs assessment in each area which you have chosen to prioritize. You will also need to identify the concerns of the person or organization being interviewed and any thoughts that they may have regarding their interaction with the YLO. Once you have decided on whom you are going to interview and have designed the interview questionnaires, you should send an introductory letter to each individual requesting the interview. You should also survey members (and non-members), train long-range planning committee members; draft the needs assessment report; and develop goals and objectives. In other words, once all of the long-range planning committee members have had a chance to digest the needs assessment report, each committee member should think through, based on information in the report, what the goals and objectives of the YLO should be. The committee will then have to meet several times to discuss the various suggestions of its members and come to a consensus as to the goals and objectives and their relative priority.

VII. CREATING A WORKING PLAN

The Chair-Elect should prepare a working plan well before assuming office as chair. The Chair-Elect must meet often with the core group of “idea” people. Prior to creating the working plan, it is essential that the incoming leadership have exhaustive discussions with existing leadership, seeking their suggestions, criticisms and complaints. They should discuss in particular projects that need revitalization.
The steps to create a working plan start with the draft of a checklist of things to do and benchmarks, including the following:

1. Identification of all committees to function during the bar year;
2. Identification of all committee chairs, vice-chairs and, as soon as possible, members;
3. Identification of all projects to be undertaken during the bar year, with assignment of such projects to specific committees;
4. Identification of all affiliate, executive council, officers’ and directors’ meetings to be held during the year;
5. Identification of target dates for accomplishment of each of the foregoing;
6. Analysis of the budget (availability of funds and allocation thereof).

The second step is to draft a skeleton calendar for the year and agendas for each Board meeting. From time to time, events may dictate change. The organization and its leadership must constantly monitor and evaluate the YLO’s progress through the year.

**VIII. THE BUDGET**

Considerable advance planning must go into developing a budget based on the current and future needs of the YLO, while keeping in mind the sources of revenue available to fund the YLO. The threshold task in planning a budget is to review the allocation made in the previous year’s budget. The adoption of a line item budget using a format that includes prior year requests and actual expenditures effectuates this comparison. The budget should include a separate line item for each program, or committee, that will require funds for its operation. Expenses and income for each line item program should be included in a separate budget comparison. A summary sheet should tabulate total expenses and income to calculate an overall budget allocation.

In the months before the bar year starts, a draft budget should be prepared by the YLO treasurer. The draft should be reviewed by you and discussed with the Treasurer before being finalized. After reviewing the prior year’s budget, committee plans of action should be used to determine the resources necessary for the coming bar year. A plan of action utilizes a specific format that should be sent to each prospective committee chair well before the formal budgetary process begins.

Each bar association operates under a different review and approval process. It is most common for a proposed budget to be discussed and approved by the executive council of the YLO. Review and approval by the finance committee and/or executive council of the senior bar is commonly also required. Thus, the line item budget and a summary budget justification based on a synopsis of each plan of action (or the plans of actions themselves) should be presented to both executive councils. Larger YLOs may delegate review of the budget to separate budget, finance or planning committees.

Locating sources of revenue to fund YLO programs is also very important. Typical sources of revenue are the local and state bar associations and their funds, private funding, revenue generating projects, publications or CLE programs. Each funding source should have its own approval process. The YLO treasurer should maintain a careful running total of the amount of funds being spent. The YLO should also adopt a policy statement concerning reimbursement and travel expenses, food and drink, entertainment expenses, etc., that if allowed, require advance
approval for any such expense, or for expenses over a specified amount. Successful implementation of a budget requires cooperation by the respective program chairs who will be spending the money.

IX. STRUCTURE REORGANIZATION

As Chair-Elect, you should determine whether the YLO’s structure should be modified, particularly if the YLO is not functioning as effectively as you believe it should. To determine whether reorganization is necessary, you should first thoroughly review the YLO’s bylaws to gain an understanding of what modifications may be possible within the bylaws -- note that it may be necessary to amend the bylaws if you decide that modification of the YLO’s structure is desirable. Also, you will need to assess and evaluate the YLO’s current structure, the roles of your board members and committee chairs, the purpose and success of your board or governing council’s meetings, and the YLO’s general membership. As you consider these issues, you should be able to make an overall assessment of the size, structure and success of the YLO. You may decide that the YLO structure could benefit from relatively minor modification. Alternatively, you may decide that a complete overhaul is the recommended course of action.

X. SELECTING YOUR COMMITTEES

It is important to evaluate periodically the progress of the YLO and determine whether the YLO programs are consistent with the YLO mission statement, bylaws and needs and interests of the membership. The committee structure is used to produce specific programs and other activities of the YLO, and the existing committee structure must be reviewed to determine its effectiveness. In contemplating such a review, it is important to review what existing committees there are, and whether the needs of the membership and community are being met. After evaluating the committees, you may then focus on three types of committees each with distinct purposes and functions: (1) membership support committees (oriented toward member services); (2) public service committees (oriented toward development of programs for presentation to the public); and (3) board committees (designed to assist in the implementation of policy).

You should also encourage committee and bar group cooperation, which means cooperation not only between different committees of the same YLO, but also cooperation between different organizations as well. Several small organizations, each with limited resources but similar service goals, may successfully combine their efforts to produce quality public service projects.

A. Selecting Committee Chairs

Running a YLO effectively depends on getting other members involved in committed teams efforts. You should create or use existing committees to focus and carry out particular tasks and then choose skilful committee chairs that will energize and move forward with projects. The following points should be considered when selecting committee chairs: assess your current committee chairs (e.g., how have they performed? Shall they continue or be replaced, and if so by whom?); tap candidates with proven track records (perhaps current or past officers, members of the board of directors, or retiring committee chairs who may have recommendations); create co-chair positions with one co-chair as the veteran who will train the new co-chair; the chair position should be attractive to the candidate; ensure that the incoming chair will be supported by
you and the YLO leadership; reward the chair with recognition; meet personally with the chair; and replace inactive appointees when necessary. The goal is to ensure that the committee chairs are well-established so that they can generally run themselves.

B. Educating Committee Chairs and Officers

Before the start of the bar year, you need to assemble a handbook for each committee chair to use as a reference tool during the year. The handbook should include basic information about the structure of the YLO and the senior bar, where it fits into a state bar or local bar, and information about all of its committees. The handbook should also describe the duties and responsibilities of the officers, directors and committee chairs and staff members, and how to organize and operate a committee, including the preparation of a plan of action and annual report, planning and scheduling meetings and events, etc. Further, the handbook should include financial guidelines and procedures, and in the appendix there should be a copy of the YLO’s bylaws, a sample plan of action, reimbursement forms, the names and addresses of all committee chairs and council members or directors, and a schedule of all meetings and major events during the year.

The roles of each of the officers must be specifically defined. The officers are your bar leaders who must motivate your executive council members as well as the membership at large in order to accomplish your goals during the year. Prior to the first meeting of your board or membership you should meet with your officers to go over your plans and objectives for the year.

It is important to set regular meetings or telephone conferences for your Council or Board and for committee chairs. Council/Board meetings should be held at least every month, committee chairs at least once every other month.

XI. MOTIVATING VOLUNTEERS

There are several different strategies that can be used to motivate volunteers, including delegating responsibility up and down the vertical chain. Defer some decision-making authority to your directors and committee heads, as they will be grateful for your confidence in them. Also, it is important to have reasonable expectations, acknowledge volunteers’ successes, and ensure that they get the recognition that they deserve. And last but not least: Work hard but have fun.

XII. INCREASING AND MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP

A first step in attracting new members is forming a membership committee with a chair and vice chair. In jurisdictions where there is a voluntary and mandatory bar or a voluntary bar alone, the primary goal of the membership committee of a voluntary bar is to increase membership of the senior bar and of the YLO, both in numbers of members and in numbers of active members. The membership goals of the senior bar and the YLO cannot be separate, because it is likely that the majority of new members will be YLO members. The YLO should also maintain a high profile for the membership committee in the senior bar and the YLO, so that membership will continue to be a high priority for the YLO and resources will be actively used to increase membership on a continual basis. For those jurisdictions that have only a mandatory bar, the objective of the YLO will be primarily to attract volunteers for activities and to inspire present members into more activity.
Before the membership committee launches its annual membership campaign, it should obtain a better understanding of its actual and potential membership by determining: how many members of the YLO it has and how many of them are active; the various identifiable groups of the bar population as prospective members (e.g., minorities, women, solo practitioners, large-firm lawyers, in-house counsel, judges, etc.); and the percentage of your potential membership that each potential group constitutes. You would also want to target new members to the bar.

A primary goal of the YLO will be to retain your current members while you are attracting new members, preferably ones who are interested in taking an active role in the YLO. A key to attracting new members and retaining current member interest is effective communication. An easy way to communicate is to publicize your successful events and committee activities, for example, through the YLO newsletter or website. Another effective method of communicating with young lawyers is to establish a young lawyer contact person in each city, and in each major law firm, corporation and government agency.

XIII. RUNNING AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

Conduct a face-to-face meeting only if it is absolutely necessary. Usually teleconference calls or e-mailing can address many if not most of the issues that could be addressed in a face-to-face meeting. Planning a meeting requires proper planning and preparation. The following factors should be considered when planning a meeting:

A. Planning and timetables
B. Audience profile: Before setting the agenda or deciding on objectives and prepared statements, take the time to profile your audience.
C. Agenda: Agendas need not be set in stone, but without at least a loose structure any meeting will wander. In addition to the list of items to be covered, the agenda may include ground rules for the meeting, such as the length of time for opening statements and discussion, as well as rules for voting and submission of materials.
D. Facilitates profile
E. Objectives
F. Opening statements: They should include a review of the agenda, requests for changes to the agenda, statement of ground rules and expected closing time
G. Introductions
H. Record keeping
I. Volunteer recognition and motivation
J. Running discussions: Pre-set ground rules are very important. Let the members know how long the discussion should go and how long each person should speak.
K. Voting
L. Closing statements
M. Follow-up
N. How to improve future meetings

XIV. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Good public relations is the foundation of a successful YLO and a successful bar event. Good public relations serve not only to publicize events and people, but to put the event in the best
possible light. If you do not have the luxury of your own public relations personnel, you should use whatever public relations expertise is already available to the senior bar.

The first thing you must do in arranging publicity for any events is decide who your audience is and how you want to reach that audience, and determine the type of media to which you wish to direct your efforts. Public relations planning should be a major part of the project’s timetable and execution -- do not wait for last minute! Also, do not forget to publicize the success of the event after it has already taken place.

XV. DEVELOPING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE YLO

You should establish and develop relationships with other organizations in the legal profession and the community, particularly your senior bar counterpart. The key to a successful relationship with the senior bar, like many relationships in life, is communication and involvement. Toward this end, there are several steps that your affiliate should be taking to nurture and enhance your relationship with the senior bar:

1. Attend senior bar meetings
2. Get involved in senior bar governance
3. Meet one-on-one with senior bar leaders
4. Show the senior bar the value of having young lawyer involvement
5. Seek publication opportunities
6. Invite senior bar leaders to meetings

Sustained cordial relations with the senior bar may result in financial and other assistance from the senior bar.

You will also want to cultivate and maintain good relations and communications with a number of other organizations, including the International Association of Young Lawyers, the American Bar Association, and the International Bar Association -- these three organizations can be tremendous source of information and inspiration.

XVI. CLOSING OUT THE YEAR

Planning for the transition to the next group of leaders is essential to the continued success of the YLO. This planning should begin approximately three months before the end of your term. At that time, a review needs to be made of ongoing projects and other YLO work. A decision needs to be made as to what can be finalized and what will need to be postponed until the following year. As the bar year approaches the end, you should make a list of uncompleted projects, committee work, and other ongoing activity of the YLO.

Importantly, retiring chairs should also remain on the long-range planning committee, if the YLO has such a committee, as their experience and know-how would be very beneficial to new incoming chairs. You should also communicate to the senior bar and other relevant bar organizations of the change of leadership.

XVII Conclusion
YLOs have tremendous potential to benefit young lawyers, the senior bar and the public. Congratulations on your decision to create a lasting Young Lawyer Organisation.

XVII Contact Information

Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats (AIJA), Av. Louis Lepoutre 59/20, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium, Tel. +32 2 347 33 34, christoph.raudonat@aija.org

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division ABA, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago IL 60610, USA, Tel. +1 312 988 56 29, Fax +312 988 6231, yld@staff.abanet.org
Developing, Implementing and Maintaining a Young Lawyers Organisation

1. **Analysis and planning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>checked</th>
<th>rechecked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>has a Young Lawyers Organisation (YLO) existed before?</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reasons for success or failure of previous YLO</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reasons why no pre-existing YLO existed</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of interested young (define!) lawyers around</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of potential volunteers</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>future leadership potential</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goals for short, medium and long term</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recruitment plan for members (and 6-7 leaders)</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incentive to join for future leadership</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>establish short mission statement as selling phrase</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reasons why young lawyers will join</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>why they wouldn’t join</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Themes and emphasis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>checked</th>
<th>rechecked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>judicial training in new areas of the law or new laws</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training in the business of the lawyer</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skill training</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discussing entry into the lawyers profession</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>networking occasions beyond the legal field</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>casual get-togethers</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public service and aid to the needy</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distinguish between long range plans and operational</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lobbying for the interest of YL</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other reasons to establish YLO</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create commissions or committees</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>establish final mission statement</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Possible one-time or annual events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>checked</th>
<th>rechecked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kick-off event upon incorporation (think big!)</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
annual general assembly

seminars

meeting of the officers of the YLO or its commissions

young lawyer reception within annual bar meeting

luncheons and dinners

casual social events and fun

attend bar admittance ceremonies

visit law schools

joint ventures with other YLO or international associations

4. Basic definitions

age limit: when is a young lawyer no longer young?

mission statement and goals (member/public service?)

only litigators, also in-house and governmental?

by-laws, charter

time plan for starting

annual elections and possibility of unlimited re-elections?

incoming president, president and immediate past?

treasurer and secretary as part of the board?

strong single leadership or group leadership

sufficient resources for active delegation of tasks

name, logo, corporate identity

5. Who should lead the team

group of more than six

respectability, reliability, communication skills, ambition

list of individuals

establish a nominating committee?

create possibilities for interested members to join in

6. Who should be member and supporter

young judge
prominent senior judge O O O
prominent lawyer O O O
members interested in doing background work O O O
establish a membership recruitment committee? O O O
establish a priority list of expectations of new members O O O
have a new member package O O O
have a new member event O O O
establish a distributable membership list O O O

7. Finances
funds from existing bar O O O
amount of membership fees O O O
public or foundation funding O O O
sponsorship (law firms, banks, insurance companies etc.) O O O
revenue generating events such as seminars O O O
CLE events O O O
careful budgeting and controlling of expenditures O O O

8. Basic administration
membership drive at every event O O O
create a possibility to join at every event O O O
establish and maintain easy use database of members O O O
have a basic document of information easy to distribute O O O
filing of all minutes, memorandums, resolutions etc. O O O
reimbursement policies O O O
meeting place and meeting time principles O O O
annual calendar O O O
hiring, if possible, and supervision of staff O O O

9. Basics for meetings and events
planning of date, timing, extent, timetable O O O
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience profile and invitation circle</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agenda</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue, room, lunch, breaks</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening statements: brief, well prepared, motivating</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record keeping, minutes, articles</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People management (member/non-member, follow-up)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launching, maintaining, closing discussions</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting and ballots</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing statements: summary, thanks, when next</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. **Strategies**

- Achieve a seat in senior bar association | O | O |
- Seat for representative of senior bar association in YLO | O | O |
- Leadership opportunities in YLO | O | O |
- Launch projects, continue terminate or replace them | O | O |
- Be a section of the senior bar or a stand alone YLO? | O | O |

11. **Tasks of a candidate or an incoming president**

- Talk with former leaders | O | O |
- Surveys and individual interviews with old/new members | O | O |
- Know minutes, activities, by-laws etc. | O | O |
- Notebook of highlights or problems as guidance | O | O |
- Choose one or more themes | O | O |
- Establish a list of priorities for chosen themes | O | O |
- Make sure your themes touch public issues and members | O | O |
- Skeleton calendar with meetings and follow-up | O | O |
- Draft budget | O | O |
- Possibly prepare a long range plan review by committee | O | O |
- Existing structures (board, committee) in need of change? | O | O |
12. **Tasks of a president**

- leadership at meetings and in between
- representation of YLO
- fulfil the needs of your YLO
- recruit new members
- find out needs of your YLO
- launch topics and projects or support such initiatives
- timeline for all tasks to follow
- set deadlines and enforce them
- develop and reenforce themes at all appearances
- network with senior bar and attend all their meetings
- meet senior bar chair
- network with special bars, minority bars etc.
- network with court
- network with selected offices of the administration
- network with and oversee commissions’ work
- meet all attendees of events
- identify and support future leadership
- plan for use of all means of communication
- study and know constitution, by-laws, minutes
- draft and circulate agendas well in advance
- follow-up your chosen themes
- ensure corporate formalities are met
- motivate by your solid example
- motivate by recognizing and thanking volunteers
- schedule your YLO work and budget your time
- check expenses and the budget
- communicate the end of your office

13. **Means of Communication**

- personal encounters
newsletters or e-letters
agendas
minutes of the Board
minutes of the annual meeting
minutes of Commissions
by-laws
surveys
e-mail communication to groups
press releases or coverage by journalists
discussion with leaders and members
presentations for audiences (power point, slides)

14. **Credit and Contact Details:**

This document was established in Summer 2007 by the AIJA as an amendment of Guidelines of the AIJA, ABA and IBA.

Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats (AIJA), Av. Louis Lepoutre 59/20, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium, Tel. +32 2 347 33 34, christoph.raudonat@aija.org

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division ABA, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago IL 60610, USA, Tel. +1 312 988 5629, Fax +312 988 6231, yld@staff.abanet.org