

COVER SHEET
Single Project / SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC
ABA YLD 2010-2011 Awards of Achievement

Affiliate Name (Required):

Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference - VA
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Page 1 of 1

Division:

State Affiliate: 8000 or more

How did you hear about the ADA program?

Friend / Colleague

Organization Profile

Number of Young Lawyers in your affiliate

10,458

Is your organization affiliated with a senior bar?

Yes

If YES, is membership in your organization automatic?

Yes

If a state organization, which are you?

Mandatory

When does your fiscal year begin and end?

July 1 / June 30

Chairperson/President of Affiliate

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Please indicate number of exhibits being submitted

Publications

CD or DVD 1

Single Project Title: **Students Day at the Capitol**

Do Not Write in This Area

**Decision of
Judges:**

____ 1st
Place

____ 2nd
Place

____ Special
Recognition

____ Certificate of
Performance

ABA YLD 2010-2011 Awards of Achievement
Project Information Form
Single Project / Service to the Public

Page 1 of 2

Name of YLD Affiliate:	Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference
Division:	State Affiliate: 8,000 or more
Type of Project	Educational
Degree of Change or Growth	Continued Project - Expanded in 2010/2011

Project Description

The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference (YLC) hosted the annual Students Day at the Capitol in October 2010. The Students Day at the Capitol (SDC) program is designed to expose middle school students to attorneys, downtown Richmond, and the workings of state government in Virginia. A committee of YLC members organized the SDC, coordinated staffing and tour volunteers, gained access to governmental buildings in Richmond, and recruited teachers and students to attend. Hundreds of middle schoolers attended the SDC this bar year, gaining unique insight into Virginia's state government.

This year's SDC committee of the YLC spent considerable time rejuvenating the SDC program, which had become somewhat defunct in recent years. The two co-chairs recruited attorney volunteers, advertised the program to teachers and coordinated their classes' participation, and made the revamped program a huge success. Reaction from students and teachers was phenomenal, and the program is expected to grow in 2011-2012.

Needs Assessment

The YLC undertook this project several years ago after YLC members in the metro Richmond area recognized that students in that area were not being exposed to the significant history in their area. Young lawyers developed the program, coordinated access, recruited participants and volunteers, and made this program one of the YLC's most prominent in Richmond.

Achievement of Goals / Impact

The YLC's goal with this project was simple and straightforward: to expose middle school students to the workings of Virginia government in Richmond. Several hundred students attended the SDC with their teachers and chaperones, and there was widespread acclaim for the program at its conclusion. Students appreciated the unique access that there were afforded to government buildings in Richmond, especially the State Capitol. Young lawyer volunteers reported that the SDC afforded them the opportunity to inform the students about the legal profession and to explain the workings of state government.

If goals were not met, why not:	N/A
Will this be a recurring affiliate project?	Yes
If yes, will you make any revisions?	The SDC committee expects to expand the program significantly in 2011-2012, with greatly increased student and school participation, and with the SDC occurring on more than one day in order to increase capacity.

Degree of Participation by Members

How many young lawyer members actually participated in this project? Please indicate how many:

Young lawyer leadership (officers, directors, board membership)	2
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Page 2 of 2

Young lawyer committee members	2
Young lawyer general membership	10
Was the project conducted with the Senior Bar?	No
What other groups or individuals participated and in what numbers?	Staff of various state government agencies. YLC alumni.
What do you think is the optimum amount of members needed to carry out this project?	15-20

Timeframe**How much time did it take to**

Organize the project?	1-2 months
Recruit members for the project?	1-2 months; 3-4 months to recruit middle school attendees
Carry out the project from beginning to end?	4 months

Budget

What was the cost of this project excluding in-kind/donated services?	\$250.00
How was the project funded?	The project was funded by the YLC's annual budget.
How long did it take to raise the funds needed for this project?	N/A

Suggestions / Recommendations

This is a wonderful program in civic education. Students and teachers appreciated the opportunity to experience their area in a new way and gained appreciation for state government and the places they visited. Although attendance was in the hundreds this year as a result of the program being rejuvenated, it is expected that the program will grow significantly in the coming years, but in terms of number of attendees and frequency. It is imperative that planners begin preparations well in advance of the SDC itself so that there is ample time to recruit teachers and schools to participate. In prior years when the SDC program faltered it was because attendees were not recruited timely so that teachers could plan for the SDC in field trip schedules.