

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
AUGUST 2010**

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) is the home for young lawyers. With over 150,000 members and 300 affiliated groups, the ABA YLD is the largest young lawyer organization in the world.

The Division is committed to assuring it is best able to represent the newest members of the profession, ensuring that it reflects the society it serves, and providing young lawyers and young lawyer organizations with the tools and opportunities for professional and personal success.

Individual membership is open to American Bar Association members under 36 years old or admitted to practice for five years or less. Affiliate membership is open to young lawyer organizations and special interest bars. There are no additional membership dues.

Website: www.abanet.org/yld

ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members

- Incorporation with ABA Membership and Marketing, the ABA YLD launched **Touch 10,000**, a member-to-member outreach program which matches Division leaders (Ambassadors) with new bar admittees (NBAs) to welcome them to the ABA and to the profession of law. The expectation is that each of the Division's 300 Ambassadors will connect with 15 – 20 new bar admittees by e-mail and phone, creating 10,000 connections annually. As part of the program the Division will also host over fifteen post-work “Meet and Greets” in cities across the country during June 2010.
- The Division coordinated the topics and speakers for two of the three **ABA Career Productivity Teleconferences** in follow up to the ABA Recession Recovery Teleconference series executed last year. The programs and related downloads, free for ABA members, featured social media, job search and soloing concepts. To date, the resources have assisted approximately 1,500 attorneys with their own quests for stronger and smarter career paths.
- Approximately 5,000 young lawyers and law students have taken advantage of the Division's 2009 – 2010 member service project, **Making Lasting Connections: How to Manage Personal and Professional Relationships**. Components of the project include in-person programming, November's Networking during the Holidays podcast and two upcoming podcasts focused on networking during different stages of a young lawyer's career.

ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members – Continued

- Through the 2010 – 2011 **Committee Teleconference program**, the ABA YLD will produce 15 – 50 educational programs covering hot topics in specific areas of law, law practice management skills or personal/professional themes. The live sessions will be available free of charge to all Division members and downloads of each session will be available exclusively to ABA members.

ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession

- Through the **Disaster Legal Services Program**, the ABA YLD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency continue to provide immediate and temporary legal assistance to disaster victims at no charge. Since September 1, 2010, hotlines have been established for nine federally declared disasters in Alabama, American Samoa, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee and West Virginia.
- The Division spearheaded the effort to add a **“Practice Basics” track to the ABA Annual Meeting**. This track highlights programs that assist new lawyers and those changing practice areas with a fundamental understanding of various areas of law.
- At the 2010 ABA Annual Meeting the Division is bringing forward a **resolution** that urges Congress to amend the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 to create a safe-harbor provision from civil penalties when responsible reporting entities rely on a claimant’s verified representations regarding his or her receipt of Medicare benefits.
- Via the **2011 New Partner and In-House Counsel Conference (February 25 – 26 in Philadelphia, PA), 2011 New Partner Teleconference Series and the 100 Plus Pointers for the New Partner download**, the Division will provide this important market segment with a number of learning opportunities and resources to help them as they take on this new role.
- The 2010 – 2011 public service project, **Serving Our Seniors (SOS)** will provide low-income seniors with pro bono legal services in the form of simple wills, powers of attorney, and advance healthcare directives. The Division will encourage young lawyers and its young lawyer affiliates to join in this pro bono initiative by implementing the project in their communities.
- As part of the comprehensive 2010 – 2011 ABA Presidential civic education initiative, the Division will encourage its Affiliate network to promote, conduct and support **Civics and Law Academies** targeting high school students in each state.

ABA Goal III: Eliminate Bias and Enhance Diversity

- The ABA YLD is proud to have taken its 2009 – 2010 public service project, **They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement**, nation-wide. Modeled after an initiative developed by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, They Had A Dream Too is a yearlong initiative designed to educate 11th and 12th grade students on the unrecognized roles of children in the civil rights movement and to inspire them to become future leaders. The school based components include a thirty-minute film, a website, classroom curriculum. In addition to the school based component, this project also inspired and educated lawyers through a year long speaker's series focused on civil rights laws.
- As part of the ABA YLD's commitment to ensuring that the legal profession reflects the society it serves, the Division:
 - Brought together over 60 individuals representing various ABA entities, young lawyers, pre-law students (CLEO), law students, and ABA YLD Scholars during its annual **Diversity Dialogue**. As a result of the discussions the Division will produce a "How To" guide for fostering diversity and inclusion within the profession.
 - Supplied much needed CLE services to more than 100 US Virgin Islands (USVI) attorneys during the ABA YLD/GPSolo Joint Spring Conference in St. Thomas, USVI. The conference was partially funded via a \$2,000 grant from the **Underserved Lawyers Fund**. Note: Approximately 70% of the 900 USVI attorneys are of a diverse racial and ethnic background.
 - Provided additional leadership and mentoring opportunities to fifteen diverse attorneys through its **scholarship program**.

ABA Goal IV: Advance the Rule of Law

- Through creative expression, the **2011 Law Day Video Contest** is designed to educate 9th through 12th grade students on the importance of discourse, participation, and the effect of the law in their daily lives. Each 3-minute video will be judged on criteria such as originality, creativity, quality, relevance/adherence to the contest theme, and extent to which the video provokes reflection, discussion, debate, and/or critique regarding the topic.

Respectively submitted,
Kelly-Ann Clarke, Chair