

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
INFORMATIONAL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
August 2009

Between September 1, 2008 and June 5, 2009, the ABA YLD's **Disaster Legal Services Program** (DLS) was activated for 15 major disasters in 12 states. Additionally, during this period the program continued to assist those affected by five major disasters from the previous fiscal year. We estimate that since September 1, more than 300 volunteers fielded approximately 17,500 calls.

The DLS program (www.abanet.org/disaster/) is a Federal disaster legal assistance program operated by the ABA YLD pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a division of the Department of Homeland Security. *ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

In response to the economic crisis, which particularly impacts young lawyers, the YLD proposed the idea of the **ABA's Recession Recovery Teleconference Series** and was instrumental in its development. The Division also dedicated its May issue of *The Young Lawyer* to **recession recovery related resources**. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

The YLD officially welcomed **two new affiliated young lawyer organizations**: The Young Lawyers Section of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas and the Seminole County Young Lawyers Division. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

The Division participated in the **Northern Illinois University's "ABA Day."** The Secretary-Treasurer Elect and Staff Director joined ABA Illinois State Membership Co-Chairs for a day-long event aimed at NIU College of Law students. The event focused on the value of Association membership and provided career services such as résumé reviews and job-hunting tips as well as a networking reception. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

YLD is proud to announce work on a **new publication**, "100 Plus Pointers for New Partners". In collaboration with author Sharon Abrahams, the e-publication will guide new partners through the questions, issues and information that they should be familiar with as they take on this new role. The book will include tips on understanding your firm's governance, structure and economics, personal strategies for business and client development, and the skills and knowledge needed to step up into a leadership position. Look for the publication on the ABA Web Store near the end of 2009. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

For the **YLD and LPM Joint Spring Conference** in New Orleans, 267 individuals registered through the Division. The conference provided quality continuing legal education, introduced young lawyers to the benefits of ABA membership and public service, and provided a foundation for increased collaboration between the two entities. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

The **YLD 75th Anniversary Historical Book** is also in the works. Past chair Jay Ray and staff are working with author Bill Beck to piece together 75 years of the Division's history into a 115-page hardcover historical book. As part of this project the Division will walk away with a timeline of Division milestones. The book, which will also include highlights from the upcoming 75th Anniversary Gala in July, is due out in November 2009. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members*

While attending ABA Day in Washington, DC, the **YLD Chair-Elect and Staff Director met face-to-face with six DC-based ABA entities**: the Sections of Individual Rights and Responsibility, Taxation and Criminal Justice, the Center for Human Rights, the Center on Children and the Law, and the Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI). As a result, the Division anticipates stronger, more effective partnerships via two new liaison opportunities, identification of YLD contacts in more entities, greater exposure to the international market, additional co-sponsorship opportunities, and increased presence in ABA efforts. We look forward to our YLD liaisons continuing these efforts to help strengthen our relations with all ABA entities. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

Voices Against Violence, the YLD 2008-2009 public service project (www.abanet.org/yld/dv), continues to educate young lawyers about the epidemic of domestic violence, particularly among the teen population and encourages them to respond to and prevent domestic violence in their communities. Since its launch the Division has produced 5 related programs, hosted 3 roundtables for local domestic violence advocates in San Diego, Boston and New Orleans and participated in 3 community service programs. *ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*

With lawyers facing the most difficult legal hiring market in decades, the Division has introduced an informational web site (www.abanet.org/mentoring) to advance lawyer-to-lawyer mentoring in the legal profession, the **ABA YLD Mentorship Project**. The web site offers a collection of online resources for mentors and mentees as well as for organizations interested in developing mentoring programs. *ABA Goal I: Serve Our Members and ABA Goal II: Improve Our Profession*



Lizz Acee
Chair 2008-2009