

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division *The Affiliate*

Around the Country

Compiled by Kate Ferro

Let's Get Together:

Social Networking Events

The **Minnesota State Bar Association** is planning a Toys for Tots fundraiser/social in December 2010.

E-News: Online Activity

The **Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Counties (Michigan) Bar Association Young Lawyer Association** has created a Facebook group to better inform its members of upcoming events and continuing legal education opportunities. GTLAB feels that the use of Facebook has allowed it to better connect to its members and expand its upcoming events to lawyers both young and young at heart.

Giving Back:

Community Service Projects and Fundraisers

The **Oklahoma Bar Association Young Lawyers Division "Our Seniors" Committee** is preparing a *Seniors Handbook*, which will be published on the OBA website in November or December. In conjunction with the release of this *Seniors Handbook*, the OBA is planning a roll-out of the ABA YLD *Serving Our Seniors* program.

The **Texarkana Young Lawyers Division** hosted the third annual Bowie County Adoption Day, which provided guardian ad litem training with an emphasis this year on representing parents. One important issue discussed was the effect of drug test results and testing in general. A reception for all participants followed.

The **Denver Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** held its annual DBA YLD "Law Suit Days" in October and collected donations of professional clothing for a local nonprofit that provides job training and coaching for individuals with disabilities and homeless/low-income individuals.

The **Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers Section** is actively putting together several *Serving Our Seniors* clinics based on the Santa Fe roll-out model.

The **Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers Section (Duluth)** is planning its fifth annual holiday party for the women and children at the Safe Haven Shelter for Battered Women complete with a visit from Santa and gifts for both the women and their children. The MSBA Duluth also will serve a holiday meal at the Damiano Center, one of the largest providers of free meals in the Duluth/Superior area, to local Duluth residents.

Maricopa County (Arizona) Bar Association Young Lawyers Division held its annual fundraising 5k race, "Race Judicata," in October, with all proceeds donated to fund a local domestic violence shelter. In addition, The MCBA has been continuing to volunteer with its Legal Assistance to Women in Shelters (LAWS) program, which teaches women in domestic violence shelters the what they need to know to represent themselves in court.

The **State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division** continues to coordinate its "Wills for Heroes" clinics, with six set for fall/winter 2010. The WBA also is planning to roll out Wills For Heroes around the state, with several regional hubs coordinated and staffed by young lawyer volunteers.

The **Montana Bar Association New Lawyer Section** is putting the final touches on its service project, "Empowering, Enriching, and Encouraging Native American Youth," before implementing the project in area schools.

The **State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section** organized a "Back-to-School Barbeque" for the Coalition for Temporary Shelter (COTS), during which the Young Lawyers distributed 350 backpacks to Detroit area children in need.

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Back to School:

Continuing Education Opportunities and Student/Law School Volunteering

The **Dade County (Florida) Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** held its seventh annual “Minority Mentoring Picnic” on November 13, which included a volleyball tournament, mentoring opportunities, and seminars. Minority law students from all Florida law schools attended along with more than 2,500 lawyers, judges, and guests.

The **Arkansas Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** is in the process of printing *18 & Life to Go: A Legal Handbook for Young Arkansans*, this fall and distributing it to local schools. The publication was developed by the Young Lawyers and aims to provide young Arkansans with a basic understanding of the legal system, as well as the answers to common legal questions. In addition the ABA-YLS will reach out to local schools to educate students about the legal system by presenting “A Level Playing Field.” “A Level Playing Field” is a DVD program developed by the Arkansas Bar Association Law Related Education Committee that discusses the constitutional basis of the American judicial system and the four fundamental principles of the judicial system—the rule of law, equal justice under the law, a fair, impartial, and independent judiciary, and the jury system.

The **Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers Section** hosted a “Law Student Mixer,” which included a panel discussion presented by the New Lawyers to law students on obtaining jobs through processes other than on-campus interviewing. After the panel discussion, a meet-and-greet session with various attorneys from around the state was held.

The **Albany (New York) Area Young Lawyers Division** continues its mentoring program for pre-law college students at two regional colleges: Darton College and Albany State University. Members of the organization meet, either in-person or over e-mail, with pre-law students and encourage them in their interest in the profession as well as law school, including reviewing personal statements and writing samples and other assistance with law school applications. Members also speak at local high schools about the legal profession during the month leading up to Law Day.

The **Mecklenburg County (North Carolina) Bar Young Lawyers Division** held its in-person “Ask-A-Lawyer” day on September 25. It also hosted a “Swearing-in Ceremony” and “New Lawyer Orientation” CLE on September 30 for new North Carolina bar members. Lastly, the MCBA YLD held an “Academic Internship Program” for teens interested in learning more about practicing law.

Ingham County (Michigan) Bar Association Young Lawyers Section kicked off its 2010–2011 term with a bang by partnering with the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to bring more frequent but short-term mentoring opportunities to young lawyers in the community, specifically targeting the unemployed and the underemployed. This will be accomplished through small group seminars focused on specific areas of the law based on interest.

Washtenaw County (Michigan) Bar Association New Lawyers Section is planning a repeat of its successful “Introduction to Practice in Washtenaw County,” to be co-sponsored with the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section.

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To highlight the successes of your affiliate, please send updates of member service projects, public service projects, or other noteworthy achievements to Giugi.Carminati@weil.com. We look forward to recognizing your programs in upcoming editions of *The Affiliate*.

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