

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division *The Affiliate*

Around the Country

Compiled by Jill Kastner

All Work and No Play Makes for a Dull YLD

In June, the **Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association** will host its "Over the Hill Happy Hour" for members aging out of the association.

The **Hispanic Bar Association of Houston** (HISBA-Houston) hosted its President's Day Luncheon and 22nd Annual President's Day Banquet on May 27. Texas Supreme Court Justice David Medina will address the luncheon and KPRC Houston *Weekend Anchor*, Daniela Guzmán, will emcee the banquet.

Pierce County (Washington State) YLD organized its annual "Judicial Skit Night," which features local judges and commissioners acting out skits that portray various violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. This event is very well attended, as local attorneys are always eager to see local judges and commissioners display their theatrical talents while obtaining CLE credit.

San Diego County Bar Association Young New Lawyers Division (YNLD) hosted its "Battle of the Bands" in April. YNLD members, members of the SDCBA, and folks from the music community joined together for a live music show by attorney bands. One lucky attorney band won a chance to open for a headline show.

On June 26th, the **Colorado Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** will hold its annual "YLD Golf Tournament," co-hosted with the Young Professionals Committee of the Colorado Society of CPAs and the Young Advisors Team of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. This event provides a fun chance to meet and network with other young professionals from throughout Colorado. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to First Descents, a charity that assists young adult cancer survivors.

The **Illinois State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** held its "YLD Bean Bag Party and Tournament" on March 6 to benefit the Illinois Bar Foundation/YLD Children's Assistance Program. Teams of lawyers competed at this fun social networking event for the first and second place prizes for bean bag tossing, but the real winners were the children who benefit from the YLD Children's Assistance Programs.

Serving Members with CLE and Leadership Development

The **Ingham County (Michigan) Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** has "hit the ground running." With an eight-judge Judicial Panel and over 55 young lawyers who RSVP'd, ICBA YLS held a successful CLE called the "Do's and Don'ts Roundtable Seminar." The Judicial Panel extolled the virtues of very good lawyering and warned about the very bad through anecdotes, practice tips, and other words of wisdom.

The **Kansas Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** (KBA YLS) implemented a "four corners" CLE/meeting program. The KBA YLS travels to the more rural parts of the state to conduct CLE programs and provide networking opportunities for local, rural attorneys. Although attendance has been low, the KBA YLS believes the program has been successful in bringing programming to these members.

The **King County Bar Association (KCBA) YLD** and the **Washington State Bar Association YLD** held the annual "Bridging the GAP" program at the WSBA on March 26. The mission of the conference is to provide education on a wide variety of low-cost practical skills to help better prepare new lawyers to be successful in their legal careers, regardless of practice area.

The **Ohio State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** held its third annual "Young Lawyer Day" on May 6. The day is designed to provide new attorneys with relevant CLE and information about what the Ohio State Bar Association has to offer. It also included an opportunity to participate in a legal clinic in conjunction with the "Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project." Participants in the legal clinic provided legal advice to pre-screened clients regarding wills, assisted with juvenile court pro se representation, and gave other basic legal advice.

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The **State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division** held its first annual “Young Lawyers Leadership Conference” in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With more than 120 young lawyers from 20 counties throughout the state attending, the Leadership Conference was widely acclaimed as a huge success for the YLD and for participants who earned CLE credits, were addressed by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser, and networked with an ABA YLD-style speed networking session.

Focus on the Environment

In April, the **New Jersey State Bar Association YLD** hosted a successful Earth Day event in connection with the New Jersey Tree Foundation. Twenty-four trees were planted throughout Fulton Street in Newark. The trees along the sidewalk of Fulton Street make a dramatic difference in the landscape of the area.

Young Lawyers Promote Pro Bono Work During Law Day/Law Week

The **South Bay Bar Association (SBBA)** in Southern California celebrated its Annual Law Day on May 5. SBBA held an “Ask-A-Lawyer” program at the courthouse where about 25 attorneys spent the day assisting the public on questions they had and directed them to available legal resources. This is in addition to SBBA’s commitment to host a pro-bono clinic every month, where local attorneys assist the public at the courthouse. There is usually a family law panel and a general civil litigation panel. The first one for 2010 was held on April 7.

The **Hawaii State Bar Association—Young Lawyers Division (HSBA YLD)** held its Law Week activities from May 2 to 8. Activities included legal clinics, additional Legal Lines, a pro bono rally, and social events for YLD members. The legal clinics brought volunteer lawyers together to man information booths set up at area shopping malls, grocery stores, and community centers. These attorneys assisted the public with basic legal questions on a variety of topics and provided brochures and information regarding the issues.

The YLD also added additional Legal Lines for the entire week. The Legal Line project allows the public to call in and speak to a volunteer attorney (during one hour each evening). This volunteer attorney provides basic legal advice and direction.

The **South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division** was busy during Law Week with Children’s Book Drives, Children’s Necessities Drives, and Law Suits Drives (business clothing—not litigation). In addition to collecting items to benefit those in need, the SC YLD also organized speakers to go into classrooms throughout the state to hold various legal clinics, including an expungement and bankruptcy clinic. The Expungement Clinic, held May 5, helped individuals with criminal records learn what convictions are eligible for expungement and how the process works. The Bankruptcy Clinic, held May 4, provided information about Chapters 7 and 13—when to file and when to stay put and rebuilding credit and a life after a bankruptcy filing.

Wills for Heroes

The **New Jersey State Bar Young Lawyer’s** “Wills for Heroes” program has been very active this spring and summer. The original goal was to host a Wills for Heroes clinic every two months, but in the last two months, the group has hosted three events, exceeding expectations. Each event has been well attended by first responders as well as attorney volunteers.

The **Young Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar** continues to go strong with its “Wills for Heroes” program, hosting monthly clinics around the state to provide free basic estate planning to local heroes.

The **Washington State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division (WYLD)** runs the Washington First Responder Will Clinic. The clinic provides free estate planning for first responders, including firefighters and police officers. Clinics are planned in different parts of the state throughout the spring and summer.

Other Wills for Heroes Clinics are taking place in Arizona, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and elsewhere across the country.

Young Lawyers Serving the Public

The **Delaware New Lawyers Section** has committed to providing food on the ninth of every month at Emmanuel’s Dining Room, with a different law firm or law-related organization sponsoring each month. More than 600 meals have been provided and served.

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The **Dubuque County (Iowa) Young Lawyers Division** held its yearly fundraiser for Iowa Legal Aid. The annual wine tasting/auction was hosted at a local winery where participants networked and raised money to provide legal services for low-income citizens of Iowa.

This spring, the **Mobile (Alabama) Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (MYLS)** is hosting its "FunFest," a charitable event at a local orphanage. Giant inflatables, sno-cone machines, and popcorn machines, among others, are provided for the kids. The event is probably best described as a field day. Members of the MYLS also make a financial contribution to the orphanage.

The **Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** gave out its annual awards to its High School Essay & YouTube Video Contests winners. Each year, high school students throughout Louisiana write essays or produce videos on a topic provided by the chair of the High School Essay Contest Committee.

The **Oregon New Lawyers Division Pro Bono Committee** spent an afternoon painting the old jail in Clatsop County to assist the local historical society prepare for the jail's reopening as a film museum on March 20, 2010. The new museum will celebrate the art and diversity of Oregon filmmaking by highlighting the 300+ films made in the state. The jail itself is a recognized icon from the classic film *The Goonies*.

The **State Bar of South Dakota Young Lawyers Section** raised over \$4,000 for the "Honor Flight South Dakota." More than 600 World War II veterans from South Dakota have applied and are waiting for an Honor Flight (www.honorflightsd.org). The Honor Flight program provides a free trip to WWII veterans for a two-day visit to Washington, D.C. The trip includes visits to the new National WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and several service branch memorials.

The **Texarkana Young Lawyers Association (TxkYLA)** completed its 2010 "Easter Bunny Nominating Fundraiser." Attorneys throughout the local bar association nominate each other (nominations cost \$5) for the "honor" of wearing the Easter Bunny suit at the "Annual TxkYLA Easter Egg Hunt" held on the Miller County Courthouse lawn. This year, TxkYLA raised over \$1,000. These funds help buy books for the TxkYLA "Leapholes" project, which is not covered by an ABA grant.

Running for Charity

The **Anchorage Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section** held a 5K "Race Judicata" the first week of May. Proceeds from the race go to support Youth Court.

The **Dayton (Ohio) Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** is gearing up for the "5 for the Kids" 5k run/walk on June 11, 2010, which benefits Care House, a community advocacy center for child victims of abuse and neglect.

The **King County (Washington State) Bar Association (KCBA YLD)** held its "Fourth Annual King County Bar Association YLD 5K Fun Run & Walk." KCBA YLD awarded special prizes for (1) the team with the most participants and (2) the team with the best matching attire/costume. Event proceeds support the KCBA YLD programs, including the 32 Neighborhood Legal Clinics located throughout King County.

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To highlight the achievements and successes of your affiliate, please send updates of member service or public service projects and related pictures to giuqi.carminati@weil.com. We look forward to recognizing your projects in future editions of *The Affiliate* and may even use them to lay the foundation for national outreach!