

American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division *The Affiliate*

Around the Country

Compiled by Kara J. Johnson

Let's Get Together: Social Networking Events

The **Kalamazoo (Michigan) County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** hosted the first roast of a local attorney. The roast was held in conjunction with the annual "Bar Association Golf Outing."

The **Minnesota State Bar Association New Lawyers Section** is participating in a "Law Student Mixer." The New Lawyers will host a panel on obtaining jobs through alternative processes. After the panel, there will be a meet and greet with attorneys from around the state.

The **North Dakota Young Lawyers Section** has been hosting monthly "Thank God it's Tuesday" (TGIT) happy hour events. Social chairs in four of the larger cities in the state have helped organize these events. The Section is continuing to work toward making these events a success and hopes to expand to more locations.

The **Omaha Barristers** held a "Steak Fry" on June 22. The event was a big success. Over 100 Omaha lawyers and judges attended.

The **Oregon New Lawyers Division** sponsored a Monte Carlo night. The event focused on legal opportunities in Oregon. The night was formatted as a meet-and-greet event that allowed the members of the Oregon New Lawyers Division to interact with minority law students and build stronger relationships with the minority attorneys already practicing in the state.

E-News: Online Activity

The **Missouri Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** has been working hard to get ready for the launch of its new website this fall. The website will provide access to information that has not previously been available on the Internet including the organization's calendar of events, programming information, networking opportunities, and contact information for affiliated national, state, and local organizations.

Working Together: Interactive Organizations

The **Washington Young Lawyers Division, Snohomish County Young Lawyers Division, and King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** joined forces to host a networking event at a Seattle Mariners game. The night started with a pre-game social in the Pyramid beer garden and was followed by a game against Texas. Approximately forty young lawyers attended the event.

The **Oklahoma County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** started inviting local nonprofit organizations to its board meetings. The nonprofits take about five to ten minutes to tell the board about their organizations. The purpose is to encourage leadership and participation of division members in more local nonprofit organizations.

The **Tulsa County Bar Association Young Lawyers Committee** co-hosted its second annual picnic and game-watching event with the Tulsa University Young Alumni Committee on September 2. The event allowed the members of both organizations to socialize with each other, and with current third-year law students at Tulsa University, while watching the Tulsa Drillers, Tulsa's minor league baseball team.

Giving Back: Community Service Projects and Fundraisers

The **Anchorage Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** has been working with Alaska Legal Services to coordinate a new community service project entitled "Attorney for a Day." The event will allow young attorneys who do not have the knowledge or time to handle a full pro bono case on their own to provide one-to-two hours of their time to help with case intake or services on cases that have limited needs.

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This fall the **Arkansas Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** will print “18 & Life to Go: A Legal Handbook for Young Arkansans” and distribute it to local schools. The publication is designed to provide young Arkansans with a basic understanding of their legal system, as well as answers to common legal questions.

The **Dubuque County (Iowa) Young Lawyers Section** held its annual fundraiser for Iowa Legal Aid at a local winery. The event consisted of a wine tasting and auction. It is the Section’s major event of the year.

The **Iowa Young Lawyers Division** hosted its annual “Justice for All Golf Tournaments” in Central and Eastern Iowa. It also added an additional tournament site in Western Iowa. The proceeds raised by the golf tournaments go to support low-income individuals who are in need of legal services.

The **Knoxville Barristers** hosted a reception on October 7 in honor of the tenth anniversary of its Hunger & Poverty Relief Committee. Knoxville’s young lawyers have successfully operated the committee for the past decade to deliver Mobile Meals, volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank, collect clothing and school supplies for needy children, and collect Christmas gifts for needy children during the holidays.

The **Montana Bar Association New Lawyers’ Section** is partnering with the State Bar of Montana to organize a committee to implement “Serving Our Seniors.” A similar project was started by the Montana Department of Health and Human Services as part of a federal grant. Rollout of “Serving Our Seniors” began in Montana when members of the Section traveled to Kalispell, Montana, in September for the first “clinic.”

The **Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association** is organizing its “Pumpkin Farm Event” for children from a local battered women’s shelter. The kids go with volunteers from the Association to enjoy a day at the petting zoo/pumpkin farm. The event allows time for the mothers to have special programming at the shelter.

The **Oakland County (Michigan) Bar Association’s New Lawyers Committee** had its most successful fundraising year. At the Committee’s annual outing to a Tiger’s game, the Committee presented the Oak Park Business & Education Alliance with a check for \$6,030. The money was raised over the course of the year through several successful fundraising events.

The **Oklahoma Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** Disaster Relief Committee was busy this summer. Oklahoma experienced some severe storms and flooding. Approximately fifteen volunteer attorneys were trained to provide legal services to about twenty individuals in need of assistance as a result of the storms and flooding.

The **Northern Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** received an ABA subgrant for its Truancy Mediation Project. The project is going strong and has just expanded to its second school for the 2009–2010 school year.

The **Texarkana Young Lawyers Association** is continuing its tradition of promoting literacy by partnering with HIP Children of Prisoners Mentoring. Research has established that book ownership is a better indicator of success than socio-economic level. Children with parents in prison are more likely to have a negative view of the legal system, so the Texarkana Young Lawyers will present books to children involved in the local mentoring program and will host a party to promote literacy.

The **Wisconsin State Bar Young Lawyers Division** continues its support of the “Modest Means Panel.” The panel links volunteers willing to work for a greatly reduced rate with people in need of legal services who are living between 125% and 200% of the poverty guidelines. The young lawyers are working to encourage more attorneys to volunteer for this great program.

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Back to School: Continuing Education Opportunities and Law School Volunteering

The **Alaska Bar Association New Lawyers Section** hosted a series of lunch CLEs on electronic media and communication. The first CLE began with the presiding judge of the Superior Court in the Third District speaking on an ethics CLE focused on the use of social networking in legal practice. The second CLE was presented by the head resource librarian of Alaska Bar Counsel on the effective use of electronic media at trial. In September, the Section will present a full-day CLE about online investigation and social media use.

The **Hawaii State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division** is gearing up for its annual state mock trial competition. The Division took over the program in 2008 and has continued to expand it. It has added new volunteer coaches and participant schools and is using a grant it received from the ABA YLD to encourage a greater number of students to get involved.

The **Hennepin County (Minnesota) Bar Association New Lawyers Section** hosted a CLE on August 17 directed at young lawyers. The CLE was entitled "They Did What? Tips to Avoid Common Courtroom Mistakes." It was presented by Judge John McShane of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District.

The **Memphis Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** sponsored a CLE on October 6 for individuals needing a refresher on their pro bono and legal clinic skills. The CLE is being hosted in anticipation of the monthly Saturday legal clinic on October 9 and is open to all age and experience levels.

The **Multnomah (Portland, Oregon) Bar Association Young Lawyers Section** addressed the challenges its membership faces during the downturn in the economy by hosting targeted CLEs. The Section's Professional Development Committee organized a presentation teaching practical legal skills entitled "Surviving and Thriving in a Down Economy." The YLS also hosted a program entitled "Alternative Paths for JDs" to encourage its members to look at nontraditional legal opportunities.

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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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