

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Spring 2009

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A View from the Chair: This, Too, Shall Pass



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As winter is (hopefully) coming to a close, I had the opportunity to sit back and daydream about the upcoming warmer months. As I came into the office and shook off the cold from another Michigan winter morning, I smiled, realizing that this long winter was almost over.

I poured some coffee and thought about sunny days. Then it dawned on me that this long winter could be a metaphor for our current economic crisis. Long, harsh, and cold—but just like a Michigan winter, it will pass.

I know it feels like it will never let up and many of our clients, families, and friends are being severely impacted, but I have hope that we will make it through. To that end, the Young Lawyers Section is continually working to provide quality, inexpensive programming for the benefit of young lawyers and other programs to help our communities. This year is no different. We are putting together the final touches on the Young Lawyers Summit (June 5-6, 2009, at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort). This year's event picks up where last year's successful event left off. We have lined up tremendous programs and presenters, secured a top-flight facility, and kept the costs down. (More information coming soon).

In addition, just like last year, we will be presenting the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to the young lawyer who exemplifies the best of what we young lawyers have to offer.

I hope your schedule permits you to join us on June 5-6, because, while the long, cold, dark economy may not have passed by the time of the summit, the sun will be shining, and the long, cold, dark Michigan winter will have passed. (Hopefully).

B.D. 'Chris' Christenson
Chair, SBM—Young lawyers Section

ABA Midyear Meeting

By Danielle Mason Anderson, District 20 Representative



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Hello, Michigan Young Lawyers!

It is hard to believe that the ABA Midyear Meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts, February 12-14, 2009, has already come and gone. My report will provide you with updates regarding the ABA YLD 2008-2009 bar year. As always, additional information about the conference and the ABA YLD as a whole can be found at www.abanet.org/yld.

Historic Boston is not an ideal destination in February for those from warmer climates, but for a native Michigander, it was absolutely perfect! The council meeting for the body on which I sit in my role as district representative for Michigan took place on Thursday, February 11, 2009, at the Westin Copley—our home base for the YLD portion of the meeting. There were many lively discussions and reports from affiliates and bar leaders from across the country.

A welcome reception was held Thursday evening as well as a first-time attendees orientation that allows the newcomers to ask questions and learn how to get the most out of the meeting.

On Friday, there were numerous CLE and informational programs, including Insurance 101, Preserving Client's Rights When Someone Files for Bankruptcy, How to Obtain a Leadership Position in the ABA, Differences Between Trial and Appellate Practice, and Speed Mentoring, among others. Personalized career counseling was also available.

The Friday evening dinner dance was held at the State Room—a venue I highly recommend for its sweeping views of the city. A good time was had by all.

Assembly began bright and early Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. The Assembly was addressed by many prominent figures in the ABA, including ABA President Tommy Wells and President-elect Carolyn Lamm. One of the major resolutions debated sought to change the make-up of the ABA YLD leadership. The proposal was to divide the current secretary/treasurer position into three separate positions: secretary, treasurer, and treasurer-elect. The vote required a 2/3 majority to pass, but it did not

get the required level of approval. Presentation of the National Young Lawyer Award occurred at the Assembly as well. The energy and commitment evidenced by the finalists for the award are absolutely amazing.

As a reminder, the ABA YLD 2008-2009 Public Service Project, entitled Voices Against Violence, continues. In Boston, Men for Change held an event asking men to be a part of the solution in ending domestic violence. See www.janedoe.org for more details. Also, an event was held at the Boston Public Library on Valentine's Day to address the legal needs of teen victims of dating violence. Please visit the service project's website found at www.abanet.org/yld/dv. There is a video available to be used in the education of young lawyers, as well as an awareness and prevention toolkit.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- ABA Day in Washington, D.C., always a great event, is April 21-23, 2009.
- The next ABA YLD meeting is the Spring Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana May 14-16, 2009.
- Also, the ABA Section of Litigation's Litigation Institute for Trial Training, which is co-sponsored by the ABA YLD, is July 9 and 10, 2009, in Chicago.
- The Annual Meeting, also in Chicago, is scheduled to begin July 30, 2009.

Please let me know about any programs or events that are occurring in your areas or affiliates. I would like to include them in my report to the ABA YLD. We all know Michigan has great affiliates who are very active, but I would like to show the rest of the ABA YLD as well!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments, etc. at andersond@millercanfield.com or (269) 383-5880. It is a pleasure serving as your district representative, and I am certainly here to help.

Danielle Mason Anderson

December 2008 Paris Bar Association Conference

By James W. Low

I was privileged to be invited by the president of the Ordre de Avocats de Paris (the Bar Association of Paris) as an American representative to their annual opening ceremony in Paris, France in December. The Rentrée solennelle de la Conférence du Stage et du Barreau de Paris, translated into English, is the Solemn Reopening of the Paris Bar Association. It is analogous to the State Bar of Michigan's Annual Meeting, albeit a bit more formal. Like our Annual Meeting, events surrounding the main ceremony spanned several days. This year the events spanned from Thursday, December 4 to Saturday, December 6, 2008.

I, along with the European Young Bar Association executive committee, the president of the American Bar Association—Young Lawyers Division, and delegations from Denmark, Sweden, England, Ireland, Wales, Italy, Spain, Greece, Canada, and the Netherlands attended the events and enjoyed the hospitality of the Secretaires du Barreau de Paris during our stay. Contrary to their reputation for rudeness toward foreign visitors, the Parisian hosts took particular care of their foreign colleagues.

On Thursday evening we attended a champagne and canapé reception at the Comedie Francaise theatre. There, we were also treated to a private performance of "The Marriage of Figaro," which was accompanied by English subtitles for those who had not had time to brush up on their French.

On Friday afternoon we attended the main ceremony at the Théâtre du Châtelet, a spectacular Paris opera house built in 1862. All the most senior members of the local and foreign bar associations were present, as well as the Batonnier of Montréal, who enjoys a "special" relationship with the Paris Bar. Each attendee was instructed to dress for court, so a number of attendees were properly attired in robes and powdered wigs, as is custom in their native country. One main focus of the ceremony is presenting awards to the 12 young lawyers selected as secretaries for the Conférence du Stage et du Barreau de Paris. These young lawyers are winners of an annual oratory competition that has taken place for more than 200 years. The first three secretaries of the Conférence du Stage enchanted the audience with their well-rehearsed speeches, which were pure dramatic oratory art rather than simple court pleadings. Thereafter, the president of the Ordre de Avocats de Paris gave a speech about the current status of the Paris Bar and its goals for the year.

On Friday night, we attended a black tie dinner dance at the Drouot Montaigne art museum, hosted by the Paris Bar Young Bar Association. It was not only a party but a relaxed opportunity for all the guests to indulge in pleasant conversation and dancing and to enjoy some typical French specialties.

On Saturday, a number of the foreign attendees took the day to sightsee. That day we went to the top of the Eiffel Tower, saw the Arc de Triomphe, visited the shops on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, and visited the Louvre Museum. That evening, the Secretaries of the Conférence du Stage invited the young foreign bar representatives to a dinner at Café Rouge, a typical French Brasserie. After dinner we concluded the evening at a famous Paris club, "Castel," before everybody



said their goodbyes and headed back home.

It was interesting to meet my colleagues from overseas. After spending several days with young lawyers from a number of different countries, it was very clear that we are much more similar than we are different. Most telling is that no matter what country they were from, every lawyer I spoke with seemed to both love his or her profession and also have a special disdain for the phrase "billable hours."

YLS and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School Co-host Second Annual Bar Exam Workshop

By Timothy T. Gardner, Jr.

On Monday, February 16, 2009, the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) and University of Detroit Mercy Law School co-hosted a bar exam workshop entitled “After Graduation: How to Prepare and Pass the Bar Exam.” The purpose of the program was to assist University of Detroit Mercy law students in writing effective essay exam responses, selecting the appropriate bar review courses, and devising solid study plans. This panel discussion is designed to afford students with the opportunity to ask any question that relates to the bar exam experience and receive responses from recent bar passers. The panelists include attorney Kelvin Scott, bar exam grader; new attorney Vassal Johnson, Law offices of Vassal Johnson; and YLS executive council member Andrea Irons.

“Developing a plan for bar exam success allows each student to execute on exam day,” said YLS Vice Chair Tim Gardner. Special thanks to the University of Detroit Mercy Law School and Dean Loretta Lewins Peck for their support.



University of Detroit Mercy Law School Dean Loretta Lewins Peck, Attorney Vassal Johnson, YLS Executive Council Member Andrea Irons and YLS Vice-Chair Tim Gardner.

Coat Drive

The SBM - Young Lawyers Division and Capuchin Soup Kitchen would like to thank the many members who helped collect NEW coats for kids this winter. With your help, we were able to provide Capuchin 50 coats and more than \$400. Showing some of the coats that were collected are (left to right) Lisa J. Hamameh of Adkison, Need, & Allen PLLC and Utica attorney Andrea C. Irons.



Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing

e-Journal Now Available for Mobile Devices

The State Bar of Michigan e-Journal publication is now available in a format easily viewed by smart phones, PDAs, and other mobile devices. Current subscribers can simply select the mobile version link in their daily e-mail or click the “mobile version” link at the top of the e-Journal page.

The e-Journal, a daily electronic newsletter sent free of charge to more than 16,000 subscribers, updates the legal profession daily on changes in the law and summarizes opinions to help attorneys stay up-to-date with the law as it emerges from the courts. Apart from case summaries, the publication also contains legal news, public policy updates, classified advertisements, a calendar of events, and fields of practice listings.

Since it came into existence ten years ago, more than 37,000 appellate and district court opinions and orders have been summarized in the e-Journal. It has become one of the most popular services provided by the Bar. To sign up for the e-Journal, visit www.michbar.org/publications/signup.cfm.

Jumpstart Your Career: Finding employment that fits you in this economic climate

On March 4, 2009, the Young Lawyer's Section sponsored the seminar "Jumpstart Your Career: Finding employment that fits you in this economic climate."

The seminar was held at Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills campus, and the featured attorney panel was Dan Dalton of Tomkiw Dalton plc, Elizabeth Jolliffe of Your Benchmark Coach, Tim Dinan of Dinan and Associates, and Peggy Costello of Dykema Gossett. Jennifer Harvey of the Harvey Legal Group, a YLS council member, was the moderator. Cooley faculty and staff were also present, including Dean John Nussbaumer, Dean Charles Toy, and Lisa Fadler.

All panelists brought a wealth of experience and practical advice to the 40 attendees, comprised of both Young Lawyer Section members and Cooley Law School students.

Tim Dinan, a criminal defense attorney and professor at U of D Mercy Law School, emphasized that lawyers always make their own paths, and networking is the best way to find employment. If you connect with a hiring partner and have a commonality, grades and experience become less important. In the end, get to know other lawyers.

Elizabeth Jolliffe practiced law at a large law firm for nearly 20 years before starting her business as a career coach. She noted that new lawyers must pursue their passion. Some of the best ways to be noticed by firms seeking employees is to build a resume in law school by internships, working for judges and joining local bar associations.

Dan Dalton discussed catching a hiring partner's attention through cover letters and resumes. He advised new lawyers to thoroughly research the firms to which they apply. Also, he stressed the importance of well-written individualized cover letters.

Peggy Costello tore through misconceptions regarding lawyers working in jobs they hated: they need not stay forever! She stated that in most cases it is better to get a new job before leaving your current employer. Otherwise, it can make a bad impression on hiring partners. Also, not being happy in a firm can differ from lawyer



Back row (left to right): Tim Dinan and Dan Dalton. Front row (left to right): Dean John Nussbaumer; Peggy Costello; Dean Charles Toy; Elizabeth Jolliffe; and Jennifer Harvey.



to lawyer who practices there. It is better to work at a firm that you enjoy, so do not feel unnecessarily trapped in a job that you hate.

In the end, Jennifer Harvey presented the speakers with gifts from YLS. The attendees truly appreciated that wealth of knowledge that the speakers were able to share, especially their personal stories developing as practitioners.

Cell Phone Drive

On March 26 the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) will be hosting a charity event to benefit HAVEN (Help Against Violent Encounters Now), a domestic violence shelter and resource center in Oakland County. The event is being coordinated by SBM YLS members Jessica Simmons and Keith Wuotinen, and will take place at the Bahama Breeze in Troy, MI.

As part of the charity event, we are asking all attendees to bring in as many old cell phones as they can donate for the benefit of HAVEN. Old cell phones, even without a service plan, will still work to call 911 emergency services (police, fire, and medical), and are a great benefit for many survivors at HAVEN.

Attendees who may not have an old cell phone to donate can still be part of this important event by attending and donating \$10.00 cash/check for the benefit of HAVEN. The event runs from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and includes, at *no charge*, substantial appetizers and an opportunity to network with other attorneys who are also interested in helping to curb domestic violence.

In addition, there will be prizes awarded to people who arrive early with the most cell phones to donate. Prizes are limited, so attendees with five or more cell phones to donate are encouraged to show early.

This event is for the help and benefit of domestic violence survivors, and aligns with the nationwide goal of the American Bar Association this year of helping to reduce and eventually work toward the elimination of domestic violence in America.

Flint Holiday Dinner Photos



Save the Date! YLS Summit!

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
June 5- 6, 2009

YLS Summit Welcome Reception will occur on June 5, 2009 and programming will be held on June 6, 2009. Watch for more details.

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION
Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Application

Application Prepared by: _____

Name: _____ Employer: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

1. Name of Applicant

Applicant's Date of Birth*: _____ College and Graduation Month/Year: _____

Law School and Graduation Month/Year: _____ Law School Honors/Distinctions: _____

Other Post-Graduate Education: _____

Month/Year Applicant was Admitted to Michigan Bar*: _____ State Bar of Michigan "P Number": _____

*This information is relevant only to verify whether applicant qualifies as a "Young Lawyer."
Applicant must be under 36 years of age or have practiced law 5 years or fewer (whichever comes last).

2. Other Information About Applicant

Employer: _____ Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

3. Applicant's Service to the Public

Using the form below, please describe the services which the applicant has provided to the PUBLIC while he or she attended law school and/or since he or she has been a lawyer.

**Please Complete A Separate Form
For Each Service To The Public Or Project Serving The Public
(Make Copies Of This Form As Needed)**

Project or Type of Service: _____

Date(s) Project or Service Took Place: _____

Location(s) of Project or Service: _____

Were other people involved in conducting the project or service along with the Applicant? If so, please describe, specify if they were lawyers, and give approximate number who helped or worked with applicant. [Example: Washtenaw County Young Lawyers Section (15 people), State Bar Law Practice Management Section (2 people), Saginaw Jaycees (19 people)]:

Project or Service Description. Please describe the Applicant's service or project in 250 words or less. Also include the role(s) played by the Applicant in the undertaking of the project. _____

Approximate Number of People Who Benefited from the Applicant's Project or Service*: _____

If exact number or range cannot be provided, please explain: _____

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

Photographs Handouts/Materials
 Articles Press Releases, etc. Other (specify)

4. Applicant's Service to the Bar

Using the form below, please describe the services which the applicant has provided to the Bar while he or she attended law school and/or since he or she has been a lawyer.

**Please Complete A Separate Form For Each Service To The Bar Or Project Serving The Bar
(Make Copies Of This Form)**

Project or Type of Service: _____

Date(s) Project or Service Took Place: _____

Location(s) of Project or Service: _____

Were there other people involved in conducting the project or service with the applicant? If so, please describe. Specify if they were lawyers, and give approximate number who helped or worked with applicant. [Example: Washtenaw County Young Lawyers Section (15 people), State Bar Law Practice Management Section (2 people), Saginaw Jaycees (19 people)]:

Project or Service Description. Please describe in 250 words or less. Also include the role(s) played by the Applicant in the undertaking of the project.

Approximate Number of People Who Benefited from the Applicant's Project or Service*:
If exact number or range cannot be provided, please explain:

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

Photographs Handouts/Materials
 Articles Press Releases, etc. Other (specify)

Submit by April 15, 2009 to
Timothy Tyrone Gardner, Jr.
18516 James Couzens Fwy, Detroit, MI 48235

YLS and Board of Commissioners Bowling Tournament



Note from the Editor: This is the third year that the Young Lawyers have competed against the Board of Commissioners in a friendly game of bowling, and it is the third year the Young Lawyers have won.