

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Summer 2011
www.michiganyounglawyers.com

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Greetings from the Chair



Maureen M. McGinnis

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Greetings! Welcome to our summer special edition of *Inter Alia*! This year, the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council put tremendous focus on the outreach we extend to our members to keep them up-to-date on section events and ways to get involved with other young attorneys or attorneys that are new to the practice of law.

We are proud to send out the fourth edition of the *Inter Alia* for the 2010-2011 bar year and welcome your feedback on how we can make this electronic newsletter even better in the coming year. We are also working hard to provide updated information on the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers webpage, where you can find council meeting agendas and minutes and learn more about what we are doing throughout the year at our meetings. Please visit the website: <http://www.michbar.org/younglawyers/>

If you have not joined the YLS Facebook page, we encourage you to do that, too. You can join us on Facebook directly through our webpage.

The bar year is winding down for us, but the 2010-2011 council continues to move forward, recently recommending approval of a comprehensive set of bylaw amendments. The YLS bylaws have not been reviewed since 2000 and were in need of some fine tuning. You can see the proposed changes in this issue of *Inter Alia*, and section members have the chance to vote on these changes at our upcoming annual meeting on September 15. Thank you to the YLS Bylaw Committee for their great work on this project: James Low, Bonnie Shaw, Mark Jane, and Hope Shovein.

Thank you to all of the council members and members of the YLS Section for a terrific year! It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve as the chair of such a talented, motivated, and exciting section of the State Bar of Michigan. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

Maureen M. McGinnis
YLS Chair

Proposed Amendments to the Young Lawyers Section's Bylaws

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") Executive Council recommends approval of amendments to the YLS bylaws. The proposed amended bylaws are set forth in full herein. If approved, the amended bylaws will replace the current bylaws.

Members of the YLS will vote on the proposed amendments on September 15, 2011 at the State Bar of Michigan's Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency - Dearborn at 9:30 a.m. All YLS members may attend the annual meeting and vote on the proposed amendments.

Bylaws

Article 1

NAME

This section shall be known as "The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan."

Article 2

OBJECTIVES

The objectives and purposes of the Young ~~lawyers~~Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan ("YLS") shall be to sponsor and carry on activities of particular interest and value to young attorneys in Michigan; to coordinate activities of the various local young lawyer groups in Michigan; to cooperate fully with, and as an integral part of, the State Bar of Michigan ("State Bar"); and to cooperate with the various local bar associations in the State of Michigan, the American Bar Association, and the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division in the promotion of their programs.

Article 3

MEMBERSHIP

~~SECTION 1. Every attorney who is a member~~ELIGIBILITY. Except as otherwise allowed in good standing of the State Bar Art 4, sec 4 and who is under thirty six years of age Art 5, sec 2 of these bylaws, every attorney who is a member in good standing of the State Bar is a member of the YLS through the annual meeting following the member's 36th birthday-

~~SECTION 2. Every attorney who is a member in good standing of the State Bar and who is over thirty six years of age, but has not yet been licensed to practice law for five years, is a member of the YLS or~~ through the annual meeting following the ~~member's~~member's 5th anniversary of being licensed, whichever period is greater.

~~SECTION 3-2. MEMBERSHIP REMOVAL.~~ Any member the YLS shall, upon written request, be dropped from membership without prejudice to reinstatement upon written request if still eligible.

Article 4

OFFICERS

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The officers of the YLS shall be: A Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, ~~Vice-Chairperson and~~ Secretary-, and Treasurer.

SECTION 2. COUNCIL, TERM, VACANCY. The Chairperson-~~Elect~~, ~~Vice-Chairperson and Secretary- and~~ Treasurer shall be elected by the Council members from their own number at the annual Council meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the YLS. All officers shall serve in the respective offices to which they have been elected for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected. If, before the expiration of the normal one-year term of any office, a vacancy occurs with respect to such office, except that of Chairperson where a Chairperson-~~Elect~~ is available to fill the vacancy, such office shall be filled by election at the next regular Council meeting, and the tenure of officers so elected shall be for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

SECTION 3. CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson shall automatically be a member of the Council, shall be chief executive officer of the YLS, and shall fill by appointment, subject to approval by the Council, all vacancies occurring in the membership of the Council from the district in which the vacancy has occurred for the remainder of the term being filled. The Chairperson shall appoint the memberschairs of all standing committees and such other committees as the Chairperson may deem necessary or as the Council may recommend or create. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Chairperson shall call and preside at all meetings of the Council, regular meetings of which shall be held at least four times each year in the city of Lansing and at such other times and places as the Council shall designate. The Chairperson shall also call and preside at the annual meetings of the YLS and Council.

SECTION 4. CHAIRPERSON-ELECT. The Chairperson-~~Elect~~ shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson at the conclusion of the term as Chairperson-Elect, or earlier upon the existence of a vacancy. In the event the Chairperson-Elect succeeds to the office of Chairperson prior to the expiration of the term as Chairperson-Elect, he/she shall continue in the office of Chairperson through the full term of office that he/she would otherwise have served. The Chairperson-~~Elect~~ shall act as Chairperson during the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson-~~Elect~~ shall also act as editor of the YLS newsletter, Inter Alia, perform the duties assigned by the Chairperson in planning and coordinating the projects and activities of the YLS and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office. A person elected Chairperson-Elect may automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson, even if he/she does not meet the age requirement for YLS membership, and that person shall be deemed a member of the YLS during the term of office as Chairperson. In anticipation of the Chairperson-Elect succeeding to the office of Chairperson at the annual Council meeting, the Council member seat occupied by the
SECTION 5. ~~The Vice-Chairperson-Elect shall be filled by election prior to the annual Council meeting.~~

SECTION 5. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records of meetings of the Council and the YLS, shall preside at meetings of the Council in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Chairperson-~~Elect~~, ~~shall, unless the Council directs otherwise, act as editor of the YLS newsletter, Inter Alia-Elect~~, and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office.

SECTION 6. TREASURER. The ~~Secretary~~-Treasurer ~~shall keep all minutes and records of meetings of the Council and the YLS~~, shall maintain current information as to the financial affairs of the YLS, and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office.

SECTION 7. RETIRING CHAIRPERSON AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER. The immediate past Chairperson shall be an exofficio member of the Council for the following year, with all voting rights. All other past Chairpersons shall be honorary members of the Council for advisory purposes but without the right to vote.

SECTION 8. ELIGIBILITY. No person shall be eligible to hold office unless, at the time he/she is appointed or elected, that person is a member of the YLS. No person shall hold the same elective office for two consecutive ~~full~~ terms.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL. The Council or YLS may, by a two-thirds vote, remove or discharge an officer.

Article 5

DUTIES AND POWERS OF COUNCIL

SECTION 1. POWERS. There shall be a Council for the YLS which shall be its final policy-making body. The Council shall advise and aid the Chairperson and perform other acts as provided in these bylaws.

SECTION 2. MEMBERS. The Council shall be composed of not more than 23 members, ~~including namely, the officers~~ Chairperson, elected or appointed council members; ~~(which includes the Chairperson-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer)~~, the immediate past Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Law Student Section. ~~There shall be 23 Council members only when all other positions are filled and the provisions of Section 5 below are applicable.~~

SECTION 3. NOMINATIONS, ELECTION PROCEDURES. ~~To be nominated, a Council members~~ member shall ~~be nominated by written file a petition filed~~ signed by at least 5 persons entitled to vote for the nominee with the Secretary ~~during the month of [] signed by five or more YLS members eligible to vote in the district for which the nomination was made.~~ his or her designee between April 1 and April 30. Only members of the YLS eligible to vote in the district they are to represent and who consent to their candidacy in writing may be nominated to serve as Council ~~member.~~ members. The Secretary shall cause to be published ~~in the issue of Inter Alia last published~~ and mailed prior to the end of the month of ~~[]~~ April in each year an announcement of the vacancies to be filled on the Council, the month during which nominations may be filed, and a form of petition for the nomination of Council members. Nominations may be made on such forms, but nominations in any other form of petition which complies with these bylaws shall be deemed sufficient. ~~Ballots shall be mailed by [] to all YLS members at their address of record on file with the State Bar as of [] and must be returned to the State Bar office postmarked by [].~~ The address of record of each YLS member which is on file with the State Bar as of ~~[]~~ April of the election year shall determine eligibility for all election purposes. ~~All ballots~~ A ballot shall be voted for ~~a maximum of~~ the number of candidates selected on the ballot, but in no event shall the number of candidates selected on the ballot exceed the maximum number of vacancies to be filled in ~~each~~ the district ~~and a minimum of [] less than such number to which the YLS member is eligible to vote.~~ No ballot shall be counted which does not comply with this requirement. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote, the tellers shall determine the successful candidate by lot.

SECTION 4. ELECTION DISTRICTS, REAPPORTIONMENT, TERM. There shall be three council election districts comprised as indicated: District 1 - YLS members in Macomb and Wayne Counties; District 2 - YLS members in Oakland County; District 3 - YLS members not in District 1 or District 2. A YLS member is a member of the district which corresponds with the member's address on record with the State Bar of Michigan. As of the reapportionment for election districts held in advance of the elections held in 2010, District 1 shall be entitled to elect ~~six~~ a total of 5 Council members. ~~Districts, District 2 and 3 shall each be entitled to elect seven~~ a total of 7 Council members and District 3 shall be entitled to elect a total of 8 Council members. Every six years the Council shall review election Districts and report to the State Bar Board of Commissioners whether or not a reapportionment of Districts is necessary, and, if so, shall submit a proposed reapportionment plan, which upon adoption shall govern subsequent elections without the need to revise these bylaws. One-half of the number of Council members to which each District is entitled shall be elected each year to staggered two-year terms, including those elected in the year first following enactment of these bylaws provisions. Elected Council members shall take office at the close of the annual YLS meeting following their election and shall, together with Council members whose terms continue, convene the annual Council meeting.

~~SECTION 5. The Chairperson Elect shall not stand for election but shall be declared automatically elected for a term of one year which shall be necessary for fulfillment of his/her duties as Chairperson unless he/she shall have such tenure remaining as an elected officer.~~

~~SECTION 6. The retiring Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of the Council with all voting rights. SPECIAL MEETINGS. All other past Chairpersons shall be honorary members of the Council for advisory purposes but without the right to vote.~~

~~SECTION 7. The elected members of the Council shall take office at the annual meeting of the YLS and shall meet immediately thereafter. At said time, the Chairperson shall complete appointments of the remaining members of the Council and then proceed to the election of officers.~~ Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, either upon his/her own initiative or upon written request of two-thirds of the Council and shall be held at the time and place designated by the Chairperson.

SECTION 8.6. QUORUM. A quorum of the Council shall consist of a majority of its members. Members shall attend meetings in person, unless the Chairperson permits a member to attend by videoconference or by telephone. The decisions of the Council shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum exists. In the event that a quorum is not present at any meeting, the members present may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present, and their acts shall become effective when and if enough absent members ratify them in writing, in addition to those present, to constitute a majority of the Council. Upon prior consent of the Chairperson, any action that may be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting and determined by a majority vote of members via electronic means.

SECTION 9.7. ABSENCES. If a Council member ~~does not attend~~ is absent for two consecutive meetings of the Council without having been excused by the Chairperson, or three meetings during the course of the Bar year for any reason, the Chairperson ~~shall~~ may declare the seat of that Council member vacant and fill the vacancy as provided for in Article 4, section 3.

Article 6

ANNUAL MEETING

SECTION 1. YLS ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the YLS shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the State Bar.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING. The annual meeting of the Council shall be held on the same date and at the same place as the annual YLS meeting and shall convene immediately following the annual YLS meeting.

SECTION 3. AGENDAS. At such meetings, the order of business ~~shall be as follows~~ include the following:

ANNUAL YLS MEETINGS:

1. Opening remarks by Chairperson.
2. Report of Secretary.-
3. Reports of standing committees.
4. Reports of special committees.-
5. New business, special address, etc.-
6. Report of the Secretary of results of Council election.

7. Other business

8. Adjourn

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Appointment of Council vacancies by Chairperson–
and approval by Council.
2. Assumption of office of Chairperson by Chairperson-Elect–
, assumption of Chairperson-Elect by Secretary, and assumption of Secretary by Treasurer.
3. Election of ~~remaining officers~~Treasurer and any other officer positions that have not been assumed.

SECTION 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Ballots for Treasurer and any other officer positions that have not been assumed shall be canvassed by a committee of tellers appointed by the Chairperson.

No proxy voting shall be permitted in any election for officers of the YLS.

Officers shall be elected by a majority of votes cast among the Council members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the tellers appointed by the Chairperson shall determine the successful candidate by lot. In the event of an uncontested election, a candidate's election may be confirmed by acclamation.

SECTION 5. DISPUTED ELECTIONS: In the event an election is disputed, a written petition shall be transmitted to the Chairperson within ten days, who shall preside over a special meeting of the Council. The determination of the Council shall be final, subject to a right of appeal to the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Article 7**COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1. STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES. The Chairperson shall have power to create and appoint such standing committees and other committees as he/she may deem necessary or which are recommended or created by the Council. The Council shall have the authority to create special committees upon majority vote of the Council.

SECTION 2. APPOINTING MEMBERS. The Chairperson shall have power to remove any member of any committee upon written notice and upon such removal, the Chairperson or the committee chair shall immediately fill the vacancy so created.

SECTION 3. DUTIES AND POWERS. Each committee shall have the right and duty to perform the functions suggested by its title, and such other functions and duties as shall be assigned by the Chairperson or Council. At present and subject to this bylaw, the standing committees are:

A. INTER ALIA COMMITTEE. The Inter Alia Committee shall be led by the Chairperson-Elect, and shall be responsible for collecting content for and publishing the YLS Newsletter, Inter Alia. The Chairperson-Elect shall name all other committee members and assign tasks.

B. MEDIA/MARKETING RELATIONS. The Media/Marketing Relations Committee shall be established and shall be responsible for maintaining the YLS webpage, marketing and promotional materials, protocol regarding the YLS listserv, and initiating and maintaining any other media and/or marketing relations items. The Chairperson shall appoint a chair for the Media/Marketing Relations Committee, who will name all other committee members and assign tasks.

C. DIVERSITY. The Diversity Committee shall be established and shall be responsible for promoting diversity, including initiating ideas for projects to promote diversity. The Chairperson shall appoint a chair for the Diversity Committee, who will name all other committee members and assign tasks.

Article 8**RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS. These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members of the YLS present and voting at any ~~annual meeting, of the YLS, provided such proposed amendment was first submitted to the Council for its recommendation; and further, that no~~ such amendment shall be effective ~~upon approval until approved~~ by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar. After approved by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar, any amendments to these Bylaws shall become effective at the first meeting of the following Bar year.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURES. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Council by any member of the YLS in time for it to be considered by the Council at or before the last regular Council meeting before a meeting of the YLS (either the annual meeting or other meeting of the YLS) at which it is to be voted upon. The Council shall consider the proposed amendment at said regular meeting, and shall prepare recommendations thereon, which recommendations, together with a complete and accurate text of said proposed amendment, shall be published in the ~~Michigan Bar Journal~~ or ~~Inter Alia~~, at least thirty days prior to the ~~annual~~ meeting of the YLS at which it is to be voted upon.

Created 1940 as "Junior Bar"

Name changed to "Young Lawyers in 1960"

Current as of 3/008/11

“*Milliken v. Bradley*—Desegregation, Busing, and Boundaries” is State Bar’s 36th Michigan Legal Milestone

Milliken v. Bradley, a historic 1974 United States Supreme Court case that addressed a plan for desegregation of schools and busing in Detroit and its suburbs, will be the subject of the State Bar’s 36th Michigan Legal Milestone.

A panel of speakers with diverse viewpoints will reflect on the significance of the case and its continuing impact on schools in southeastern Michigan and across the nation at a dedication ceremony and luncheon at noon Friday, September 16 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. The event will be held in conjunction with the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting.

In its decision the Supreme Court rejected inter-district school busing as a solution to the segregation of Detroit schools and found that there was no evidence that the multiple districts outside Detroit had deliberately engaged in a policy of segregation. This verdict, based on a controversial 5-4 decision, came four years after a class-action lawsuit was filed against the state by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on behalf of parents of students in the Detroit school system. They alleged that the district was racially segregated due to official policies, and that this violated the principles of the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

A bronze plaque outlining the issues in “*Milliken v. Bradley*: Desegregation, Busing, and Boundaries” will be unveiled at the end of the ceremony and will later be installed at a suitable location. SBM President W. Anthony Jenkins and SBM Executive Director Janet Welch will share the duties of master of ceremonies.

Speakers include:

- Joyce Baugh, Central Michigan University Political Science professor and author of “The Detroit School Busing Case: *Milliken v. Bradley* and the Controversy over Desegregation”
- Thomas M. Costello Jr., Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion president/CEO
- Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones, former NAACP general counsel, argued the case at the U.S. Supreme Court
- Frank J. Kelley, former Michigan attorney general, argued the case at the U.S. Supreme Court
- Prof. John Mogk, former Detroit Board of Education member, Wayne State University Law School professor emeritus
- Daniel R. Ray, Thomas M. Cooley Law School professor
- George T. Roumell, Jr., former Detroit Board of Education attorney, argued the case when it returned to the Supreme Court in 1977. Mr. Roumell founded the Michigan Legal Milestones program.

For more information please contact SBM Media and Public Relations Manager Naseem Stecker at (517) 367-6428 or nstecker@mail.michbar.org. More information about the Michigan Legal Milestones program can be found at <http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm>.

Choose Law: A Profession for All

By Alexandra Nassar

In 2006 the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division developed and implemented a program aimed at educating minority children in school about lawyers and the legal profession, and to encourage them to consider a career in the legal profession. As young lawyers we are uniquely qualified to connect with the youth of our communities and help promote diversity in the legal profession.

America was built on diversity. Americans have many faces and ethnic backgrounds, and our differences need to be reflected in all aspects of professional life. The legal profession and the organizations representing attorneys, such as the American Bar Association and state and local bar associations, strongly encourage diversity in the legal profession for many reasons. It is only by supporting diversity within the legal profession that we can ensure that society provides American people with laws that apply equally to all regardless of race, gender, and ethnicity. The face of the legal profession needs to match the face of the people it serves in order to serve them equally. We have a long way to go before the diversity among practicing attorneys and law firm partners is reflective of the diversity of our overall population. The profession is committed to closing the gap that exists, and recognizes that the first step toward attaining that goal is to increase diversity among students who identify the law as a career choice.

Young people today see a variety of programs on television depicting lawyers as dynamic characters, either righteous and principled, ruthless and Machiavellian, by-the-book sticklers, or envelope-pushing rogues. Many children have never personally met a lawyer. This project puts us face-to-face with children in schools and gives them an opportunity to meet real people who



have selected law as a profession. It gives students an opportunity to understand why we chose law as a profession and explore the idea of becoming a lawyer. The project highlights different areas of the law, different careers, and different minorities represented in the profession.

On June 3, 2011, representatives of our division, Heather V. Burnash, an associate at Simon Figura and Parker PLC; Torchio W. Feaster, an up-and-coming criminal defense attorney in the Flint community; and Alexandra Nassar, an estate planning attorney and Young Lawyers Council member, visited Doyle Ryder Elementary in Flint to complete Flint's first Choose Law program. The students were inquisitive and engaged with the presenters. They asked probing questions about the presenters' personal experiences and posed interesting hypothetical scenarios. The children were surprised by the career paths available to law school graduates and wanted to learn more about different areas of the law. Although the program lasted approximately two hours, the students could have taken an entire day just to ask questions. The interest and participation by the students leads me to believe that this program really works and can be a rewarding experience for everyone involved. If you are interested in promoting diversity in the legal profession and would like to participate as a presenter at one of these events in your community, please contact me, Alexandra Nassar, at anas-sar@shaheenpc.com.

Members of the Young Lawyers Section Lead State Bar of Michigan Professionalism in Action Orientation at Cooley Law School College Pre-Law Summer Institute

By Dionnie Wynter



On Thursday, June 30, members of the Young Lawyers Section helped close out the Cooley Law School's month long College Pre Law Summer Institute (CPSI) by replicating the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Professionalism in Action Orientation.

A partnership of Cooley Law School, Oakland University, and the American Bar Association's Council of Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), the CPSI offered students an opportunity to study the critical thinking skills necessary to succeed on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and in law school. The purpose of the intensive, pre-law program was to help diversify America's next generation of lawyers.

The CPSI included 20 college students from seven states and one Canadian province, representing sixteen undergraduate institutions. Through the CPSI, college sophomores and juniors were able to build skills in logic, critical reasoning, legal writing, and many other areas. College sophomores and juniors interested in law careers received over 90 hours of free law school and LSAT preparation.

In keeping with Cooley's commitment to Knowledge, Skills and Ethics, the SBM Professionalism Orientation was replicated. This orientation is typically given to first year law students – but was appropriate for this group. The SBM's Professionalism Orientation was initiated at the suggestion of former State Bar President Edward Pappas, and is geared toward introducing future attorneys to the importance of ethics and professionalism.

At the Professionalism Orientation, the students were broken into small groups. They were then presented with different fact patterns which ranged from plagiarism to the importance of pro bono work. The discussions were led by members of the Young Lawyers Section, along with current Cooley students.

Most importantly, the students walked away from the orientation with an understanding of both the potential ethical conflicts they might face and the importance of ethics and professionalism to the legal profession.

Wills for Heros Programs Continue to Help Michigan First Responders

By Carlos Escurel



On August 20 and 27, 2011, the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council will participate in two Wills for Heroes programs at the North Oakland County Fire Authority in Holly, Michigan, and the Delta Township Fire Department in Lansing, Michigan. We are currently looking for volunteer attorneys to assist us with these events. There is no requirement that the volunteer have any estate planning or previous experience drafting wills. Please contact Carlos Escurel at carlos_escurel@hotmail.com or (313) 465-8892 if you are interested in volunteering for an upcoming event, or if you are interested in bringing this program to your community.

The Wills for Heroes program was started by Anthony Hayes, a South Carolina attorney, shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The Wills for Heroes programs are designed to protect our “heroes” and their families by providing them with a free, simple, and basic estate plan. Since 2001, the program has been presented in over 20 states, and has provided over 8,000 free estate planning documents to first responders. In 2008, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) adopted Wills for Heroes as its national public service project, and the SBM YLS is proud to bring this program to Michigan. According to the Wills for Heroes Foundation, an overwhelmingly large number of first responders—approximately 80–90 percent—do not even have simple wills, despite the inherently dangerous nature of their jobs.

Social Skills Series I: Pool Night—Suits Optional

By Bonnie Shaw



The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Washtenaw Chapter co-sponsored the program “Social Skills Series I: Pool Night—Suits Optional.” The event took place at Sticks in Ypsilanti and was well attended. Pool aficionado James Tuttle provided lawyers with one-on-one tips and advice on how to play pool and/or improve their pool game. The event was spearheaded by Young Lawyers Section Executive Council member Bonnie Shaw and Women Lawyers Association members Dianna Collins, Karen Fields, and Elizabeth Jolliffe. The organizers came up with the idea for the event in a brainstorming session during which lawyers shared the desire to learn how to play certain sports and partake in certain activities that would increase their networking opportunities. Given the overwhelming success of this event, the event organizers are planning a second social skills series event that will focus on another social skill to help lawyers network with clients, potential clients, and other lawyers.



Laura Sagolla, Rosemary Frenza, Bonnie Shaw, and John Reiser



Fawn Montgomery, Dianna Collins, Amy Reiser, and Karen Field

2011 European Young Bar Association Annual Meeting

By James Low

Earlier this year, I was privileged to be invited by the president of the European Young Bar Association to attend their Conference and Annual General Meeting in Barcelona, Spain as an American Representative. The European Young Bar Association (EYBA) is a non-profit, multinational young lawyers association founded in 1993. The group now represents the interests of over 200,000 young lawyers and is the world's largest young lawyers group. The conference is analogous to the American Bar Association's annual meeting, and the events spanned three days. This was my sixth time attending an EYBA conference, as in the past I have attended conferences in Paris, Brussels, London, and Belfast, as well as a previous conference in Barcelona.

I, along with the European Young Bar Association executive committee, and delegations from Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Latvia, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Italy, France, Greece, Canada, and the Netherlands attended the events and enjoyed the hospitality of the Grup d'Advocats Joves de Barcelona (the Barcelona Young Lawyers Association) during our stay.

On the first night of the conference, we attended a welcome reception at the beautiful II-lustre Col·legi d'Advocats de Barcelona (Barcelona Bar Association) building. During the reception, local and foreign colleagues were addressed by the President of the Barcelona Bar Association, and the councilor of the Catalan Government. The speeches were followed by a cocktail and canapé reception on the Barcelona Bar Association's stunning rooftop terrace. One might imagine that only in Spain would a Bar Association have a rooftop terrace at its headquarters.

The second day of the program featured continuing legal education topics that would be recognizable to any American lawyer, including "The Lawyer's Role in Mediation" and "The Three Pillars of Legal Ethics: Independence, Attorney-client Privilege, and Loyalty." The programming was followed by a late lunch at La Fonda del Port Olímpic that featured an amazing paella. After lunch, we were given a private tour of the Tribunal Superior de Justícia de Catalunya (High Court of Justice of Catalonia) including the trial and appellate courts. That evening featured an informal dinner at the trendy Shôko restaurant and nightclub on Barcelona's beachfront, with dancing late into the night.

On our third day in Barcelona, the EYBA held its annual business meeting and officer elections. At the formal close of business, many of the conference attendees took the rest of the day to enjoy Barcelona's wonderful weather and amazing beaches. That evening, the EYBA held a black-tie gala at the five-star Hotel Palace. The party, dancing, and conversation went on into the early hours when attending guests said their good-byes. It was great to see my colleagues from overseas once again. The more time that I spend with my foreign colleagues, the more it is clear that our similarities far outweigh our differences.



Save the Dates

Wills for Heroes

August 20, 2011

Delta Township Fire Department, Lansing, MI

Please contact Carlos Escurel at carlos_escurel@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Summer Splash 2011

August 25, 2011 from 6:00-9:00pm

Tre Monti Ristorante, Troy, MI

Cost: a donation to benefit the Helping Families Cope Program

Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided

Please contact Jenna Huskinson to RSVP at cle@ocba.org

Wills for Heroes

August 27, 2011

North Oakland County Fire Authority, Holly, MI

Please contact Carlos Escurel at carlos_escurel@hotmail.com to volunteer.

State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting - YLS Business Meeting

September 15, 2011 at 9:30am

Hyatt Regency – Dearborn, MI

For more information please

visit www.michbar.org/annualmeeting.cfm



Visit michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm or facebook.com/sbmyls for more information about upcoming YLS events.