

# Inter Alia

*Among Other Things*

Winter 2016

[www.michiganyounglawyers.com](http://www.michiganyounglawyers.com)

## Council Officers

### *Chairperson*

Mark W. Jane

### *Chairperson-Elect*

Shenique A. Moss

### *Secretary*

Syeda F. Davidson

### *Treasurer*

Kara R. Hart-Negrich

## Council

Elizabeth K. Abdnour

Matthew P. Breuer

Jerome Crawford

Tanya N. Cripps

Jade J. Edwards

Stephanie E. Farkas

Zachary Hallman

Aysha J. Kasham

Amy M. Krieg

Laura M. Kubit

Samantha J. Orvis

Ryan C. Plecha

Choi T. Portis

Colemon L. Potts

Roberta L. Sacharski

Jihan M.R. Williams

Ryan Zemke

### *Law Student*

### *Section Chair*

Aaron Sohaski

### *Ex Officio*

Andrea Irons

## Letter from the Chair



Mark Jane

Butzel Long  
301 East Liberty Street  
Suite 500  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
P: (734) 995-3110  
E: [mwjane1980@yahoo.com](mailto:mwjane1980@yahoo.com)

I'm writing this letter just a few days following a very productive annual planning retreat for the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section (SBM YLS) Council in Detroit. Over the course of an entire Saturday, the members of the SBM YLS Council discussed big picture ideas for the coming year, including our continued hosting of the National Trial Advocacy Competition and planning the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Lawyers Summit. By the way, a special thanks to Jerome Crawford, Samantha Orvis, and Laura Kubit is in order for an outstanding job shepherding the planning and administration of the 2015 National Trial Advocacy Competition, which was the first year the SBM YLS handled such duties.

The part of the retreat I was personally most proud of was the enthusiasm the SBM YLS Council displayed when I announced our goal of hosting a program/event in several Michigan regions. I cannot wait for us to bring the amazing projects that the SBM YLS Council tirelessly works on to the doorstep of the SBM YLS members. Our hope this year is to bring at least one program to the following regions:

- Wayne County
- Oakland County
- Macomb County
- Washtenaw/Livingston/Jackson Counties
- Kent/Ottawa Counties
- Ingham/Eaton/Clinton Counties
- Cheboygan/Emmet Counties
- Grand Traverse County
- Saginaw/Bay/Midland Counties
- Kalamazoo/Calhoun Counties
- Genesee County

If you have ideas for specific programs you would like to see hosted by SBM YLS in your area, do not hesitate to pass your suggestion on to me. In addition, if you reside or practice in an area not listed, please reach out to me and let me know programs of interest to you in your locale. The SBM YLS Council is eager to meet all of you!

Regards,  
Mark

## Meet Your 2015-2016 Young Lawyer's Section Executive Council



Mark W. Jane

### **Chair: Mark W. Jane (Ann Arbor)**

Mark W. Jane is a senior attorney in the Ann Arbor office of Butzel Long. He practices employee benefits and executive compensation, primarily counseling businesses regarding legal compliance issues underlying the creation and ongoing maintenance of retirement and welfare plans.

Mark is the chair of the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section and has a corresponding seat on the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners. He is also the secretary of the Washtenaw County Bar Association.

Mr. Jane received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, the State Bar of California, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

### **Chair Elect: Shenique A. Moss (Lansing)**

Shenique A. Moss is an assistant attorney general in the Finance Division of the Michigan Department of Attorney General. In her current position, she focuses on public finance, investment law, and securities law.

In addition to serving as the chair-elect of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Young Lawyers Section, Shenique is a member of the SBM District E Character and Fitness and Diversity and Inclusion Advisory committees. She is also involved in the American Bar Association (ABA), where she serves as the ABA Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) clerk and co-chair of the ABA YLD Fall 2016 Conference (Detroit). Locally, she served as the 2012-2013 president of the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and is a board member of the Ingham County Bar Foundation.

Shenique is admitted to practice law in Michigan, the United States Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, and the United States Tax Court.

Shenique attended Wayne State University for her undergraduate studies and graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School with her Juris Doctor and LLM. She is also an American Bar Foundation Fellow, an ABA Business Law Section Fellow (2014-2016 class), a 2014 Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy Fellow, and a 2010 Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellow. Shenique was named as one of the Ingham County Bar Association's 2015 Top 5 Under 35 (yrs. of age) attorneys.

### **Secretary: Syeda F. Davidson (Clinton Township)**

Syeda Davidson is an associate attorney at Burgess Sharp & Golden, PLLC, where her practice is concentrated on employment and civil rights matters. Prior to that, she was a staff attorney at Lakeshore Legal Aid, where she represented low-income survivors of domestic violence in civil proceedings. Syeda received her juris doctor, cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2008. She has since held numerous leadership positions with the Oakland County Bar Association, where she has chaired the Law-Related Education Committee and the P.A.L.S. (Providing Access to Legal Services) Committee. She is the immediate past-chair of the New Lawyers Committee. Nationally, Syeda is a managing editor for the American Bar Association's publication, TYL. Syeda is active with organizations outside of the practice of law as well. She serves on the Board of Directors for Affirmations, a community center focused on LGBT education and advocacy in Ferndale, Michigan, and Detroit Together Men's Chorus. She is also active with the American Civil Liberties Union. Syeda's hobbies include aerial acrobatics and playing the bass guitar. She resides in Berkley, Michigan, with her husband, Mark, and their cat, Kitty Cat.



Syeda F. Davidson



Kara Hart-Negrich

**Treasurer: Kara R. Hart-Negrich (Lansing)**

Kara Hart-Negrich took over for the deputy director and general counsel to the Michigan State Land Bank Fast Track Authority in early 2014.

She attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Wayne State University Law School. She passed the bar in 2010 and joined the YLS Council in 2011.

Kara lives and works in Lansing.



Andrea Irons

**Immediate Past Chair: Andrea Irons (Clinton Township)**

Andrea Irons is a solo practitioner specializing in criminal defense primarily in Macomb County. She is also an assistant township attorney for the Charter Township of Clinton with her of counsel position at Towner & Towner, P.C. Andrea received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Grand Valley State University and her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She is immediate past chair of the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section. She previously served as chair of the Macomb County Young Lawyers Section. Andrea is also very involved in her community, working with groups such as the Clinton Township Goodfellows, the Century Club, and the Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise Committee. With her positions on the SBM Young Lawyers Council and in the community Andrea has participated in and helped plan several events and fundraisers that have benefited the local communities.

**District 1 (Macomb and Wayne Counties)**

**Zachary Hallman (Clinton Township)**

Zachary Hallman is an associate attorney at Burgess Sharp & Golden, PLLC, where his practice focuses on employment and civil rights matters. Zach graduated from Oakland University with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts where he majored in both political science and journalism. He attended the University of Illinois College of Law for his juris doctor. While in law school, Zach was licensed under Illinois Supreme Court rule 711. In his third year, he worked at the Domestic Violence Clinic of the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Office in Champaign, Illinois.



Zachary Hallman

**Colemon L. Potts (Detroit)**

Colemon Potts is an associate attorney at the Detroit Law Group, PLLC where he has a litigation practice. Colemon received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Georgia State University and his juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. While in law school, Colemon interned with the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project (M.I.U.I.), and clerked for a state court judge in Atlanta, Georgia.

In his spare time, Colemon enjoys traveling.



Colemon L. Potts

**Jihan Williams (Detroit)**

Jihan Williams is a member of the Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution and Municipal Law and Finance practice groups at Bodman PLC. She represents clients involved in complex commercial litigation matters and serves as the Grosse Pointe Park city attorney for 2015.

Jihan received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Notre Dame Law School. In addition to the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section, Jihan is also a director on the Oakland County Bar Association's New Lawyer's Committee, and the chair of the Wolverine Bar Association's 2015 Law Student Reception Committee.



Jihan Williams



Ryan Zemke

**Ryan Zemke (Utica)**

Ryan Zemke is a solo practitioner in Macomb County focusing primarily on criminal defense. He currently serves as defense counsel for the 41B Drug & Sobriety Court in Clinton Township. He is also the president of H.E.A.L—a non-profit charity which provides support to drug/sobriety courts. Ryan is on the Board of Directors of Families Against Narcotics (FAN) and was also appointed to a three-year term on the Macomb County Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Board. He was recently elected as a council member for the State Bar of Michigan Criminal Law Section. Ryan is serving his second year on the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, he has been involved with the Macomb County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, and currently serves as the chair-elect of the MCBA YLS Board of Directors.

Ryan completed his undergraduate studies at Michigan State University where he received a degree in political theory and constitutional democracy. He continued his studies at Thomas M. Cooley Law School where he graduated as part of the Clark J. Adams Class of 2008.

**District 2 (Oakland County)**

**Matthew P. Breuer (Bloomfield Hills)**



Matthew P. Breuer

Matthew Breuer is an associate at Cendrowski Corporate Advisors, LLC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He joined the firm in 2012 and has worked in the firm’s transactional and advisory services sector representing clients in corporate, private equity, banking, and nonprofit industries. Matthew received his bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan and his law degree from Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan. Admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in November 2012, Matthews also belongs to the Oakland County Bar Association and the American Bar Association Business Law Section.

He has been an active member of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council since 2013 serving as a District 2 representative. Matthew has authored articles appearing in the *Michigan Defense Quarterly*, *Chicago Law Bulletin*, *Smart Business Chicago*, *The Value Examiner*, and other publications. In addition, he was a contributor to several prior Wiley publications, including *Cloud Computing and Electronic Discovery*; *Private Equity: History, Governance and Operations*; and *The Handbook of Fraud Deterrence*.

**Jerome Crawford (Troy)**



Jerome Crawford

Jerome Crawford is an associate attorney at Dickinson Wright PLLC. His practice focuses primarily on the areas of entertainment law, sports law commercial litigation, intellectual property (copyright and trademark law), corporate, and information technology. A native Detroit, Jerome spent his entire educational tenure in the state of Michigan, attending Renaissance High School and Michigan State University for both undergrad and law school. During law school, he served in numerous roles including vice president of the Black Law Students Association for two years, director of entertainment for the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and executive director of the trial side of Moot Court and Trial Advocacy Board.

In addition to his practice, Jerome is a member of the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, serves as secretary for the Wolverine Bar Association, and sits on the Board of Directors for the MSU College of Law Alumni Association. He is also an Executive Council member of both the SBM Arts, Communications, Entertainment, and Sports Section (ACES) and the SBM Young Lawyers Section. Since 2014, Jerome has served as a member of the State Bar of Michigan’s Character and Fitness Committee for District I as well. On a national scale, Jerome previously was a member of the ABA Scholars Program for the 2014-2015 bar year. Most recently, he was appointed as vice chair for the ABA Young Lawyers Division’s Entertainment and Sports Industry Committee and as a member of the Affiliate Assistance Team. Finally, Jerome is treasurer of Greater Loving Word Church International and a brother of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.





Tanya N. Cripps

**Tanya N. Cripps (Auburn Hills)**

Tanya Cripps is the operations manager of Corporate Real Estate for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Tanya works on lease transactions, dispositions, acquisitions, and condemnations; aids in the strategic development of corporate real estate; and manages the work flow of corporate real estate transactions.

Tanya has served on the executive council for the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section since 2013. She is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan Real Property Law Section, the American Bar Association, and the Oakland County Bar Association where she serves on the board of directors for the New Lawyers Committee.

Tanya received her law degree from Western Michigan University Law School with a concentration in business transactions. Her undergraduate degree is from Grand Valley State University, with a major in finance and economics.

In her spare time, Tanya enjoys traveling and running.



Stephanie E. Farkas

**Stephanie E. Farkas (Bloomfield Hills)**

Stephanie Farkas is an Associate Attorney at the Law Offices of Shannon M. Smith, P.C. She previously ran her own practice where she focused on criminal, appellate, and family law matters. She also worked as a legal assistant at the State Appellate Defender Office while attending law school. Stephanie received her juris doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School and her bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University in political theory and constitutional democracy. Stephanie is licensed to practice in all Michigan state courts as well as the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Stephanie has attended the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan Trial College and continues to participate in various continuing legal education trainings. Stephanie also serves on the Executive Council of the Criminal Law Section.



Samantha J. Orvis

**Samantha J. Orvis (Troy)**

Samantha Orvis is employed with Collins Einhorn Farrell P.C. as an attorney in the General and Automotive Liability practice group. Samantha's practice focuses on the defense of first- and third-party automobile litigation. Her background includes defending a wide range of matters, including general liability, commercial liability, premises liability, and various other forms of personal injury claims. Samantha serves as an Executive Council member representing Oakland County in the State Bar of Michigan's Young Lawyers Section and she also serves on the Representative Assembly for the State Bar of Michigan. Samantha continues her service to the bar as an Executive Board member for the Women's Bar Association, the Oakland County region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. She is presently the recording secretary. In past years, she has served as the communications secretary and WLAM representative. In 2014, Samantha was selected for the class of "Up and Coming Lawyers" by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, which honors legal practitioners who are establishing a name for themselves, go above and beyond, and display the ambition, drive, determination and accomplishments that set them apart among their peers in their first 10 years in practice.

Samantha is a member of the Board of Directors for New Gateways, Inc., a non-profit organization that enriches life for adults with mild to severe multiple developmental disabilities by offering choices and community involvement. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, which was founded to protect the world's greatest freshwater resource and the communities that depend upon it. Samantha earned her law degree cum laude from Wayne State University Law School in 2011, where she served as a member of the school's Student Board of Governors as well as on the Student Trial Advocacy team. She earned her bachelor of arts (with high honors) from the University of Michigan—Flint in 2008. Samantha annually volunteers to serve as a judge for the Michigan Center for Civic Education's high school mock trial competition. She recently began mentoring law students at her alma mater, Wayne State University Law School, through the mentor match program. Samantha is also an active volunteer with PAWS Animal Rescue, a non-profit organization that is passionately dedicated to saving abused, neglected and abandoned animals.



Ryan C. Plecha

**Ryan C. Plecha (Birmingham)**

Ryan is a partner at Lippitt O’Keefe Gornbein, PPLC where his practice focuses on both civil and commercial litigation. Based on the boutique nature of Lippitt O’Keefe Gornbein, most cases Ryan works on are complex and unique. Throughout Ryan’s career he has been involved in many high-stake and complex matters. A few of the most interesting cases include representation of two major retiree associations in the Detroit bankruptcy case; representation of a Michigan corporation in a multimillion dollar federal antitrust class action suit; representation of a big three automotive company in supplier disputes; representation of two hedge funds in a class action shareholder oppression case; and participation in prosecution of FLSA class action on behalf of employees of Michigan Department of Corrections.

Through being a part of such exciting cases, Ryan has participated in a mock trial, been part of a team that drafted a request for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States, and was recently interviewed by the press for print, radio and television.

Ryan has recently been recognized as a “Rising Star” by *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2013-15), an “Up and Coming Lawyer” by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* (2014), a “Top Young Lawyer” by *dbusiness Magazine* (2015), winner of the Barristers President’s Award by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (2015) and as a one of the “40 Under 40” by *Crains Business Detroit* (2015). Ryan has been on the YLS council since 2013.



Choi T. Portis

**Choi T. Portis (Bingham Farms)**

Choi T. Portis is an associate attorney at Rausch, Sturm, Israel, Enerson, & Hornik, LLC in Bingham Farms, Michigan. In her current position, she practices debt collection litigation. In addition to serving as an executive council member for the Young Lawyers Section, Choi serves as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division District representative for District 20 (Michigan).

Choi is admitted to practice law in Michigan and the United States Eastern District of Michigan. Choi attended Eastern Michigan University for her undergraduate studies and graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School with her juris doctor degree.

**District 3 (all other Counties)**

**Liz Abdnour (East Lansing)**



Liz Abdnour

Liz Abdnour is an institutional equity coordinator at Michigan State University, where she investigates allegations of Title IX violations, discrimination, and harassment within the MSU community and provides training and policy guidance on sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and civil rights issues. She previously worked as a legal aid attorney in Lansing and Cincinnati providing representation to low-income individuals in civil matters.

Liz serves on the SBM Standing Committee on Domestic Violence and the board of the Firecracker Foundation, a Lansing area nonprofit organization which provides therapy and services to child survivors of sexual trauma. She also volunteers her time as a pro bono attorney.

Liz earned her bachelor’s degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University and her law degree from New York University.

**Jade J. Edwards (Burton)**



Jade J. Edwards

Jade J. Edwards is principal at The Law Office of JJ Edwards PLLC. She is a graduate of University of Michigan (Flint) and Michigan State University College of Law.

Jade is a member of the Genesee County Bar Association, the Centennial Inns of Court, and the Malloryi-Scott-VanDyne Bar Association.

Prior to being elected to the YLS Executive Council, Jade received the YLS’s 2009 Regeana Myrick *Outstanding Young Lawyer* of the Year Award.



Aysha J. Kasham

**Aysha J. Kasham (Ann Arbor)**

Aysha J. Kasham is principal and founder of AJK Law, PLLC. Born and raised in Ann Arbor, MI, she is first generation born American. Aysha earned her doctor of jurisprudence with honors from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2008 and her bachelor's degree in economics from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI in 2001.

Aysha's practice includes all aspects of U.S. family and employment based immigration, including nonimmigrant and immigrant visas, labor certification and permanent residence, citizenship, LCA and I-9 compliance for corporate clients, in a wide variety of industries. Aysha gained significant experience in immigration law while completing coursework with the UDM Immigration Law Clinic and clerkship for Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc.

Prior to establishing the law firm of AJK Law, PLLC, Aysha practiced as corporate counsel in corporate settings assisting a diverse range of clients across many different industries, including universities and research institutions, automotive manufacturing/suppliers, philanthropic organizations, information technology and contingent labor workforce.

Aysha is a member of the Washtenaw Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, American Immigration Lawyers, Association of Corporate Counsel, and the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce. She is an active member of the community and in her free time enjoys running, traveling, yoga and teaching ESL. She is fluent in English, Arabic and Spanish.



Amy Krieg

**Amy Krieg (Brighton)**

Amy Krieg grew up in Michigan and obtained her BA from Albion College, where she studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. She attended law school at California Western School of Law in San Diego and then practiced for a short time in Las Vegas, Nevada doing insurance defense. She then returned to her hometown of Brighton to serve the local community as a general practice attorney at Burchfield, Park & Pollesch, P.C. where she currently works. Amy has handled all manner of cases from small collection matters and probate estates to million-dollar business litigation. She is also active in the community and serves as the vice president of the Greater Brighton Young Professionals. In addition she is active in the Livingston County Bar Association, where she effectively planned its first Constitution Day at Brighton's high school and middle schools.



Laura Kubit

**Laura Kubit (Caro)**

Based in Caro, Laura Kubit serves the low-income and senior populations of 11 counties in mid-Michigan as a civil legal aid attorney at Lakeshore Legal Aid. Laura handles elder, family, consumer, housing, and public benefits law matters. Though on the road a lot, Laura loves her job and is grateful to make a difference in people's lives every day.

Laura's prior legal experience includes an internship with Chief Judge Gerald Rosen in the Federal District Court in Detroit and consumer arbitration work at The Googasian Firm in Bloomfield Hills. Laura attended the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) for her undergrad studies majoring in classical archaeology. She graduated from Wayne State University Law School with her juris doctor.

Prior to law school, Laura worked as a teacher trainer and community outreach volunteer with the Peace Corps in Ranong, Thailand. In this role, Laura co-taught participatory English lessons with her Thai teacher counterparts, as well as facilitated teacher trainings and student camps throughout the region, and helped to organized a national conference on migratory labor and human trafficking.

Laura is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Access and Affordability Task Force, Oakland County Bar Association's New Lawyers Committee, and Inns of Court, and she regularly volunteers with the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament.



Roberta Sacharski

**Roberta Sacharski (Flint)**

Roberta Sacharski is a magna cum laude graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School. While in law school, Roberta received numerous academic accolades, successfully competed in moot court competitions both locally and nationally, and served on the Board of the *Law Review* as the scholarly writing editor. Roberta has worked for the Washtenaw County Office of the Public Defender and had the distinct honor to intern with the Hon. David W. McKeague at the United States Court of Appeals for





Aaron Sohaski

the Sixth Circuit. Roberta is the chief deputy register of deeds for Genesee County. Prior to becoming the chief deputy register of deeds, Roberta was an associate attorney at Farhat & Story, P.C. in Lansing where her practice focused on areas of family law, criminal defense and civil litigation. Roberta is a proud member of the Ingham and Genesee County Bar Associations as well as the Women’s Lawyers Association of Michigan and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

### Law Student Section Chair

#### Aaron Sohaski (Western Michigan University Cooley Law School)

Aaron Sohaski is currently chair of the SBM’s Law Student Section, and previously served as secretary for the past two years. He served as Chair of the ABA’s Law Student Division from 2014-2015.

He is a 3L at Cooley Law School, serves as associate editor on *Law Review*, graduates January 2016, and will be sitting for the Michigan bar examination February 2016. Additionally, he has been appointed to the State Bar of Michigan 21st Century Practice Committee, and to the ABA’s Law Practice Division Membership Development Committee.

While attending law school, he works full time at the Michigan Association of CPAs working as a business developer.

## Adler Planetarium Hosts the ABA’s YLD Gala

By Tanya Cripps

The American Bar Association’s Annual Meeting took place July 30–August 4, 2015, in downtown Chicago. According to meeting tradition, the Young Lawyers Division of the ABA hosted a dinner-dance, referred to as the YLD Gala.

The YLD Gala is a time for lawyers from all over the country to dress up, meet new people, and enjoy a nice meal. As this was my second time attending a YLD Gala, I was curious to see how it would compare to the previous Gala. This year’s Gala did not disappoint.

The Adler Planetarium, located on the shore of Lake Michigan, was the selected site for the event. From the hotel, charter buses transported the guests to the planetarium. Upon arrival, guests were greeted with outdoor cocktails and appetizers on the planetarium’s deck overlooking the Chicago skyline. The Annual Conference was held at the same time as Lollapalooza, and the various bands playing at Grant Park in the distance could be heard.

After enjoying the music and scenic views, everyone was seated for dinner. The Michigan delegates sat together and were fortunate to be seated at the same table as the past and current chairs of the YLD. The leaders of the YLD stressed the importance of becoming active in the ABA and meeting new people.

After dinner, the music began. Many people enjoyed the view of the skyline from the deck. The planetarium venue allowed guests to tour various exhibits after dinner.

After a long evening of eating, drinking, and socializing with various young lawyers from all over the country, everyone boarded the charter buses back to the hotel to get a good night’s sleep in preparation for the YLD meeting in the morning. All in all, the Gala was a successful event, one that I look forward to attending in the future.





## Are you #fit2practice

By Amy M. Krieg



One of the themes for the ABA YLD fall conference in Little Rock, Arkansas was #fit2practice which focused on ways for attorneys to not only be physically fit, but also to ensure that we are mentally prepared for the everyday stresses of the legal practice. I attended a session on mindfulness and the law. As an active meditator and yoga practitioner, I thought it would be interesting to learn more about how mindfulness can help other lawyers. The speaker was Judi Cohen of Warrior One, LLC who provides mindfulness-based courses for law firms and law schools in California. She took us through two short meditations and talked about some of the proven benefits of meditation, including increased concentration and resilience to stress. I meditate on a semi-regular basis, anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes, utilizing different practices that I have learned from various mindfulness and yoga teachers. I have found that a single meditation session is not a magic bullet for stress, inability to concentrate, and other minor psychological issues, but is like a muscle that takes time to develop and requires repeating the workouts on a regular basis in order to feel the benefits. Personally, I find that meditation and yoga have increased my ability to focus and have made it easier for me to deal with stressful situations. If you are interested in taking up a meditation practice yourself, there are a number of organizations that offer free guided meditations, where no experience is necessary to participate. One of my favorite meditation teachers is Susan Piver, and on her website are free recorded guided meditations (<http://susanpiver.com/meditation/>), which you can do at any time from the privacy of your own home.

Another speaker also touched on #fit2practice, but in a more practical way. Chief Judge Brian Miller of the Arkansas District Court touched on some practical advice for young lawyers. He had three main points for us. First, he advised us that we should take risks, because his risky career decisions, like becoming a part-time prosecutor in a small town in rural Arkansas when he was a civil litigator, helped him become local counsel on bigger cases in that same town. Second, he wanted us to remember that setbacks can sometimes be springboards for other opportunities and taking a demotion may free up your time for bigger opportunities. Finally, he advised us to volunteer our time with non-lawyers, because those non-lawyers will provide business and sometimes jobs, such as appointments to the bench. But he said you have to give your time to those organizations without any expectation of receiving anything in return. My take-away from his talk was that part of being #fit2practice is to see each day as an opportunity for success and accept setbacks as an opportunity to learn, to grow, and to refocus our careers in the direction of our true passion.



## Digital Natives

By Choi Portis

While attending the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Fall Conference, I attended a program entitled *The Technological Edge: iPad for Lawyers*. While sitting through this program, I encountered terms I had never heard before— *digital natives* and *digital immigrants*.

The digital native--immigrant concept describes the generational switchover, where people are defined by the technological culture in which they are familiar with. The concept was coined by U.S. author Marc Prensky in 2001. Prensky defines digital natives as those born into an innate “new culture” while the digital immigrants are old--world settlers, who have lived in the analog age and immigrated into the digital world. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com))

As technology becomes more and more a part of our everyday lives, and a part of the practice of law, I believe that it is our ethical duty as lawyers to keep abreast of all technological advances. In fact, MRPC 1.1. Competence, supports my point. MRPC

1.1. Comment 1, Section 8 states:

To maintain the requisite knowledge and skill, a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risk associated with *relevant technology*, engage in continuing study and education, and comply with all continuing legal education requirements to which the lawyer is subject.

(*emphasis added*).

As digital natives, young lawyers can incorporate their mobile devices, specifically the iPad, into their everyday practice. From document review to evidence presentation at trial, the iPad can be a very useful tool. Software developers have created applications that can enhance your practice. Note--taking apps such as Evernote can help you keep all your notes in one place. Document review apps, such as Good Reader, support a variety of different formats, making document review a painless process. Transcript pad, Westlaw Case Notebook, and eDepose can also assist in taking and reviewing depositions. There are also trial apps including iJuror and Trialpad, which can assist you in voir dire and even presenting evidence at trial.

I encourage each of you to incorporate technology into your daily practice.

## “Catching Up with the Times: Innovative New Laws”

By Colemon Potts

While attending the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Fall Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, I had the opportunity to participate in a CLE (continuing legal education) seminar. The seminar was entitled “Trending Issues in Cyber Legislation, Enforcement and Youth Internet/Social Media Use.” Two of the focal points were “Revenge Pornography” and “Cyber Bullying.” An assembly of young lawyers, in conjunction with the legislators in Arkansas, worked together to develop laws to address the issue of criminalizing individuals who use privately obtained erotica photographs to get revenge and/or extort individuals by threatening to publicize the erotica photographs.

Most young lawyers, who are familiar with the social nuances of this day and age, can provide first-hand input when updating laws. The importance of enacting these laws developed from the statute covering general “harassment.” The “harassment” statute was too broad to cover an issue such as “revenge pornography.” The new law specifically addresses an issue that some people fear after a break-up. To provide an example, while in relationships, women and men may share pictures with their significant other. However, after the break-up, their significant other may use those pictures to threaten, extort, or embarrass their ex-partner by threatening to publish them to a third party.

The new law enacted by the Arkansas legislature clearly represents legal minds catching up with the times. There are still many issues that need to be modernized and addressed. This CLE has inspired me to research Michigan laws that may need updating. By updating laws, we can ensure minor details of a case, which do not coincide with the law, will not allow an offender to go free. Moreover, in the ambit of civil litigation, many laws may require updating to address the social media age.

The panel spoke briefly on “Cyber Bullying.” One of the panel members indicated that statistics show an increase in cyber bullying has suggested a decline in in-person bullying among pre-teens and teenagers. A topic I was looking for the panel to discuss was how, in the cyber and social media age, it is easier for law enforcement to gather evidence and build cases against defendants; however, to my surprise, one panel member indicated how hard it was to obtain evidence that may be stored in a person’s iPhone even with a valid warrant.

The panel members, who included a property attorney and attorney general, were very knowledgeable on the subject. As a result, this CLE was indicative that young lawyers are in the best position to help update laws that do not directly address this social media age.

## Breakfast Basics— Resume and Interviewing Tips

By Mark Jane

On a jam-packed morning taking place at the headquarters of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) in Ann Arbor on October 14, 2015, the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section (YLS) and ICLE presented the second iteration of the seminar series “Breakfast Basics” for rapt attendees. After a successful first seminar which took place in 2014 on litigation tips for new lawyers, YLS and ICLE opted to host a practice management event for the 2015 edition focusing on resume drafting and interviewing techniques.



Left to Right: Grace Trueman, Jerome Crawford, and Jason Gourley

Attendees were treated to a continental breakfast while listening to the sage advice provided by three Michigan attorneys (Jerome Crawford and Grace Trueman of Dickinson Wright and Jason Gourley of Bodman). The panelists walked through key resume criteria and interview protocol, answering questions from the audience along the way. In addition to the panel presentation, the attorneys answered questions on possible “tough” interview questions and scenarios, and offered one-on-one resume advice to attendees.

YLS would like to thank the panelists, and ICLE (especially Rebekah Page-Gourley), for their excellent assistance in planning, promoting, and hosting the event. Stay tuned for details on the next iteration of the “Breakfast Basics” series!

---

## Paperless Mobile Office

By Laura Kubit

As a civil legal aid attorney covering a large rural area, I am on the go a lot. I work mostly with seniors, meeting them at senior centers in eight counties, or when needed, at the seniors’ homes or nursing homes. In order to serve my clients as efficiently as possible, I travel around with everything I need to do my work: laptop, scanner, printer, and cell phone with hotspot capabilities.

With these tools, as well as questionnaires and templates, I am often able to complete and execute necessary documents during our first in-person meeting. I scan all documents and return originals to clients on the spot.

Perhaps the two most important aspects of a paperless system are consistent naming of files and secure backup.

Being paperless and mobile means that I can work from anywhere and that I can access client information securely and reply to inquiries within minutes. How do you utilize technology in your everyday practice? Share with us on Facebook at SBM YLS.



# DNA Program

By Stephanie Farkas

On Thursday, September 24, 2015, the Young Lawyers Section hosted a training program on understanding DNA evidence. The program was held at the Lansing campus of WMU-Cooley Law School and was aimed at educating attorneys about the intricacies of DNA evidence and what every attorney handling cases involving DNA evidence should know. The speakers included Marla Mitchell-Cichon, professor and director of the WMU-Cooley Law School Innocence Project; Donya Davis, a DNA exoneree (2014), who served seven years in prison for a rape he did not commit; attorneys Shannon M. Smith and Stephanie Farkas; and forensic biologist/DNA expert Julie Howenstine of Speckin Forensic Laboratories. The program gave attendees the opportunity to learn about Mr. Davis' experience and issues that can lead to false convictions. The speakers also discussed the basics of DNA testing and evidence, including providing information regarding autosomal DNA and Y-STR DNA, reviewing laboratory reports and other discovery items, interpreting DNA reports and data, cognitive bias, using experts, trial strategies, and post-conviction testing and strategies. Various materials were provided to attendees, including a glossary of common DNA terms. The two-and-a-half-hour program also included a lunch for attendees, who consisted of prosecutors, defense attorneys, police officers, and law students.



# The Young Lawyers Section Hosts Its First National Trial Advocacy Competition

By Samantha Orvis

The State Bar of Michigan's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) hosted the annual National Trial Advocacy Competition (NTAC) at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse in Lansing October 9–11, 2015. In past years MSU Law has hosted the competition. Competitors from 16 law schools throughout the nation traveled to Michigan for an opportunity to perfect their courtroom advocacy skills before judges and practitioners. The competition kicked off Friday evening with the first preliminary rounds, which continued through Saturday. The following schools sent teams to participate in the competition: Faulkner University, University of Alabama, Brooklyn Law School, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Akron, University of Buffalo, The John Marshall Law School, University of Houston, Duquesne University, William & Mary Law School, SMU Dedman School of Law, Loyola University New Orleans, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law, Georgetown University, and Michigan State University.

YLS hosted a reception for the participants on Saturday evening at MSU Law where competitors mingled and enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres before the semifinalists were announced. The teams that advanced to compete in the semifinal rounds on Sunday were: University of Houston, St. Mary's University School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. All teams displayed an admirable level of professionalism and skill throughout the competition. The winner of this year's National Trial Advocacy Competition was the University of Houston!

Those presiding over the competition and scoring the participants were all volunteers. The competition could not have taken place without the generosity of legal practitioners throughout Michigan dedicating their valuable time to the program. A special thanks goes out to Judge Joseph J. Farah of the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Genesee County for presiding over the final competition. YLS looks forward to hosting another successful competition in 2016. If you're interested in serving as a volunteer judge or bailiff, please keep an eye out for a call for volunteers in August 2016.





## 2015 National Trial Advocacy Competition Results

- **First Place Team:** *University of Houston Law Center*
- **Second Place Team:** *St. Mary's University School of Law*
- **Semi-Finalists:**
  - *University of Houston Law Center*
  - *St. Mary's University School of Law*
  - *Brooklyn Law School*
  - *Loyola University New Orleans College of Law*
- **Best Advocate:** *Jacob Nicholas (University of Akron School of Law)*
- **Best Opening Statement:** *Victoria Karnisky (University of Buffalo Law School)*
- **Best Direct Examination:** *Matthew Vinson (SMU Dedman School of Law)*
- **Best Cross Examination:** *Bridget Harris (University of Alabama School of Law)*
- **Best Closing Argument:** *Khiree Smith (Georgetown University Law Center)*



The Honorable Joseph J. Farah with the NTAC Champions-University of Houston



## MI Young Lawyer Spotlight: Tanya Lundberg

**Employer/Job Title:** Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, associate attorney

**Education:** University of Michigan-Dearborn, Wayne State University Law School

**Michigan Bar Admission Date:** November 2007

**Other Licenses (if any):** real estate salesperson

**Where do you live?** Northville

**Where are you from?** Ferndale

**Who or what inspired you to become a lawyer?** Growing up, I thought my dad was a lawyer (he wasn't!), so I wanted to be one too. Then in high school I decided I wanted to be a journalist in Washington, D.C. But during undergrad, I took a class called "politics and the media," which made me realize that journalists don't actually help people. They point out problems, but they don't fix them. I decided I wanted to be a problem-solver. So I went back to wanting to be a lawyer!

**What made you decide to go into the field of law you practice in?** I was at a boutique commercial litigation firm for several years, but I was looking for something different. Collins Einhorn had a great reputation and professional liability defense seemed like an interesting practice area. And it is!

**What do you love about practicing in Michigan?** There are some unique aspects of professional liability law in Michigan that the defense bar appreciates, and I really love my firm. I also enjoy practicing close to my law school so I can be an active alumna.

**If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be doing?** Something related to sports. Maybe NCAA compliance at a university or sports reporting.

**What legal or civic associations do you belong to?** I am active in the Oakland County Bar Association, the OCBA Inns of Court, the Women's Bar Association and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, the Association of Defense Trial Counsel, and the Winchester Elementary PTA.

**Besides your current job, what was your most memorable job (good or bad)?** Through high school and college I worked at IHOP in Birmingham. I met a lot of local and national celebrities, had great hours, and ate unlimited pancakes. It was great.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?** I enjoy spending time with my husband and 6-year-old son, cooking and baking, reading, watching reality competition shows like Top Chef, and I am an avid University of Michigan sports fan. Go Blue!



Tanya Lundberg

**What is the best advice you've ever received (personal or professional)?** I was feeling a little down about a few struggles I had in a case. I asked one of my mentors at my firm, "When will this feel easy to me?" And she responded, "It's not easy. And it's never going to be easy. Especially this practice area ... And that's why we like it." I am going to have it cross-stitched to hang in my office as a reminder that part of why we chose to be lawyers was because we love challenges, and professional liability defense is a challenging, engrossing practice area, and that's why we like it.

**What book are you reading right now?** *Humans of New York: Stories*. I follow the author/photographer on Facebook and Twitter. He has this amazing way of drawing people's stories out of them.

**What do you listen to in your car on your way to/from work?** WTKA (sports radio channel in Ann Arbor), WDET (Wayne State NPR channel), or podcasts, such as Wolverine Sports Radio or Serial.

**What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?** Professional: graduating from law school/passing the bar exam. Personal: childbirth.

**What are 3 things your peers probably don't know about you?** 1. I was all set to go to Michigan State until spring of my senior year of high school. 2. I like country music. 3. I was a substitute teacher in between undergrad and law school, and for about a week I thought about becoming a teacher instead of a lawyer. Now I think of myself as a teacher, but with only one student (my son).

**Describe yourself in 3 words.** Determined. Social. Intense.

Continued on next page

MI Young Lawyer Spotlight... Continued from page 15

**What is your favorite restaurant?** Boodles in Madison Heights.

**What is your favorite vacation destination?** San Francisco or Washington, D.C.

**What is something that you know now that you wish you knew as a law student or when you first started practicing?** The progression of a case and how each step in litigation builds on the last step. I am still working on internalizing this concept!

**What advice do you have for other young lawyers and law students?** Be active in bar associations! Sometimes it might feel like a timesuck but networking has so many benefits and many bar associations provide educational opportunities as well.

## Inter Alia Notices

### Article Submissions

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section *Inter Alia* Committee is now accepting article submissions meeting the following criteria:

- The subject matter should be relevant to young lawyers.
- Articles should be no longer than 2,000 words. Longer articles may be considered to run as a series.
- All submissions must include a short author biography and a digital photo of the author (300 dpi resolution preferred).

Electronic submissions (MS Word) are preferred. Please submit articles to Shenique A. Moss at [sheniquemoss@gmail.com](mailto:sheniquemoss@gmail.com). Articles for the next issue are due by February 1, 2016.

### MI Young Lawyer Spotlight

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section *Inter Alia* Newsletter Publication Committee will be featuring various young lawyers in its *Inter Alia* "MI Young Lawyer Spotlight." If you are interested in being featured, please answer the following questions and send the completed questionnaire to Shenique A. Moss at [sheniquemoss@gmail.com](mailto:sheniquemoss@gmail.com). Please note that the responses should be brief.

Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis. The next deadline is February 1, 2016. Once the committee has reviewed your submission, you will be notified if you have been selected to be profiled and asked to provide a headshot.

#### *Inter Alia* "MI Young Lawyer Spotlight" Questionnaire

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Name:   | • What do you enjoy doing outside of work?  |
| • Employer/ Job Title:  | • What is the best advice you've ever received (personal or professional)?  |
| • Education:  | • What book are you reading right now?  |
| • Michigan Bar Admission Date:  | • What do you listen to in your car on your way to/from work?   |
| • Other Licenses (if any):  | • What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?  |
| • Where do you live?  | • What are 3 things your peers probably don't know about you?   |
| • Where are you from?   | • Describe yourself in 3 words.   |
| • Who or what inspired you to become a lawyer?                              | • What is your favorite restaurant?   |
| • What made you decide to go into the field of law you practice in?         | • What is your favorite vacation destination?   |
| • What do you love about practicing in Michigan?                            | • What is something that you know now that you wish you knew as a law student or when you first started practicing? |
| • If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be doing?                         | • What advice do you have for other young lawyers and law students?   |
| • What legal or civic associations do you belong to?                        |   |
| • Besides your current job, what was your most memorable job (good or bad)? |   |