



Jennifer G. Hall  
Young Lawyers Division President  
2011-2012

At the State Bar annual meeting on September 3-4, 1936, the “Junior Bar Section” was founded by New Albany lawyer, Hugh N. Clayton, its first chairman. Seventy-five years later, I am honored to serve as President of what is now known as the Young Lawyers Division, and I am proud to report that the YLD is off to another banner year.

On July 27, 2011, our Seminars Committee, chaired by **Stephanie Jones**, hosted the Bridge the Gap CLE at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Attendees had the option of attending in person or live via an online webcast, and this year’s program provided 6.0 hours of CLE credit, including 3.0 hours of basic skills and 3.0 hours of ethics/professionalism. Speakers included Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr.; Chancery Judge Edward E. Patten, Jr.; Circuit Judge Andrew K. Howorth; Madison County Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston; Court Administrator Sherry Davis; W.C. “Cham” Trotter III; La’Verne Edney; Gee Ogletree; Dennis Miller; Vicki Rundlett; and C. York Craig, Jr. This new format was well received by both the attendees and the speakers, and the Seminars Committee is continuing to develop a proposal to expand the ethics/professionalism aspect of the Bridge the Gap seminar for our newly admitted members. More details on that to follow.

Speaking of newly admitted members, the Fall Bar Admissions Ceremony was held on September 27, 2011, at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. Once again, the Bar

# Young Lawyers Division News

Admissions Committee, led this year by Committee Chair **Andrew Stubbs**, and Rene’ Garner of the MS Bar worked their collective magic and provided a top-notch ceremony for 196 newly admitted members. Speakers included Father Gerard Hurley, who gave the invocation; Jeff Styres, who spoke on behalf of the Board of Bar Admissions; Chancery Judge Patricia D. Wise who administered the oath to practice in the trial courts of Mississippi; Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr., who administered the oath to practice before the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; Magistrate Judge Jane M. Virden, who administered the oath to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi; District Judge Carlton W. Reeves, who administered the oath to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi; Judge James E. Graves, Jr., who administered the oath for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; and Hugh D. Keating, MS Bar President.

The Public Service Committee, chaired by **Jennie Pitts**, continues to make Wills for Heroes one of the signature projects of YLD. On September 22-23, 2011, the Public Service Committee and the Capital Area Bar Association brought the Wills for Heroes project to the Ridgeland Police Department. The Public Service Committee is currently scheduling events in Vicksburg, Tupelo, Biloxi, DeSoto County and Rankin County to be held between November 2011 and June 2012. If you are interested in volunteering and/or bringing the project to the first responders in your community, please contact Jennie Pitts at [jpitts@cglawms.com](mailto:jpitts@cglawms.com).

Preparations for the High School Mock Trial Competition are well underway, thanks to this year’s chair, **Matt Eichelberger**. The case was posted on or before September 30, 2011, and team registration forms are due by Nov. 14, 2011.

Competition dates include Saturday, January 21, 2012, for the Jackson Regional; Saturday, January 28th for the Coast Regional; Saturday, February 4th for the Oxford Regional; and Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2012, for the Statewide Competition. Please join us in this fun and educational project – we always need attorney coaches and competition judges.

Look for updates on our other YLD Committees, including Child Advocacy, Disaster Legal Assistance, Diversity in the Law, and Publications in future columns. Also, be sure to keep an eye on Bar Briefs for more details regarding upcoming events commemorating the YLD’s 75th Anniversary! ■

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