

YLD Matters

The Mississippi Bar



Young Lawyers Division

SPRING 2016

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The 2016 year has gotten off to a busy start for the Young Lawyers Division, and the winter has been packed full of projects and events, both for the community and for our young lawyers. I want to thank everyone for voting and selecting a great group of incoming officers and directors to serve on the YLD Board for 2016-2017. I know the YLD Board will be in good hands with Brad Reeves as YLD President-Elect and Mimi Arthur as Secretary. Thank you everyone for your willingness to serve The Mississippi Bar and help YLD continue to grow.

The High School Mock Trial Competition wrapped up on February 27th with Sacred Heart Catholic High School prevailing in the Finals. I was fortunate enough to serve as a judge in the Final Round, along with Mississippi Bar President Roy Campbell, Robert Gibbs, Chad Russell, and Clarence Webster. The winning team will travel to Boise, Idaho, in May to com-

pete in the National Competition. As always, we could not have this competition without the generosity of our attorneys and judges in giving their time to judge the regionals and the statewide competition in January and February. A big thank you to all of our volunteers and a huge congratulations to all participants. We know Sacred Heart will make us proud in Idaho!

On December 10, 2015, an additional 34 lawyers were sworn in at a ceremony held at the Mississippi Supreme Court. The YLD would like to congratulate these new lawyers and welcome them to the bar.

This year, YLD has concentrated on offering more services for our members. Under the leadership of Clarence Webster, Chair of the Seminars Committee, the CLE series "Practice in a Flash: Litigation 101 Series" has been very successful. This series is geared towards young lawyers and led by young lawyers and covers the steps of the litigation process from the beginning to end with sessions on case investigation and evaluation; depositions and discovery; mediation and negotiation; trial; appeals; and ethics and civility. The first four were held on October 1st, November 5th, December 4th, and March 3rd respectively. The appeals CLE will be held on April 7th and the Ethics and Civility CLE will be held on May 5th.

The inaugural Deposition Academy was held on November 12-13, 2015, at the Mississippi Bar Center. It was a



**YLD President
Diala Chaney**

hugely successful two-day program that provided the 40 attendees with one day of instruction and one day of mock depositions, during which program attendees observed accomplished litigators conduct the deposition examination of a Rule 30(b)(6) witness, a party, and an expert witness. The deposition academy was tailored to provide young lawyers practical and strategic skills and tools for conducting successful depositions of various parties and witnesses by learning from, and observing the deposition techniques of, seasoned trial attorneys. The YLD would like to thank the Litigation Division for partnering with us to make this event successful.

We look forward to building on our active fall and winter as we head into the spring months. If you would like to become more involved with YLD, please contact Rene' Garner at rgarner@msbar.org or me at diala-chaney@msn.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Local Affiliate Reports	2
Lawyer in Every MS Classroom	4
Lawyers in the Library	4
Statewide Mock Trial	5
Wills for Heroes	6
Calendar of Events	7
YLD Board	7

LOCAL AFFILIATE REPORTS

HATTIESBURG AREA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HAYLA)

Nick Thompson, President

In mid-December, HAYLA cohosted the annual Christmas Party with the South Central Mississippi Bar Association (“SCMBA”). Some pictures of the event can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

In 2016, HAYLA continues its partnership with Christian Services and will continue to provide a monthly legal aid clinic, a project originally started by the 2015 Class of Leadership Pinebelt. Three clinics were held in 2015, in the months of August, September, and October, and the first clinic of 2016 will be held on January 13, 2016. All clinics incorporate the “Child Support Collection” packet and instruction session, which is funded by HAYLA’s American Bar Association (“ABA”) affiliate subgrant. Due to overwhelming volume of questions at these clinics regarding expungements, HAYLA has also prepared a comprehensive “Expungements in Mississippi” outline, for use by attorneys at the clinic and in practice.

HAYLA is currently in the process of collecting dues for the 2015-2016 year, and we have given a 50% discount to anyone who joins in January through the end of July 2016. Along with SCMBA, HAYLA will cohost another Lunch & Learn event on February 18, 2016. The speaker will be U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael T. Parker, who will give a presentation on Federal Court Mediation and Settlement Conferences. This event has been approved for one hour of CLE credit and is free to all HAYLA members.

HAYLA has a lot of fun and informative events planned for the rest of the year. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HattiesburgAreaYoungLawyersAssociation and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/theHAYLA.

JACKSON COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (JCYL)

Shon Ellerby, President

The Jackson County Young Lawyers have been very busy. In September, they hosted Chancellor Neil Harris to speak about social media authentication and ethics. A happy hour meeting was held in downtown Ocean Springs in November to promote increased membership. In December, the regular meeting was suspended for the Christmas party with the local bar members. This was a great event. Currently, membership is the biggest concern – and big plans are underway to promote membership.

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS (JYL)

Laine Staines, President

In October, Jackson Young Lawyers (“JYL”) held our second membership meeting for the 2015-2016 year, a Lawyer in the Library event with the Young Lawyers Division for Pro Bono Week, as well as our 2nd Annual Costumes and Cornhole event. Though we are waiting on some final silent auction proceeds to come in, we anticipate having raised between \$2000-3000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. We recently took JYL “on the road” for our third membership meeting which was held at Sombra Mexican Kitchen in Ridgeland in nearby Madison County. We hosted this meeting north of Jackson in hopes of renewing many of our Ridgeland and Madison-based members’ participation in JYL activities. Dean Wendy Scott of Mississippi College School of Law was our featured speaker. In January, we look forward to participating in the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon event once again by hosting one of the water tables along the route. We will also begin receiving applications for our Outreach Projects grant in January and February. JYL is also planning a diversity-focused social event for late winter/early spring.

LOCAL AFFILIATE REPORTS, CONT'D

LAUDERDALE COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (LCYL)

Natalie King, President

Fall is off to a great start for the Lauderdale County Young Lawyers. We have continued to host joint monthly meetings with the Lauderdale County Bar at Weidmann's. Every month we have a guest speaker and offer CLE credit. In September, our guest speaker was Attorney Gayla Carpenter-Sanders, Director of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP). She presented on the best practices for limited scope representation. For our October meeting, the speaker will be Attorney Adam Kilgore, General Counsel for The Mississippi Bar. He will be covering ethical issues, including those related to social media.

In other news, The Lauderdale Young Lawyers are coaching two mock trial teams. Kathryn McNair and Amanda Evans are coaching a team at Lamar High School. Benjamin McMurtray and Natalie King are coaching a team at Meridian High School. Meagan Linton is also working with the two teams.

Lastly, the Lauderdale County Young Lawyers and the Lauderdale County Bar are in the process of planning our Christmas Party. Last year, the event was well attended and everyone is looking forward to it again. We are also brainstorming ways to incorporate a holiday service project.

LEE COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (LCYL)

Kristin Belvin, President

The Lee County Young Lawyers held their annual holiday party December 10, 2015 at Old Venice in Tupelo. Merriment was had by all attendees and the first holiday gift exchange was a success. The LCYLs new Social Chair Lesley Walters and her fiance were in attendance and we are excited about new ideas for member recruitment she has proposed. While no January meeting was held, members attended the January ceremony welcoming new Chancellor Moffett, who is filling in this year after the sudden passing of Chancellor Talmadge D Littlejohn. The next monthly lunch meeting will be held at noon on February 9 at Kermits Outlaw Kitchen in downtown Tupelo. Topics shall include the beginning stages of planning for this year's golf tournament, possible after hours meetings for recruitment of new members and participation in upcoming pro bono projects in our area.

OXFORD AREA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (OAYLD)

Russ McNees, President

We recently held our fall social at McEwen's, which had a good turnout and resulted in several new members. Since then, we held another happy hour at a local hotel and collected canned goods for The Pantry. This year we are planning to hold another social event as well as our annual CLE.

JOIN THE LOCAL AFFILATE IN YOUR AREA

The purpose of the local affiliate organizations is to aid in the administration of justice; to promote among its members higher ethical and professional standards in the practice of law; to advise, inform and educate its members in all matters relevant to the practice of law; to present programs and conduct projects to educate the public at large about the judicial system, the role of the attorney and the rights of the individual under law; to conduct seminars and other educational programs; to promote fellowship among its members and to sponsor social activities for members and their guests.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is open to any duly-licensed member of The Mississippi Bar who is a resident of the area which the affiliate serves and is either 37 years of age or younger or has been a member of The Mississippi Bar for less than three years. The local affiliates charge a minimal annual membership fee.

LAWYER IN EVERY MS CLASSROOM

Are you looking for a great way to participate in a statewide educational project in your area?

Would you like a chance to visit with students in your area about different legal topics?



Lawyer In Every Classroom Event Held By Lauderdale County Young Lawyers on December 9, 2015.
Photo provided by Natalie King.

A Lawyer in Every Mississippi Classroom is a program sponsored annually by The Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division. This program offers classrooms throughout Mississippi a visit from a lawyer during the school year. Any teacher, kindergarten through 12th grade, is invited to have a lawyer visit for one class period (approximately 55 minutes). Teachers in your area are signing up to participate in this program. To ensure your participation in this educational program, please fill out the registration form below (it is a fillable PDF), and we will pair you with a teacher in your area. If your teacher has requested that you speak about a certain topic, The Mississippi Bar's Young Lawyers Division will furnish you with information regarding that topic. For additional information about the program and a link to the registration form, click [here](#).

YLD's Lawyers in the Libraries – Pascagoula Event

The Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division held this year's second Lawyers in the Library event at the Pascagoula Public Library on January 28, 2016. At the event, seven young lawyers volunteered their time to meet with participants in one-on-one counseling sessions providing pro bono limited legal advice in the areas of Criminal Law & Expungement, Family Law & Child Custody, Wills & Estates and Social Security Disability. The volunteer attorneys were able to provide advice to 35 participants. Special thanks to Jacob King, Jaime McNair, Jeremy England, Jonathan Franco, Lee Turner, Adrienne Aikens and Kathlyn Van Buskirk for volunteering their time and efforts to make this event a success. Lawyers in the Library events for the Spring are currently being planned for Meridian and Greenwood. Please contact Hunter Aikens at haike@ospd.ms.gov if you are interested in helping with a future event.



Statewide Mock Trial Competition

Sacred Heart Catholic School Team I Earns Statewide High School Mock Trial Championship Title

Sacred Heart Catholic School Team I won the Championship Round of the Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition at the Hinds County Courthouse on Saturday, February 27, coached by attorneys Don Hinton and Carey Varnado. Sacred Heart Catholic School will represent Mississippi in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Boise, Idaho, on May 12-14. MSMS Team I earned the second place trophy gavel, coached by Scott Colom. The following schools earned the remainder of the top six positions: Madison Central, third place, coached by Rogen Chhabra and Staci O'Neal; MSMS Team 2, fourth place, coached by Scott Colom; St. Patrick Catholic High School, fifth place, coached by Judge Jennifer Schloegel and Elena Guida; and Lamar School, sixth place, coached by Kathryn McNair and Amanda Glover Evans. A special thanks to all of the attorney coaches and judges who volunteered their valuable time to help with this Young Lawyers Division law related education program in its 33rd year.



The final round judges included (left to right): Robert Gibbs, who has judged the final round for 25 years, served as the presiding judge; Chad Russell, Past President of the Young Lawyers Division and Past Chair of the Mock Trial Competition; Diala Chaney, President of the Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar; Clarence Webster, Past Chair of the Mock Trial Competition; and Roy Campbell, President of The Mississippi Bar.



Sacred Heart Catholic School Team I



Top Witness (left) - Brooklyn Mooney, Sacred Heart Catholic School Team I
 Top Attorney (center) - Raveena Aggarwal, St. Andrew's Episcopal School
 Top Witness (right) - Anna Meadows Cress, Madison Central High School

Wills for Heroes - Madison Fire Department

The Young Lawyers Division hosted a successful Wills for Heroes Event in Madison for the Madison Fire Department and Police Department on Thursday, February 18. Local attorneys volunteered their time to execute free Wills, Powers of Attorney and Healthcare Directives for the first responders. Attorneys prepared estate planning documents for members of Madison's first responder community. "Wills for Heroes" events truly allow Mississippi lawyers to give back to the individuals who put their lives on the line every day for the people living in their communities. Wills for Heroes is a pro bono program created by the Wills for Heroes Foundation and works nationwide with affiliate organizations to provide free estate planning documents to America's first responders. A special thanks to the Jackson Young Lawyers for their support and assistance.

Upcoming Events:

Gulfport Fire and Police Departments - April 19, 2016
contact Jaklyn L. Wrigley at jwrigley@laborlawyers.com to volunteer.

Flowood Police Department - May 9, 2016
contact Troy F. Odom at troy@bbfirm.com to volunteer.



[Click here for the YLD's webpage](#)

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WRITE FOR THE YLD NEWSLETTER

The YLD Newsletter is now accepting articles on YLD topics for publication in the newsletter. If you have an idea for an article, please submit it to YLD Newsletter Editor Andrew Stubbs at andrew.stubbs@formanwatkins.com.

Please include a short description of the article. The YLD Newsletter Committee will consider your proposal and will notify you of whether your proposal has been accepted. The committee reserves the right to reject proposals. Please note that when you submit your article for publication in the newsletter, you will be granting the MS Bar the nonexclusive right to publish your article.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING BAR ADMISSIONS CEREMONY

April 28, 2016 at the Supreme Court Courthouse

YLD'S BRIDGE THE GAP: RULE 3—NEW LAWYER PROGRAM

April 29, 2016 — Jackson (6 hrs)

June 3, 2016 — Hattiesburg (3 hrs)

LITIGATION 101 SERIES

Appeals — April 7, 2016 — 10:00 to Noon — MS Bar Center

Ethics and Civility — May 5, 2016 — 10:00 to Noon — MS Bar Center

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