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Young Lawyers Division President
2020-2021

The Mississippi Bar



Young Lawyers Division

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION NEWS

We have had an exciting couple of months in the Young Lawyers Division, but, I think like most people, we are glad 2021 is underway!

Our committees are making great strides with their current projects, even in the midst of the continuing difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jess Waltman, one of the co-chairs of our Social Justice and Diversity Committee, and I had the pleasure of attending a Zoom mixer with our sister state bar in the American Bar Association, Puerto Rico, in December. It was fascinating to learn more about Puerto Rico's state Bar members' experiences both practicing law during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as planning strategies for how they were moving along with Bar activities. I look forward to more of these social opportunities in the future, as well as including more members of the division in these fruitful discussions.

Our Disaster Legal Assistance Committee, chaired by Stacey Moore Buchanan, also jumped into action to assist those individuals affected by Hurricane Zeta after the ABA notified the division a disaster declaration had been triggered. I would like to thank all members of the division and surrounding local affiliates who volunteered to staff call centers to provide legal advice to those individuals affected by the storm in our state. If you are not currently plugged-in with a local affiliate in your area, I would encourage you to investigate ways you can get involved. At this time, local affiliates continue to have Zoom meetings, CLEs, and social hours throughout the state ensuring local young lawyers with opportunities to both volunteer and network.

In April, we will welcome new members to the Bar. As part of this exciting time, our Seminars Committee

will host Bridge the Gap virtually. All members of the Bar are welcome to watch these on-demand videos. Many thanks to Seminars co-chairs Christina Seanor and Lindsey Lazinsky for providing timely and substantive CLE programs to our membership.

Later this month, Julianne Bailey, Darryl Wilson, and I will attend the American Bar Association's virtual mid-year meeting. I look forward to discussing important topics affecting young lawyers throughout the country and expressing the concerns of our division during the meeting.

The Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition is well underway, if not over, by the time you are reading this article. The Bar staff, along with co-chairs Kye Handy and Elizabeth Hyde, have worked hard to transition this competition to a virtual format. So far, the regional competitions have been successfully completed, and we look forward to the state-wide competition on February 26th and 27th. I cannot stress how tirelessly the committee, particularly this year's chairs, have worked on this signature program. I am incredibly grateful for their effort and am excited to judge the Championship round!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jess Waltman, the Division's new President-Elect Designee, and La'Toyia Slay, Secretary Designee I look forward to you both joining the Executive Committee and watching the direction you take the division in the years to come. Thank you to everyone who stood for election, including our newly elected members of the Board of Directors. As always, if you would like to get involved with the Division, please reach out to Daniel Reed at dreed@msbar.org or me at cmalatesta@danielcoker.com.