



# WSBA

## WASHINGTON YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

To: WSBA Board of Governors  
From: Kari M. Petrusek, WYLD President  
Re: WYLD Quarterly Report (Fall)  
Date: November 24, 2010

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Thank you for this opportunity to report on the current work of the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD).

I am most pleased to share continued work towards integrating the division more fully throughout the WSBA. In the successful "Open Section Night" and in the Trustee/Chair orientation – both explained more fully below – I think we are building towards work which brings together new/young lawyers to benefit from and to enhance the quality of the WSBA.

### **WYLD PROGRAMMING**

The WYLD has three focus areas: 1) Member Outreach and Leadership; 2) Public Service and Pro Bono; and 3) Transition into Practice. At the end of the 2009-2010 bar year, the WYLD selected three Directors from among the Board of Trustees, one in each focus area. Directors are responsible for continued evaluation of WYLD programs and events, focusing in particular on continued improvement in line with the WYLD's focus areas, and also on ensuring coordination of WYLD programs and events with other WSBA entities and with WSBA staff.

Programming in these areas has occurred in the first quarter of this bar year as follows:

#### **1) MEMBER OUTREACH AND LEADERSHIP**

**WYLD Member Outreach Committee:** The Member Outreach Committee is responsible for outreach to our members statewide. The committee continues to host monthly social and professional networking events, including happy hours, sporting and arts events, etc. The main event this committee has been focused on this quarter was the planning of the inaugural Open Section Night. The "college fair" style invited new lawyers to visit section tables to learn about the work of the section, ask questions about the practice area, and consider joining the section. It was a huge success with more than 150 people attending, and 20 of the WSBA sections participating. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy having the opportunity to network, explore practice areas, and make connections with people who can help new and young lawyers build skills, answer questions, and become a mentor. It was evident based on comments from everyone both during the event and in the days following, that both the new and young lawyers

and sections in attendance have a desire to build and expand our professional community. Both the sections and new and young lawyers found the event beneficial and valuable. The hope is for this event to continue annually.

The next step after the Open Section Night is to have individual sections co-sponsor networking/social events with the WYLD around the state. These will further enhance the relationship between the sections and WYLD, and provide opportunities for young and new lawyers to meet with more experienced attorneys, and to make connections with people who can help them build skills, answer questions, and possibly create a mentoring relationship.

In September, this committee co-sponsored with the Snohomish County YLD and KCBA YLD a night at the Mariner's game, with a pre-game social at Pyramid. Approximately 40 new and young lawyers attended this event. The Member Outreach Committee is also planning a group Seahawks game on December 5 as well as working on co-hosting their annual holiday party in December with the WYLD pro-bono/public service committee.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEE (BOT) MEETINGS**

### **October 9 BOT Meeting in Seattle**

At our first meeting of the year, the WYLD Board of Trustees ("BOT") discussed the schedule for the year, trustee expectations, and the upcoming projects some of our committees will be implementing. During part of the meeting, we had our first focus area director conversation around public service. We also had the chair-elect of the ABA YLD, Michael Bergmann, speak to us about the ABA YLD Fall meeting that will be taking place in Seattle (October 13-15, 2011) and how we can all work together to help make the ABA YLD meeting supportive of the Washington State Bar Association.

Prior to this BOT meeting, we had a trustee and chair/chair-elect orientation. The orientation takes place each year, and this year, we did things a little differently. The first difference was that we invited all of our trustees, not just the first year trustees. The other differences were that the people in attendance had a dialogue focused on how they can get both themselves and other new and young lawyers engaged in bar activities and why they want to be involved in a WSBA program or committee. We also had breakout sessions where each committee or program under a specific focus area met together to talk about ways they can mutually support and collaborate with each other throughout the year. This new format was well received by the participants and we believe that this positive experience will help the WYLD move forward and help encourage more bar participation by WYLD members.

*Next Board meetings: December 4 meeting in Everett; February 9 meeting via teleconference; March 19 meeting in Spokane, in conjunction with the Board of Governors.*

## **2) WYLD PUBLIC SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROGRAMS:**

**WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee:** This year, the committee's efforts are primarily focused on implementing the "Serving our Seniors" ("SOS") will clinic, which is the ABA YLD Public Service project for 2010-2011. The clinics will provide free, basic estate planning for low income seniors. We are set to implement "SOS" quickly and efficiently, based on our success with the Washington First Responder Will Clinic, which was based on a previous ABA YLD Public Service project called "Wills For Heroes." The committee is also looking at ways to work with WSBA in creating a continuous culture of service so that any attorney wanting to take part in a public service project is able to do so. In addition, this committee is helping the WYLD CLE committee plan the next CLE Express in Bellingham, and the committee is co-sponsoring the upcoming WYLD holiday party with the Member Outreach Committee on December 9 at Seattle's Fado Pub, which will include a food and toy drive for a local food bank and The Christmas House.

**Washington First Responder Will Clinic:** The committee recently held a clinic in Spokane on September 18. It was well attended, and the services provided were greatly appreciated by the clinic's clients. More clinics will be planned and held statewide in the coming months.

**Annual Youth & Law Forum:** WYLD is an active partner for this event and has had many members in attendance at past years' programs. The next program will be on April 16 in Seattle. The chair for this program is actively seeking WYLD volunteers to help with this program. The purpose of the Youth & Law Forum is to educate youth and families about their legal rights, protection and responsibilities, law careers, court procedures, and resources.

## **3) TRANSITION INTO PRACTICE PROGRAMS:**

**WYLD Trial Advocacy Program:** The highly successful WYLD Trial Advocacy Program, held annually, again took place on October 23-24 (lecture portion), and November 13 (mock trials) with approximately 50 attendees attending the 2-day lecture portion of the program. About 16 participants took part in the mock trial on November 13, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Participants particularly appreciate having an opportunity to build skills and receive feedback from the judges while participating in the mock trials. The evaluations indicated that attendees would like to see future programs of this nature, with quality speakers similar to those we had this year.

**CLE Committee:** The WYLD CLE Committee put on an outstanding CLE entitled "Advocating before the decision-maker." It was well attended and included a presentation by Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens. Feedback from attendees was very positive and most attendees indicated they would like to see the program repeated. This committee is also planning two half-day CLEs in collaboration with the WSBA Solo and Small Practice Section. The focus of these CLEs will be on solo practitioners starting their own firm.

**WYLD Committee for Diversity:** The WYLD Committee for Diversity is partnering with the WSBA Committee for Diversity (CFD). They are working on ways to incorporate the WYLD

Committee for Diversity into the WSBA Committee for Diversity at the end of this bar year, to collaborate on joint programs, and to strengthen already-existing programs. The WSBA CFD has been very supportive during this transition time, and has incorporated WYLD members into their subcommittees.

## **CONCLUSION**

The WYLD appreciates the support of the BOG and is pleased that the WYLD and the WSBA Sections are now under the same WSBA “umbrella” of Education and Outreach, along with CLE and New Lawyer Education. We believe that by working together, we can work together to build and enhance our professional community. We look forward to joining you in Spokane for our March meeting and joint BOT/BOG dinner.



Kari M. Petrusek  
WYLD President