



WSBA

WASHINGTON YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Jaime Hawk, WYLD President
Re: WYLD Quarterly Report (July 2009)
Date: July 1, 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the current work and achievements of the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD). We have remained focused on connecting young lawyers with the sections, committees and other entities of WSBA, as well as all minority bar associations. We remain a transition point for thousands of new and young attorneys looking for guidance on how best to participate in bar activities.

The WYLD Board of Trustees is also committed to representing our members and building partnerships. During these times of economic challenges for our nation, new and young lawyers are hit the hardest within our profession. We have focused our energies to support our members on these issues, including the hosting of a free ABA Recession Telephonic Series, which provided free CLE credit and information on how to survive these challenging times.

The WYLD has been active and focused during the third quarter of FY 2009. We have sponsored several events and programs and continue to make plans for the remainder of the year as summarized below. During the past few months, we have worked hard to support the BOG, our members, and the Association on issues unique to young lawyers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

March 21, 2009, BOT Meeting & Young Bar Leaders Summit

The fourth BOT meeting of FY 2009 was held in Seattle on March 21, 2009, immediately following the **Young Bar Leaders Summit** that was organized by the WYLD CFD and a committee of MBA leaders. The Summit was a very successful gathering of the BOT, young lawyer board representatives from most of the minority bar associations, the leaders of the county YLDs, and past fellows of the WLI for the first statewide WYLD summit of this kind. A number of pressing young lawyer issues were addressed, including the current job market and what our various bar associations can do to assist young lawyers who are unemployed and underemployed. The Chair of the ABA YLD, Lizz Acee, flew to Seattle from Connecticut to attend the Summit. The Summit reception was also well-attended, including special guests President-Elect Mungia, Governor Aoki, and Executive Director Littlewood.

At the March BOT meeting, the BOT voted to adopt the proposed WYLD Diversity Plan. The WYLD Diversity Plan provides a framework and basic plan for the Division to be mindful and take steps to support and maintain diversity within the Division. The BOT also looks forward to supporting the work of the BOG and WSBA staff in their vision and efforts to develop a diversity plan that serves all aspects of the Association, as well as working with the large amount of young lawyers in the minority bar associations who want to better connect with WSBA.

April 20, 2009 and May 20, 2009 telephonic BOT meetings

The BOT held two telephonic board meetings to discuss the civil legal aid funding crisis and prepare a written letter to the BOG in response to President Johnson's proposal. Additionally, the BOT heard presentations from both candidates for WSBA President-Elect.

May 29, 2009 BOT Meeting and ATJ/Bar Leaders Conference

At the May BOT meeting in Yakima, the board discussed how WYLD and young lawyers can help address the civil legal aid funding crisis and growing unmet legal needs around our state. A dialogue regarding the issues discussed and action plans developed from the Young Bar Leaders Summit was showcased with a panel of young lawyers as part of the ATJ/Bar Leaders Conference. The panel CLE presentation was entitled "Challenges Facing New Lawyers and Pro-Active Solutions".

Next Board meeting

The final Board of Trustees meeting for the bar year will be held August 15 at Tulalip.

WYLD Program Review

The WSBA Program Review Committee has met to review the WYLD and is working on its draft WYLD report and recommendations that will be presented to the BOG at the July meeting. In an effort to assist the Committee and engage in the program review process, the WYLD initiated an internal program review process last winter by forming a taskforce with three substantive subcommittees: **1) Public Service and Pro Bono; 2) Transition into Practice; and 3) Young and New Lawyer Representation and Outreach.** The WYLD BOT targeted these three categories as the primary focal points of the Division's work and has tasked each subcommittee with reviewing our current and future programming to determine how we can best serve our members in the coming years. The WYLD is dedicated to public and member service and is focused on these three areas:

1) WYLD PUBLIC SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROGRAMS:

Youth and Law Forum (Seattle)

The WYLD sponsored the annual **Youth and Law Forum** on April 18 in Seattle. The WYLD offered partial funding and assisted with planning for the Forum, which provides elementary through high school students the opportunity to participate in workshops

where they debate and analyze case studies with the guidance of volunteer attorneys and judges. The Seattle program is targeted towards at-risk youth and minority students. Event sponsors include the Loren Miller Bar Association, the Black Law Enforcement Association, King County Sheriff's office, and many local churches and groups.

Pre-Law Student Leadership Conference (Yakima)

The annual **Pre-Law Student Leadership Conference** took place on May 16 at the Convention Center in Yakima. Targeted outreach towards minority high school students from Eastern Washington was successfully conducted and more than 80 students attended. Students were encouraged to pursue a legal career and to take active leadership roles in their communities. They participated in interactive workshops and discussed case studies in the areas of criminal law, immigration law, civil rights, and environmental law. Between 15 and 20 attorneys, judges and community leaders volunteered time as mentors.

WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee

The WYLD is focused on providing pro bono and public service opportunities for lawyers around the state. The WYLD Public Service Committee is planning three pro bono wills clinics in FY 2009 through the WYLD **First Responder Wills Clinic**. The clinic provides free estate planning for first responders, including fire fighters and police. Eight clinics have been held to date with over 500 hundred clients served, and additional clinics are being planned to expand around the state. The clinic was recently awarded a **\$2,000 subgrant** from the ABA YLD to further its expansion efforts.

This committee has also worked to implement the ABA YLD national **domestic violence public service project** for 2008-2009, *Voices Against Violence*. This project has a focus on addressing the unmet legal needs of domestic violence victims, specifically victims of teen dating violence, through pro bono clinics and community outreach. To continue this important project and develop written materials on the legal rights of teen victims of dating violence in WA, the WYLD was recently **awarded a \$2,000 subgrant** from the ABA YLD to fund the grant proposal submitted this spring. The WYLD Public Service Committee is forming a committee to collaborate with other interested groups to continue this project and draft these materials.

The committee has also collaborated with TeamChild and the Northwest Justice Project to provide pro bono **juvenile records sealing clinics** around the state. The first sealing clinic was held on March 25 in Snohomish County, and future clinics are being planned in Spokane and Tacoma. Additionally, in partnership with the ABA National Pro Bono Celebration Week, the WYLD is working to help organize the **Pro Bono Week** around the state in October 2009. Finally, the WYLD and staff are working together with others to help expand the statewide pro bono directory to include the various pro bono and low bono opportunities for young lawyers.

The Greater Access and Assistance Project (GAAP) / Access to Justice Committee

The WYLD BOT and GAAP Committee were thrilled to learn of the recent BOG vote at the May BOG meeting in Yakima to develop a statewide low bono program. Currently, staff is drafting a formal written proposal regarding GAAP expansion and a proposal for a statewide low bono/modest means program for consideration by the BOG in the upcoming months. WYLD remains excited and committed to working with staff to support these developments and assist in any manner needed. Additionally, in an effort to provide training and recruit local attorneys for the local GAAP referral lists, a free family law CLE was held in Kitsap County in May and a similar program is scheduled in Snohomish County this summer.

2) TRANSITION INTO PRACTICE

WYLD CLE Committee and New Lawyer Education

Young lawyers continue to desire unique CLEs that best serve their educational needs. The CLE Committee addresses this particular programming need throughout the year by planning a number of targeted, low cost programs for young lawyers on both sides of the state. The Committee is looking forward to working with the CLE Department and New Lawyer Education Program in the upcoming months to develop substantive tracks and more targeted programming for young lawyers. The Committee is planning an Oregon reciprocity CLE with the Oregon New Lawyers Division in Portland, OR, on October 16-17, 2009. Additionally, WYLD hosted a free lunch for new lawyers who attended the New Lawyer Education Program at WSBA on May 20, 2009.

WYLD Membership (Member Benefits) Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for providing member benefits. It recently has organized Young Lawyer Express No. 11 at Gonzaga School of Law in Spokane on April 3-4, 2009. Justice Debra Stephens, Richard Kuhling, and others presented and the program, which was a great success. A joint WYLD and Loren Miller Bar reception was hosted by the law school immediately following the CLE. Planning has also begun for the **Young Lawyer Express No. 12**, a free CLE and networking event, which will be taking place in the Tri-Cities on September 11-12, 2009. With the assistance of various WYLD trustees, the Young Lawyer Express is taken around the State to provide free CLEs to our members. The Committee also continues to host other **weekly social and professional networking events** in the Puget Sound Area and Spokane for young lawyers to connect with each other and local young lawyer bar associations.

Bridging the Gap Conference Committee

The Bridging the Gap Conference was held on April 10, 2009 in Seattle. The conference sold out with more than 70 attendees and was a great success. WYLD and KCBA YLD also hosted a well attended reception after the conference. The mission of the Bridging the Gap Conference is to provide education on a wide variety of low-cost practical skills to help better prepare new lawyers to be successful in their legal careers, regardless of practice area.

3) YOUNG LAWYER OUTREACH AND REPRESENTATION

The Division and its Board of Trustees remain committed to supporting the needs and issues unique to young lawyers. The Young Bar Leaders Summit that was held this spring with young lawyer leaders from around the state resulted in the production of action plans with recommended proposals and important issues for WYLD and the other county bar YLDs and interested MBA leaders to collaborate and address together.

ABA Meeting Representation

The WYLD sent seven young lawyers to New Orleans to attend the ABA YLD Spring Conference in May. Additionally, seven WYLD members will attend the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago and serve as delegates to the ABA YLD Assembly, voting on issues facing young lawyers that are before the ABA House of Delegates.

MBA Picnic and Diversity Conference

WYLD BOT members attended the annual MBA Picnic and WAMBAC Diversity Conference in Seattle in June to show our continued support of diversity efforts and to reach out to WYLD members who lead these organizations.

WYLD Member Needs

During these times of economic challenges for our nation, new and young lawyers are hit the hardest within our recession. We have focused our energies to support our members on these issues, including the hosting of a free ABA Recession telephonic series, providing free CLE credit and information on how to survive these challenging times.

4) CONCLUSION

The WYLD greatly appreciates the continued support of the Board of Governors and WSBA staff as we volunteer many hours in an effort to serve our fellow young lawyers and our unique needs within the profession. We welcome your feedback. You are of course always welcome and encouraged to join us at a future WYLD meeting or event.