



# WSBA

WASHINGTON YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

To: WSBA Board of Governors  
From: John M. Brangwin, WYLD President  
Re: WYLD Quarterly Report (December 2006)  
Date: November 21, 2006

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Thank you for the opportunity to report on the current status of the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD). The theme for this year is "Succeeding in Practice." To help young lawyers achieve success we have provided guidance and training in professionalism, quality of life, networking, career development, and skills training. The WYLD has been busy during this first quarter of FY 2007; we have sponsored several events and programs this fall and continue to make plans for the remainder of the year as summarized below.

### **Board of Trustees Meetings**

The first BOT meeting of FY 2007 was held on October 7 in Gig Harbor. This meeting was also an orientation for the new WYLD committee/program chairs. Following the meeting the Trustees and Chairs participated in a Challenge Course at the YMCA Camp Seymour. The purpose of this event was to focus on team building skills for the Board and Chairs. I highly recommend the BOG try such a course. We gained far more from this low cost program than I have ever seen a group gain from a "professional" team builder. The next BOT meeting will be held in on December 2 at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane.

### **WYLD CLE Committee**

The WYLD CLE is busier than ever. In September, the Committee sponsored its first ever OR/WA Reciprocity CLE. The event took place in Vancouver, WA on September 9-10 and provided 67 attorneys from Oregon and Washington with the low-cost opportunity to obtain the required CLE credits for reciprocity. Following the CLE a social event was sponsored by the OSB YLD which provided an opportunity for WYLD members to mix and mingle with OSB YLD members in a joint effort to foster the relationship between the Bar Associations. In October, Judge Terence Lukens (Ret.) presented "Civil Motions: Tips from the Bench". This event was held at the WSBA office and was well attended. On November 16, the Committee partnered with the WSBA Criminal Law Section to present "Hot Topics in Criminal Law: Witnesses" which featured David Fiege, author of the recently published book "Indefensible: One Lawyer's Journey Into the Inferno of American Justice". This CLE was also held at the WSBA and over 50 young lawyers attended.

### **Pro Bono/Public Service Committee**

#### *Wills for Heroes Clinics*

Sponsored by the Pro Bono/Public Service Committee, Wills for Heroes (WFH) provides free estate planning for first responders, including fire fighters and police. The program was started in South Carolina after September 11, 2001, and was started in Washington by WYLD members Jenni Frere Volk and Ford Clary. Twelve volunteer attorneys and nearly 30 law clerks, paralegals and notaries all contributed to the success of the Clinics. The clinics were held in King County on September 9 and October 7. WFH served nearly 50 clients and provided more than 150 estate planning documents.

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### *Immigration Clinic*

On November 2, the Committee held a free legal Immigration clinic in association with Seattle University's Access to Justice Institute. While attendance was down from previous clinics, volunteer attorneys and students helped approximately 30 low income individuals with their immigration needs.

### **Law Student Outreach**

On October 15, the WYLD Membership Committee and the University of Washington Student Health Law Organization co-sponsored the first annual Race Judicata 5K. The 150 registrants consisted of runners and walkers from the local legal community, WYLD members, area law students, and judges. Funds raised from the Race Judicata 5K will support an externship for a student working in a health-related public interest position in the summer of 2007.

In addition to supporting and promoting law school events, we have continued our commitment to Law Student outreach by visiting both SU School of Law and UW School of Law this fall. We would like to thank President Dial for generously donating her time to this cause as well. Arrangements are being made to visit Gonzaga School of Law in January 2007.

### **2006 Trial Advocacy Program**

The 2006 The Trial Advocacy Program (TAP) was held on October 27-28 and November 10-11. The program provided young lawyers an opportunity to improve their litigation skills, in both the civil and criminal justice fields, and to acquire jury trial experience. The first weekend was comprised of presentations by accomplished trial attorneys, judges, and legal consultants on critical phases of trial preparation and practice, including depositions, discovery, voir dire, and opening statements. During the second weekend the participants participated in mock jury trials. 65 young lawyers from all across Washington participated in this year's program.

### **WYLD Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee continues to plan monthly social and networking events for young lawyers. Recent events include WYLD Night at an Everett Silvertips hockey game and a Seahawks game. The committee is hard at work planning events for 2007 including the Young Lawyer Express 7: Ski-LE in Leavenworth scheduled for February 24-25, 2007.

### **2007 Bridging the Gap Conference**

The WYLD will again partner with the KCBA-YLD to present the 2007 Bridging the Gap Conference for young lawyers and law students. The Conference will be held on March 2-3, 2007. A planning committee comprised of members from both organizations has been established and planning is underway for the event.

### **Joint Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) and WYLD Conference**

Planning is under way for a joint conference with LAP. It has been several years since the WYLD has held an annual conference. I would like to see the Division go back to holding such a conference. Accordingly, we have teamed with the WSBA Lawyers Assistance Program and Law Office Management Program to join and strengthen their conference to be held in Wenatchee, March 23-25, 2007. We will also hold a Board of Trustees meeting during the conference.

The WYLD appreciates the continued support of the Board of Governors and WSBA staff.

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