



WSBA

WASHINGTON YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Jaime Hawk, WYLD President
Re: WYLD Quarterly Report (December 2008)
Date: December 5, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the current work and achievements of the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD). We as a Division of this Association are proud of our continued services provided to our constituents.

The WYLD leadership has already volunteered over a thousand hours during this first quarter of FY 2009. During the past few months, we have worked tirelessly in an effort to support the BOG, our members, and the larger Association on issues unique to young lawyers. The Division has organized several events and programs this fall and continues to make plans for the remainder of the year as discussed in this report.

The theme for this year is the “changing face of the profession” with a focus on greater collaboration between WYLD and the sections, committees and other entities of WSBA, as well as all minority bar associations. We remain the transition for thousands of newer and younger attorneys who are looking for guidance on how to best participate in bar activities.

The Board of Trustees is committed to strengthening our ties within the profession and communities we represent, as well as providing public service and professional development opportunities and membership benefits to our young lawyer members. We plan to focus on coordinating joint projects with county and minority bar associations and ensuring that our WYLD Committees work together to benefit young lawyers and law students from every corner of the state. Additionally, the trustees are committed to supporting the work of the Board of Governors and hope to serve as a resource to their respective governors by reaching out to and providing feedback from the young lawyers in their districts, as well as continuing to serve the unique needs and challenges faced by young lawyers.

The WYLD's efforts and targeted programming are directed toward fulfilling WSBA's mission statement and guiding principles. The WYLD Long Range Planning has met to discuss programmatic review and is actively discussing the important issues raised by WSBA staff. The first meeting of the WSBA Programmatic Review Committee to discuss the WYLD is December 17. We look forward to working with the committee and participating in the programmatic review process.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The first BOT meeting of FY 2009 was held on October 18 in Spokane. This meeting served as the orientation for our new trustees on the board and an opportunity for all trustees to set goals and develop action plans for their districts for the year. The focus of this meeting was on leadership and diversity and how to serve as an effective bar leader.

Connection with WSBA leadership

The Board is committed to increasing connection with the larger Association leadership. We discussed the value in and necessity of future outreach at meetings, so we can best serve the young lawyer needs around the State. Former WSBA President Ellen Dial attended the meeting and spoke to the board regarding both of these important topics and the challenges facing bar leadership and the profession. The trustees particularly appreciated her support of the WYLD in its efforts to continue to serve the unique needs of the next generation of attorneys.

Young lawyer services provided to all geographic parts of the State

During a significant portion of the meeting, all trustees prepared a written plan of action for their district for the 2008-2009 bar year with a focus on diversity and targeted outreach to their young lawyer constituents. For example, the King County Trustees focused communication with members, and specifically, speaking to young lawyers on ways to fully benefit from WSBA services, leadership and networking opportunities. Other trustees recognized the unique needs of their geographic region, especially their efforts to support the county young lawyer groups within their jurisdiction. In general, there was an emphasis on the need to communicate a specific message to young lawyers as to the value of future bar involvement.

Diversity efforts

The Board of Trustees is particularly focused on the immediate need for supporting diversity in our profession. As a result, a proposed WYLD Diversity Plan was presented by the WYLD Committee for Diversity to the Board of Trustees for consideration, so we can continue to maintain Diversity in our Division while working with the large amount of young lawyers in the minority bar associations who want to increase involvement in the WSBA. The BOT also looks forward to supporting the work of WSBA staff in their efforts to develop a diversity plan that serves all aspects of the Association.

In conjunction with this meeting, the WYLD Board of Trustees hosted a diversity reception at the Center for Justice to kick off “Building Bridges Week” at Gonzaga School of Law with the Gonzaga Law Student Bar Association and the Spokane County Bar Association Diversity Committee. There were approximately 70 law students, young lawyers, and special guests in attendance.

Next Board meeting

The second Board of Trustees meeting will be held tomorrow, December 6, in Bellingham. The BOT is very much looking forward to the joint dinner scheduled with the BOG on December 5. Special guests Paula Littlewood and WSBA President Mark Johnson are invited to this meeting. To further our goal of collaboration, the Board of Trustees and the WYLD Public Service Committee have organized a Pre-law Conference for Bellingham high school students. The keynote speaker will be Judge Ricardo Martinez. The WYLD greatly appreciates the many lawyers, judges, and teachers from Whatcom County who volunteered their time to make this event a great success.

WYLD COMMITTEE AND ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING:

WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee

Supporting prelaw students

The WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee took the lead in organizing the Pre-law Student Leadership Conference in Bellingham on December 6, held along with the Board of Trustees meeting. The goal of the conference is to expose young people to different areas of the law, to encourage them to attend college and consider law school, and to show them what is possible with a law degree. The conference consists of small workshops that are designed to introduce the students to different areas of the law and different ways of using a law degree. The workshops are followed by a panel discussion with diverse young lawyers from the local area and across the state and a keynote speech by the Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez. Due to the unique questions and concerns high school students have, young lawyers are able to relate and communicate with these students and future lawyers. Through this specialized programming, WYLD is proud to represent WSBA's commitment to continuing a talented legal community for future decades. The committee will co-sponsor similar events in Yakima and Spokane this year.

Improving relations between the bar and community

Our young lawyer members have encouraged more efforts to improve the image of the profession within the community. In response, we have focused on these young lawyers' interests in creating our public service initiatives. The committee is planning to sponsor 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. The program was started in response to the hundreds of first responders who died intestate on September 11, 2001, and was started in Washington by WYLD members Jenni Frere Volk and Ford Clary. Seven clinics have been held to date with over 400 hundred clients served, and there are plans to expand the clinics around the state.

This committee will also be working 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. The committee is also collaborating with TeamChild to provide pro bono juvenile records sealing clinics around the state. Again, the unique perspective of young lawyers on issues facing teens will allow us to most effectively serve and communicate with this vulnerable generation on behalf of WSBA.

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

As budgetary challenges continue to face the legal services community, young lawyers have encouraged greater involvement by our members in promoting access to justice. As a result, the WYLD GAAP Committee and the Board of Trustees are working hard toward statewide expansion of GAAP, as well as the development of an online in-take and referral system. The committee has also received a generous grant from the WSBA Family Law Section and is planning free family law CLE programs in Kitsap, Snohomish and Spokane Counties in an effort to provide training and recruit local attorneys for the local GAAP referral lists who will agree to take a GAAP case in the upcoming months. The committee hopes to have a formal written proposal regarding GAAP expansion and the online system for consideration by the BOG at the January meeting.

WYLD CLE Committee

Educational programming for young lawyers

Young lawyers continue to desire unique CLEs that best serve their educational needs. These needs are often more broad and specialized. 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. Multiple seminars are being planned to educate young lawyers on many matters relevant to their early career. In the next two months there are scheduled seminars on the topics of employment contracts and separation agreements from both the employee and management perspective, and a corporate cyber-security risk management seminar. The CLE Committee also plans to collaborate and co-sponsor the next Young Lawyer Express in Spokane that is being planned by the Membership Committee.

Mandatory Pre-Admission Education Program

The WSBA CLE Department has invited WYLD to participate in the Mandatory Pre-Admission Education Program for new admittees that will be taped in Seattle next month. Feedback from recent new lawyers was received requesting more participation of young lawyers in the Mandatory Pre-Admission Education Program who can share their experiences and insights. WYLD is happy to assist and provide young lawyer perspectives to the CLE Department in this effort.

WYLD Membership Committee

Member Benefits

The Membership Committee completed parts I-III of an election law program series. Part I focused on how young lawyers can get involved in the electoral process. Part II was a CLE focused on governing law. Part III focused on the Ins and Outs of Running For Public Office. Part IV will be a CLE at SU Law School focusing on Minority Voting Rights in January 2009.

Planning has also begun for the Young Lawyer Express No. 11, a free CLE and networking event, which will be taking place in Spokane on March 7-8, 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 Membership Committee provides both member benefits to our WYLD members and provides social opportunities to encourage camaraderie among young legal professionals. We hope these unique committee efforts will promote a more civil and respectful profession for future decades.

Race Judicata

The Membership Committee helped to organize and sponsor *The Third Annual Race Judicata*, hosted by the University of Washington's Student Health Law Organization. The event was held in Seattle on October 18. Over 150 members of the legal community participated. The event raised \$3,500 which goes towards supporting student public interest health law work. It was a great opportunity for young legal professionals and law students, in particular, to unite behind a cause and meet each other.

Social Events

The committee's annual holiday party and networking event will be held in Seattle on December 9. This event is always a great opportunity to bring together young lawyers from various practice areas to enjoy each other's company and make new friends. The Membership 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.

Trial Advocacy Program (TAP) Committee

On October 24-25 and November 15, in Seattle the WYLD through the incredible work of WSBA staff, Superior Court Judges, and other young lawyer volunteers, organized training for young lawyers looking to gain valuable trial experience. This remains a valuable service for young lawyers. TAP is an intensive two-weekend program with the first weekend comprised of presentations and workshops by accomplished trial attorneys,

judges and legal consultants on critical phases of trial preparation and practice, including depositions, discovery, voir dire, opening statements, cross examination and closing.

Mock jury trials were held the second weekend. Following the verdict, the participants received constructive criticism and helpful insights from their assigned judge and jury. All participants received personal instruction and detailed trial preparation and practice tips within the workshops.

Bridging the Gap Conference Committee

The Bridging the Gap Conference Committee focuses on serving the unique transitional needs of new lawyers as they first become attorneys. The WYLD works to prepare these new lawyers in those matters not taught in law school, while then allowing for their professional growth in the years after this initial transition. The Committee held their first meeting this fall and is planning to hold the event in April 2009 in Seattle. 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. The WYLD partners with the King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division to sponsor this conference.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Division remains committed to improving connections with those within and outside of WSBA in an effort to continue to promote those services and opportunities unique to young lawyers.

Law School Outreach

Maintaining a seamless transition between law school and the WYLD is important. WYLD is focused on this transitional period. In addition to supporting and promoting law school events, WYLD continues its commitment to law student outreach by plans to visit all three law schools this year. The three law student trustees on the Board of Trustees are working hard to make WYLD more visible in the law schools and plan to organize programs and receptions with WYLD to promote how law students can get involved with WYLD and bar activities and connected to professional mentors. We are grateful for the WSBA's support of our efforts to reach out to the law schools and their assistance in providing opportunities for students to participate in WYLD activities.

WSBA section outreach

The WYLD can be seen as a portal entity in that each year young lawyers are transitioning into and out of the WYLD and looking to get more involved in WSBA Sections. In an effort to get more young lawyers active in WSBA Sections, the WYLD has proposed a WYLD liaison program to all WSBA sections. If a section is interested, the WYLD will appoint a young lawyer liaison who will provide increased

communication between the Section and the WYLD and will seek opportunities to collaborate and provide more targeted programming and outreach to young lawyers. WYLD looks forward to working together with the Sections to help young lawyers be successful in their practice and to expose young lawyers to the benefits, resources and leadership opportunities available in all WSBA Sections.

ABA national recognition

The WYLD has retained its long historical presence in the leadership of the American Bar Association. Indeed, Bill Neukom just finished his term as ABA President. A former YLD leader in this State and former Chair of the ABA YLD, President Neukom's leadership has complemented our current WYLD leadership with the ABA.

The WYLD is often recognized for its innovated leadership on particular issues, especially in the services and benefits we provide to our members. As a result of this respect of our state delegation, about a dozen young lawyers in Washington have achieved some of the highest leadership positions both within the ABA YLD and the larger ABA. Many of the current member benefit planning and efforts by the larger ABA are a direct result of initiatives created and advocated for by WYLD members. It also has led to outside funding to promote our efforts. Such esteem associated with our State through our young lawyer leaders has added great recognition to our Bar by a national audience.

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 welcome and encouraged to join us at a future WYLD meeting or event.