

REPORT OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION 2002-2003 BAR YEAR

The Young Lawyers Section is the oldest and largest section of the State Bar of Michigan. Originally founded in 1940 as the Junior Bar Section, the YLS had its name changed to the Young Lawyers Section (YLS) in 1960. The YLS is the introductory organization to the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) for new lawyers who are age thirty-six (36) or younger or who have been admitted to practice for five (5) years or less. The history of the YLS demonstrates its core commitment to providing programs which serve both the bar and the public. The YLS also conducts seminars and social events which are aimed at assisting law students.

The YLS is a good foundation for future leaders of the bar. Currently for example, the YLS is proud to have its former Chair, Evanne L. Dietz serving as Assembly Clerk of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA/YLD). In addition, former YLS member and former SBM President Dennis W. Archer will become the first African American President of the ABA in August of this year.

I would like to thank my fellow officers, Chair-Elect D. Andrew Portinga, Vice Chair Angeliqu S. Marks and Secretary-Treasurer Alexandra S. Matish for their support and dedication in making this bar year a very successful one. I would like to thank Ex-Officio Evanne L. Dietz for her greatly appreciated insights and guidance to all of the YLS Executive Council. I want to also thank the members of this year's dynamic Executive Council for their tirelessness, creativity and hard work as they coordinated numerous programs throughout the bar year. The Executive Council included: Lawrence G. Almeda, John J. Conway, Donald P. Denault, Jr., Thomas Evans, Jeffrey Kirkey, Ginta Kukainis, Roxanne Medina-Solomon, Jenice Mitchell, Michael Rowady, Wil Steiner and law Student Liaison Jennifer Woodside-Wojtala.

The YLS as a whole is also very thankful to SBM Sections Coordinator Karen L. Williams and Administrative Assistant Joyce Nordeen. To say that we will miss Karen as she continues on into the adventures of a happy retirement is an understatement.

The goals of the 2002-2003 bar year included 1) providing quality programs and seminars to the bar and the community; and 2) increasing involvement with local and specialty bar association. Projects which met the goal of working with local and specialty bar associations included the YLS Holiday Dinners held in December. YLS officers Andy Portinga and Alexandra Matish organized the Dinners in Grand Rapids and Lansing respectively. The YLS teamed up with the Ingham County Young Lawyers for the Lansing event. YLS officer Angeliqu S. Marks organized the Holiday Dinners held in Highland Park and Pontiac. The YLS co-sponsored each of these dinners with the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the Detroit Metro Bar Association (DMBA) Barristers. The YLS also held its successful 'Springfest' social event in March in Royal Oak and had the opportunity to work with the Barristers in coordinating this event. YLS Executive Council members Ginta Kukainis and Wil Steiner chaired this well received event.

Programs which met the goal of serving members of the YLS section included a teleseminar entitled 'The Anatomy of Fee Agreements' which YLS Executive Council member Jeffrey Kirkey coordinated. The YLS co-sponsored this program with the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). The program's format enabled attendees to phone into a discussion on devising fee agreements with clients. Attendees were also able to log onto the ICLE website to view program materials and helpful information. The YLS also co-sponsored the annual New Lawyers Seminar which is hosted by the Federal Bar Association. This occurred December 3-4, 2002 and I was honored to attend and introduce newly admitted attorneys to all of the good works of the YLS.

In March, Council member Lavonda Jackson organized a panel discussion on Alternative Legal Careers which was held at University of Detroit Law School. Panelists included an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a staff attorney from the Federal Defender's Office and a district court judge.

Thanks to the efforts of YLS Council member Jeffrey Kirkey, the YLS website has been updated and serves as an important connection to YLS programs and events. Mr. Kirkey also moderates and keeps current the YLS listserv, which advertises YLS programs and keeps YLS members current regarding various YLS events.

This year has also been successful in that the YLS has scheduled programs throughout this bar year. For example, YLS Council member L.G. Almeda is chairing the Seventh Annual Financial Planning Seminar for Young Lawyers which will be held in Ann Arbor on July 29, 2003. Local financial planning expert Rick Bloom will be the keynote speaker of this popular and always well received event. Officer Angelique Marks and Council member L.G. Almeda are coordinating a program entitled, "Can Women Attorneys Have it All?". This program, which will debut in late August, will feature a panel of distinguished women attorneys and judges who will share their personal perspectives concerning the balancing act many professional women face when combining work and family. In addition, YLS Council member Jeffrey Kirkey is coordinating a second teleseminar for sometime in August as well.

That same month, the YLS is looking forward to co-sponsoring a 'Habitat for Humanity Home Build' in Lansing. This will be the third year that the YLS has participated in this important project. The Ingham County YLS will be co-sponsoring this event with the YLS. The YLS, is also excited to be working with the Senior Lawyers Section in coordinating a mentor/mentee program wherein young lawyers may learn from seasoned attorneys. New Council member Jenice Mitchell is chairing this program which will debut in September. And looking ahead, YLS Council member Wil Steiner has already coordinated the 2004 U. S. Supreme Court Swearing-In Ceremony which will take place on January 24, 2004.

YLS programs which addressed the goal of serving the community included the successful YLS 'Imprint' Mentoring program which I started upon becoming a member

of the YLS Council. I am pleased to report that the program has continued to thrive and expand . In addition to the Detroit Metro area session of the program held at Southfield High School, 'Imprint' sessions are now held in Lansing, at Everett Middle School, thanks to the efforts of YLS Officer Alexandra Matish. And, this year, thanks to the efforts of YLS Council member L.G. Almeda, 'Imprint' premiered in Ann Arbor at Gabriel Richard High School. 'Imprint' was also recognized this year by the ABA Young Lawyers Division (YLD). Specifically, the ABA/YLD selected 'Imprint' to be a featured program during its Spring National Conference held in New Orleans in May. I, along with 'Imprint' program co-chairs Alexandra Matish and Michelle Johnson served as program presenters, introducing attendees from across the country to the details of how to coordinate the 'Imprint' Mentoring Program in their respective states.

In February, former YLS Council member Stacey King coordinated the mock interview program which was held at University of Detroit Law School. This program allows law students to practice interview skills with prospective legal employers. During that same month, the YLS participated as a co-sponsor of the MLK Drum Major for Justice Program. This important program offers scholarship money to high school students who are successful participants in the annual oral advocacy program. YLS Chair-Elect Andy Portinga and Council member John J. Conway are co-chairing the Seventh Annual Race for Justice, which will again be held in concert with the SBM Annual Meeting on September 13, 2003. We are also pleased to announce that former SBM President and ABA President-Elect Dennis W. Archer will serve as Honorary Co-Chair of the Race for Justice this year.

The YLS has been honored to participate in State Bar President's Reginald Turner's efforts to increase the dialogue and cooperation among State Bar sections via the Bar Leadership Forum. We look forward to working with various sections in the years to come. We would also like to thank the State Bar leadership including SBM President Reginald Turner and the Board of Commissioners. The State Bar leadership gives the YLS enthusiastic and genuine support for all of its good works throughout the bar year. Without the support of the State Bar leadership, the YLS could not continue to provide the quality programming that has been at the crux of the YLS mission of serving its members and the community as a whole. Thank you to the State Bar and members of the YLS for giving me the opportunity to serve the YLS as Chairperson this year. The experience has been a wonderful one, and a testament to the important work that we must continue as we strive to do 'good works' both on behalf, and as members of a great profession.

Kathryn M. Day, Chairperson