

# YLD Matters

The Mississippi Bar



Young Lawyers Division

FALL 2015

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

I am so honored to serve as President of the Young Lawyers Division for the the 2015-2016 year and am excited about events and programs that we have planned in the upcoming year. This year's Young Lawyers Division activities began with the swearing in of newly-elected officers during The Mississippi Bar's Annual Convention in July. Shortly after the new officers were sworn in, a contingent from our division attended the ABA's Annual Meeting in Chicago. I am pleased to announce that during the convention, the Jackson Young Lawyer's Division received an award of excellence for its achievement with its newsletter as well as its public service project -- congratulations to JYL for both honors. Also, one of our very own YLD members, Carlyn Hicks, was awarded the Child Advocacy Award during the convention— congratulations to Carlyn for such an amazing honor.

On September 24, 2015, the Fall Admissions Ceremony was held at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. The Bar Admissions Committee, led by Matt Williams, organized the admissions ceremony for the 110 newly admitted members.

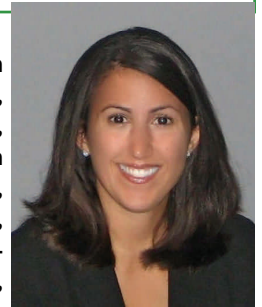
This year, our public service committee will focus on two programs -- Wills for

Heroes and Lawyers in the Library. The Wills for Heroes program is chaired by Mimi Arthur. Wills for Heroes is a program which offers free Wills, Advanced Healthcare Directives and Powers of Attorney for first responders across Mississippi. Hunter Aikens is leading the charge in the Lawyers in the Library program. During the program, volunteer attorneys meet with individuals one-on-one and help to guide them on their legal concerns.

Under the leadership of Clarence Webster, Chair of the Seminars Committee, the CLE series "Practice in a Flash: Litigation 101 Series" will continue this year. This series is geared towards young lawyers and led by young lawyers and covers the steps of the litigation process from the beginning to end with sessions on case investigation and evaluation; depositions and discovery; mediation and negotiation; trial; appeals; and ethics and civility. This year we will have the inaugural Deposition Academy on November 12-13, 2015, at the Mississippi Bar Center. The two day program will consist of one day of instruction and one day of mock depositions, during which program attendees will observe accomplished litigators conduct the deposition examination of a Rule 30(b)(6) witness, a party, and an expert witness. The deposition academy has been tailored to provide young lawyers practical and strategic skills and tools for conducting successful depositions of various parties and witnesses by learning from, and observing the deposition techniques of, seasoned trial attorneys. To ensure that each attendee is provided with the optimal learning experience, program participation is limited to 40 registrants. For additional information and to sign up, please contact Rene Garner at [rgarner@msbar.org](mailto:rgarner@msbar.org).

The Mock Trial Committee's chair, Austin Stewart, recently posted this year's

case. Competition dates are Saturday, January 16, 2016, for the Jackson Regional; Saturday, January 23, 2016, for the Coast Regional; Saturday, January 30, 2016, for the Oxford Regional; and Friday and Saturday, February 26-27, 2016, for the Statewide competition. Judges are needed for all rounds of the competition. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rene Garner by email at [rgarner@msbar.org](mailto:rgarner@msbar.org).



**YLD President  
Diala Chaney**

Last year, our YLD adopted the newest public service project of the ABA's Young Lawyers Division, entitled "Project Street Youth." In bringing this project to Mississippi, we created a committee to deal with issues facing the homeless youth in the State of Mississippi. Carlyn Hicks created a program in which our young lawyers can participate in clinics across Mississippi designed to help our homeless youth deal with the problems that they face on a daily basis.

Another committee, the Child Advocacy Committee, under the leadership of past president Jennie Eichelberger, is focused on the service project "Bullyproof." We hope to create a video and educational program to best assist children in Mississippi in the issuing with bullying they face on a daily basis.

The Young Lawyers Division wants to have your involvement to help make our division and our programs a success. If you are not involved in the YLD and want to be involved, please contact me. We want this to be your YLD. We look forward to an exciting fall and upcoming 2015-2016.

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## LOCAL AFFILIATE REPORTS



A Photo of the YLD Board Members hard at work at the Fall 2015 board meeting in Oxford Mississippi.

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### **HARRISON COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HCYLA)**

*Chris Smith, President*

The Harrison County Young Lawyers are very active in scheduling fun events for social activities and fellowship. They will be participating in a joint bowling tournament with the Jackson County YLD sometime in the Fall. The Harrison County YLD will also be putting on a tennis tournament at Bayou Bluff Tennis Club in Gulfport in the Spring – looking at March/April as dates.

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### **HATTIESBURG AREA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HAYLA)**

*Nick Thompson, President*

The Hattiesburg Area Young Lawyers Association (HAYLA) has partnered with Christian Services and the 2015 Class of Leadership Pinebelt to provide a monthly legal aid clinic. The first clinic was held on August 12, 2015, and the second clinic was held on September 9, 2015. The third and final clinic of 2015 will be on October 14, 2015. All clinics incorporate the “Child Support Collection” packet and instruction session, which is funded by HAYLA’s American Bar Association (“ABA”) affiliate subgrant. Due to overwhelming volume of questions at these clinics regarding expungements, HAYLA has also prepared a comprehensive “Expungements in Mississippi” outline, for use by attorneys at the clinic and in practice.

HAYLA is currently in the process of collecting dues for the 2015-2016 year, and we held our “Welcome Back Party” at Vicki’s on Walnut on September 29, 2015. We will have our annual brewery tour at Southern Prohibition Brewery in downtown Hattiesburg on October 16th. Along with the South Central Mississippi Bar Association (“SCMBA”), HAYLA will cohost another Lunch & Learn event on November 19, 2015. The speaker will be U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael T. Parker, who will give a presentation on Federal Court Mediation and Settlement Conferences. This event has been approved for one hour of CLE credit and is free to all HAYLA members. In mid-December, HAYLA will cohost the annual Christmas Party with SCMBA.

## LOCAL AFFILIATE REPORTS, CONT'D

### JACKSON COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (JYCL)

*Shon Ellerby, President*

Confirmed to be holding regular meetings. The new president, Shon Ellerby, has many great ideas on expanding membership by providing more services to the community (and raising awareness). Several new committees are on the verge of formation, including a public service committee, outreach committee, and scholarship committee.

### JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS (JYL)

*Laine Staines, President*

In August, the Jackson Young Lawyers Association (“JYL”) was pleased to welcome newly appointed Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Jack Wilson as our guest speaker at our first general membership meeting of the year. At the meeting, we also received collections for a local elementary school in need of school supplies. In September, we co-hosted a social with the Capital Area Bar Association at the Iron Horse Grill on the occasion of the Fall Admissions Ceremony. On October 27th, JYL will host its second annual Costumes and Cornhole tournament at Fondren Public. All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. JYL will also co-host a Lawyer in the Library event with the Young Lawyers Division in Jackson in recognition of Pro Bono Week. Our second general membership meeting will be held on Friday, October 30th with Miss. Speaker of the House Philip Gunn as our special guest speaker. As always, we also look forward to co-hosting our annual Christmas party with the Capital Area Bar Association in early December. Toy donations will be received for Toys for Tots.

### LAUDERDALE COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (LCYL)

*Natalie King, President*

Fall is off to a great start for the Lauderdale County Young Lawyers. We have continued to host joint monthly meetings with the Lauderdale County Bar at Weidmann’s. Every month we have a guest speaker and offer CLE credit. In September, our guest speaker was Attorney Gayla Carpenter-Sanders, Director of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP). She presented on the best practices for limited scope representation. For our October meeting, the speaker will be Attorney Adam Kilgore, General Counsel for The Mississippi Bar. He will be covering ethical issues, including those related to social media.

In other news, The Lauderdale Young Lawyers are coaching two mock trial teams. Kathryn McNair and Amanda Evans are coaching a team at Lamar High School. Benjamin McMurtray and Natalie King are coaching a team at Meridian High School. Meagan Linton is also working with the two teams.

Lastly, the Lauderdale County Young Lawyers and the Lauderdale County Bar are in the process of planning our Christmas Party. Last year, the event was well attended and everyone is looking forward to it again. We are also brainstorming ways to incorporate a holiday service project.

## LOCAL AFFILIATE REPORTS, CONT'D

### LEE COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS (LCYL)

*Kristin Belvin, President*

In July of 2015 the Lee County Young Lawyers helped organize and execute a Guardianship clinic in conjunction with MVLP and the Lee County Bar for non-parents needing to enroll children in local school districts. The clinic was held July 15 and included CLE credits for speaker and local attorney Jonathan Martin's presentation. On September 8th the LCYL will have our monthly meeting to officially change the officer positions for the 2015-2016 terms. We will also be finalizing plans for the annual golf tournament to be held on September 28 to benefit the local domestic abuse shelter, S.A.F.E. This is our largest annual event and fundraiser which includes heavy involvement from local attorneys and law offices. In October the LCYL & LCB will be organizing and hosting a general law clinic in conjunction with the MVLP to offer free legal aid in all areas to those who qualify. This event is scheduled for October 20th at the Lee County Justice Center in Tupelo. In December we will host our annual Holiday party in place of our regular meeting and have not made any solid commitments for 2016 events as of this time.

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### OXFORD AREA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (OAYLD)

*Russ McNees, President*

Last summer we started the process of changing our name from Tri County Young Lawyers to Oxford Area Young Lawyers. Hopefully we finalized that process at the August Board Meeting. We attended the ABA Convention in July/August and voted in the YLD Assembly. We are working on several things now: (1) emailing prior members and other eligible attorneys in the area to build membership, (2) planning a social around October, (3) working on a bowling tournament with other area young lawyer affiliates and (4) hope to join the Lafayette County Bar Christmas Party in December again.

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### GOLDEN TRIANGLE YOUNG LAWYERS (GTYL)

*Ashlyn Matthews, President*

The Golden Triangle Young Lawyers affiliate is working to increase membership and participation. In the short term, we are going to focus efforts on organizing happy hours, preferably with a sponsor, to incentivize our young lawyers to get more involved with the YLD. If there is enough interest and participation, we will also work toward organizing a Wills for Heroes event for our community.

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### NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (NWyLD)

*Hank Spraggins, President*

Members of the Northwest Mississippi Young Lawyers Division have participated in several events sponsored by the DeSoto County Bar Association, which has given members the opportunity to meet and network with members of the DeSoto County Bar. Recently, on October 6, 2015, members participated in the DeSoto County Family Law Clinic, a joint project of the DeSoto Chancery Court, the DeSoto County Bar Association, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and the University of Mississippi Pro Bono Initiative, which provides free legal help to qualifying individuals in DeSoto County. The Northwest Mississippi Young Lawyers Division plans to hold a Fall meeting soon to welcome new members of the Mississippi Bar and Young Lawyers Division.

## JOIN THE LOCAL AFFILIATE IN YOUR AREA

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the local affiliate organizations is to aid in the administration of justice; to promote among its members higher ethical and professional standards in the practice of law; to advise, inform and educate its members in all matters relevant to the practice of law; to present programs and conduct projects to educate the public at large about the judicial system, the role of the attorney and the rights of the individual under law; to conduct seminars and other educational programs; to promote fellowship among its members and to sponsor social activities for members and their guests.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Membership is open to any duly-licensed member of The Mississippi Bar who is a resident of the area which the affiliate serves and is either 37 years of age or younger or has been a member of The Mississippi Bar for less than three years. The local affiliates charge a minimal annual membership fee.

[Click here for information on how to join or contact the local affiliate in your area.](#)

**AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT:** If you would like to become more involved with YLD, please contact Rene' Garner at [rgarner@msbar.org](mailto:rgarner@msbar.org) or me at [dialachaney@msn.com](mailto:dialachaney@msn.com)

## FALL 2015 BAR ADMISSIONS CEREMONY WELCOMES 110 NEW ATTORNEYS

The Fall Bar Admissions Ceremony was held Thursday, September 24 at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. One hundred and ten new admittees were certified to practice in the State of Mississippi. Program participants included, Justice Randy G. Pierce, representing the Supreme Court; Judge Denise Owens, representing Hinds County Chancery Court; Judge Debra M. Brown, representing the US District Courts for the Northern District of Mississippi; Judge M. Keith Starrett, representing the US District Courts for the Southern District of Mississippi; Judge James E. Graves, Jr., representing the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; Dean Deborah H. Bell recognized new admittees from University of Mississippi Law School; Dean Wendy B. Scott recognized new admittees from Mississippi College School of Law; Jeff Styres, Member, Board of Bar Admissions; Reverend Edward O'Connor, The Cathedral Parish of St. Andrew, gave the invocation; and Jennie A. Eichelberger, Past President of the Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar. Matthew M. Williams, Chair, YLD Bar Admissions Ceremony Committee also participated in the Ceremony. Roy D. Campbell III, President of The Mississippi Bar, gave the Admission Address.

## Practice in a Flash: Litigation 101 Series

Learn what you didn't learn in law school with the Young Lawyers Division's CLE series "Practice in a Flash: Litigation 101." The series will take you step-by-step through the litigation process with sessions on case investigation and evaluation; depositions and discovery; mediation and negotiation; trial; appeals; and ethics and civility. The six sessions will be held at the Mississippi Bar Center (643 North State Street) in Jackson from 10 a.m. - Noon.

**Purchase sessions for \$25 each.**

[Click here to download the registration brochure and upcoming schedule](#)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS JUDGES FOR THE 2016 MS HS MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Attorney volunteers are needed to judge during the 2016 Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition. There will be three Regional Competitions – Jackson (Jan. 16), Coast (Jan. 23), and Oxford (Jan. 30), and the Statewide Competition (Jackson) will be on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27. Please sign up to judge by filling out the electronic form available [here](#). Once you fill out the form and press the submit button, you will see a “thank you message” letting you know that your form has been received. This competition is sponsored annually by The Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division. If you have any questions, please contact Rene' Garner at [rgarner@msbar.org](mailto:rgarner@msbar.org)

### Lawyers in the Library: Eudora Welty Library in Jackson

The Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”), in partnership with the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission and Jackson Young Lawyers, held this year’s first Lawyers in the Library event on October 29, 2015, at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson. Attorney volunteers provided pro bono legal advice to approximately twenty-five event participants in the areas of Criminal Law and Expungement, Family Law and Child Custody, Wills and Estates, and Social Security Disability. For volunteering at the event and making it a success, special thanks are extended to Tiffany Graves, Simon Bailey, Laura McCarthy, Diandra Hosey, Seth Shannon, Kyra McDonald, Connie Jelliffe and Brett Ferguson. YLD will hold the next Lawyers in the Library event at a date to be determined in January at the Pascagoula Public Library. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this program, please contact Hunter Aikens at [haike@ospd.ms.gov](mailto:haike@ospd.ms.gov)



[Click here for the  
 YLD's webpage](#)

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## WRITE FOR THE YLD NEWSLETTER

The YLD Newsletter is now accepting articles on YLD topics for publication in the newsletter. If you have an idea for an article, please submit it to YLD Newsletter Editor Andrew Stubbs at [astubbs@heidelbergharmon.com](mailto:astubbs@heidelbergharmon.com).

Please include a short description of the article. The YLD Newsletter Committee will consider your proposal and will notify you of whether your proposal has been accepted. The committee reserves the right to reject proposals. Please note that when you submit your article for publication in the newsletter, you will be granting the MS Bar the nonexclusive right to publish your article.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

1/16/16—Jackson Regional  
 1/23/16—Coast Regional (Gulfport)  
 1/30/16—Oxford Regional  
 2/26-2/27/2016—Statewide (Jackson)

### YLD'S BRIDGE THE GAP: RULE 3—NEW LAWYER PROGRAM

4/29/16—Jackson (6hrs)  
 6/3/16—Hattiesburg (3hrs)

### SPRING BAR ADMISSIONS CEREMONY

4/28/16—Supreme Court Courthouse

### LITIGATION 101 SERIES

12/4/15—Mediation and Negotiation

## YLD BOARD MEMBERS

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