

The Mississippi Bar



Young Lawyers Division

YLD Matters

The Newsletter for the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar · Spring 2017

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The President's Note:

We are more than half way through the Bar year and it's been great so far! Our committees and projects are making grand strides toward their final goals. Lawyers in the Library held a successful clinic in October, as did the Veterans Legal Assistance Program. The Bar Admissions Ceremony in September was lovely—hard to believe the next ceremony in April will be here so soon! And, the Local Affiliates throughout the state are holding luncheons, CLEs, social hours and fundraisers.

Speaking of Local Affiliates—if you're not involved in yours, you should be! We are happy to answer any questions you may have. I was President of the Harrison County Young Lawyers in 2007-08 and enjoyed it immensely. I wouldn't be the lawyer I am, without the people I met and the experiences I had with my local affiliate. I certainly don't get to attend as many meetings as I used to, but I hold the local officers of all local affiliates in high regard.



Being involved at the local or state level requires sacrifice. Because of that, I am sincerely thankful to all involved at any level. I appreciate your dedication and hard work!

I hope 2017 continues to be a great year! Sincerely, Jenny

Spring Feature

Mock Trial Madness

Each year The Mississippi Bar hosts the Mock Trial Competition. Teams from across the state compete for the honor of representing Mississippi at the national competition. This year—the Mock Trial Competition’s 34th year—Christy Vinson Malatesta served as chair.

The competition always begins with a problem. This year, the problem (prepared by Christy) dealt with a civil lawsuit and was full of pop-culture references. The teams receive the problem in the Fall, and immediately begin preparing. The student participants and their attorney coaches dedicate an untold number of hours to learning the facts, the applicable law and the mock trial rules. They rehearse, and some even coordinate their outfits. From there, they meet face-to-face at one of the three regional competitions: in Jackson, Oxford and on the Coast.

The Jackson Regional (chaired by Andrew Harris) took place on January 21st at the Mississippi College School of Law. Brandon High School (Team 1), Brandon High School (Team 2), Jackson Prep (Team 1), Jackson Prep (Team 2), Lamar



Sacred Heart Catholic School—2017 Champions

School (Team 1), Lamar School (Team 2), Madison, Central, St. Aloysius High School and St. Andrew's Episcopal School (Team 1) advanced to the next round. Copiah Educational Foundation was the alternate.

The Oxford Regional (chaired by Julia Jimenez) took place on January 28th at the Lafayette County Chancery Courthouse. MSMS Team 1, MSMS Team 2 and Oxford High advanced to the next round. Greenville High was the alternate.

Spring Feature: Continued

Finally, the Coast Regional (chaired by Jaklyn Wrigley) took place on February 4th at the Harrison County Courthouse. Long Beach High School, Presbyterian Christian School, Sacred Heart Catholic School (Team 1) and St. Patrick Catholic High School advanced to the next round. Vancleave High School was the alternate.

At the state competition on March 3rd and 4th, **Sacred Heart** emerged victorious and was named the 2017 winner! MSMS (Team 1) won 2nd place, MSMS (Team 2) won 3rd place, Lamar School (Team 1) won 4th place, Long Beach High School won 5th place, and St. Patrick High School won 6th place. The teams this year were truly top notch! The YLD thanks the Chairs, the student participants, the attorney coaches, teacher sponsors, parents, judges, and Bar staff (particularly Rene' Garner!). Another great year is in the books. Bring on 2018!



Teams Gearing Up at Jackson Regional



Lamar School Team 2

LAWYER IN EVERY MISSISSIPPI CLASSROOM: ARE YOU IN?

If you are looking for a great way to participate in a statewide educational project in your area, look no further. The Lawyer in Every Mississippi Classroom Program gives you the chance to meet with students and discuss a variety of legal topics. This Program is sponsored by the YLD. Teachers sign up to participate and the YLD facilitates a visit by a Mississippi attorney to a Mississippi classroom without any cost to the teacher. Want to learn more? Follow this [link](#). Be sure to tell the teachers in your life about this fantastic opportunity!



YLD FOCUS ON DIVERSITY

On March 23, 2017, the YLD's Diversity Committee (chaired by Roslyn Griffin), along with Jackson Young Lawyers, hosted *Diversity 101: Promoting Diversity in the Law* at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute at COFO, located on Jackson State University's campus. More than 30 students from JSU and Alcorn State University attended the program.

The first session, *The Legal Side of Black Lives Matter*, gave students advice on how to successfully interact with the police and advocate for social justice. Panelists Officer Patrick Dodge and Attorneys Pieter Teeuwissen, Anthony Simon, and Dennis Sweet participated.

Attorneys Jay Bolin, Courtney Cockrell, Nate Elmore, Tiffany Paige, Dellwyn Smith and Ashley Wicks served as panelists for the second session: *I'm a Lawyer, Now What?* The panelists gave the students a glimpse into their individual areas of expertise and the paths they took to arrive there.

The final session, *Preparing for Law School*, featured attorneys Charles Griffin, John Dollarhide, Amorya Orr, and Denita Smith. These panelists gave the students practical advice on things they should focus on to prepare for law school. They also discussed various pre-law preparatory programs and scholarships available to the students.

The Honorable Denise Owens, Chancery Court Judge for Hinds County, Mississippi, served as the key note speaker during lunch. Judge Owens gave a rousing and encouraging speech on the importance of diversity. She also invited her law clerks to the podium to share their experiences.

The event was well received, and students made contacts that will benefit them throughout their law school careers and beyond. Special thanks to the panelists, the pre-law advisors who ensured the students attendance, and Bradley, LLP, which graciously sponsored lunch.



What's Going On?

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7: [Kids Seeking Safety](#): An Intro to Children's Immigration Issues; Jackson

April 11: Lawyers in the Library, Gulfport

April 13: Bar Foundation Annual Meeting & Fellows Induction Ceremony; Jackson

April 13: [Litigation 101](#): Trial, Jackson

April 27: [Spring Bar Admission Ceremony](#), Jackson

April 28: [Bridge the Gap](#)—New Lawyers Program, Jackson

May 17: [Litigation 101](#): Ethics and Civility, Jackson

June 1: [Bridge the Gap](#)—New Lawyers Program, Gulfport

June 15-16: [Deposition Academy](#), Jackson

July 12-15: [Annual Meeting](#), Destin

Looking for Another Way to Give Back?

The Young Lawyers Division is joining the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission and Catholic Charities of Jackson in hosting a timely CLE program titled "Kids Seeking Safety: An Intro to Children's Immigration Issues." The event will introduce two common immigration protections for vulnerable immigrant children and provide information for attorneys who may be considering pro bono immigration work. Registration is only \$50 and it covers the cost of CLE hours, breakfast and lunch. Judge Southwick of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit will be the keynote speaker. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

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Congrats to the YLD's New Officers!

The Bar held its annual election in January. Warmest congratulations to all of those elected!

President-Elect, Ann Marie M. Pate

Secretary, Jaklyn Wrigley

Director at Large, Adrienne H. Aikens

South West Director, G. Michael Gleason, Jr.

Coastal II Director, Ashley Wright Gunn

Central I Director, Mindy McKay Morton

Hinds Post IV, Abram Orlansky

Hinds Post V, Wesley Mockbee

Hinds Post VI, Denita N. Smith

North East Director, Lesley C. Walters

And special congratulations to **Patricia W. Bennet**, President-Elect of The Mississippi Bar.
The YLD is looking forward to your tenure!

The YLD Selects the 2016-2017 Outstanding Young Lawyer: Austin Stewart

During its March board meeting, the Young Lawyers Division voted Austin Stewart as The Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division Outstanding Young Lawyer of Mississippi for 2016-2017. The recipient of the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award exemplifies professional proficiency, service to the profession and service to the community, state and nation. Austin will be presented the award at the Young Lawyers General Assembly at the Annual Meeting in July.



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Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Want to make sure the YLD knows what's going on in your area? Send us a Facebook message, or send me an [email!](#)



Peace, love & kittens:

Jaklyn Wrigley

Communications Chair

YLD BOARD MEMBERS

2016-2017

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President-Elect

[Bradley Reeves](#)

Past President

[Diala Chaney](#)

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[Julia Jimenez](#)

Warren County Young Lawyers

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