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# Celebrating 40 Years of Service: A Brief History of the Young Lawyers Section



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NEGOTIATING  
the  
**Work  
Life**  
BALANCE

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011  
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Celebrating the  
Joy of Spring



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Seniors and the Law  
**Justice  
Never Retires**



**We Are Family**

## Introduction

### Over the Hill: 40 Years of The Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

By Jill Eckert McCall

Although with rare exceptions members “age out” of The Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (YLS) after 10 years in the profession, it says something for this organization to finally come “of age.” We are thankful that this 2010 - 2011 bar year, where we celebrate the theme, “We are Family,” we are able to come together and toast to the large family tree we have grown over the years.

Forty years ago, the YLS was created to encourage young lawyers to work together on projects for their community and for their profession. Over the course of the 2010 - 2011 bar year, we updated this historical chronicle, documenting the camaraderie and the successes of each YLS bar year. What began as a small group of 50 young lawyers hosting continuing legal education programs covering a handful of substantive law areas has grown into a dynamic and diverse group of more than 9,000 lawyers and law student members. The YLS now boasts nearly 30 committees and 50 special projects, which provide the legal community with ways to engage and serve thousands of people in the community at large.

By giving the 2010 - 2011 bar year the theme “We are Family,” we honor those who came before us and built the YLS’s multi-faceted legacy of service to both the community and the bar.

For 40 years, the YLS has made it our business to help the newest members of our profession get acclimated and to provide them with opportunities to serve the local community at large. To fulfill our commitment, we request our members’ time, ideas and enthusiasm.

We still gather at our annual luncheon to honor those past members who helped build the YLS into the premier young lawyers section in the country, and we are proud to continuously build upon their accomplishments. Please join us as we salute the Past Chairs, Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Special Project Leaders for their vision, cooperation and spirit. The pursuit of the YLS mission that we have inherited motivates the future leadership of the YLS to work together with our communities to facilitate the administration of justice and foster an understanding and respect for the law.

We may be “Over the Hill” but we’re just getting started!

*Jill Eckert McCall is the 2010 - 2011 Chair of the Young Lawyers Section*

<sup>1</sup> Justice Stevens, Judge Leighton, and our founding chair, David Hilliard, are members “in perpetuity” of the Section by resolution.



At the 40th anniversary reception on April 7, 2011 at the Standard Club, several Past Chairs of the YLS gathered to toast the section.

## Origins and the Early Years 1971-1980

In June of 1971, the bylaws of The Chicago Bar Association provided that 20% of committee membership was to be filled by lawyers under the age of 36. At that time, there was a small Young Lawyers Committee of approximately 20 members within the existing committee framework. This system worked well enough, but in the view of incoming CBA President Mr. Milton H. Gray, something more needed to be done to maintain the interest of the younger members and to accommodate the number of young lawyers yearning for greater participation and leadership opportunities in CBA activities.

Over time, Mr. Gray developed the idea of creating a Section in which all CBA members under the age of 36 would automatically become members. The Section would be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Managers, but would operate semi-autonomously, with the authority to elect its own leaders and to develop and operate its own committees, projects, and activities. The Section would also have its own Administrative Director and its own budget provided by the Board of Managers.

Mr. Gray discussed his ideas with the CBA Executive Committee and with Mr. David Hilliard, who was scheduled to be the next Chair of the existing Young Lawyers Committee. Although the Board of Managers failed to pass a similar proposal about 10 years earlier, the proposal for the new Section passed unanimously on July 8, 1971.

Mr. Hilliard and the members of the Young Lawyers Committee then began the task of structuring the new Young Lawyers Section, which at once became one of the first and the largest organization of young lawyers in any metropolitan area in the country. Committees were formed and charged with: (1) Drafting the rules for the new Section (2) Developing a committee system that would be attractive to young lawyers and help meet community and professional problems; (3) Planning a campaign to encourage active participation in Section activities; and (4) Forming liaisons with young lawyer sections in other metropolitan areas to share experiences.

In August 1971, letters describing the new Section and enclosing committee descriptions and sign-up sheets were mailed to the more than 3,000 CBA members automatically enrolled in the Section. Over 350 young lawyers responded by volunteering to participate in Section committees. The responses were organized by committee interest, and Committee Chairs were selected. The Chairs formed the first YLS Executive Committee to govern the Section.

Over 100 additional young lawyers became active participants in the YLS during the fall. By December, additional committees were created to meet growing professional interest and the organization of the new Section was all but completed.

The Executive Committee turned its full attention to committee activity flourishing since the formation of the Section. The membership thought it important to develop and continually reexamine its purposes, objectives, and goals to ensure that the Section would maintain its directions and priorities. A planning committee was formed to review Section priorities and direction.

### Purpose

The Young Lawyers Section was to provide leadership, programs, and facilities to encourage young lawyers to communicate and work together on their own ideas and programs for improving the community and the profession.

### Objectives

1. To increase community awareness and involvement in the law.
2. To develop law related educational and training programs of service to the community.
3. To develop and expand volunteer legal assistance programs.
4. To stimulate legal reform.
5. To develop professional and education programs of service to law students, young lawyers, the organized bar, and the judiciary.

### Goals

The goals included encouraging and maintaining active membership; suggesting and developing committees and projects of interest to young lawyers and of importance to the profession and the community; and to build each year upon the membership and projects of prior years. The purpose, objectives, and goals identified by the YLS in this first year and promulgated through its committees, seminars, and projects laid the foundation on which the past 25 years has been built.

### Committees

The keystone of the YLS is its committee work. The committees help keep Section members abreast of developments in the law. The number of committees grew from nearly 20 in the first year of the YLS to approximately 30 as the decade of the 1970s came to an end. Since responsiveness to situations is so important in the legal field, committees developed to meet the practice demands in new and rapidly developing areas of law. Some of the substantive law and public service committees founded during this time were committees concerned with consumer law, discrimination, prison reform, architecture and preservation, the creative arts, police/lawyer relations, disaster relief, trial techniques, and the legal status of women.

### Seminars

YLS seminars serve a vital role in the continuing legal education of attorneys. YLS seminars were especially noteworthy when they focused on a new area of the law, or an area that had not seen drastic change and had moved into the forefront of national and legal debate. For example, seminars conducted by the YLS in the 1970s discussed developments in environmental

law, sexual harassment, test-tube babies, court procedures and practice in civil and criminal law, medical malpractice, probate, the new Federal Rules of Evidence, and Illinois Supreme Court Rules. Distinguished speakers in the fields of law, the judiciary, politics, and government shared their expertise and knowledge throughout the 1970s at the YLS committee meetings, seminars, and lectures. Limitations of space can permit only a fraction of these notable speakers to be mentioned, including former United State Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas; Illinois Supreme Court Justices Thomas E. Kluczynski and Daniel P. Ward; United States District Court Judges Julis J. Hoffman; Prentice H. Marshall and James B. Parsons; United State Representative Abner Mikva; Attorney General Edward Levi; United States Attorneys James Thompson and Samuel Skinner; Alderman Leon Despres; and Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young.

### Service Projects

The YLS objectives included community involvement in the law and the development and expansion of legal assistance organizations. Many of the service projects developed by the YLS in its early years continue, and many of the themes sounded still echo in the work of the YLS today. Of particular interest to the Section was the provision of legal information and services to those who may have had limited or no access to these services. YLS members discussed legal issues and provided legal advice over a regularly-scheduled radio program and at a community information center; advocated and worked on plans for *pro se* court; worked for reform of prisons and conditions of inmates; worked to solve the small business problems of minority entrepreneurs; launched a lawyer referral service to represent minor respondents in Juvenile Court; produced handbooks explaining basic legal principals to the general public; and developed the first Neighborhood Justice Center in the Uptown-Edgewater Community, which is now the Center for Conflict Resolution.

### In Summary

The YLS accomplished many programs and projects of service to the community and the legal profession during the early years. These accomplishments fulfilled one initial goal of the YLS: providing a foundation on which the future membership could build to serve our profession and our community.

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## YLS History at a Glance

The history of the YLS is too long, varied, and complex to be given full justice in a limited forum. The following section provides an outline of the people and events of the last 40 years

### 1970s

1971-72

Chair: David C. Hilliard

- Membership: Approximately 3,000
- Approximately 20 committees created
- Produced a series of radio programs on "Street Law"
- Hosted the regional finals of the National Moot Court Competition as televised by WTTW
- Developed legal aid services for artists and fine arts organizations
- Proposed procedures for a new *pro se* division of the circuit court
- Developed legal assistance programs for Juvenile Court Respondents; for families of prisoners of war or those missing in action; and inmates of Cook County Jail

1972-73

Chair: Thomas Z. Hayward, Jr

- Received ABA YLD Award of Achievement as Outstanding Young Lawyers Organization
- Participated in a joint project with the FHA to provide legal assistance to those purchasing homes under FHA guaranteed mortgages
- Environmental Law Committee produced *Environmental Law and You* handbook
- Sponsored First Annual Job Fair for second and third year law students
- Architecture and the Law Committee sponsored a tour of the Adler and Sullivan designed auditorium building

1973-74

Chair: John J. Held, Jr.

- Cook County State's Attorney Bernard Carey received the first YLS Distinguished Service to the Community Award
- Established a panel of volunteer lawyers to form a non-profit corporation funded by the Commerce Department to assist Chicago-area minority small-business owners
- Youth Legal Services Committee established the Juvenile Court Lawyer Referral Program

- YLS Task Force completed 15-month project on Illinois' compliance with the ABA Standards for the Administration of Justice
- Architecture and the Law Committee presented its First Annual Award for the Preservation and Advancement of Excellence in Chicago's Architecture

*Sidebar: The YLS Young Lawyers Journal—First published in 1972—reported that law professors returning from abroad were noticing a growing movement in Israel, Ireland, and Vietnam to petition to be admitted to the Union as the 51st, 52nd and 53rd states. The CIA maintained an ominous silence about these movements.*

1974-75

Chair: R. Thomas Howell, Jr

- President Ford defended the presidential pardon of Former President Nixon in response to a YLS Resolution
- Former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas advocated reform in the Executive Branch, including changing the way the Vice-President is chosen and permitting the President to be removed from office through a joint resolution of Congress for willfully violating the law
- Environmental Committee prepared "An Environmental Primer," a pamphlet to acquaint the general public with their rights and remedies
- Presented the first Liberty Bell Award to the President of the Boy Scouts of America as part of its Law Day festivities

1975-76

Chair: Lawrence C. Wick

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement for comprehensive projects and 2nd place in the single project category
- Presented a series of six seminars to acquaint young lawyers with the practice and procedures of the Circuit Court of Cook County and Federal Court
- Law Explorer Committee sponsored a Law Explorer's Post
- YLS members provided free counseling to consumers at the consumer information centers in the Merchandise Mart and the Central Chicago Public Library
- Conducted seminar on practice and procedure in the Probate Division
- Architecture and the Law Committee advocated landmark status for the Chicago Board of Trade Building



Law Explorers allows high school students with an interest in legal careers to learn about the profession

1976-77

Chair: Andrew R. Gelman

- Awarded ABA Outstanding Section of Young Lawyers
- Over 720 YLS members voted in the first section-wide balloting to elect the YLS Chairman-Elect
- WBBM-TV endorsed the efforts of the YLS and the Pro Se Court Committee to hold Small Claims Court in neighborhoods and in the evening
- YLS Law Explorer's Post developed programs involving speakers and tours of courts and law schools
- Established 51 projects in areas of community service, legal reform, and professional education and organization
- YLS Executive Committee calls upon the Illinois Supreme Court to establish nonpartisan nominating commissions to screen candidates for judicial vacancies
- Bar Admissions Committee survey of nearly 500 Section members found that members favored abandoning multi-state portion of bar exam

*Sidebar: In 1972, the now-abolished Office of the Cook County Coroner sought volunteer attorneys to conduct inquests as Deputy Coroners*

1977-78

Chair: Paul C. Kimball, Jr

- New committees included Trial Techniques and Intellectual Property
- Established the Neighborhood Justice Center to mediate and arbitrate small disputes

- Volunteers provided a week of free legal counseling at Legal Information Centers in the Daley Center and the Loop Station Post Office
- Judicial Evaluation and Reform Committee issued report suggesting specific reforms in the Circuit Court of Cook County Law Division
- Sponsored the first CBA Conference on the Delivery of Legal Services and brought together institutions providing legal services
- Developed a program with radio station WIND to accept telephone calls from individuals seeking guidance on specific legal problems

1978-79

Chair: Arthur J. Frank

- Committees totaled 30
- Created the following committees: Public Interest Law, Legal Status of Women, Standards of Justice, and New Member Orientation
- Legal Publications and Programs Committee distributed revised edition of *The Court Handbook for Chicago Lawyers*
- Hosted luncheon discussing the medical, legal, and ethical questions surrounding “test-tube babies”
- Produced handbooks on Consumer Law and Intellectual Property

1979-80

Chair: Martin J. Campanella

- Received ABA YLD Awards of Achievement including Outstanding Young Lawyer Organization and best single public service project
- Neighborhood Justice Center (now the Center for Conflict Resolution) opened in the Uptown-Edgewater Community to provide mediation services
- Committee on the Legal Status of Women sponsored a seminar on “Sexual Harassment of Working Women,” attended by approximately 70 attorneys, paralegals and secretaries to discuss sexual harassment and the available legal remedies
- Participated in the CBA Candidates Evaluation Committee to observe the degree of qualifications of Associate Judges and to make recommendations as to their retention
- Creative Arts Committee established a program with the Chicago Alliance for the Performing Arts to allow lawyers to purchase half-price tickets to local performing arts events

*Sidebar: YLS published surveys in the mid-1970s placing the starting salaries of first-year associates at small, medium, and large law firms between \$12,000 and \$20,000*

## 1980s

1980-81

Chair: Ann O’Laughlin Scott

- Received ABA YLD Award of Achievement for best single public service project (battered women’s project)
- Membership: 6,000
- Created the following committees: Community Service for Offenders, Law Student, and Legal Services for the Elderly and Disabled
- Child Abuse and Neglect Committee published a comprehensive handbook to assist practitioners in the field
- Increased participation in the Neighborhood Justice Center, currently the Center for Conflict Resolution

1981-82

Chair: Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird

- Received ABA YLD Award of Achievement for best large city bar association
- Membership: 8,800
- Created the following committees: Daycare, Representation of Public Agencies, Resolution of Small Disputes, and Trial Participation and Experience
- Expanded traditional Law Day Celebration into Community Law Week
- Co-sponsored the Disability Law Clinic with Chicago Voluntary Legal Services Foundation to provide mobile *pro bono* legal aid clinic for low-income, physically disabled persons
- Adopted proposal by YLS Daycare Committee to sponsor a day care program
- Greatly expanded YLS seminar programs and added two staff members
- Lawyer Services Committee compiled a reference book with the names and qualifications of foreign-language translators

- Established the first court walk-through program
- Athletics Committee established the first co-ed volleyball league

1982-83

Chair: Bruno W. Tabis, Jr

- Received ABA Award of Special Recognition for the Community Law Fairs and Adopt-a-School programs
- Created the following committees: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Appellate Law, Chicago Area Moot Court, and Community Action Committee
- Architecture and the Law Committee sponsored “Elevated Chicago,” a tour of the loop, south side, and west side of Chicago from the “El” lines as well as sponsored a competition and exhibit for Young Chicago Area Architects
- Legal Services Institute established a program that requested that every attorney work on two *pro bono* cases per year
- Established Adopt-a-School program, which started a high school class on the law taught by young lawyers

1983-84

Chair: Michael L. Cochran

- Received 1st place ABA YLD Award of Achievement in the category outstanding city bar association and 2nd place in the category single project for Legal Clinic for the Disabled project by ABA
- Received ABA YLD grants for legal services for the Disabled Committee, Community Action Committee and Child Abuse and Neglect Committee
- Membership: 10,000
- Created 11 new committees including: Estate Planning, International Law, Minorities in the Profession, and Travel
- Athletics Committee started first co-ed soccer league
- Energy and Environment Committee arranged for “field trips” to a nuclear power station and the Metropolitan Sanitary District’s Deep Tunnel pumping facilities
- Established Law Explorers Post to expose high school students to the legal profession
- Formed a law student representative program to increase law student membership
- Established Federal Trial Bar Program to assist lawyers who are seeking admission to the Federal Trial Bar
- Created the Chicago Coalition for Law-Related Education with the Circuit Court of Cook County and John Marshall Law School

## YLS Awards History

Hilliard Award <sup>1</sup>		Gray Award <sup>2</sup>		Rising Star <sup>3</sup>	
1992-3	YLS Journal	1995-6	Larry Friedman	1997-8	Charis Runnels
1993-4	Homeless & At Risk Youth	1996-7	Karen Litscher Johnson	1998-9	Dan Cotter
1994-5	Environmental Law & Energy	1997-8	Kenneth Bloom	1999-2000	Amy Grace
1995-6	Minorities in the Profession	1998-9	Mia Jiganti	2000-01	Jessica Arong & Barry Kozak
1996-7	Labor & Employment Law	1999-2000	Ruben Chapa	2001-02	Cheryl Warzynski
1997-8	CBA Moot Court	2000-01	Rich Holmgren	2002-03	Brooke Harkrader
1998-9	Women in the Law	2001-02	Dan Cotter	2003-04	Jason Bier & Ethan Zelizer
1999-2000	Corporate Practice	2002-03	Jim Pittacora	2004-05	Craig Sandberg
2000-01	Intellectual Property	2003-04	Megan Healy McClung	2005-06	Michael Bergmann
2001-02	Career Assistance	2004-05	Bob Horowitz	2006-07	Natacha von Will
2002-03	Real Estate Law	2005-06	Michael Rohan	2007-08	Paul Ochmanek
2003-04	Insurance Coverage	2006-07	Justin Heather	2008-09	Byron Wardlaw
2004-05	Creative Arts	2007-08	Jill Eckert McCall	2009-10	Melinda Usalis & Matt Passen
2005-06	Estate Planning	2008-09	Erin Pritchard		
2006-07	Professional Responsibility	2009-10	Mary Curry		
2007-08	Real Estate				
2008-09	Career Assistance				
2009-10	Intellectual Property				

Awarded at the YLS Annual Meeting:

<sup>1</sup>Presented for outstanding committee work.

<sup>2</sup>Presented for outstanding project leadership.

<sup>3</sup>Presented to a new YLS Executive Council member who has shown exceptional dedication to the YLS

1984-85  
Chair Robert J. Repel

- Created the following committees: Election Law, Insurance Law, Labor and Employment Law, Part-Time Lawyers Network's Regulation of the Practice of Law, and Victim/Witness Assistance Project
- Travel Committee planned trip for YLS members to the Bahamas
- Child Abuse and Neglect Committee prepared a set of guidelines on the Abuse and Neglected Child Reporting Act
- Established Community Economic Development Law Project to provide *pro bono* legal services to neighborhood organizations seeking to redevelop their communities
- Established law-related careers program to enable high school students to meet with small groups of lawyers

*Sidebar: The Architecture and the Law Committee sponsored a competition and exhibit for young Chicago-area architects, which received almost 200 submissions. The competition component requested design suggestions for the Jackson Boulevard Historic District. The exhibit component allowed commissioned works of young architects to be displayed at the Archicenter for a 6-week period. The committee also compiled The Preservation Law Handbook, a Book of Local Preservation Ordinances, which was installed in the CBA library and sponsored "Elevated Chicago," a tour of the Loop, South Side and West Side of Chicago from Jackson Park, Congress and Douglas "El" Lines*

1985-86  
Chair: Leon F. Edelman

- Created the following committees: Careers and School Law
- Police/Lawyer Relations Committee sponsored its Annual Ride-Along to allow lawyers to ride in squad cars with Chicago Police Department officers
- Part-Time Lawyers Network launched the first CBA/YLS job-line telephone service
- Established Single Project Service Center to afford less active members an opportunity for involvement in special bar activities
- Completed the victim-witness videotape which dramatized the problems of witnesses to violent crimes
- Established Law and Religion project which provided a forum for discussion of ethical and legal problems arising in the lives of lawyers and clergy
- Created Midwest Immigrant Rights Center to provide *pro bono* representation to income eligible individuals involved in deportation and political asylum proceedings

1986-87  
Chair: Eileen M. Letts

- Created the following committees: Corporate Practice, Juvenile Law and Real Estate Law
- Careers Committee established a free career counseling service to help lawyers who are re-evaluating their career choices
- Task Force on Runaway Youth Committee sponsored a "legal night" every week at the Neon Street Center
- Minorities in the Profession Committee sponsored an all-day job fair for lawyers
- Legal Status of Women Committee and The Chicago Legal Aid for Interested Mothers established a project to provide legal counseling to women in County Jail
- Created Law School for Non-Lawyers

1987-88  
Chair: James D. Wilson

- Trial Techniques Committee presented "Trial Superstars" seminar
- Legal Literacy for Non-Lawyers Committee taught legal literacy to lay persons
- Co-sponsored a Young Lawyer Holiday Spectacular with the Young Lawyers Sections of four other bar associations
- Established the Lawyers in the Classroom Program to provide junior high school students with a better understanding of how individual rights are enforced through the legal process

*Sidebar: Chicago Tribune movie critic Gene Siskel was the guest speaker at the YLS Annual Meeting. Siskel, using film clips, critiqued the rapidly changing image of lawyers from the 1950s to the 1980s. Siskel discussed the deterioration of the images of lawyers in recent movies, such as "Kramer vs Kramer."*

1988-89  
Chair: Ira Bodenstein

- Membership: approximately 12,500
- 32 committees met and held more than 40 seminars
- In January 1989, the *YLS Journal* appeared in the *CBA Record*
- Four community activists who worked to pass the controversial Chicago Human Rights Ordinance received Liberty Bell Award
- Developed Law Student Outreach Project on Professionalism
- First Hunger Relief Drive raised \$25,000 for shelter
- First Voter Registration Drive registered over 500 new voters
- Published: *Nursing Homes & You: Rights, Remedies and Resources*; *Service and Information on Providers for Handicapped Persons and Families, Attorneys and Other Friends*; and a new edition of the *Court Handbook*
- Hosted Midwest Regional for National Mock Trial Competition
- Prepared a Code of Professional Courtesy
- Co-sponsored "Creating Opportunities: A Conference on Minority Hiring Issues"
- First Annual 10K Road Race held as part of Law Week
- "Not Necessarily Formal Formal" at Chicago Cultural Center in conjunction with Architecture & the Law competition

1989-90  
Chair: Steven J. Rotunno

- Received 1st place ABA YLD Award of Achievement in category comprehensive projects and 2nd place in the category service to the public single project (Chicago Board of Education Local School Council Training Video)
- Created the following committees: Professional Responsibility, and Social
- Instituted Federal Trial Bar Course to assist young lawyers in their admission to the Federal Trial Bar
- *YLS Journal* featured questionnaire on improving Law Division
- Moot Court Competition hosted 15 law schools from Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana
- *YLS Journal* ran monthly feature profiling well-known lawyers and added a "Career Corner" column
- Drafted *AIDS Legal Guide*
- Contributed to time capsule in cornerstone of new building
- Co-sponsored debate at ABA Annual Meeting regarding the appropriate role of legal technicians (non-lawyers)
- Annual luncheon featured Jerry Reinsdorf, attorney-turned-owner of Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox

*Sidebar: On March 1, 1990, Steven J. Rotunno, YLS Chair, and the CBA Board of Managers, signed a concrete slab placed at the top of the new CBA building in a "topping-off" ceremony.*

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## The 1990's

By Adam J. Sheppard

### Introduction

The YLS began the new decade in a new home: 321 South Plymouth Court. The new site of the CBA provided the YLS with a highly professional setting to host committee meetings and seminars, and led to increased integration with the general bar. The YLS became the largest local bar association in the United States, with a membership of more than 13,000 lawyers, a budget of \$500,000 and a permanent staff of three individuals, including a director on the CBA staff who is a young lawyer. The YLS was led by 10 officers, 10 directors, 10 special project coordinators and the chairs of 40 committees. The YLS utilized its increased resources as a springboard for new professional development programs, publications, community service programs, and legislative activities.

### Professional Development Programs

YLS seminars were a focal point of the nineties. During this decade, the YLS doubled the number of seminars it offered to a total of 75, and offered them at various times throughout the day to accommodate young lawyers' schedules. In line with the expanding economy of the nineties, the YLS provided an array of seminars focused on career management and assessment issues, such as "Being a Lawyer, Is it Your Only Choice?", "Rainmaking: Where Do I Buy the Divining Rod?" "The Global Economy: How Does it Affect Your Clients?", "Alternative Work Schedules" and "Starting and

(continued on page 12)

## A Cause For Celebration

### The 40th Anniversary of the Young Lawyers Section of The Chicago Bar Association

by David C. Hilliard

“You are a philosopher, Dr. Johnson.  
I have tried in my time to be a philosopher;  
but, I don’t know how, cheerfulness  
was always breaking in.”  
Oliver Edwards to Samuel Johnson, 1778

#### Introduction

We began as one of the largest organizations of young lawyers in America 40 years ago, and have seen our ranks grow from 3,000 members to over 9,000 today. From the outset, we have focused our efforts on community service and professional development. Cheerfulness has always been a part of us. It helps us accomplish our goals, even our most serious goals, and helps us seek out innovative ideas to address real needs.

Most of the lawyers practicing in Chicago today have been members of our Young Lawyers Section. Many have been deeply involved. We never espoused a philosophy, but have focused from the beginning on the problem of method. It is a tribute to our leadership through the years that we have kept our profound openness to new ideas and our willingness to create a haven for solving new challenges.

We began with a full schedule of committee meetings at 7:30 a.m. while our senior partners were still riding the train to the office. Now we are the senior partners with a sense of reality developed here that eliminates the need for such subterfuge!

Last Fall, Justice John Paul Stevens enthusiastically accepted an honorary membership in the Young Lawyers Section bestowed upon him by our Chair, Jill Eckert McCall. He was absolutely delighted when Jill told him it was “perpetual!”

#### High Praise

On the very first performance of Pygmalion in 1914, George Bernard Shaw is reported to have had the following exchange of telegrams with his leading lady, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who played Eliza Doolittle:

Shaw: “MAGNIFICENT. SUPERB. NEVER BETTER.”  
Mrs. Pat: “YOUR GENEROUS PRAISE QUITE UNDESERVED.”  
Shaw: “I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE PLAY.”  
Mrs. Pat: “SO WAS I.”

What is it about the 40th Anniversary of the Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section that would merit such praise? On past occasions I have spoken of Tom Hayward, Tom Howell, Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird, and other

great leaders over the years. But on this Anniversary it seems fitting to sum up our heritage, especially our recent heritage, and look toward the future.

#### Breaking Barriers

There have been no glass ceilings in our leadership or involvement, with the result that women and minorities have provided our greatest strength over the years. We have benefitted enormously from their attentiveness to new subjects, new feelings and new complexities of reality. To date, nearly half of our Section Chairs have been women or minorities.

It was in solving basic human needs that our organization began and remains unique and strong. For many years, the Young Lawyers Section has been home to over 50 community projects and over 20 committees annually. In total, we have implemented well over a thousand different reform, educational and legal assistance projects. The beneficial effects on our community and profession have been enormous. Not the least, this outpouring has benefited all of us.

Over the years we have generally engaged in “project” activities with tangible, feasible and finite goals. Our project approach has led us to create spin-off programs which began as projects. These spin-offs remain today as some of the most important organizations and services in Chicago and have served as models for similar programs nationwide:

- We initiated the Pro Se Court and created an indispensable Pro Se Litigant’s Handbook to teach citizens in our community how to use this new kind of court effectively. Both have become crown jewels of our Circuit Court.
- We spunoff our Creative City Committee to form the Lawyers for the Creative Arts to provide free legal services to artists and cultural organizations to help them feel at home in Chicago.
- The Legal Clinic at DePaul Law School began as a radical new Section project for the delivery of legal services not to the poor, but to lower middle income persons who were not served by any other legal assistance program.
- We established the Center for Conflict Resolution, Chicago’s first public mediation service, which has become an indispensable resource for our Circuit Court.
- Most recently, we partnered with the American Bar Association to produce nationally our three part video series “Serving Our Seniors.” The series provides training, educational workshops and outreach to low income seniors for the provision of *pro bono* legal services in the form of simple wills, powers of attorney and advanced health care directives.

Our adventurousness has also resulted in other projects

including:

- A unique Law Explorers program that sponsors lectures and activities every year for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 who are interested in careers in law and government. Students at 100 Chicago area high schools participate in role plays concerning legal and ethical questions and, at the end of the year, in a national mock trial competition.

- The Pro Bono & Community Service Fair that spotlights both legal and non-legal volunteer opportunities in Chicago. Attendees speak with the manager of each project, receive written materials, and sign up if interested in volunteering for the project.

- The E-Mentoring project that pairs students from Roberto Clemente High School with attorneys. The project mentors communicate once a week with the student through email on various topics selected by the teacher. A syllabus and materials throughout the semester are provided to the mentors.

- Five years ago we adopted the William C. Goudy Elementary School that at one time was considered the worst public school in the United States. This project provides hands-on assistance by providing school supplies, the painting of classrooms, participating in the "Principal for a Day" program and talking with the students first hand.

### A Gold Standard

One of the great purposes of our organization is to open some windows from the law to other things. We seek to give independent young lawyers and the values they embody a creative community; one within which to test their own ideas about the public interest and legal issues other than those limited by their daily practice. We do this by attracting and implementing the pent-up ideas of legions of young lawyers seeking the hands-on experiences in life that make for great leaders in our profession and community.

Over the last 40 years, the American Bar Association has honored us 19 times as the Best Young Lawyers Section among our peers. In the same period, we have won ABA awards for excellence for 22 of our public service projects. Our Section and its projects have become the gold standard for young lawyers across the country who seek to emulate us or adopt our projects in their communities. Last year, for example, the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division honored our Chair-Elect, Justin Heather, as its Young Lawyer of the Year.

### The Best and the Brightest

It is a simple truth that the people you meet here will prove to be one of the richest rewards of your legal career. The Poet Robert Frost once said "there are three great

things in this world: Religion, Science, and, greatest of all, our interest in each other." Half our fun is sharing in the creativity and successes of others. For this reason, and to avoid hierarchy and facilitate mentoring, all committee chairs are automatically made members of the Executive Council. Everyone is free to stir the pot! We have an openness to ideas, a willingness to help implement those ideas and a cheerfulness in doing so. Indeed, cheerfulness was always breaking in; it is a metaphor for our humanity.

We have launched federal and state court judges, Bar Association leaders, and many of the leading lawyers of our most important law firms and corporations. Our experiences here become the habits of a lifetime. Our ranks have led to U.S. District Court Judges Ruben Castillo and John Powers Crowley; Circuit Court presiding Judge Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird; Laurel Bellows who will be President of the American Bar Association next year; Terri Mascherin, our current Chicago Bar Association President; and Aurora Abella-Austriaco who will be President of the Chicago Bar Association in two years. There are just too many to list! It's not all work! There are YLS Socials and other events including our much celebrated Texas Hold

'Em Tournament to raise money for the Chicago Bar Foundation.

Our Administrative Director, Jennifer Bertolino and her predecessors have been enormously helpful. They, together with CBA Executive Director Terry Murphy, and CBA Assistant Executive Director, Beth McMeen, can truly be said to have made it all possible.

### The Next 10 Years

The greatest strength of our organization is our willingness to evolve, to search out new ideas, and

patiently provide the means to test them in the real world. Ours is a community of method in which old ideas are continually being challenged by new. In recent years, two-thirds of our YLS Chairs have been women or minorities who have added new dimensions, depth and range to our activities. The timing could not be better as we enter our fifth decade with fresh ideas and opportunities.

Second is the ubiquitous web. How should we respond to the Millennium Generation's fascination with online social media? I am an intellectual property lawyer in real life so I have seen the effects of cyberspace on young minds. Recently I introduced an online gaming expert to an auditorium full of law students at Northwestern University School of Law. The first question from the students to the expert was "Who are You!?"

Our monthly Executive Council Link-Up and online Attorney Training Manual show the way, but many young



2010 - 2011 YLS Chair Jill Eckert McCall  
with 1971 - 1972 Chair David C. Hilliard

lawyers are probably unaware of our events and projects. We are well set to develop new online communication techniques to reach those who are focused on music, sports or other social values. 30 million people played Fantasy Sports online in 2007! As the first Marshall Field said, "Don't blame the public if no one comes into the store."

The great task before us is to build on this tradition. New human needs will be identified and ways will be found to help solve them. Decidedly electronic projects will evolve to make communication more effective among ourselves and within our profession and community. Some projects will result in scholarly publications, new legislation, or improved continuing legal education. New partnerships with the Chicago Bar Foundation will expand the reach of both organizations. There is much to be done.

### Conclusion

You will always treasure the friendships and experiences you have here. I salute you, your predecessors and those still to come on your great voyage! It is a voyage that

inspired C.P. Cavafy's greatest poem 100 years ago this year:

"When you set out for Ithaka  
ask that your way be long,  
full of adventure, full of instruction. . .  
Your arrival there is what you are destined for.  
But don't in the least hurry the journey.  
Better it last for years. . .  
Ithaka gave you a splendid journey.  
Without her you would not have set out . . . "

*David C. Hilliard was the Founding Chairman of the Young Lawyers Section and is a past President of The Chicago Bar Association. He is a Senior Partner at Pattishall, McAuliffe, Newbury, Hilliard & Geraldson LLP.*

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## The 1990s (continued from page 9)

### Developing a Successful Law Practice

In the 1991-1992 bar year, 5,100 people attended 71 seminars. Seminars were also expanded into longer retreats such as the Long-Range Planning Retreat in Milwaukee.

The YLS developed committees that were aimed at assisting young lawyers in starting or improving their practice such as the Client Development and Firm Economics Committee. The first "Coffee and Conversation" support group for unemployed attorneys met. In the '96-'97 bar year, the YLS initiated "Law Career Month" with monthly meetings focused on career choices. In the '98-'99 bar year, the YLS hosted networking roundtables for solo practitioners and small firm attorneys.

The YLS also offered professional development programs for law students. The first "YLS Interviewing Seminar" attracted over 40 law students who participated in mock interviews. In addition, the YLS held a meeting with Illinois Bar Examiners.

YLS substantive law committees offered programs and seminars, which provided hands-on and educational training to young lawyers in particular areas of law. In the '91-'92 bar year, the Legal Services for the Disabled Committee held a training course for attorneys representing parents of special education students. In the '94-'95 bar year, the YLS implemented the Juvenile Court Simulation and Training Program, which became mandatory in order to get a case assignment from the court. In '93-'94, the YLS began its Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and Family Law Committee.

### Community Service

The YLS has a rich history of creating and developing public service projects for a broad array of communities. In the nineties, the YLS developed multiple programs to help the homeless, conducted book drives, created youth mentoring programs, developed legal aid clinics for low income individuals, and implemented programs to train volunteer attorneys.

The YLS gained widespread recognition for its community service programs. The YLS was recognized in proclamations by Mayor Daley and the City Council as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The YLS won first place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for comprehensive projects and five other ABA awards and grants. The YLS also received several thousand dollars in ABA scholarships. In '91-'92, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Ann G. McCormack spoke on volunteerism at the YLS Annual Meeting.

### Publications

The YLS prides itself on publishing periodicals, position papers, pamphlets, and legal guides that are of service to young lawyers, the organized bar, law students, and the community at large. In the 1990s, new features were added to the *YLS Journal* such as a "Career Corner" column, a "Sports Page," and an "Associates' Desktop" column. The first YLS

Section of the *CBA News* appeared in the '93-'94 bar year. The first "All YLS" issue of the *CBA Record* appeared in the '96-'97 bar year. The YLS published legal guides aimed at addressing community issues as well as handbooks for young lawyers such as the *Young Lawyers Professional Responsibility Handbook*.

Using new technology and resources, the YLS produced video and television programs such as the "Chicago Board of Education Local School Council Training Video." The YLS received an ABA YLD Award of Achievement for that video project. Today, the YLS continues to use various forms of media to promote community awareness and involvement in the law.

### Legislative Activities

The YLS became an active voice in the state legislature and developed detailed annual legislative agendas. YLS committees increased their legislative activity by submitting comments to the CBA's legislative committee on proposed legislation and constitutional amendments, asking the YLS Executive Council to take formal positions on pending legislation, and initiating all-YLS letter writing campaigns.

### Conclusion

The leadership of the YLS in the 1990s was highly successful in bringing young lawyers together who were dedicated to meeting the professional needs of young lawyers as well as providing important legal services to the community. YLS seminars, projects, and publications not only tracked developments in the law but provided young lawyers with career guidance. Today, lawyers earn CLE credit for attendance at YLS seminars and committee meetings. The programs continue to encourage young lawyers to communicate and work together on ideas for improving the community and the profession.

*Adam Sheppard, Law Office of Barry D. Sheppard & Associates, P.C., is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the YLS Journal for the 2011-2012 Bar Year*

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## 1990s

1990-91

Chair: Edward J. Matushek III

- Created the following committees: Construction Law, Client Development, Firm Economics, and Homeless and Runaway Youth Task Force
- Initiated the Federal Tax Clinic with Loyola Law School
- Sponsored Career Day with the career services offices of local law schools
- Homeless and Runaway Youth Committee published the "Know Your Legal Rights" pamphlet
- Recorder's Office Project assisted low- and middle-income property owners with simple real estate transfers

1991-92

Chair: Faustin A. Pipal, Jr

- 5,100 CBA members attended 71 seminars
- Instituted the CBA dues waiver for unemployed attorneys
- Careers Committee published *Lawyers' Guide to the Job Market*
- Legal Services for the Disabled Committee held training course for attorneys representing parents of Special Education students
- First "Coffee and Conversation" support group for unemployed attorneys met
- Premiere of the All-lawyer comedy troupe "Public Offenders"
- First Homeless Children's Holiday Book Drive collected over 3,500 books and established a dozen libraries in shelters
- Created Legal Nights for WINGS at a suburban shelter
- First Women's Mentor Program sponsored by the Women's Rights Committee
- Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow spoke on volunteerism at YLS Annual Meeting

1992-93

Chair: Thomas M. Donnelly

- Created the Bankruptcy Committee
  - Law Choices Project placed 50 attorneys in 23 inner-city high school classrooms
  - Started Lawrence Hall Tutoring Program for boys in foster care
  - Began Adoption Option to assist grandparents adopt grandchildren in their care
  - Added a "Sports Page" to the *YLS Journal*
-

- Held a long-range planning retreat in Milwaukee
- Implemented a volunteer clinic with the Citizens Utility Board to keep heat on for the poor
- Health and Hospital Law hosted a seminar on AIDS and Confidentiality
- Participated in Just for Youth Campaign sponsoring four seminars on issues facing Chicago's children and youth

*Sidebar: In 1992, Greylord mole Terry Hake spoke to first-year law students at Loyola Law School prior to YLS-led small group discussion as part of the YLS Professionalism Project*

1993-94  
Chair: Ilene M. Korey

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for minority single project (Enterese, a Spanish-language cable TV program about legal issues and rights for non-lawyers created with the Latin American Bar Association)
- Created the following committees: Alternative Dispute Resolution and Family Law
- Established Hospice Legal Assistance Program
- Conducted Hate Crime Prevention Week including graffiti removal, public service announcements and public forums
- Collected 7,500+ books in the YLS Children's Book Drive
- Teamed with Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic to organize the Police Custody Hotline, which advises arrested individuals until the court appoints a public defender
- YLS *Journal* began the "Get a Life" column dedicated to the exciting, creative experiences of lawyers beyond their jobs
- Published the *Consumer Law Handbook*
- Joined the Illinois Restaurant Association and several AIDS service organizations to conduct the first "Dining Out for Life" fundraiser that raised more than \$70,000
- Committee on Women's Rights joined "Bottomless Closet" to assist women with re-entry into the workplace
- Published the first YLS Section of the *CBA News*



The annual YLS book drive collects books for children and young people for distribution to various City agencies.

1994-95  
Chair: Linda M. Rio

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for comprehensive projects and five other ABA awards and grants
- Created the "What Is It All About?" videotape explaining the Juvenile Court's abuse and neglect process to children
- 600+ legal community members sent gifts to underprivileged children who wrote to Santa c/o the Chicago Post Office
- Established a no-cost diagnosis and initial counseling program for YLS members with The Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis
- Published the first all-YLS written, double-length edition of the *CBA Record*
- Held First Annual Volunteer Fair/Social Hour with representatives of 20 different volunteer programs registering 100 attorneys for *pro bono* projects
- Implemented Juvenile Court Simulation and Training Program which became mandatory training prior to case assignment by the Court

1995-96  
Chair: Elizabeth E. Lewis

- Received ABA YLD public service subgrants and scholarships totaling \$5,500
- Membership: Approximately 13,000
- Created the following committees: Immigration Law and Collections Law
- Published "How Do You Become a Lawyer?" pamphlet for high school students
- Entered Cooperation and Exchange Agreement with the American Indian Council
- Created first formal YLS Legislative Agenda
- Traveled to Kyiev, Ukraine to participate in Constitution Conference and enter into Cooperation and Exchange Agreement
- "Associates' Desktop" column added to *YLS Journal* to track computer developments leading to an improved practice

## Entering the New Millennium: *The 2000s*

By Daniel A. Cotter and Matthew A. Passen

The YLS began a new decade in its history, with an emphasis on enhancing and significantly expanding the programs for young lawyers as well as connections with the community. From creating many programs, including the Pro Bono Fair, to adopting Goudy Elementary School, the members of YLS showed why it is the premiere young lawyers section in the country.

### Leadership of the YLS

The YLS continued to be the largest local bar association in the United States, with a membership of more than 10,000 lawyers. The YLS is lead by 10 Officers, 10 Directors, 10 Special Project Coordinators, and the Chairs of 40 Committees. Our Committees include substantive law topics, such as real property, intellectual property, insurance and construction; as well as professional development committees, such as client development and firm economics, trial techniques, professional responsibility, careers, and part time lawyers. We also offer a social committee, an athletics committee, committees to teach law students and high school students legal debate skills, as well as public service committees, such as the homeless and runaway youth committee. In total, the YLS offers more than 200 leadership opportunities annually. In addition, the YLS provided the ABA YLD with a delegate who oversees the Indiana/Illinois region.

### Professional Development

Our substantive law committees provide hands-on training and comprehensive educational programs so that we may serve our clients with unparalleled quality and skill. During this decade, the YLS continued to increase the number of seminars it offered to more than 80. Programs such as “Lunch with a Judge” were created. The YLS acted as the host of several Annual Meetings of the ABA YLD during the decade, as well as acting as host to the Midwest Conference in 2003. During times in which the economy was troubled, the YLS offered a number of career seminars and conferences to help young lawyers with their careers – often attracting more than 200 people to attend. We also implemented a number of pro bono training seminars to allow young lawyers opportunities to enhance their practical experiences.

### Community

Each year, YLS members organize and implement more than 20 legal and non-legal community service projects. The YLS created the “Lawyers Have Heart” program, in which lawyers collected toiletries for women staying at a domestic abuse shelter. We collected eye glasses, computers and cell phones for those in need. We established the “Black Shoe Project” to address men going back into the work force having clothing to interview. Additionally, ten to 20 new projects are conducted annually as community needs come to our attention. Some striking examples follow:

In September 2001, the World Trade Center attacks occurred. The YLS participated in a national ABA YLD effort to locate attorneys to provide legal services for victims and their families. More recently, the YLS implemented an ABA YLD program, “Wills for Heroes,” in which volunteer lawyers create free wills, living wills and other estate planning documents for local emergency first responders and their spouses or partners. During the 2010-2011 bar year, the YLS implemented monthly Wills for Heroes sessions at the Chicago Police Department headquarters, and prepared 605 estate planning documents for first responders and their families.

In 2003, the CBA and YLS adopted William C. Goudy Elementary School, which was named after the first CBA President. Efforts included young lawyers participating in the Lawyers in the Classroom Project, celebrating a holiday party for the students, painting classrooms, and raising money and equipment for the school’s music program.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, the YLS again answered a call to action, with attorneys helping those with legal needs and some attorneys traveling to New Orleans to assist in those efforts.

### Publications

The YLS has been known for its publication efforts. In this decade, we updated the Chicago Lawyers Court Handbook, created information pamphlets on FOIA, domestic violence, and updated numerous popular YLS publications. We raised money and filmed the update to the Chief Judge’s jury video for Chief Justice Evans, developed videos on various mock trials for distribution, and created a number of other videos. The decade ended with production of the “Serving Our Seniors” video, which was adopted by the ABA YLD as its national project.

### Conclusion

Now 40 years old, the YLS continues to be a vibrant, leading organization where young lawyers can enhance their experiences and leadership and learn to give back to the community and the profession. The number of projects, new and old, and the constant searching for opportunities to make a positive difference in the large picture are cornerstones of this vital body as it enters its fifth decade.

*Daniel A. Cotter, Principal at Korey Cotter Heather Richardson LLC, was 2003-2004 Chair of the YLS*

*Matthew A. Passen, Passen Law Group LLC, is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the YLS Journal of the CBA Record*

- Established Speaker's Bureau and Exchange with Minority Bars
- Initiated Pro Bono Computer Brokerage for *pro bono* legal service providers
- YLS was recognized in Proclamations by Mayor Daley and the City Council as part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration

1996-97

Chair: Sally McDonald

- Created a new YLS logo
- Organized the first Trial Superstars seminar
- Initiated "Law Career Month" with various YLS programs focused on career choices, including an interviewing seminar where over 40 law students participated in mock interviews
- Published first "All YLS" issue of the *CBA Record*
- Held a meeting with the Illinois Bar Examiners
- Implemented the "Lawyers United in Service" theme with various programming, including the first two volunteer nights at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, an All Schools Reception for law students, and a spring fling party and service project at a homeless shelter
- Produced a YLS membership video
- Conducted a Senior Symposium, which discussed topics such as tenants' rights, nursing homes and consumer fraud



YLS members visit area homeless shelters during annual Spring Fling

1997-98

Chair: Elizabeth McMeen

- Produced the *Young Lawyers Professional Responsibility Handbook*
- Published the *YLS Connection*, a monthly newsletter for YLS members
- Hosted Midwestern bar associations at a special Affiliate Outreach Project
- Published "Becoming an Adult: Your Rights and Responsibilities" brochure
- Held "Seeds of Success Program," which trained over 40 attorneys to assist low-income individuals to start their own businesses
- Implemented the "When I Grow Up: A Career Fair for the Children of the Cabrini-Green Housing Project" program
- Organized a "Spring Fling" at an area homeless shelter
- Initiated "Operation Basic Skills," which tutored 3rd graders at the Jungman Elementary School in Pilsen

1998-99

Chair: Karen Litscher Johnson

- Created the following task forces: Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Task Force for Non-Practicing Attorneys
- Published several guides and handbooks for attorneys, including *Lawyers' Guide to the Chicago Job Market*, *Surviving and Thriving as a New Associate in a Chicago Law Firm*, and *Getting Paid: It's More than Just Sending a Bill*
- Hosted networking roundtables for solo practitioners and small firm attorneys
- Hosted seminar for summer associates at Chicago law firms and a welcome reception for newly-admitted attorneys
- Published several guides and pamphlets for the public, including the *Resource Guide for Persons with Disabilities*, *Resources for Seniors*, *Learning about the Law* for elementary school children, and a Spanish language version of "Becoming an Adult" for teenagers and their parents
- Trained attorney volunteers to provide legal assistance to Central American immigrants and to clients of modest means in divorce cases
- Organized a law night at a domestic violence shelter and a fundraiser to benefit domestic violence services
- Offered a course in Spanish on home buying basics at a local library

1999-2000

Aurora Abella-Austriaco

- Created the Chicago Teen Law website
- Held a Hispanic Legal Symposium
- Published *How to Build a Successful Real Estate Practice* handbook

- Implemented the first “Meet the Firms” reception for law students
- Held Java with Federal Judges
- Created a Mardi Gras Fundraiser to raise money for CARPLS, Voices for Illinois Children, Midtown Educational Foundation and The Chicago Bar Foundation

## 2000s

2000-01

Chair: Cynthia L. Besecker

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for comprehensive projects (and several other awards)
- Created the following committee: Older Young Lawyers
- Produced the first YLS Minority Pre-Law Symposium
- Created a “Serving on the Board of Directors of a Not-for-Profit Organization” program
- Updated the *Chicago Lawyers Court Handbook* and made it available on CD
- Assisted Equip for Equality in updating the popular “Resource Guide for Persons with Disabilities”
- Initiated the “Young Lawyers Have a Heart” Project
- Received matching \$10,000 grants from the ABA and CBF to partner with the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center
- Joined forces with Get Well Gigabytes, collecting laptop computers for seriously ill children



The popular series Lunch ‘n Learn with the Judges allows young lawyers to interact in a casual setting with judges. Pictured at a 2007 Lunch ‘n Learn are (l to r) Judge Maureen Connors, Project Coordinator Natacha von Will, and Judge Wayne Anderson.

2001-02

Chair: Ruben R. Chapa

- Created an updated list of contacts for approximately 46 bar associations in Illinois
- Published an informational booklet regarding the “Federal and State Freedom of Information Act”
- Initiated a “Lunch ‘n Learn with the Judges” program
- Implemented a “Partnership for Development” program, which paired new attorneys with prominent attorneys to assist the disabled and elderly in pro bono legal matters
- Increased membership by approximately 700 members

2002-03

Chair: Mia Jiganti

- Published a *Domestic Violence Handbook* and a *Lawyer’s Guide to Government Employment* in Chicago
- Conducted an “Everything I Wish I’d Known Before Taking the Bar Exam” seminar for law students and recent graduates
- Performed a “Mad Hatters Children’s Story” for CBA and YLS members and their children
- Organized a Cabrini Green Tutoring Program Career Fair

2003-04

Chair: Daniel Cotter

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement categories for service to the public single project and comprehensive projects
- Started the Black Shoe Project, a collection effort of men’s suits and accessories for the homeless and those in transition
- Adopted Goudy Elementary School with the support of the CBA
- Collected food and money to provide more than 50 holiday baskets at Thanksgiving

- Hosted the ABA YLD Midwest Conference in Chicago
- Published an activity book for children accompanying parents to court
- Re-taped the jury selection video to include Chief Justice Evans
- Participated in “Principal for a Day” with Mike Demetrio at Goudy Elementary
- Initiated YLS involvement in the “Lawyers in the Classroom” program at Goudy
- Implemented more than 20 new public service or member service projects

2004-05

Chair: Charis Runnels



Goudy Elementary School students entertain during the “Principal for a Day” program

- Chair and Vice-Chair represented the CBA and YLS at the Conference of World City Bar Leaders in Shanghai, China
- Held peer jury training for more than 20 high school students in peer jury programs at Chicago High Schools
- Organized a drive to provide 30 prom dresses and accessories to Chicagoland’s Glass Slipper Project
- Continued YLS support of Spring Fling and the Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Organized programming for Career Month, including the Government Services Career Fair, the Law Student Interview Workshop, and Meet the Firms Night
- Updated and revised *Resource Guide for Persons With Disabilities*
- Revised several consumer publications including *Evictions*, *What About Your Will?*, *Your Rights if Arrested*
- Labor & Employment Law Committee produced “Employment Discrimination: A Guide to Working With Chicago Area Agencies” handbook
- Organized various seminars including, Hanging Out Your Shingle, which attracted over 100 attendees
- First Battle of the Barrister Bands raised funds for Circuit Court’s Children’s Advocacy programs

2005-06

Chair: Carolyn D. Amadon

- Received 1st place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for comprehensive projects and 2nd place for three single projects: minority (first All-Bar Social), service to the public (*pro se* litigants video), and service to the bar (Public Service on Ice)
- Created the following committee: False Claims Act
- Updated *Where to go for Legal Assistance in Chicago* with the help of The Chicago Bar Foundation

2006-07

Chair: Megan Healy McClung

- Organized the first YLS Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament for the Benefit of the Chicago Bar Foundation
- Implemented a Mentoring Initiative: Pathway to the Profession Mentoring Program
- Filmed the Jack and the Beanstalk-inspired mock trial, *State v Bean* with Goudy Elementary School 5th grade students, which was distributed to 500 Chicago Public School classrooms for Constitutional Law Day
- Launched the first YLS Podcast Center on the CBA website, and YLS committees recorded 10-minute podcasts ranging from Emergency Motion Practice to Understanding the New Series LLC



The annual Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournament raises funds for The Chicago Bar Foundation.

- Expanded Lunch ‘n Learn with a Judge to four events during the bar year
- Conducted YLS socials, which raised thousands of dollars to send a local high school mock trial team to the national competition

2007 – 08

Chair: William B. Oberts

- Received 1st place in two ABA YLD Award of Achievement categories for single projects: service to the bar (year-long “Life in the Balance” series) and minority (three-part panel discussion by the Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee)
- Received 2nd place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement category for service to the public (mortgage foreclosure video) and for comprehensive projects
- Membership 9000+
- Record seminar attendance of over 3000 people



“Life in the Balance” sparked many initiatives aimed at helping young lawyers achieve a good mix of work, family and recreation. Events from the late 2000s included: the “Most Fit Lawyer Competition,” “Cooking for Busy Professionals,” and the “What Not to Wear” fashion show.

- Implemented the first “Wills for Heroes” project in Illinois
- Hosted the YLS’ first “Chicago Top Attorneys Under 40” event

2008-09

Chair: Michael P. Rohan

- Received 1st place in two ABA YLD Award of Achievement categories for single projects: service to the public (adoption of a unit of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and collection drives) and service to the bar (*Lawyers’ Survival Guide to the Chicago Job Market*)
- Received 2nd place in the ABA YLD Award of Achievement in the category for comprehensive projects
- Spearheaded the creation of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Foundation, a charitable organization designed to promote the betterment of conditions at the detention center
- Organized the Third Annual YLS Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament, which raised over \$20,000 for the Chicago Bar Foundation
- Produced videos for juvenile court and small claims court with the cooperation of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the Chicago Bar Foundation and Illinois Legal Aid Online
- Conducted its largest ever CBA Moot Court Competition with 30 different teams competing

2009-10

Chair: Scott W. Henry

- Ran a series collectively titled “Justice Never Retires: Respecting the Legal Rights of Our Elders,” for which all committees created a seminar or committee meeting based on the theme “Serving Our Seniors”
- Created “Serving Our Seniors,” which the ABA YLD adopted the next year as its service project. The program provides low-income seniors with certain essential elements of a basic estate plan.
- Over 20 high-profile attorneys offered tips and trial strategies at the day-long “Trial Superstars” seminar
- Produced seminars aimed at refining trial techniques and strategies including: “Trends in Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation,” “A General Counsel’s View of Trial and Expectations,” “Connecting With the Judge and Jury,” “Defending the High Profile Cases,” and “Prosecuting the High Profile Case”
- Teamed with The John Marshall Law School Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity to present the first fashion show, “What Not to Wear,” to help young attorneys blend fashion with work

- Joined the “Ladder Up” program to provide seniors in Chicago Public Schools with assistance in completing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) applications and other forms necessary to qualify for college financial assistance
- Paired with the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (“CRFC”) to create “State v Roberts,” a multimedia mock trial program designed to introduce 7th and 8th grade Chicago Public School students to legal reasoning and deliberating skills
- The YLS Chair and Vice Chair each hosted an episode of the CBA “Justice and Law Weekly” public education talk show on WYCC TV 20
- Partnered with Alternatives Inc. to pair trained attorney volunteers with Chicago public high schools to implement a restorative Peer Jury Program
- Fielded a team for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation’s 5K Race Judicata

2010-2011

Chair: Jill Eckert McCall

- Created the Education Law Committee
  - Revived the following committees: Alternative Dispute Resolution and Environmental Law
  - Changed the YLS bylaws to combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, increase the YLS Chair succession plan by a year, convert the titles of those in the chairline to 1st and 2nd Vice Chairs to mirror the big bar, and add the offices Member Service and Public Service Manager to take some of the project burden off the Project Officers
  - Organized “Wills for Heroes” for the first time in Chicago and completed 605 sets of estate planning documents for first responders and their spouses/domestic partners
  - Participated in the national “Make a Difference Day” and “National Healthcare Decisions Day” and registered “Wills for Heroes” on onegooddeedChicago.org
  - Created a Domestic Violence Awareness Week leading up to Mother’s Day that included new lawyer training, fundraising and annual service activities to help families
  - Provided monthly socials, which had more than 100 attendees regularly and introduced After the Bar Exam socials
  - Improved committee meeting regularity—expecting them to meet monthly during the bar year and to have at least one webinar broadcast
  - Created “Meet our Honors,” short videos from judges on what to expect before entering their courtrooms
  - Brought the ABA Breast Cancer Advocacy Workshop to Illinois for the first time
  - Created the “Greene v. River City” Multimedia Supreme Court Experience with the Constitutional Rights Foundation for elementary school children
  - Improved collaboration among the law schools and bar associations: 5 local law schools co-sponsored our Dress for Success Fashion Show and 11 bars participated in our All-Bar Social
  - Improved our ability to properly welcome folks—introducing name tags to leaders; encouraging officers to attend more events and directors to attend at least a committee meeting of each of their committees
  - Added Justice John Paul Stevens and David Hilliard to our membership in perpetuity ranks
  - Celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a cocktail reception at The Standard Club
  - Coordinated the inclusion of a monthly article in the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* from each YLS officer. Each article addressed an issue that was important to our careers as young lawyers. Compiled all 10 to reproduce as a booklet and sent to all new bar admittees to welcome them
  - Recorded two “Justice and the Law” programs for public access cable: One about “Wills for Heroes” and the other about the Circuit Court’s new foreclosure mediation program
  - Raised \$22,000 for the Chicago Bar Foundation via our annual Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament
  - Continued to host a February career month, which included sold out “Alternative Career” and “Success & Satisfaction in Today’s Economy” programs
-