

2007-2008 YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COMMITTEES

All committees meet on a monthly basis during the noon-hour at the CBA's headquarters unless otherwise noted.

There are no special requirements or extra section fees to participate in the committees of your choice.

Bankruptcy

The Committee will continue its tradition of close contact with the practitioners and judges of the bankruptcy bar. The monthly informal luncheons are an excellent opportunity for an attorney to network, keep abreast of current issues in the law, and question prominent attorneys in the field. The Committee will sponsor two bankruptcy seminars.

Meets on 1st Tuesday

Career Assistance (CBA/YLS)

The CBA/YLS Career Assistance Committee sponsors programs for lawyers of all levels of expertise facing career changes. The Committee addresses job search techniques, networking strategies, lateral transfers, alternative career options including contract, part-time and non-legal practice opportunities, stress management, and more. Forums include monthly speakers, breakfast and luncheon seminars, workshops, support groups and presentations with other CBA and YLS committees.

Meets On 1st Thursday

Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition

The Twenty Sixth Annual Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition, run by the Young Lawyers Section's Moot Court Committee, will be held in November 2007, at the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago. The Competition allows students representing law schools from across the country to develop their appellate advocacy skills by preparing briefs on current legal issues confronting federal courts and arguing their positions before practicing attorneys and judges. Committee members create the appellate record, score and critique the briefs, recruit judges for oral arguments, and organize and manage the Competition.

Meets On As Called

Client Development & Firm Economics

Practical information about how to promote yourself and your practice provides an essential building block for a successful legal career. Up-to-date information on how to run a business will be provided to help polish your professional image and put profits on your ledger sheet. Whether your career path leads to a solo practice, a partnership, or a position in a small, medium, or large firm, you will find the vital information needed to reach your goals at the Committee's meetings. Speakers will address various issues of practice development, such as, establishing a client base, marketing, start-up financing, new technology, office location, image, staffing issues, research, and rules of professional conduct. You will take a crash course in client development that will help them create an information checklist to create the successful career you envisioned when you earned your J.D.

Seminar Only

Committee on Ethnic & Racial Diversity (CBA/YLS)

The Committee on Ethnic & Racial Diversity (CBA/YLS) has a broad mandate to develop and support Association programs to further the following objectives: to enhance the professional standing and economic viability of minority lawyers in all areas of the legal community; to build awareness about the need for racial/cultural diversity within the legal profession; to assist various entities within the Association, as well as, law firms, law schools, etc. to promote and manage this diversity; and, to identify and address issues that affect Chicago's minority communities.

Meets On As Called

Corporate Practice

The Committee aims to serve the diverse needs of young corporate law practitioners including those at small and large firms alike. The committee will sponsor two extended seminars on topics germane to our committee members' representation of closely held and public entities. The Committee will assist young lawyers in addressing the needs of their clients, developing professional skills, and making contacts in the Chicago legal

Meets on 2nd Thursday

Creative Arts

The Committee provides an opportunity for young lawyers to learn about art and entertainment law topics from seasoned practitioners and members of the art community. We strive to create a friendly environment where members can share their experiences, garner valuable tips, and network. Topics for past luncheon meetings have included the right to publicity, film production agreements, and representing screen writers. The Committee also holds two seminars designed to provide practical advice on an important topic of art or entertainment law. Finally, the Committee presents the CBA's Public Art Award, which goes to an artist or arts organization responsible for a work that has been publicly displayed in Chicago.

Meets On 3rd Tuesday

Criminal Law (CBA/YLS)

Perceptions about our criminal justice system directly affect society's confidence in (and respect for) the rule of law. With this concept in mind, the Criminal Justice Committee seeks to provide an opportunity for young lawyers to actively engage in efforts to improve the quality of justice in our community. To further this end, the Committee will invite jurists, current and former prosecutors, and prominent defense attorneys to share their experiences, opinions and advice respecting the practice of criminal law.

Meets On 2nd Tuesday

Employee Benefits

The Committee's mission is to foster excellence in the practice of employee benefits law. It is a forum for younger ERISA attorneys to develop and hone their skills in this constantly changing area of the law. The Committee provides an excellent opportunity for young attorneys to hear and learn from veteran practitioners. The Committee holds monthly meetings and sponsors two seminars during the bar year.

Meets On 1st Thursday

Estate Planning

Drafting an effective estate plan involves more than just using the latest form book or computer program. Today's estate planner must stay current with recent developments in case law, tax law, and new planning techniques. Committee members discuss recent developments on a monthly basis over lunch prior to hearing a presentation on various estate planning topics such as: innovative drafting and succession techniques, trust administration, retirement planning, estate gift & GST taxation and more. Experienced estate planners who share their insight on the practice and career development typically give presentations.

Meets On 2nd Tuesday

False Claims Act

This new committee's vision is to provide an informative, interactive forum for members to learn about the history and practical application of the Federal, State and Municipal False Claims Act.

Bimonthly beginning November 2007

Family Law

This Committee is geared to young family law practitioners. At informal monthly luncheon meetings, experienced and respected matrimonial attorneys, jurists, and experts will discuss everyday practical and legal aspects of practicing in this volatile and dynamic area of law. In addition, formal seminars will keep the young attorney apprised of current legal developments and the many sophisticated nuances of family law practice. Both the luncheon meetings and the seminars will provide an opportunity for young attorneys to interact with Chicago's family law associates and prominent family law attorneys and judges.

Meets On 1st Wednesday

Federal Trial Bar

The Committee conducts the popular YLS Trial Bar Course which can meet the simulation unit requirements of the Federal Trial Bar. The course provides young attorneys with an opportunity to learn and practice trial skills. Over a four week period, students attend large group lectures, receive individual critiques by experienced litigators, and participate in a mock trial. Committee members will assist in selecting faculty members and administering the course. Members get the chance to work with Chicago's most prominent trial attorneys and judges who serve as faculty members.

Meets On As Called

Health & Hospital Law

The Committee provides a forum for members to exchange viewpoints and keep up-to-date, by both committee members and guest speakers, on current legal issues and developments related to the health care community. In addition to monthly luncheon meetings and workshops, the Committee presents two seminars during the year, both of which provide in-depth reviews of timely health law providers (ie., physicians, hospitals, and ancillary service providers) and payor and insuring arrangements (ie., PPO, HMO, PSO, and TPA).

Meets On 4th Thursday

Immigration & Nationality Law (CBA/YLS)

This Committee is intended to provide young practitioners with an opportunity to address and understand both basic and advanced issues within the area of immigration law. With an area of law that continually remains in flux, both procedurally and substantively, this committee will keep members apprised of new developments in the procedural and substantive areas of law. The monthly meetings will include presentations and discussions with seasoned immigration attorneys.

Meets On 3rd Thursday

Insurance Coverage

As new lawyers quickly learn, insurance coverage issues touch upon almost every area of litigation. The Committee is designed to educate new lawyers about insurance coverage issues and provide a forum for members to discuss emerging topics. Insurance coverage issues concerning a variety of topics will be addressed, including: intellectual property, construction law, bad faith, and environmental and professional liability. Guest speakers from the legal community and/or the insurance industry will address topics relevant to both the insured and the insurers at monthly meeting. In addition, the Committee also will present seminars during the year on timely, substantive and procedural coverage issues.

Meets On 2nd Tuesday

Intellectual Property Law

The Intellectual Property Committee presents monthly talks and discussions on current developments on copyright, trademark, patent, and trade secret law. Many talks also concern the nexus between the Internet and IP law. The meetings are not only for IP specialists but are also for general practitioners with an interest in this rapidly changing field.

Meets On 1st Wednesday

Labor & Employment Law

The Labor & Employment Law Committee is concerned with all legal issues that arise from or affect the employment relationship, including labor-management relations, personnel policies, discrimination claims and other state and statutory claims affecting employment. The committee also addresses practice and procedures before federal and state agencies, alternative dispute resolution forums, and the courts within which employment issues are resolved.

Meets On 4th Thursday

Law Exploring

In conjunction with the Career Exploring Division and the Boy Scouts of America, the Committee teaches trial advocacy skills to high-school students interested in careers in law and government. Each meeting during the school year focuses on practicing a different trial advocacy skill with the students. The program culminates by selecting and preparing a trial team to participate in the American Bar Association's national high school mock trial competition. Committee members coordinate activities and act as teachers and mentors to the students.

Meets On 1st and 3rd Wednesday (5:30 p.m.)

Law Student

The Law Student Committee provides a forum for Chicago area law students not only to participate in the CBA, but also to cater a committee agenda to their specific interests. The Committee is involved in numerous activities throughout the year, such as orientation displays for students, the All-School Reception, a meeting with Illinois Bar Examiners, the Blood Drive Competition, social events, and a law student newsletter. The Committee often presents students with their first taste of a professional association or introduction to legal contacts outside their educational institutions and can provide an eye and career opening experience to all. Students interested in getting involved with this committee should call the Chair or contact their school's representative for more information.

As Called

Mental Health & Disabilities Law (CBA/YLS)

The Committee focuses on the rights and responsibilities of individuals with mental and physical disabilities and those who provide service to these populations, as they are covered under federal, state, and local laws that encompass the field of disability law. Experienced practitioners will address cutting-edge issues such as discrimination in employment, housing, special education, government benefits, confidentiality, mental health issues impacting criminal defendants, appropriate mental health treatment, and quality care. A seminar will be presented covering substantive areas of disability law. Please join us if you are interested in improving your skills and knowledge in this rapidly expanding area of law.

Meets On 1st Tuesday

Professional Responsibility

In these times of increasing public criticism of the legal profession, we are seeing greater enforcement of the Rules of Professional Conduct by our courts and bar associations. Through meetings, seminars and discussions with other lawyers, the Committee will address the issues relating to the ethical proprieties of professional conduct of lawyers. The Committee will also review news and developments in the area of professional responsibility from court decisions, ethics opinions, and disciplinary proceedings.

Bimonthly on 1st Wednesday

Real Estate Law

This Committee discusses basic issues in property sales, ownership, management, and taxation. In addition to extensive seminar offerings that address practitioners' concerns and basic principles of commercial and residential real estate transactions, the committee meets each month for lunch presentations. In addition to presentations from judges, recent topics have included technical requirements of perfecting mechanic's liens, new HUD regulations requiring lead-based paint disclosures, purchasers' due diligence requirements in commercial transactions, tax sale proceedings, choosing lease escalation terms, forcible detainer practice, consumer fraud issues, and ethical considerations.

Meets On 3rd Tuesday

Social

The Committee arranges for gatherings of friends and colleagues at different festive locations in the Loop, River North or Lincoln Park. Socials are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. This is a great opportunity for young lawyers to unwind and relax after a busy day of legal work. Each social gathering lasts from approximately 6 to 8 p.m. and includes savory appetizers as well as discounted (and sometimes free) beverages.

Meets On As Called

Tax Law

The Committee provides a forum for the discussion of recent developments in various areas, including federal income taxation, state and local taxation, estate and gift taxation, international taxation, tax controversy and litigation, qualified retirement plans, as well as other topics of interest to committee members. The Committee, in its quest to be inclusive of all tax practitioners, reaches out to those working in law firms, accounting firms, and industry, and aims to address both tax specialists and general practitioners. The speakers and resource materials will help members expand their knowledge base and hone skills needed to recognize and address a wide variety of tax issues. An array of speakers who are recognized experts in their fields, including tax lawyers, accountants, and industry specialists, are scheduled to speak at the monthly luncheon meetings. Seminars and panel discussions on specific topics will also be scheduled throughout the year.

Meets On 3rd Thursday

Tort Litigation

The area of tort litigation covers a vast spectrum of problems and challenges. Practitioners may be faced with handling everything from a simple auto accident case to a class-action products liability lawsuit. Attorneys practicing in this area must become conversant in complex scientific principles and medical procedures and, in turn, must convey these concepts to a jury. Additionally, attorneys must be familiar with venue and jurisdictional rules, and be aware of any quirks in the local law. The Committee's purpose is to provide its members with the information necessary to pursue or defend their cases from the initial investigation of the case to its resolution. Monthly meetings keep attorneys current on new theories of liability and methods of practice and procedure. Luncheon and seminar speakers are drawn from the most notable members of the bench and bar.

Meets On 4th Thursday

Trial Techniques

The Trial Techniques Committee provides young attorneys with practical skills designed to increase their success in the courtroom. Monthly luncheons address specific aspects of trial preparation, technique, and strategy. While bimonthly seminars examine more comprehensive subjects of trial practice, procedure, and persuasiveness. Attendees will receive an array of draft pleadings, discovery, and other useful resources.

Meets on As Called

Veterans & Military Assistance (CBA/YLS)

Meet On As Called

Women in the Law

The Committee sponsors monthly meetings that address women's issues within the legal, political, and societal arenas. The meetings also provide a forum to discuss current events and vote on pending legislation affecting women. In addition to monthly meetings, the Committee sponsors seminars on topics of interest to female attorneys and sponsors an annual fundraiser for a woman-focused organization. The Committee also runs a mentor program that joins new and experienced attorneys together in a mentoring relationship. In the upcoming bar year, the Committee's Ad Hoc Committee on Women in the New Millenium will sponsor several events focusing on the role of women attorneys in the 21st Century. The Committee provides an excellent opportunity for women within the legal profession to meet other women in diverse practice areas, discuss issues of special interest to women, and be a strong voice within our community.

Seminar Only