

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the benefits of membership?

The CBA offers quality continuing legal education (CLE), practice area committees, individual and group mentoring programs, professional development and career services, law practice management and technology assistance, community service opportunities, and more.

What is the CBA bar year?

The CBA bar year begins on June 1 and ends on May 31.

What types of memberships are available?

The CBA offers membership to individuals who are licensed to practice law in Illinois and other states. Newly admitted attorneys receive their first year of membership free, following admission to the Illinois Bar. The CBA also offers law student and non-lawyer associate memberships.

Are there any discounts available to CBA members?

The CBA offers its members free CLE, reduced fees on CLE, and the opportunity to purchase the CLE-Advantage Plan, unlimited CLE for only \$150 per bar year. Additionally, the CBA offers many free career and networking events plus discounts on many legal services and products.

What is the Young Lawyers Section?

Members in practice less than 10 years are automatically enrolled in our Young Lawyers Section (YLS). The Section helps new lawyers realize their full potential through education, substantive law committees, volunteer opportunities, monthly networking/social hours, leadership opportunities and more.

How do YLS Committees work?

YLS committees are a great way to learn more about a specific practice area such as real property, family law, intellectual property law or estate planning. Most committees meet monthly during the noon hour at the CBA and feature expert speakers, legislative updates and case law developments. There are no special requirements or section fees to join a committee and most meetings are Webcast.

How Can I Meet Other Lawyers?

The YLS hosts monthly social hours that are open to members and their guests. The socials offer an opportunity to gather with friends and network with members of the legal community. The YLS also arranges for many networking opportunities throughout the year in the form of workshops, open houses, career fairs, and more.

Can I Get Job Search Help?

The CBA offers a variety of opportunities to explore next steps in your career. Members have access online to post their resume and search local and national open positions. The YLS Career Assistance Committee meets monthly to cover topics such as networking, rainmaking, interviewing and more. And, the CBA Career Assistance Program (CAP) offers seminars and free, one-on-one career counseling.

What Volunteer and Pro Bono Opportunities are Available?

The YLS provides many avenues for you to serve the community with just a minimal time commitment. In addition to pro bono experiences, the YLS sponsors an annual pro bono and community service fair each fall to connect new lawyers with local opportunities.

How is the YLS Moving Forward?

The Future of the Profession Committee is open to all members and focuses on the future of the legal profession. Events, special projects and articles are developed throughout the year to address how the profession needs to evolve.

For membership information, visit www.chicagobar.org/jointhecba, call 312-554-2131, or email kstanton@chicagobar.org.