

WHAT THE YLD DOES FOR



The Kentucky Bar Association is home to some of the best and brightest young lawyers in the country. The Kentucky Bar Association also prides itself as having one of the most active and robust Young Lawyers Divisions. Membership in the Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) is open to any Kentucky attorney who is forty years of age or younger, or who has practiced law ten or fewer years. Annual membership dues for the YLD are only \$20.

YLD members enjoy numerous benefits, including:

- Several free Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) courses offered statewide, focusing on practical skills for young lawyers.
- Access to free online CLE courses.
- Free networking and social events throughout the state.
- Alternative career development programs, such as the Road Less Traveled series.
- Discounted registration to the Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention, where the YLD features CLE courses and professional development programs designed by and for young lawyers.
- Professional development and marketing through publication and public speaking opportunities.
- Numerous public service programs, including the Legal Food Frenzy, BullyProof, U@18, Voices Against Violence, and legal assistance to disaster survivors.
- Programming for the advancement and promotion of diversity in the legal profession.
- Leadership opportunities through service on the YLD Executive Committee or one of the several YLD committees.

The YLD is extremely fortunate and grateful to have the support of its sponsors Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky (“LMICK”) and National Insurance Agency (“NIA”), which enables the YLD to present many of the YLD’s public service programs. Below I will highlight just a few of the programs the YLD presents, thanks in large part to the support of LMICK and NIA.

The YLD, along with the Kentucky Association of Food Banks and Attorney General Beshear, held the first annual Legal Food Frenzy in March/April 2017, raising the equivalent of approximately \$70,000 for Kentucky’s food banks in only two weeks! The YLD intends to build upon the immense success of the first Legal Food Frenzy in 2018 with the second annual Legal Food Frenzy, which will take place in March/April 2018. The YLD also organizes the YLD Disaster Legal Services programs, which provides immediate temporary legal assistance to disaster survivors in the Commonwealth at no charge.

The YLD continues to encourage and lead in promoting diversity in the legal profession. The Why Choose Law/Pipeline program will be held in the spring of 2018, and will provide high school and undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and from all parts of the Commonwealth with an introduction to the legal profession, an introduction they otherwise might not have had. The YLD also awards the Nathaniel R. Harper Diversity Award annually to a Kentucky lawyer who has promoted and improved diversity in the legal profession.

As part of education outreach, YLD volunteers present the U@18 and BullyProof programs at high schools and middle schools across the Commonwealth. In the law schools, the YLD presents the Road Less Traveled series, where panelists who have a law degree, but non-traditional legal careers, describe their career paths to Kentucky’s law students in order to give the students an idea of the many different things you can do with a law degree.

The YLD also awards \$2,000 in bar study scholarships to Kentucky’s law students each year, and sponsors networking events at which the law students have an opportunity to interact with attorneys in their areas.

The programming highlighted above is just a sampling of all the YLD does to service its members and give back to the community. The YLD is extremely grateful to its sponsors LMICK and NIA, and to its members for making all of its programming possible. The YLD strives to do as much good as it can for its members and the community at large.

I encourage all young lawyers to please consider investing in your practice by joining and becoming actively involved in the YLD. There is no finer professional development organization for young lawyers in Kentucky. Whether it is helping to deliver public service benefits across the state, or enhancing our profession through publications and presentations, there are real and ongoing opportunities for every member of the YLD to take part in improving the profession and the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION concerning YLD membership, leadership, activities, and opportunities, please visit www.kbayld.org or our Facebook page. If you have any questions concerning the Division or are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me at eric.weihe@skofirm.com.



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