

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN AND SUPPORT THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

BY: ERIC M. WEIHE, YLD CHAIR

The Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) is a very robust and active division. Read below to learn about how to volunteer to help with YLD programming, honor someone who has contributed to young lawyers in Kentucky, and get more involved in the YLD.

BULLYPROOF – Young Lawyers Educating and Empowering to End Bullying

Bullying among youth is a widespread problem that continues to receive increasing attention. In an attempt to address bullying, the American Bar Association created Bullyproof—a program that seeks to address the growing problem of bullying among our youth through education, awareness, and legislative reform. The YLD sponsors this program in counties throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A key pillar of the YLD’s program is outreach to schools through classroom presentations. Bullyproof places lawyers into local middle schools to educate youth on reporting and preventing bullying. As part of its Bullyproof program, the YLD, with the generous support of the Kentucky Bar Foundation, has developed a one-hour presentation that includes a video, interactive game, and classroom discussion. The YLD encourages attorneys of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer to give a Bullyproof presentation. For more information on volunteering, please email one of the YLD Bullyproof Committee Co-Chairs, Lee Metzger (LMetzger@aswdlaw.com) or Kevin Smith (kevin@kevinrsmithlaw.com).

U@18

There are a lot of new freedoms and responsibilities provided to young people who reach the age of 18. In 2008, the YLD created and implemented the U@18 program, which is designed to teach high school seniors some of the basic legal rights and ramifications of becoming legal adults. Since the inception of the U@18 program, the YLD has given presentations in numerous counties throughout the Commonwealth, reaching thousands of students. The hour-long presentation consists of 10 video vignettes that present students with real-life scenarios they may encounter as adults that involve legal issues, such as: motor vehicle laws, employment discrimination, domestic violence, jury duty, tenant rights, and contract rights. After each of the 10 vignettes, the presenter stops the video and engages the high school seniors in a thoughtful discussion on the basic laws at issue in the vignettes, and answers any questions the students might have regarding the laws. The YLD is looking

for attorneys to volunteer to give the U@18 presentation at high schools near them this coming spring. You are not required to have any specific knowledge or prior experience in the areas of law addressed in the vignettes, and minimal preparation is needed, as the video comes with a companion booklet and script for presenters. Speaking from personal experience, presenting the U@18 program in high schools is a very fun and rewarding opportunity. For more information on volunteering, please email one of the YLD U@18 Committee Co-Chairs, Lee Metzger (LMetzger@aswdlaw.com) or Kevin Smith (kevin@kevinrsmithlaw.com).

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the YLD recognizes exceptional contributions to the legal profession by awarding the following awards presented at the annual Kentucky Bar Association Convention. If you know of a deserving recipient, and would like to nominate he or she for one of the below-described awards, please visit the YLD website at www.kbayld.org for more information on the nomination process. Nominations are due by **Friday, March 30, 2018**.

The **OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER AWARD** honors a Kentucky attorney who has excelled in the practice of law and community service. Any Kentucky lawyer who, as of July 1, 2017, has been engaged in the practice of law for 10 or fewer years, or who is 40 years old or younger, is eligible for nomination.

The **NATHANIEL R. HARPER AWARD** honors a person or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to changing the

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face of the Kentucky Bar by encouraging the inclusion of women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBT individuals, as well as promoting full and equal participation in the legal profession by all unrepresented or underrepresented groups.

The **YOUNG LAWYER SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARD** honors a member of the YLD for exemplary service to his or her community through volunteerism, service to non-profit organizations, and/or pro bono legal representation.

The **SERVICE TO YOUNG LAWYER AWARD** honors a lawyer, non-lawyer, or organization for exceptional contributions to the professional and personal advancement and mentorship of young lawyers in Kentucky.

YLD ELECTIONS

If you are a member of the YLD who would like to become more involved with the Kentucky Bar Association and enhancing the legal profession in Kentucky, please consider submitting your nomination for election to the position of YLD District Representative or YLD Officer on the YLD Executive Committee.

There are seven **District Representatives** on the YLD Executive Committee—one from each Supreme Court district. Any member of the YLD in good standing may be elected as a District Representative for their district.

There are four **Officers** on the YLD Executive Committee—Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. The current Chair-Elect automatically succeeds to the office of Chair. To be eligible for election to the office of Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, or Secretary/Treasurer, a nominee must be a member of the YLD in good standing and must have previously served on the YLD Executive Committee for at least one year.

Any YLD member who wishes to be considered for election must notify Miranda Click, YLD Secretary/Treasurer, in writing by **midnight (EST) on Friday, March 30, 2018**. Nominations for election, including self-nominations, may be emailed to Ms. Click at mclick@eastkylaw.com. Ballots for contested elections will be emailed no later than Friday, April 6, 2018, and voting for any contested elections will close on Friday, April 20, 2018. All dues paying members of the YLD are eligible to vote in the election for District Representative for their Supreme Court District, and in the elections for the YLD Officers.



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