

# VSB YLC Circuit Representatives

## 2010 Leadership Conference

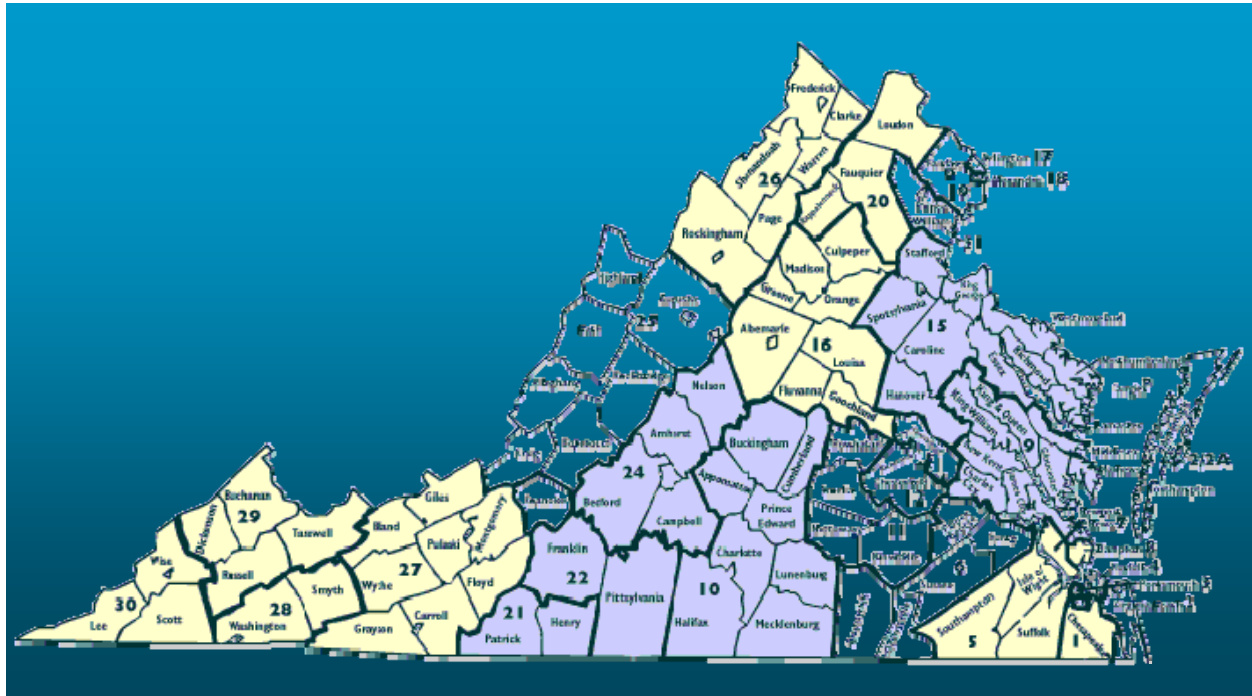
### Richmond, Virginia

#### I. Young Lawyers Conference (YLC)

*Organized in 1973*

All active and associate Virginia State Bar members in good standing, age 36 and under, as well as those members admitted to the Virginia State Bar as their initial bar for fewer than three years, are automatically members of the Young Lawyers Conference. No additional dues are charged for membership in the YLC. The YLC functions as “a bar within a bar,” focusing its efforts on the special interests and concerns of young and new lawyers. Through a diverse group of projects, the YLC is a vehicle through which young lawyers can participate in the governance of the Virginia State Bar, serve the profession and the public, and enhance the public awareness of the legal profession. All members receive the YLC’s newsletter, *Docket Call*, several times a year. Conference activities include: Admission and Orientation Ceremonies (semi-annually), No Bills Nights, the Celebration of Women and Minorities in the Profession Bench-Bar Dinner, Minority Recruitment Conferences, Emergency Legal Services, Membership Support Seminar, Community Law Week Activities, and various Community Outreach Projects.

#### II. VSB YLC – Circuits



III. **Websites** – [www.vayounglawyers.org](http://www.vayounglawyers.org) / [www.vsb.org](http://www.vsb.org)

IV. **YSB YLC Circuit Representatives - Your Role**

- Responsible for recruiting and encouraging other young lawyers to participate and volunteer for YLC programs and activities.
- Be the conduit for YLC activities in your Circuit and inform young lawyers of opportunities to participate in activities and programs and advise young lawyers of the concerns and needs of the YLC.
- Represent the YLC at each local bar association event in which you participate.
- Create opportunities for the YLC and local bar associations to cooperate in projects.
- Assist the YLC's Board of Governors and the committee chairs on various projects in your area.
- At the beginning of each Bar year, report to the Board in writing your goals and objectives for your Circuit for the year.
- Report to the Board the views, concerns and needs of the young lawyers in your Circuit. Attend Circuit Representative conference calls as set up by your Board Liaisons.
- Keep young lawyers in your Circuit advised of activities and projects of the YLC that take place in the Circuit.
- Attend annual Leadership Conference and VSB YLC's Annual Meeting and Lunch.

V. **YLC Projects**

- *Cancer Survivors and the Law – 2010-2011 Signature Project for Circuit Reps*

This program, which began in the 2009-2010 bar year, is aimed at cancer survivorship and the law. The statistics are staggering and humbling: 1 in 4 people will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during life. More often than not, cancer survivors struggle not only with treatment decisions but also legal problems that arise because of their diagnosis. The legal problems may include employment, health insurance, Medicare, real estate or landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, or advance medical directives, just to name a few.

In 2009-2010, a Handbook was developed to help cancer survivors navigate the variety of nagging legal issues they face as they fight their disease. At the 2010 VSB Annual Meeting, YLC members organized a CLE program that addressed Legal Issues Facing Cancer Survivors and the new Handbook. In 2010-2011, with the assistance of Circuit Representatives in particular, the YLC is focused on distributing the Handbook to as many people and organizations as possible.

- *They Had a Dream Too – 2010-2011 Signature Project for Circuit Reps*

This 25-minute documentary DVD profiles young leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. The program is intended for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and encourages them to become leaders in their own right. The DVD features historic events, including the sit-in movement, Freedom Rides, and various protests and marches. Discussion questions and activities are included for teachers and attorneys who facilitate the *They Had a Dream Too* program.

The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association adopted *They Had a Dream Too* as its feature program in 2009-2010, after the documentary was first produced and popularized by the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

- *Wills for Heroes*

Wills for Heroes programs provide essential legal documents (including wills, powers of attorney, and advance medical directives) free of charge to the Commonwealth's first responders and their spouses. By helping first responders plan now, the YLC and its volunteers hope to ensure that first responders' legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits.

- *Community Law Week Projects*

- No Bills Nights
- Law Day

- *Minority Pre-law Conferences* (Southern Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Tidewater)

These Conferences, each held once a year, expose college students, especially minority students, to many aspects of a legal career and entering the legal profession. From LSAT preparation courses, mock law school classes, and a mock trial to panel discussions with judges, attorneys, and law students, these Conferences provide valuable information to college students considering a career in the law.

- *Domestic Violence Safety Project*

- *Immigrant Outreach Committee*

Each year the committee holds a series of CLE programs that train attorneys and judges regarding issues affecting immigrants. Topics include "Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions" and "The Role of a J&DR Judge in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases".

**VI. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives – 2010-2011 Budget**

- The YLC has a total budget of \$83,000
- Circuit Representatives have a Programs Budget of \$1,500, with additional funds available depending on the particular program you plan to undertake
- If additional funds are needed, speak with your Board of Governors liaison

**VII. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives – Putting on Your Programs**

- The first step – inform your Board Liaisons and fill out the Project Planning Worksheet
- Recruit volunteers – the more the merrier!
- Send a “call for volunteers” to Brian Charville and Maureen Stengel for posting on the VSB YLC website and Facebook page – **bcharville@arlingtonva.us** and **stengel@vsb.org**
- Ask Maureen Stengel for a set of labels listing the Young Lawyers in your Circuit
- Email a “call for volunteers” to your friends and ask them to circulate the call for volunteers to their firms and friends who are attorneys
- Email a “call for volunteers” to local and specialty bar association list serves
- Email a “call for volunteers” to your Board Liaison and ask her or him to circulate the call for volunteers to young lawyers in your Circuit
- If it its free to do so, publish your “call for volunteers” in bar newsletters

**VIII. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives – Publicize Your Program**

- Publicize at local bar association meetings
- Email local and specialty bar association list serves
- Email your firm
- Email your friends who are attorneys
- Ask your friends to circulate your email to their firms and friends
- Send a notice to Brian Charville and Maureen Stengel to post on the VSB YLC website and Facebook page
- Email your Board Liaison and ask him or her to circulate to his or her firm and friends

- Send press releases to local newspapers/magazines/radio
- Publicize in local bar newsletters (but confirm that publication is free)

**IX. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives' Bar Resources**

- Board of Governors Liaisons
- YLC Board of Governors
  - Often has institutional knowledge of the program's vision
- Maureen Stengel – the YLC's VSB staff liaison
  - Has institutional knowledge of how programs were handled in the past, including past locations and vendors used
  - Can answer questions regarding budget, expenditures, and reimbursements
  - Can provide lists of attorneys in your locality, including mailing labels and emails
  - If you need to contract with anyone (i.e. bus service, significant catering), **Maureen must be involved. Your Board Liaisons will work with you on this as well.**

**X. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives - Dos and Don'ts**

- Do keep in touch with your Board Liaisons
- Do ask for help
- Do set up a committee
- Do send thank-you letters to all who participated
- Don't leave your Board Liaisons out of the loop
- Don't assume you are completely on your own
- Don't take on all of the work yourself
- Do think outside the box
- Do learn and follow the rules on expenditures
- Do take pictures and submit them to Brian Charville for inclusion on the VSB YLC website and Facebook page

- Don't make significant new obligations without speaking with your Board Liaisons and/or the Executive Committee
- Don't make purchases without obtaining approval from your Board Liaisons or the Executive Committee

**XI. How Can We Best Work Together?**

- What support would you like to see from the Board or your Board Liaison?
- What can you do to encourage participation by young lawyers in your Circuit?
- What suggestions do you have for the YLC to best utilize Circuit Representatives?

**XII. VSB YLC Circuit Representatives**

- VSB YLC is the face and voice of all Virginia young lawyers. This year we plan to work hard to bring honor and respect to our profession, to ensure the VSB YLC's continued service to those in need, and to improve networking opportunities, educational experiences and communication for all young lawyers.
- An active and involved legal community is more important than ever. Take pride in your positive impact!