

Finding Time to Serve

Savalle C. Sims, 2004–2005 Young Lawyers Conference President

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Young lawyers often balance work, family, community obligations and professional commitments on a daily basis. Still, many young lawyers feel the call to serve and ultimately respond. How do they do it?

Service comes in many forms, and the YLC appreciates any level or type of service.

Start off small. Resist the urge to conquer the world or to volunteer for every single committee or program in which you might be interested. Evaluate your commitments and decide how much time that you have to volunteer.

Under promise and overdeliver. Most young lawyers are over-achievers. Resist the urge, however, to overcommit. Choose a service opportunity that is one step below one that is completely doable. You can then serve without jeopardizing your credibility by failing to deliver.

Choose volunteer opportunities consistent with your demands. The YLC board has worked hard this year to develop a variety of volunteer opportunities. There are three new commissions: Women and Minorities in the Profession, Children and the Law and Pro Bono. Those projects offer lawyers a chance to participate on an ongoing basis, even if they can't attend meetings regularly. Leadership roles are available for program and committee chairs and circuit representatives.

One Time Volunteer Opportunities: These activities provide the opportunity to volunteer for a specific program or activity on a given day. For instance, in December the YLC will be looking for volunteers to assist in implementing its Diversity Tolerance Initiative in a Richmond elementary school. The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division designed the program. The YLC is looking for young lawyers to volunteer for a couple hours a day.

"We the Jury" is also an ABA Young Lawyers Division program. This spring—as part of Community Law Week—the YLC hopes

to implement the program in high schools throughout Virginia. It will offer a curriculum guide and video of a mock civil or criminal trial to discuss the history of the jury system and the importance of service. Students will participate in a mock *voir dire* and deliberate in connection with a civil or criminal case.

These are just some of the opportunities that are available through the YLC.

I hope that you now know that regardless of whether you can find time to lead, create, or participate on an activity-by-activity basis, the YLC has opportunities designed to accommodate all of those roles. 🙏

THE ANNUAL VSB YOUNG LAWYERS CONFERENCE
CELEBRATION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES
IN THE PROFESSION

BENCH-BAR DINNER

Featuring

Robert J. Grey Jr.

President of the American Bar Association
and Past President of the VSB YLC

and honoring the newly appointed and elevated women
and minority judges in Virginia.

Monday, February 28, 2005
The Virginia Museum of Arts
Boulevard and Grove Avenue, Richmond
6:00 P.M. Reception • 7:00 P.M. Dinner

For more information, contact Maureen Stengel at
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