



Planting Trees

AS LAWYERS, WE MAKE OUR LIVING through words. So it should come as no surprise that I turn to words of others for inspiration. Among my favorite quotations, and an anonymous one at that, is: “Service is planting a tree under whose shade you’ll never sit.” The Young Lawyers Conference truly embodies the spirit of that quotation. The YLC’s theme is service: service to its members, the bar, and the communities of the commonwealth. Year after year, through its various programs and initiatives, the YLC plants trees under whose shade we’ll never sit.

Recently, the YLC renewed its commitment to service through the adoption of a new five-year long range plan. The YLC currently serves its members and the bar through the following programs and initiatives: The Celebration Bench Bar Dinner; the *Docket Call* newsletter; the Admissions and Orientation Ceremony; the Annual Meeting; the First Day in Practice Seminar; Board Match; the Professional Development Conference; and Unlock Your Potential. The YLC currently serves the public through the following programs and initiatives: Prelaw Conferences, the Domestic Violence Safety Project, Emergency Legal Services, Community Law Week, No Bills Night, Immigrant Outreach, Mental Health Reform, Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute, Wills for Heroes, and programs in which students spend a day in court or at the Virginia Capitol. The YLC also has several commissions — Children and the Law, Pro Bono, and Women

and Minorities in the Profession — that explore needs and seek out opportunities to better serve our members, the bar, and the public.

In furtherance of the YLC’s purpose, the long-range plan proposed a significant change to our existing structure, which we are currently in the process of implementing. Specifically, the long-range plan recommended modifying the circuit representative structure to promote more involvement and interaction with local bar associations. Circuit representatives will continue to represent geographic regions across the commonwealth, but they will now be selected wherever possible based on nominations from local bar associations and their young lawyers sections. We have established a new Circuit Representative Coordination and Outreach Committee to support the transition and the work of our circuit representatives. We hope that these changes will increase collaboration between local bar associations and the YLC.

but also legal problems that arise because of their diagnosis. Those legal problems may include employment matters, health insurance and Medicaid, real estate or landlord-tenant issues, bankruptcy, and advance medical directives. So we will be developing a handbook to help cancer survivors navigate the variety of nagging legal issues they face as they fight their disease. We will also sponsor a continuing legal education program in hopes that lawyers will, in turn, help family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers who are fighting cancer and need legal assistance.

As Winston Churchill said: “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” The YLC is always looking for leaders and volunteers to give their time and talents to help the conference continue its thirty-five-year legacy of service. To that end, if you would like to get involved in the YLC, please contact me at (202) 344-8033 or lpmarlin@venable.com or Brian Charville at

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— *Winston Churchill*

We are also charting new territory this year by establishing a Commission on Health and the Law and by launching a new initiative aimed at the legal issues faced by cancer survivors. More often than not, cancer survivors struggle not only with treatment decisions

(703) 288-3100 or bcharville@arlingtonva.us. The YLC will plant new trees this year, and we’ll help those trees that have already been planted grow, so that others may some day benefit from their shade.

Volunteers Needed by VSB Young Lawyers Conference

The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference needs program chairs and committee member volunteers for many of its programs in the 2009-2010 bar year.

Becoming a program chair or a committee member volunteer is an excellent way to get involved in the YLC to serve the profession and the public. If you are interested in any of the leadership positions or volunteer opportunities listed below, please contact:

Lesley Pate Marlin at (202) 344-8033 or lpmarlin@venable.com

or

Brian Charville at (703) 228-3100 or bcharville@arlingtonva.us

More information about each of these programs can be found on the YLC's website at <http://www.vayounglawyers.org/>

The YLC is currently seeking individuals to serve as chairs for the following programs:

Mental Health Reform

No Bills Night Regional Chairs in:

Charlottesville

Lynchburg

Roanoke

Fredericksburg

Martinsville

Tidewater

Lexington/Staunton

Northern Virginia

Winchester

The YLC is currently seeking circuit representatives for the following judicial circuits:

FIRST CIRCUIT

City: Chesapeake

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Cities: Franklin & Suffolk

Counties: Isle of Wight & Southampton

TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

City: Martinsville

Counties: Patrick & Henry

TWENTY-SIXTH CIRCUIT

Cities: Harrisonburg & Winchester

Counties: Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Warren

TWENTY-NINTH CIRCUIT

Counties: Giles, Bland, Tazewell, Buchanan, Russell, Dickenson

The YLC is also seeking volunteers for the following programs:

Admission and Orientation Ceremony

Annual Meeting – Programs Committee

CLE on Legal Issues Facing Cancer Survivors

Community Law Week

Legal Handbook for Cancer Survivors

Northern Virginia Minority Pre-Law Conference

Bench-Bar Celebration Dinner

Docket Call newsletter

Domestic Violence Safety Project

Immigrant Outreach

No Bills Night