



Young Lawyers Conference Programs: They Are Not Just For “Young” Lawyers

I WORRY THAT WHEN AN ARTICLE starts with “the Young Lawyers Conference,” readers may tune out and turn the page if they are no longer “young” lawyers themselves. But this magazine reaches well beyond the YLC membership, so I would miss a significant portion of the audience if this were the case. I hope that it is not. But, to proactively address the possibility, I am devoting this article to explaining the myriad of YLC programs and events that are open to participants beyond young lawyers. Please join us, regardless of your age or experience, in some or all of the following activities.

Docket Call Newsletter

Our award-winning quarterly newsletter is distributed automatically to all YLC members. But it is also available to the public at our website at <http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/ylc/view/docket-call-newsletter>. *Docket Call* includes substantive articles, profiles of Virginia attorneys, and VSB news and events. We have archived issues available going back to 1999.

The Legal Handbook For Cancer Survivors

The handbook was created under the leadership of past-YLC President Lesley Pate Marlin and in collaboration with the Legal Information Network for Cancer. It provides practical guidance on a variety of legal issues that impact patients dealing with cancer, including insurance, budgeting, employment and health care decisions. If you, someone you know, or an organization in your area could benefit from this handbook, please tell me. We have copies available,

and our circuit representatives are in the process of distributing them throughout Virginia. It is a valuable resource, and one we want to see shared.

Emergency Legal Services

The ELS committee provides free legal assistance to victims of natural disasters and other declared emergencies. Although run by young lawyers, the program relies on a wide network of volunteer attorneys of all backgrounds. Perhaps you are one of the hundred lawyers who participated in our CLE this spring. If not, keep an eye out for future events. ELS is a great way to provide pro bono assistance to fellow Virginians in need.

No Bills Night

A No Bills Night is self-descriptive: an evening when members of the public can call a Virginia lawyer and receive answers about legal issues free of charge. Programs are run by local committees throughout Virginia, in places such as Abingdon, Charlottesville, Danville, Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, Martinsville, Lynchburg, Fredericksburg, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke, Staunton and Winchester. If you would like to sponsor a No Bills Night in your area, get in touch. We can connect you with a local chair or circuit representative to collaborate on this terrific program.

Wills for Heroes

Created in the aftermath of September 11th, Wills for Heroes prepares key legal documents (simple wills, advanced medical directives and powers of attorney) for first responders, namely firefighters, police, sheriffs and emergency medical technicians. The

Virginia Wills for Heroes program is jointly run by the VSB YLC and the VBA YLD, which provide statewide oversight and coordination. But, like No Bills Night, the program relies on local committees. Those local committees may, and almost always do, include Virginia lawyers who are no longer YLC members. If Wills for Heroes has not recently been to your area, and you would like to sponsor the program, I will be glad to put you in touch with the program chairs.

The Bench-Bar Celebration Dinner

This celebration is held every year when there are newly elevated women and minority judges in Virginia. It honors these judges for their accomplishments and provides an opportunity for lawyers to interact with them in a relaxed (non-courtroom) atmosphere. This year’s eight honorees included three Virginia Supreme Court Justices: Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser, Justice Elizabeth A. McClanahan, Justice Cleo E. Powell, Judge Mary Bennett Malveaux, Judge Alfred W. Bates III, Judge Sarah L. Deneke, Judge Lorraine Nordlund, and Judge Shannon O. Hoehl. Justice Powell, the first black female justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker.

The above are simply a few of the YLC’s offerings that can benefit and enrich every reader of this column. We are always excited to hear new ideas and receive feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact me if I, or the YLC, can do something more. And thank you for staying with me to the end of this article.