

Sometimes it is not enough to do your best. Sometimes, you have to do what is required.



Kathleen M. Uston, 2003–2004 Young Lawyers Conference President

During the past year, I have had the opportunity to communicate with the Young Lawyers Conference membership in this space. My messages have been on YLC programs and have emphasized how volunteering with the YLC can make a profound difference in your personal and professional lives. Volunteers have truly gone above and beyond the call, doing their best and more.

We have seen new faces among YLC volunteers this year. Many of you have heeded my call to service. And a busy year it has been.

Even before our leadership conference and membership reception at the Old Dominion Boat Club, our emergency legal services committee was called into action to help Virginia's citizens who suffered in the wake of Hurricane Isabel. My most heartfelt thanks to YLC board member Shawn Copeland for his leadership and to ELS Committee Chair Brett Zwerdling.

In October, and again in June, we welcomed more than one thousand new attorneys to the Virginia State Bar at our admission and orientation ceremonies. To those new attorneys, I repeat my congratulations, and my plea: Get involved with the YLC! We have much to offer, and you won't regret it.

Also in October, our student's-day-in-court committee took several hundred Richmond area high school students on a tour around the Capitol. The event was so successful that several hundred more were put on a waiting list for the next tour in the fall. Our thanks go to Christy Keily for her hard work in bringing our government to life for these students.

Thanks to so many of you, our Professional Development Conference in Charlottesville was a smashing success. More than seventy-five Virginia attorneys attended two days of seminars. My undying thanks to YLC board member Dan Gray and his fantastic committee: Jerry Hall, Joshua David, Sherry Soanes, Kathleen Dolan and William Porter. The bar has now been set!

Thanks to YLC board member Lesley Pate, the Spanish translation of our domestic violence safety brochure is complete and distribution efforts are now underway, thanks to Ali Brisky Cunningham.

YLC board member Maya Eckstein was the moving force behind the Bar Council's passage of a proposed *emeritus* rule, that would create a new class of membership for retired attorneys who pledge to perform pro bono work. Thanks to Maya's efforts, Virginia's poor might now have expanded access to legal services.

YLC board member Don Haddock and his energetic committee chair Doug Cuthbertson, organized the YLC's first involvement in U.S. citizen naturalization ceremonies. Many thanks to Don and Doug for making the services of the YLC available to the immigrant community.

YLC board members Kellye Clarke and Shawn Copeland and committee chair Jennifer Tatum organized programs for the annual meeting. I know the work that went into those programs, and Kellye, Shawn and Jennifer are to be congratulated.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the tremendous efforts Katrina Randolph and her long-range planning committee who revamped the plan and made the YLC a more dynamic organization.

This year, the YLC honored Brett Marston—a truly outstanding attorney in Roanoke—as the R. Edwin Burnette Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year. Brett exemplifies outstanding service to the YLC, the legal profession and the community. Congratulations Brett!

We also presented our outstanding service awards to YLC volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty. This year's exceptionally worthy recipients were PDC committee members, Jerry Hall, Sherry Soanes, Joshua David, Kathleen Dolan and William Porter; students-day-at-the-Capitol chair Christy Keily; *Docket Call* editor Jeff Geiger; immigrant outreach chair Doug Cuthbertson; minority pre-law conference chair Rita Davis; seniors committee chair Usha Koduru; and children and the law committee chair Vanessa Jones.

As the book closes on my year as YLC president, it opens on that of Savalle Sims, an attorney of exceptional talents. She is a volunteer with unbounded energy and creativity and a leader possess-

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