

Change Your Life This Year!

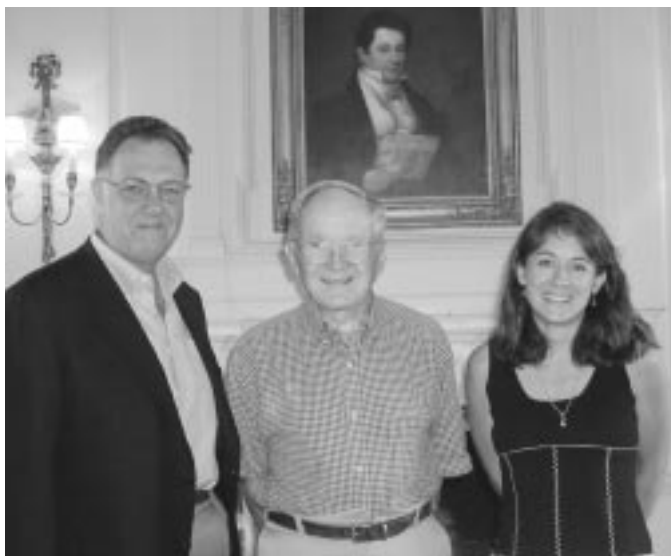


Kathleen M. Uston, 2003–2004 Young Lawyers Conference President

I am honored and delighted to serve this year as president of the VSB Young Lawyers Conference. The YLC is a dynamic organization comprised of all Virginia attorneys either thirty six years of age or younger or who have been practicing for three years or less.

The YLC offers a broad range of service both to members of our profession and to Virginia's citizens. Our Emergency Legal Services provides assistance to victims of natural disasters; the Domestic Violence Safety brochure is distributed to victims or potential victims of domestic violence; and the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, prepared and updated in conjunction with the Senior Lawyers Conference, provides invaluable information to Virginia's elderly citizens.

This past year, we also worked together with The Virginia Bar Association and others to prepare wills, free of charge, for first responders in Arlington County who did not already have them to protect their families. The Wills for Heroes program will be moved to other jurisdictions in the commonwealth this year to assist as many of these true heroes as possible.



Immediate-past President Ben DiMuro, the Honorable Henry J. Whiting and Katie Uston at the YLC board of governors retreat.

For our membership, the YLC publishes a quarterly newsletter, the *Docket Call*, which details the work of the conference and provides valuable information tailored to new attorneys, including an "Ethics Corner" to address conundrums faced by Virginia's newly-licensed attorneys.

On March 12–13, 2004, we will conduct our Professional Development Conference, devoted to offering CLE programs of special interest to Virginia's new attorneys. The conference will present a faculty of accomplished attorneys, members of the judiciary and the legislature. It is a conference that no young lawyer—or lawyer of any age for that matter—will want to miss.

Recently, the YLC board of governors had the distinct pleasure of being addressed at our board retreat by the Honorable Henry J. Whiting, retired Supreme Court justice and, we learned, the godson of General George S. Patton.

Justice Whiting exhorted all of us to foster collegiality in the practice of law, making the point that, by working together in the YLC, we all "help make each other better lawyers."

"There is something unique about a young person in the law," Justice Whiting said. He emphasized that, by establishing the bonds of friendship between attorneys who might some day meet each other on different sides of the table, we "transcend that adversarial relationship," and in so doing, help restore collegiality and civility to the practice of our noble profession.

I will be traveling around the state this year to meet as many of Virginia's newly-licensed attorneys as possible, to answer questions about the work of the YLC and to enlist the services of volunteers who want more from the practice of law than a paycheck at the end of every month. Bar service, such as that to which the YLC is dedicated, truly enhances the quality of life, permits and restores balance and keeps in perspective what truly matters in our lives and in our profession—humanity, humility and service.

Those of us fortunate enough to have a law degree are in a unique position to offer service to our fellow citizens. I hope you will take up the call, join the work of the YLC and change your life this year! ☺