

YOUNG LAWYERS CONFERENCE

Kathleen M. Uston, president

1. Domestic Violence Safety Project

One of the Young Lawyer Conference's most popular publications, the "Domestic Violence Safety Brochure," was translated into Spanish this year and is available for distribution. The pamphlet gives practical advice to victims of domestic violence, as well as information about where to find help and what to do in a crisis.

The Spanish translation of the brochure was recognized nationally, receiving first place from the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division for programs offering assistance to the public.

2. Docket Call

The YLC published four editions of our *Docket Call* newsletter over the course of the past bar year, keeping our membership up to date on our activities and providing helpful practice tips and other information.

The *Docket Call* again garnered national recognition from the ABA Young Lawyers, receiving first place for newsletters distributed to conferences of similar size.

3. Professional Development Conference—March 12–13, 2004, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Over seventy-five young and new attorneys attended the YLC's Third Annual Professional Development Conference, three days of continuing legal education and non-continuing legal education programming devoted to issues unique to the young litigator in Virginia. The sessions were conducted by well-known and highly respected judges and attorneys of many years' experience, who generously gave their time to help a new crop of Virginia lawyers learn the ropes.

The conference also was recognized by the ABA Young Lawyers, receiving second place in a nationwide field, for programs dedicated to service to the bar and its membership.

4. Immigrant Outreach

The YLC, working together with the Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, created a pamphlet entitled "Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions," which has now been distributed widely throughout the commonwealth. The response to the pamphlet has been spectacular, and the pamphlet recently was presented at the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Conference in Virginia Beach.

The ABA Young Lawyers recognized this project with a second place award for programs dedicated to assisting minority groups.

The pamphlet has also now been translated into Spanish.

In addition to distributing the pamphlet, the YLC Immigrant Outreach Committee conducted a seminar in Arlington, billed as an informal chat about the legal rights of immigrants. Turnout for the event was fantastic, and pictures can be found on our Web site, vayounglawyers.org.

The committee is also organizing YLC assistance with naturalization ceremonies to be held at George Mason University for new U.S. citizens.

5. Wills for Heroes

The YLC conducted its second "Wills for Heroes" program in Roanoke, beginning on June 21 with CLE training for attorney volunteers, and with the actual will signings taking place in early July 2004. The first responders who benefited from the program were extremely pleased, and the YLC volunteers on the ground are to be commended for an outstanding job.

The YLC Board of Governors will select the next jurisdictions where the "Wills for Heroes" program will be held.

6. Emeritus Rule

The YLC and Senior Lawyers Conference boards recommended an Emeritus Practice Rule, which was approved by the VSB Council and accepted by the Supreme Court. The rule creates a new class of bar membership that permits retired attorneys to offer supervised pro bono services to Virginia's citizens.

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

7. Annual Meeting Program—“Get a Life! Creating, Maintaining, and Living with the Complete Lawyer”

This program was presented at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 18, 2004. The esteemed panel included Scott Hollander, a nationally recognized Pittsburgh attorney; Karen Turner McWilliams, a partner with Piper Rudnick; John Keith, a principal in the firm of Blankenship & Keith; Dr. Robert Seidel, a Fairfax psychologist; and Chris Condo, a homemaker and spouse of a busy litigator. The panel was moderated by VSB Immediate Past President Jeannie Dahnk. The Honorable Carl Horn, magistrate judge from North Carolina, also addressed the group.

More than two hundred people attended the program, and the response to the content of the program was highly positive.

8. Minority Pre-Law Conference

The Minority Pre-Law Conference was conducted on April 10, 2004, at the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law. The conference is intended to encourage minority undergraduate students to consider the legal profession as a career.

The conference included workshops on the law school admissions process, including a law school admission test preparatory class, a mock law school class, a mock trial and panel discussions on career opportunities in the legal profession. More than eighty students attended the event.

9. Community Law Week—May, 2004

The focus of this year's Community Law Week programming was the fortieth anniversary of the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In Alexandria, YLC board member Kellye Clarke assisted in organizing of a series of presentations at West Potomac High School. YLC circuit representatives Danielle Bridgeforth and Peter Miller recruited attorneys to speak to twelfth-grade government classes on the subject.

In Fredericksburg, young attorneys addressed all of the eleventh-grade social studies classes at James Monroe High School, and a similar program was undertaken in the Sixteenth Circuit at Culpeper High School.

Also in conjunction with Community Law Week, the YLC held No Bills Nights in Fairfax, Danville and Abingdon. A No Bills Night is scheduled to take place in Roanoke later this summer.

10. Children and the Law

Our Children and the Law Committee had a busy year, conducting two “Students Day in Court” programs in Chesterfield and establishing a Child Witness Waiting Room in Southampton County. The committee also made a presentation to the commonwealth's attorneys at their annual meeting in Virginia Beach regarding the committee and the services the YLC has to offer.

11. Admission and Orientation Ceremony

The YLC welcomed approximately four hundred new Virginia attorneys at our June, 2004 Admission and Orientation Ceremony, and over eight hundred new admittees at our Fall A&O, held in October 2003. Jeannie Dahnk and David Bobzien welcomed the new admittees on behalf of the Virginia State Bar, and Bethany Lukitsch and the undersigned on behalf of the YLC.

After each program, the Supreme Court convened in the Richmond Convention Center and bestowed the duties and responsibilities of our profession upon Virginia's newest lawyers.

