



Dear Fellow YLC Members,

A year ago this week, the world as we knew it came to screeching halt with the COVID pandemic. While we initially anticipated a few weeks of lockdown to "flatten the curve," here we are a full year later still adjusting to the new normal.

Nevertheless, we have persevered, pivoted, and adapted. Zoom meetings, depositions, and hearings are now the norm, and even the least tech-savvy among us has managed to get on board, even if that meant looking like a cat.

The past year has been hard. Many have lost friends and loved ones. Many have lost their jobs and have faced eviction from their homes. While we have all been in the same storm this past year, we have not been in the same boat. As we reflect on the one-year milestone, I am choosing to be thankful. Thankful for the forced slowdown, thankful for the opportunity to re-prioritize, and more thankful for the little things.

So take time to catch up with that friend, spend time with your family, and realize that while work is very important, there is more to life than billable hours. Don't get me wrong, we have to work hard. But what do you want people to remember about you – that you ground it out 80 hours a week for 40 years, or that you sent a thoughtful card, remembered birthdays, and took those memorable trips? The pandemic has reminded us that wellness is more important now than ever before.



**Missy York
President, YLC**

Applications and Nominations Due March 19

Apply for an opening on the **YLC Board of Governors** by completing [this form](#) and help serve the profession and the public.

Recognize an exceptional young lawyer by [nominating them](#) for the **R. Edwin Burnette Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year Award**.

PDC

Professional Development Conference

The **Professional Development Conference (PDC)** is a no-cost CLE program tailored to young lawyers, consisting of timely topics. This year's PDC will be offered virtually, on April 16. Read program specifics and register for 5.0 hours of live/interactive CLE (*pending*).

[Register Here](#)



The **YLC Bench-Bar Conference** will host its second annual program on April 30.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from judges from across the Commonwealth. Registration is now open. 3.0 hours of live/interactive CLE (*pending*).

[Register Here](#)

DOCKET CALL



Official Newsletter of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar



Anxiety

by James "Rob" Elliott

Anxiety is the fear of things that might happen, and it can manifest itself in some debilitating ways. By the nature of the legal profession, we are required to be ready for a



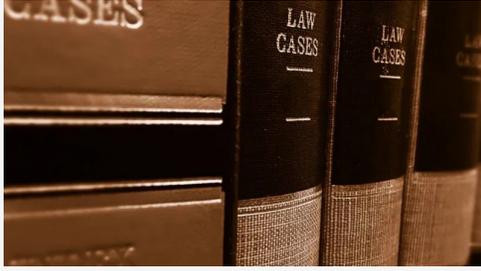
Picking Up the Slack: Are "Collaboration" Apps Safe for Legal Advice?

by Alex MacDonald

For all its modern bells and whistles, Slack poses unique risks and challenges for in-house counsel. So before you use the

multitude of different scenarios...

app for legal advice, you should understand what you're getting into.



Taking on Your First Pro Bono Case

by Lindsay Powell

Many younger attorneys are interested in taking on pro bono work, but are not sure how to get started or worry that they are not qualified...



So There's Going to Be an Appeal?

By Fernando Villarroel and Ben Charlton

As with most appellate topics, half the battle when it comes to the petition for appeal and brief in opposition is making sure you follow the court's strict procedural and formatting rules...



The Practical Uses of a Demurrer (Besides Getting a Case Dismissed)

by Adam B. Pratt

There is more value to a demurrer than simply trying to get a case dismissed. While that is certainly its main stated purpose, demurrers in modern practice

can be a valuable tool for defendants to develop a case for their clients—even if they ultimately fail to obtain a dismissal.

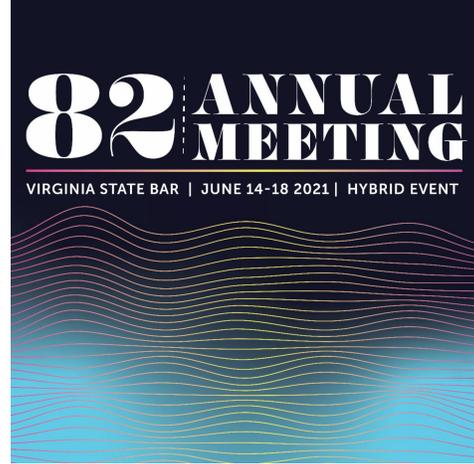
Distinguished Attorney



YLC volunteer **Blaire O'Brien** spearheaded a new way to connect with the Virginia State Bar's newest attorneys. Volunteers for the Admission & Orientation Ceremony committee would normally be present at the live program, meeting and greeting newly-admitted attorneys and sharing information about the YLC. As this wasn't possible due to the ceremonies being held virtually last year, Blaire and other members of the committee produced an all-inclusive resource guide in the form of a welcome email so that newly-admitted attorneys were aware of first-year expectations and volunteer opportunities. Great work A&O volunteers!

The Young Lawyers Conference is preparing for the VSB's 82nd Annual Meeting this June. In addition to co-sponsoring CLEs, the YLC will host an Attorney General Debate.

Stay tuned for more [Annual Meeting information](#).



Find the YLC on social media:



[YLC WEBSITE](#)

The VSB continues to provide essential services to Virginia's lawyers and the public. However, we have taken steps to keep the health and safety of our members, employees, and the general public at the forefront of our actions during this rapidly changing situation.

The VSB office at 1111 E. Main Street is closed to visitors. If you need to reach a staff person, please send an email or call the appropriate [contact person](#). Many of our staff are teleworking and responses may be delayed. Thank you for your understanding.

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