



YLC All-Stars

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE it is already December. It seems like we were just at the beach for the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting, and now it is cold and we are halfway through the bar year. The Young Lawyers Conference has been busy since June. We have already held many of our signature programs, and we are planning many more. In my last column, I promised to report on the YLC's successes. None of these programs would have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. The folks who are listed below, most of whom are YLC committee chairs or cochairs, are our "YLC all-stars."

Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute. The Institute, which is designed to provide high school students with an introduction to the legal profession and the opportunity to experience college life, was held July 18–July 23 at the University of Richmond. The students lived in the dorms and attended a number of classes and seminars on trial advocacy, career opportunities in the law, and the college admissions process. Several judges, including Roger L. Gregory of the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, spoke to the students. The week culminated in a mock trial exercise, with many local attorney volunteers to mentor the students. **Antoinette N. Morgan** and **Lakai C. Vinson** are the YLC all-stars who worked tirelessly to organize this year's Institute, which was a huge success.

Professional Development Conference. This year's PDC was held on October 1 in Richmond. The theme was "What Every Attorney Needs to Know: Six Core Tips and Traits of Successful Young Lawyers." Attendees received five hours of continuing legal education

credit, including one hour of ethics. This year we had nearly one hundred attendees — more than ever before. YLC all-star **Monica A. Walker** was chair of the event, with assistance from dedicated committee members **Crystal Y. Twitty**, **Jennifer L. Moccia**, **Paul G. Gill** and **Richard W. Hartman III.**

Domestic Violence Safety Project. This committee has already presented two CLE programs, on July 21 and October 15. Attendees learned about the federal remedies available to undocumented immigrant victims of domestic or sexual violence. Attorneys who completed the CLE now have the opportunity to represent pro bono clients through a pilot clinic in the Richmond area. **Lara K. Jacobs** is the YLC all-star who is chair of the Domestic Violence Safety project and planned these important programs.

Students Day at the Capitol. I am very pleased to report the numbers from this year's Students Day at the Capitol program: On October 22, *four hundred* middle school students from six different schools were given tours of the Capitol and the Supreme Court of Virginia. They ate lunch in Capitol Square, and ten attorney volunteers gave presentations on the legal profession and how the practice of law fits into the governmental branches the students were visiting. **Melissa Y. York** and **Amanda A. Reid** are the YLC all-stars who planned and organized the event, and they are responsible for the amazing turnout this year.

Minority Prelaw Conferences. Our prelaw conferences expose college students — particularly minority students — to many aspects of a legal career,

including the law school admission process. Panel discussions with the bench, bar, and law students provide valuable information to students considering a career in the law. This year, our Southern Virginia Prelaw Conference took place at Washington and Lee University on September 25, and the Tidewater Prelaw Conference, cosponsored by the W.C. Jefferson chapter of the Black Law Students Association, took place at the College of William and Mary on October 30. Attendance was excellent at both conferences, and the feedback we have received from the students has been extremely positive. Kaplan generously donated a Law School Admission Test prep course for each conference. The YLC all-stars who were largely responsible for making these two great events happen were **Erin W. Hapgood**, **Heather R. Willis**, **Christen C. Church** and **Sherita D. Simpson.** Our Northern Virginia Prelaw Conference, led by **Brian T. Wesley** and **Broderick C. Dunn**, is scheduled for February 25–26, 2011, at the George Mason University School of Law.

If you know any of the individuals listed above, please congratulate them on work well done. The YLC could not meet its goal of service — to our members, the bar, and the community — without the contributions of these individuals and the many more who serve on our committees and who are working on our ongoing and upcoming programs. I will continue to highlight our programs and list our all-stars in my upcoming columns.

If you would like more information about the programs highlighted above — or any of our programs, for

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that matter — please visit <http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/ylc/>. Past issues of our *Docket Call* newsletter are available on our website as well. Also, we are on Facebook now — find us at “Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar” and keep up with our programs and events.

Before I close, I would like to once again congratulate and welcome our newest members of the bar and the YLC. As I said when I spoke at the Admission and Orientation Ceremony in November, I hope you will take advantage of our many volunteer opportunities. We are always looking for new all-stars. If you want to get involved, please contact me at (202) 551-1809 or carsonsullivan@paulhastings.com or contact our membership chair, Nathan J. Olson, at (703) 934-1480 or nolson@cgglawyers.com