YLD YEARBOOK
THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

2021-22

President: Todd L. Baker
President-Elect: Iris A. Elijah
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Todd L. Baker
President
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Iris A. Elijah
President-Elect
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Miami, FL

YLD YEARBOOK TEAM

Anisha Patel
Tampa, FL
13th Circuit Governor

Karina Rodrigues
Fort Lauderdale, FL
17th Circuit Governor

Valeen Hyde
Jacksonville, FL
4th Circuit Governor

Haley Moss
Coral Gables, FL
11th Circuit Governor

Michael Levine
Miami, FL
11th Circuit Governor

Nicholas Zbrzeznj
Winter Haven, FL
10th Circuit Governor

Sam Cohen
West Palm Beach, FL
15th Circuit Governor
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It is with incredible pride and great honor that I get to serve the young lawyers of Florida as President of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”). The YLD has always been affectionately referred to as the “Workhorse of the Florida Bar” because young lawyers bring an unrivaled passion and excitement to their practice. This year, we want to channel that passion and excitement into helping young lawyers develop professionally and personally in a way that improves their practice and the profession.

A primary focus for the YLD this year will be on our local voluntary bar Affiliates. The YLD is comprised of some of the hardest working young lawyers in Florida, but we can only do so much. By assisting our Affiliates with their programming, increasing their membership, and providing countless other resources, we can help educate young lawyers, inspire them to get involved in their communities, and make an even greater impact. Our Affiliates are already doing incredible things and the YLD is here to help promote these endeavors and encourage young lawyer participation. When we work together, we can accomplish more. Our signature event, the Affiliate Outreach Conference (“AOC”), was virtual for the first time last year, and it allowed us to experiment with the programming we provide to our Affiliates. This year, the AOC will have an even greater educational component to help Affiliates with their recruitment, engagement, and communications. We hope to see you there. If you are already an Affiliate, I hope you are as excited about this as we are. If you are a local voluntary bar association that is not yet registered as an affiliate, we hope you will consider becoming an affiliate.

Our #YLDisMe campaign is incredibly successful, and we want to evolve that campaign to focus on our diverse voluntary bar associations across the state. Many marginalized communities rely on our diverse affiliates to promote inclusion and equality and ensure their voices are heard within our profession. There are far too many incredible organizations for me to list them all, but we want to make sure we recognize these organizations, share their mission, and highlight their programming for the year.

The success of our #StigmaFreeYLD campaign has blossomed into a major focus on health and wellness. The YLD Health and Wellness Olympics was a phenomenal success and will be an annual, ever-evolving, program to get lawyers and our affiliates engaged in healthier habits. In addition to the Wellness Olympics in May, we will also have a variety of monthly challenges leading up to that.

We have lots planned for 2021-22 and we cannot do it without you and our Affiliates. If you are reading this and wondering how you can help or get involved, please reach out to me at tbaker@injurylawyers.com and I will do the best I can to find a place where you can make an impact.

Sincerely,

Todd Baker
President of The Florida Bar
Young Lawyers Division 2021-22
PRESIDENT-ELECT’S WELCOME MESSAGE

Iris A. Elijah
President-Elect
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Miami, FL

The impact of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD) resonates across the country because of our - hardworking, compassionate, and innovative- members. With over 26,000 young lawyers stretching from Pensacola to Key West, Ponte Vedra Beach to Brooksville, and Bonita Springs to Fort Pierce, the YLD encapsulates the best of who a lawyer is. This evolving YLD Yearbook is meant to ensure everyone knows. But we can only do it with your assistance! After the conclusion of your events, download the YLD Yearbook templates and add your photos and a summary to create your own Yearbook pages. We will use these completed Yearbook pages to compile the YLD Yearbook and share all your hard work on our social media platforms.

Yet we can collaborate even more. I don’t just mean what you can do for YLD, but what YLD can do for you. We want to facilitate your joint events with other Affiliates and the YLD, pursue initiatives that matter to you, empower the Council of Affiliates, increase opportunities for young lawyers within Florida Bar sections, divisions, and committees, and nourish hands-on civic engagement. Under the leadership of President Baker we are doing just that and will continue to under my presidency. You are the pulse of the legal profession and YLD is a partner in your personal success, professional endeavors, and service in your civic community. If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at ielijah@fiu.edu or @IrisElijah on social media.

Keep shining,

Iris A. Elijah
President-Elect of The Florida Bar
Young Lawyers Division 2021-22

MESSAGE FROM THE YLD YEARBOOK TEAM

Anisha Patel
Chair of the Communications Committee
Tampa, FL

On behalf of the entire team, welcome to the YLD Yearbook! Our team’s biggest goals this year were to revamp and improve The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s communications with its 26,000 members and highlight the phenomenal work our Affiliates and members do in their circuits. To kickoff this year, the YLD Yearbook highlighted the launch of the YLD’s Council of Affiliates and a statewide Back to School Drive, both led by Governors Brandon Sapp and Charise Morgan-Joseph; the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association and the Cuban American Bar Association, as part of the Inclusion and Equality committee’s #YLDisMe Takeover Tuesday series led by Governors Ciara Willis and Rebekah Taylor; a Pro Bono and Community Service initiative, led by Governor Thomas Graham, and the YLD’s Affiliate Outreach Conference, chaired by Governors Giselle Gutierrez and Celeste Thacker Hankins.

The re-launch in late November highlighted even more efforts, including a statewide a Holiday Toy Drive, a #YLDisMe feature on the Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, a new award for Best Joint Event to celebrate the collaboration between our Affiliates, and a breathing challenge led by Governors Kayla Richmond, Ben Thomas, and Marbely Hernandez! Florida's young lawyers have clearly been very busy, and these efforts have not gone unnoticed. As of Thanksgiving 2021, the YLD Yearbook has been viewed 2,145 times! If you would like to contribute to the YLD Yearbook, please click on the link directly below the YLD Yearbook to download the templates and submit your completed articles to Anisha.Patel@hwhlaw.com. Please also reach out if you have any questions, we would love to hear from you!
“We’ve all heard the saying, ‘April showers bring May flowers.’ With end-of-the-school-year activities and graduations, May can be a busy month. In the midst of the chaos (and international turmoil), take some time to appreciate the fruits of your labor. Acknowledge the showers that got you to this place in time and celebrate the victories—however big or small—b urgeoning from seeds you planted earlier this year. And know that we are rooting for you, too!”

Haley VanFleteren
1st Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Moore, Hill & Westmoreland, P.A.
GOODBYE TO OUR GOVERNORS

Why I Loved Serving on the YLD Board of Governors

Todd Baker
President
17th Circuit
Fort Lauderdale, FL

David Grimes
2nd Circuit
Tallahassee, FL

Dane Heptner
6th Circuit
St. Petersburg, FL

Ryan Gilbert
8th Circuit
Gainesville, FL

Jose Campa
9th Circuit
Kissimmee, FL

Brandon Briggs
11th Circuit
Miami Gardens, FL

Ashley Gantt
11th Circuit
Miami, FL

Haley Moss
11th Circuit
Coral Gables, FL

Schuyler Smith
11th Circuit
Miami FL

Jesse Butler
12th Circuit
Sarasota, FL

Jodi Ruberg
12th Circuit
Sarasota, FL

Kevin Barr
14th Circuit
Panama City, FL

Samuel Cohen
15th Circuit
West Palm Beach, FL

Richard McChesney
16th Circuit
Key West, FL

Jay Thakkar
18th Circuit
Cocoa, FL

Cullan E. Jones
Out-of-State Rep
Washington, D.C.
I have enjoyed serving on the YLD Board of Governors because it has allowed me to keep close ties to my home state of Florida. As one of three out-of-state governors, serving on the YLD BOG has given me a great excuse to return to Florida for meetings, to stay up-to-date with developments in the practice specific to Florida lawyers, and to catch up with friends old and new. Plus, it has been a great way to network with current and future leaders of our profession. These connections will last a lifetime. Serving on the YLD BOG has truly been one of the greatest professional experiences of my career.

Cullan E. Jones

"I have been able to create meaningful relationships with young lawyers across the State as a result of my involvement with the board of governors. I've enjoyed being part of a group with so many talented young leaders who work tirelessly to provide resources for young attorneys."

Richard McChesney

"Bar Service provides a feeling of community; that you are part of a profession, rather than just someone with the job title "lawyer." Before I got involved in The Florida Bar, I had no idea what they did, as my connections were all with my local bar organization. Bar Service has introduced me to people, places, and ideas that I would never have encountered otherwise."

Jesse Butler
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE FLORIDA BAR

BACK TO THE FUTURE

June 22–25, 2022
Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek & Waldorf Astoria
“After three successful virtual Council of Affiliates meetings, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division is hosting its first in-person meeting at The Florida Bar Annual Convention on June 23. The Council of Affiliates consists of young lawyer representatives from every Affiliate across the State of Florida, and we are looking forward to having everyone together! Reach out to your local Governor for more information.”

Luis Sosa
19th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Sosa

“Annual Convention is right around the corner and will bring together hundreds of lawyers from across the State. The YLD is looking forward to seeing its young lawyer members and distinguished guests at its first ever Town Hall style meeting on June 23, 2022. Please join us if you’re at the conference, and reach out if you have any questions.”

Tiffany Pereira
20th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at The Pereira Law Firm
Affiliate
FINAL STANDINGS

Large  Palm Beach Bar  2,491 points
Medium Jax Women Lawyers Assoc.  5,746 points
Small Osceola Co. Bar  1,167 points

#YLDRaiseYourTouch  #YLDMotionGranted
2022 YLD Health & Wellness Olympics

**Individual Final Standings**

**Gold**
Silver Bohn  1,116 points

**Silver**
Angie Miller  1,095 points

**Bronze**
Lani Gonzales  986 points

#YLDRaiseYourTouch  #YLDMotionGranted
AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT:
Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association (GOAABA)

Interview with
Kenway Wong
President

Who is GOAABA? We are a voluntary bar organization that was founded in 2009 to represent the interests of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) attorneys, law students, and other legal professionals in the Central Florida area. GOAABA is an active voice in the legal community and regularly hosts legal, social, and educational initiatives for both its members and the broader AAPI community in Central Florida. women lawyers, and its members, including CLE and the pursuit of professional excellence.

What is the mission of your organization? The mission of GOAABA is to represent and advocate for the interests of the AAPI Community of the Greater Orlando area, to encourage and promote the professional growth of the members of GOAABA, to facilitate client referrals and to broaden the professional opportunities for AAPI attorneys, to foster the exchange of ideas and information among and between the members of GOAABA and other members of the legal profession, the judiciary, and the legal community, and to coordinate legal services to the AAPI communities in the Greater Orlando area.

How have you stayed connected with your membership and community through the pandemic? Throughout the pandemic, GOAABA hosted a series of remote programs, including Coffee with the Court, where GOAABA members could meet and network with local judges via Zoom, and Asian Fusion

Name: Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association
Number of Members: 73
Date Established: 2009
Contact Information: P.O. Box 2069, Orlando, FL 32802
Phone: (407) 419-8566
Email: goaaba@gmail.com
Website: https://goaaba.org/
Facebook: @GOAABA
Instagram: @goaaba_orlando
Twitter: @goaaba
What barriers have you identified in the legal community related to diversity, inclusion, and equality?

Given the general scarcity of AAPI attorneys in the legal profession at large, GOAABA has always sought to promote the growth and visibility of AAPI attorneys in their respective legal professions, whether it be in the private practice setting, in-house, government service, or on the bench. The difficulty there, again – driven in large part by the relatively small number of AAPI attorneys practicing in Central Florida – is creating opportunities for stewardship and mentorship. To address that challenge and to make its membership base more inclusive, GOAABA has not only fostered organic generational relationships within its membership, but it has also created official scholarship and mentorship programs. Those efforts will help fuel a sustainable pipeline for the next generation of AAPI leaders.

What are you doing presently to increase diversity, inclusion, and equality?

Year after year, GOAABA has continued to grow into the thriving organization that it is today. While still grounded in its Central Florida identity, GOAABA’s members now consist of not only members in other voluntary bar associations, but also sister AAPI organizations and affiliates throughout the state. Through its various partnerships and strategic community alliances, and in an effort to create greater awareness of GOAABA within the broader AAPI community, GOAABA has continued to expand its reach by collaborating with other local associations, such as the Orlando Chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals (“NAAAP”). The relationships GOAABA has formed with NAAAP and other organizations in the community have helped GOAABA identify unmet legal needs. It has also helped GOAABA combat various legal obstacles that the AAPI community routinely faces, including language barriers, cultural awareness, and other impediments to full legal assistance and access to the courts.

Are there any diversity, inclusion and equality initiatives that GOAABA would like to spotlight? Perhaps the most ambitious effort was GOAABA’s Voter Initiative in 2020 which was spearheaded by Onchantho Am during her tenure as President. The Voter Initiative focused on educating, engaging, and empowering the local community regarding their voting rights. Even in the face of the pandemic, GOAABA pivoted to ensure the program would be directed towards as many diverse AAPI communities as possible. GOAABA relied heavily on social media to share information about voter registration and the primary and general elections, and galvanized key members of the community such as Mo Bamba of the Orlando Magic, food blogger, Ricky Ly, and author, Loung Ung, to take on this large-scale work. GOAABA also rallied the support of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, along with several other local and national organizations. GOAABA’s voter related events and videos had a combined total of over 10k views on Facebook, and according to data provided by the local elections office, there was a 61% increase of voters identified as AAPI voters from the 2016 to 2020 election.
Interview with Nadine Gedeon
President

What is the mission of the Haitian Lawyers Association (HLA)? HLA is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote excellence, professionalism, equality and diversity in the legal profession and among our members and to facilitate the administration of justice while striving to protect and promote the general welfare of the Haitian-American community and other minority residents in the South Florida area.

What is something you want people to know about your organization? From its inception, HLA has provided pro-bono legal representation to Haitian immigrants in matters relating to immigration (TPS/Naturalization), family law, civil rights, criminal law, juvenile law, and housing. HLA has represented clients in federal, state and immigration courts. HLA has also partnered with Legal Services of Greater Miami to provide free representation to families facing foreclosure and has conducted various community seminars to educate them on how to save their homes and to modify their loans. HLA members often appear on radio shows to educate members of the community about legal issues in the areas of immigration law, family law, unlicensed practice of law, and criminal law.

Name: Haitian Lawyers Association
Number of Members: 100
Date Established: April 23, 1997
Contact Information: 28 West Flagler St. Ste. 100, Miami, FL, 33130
Phone: (855) 460-4452
Email: info@haitianlawyersassociation.org
Website: haitianlawyersassociation.org
Facebook: @Haitianlawyersassociation
Instagram: @haitianlawyersassociation
What projects have you worked on with other voluntary bar associations?

• Understanding the Assignment, A Civil Trial Workshop, with the TJ Reddick Bar Association, Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, Jamaican-American Bar Association, and F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association

• Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Black History Month Celebration, with the TJ Reddick Bar Association and the Broward County Bar Association

• Joint Black History Month Luncheon entitled – Progressive Step worthy of Emulation, with The Caribbean Bar Association and the TJ Reddick Bar Association

Any advice for other affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality initiatives? We believe that partnering up with other Voluntary Bar Associations, soliciting ideas from our membership, as well as communicating with The Florida Bar YLD are important tools that can be used to achieve our inclusion and equality initiative goals.

How has The Florida Bar YLD helped HLA in achieving the inclusion and equality goals of your organization? The Florida Bar YLD recently awarded grants to HLA, and the grant money will be used to achieve our inclusion and equality goals. Also, the Florida Bar YLD has provided us with great ideas and resources on their website!

What is HLA planning in celebration of Haitian Heritage Month (which is in May!)? HLA is planning the HLA Gala centered around the theme of the Haitian Flag. We are also working on community outreach with the West Palm Beach police department and other local community partners.

Are there any other HLA events in the works? HLA’s 24th Annual Scholarship Gala is taking place on May 14, 2022. We are also planning an event titled “Mental Health Awareness in the Legal Field” on June 22, 2022. Finally, every fourth Saturday of the month, we work on TPS and Naturalization Drives, involving immigration matters.
This year one of our missions was to emphasize financial health and wellness as much as we have emphasized physical and mental health and wellness. Chelsie Lamie does both by providing young lawyers with an opportunity to learn what it really means to build a successful practice from the ground floor while also maintaining a sustainable work life balance. In the webinar Ms. Lamie provides insight and resources to young lawyers contemplating opening their own law firm so that they may go forth with knowledge and confidence!

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**Robert Orseck Memorial MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**JUNE 22-23, 2022**

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
14100 Bonnet Creek Resort Lane
Orlando, Florida 32821

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Rachel Butler
3rd Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

The Moot Court Program, now in its 49th year, is presented by the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. 10 of our Florida law schools are competing in the competition this year!

Ave Maria
Barry University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Nova Southeastern University
St. Thomas University
Stetson University
Thomas Cooley Law School
University of Florida
University of Miami

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The schedule of events is as follows:

**Wednesday, June 22**
10 am – preliminary round
1pm – preliminary round
3pm – preliminary round
5pm cocktail reception sponsored by the Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company
We will announce the 8 teams moving onto the quarterfinal round and announce Best Brief and Best Oral Advocate of the Preliminary Rounds.

**Thursday, June 23**
8 am – quarterfinal round
10 am – semifinal round
2:30 pm final round

The preliminary rounds will be judged by practicing lawyers, county and circuit judges, and DCA judges. The quarterfinal and semifinal rounds will be judged by DCA judges. The final round will be judged by the Florida Supreme Court. The Florida Supreme Court will present the awards for the Best Oralist and the winning team.

“We couldn’t host this event each year without the support of our judiciary and our sponsors. We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at the competition!”

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Joey Coleman
20th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Boatman Ricci P.A.

Rachel Butler
3rd Circuit Governor, Attorney at Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A.
FLORIDA BAR YLD
STATEWIDE AFFILIATE PROJECT

Beach Clean-Up
& ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

Affiliates are encouraged to host a beach clean-up or other environmental improvement event this summer as part of the YLD's ongoing Pro Bono & Community Service Statewide Initiative program. Send the details, promotional materials, and photos about your event to tom@mginjuryfirm.com and the Florida Bar will promote your project!

Thomas Graham
11th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Mausner Injury Law

SUMMER 2022
“The Young Lawyers Division was proud to host its third Council of Affiliates meeting in April, with young lawyers from across the State joining us to discuss programming, resources, the upcoming Health and Wellness Olympics, and much more!”

Nicholas T. Zbrzeznj
10th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC.
YLD Recap & Reflections

**LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING**

“I was honored to take part in long range planning in preparation for President Elijah’s presidency. The free flow of ideas, openness, honesty, and commitment to ensuring that our constituents are afforded the best representation, resources, and programming left me motivated and electrified.“

*Altanese Phenelus*
11th Circuit Governor,
Miami-Dade County Attorney’s Office

**AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONFERENCE**

“The best part of AOC was having the opportunity to gather members from more than 40 YLD Affiliates across the state to learn about, recognize, and celebrate the affiliates’ accomplishments during the past year. Additionally, it was many lawyers’ first time back to a large conference in a while, so the feeling of joy as we all reconnected was palpable.”

*Paige Comparato*
11th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Hogan Lovells US LLP
HEALTH & WELLNESS OLYMPICS

Stress management is such a critical component of long term health, and activities such as the YLD Health & Wellness Olympics offer opportunities for young lawyers to create healthy habits that can make a huge difference in their lives. Best of luck to all 2022 participants!

Brandon Briggs
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Inter Miami CF

AFFILIATES

“As the Bar year comes to a close, congratulations to current and future leaders of Florida Bar YLD Affiliates. For current Affiliate leaders, congratulations on the success of your year! We have enjoyed learning from your great initiatives! For future Affiliate leaders about to be sworn in, we look forward to seeing everything that you accomplish for your young lawyer members. We know you have such great ideas to share. The YLD is here to help and support you every step of the way. Go get ‘em!”

Ashlea A. Edwards
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Akerman

CONTINUOUS LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

“This year, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division produced a number of webinars for our members on important topics such as elevating your career, public service loan forgiveness, and balancing life within the practice of law. You can find all these and more at https://flayld.org/continuing-legal-education/yld-webinars/.”

Schuyler Analise Smith
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Hamilton Miller & Birthistle
AFFILIATES ASSEMBLE:
Council of Affiliates Meeting

Maria McCorkle
7th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

At the last COA meeting, the major focus was looking to the future. The Council began formulating plans for an in-person meeting at the Florida Bar Convention in June. Several Affiliates supported the idea of facilitating regional meet ups at the in-person meeting to foster greater collaboration.

Additionally, upcoming YLD initiatives, such as the Health and Wellness Olympics, awards and grants, and community service projects were discussed. Our affiliates are definitely ready to #AffiliatesAssemble at the Convention and continue working for young lawyers across the State!

Maria McCorkle
7th Circuit
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Daytona Beach, FL
VOLUNTARY BAR LEADERS

BOOT CAMP CONFERENCE 2022

JULY 8-9

THE VINOY® ST PETERSBURG

YLD SCHOLARSHIPS!

DEADLINE - MAY 1!
“This month we lost the first female U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who said ‘It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.’ To honor Secretary Albright during Women’s History Month, let us all find our voices. Let each of us refuse to be silent.”

**Stephanie Cagnet Myron**

*15th Circuit Governor, 
Attorney at Cagnet Myron Law*
Need Help with an IT Issue?

Get Help With:
- Basic Support or Troubleshooting
- Connectivity Issues
- Operating Systems
- Mobile Devices/Apps
- Home/Remote Offices
- Common Website Builders
- Audio/Visual for Remote Meetings
- Applications like MS Office, Adobe, etc.
- Internet Browsers

And Much More!

The Florida Bar Tech Helpline is ready to assist Florida lawyers with anything from troubleshooting a printer that won't work to helping set up a new computer.

The Helpline is available via phone, live chat, email, or by virtual appointment.

Go to lawtechpartners.com/techhelpline/
The Top 5 Mistakes I Made When I Started My Solo Practice
(SO YOU WON'T MAKE THEM TOO)

MAY 11, 2022
12 PM - 1 PM

PRESENTED BY:
CHELSLIE M. LAMIE, P.A.

"This year one of our missions was to emphasize financial health and wellness as much as we have emphasized physical and mental health and wellness. Chelsie Lamie does both by providing young lawyers with an opportunity to learn what it really means to build a successful practice from the ground floor while also maintaining a sustainable work life balance. In the webinar Ms. Lamie provides insight and resources to young lawyers contemplating opening their own law firm so that they may go forth with knowledge and confidence!"
2022 YLD Health & Wellness Olympics

RAISE YOUR TORCH

+ Awards will be given
+ Register now with QR Code or at YLDolympics.com
+ Games commence in May

#YLDRaiseYourTorch
#YLDMotionGranted

REGISTER
Save the Date!

The Council of Affiliates Spring Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 4PM

For more information, visit http://flayldaffiliates.com

#FLAYLD #AFFILIATESASSEMBLE #YLDISME

“The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division will host its virtual Council of Affiliates Spring meeting on April 11, 2022 where two representatives from each Affiliate will be invited to discuss and share information on the YLD’s awards, grants, statewide service projects, and much more.”
AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT:
Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyer Association

Interview with
Sherris Williams
Board Member

Why was your organization formed?
Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association (GSCBWLA) was formed to address issues and concerns unique to Black women in the legal profession and to enhance professional growth and development.

What do you want people to know about your organization?
For over thirty-six years, GSCBWLA has been dedicated to community service and the professional development of its members. GSCBWLA has placed a strong emphasis on community service through its community seminars, free neighborhood legal clinics and programs educating and empowering youth and the mentorship of law students. GSCBWLA is also known for its support of its members’ growth and development within the legal profession. With this support, our members have achieved many “firsts” within Florida as lawyers within law firms, corporations, government agencies and the judiciary.

What is your vision for the future of the GSCBWLA?
To continue to address the concerns of our community with an emphasis on the legal, social, economic and political needs of the Black community, and to address the professional development of Black women lawyers, and its members, including CLE and the pursuit of professional excellence.

Name: Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association
Number of Members: 573
Founded: 1985
Contact Information: info@Gscbwla.org
Website: www.gscbwla.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GSCBWLA
Instagram: @gscbwla
Twitter: @gscbwla
What initiatives (programming, philanthropic, membership growth, or otherwise) have you found most successful for diversity, inclusion and equality efforts? Most challenging?

In March 2021, we celebrated Black Women on the Bench, celebrating black women in the judiciary in the State of Florida. This program was a success in gathering judges, lawyers, and law students to applaud the black women in office. This was a successful initiative as our members and community participants were able to learn and network to discuss ways to increase diversity on the bench. Members were able to join discussions with the judges to hear about her “path to the bench.” Most left inspired and hopeful to increase the number of black women judges in office. The organizations and businesses who sponsored or partnered on this event allowed us to increase our reach of spreading information and knowledge on inclusion.

How have you stayed connected with your membership and community through the pandemic?

Staying connected with our members has been a priority for our organization during the pandemic. The Zoom platform has been instrumental in keeping our members connected during this time of “social distancing.” Our Rainmakers Academy during the year 2020 and 2021 went virtual via Zoom in order to continue to provide access and information to our members. Also, GSCBWLA utilized Social Media platforms like Instagram and Twitter to provide event flyers and communicate information to our followers. We have especially found Facebook as a beneficial means to stream activities such as Virtual Forums to the public. This has been a very productive way to keep in contact and cultivate our sense of community. Most recently, we have been committed to finding locations for in person events that would make social distancing easy for all attendees.

How has the FL Bar YLD helped in achieving the inclusion and equality goals of your organization?

The Florida Bar YLD has been instrumental in assisting GSCBWLA in implementing programming related to diversity and inclusion through providing financial assistance through grants as well as providing a platform to share and gain ideas from other affiliates around the state.

Any advice for other affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality initiatives? As an organization who is committed to address the concerns of women as well as the Black community it is important for other organizations to ensure the program is done in the spirit of inclusion from the marketing up until the closing remarks at the event.

What do you have planned for your FL Bar YLD Social Media takeover?

We are excited about the YLD Social Media Takeover and plan to bring the HEAT! We have done and are doing great things in and for our community that we can’t wait to share! Get ready to learn more about the GSCBWLA!
“Working with YLD Affiliates across the state reinvigorates the YLD Board of Governors in all we do. I am continually humbled to meet leaders and members of the young lawyers of Florida’s voluntary bars and learn how they help young lawyers do more for themselves, their clients, and their communities.”

Masimba M. Mutamba
15th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Palm Beach County Attorney’s Office
THE FLORIDA BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
SPRING AWARDS

DEADLINE: APRIL 4, 2022

YLD Outstanding Government Lawyer Award
Lynn Futch Most Productive Young Lawyer Award
Michael K. Reese Quality Of Life Award
Meenu T. Sasser Outstanding Jurist Award
YLD Outstanding Woman Lawyer Of Achievement Award
Cynthia Henry Duval Diversity Award

Awards inquiries: please contact Awards Committee Chair
Ryan Gilbert at RLGilbert@gmail.com
An Interview with Andrew D. Manko
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Interview by Maria McCorkle, 7th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

Can you share with us a little about your journey to the bench? A winding road is the best way to describe it… I started my career as a trademark lawyer in New York City. After a year, I decided to return to the Florida sun where I practiced waste clean up at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Although I loved it and only spent a year there, I accepted a staff attorney position with Justice Pariente on the Florida Supreme Court and could not turn it down. I clerked for two years and, as is often the case, ended up in the appellate arena thereafter. I spent three years at Carlton Fields and seven years at The Mills Firm focusing on appellate litigation and trial support, becoming board certified in Appellate Practice in 2013. When an administrative law judge position at the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings became available in 2017, I thought—why not? I loved my experience at the DEP and believed serving as an ALJ would be a perfect way to combine my research and writing experience (we do all of that on our own), engage in fact-finding, and serve the public. I applied for the position and, although I was not hired then, I got the nod in 2018 when another position became available.

What can you tell us about your experience as a young government lawyer? It was amazing and I highly recommend it. I learned so much from my colleagues, gained valuable experience that helped me tremendously as an ALJ, and got to travel the entire state for work. You will undoubtedly get more hands-on experience at an earlier stage in your career going into the public sector. On my first day one with primary responsibility for my own cases. Although the salary may not be as lucrative, the experience you get is well worth the sacrifice and it will pay dividends in the future. It built my confidence and I am so thankful for the experience.

When were you first exposed to admin law/appellate practice? Other than in law school, my first exposure to administrative law occurred when I worked at the DEP in 2005. As for appellate practice, my first exposure was as an intern for Justice Pariente during my first summer of law school. I liked it so much that I joined the moot court team as a 2L, completed in two competitions, and coached a team in a third.

What advice do you have for young lawyers who are similarly interested in admin law/appellate practice? If you are interested in administrative law, look for attorney positions in the public sector. State agencies and local governments will provide you with the most hands-on experience and expose you to the myriad of subjects within administrative law. Breaking into appellate law can be a bit more challenging as a young lawyer. It is probably easier if you are willing to join the public sector, where you will probably get exposure to both administrative and appellate law. Private practice can be more difficult. Your best-case scenario is lining up a clerkship in an appellate court or a federal district court, as that is what many firms use as a benchmark for appellate positions. However, don’t be discouraged if you were not able to obtain a clerkship out of law school. You should apply for one even if you’ve been practicing in another area for a few years—I didn’t apply to clerk until my third year out of law school! Absent a clerkship, the best way to move into the appellate arena in private practice is to get trial experience where you can develop your legal research and writing skills. And, don’t forget to make efforts to assist with appeals whenever the opportunity arises.

If you could go back ten years, what would you tell yourself? Enjoy the ride and don’t sweat the small stuff. Private practice was exciting and I spent years working with amazing lawyers helping clients. Yes, it was stressful and sometimes made work/life balance difficult. But, I’m where I am today because of the winding road behind me so I wouldn’t change a thing.

As a former Governor on the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, what would you tell young lawyers who are looking to get involved in the Bar? Do it! Join the young lawyer section of your local bar association and, if you get the chance to either run for an elected position on the YLD or participate in some other capacity, don’t hesitate to volunteer. It remains one of the best experiences of my career. You’ll meet amazing young lawyers who will become friends for life (and referral sources as you begin to build your book of business), interact with seasoned lawyers who will become valuable mentors, give back to your community, help other young lawyers, and meaningfully participate in shaping the Florida Bar in the future. It’s a win-win!

Andrew D. Manko
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Administrative Hearings
The Desoto Building
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Andrew.Manko@doah.state.fl.us

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AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHTS

Featuring

Florida Association for Women Lawyers

Tallahassee Women Lawyers

Polk Association for Women Lawyers
AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT:
Florida Association for Women Lawyers

Interview with
Jenny Scavino Sieg
President

Why was your organization formed?

The Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) was formed in 1951 to propel women lawyers into economic, social and leadership spheres of power.

What is the mission of FAWL?

FAWL’s mission is to actively promote gender equality and the leadership roles of its members in the legal profession, judiciary and community at large. To achieve these goals, FAWL will uphold the highest standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, promote reform in law, and facilitate administration of justice.

What are you doing now to increase diversity, inclusion and equality?

FAWL has a strategic plan that delineates several goals to increase diversity, inclusion and equality. Specifically, we continue to support women lawyers by offering letters of support for members seeking leadership positions within the law and local organizations. Each year we visit Tallahassee to meet with legislators to support legislation that affects families or woman. Our chapters and YLD affiliates also host a variety of diversity and inclusion programs for their members.

What barriers have you identified in the legal community related to diversity, inclusion and equality?

Name: Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Number of Members: 2,500
Contact Information: P.O. Box 721264, Orlando, FL 32872; (866) 241-3295; fawl@fawl.org
Website: www.fawl.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FloridaAssociationforWomenLawyers
Twitter: @fawl_fawl
One barrier in the legal community that disproportionately affects women relates to balancing work and family, especially after the addition of a new baby. FAWL was instrumental in the discussions surrounding the parental leave continuance under the rule of judicial administration. FAWL also has been a champion of ensuring that courthouses have a dedicated lactation space for new mothers.

Are there barriers to practice facing your membership or lawyers as a whole that your organization seeks to address? How so?

The past two years of dealing with the pandemic has had a great impact on women lawyers, especially those who are taking care of older parents or small children. Members are unable to participate in events and as a result, may feel disengaged and uninformed. As an organization we will continue to reach out to members who have had to readjust their work/life balance in this new age and offer alternative programming to ensure their participation and connection. Washington Youth Foundation, and our Annual Golf Tournament will benefit Girls of Virtue. Anyone who is interested in learning more about these fantastic organizations is welcome to reach out to a member of the YLS Board for more information.

What barriers has your organization/committee and its members overcome on the journey to increasing diversity and inclusion?

One barrier is the misconception that gender equality is solely a female issue. Our organization is an association for women lawyers not of women lawyers. FAWL is open to male and female members who work towards our mission of gender equality.

How has the FL Bar YLD helped in achieving the inclusion and equality goals of your organization?

FAWL and their YLD affiliates have received grants in the past and have used those funds for diversity and inclusion programming.

Any advice for other affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality initiatives?

FAWL chapters and YLD affiliates are diverse in their membership and each county or circuit has challenges unique to the location. Be mindful of the challenges in your particular area when deciding on a particular initiative or campaign.

How can another affiliate put on similar inclusion and quality programming as yours?

Our FAWL chapters and YLD affiliates are encouraged to share their ideas for programming or events with other chapters. If any affiliate would like to put on something similar, our chapter leaders would happily share their insights and ideas.

What do you have planned for your FL Bar YLD Social Media takeover?

We will showcase our YLD affiliates and their activities using videos and photos.
AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT:
Tallahassee Women Lawyers

Interview with
Felicia Kitzmiller
PR Officer

Who is the TWL?

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL) is a fellowship and professional development organization dedicated to supporting women in the legal profession. We are engaged in our community – with particular emphasis on mentorship – and committed to helping our members and future members reach their full potential through networking and legal training.

Who are your members?

Our membership and leadership are diverse in terms of their personal backgrounds and legal practices. We are proud to have members of the judiciary, federal/state/local government practice, public defenders, state attorneys, private practitioners, nonprofit attorneys, law students, and more within our ranks. Our attorney members range from first-year practitioners, to attorneys at the zenith of their legal practice, to retired professionals. Some of our members are Tallahassee natives, and more have chosen to make Tallahassee their home after lives lived in locations across the country. Our members represent multiple races and religions. TWL has built a community where all our members can find support, learning opportunities, and personal and professional enrichment.

What do you have planned for your FL Bar YLD Social Media Takeover?

We plan to share images from our recent events, local data on the importance of
What barriers have you identified in the legal community related to diversity, inclusion and equality?

In Tallahassee, the largest barriers to diversity, inclusion and equality continue to be socioeconomic challenges. Many of our members are government lawyers, who traditionally have significantly lower salaries than private practice attorneys. These socioeconomic challenges include the exorbitant cost of childcare. Without affordable childcare, many women (and men) are unable to engage in activities that would advance their careers, such as, education, professional development, and networking. The cost of housing and transportation is also a challenge. The high cost of living means many, many families have dual working parents, frequently working multiple jobs. This leaves little time or resources for the types of enrichment activities that would help working women and men improve their circumstances or provide the types of advantages that would advance their children. This perpetuates a system where the well-off are privileged to have access to opportunities that are closed to the less privileged – at all levels of development.

What has your organization done to date to increase diversity, inclusion and equality?

TWL has undertaken many steps over the years to increase diversity, inclusion and equality. First, we present awards that celebrate diversity in the legal profession by spotlighting those who represent diversity and those who are committed to its advancement. For example, the Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Award honors organizations and individuals (one of each every year) that advance the cause of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and community, and the Rose Deeb Kitchen Award celebrates those women who have overcome adversity to become attorneys.

Second, we have updated our meetings model to allow greater access to those with a wide variety of demands on their resources – including time! For example, we converted many of our traditionally dinner meetings to lunch meetings, which reduced the price of attendance for members and eased the burden of evening childcare. When an evening meeting is necessary, TWL has recently undertaken arranging for childcare during the meetings. We also have an active Young Lawyers program; by bringing these young members into the TWL community early, we are better able to support them throughout their career.

Third, during the pandemic, TWL launched a robust series of free webinars offering CLE credit and featuring a variety of speakers from all over the country. By offering programs remotely, we not only protected public health – an endeavor the group was lauded for within the legal community – but also eliminated the necessity of travel.

Fourth, we emphasize mentorship. Tallahassee is a college town and every year dozens of our members volunteer to mentor college students. TWL also works closely with PACE Center for Girls in Tallahassee – an academic center that caters to girls of diverse backgrounds facing unique challenges to success. We coach a trial advocacy program at PACE along with raising funds and supplies for the organization.

Last, but certainly not least, TWL is dedicated to identifying diverse speakers to bring messages to our leadership and membership. By providing presentations from diverse speakers, TWL sends a constant message that all people and all voices are critical to our success.
Tell us about the Polk Association for Women Lawyers (PAWL).

PAWL is the Polk County chapter of the statewide Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL). PAWL strives to uphold the highest standard of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession; promote reform in law; and facilitate the administration of justice by promoting the leadership roles of members in the legal profession, judiciary, and community at large. PAWL is also an affiliate of the Young Lawyer’s Division of The Florida Bar.

What has your organization done to date to increase diversity, inclusion, and equality?

PAWL’s keystone event each year is the celebration of Women’s History Month through a circuit-wide luncheon held each year at the Historic Courthouse in Bartow. This is a popular event, with guest speakers including Florida Bar presidents, lieutenant governors, and Florida Supreme Court Justices. PAWL also participates in an annual circuit-wide summit related to diversity which has covered such topics as disabilities, religion, issues facing women and minorities in the practice, and mental health. We were honored to host the fifth woman to ever serve as a justice on the Florida Supreme Court and the only sitting female justice, Justice Jamie R. Grosshans, as this year’s speaker at the luncheon.

Name: Polk Association for Women Lawyers
Number of Members: 72
Founded: 2017
Contact Information: 3001 Bartow Rd, Lakeland, FL 33803; polkassociationforwomenlawyers@gmail.com
Website: https://sites.google.com/view/polkassociationforwomenlawyers/home
Facebook: @pawlpolk
Instagram: @pawlpolk
Twitter: @pawlpolk
How can another affiliate put on similar inclusion and equality programming as yours?

PAWL encourages communication and engagement with other local voluntary bar associations, the circuit court, and the local bench bar organization so that affiliates can participate in and develop programming that is broad and presented in formats that are deferential to the rules governing participation by our judicial members. Doing so invites greater participation and cooperation. PAWL members have been highly involved in the Tenth Circuit’s Diversity Summit—which has been a wonderful example of why this format works so well over the years.

Are there barriers to practice facing your membership or lawyers as a whole that your organization seeks to address?

There is definitely a disparity in the number of women who are board certified in a practice area locally compared to the number of board certified practitioners locally overall. We have begun to research potential reasons behind this disparity and encourage our members to help one another in achieving certification goals. One of the immediate ways that PAWL can help its members overcome this potential barrier is education about the opportunities for certification and benefits of certification and to promote and plan events through which its members and other local practitioners can gain the CLE resources and study opportunities.

How have you stayed connected with your membership and community through the pandemic?

Social Media has been an invaluable tool for us to keep in contact with PAWL members throughout the pandemic. PAWL was able to immediately connect, provide information, and stream programming, and its members remained very engaged as a result. One of PAWL’s most popular and successful initiatives during the pandemic was its Monday Member Spotlight on social media.

Any new or upcoming events you’d like to spotlight?

One of the events being planned for this spring is a combination event tailored toward personal and professional financial planning for women in the profession while also providing our members with the opportunity to get a professional headshot. This is an opportunity that we are especially excited to offer to our young members and those in government practice who are not always provided such access to tools for professional development and branding.
“February provided incredible opportunities for young lawyers throughout Florida. The F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association took over the YLD social media, highlighting the wonderful programs it provides in Palm Beach County, and we ended the month with our Affiliate Outreach Conference where Local Bar Associations from around Florida converged on Tampa to apply for grant funds, hear from fabulous speakers, and to learn from each other.”

Celia Thacker Dorn
9th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Message from the AOC Committee

On February 25-26, the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division hosted over 40 Affiliates in Tampa, Florida for its annual Affiliate Outreach Conference. With support from 13 sponsors, including our Expedition Leader Sponsors and Summit Sponsors, our attendees participated in grant presentations, CLE programming, a range of health & wellness activities, and the gala of all gala’s to end the weekend! Thank you to all of our Affiliates and Law Student Affiliates for joining us and to our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Giselle Gutierrez
11th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Stearns Weaver
AOC Co-Chair

Celeste Thacker Hankins
5th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at The Villages
AOC Co-Chair

Awards

Governor Ryan Gilbert

The Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors announced the winners of six Affiliate awards at the Affiliate Outreach Conference in Tampa on February 26, 2022. The winners were selected from a total of 34 nominations from Affiliates all across the state.

Best Joint Event – The Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section & D.W. Perkins Bar Association—Ribault Future Lawyers State Attorney’s Office Field Trip;

Affiliate Public Service Project of the Year – T.J. Reddick Bar Association—Sealing and Expungement Clinic;

Affiliate Member Service Project of the Year – The Florida Government Bar Association—CLEs for Board Certification;

Small Affiliate of the Year – T.J. Reddick Bar Association;

Mid-Sized Affiliate of the Year – Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers;

Large Affiliate of the Year – Hillsborough County Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division;

Nominations for the YLD’s Spring Awards are due by Monday, April 4, 2022. For more information and to submit nominations, visit https://flayld.org/awards/.
Grants
Governor Jose Campa

Thank you to all the local bar affiliates and law school affiliates who attended the 2022 Affiliate Outreach Conference in beautiful Tampa, Florida. The Affiliate Outreach Conference provides an opportunity for local bar affiliates to meet and network with other local bar associations. This AOC was record-breaking in multiple ways. We had affiliates from all over the State of Florida representing 16 different circuits. We had 41 affiliates submit grant applications totaling over $100,000. To accommodate this year’s large number of grant applications, AOC had three separate panels of judges listening to grant presentations. Thank you to the YLD governors who volunteered to help review these grant applications.

It is amazing to see all the great work young lawyers are doing all throughout the state despite the unprecedented obstacles related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Local bar affiliates are tackling major issues in their communities from foster care assistance, raising money for legal aid organizations, and educating the public on different legal topics to many more projects that help improve not only the legal profession but also the lives of many Florida residents.

Now work starts for AOC 2023. I encourage all the local bar affiliates to begin planning for next year’s AOC grant application. The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division is excited to see what projects you are all working on and how we can help you achieve your goals.

Expedition Hunt
Governor Selina Patel

On February 25, 2022, the Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors joined our Affiliates for an Expedition Hunt around downtown Tampa Bay! With “golden tickets” for Saturday night’s Snow Ball Gala at stake, over 100 young lawyers joined together to solve a series of clues and riddles, with a final stop at the Sail Pavilion for some camaraderie, cocktails, and a chance to connect with young lawyers from all over the State of Florida which was generously sponsored by Bradley.
Speaker Session
Governor Brock Hankins

At this past Affiliate Outreach Conference attendees earned 2 CLE credits hearing four speakers discuss a range of topics affecting young lawyers. Brian Ford, the Chief Operating Officer for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, spoke on his journey to leadership and his approach and advice for working with a large team. Trizia Eavenson, founder of Eavenson Law, LLC, discussed implicit bias and cultural competence. Korey Henson, a professional attorney coach and founder of Runway Strategies, presented views on building happy and fulfilled lawyers and introspective aspects of professional development. Finally, Mary Ruth Houston, Co-Managing Partner of the Orlando Office of Shutts & Bowen and Chair of the firm’s Labor & Employment Law Practice Group, spoke on mental toughness and overcoming the significant challenges in the course of her life and career, through the lens of her experience as an avid mountain climber and hiker.

Gala | Affiliate Outreach Conference Snow Ball
Governor Maria McCorkle

To finish our AOC Expedition, the YLD hosted its first live gala in two years with the AOC Snow Ball! Attendees donned their cocktail dresses and suits for an evening of wintry elegance. Winners of the Affiliate awards were announced and honored for their contributions to young lawyers and voluntary bars, including our Affiliates of the Year. Attendees then danced the night away with a local band and an interactive photobooth experience.
February 7, 2022

Dear Valeen,

Thank you for supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and the families that benefit from our services. Families are stronger when they are together, and your gift allows families to be together while they are staying in the safe and caring environment of the Ronald McDonald House.

Six-year-old Allyson, and her mom, recently arrived at Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville, to have a brain tumor treated. Despite the many challenges she is facing, and being so far away from home in Canada, Allyson always has a big smile on her face. She lovingly called our House her “home away from home” during the holiday season.

Ronald McDonald House ensures that families with a critically ill child can access the very best medical treatment for their diagnosis. You have made such a difference in the lives of the families we have the privilege of serving at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

Thank you again for your support!

With Gratitude,

[Signature]

Natalie Van Eron
Development Director

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Gift Acknowledgment

Date: December 9, 2021
Gift Amount: $2,027.50
Designation: Deck the Doors

We affirm no goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution. Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Jacksonville, Inc. is a non-profit corporation under 501(c) (3). In accordance with the Solicitation of Contributions Act, Chapter 496, Florida

Keeping families close
Behind the Scenes with Basic Crim Law CLE

Valeen Hyde
4th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

In January 2022, the YLD recorded the sentencing segment of the Basic Criminal Law CLE. The recording took place at the Bedell Firm, which is Florida’s oldest law firm in continuous existence. Jacksonville’s renowned criminal defense attorney Hank Coxe of the Bedell Firm moderated the discussion with two esteemed Jacksonville judges -- the Honorable Marcia Morales Howard, United States District Court Judge for the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, and Tatiana R. Salvador, Circuit Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court. Mr. Coxe asked the judges to discuss some differences and similarities between federal and state court sentencing guidelines and procedures. The judges shared experiences from the bench and discussed the do’s and don’ts in their respective courtrooms. Needless to say, the two courts have drastic differences that our new attorneys will certainly want to learn. View the YLD’s Basic Criminal Law CLE on The Florida Bar’s website.
Tell us about the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association (FMCBA)?

FMCBA is a voluntary bar association located in Palm Beach County. In the late 1970’s a group of Black attorneys from West Palm Beach began meeting informally on a monthly basis at a local restaurant. Among them were the Honorable Edward Rodgers, the Honorable Catherine Brunson, the Honorable Moses Baker, William Holland, T.J. Cunningham, Sr., and Frank Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. to name a few. Because of the positive impact Frank Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. had as a member of the organization and in the community, after his death in 1978, the organization was formally named the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association. The organization provides educational CLEs, mentoring, judicial relationship-building, and scholarships.

What is the mission of FMCBA?

The mission of FMCBA is to maintain the honor and dignity of Blacks within the legal profession; to provide meaningful service to the communities in Palm Beach County; to promote the improvements in the law and the methods in its administration; to promote diversity within the Palm Beach County judiciary; to educate its members and the general public on matters pertaining to the law and the legal profession; to promote knowledge and understanding in the legal profession; and to cultivate...
professional ethics and networking opportunities among its members.

Do you have any recurring philanthropic initiatives?

Our annual Holland Scholarship Celebration! This annual celebration is named after the first African American attorney in Palm Beach County and civil rights pioneer, William M. Holland. After the United States Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*, the high court’s decision was mostly ignored in Palm Beach County. Mr. Holland fought, through the courts, for two years and eventually prevailed, causing Palm Beach County schools to become integrated. The Holland Scholarship Celebration not only commemorates William Holland’s accomplishments, but also enables us to encourage our future lawyers by awarding Florida Bar Examination course preparation scholarships to well-deserving 3rd-year law students who are scheduled to take the July bar examination. This year we will able to award $19,000 in scholarships.

What are you doing now to increase diversity, inclusion and equality?

Most, if not every, initiative FMCBA plans or participates in promotes diversity, inclusion, and equality. One area we are focusing on though is through voting, especially in local elections. If we provide opportunities for diverse people to learn about the voting process and their voting choices we increase diversity, inclusion, and equality in the voting process which ultimately increases diversity, inclusion, and equality amongst our community leaders.

For the past two years, FMCBA has been an active member of the When We All Vote Palm Beach County Voting Squad. Through this initiative, we have facilitated and moderated elections forums. These forums have created the opportunity for our community to learn about the candidates and issues on the ballot so that our community can become informed voters. FMCBA hopes through educating the community on important topics like voting, we will not only help increase diversity, inclusion, and equality, but we will arm others with the education and motivation to do the same.

How has The Florida Bar YLD helped FMCBA in achieving the inclusion and equality goals?

We recently received a grant after our presentation at the 2021 YLD Affiliate Outreach Conference (AOC), which helped us host our 5th Annual Young Lawyers Section boot camp. The boot camp took place on January 29, 2022 and was titled “Adulting 101: Law, Life, and Leadership.” The program was geared to newly barred attorneys who would like advice on managing finances, salary negotiations, and balancing personal and career life goals. The panel focused on diversity in the legal realm and consisted of judges and prominent attorneys throughout the Palm Beach area. This year’s AOC is being held in Tampa on February 25-26. We hope to see you there!

What advice do you have for other affiliates?

Partner with local bar associations in your area and get to know your circuit’s Florida Bar Board of Governors and YLD Governors!
“The new year brings with it an opportunity to reaffirm our goals, expectations, and hopes for the year. As the YLD gears up for our Affiliate Outreach Conference – an excellent opportunity to be reacquainted with our home circuits’ endeavors and those of colleagues all over the state – it is also a chance to reorient ourselves towards boundless optimism, whatever the year may bring. Here’s to great things in 2022!”

Masimba Mutamba
15th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Palm Beach County Attorney’s Office
AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONFERENCE

AOC 2022

THE EXPEDITION

THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

FRIDAY-SATURDAY // FEBRUARY 25-26

TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER STREET
505 WATER STREET, TAMPA, FL 33602

CLE CREDITS AVAILABLE

YLD AFFILIATES REACHING NEW HEIGHTS WITH AFFILIATE GRANTS, AWARDS & RESOURCES

REGISTER HERE

EXPEDITION LEADER SPONSORS

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MID-CAMP SPONSORS

ROSENTHAL, LEVY, SIMON & SOSA

BUSH ROSS PLLC
Charise Morgan-Joseph, 11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Zurich, North America

Voluntary Bar Association Affiliate Organizations ("Affiliates) and law student leaders from around the state will gather next month at the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s annual Affiliate Outreach Conference in Tampa. The annual conference provides young attorneys and law students with networking and relationship-building opportunities, while also offering awards and grants for qualified affiliates for their community service projects and pro bono programs.

The 2022 AOC is scheduled for February 25 and 26 at the Tampa Marriott Water Street hotel. Affiliates interested in applying for grant funding must do so via email by February 4, 2022. Applications can be found on the YLD website at https://flayldaffiliates.com/2022-aoc/

Conference registration and hotel reservations may be completed at: Registration: https://yldboq.formstack.com/forms/2022_aoc_registration_lba

Hotel: https://book.passkey.com/gt/lodging/218286310?gtid=b1da0465cdee90456b16dde1ba20c11

Each affiliate may receive up to a $800 reimbursements for travel costs (at $400 per person). Affiliates who register by February 4 will receive a free t-shirt at check-in.

In the past, the Florida Bar YLD has awarded affiliates as much as $5,000.00, although typical awards range from $500.00 to $1,500.00. In order to be eligible for an award, an Affiliate must present its grant at the Affiliate Outreach Conference on Friday, February 25, 2022. Additionally, each Affiliate seeking grant funds must designate at least one (1) Affiliate Representative, who is required to register for and attend the morning programming session and the lunch roundtable discussion on Saturday February 26, 2022.

For the first time in the history of the conference, the YLD is providing CLE credits for the Saturday programming session. An Affiliate that applies for an AOC Grant but does not have at least one Affiliate Representative register and attend the required AOC events will be deemed ineligible to receive grant funds.

In keeping with its theme “The Expedition” the 2022 conference will include an Affiliates Expedition Hunt on Friday, a Health & Wellness ‘Choose Your Adventure’ activity on Saturday, and a ‘Snow Ball’ gala dinner with dancing on Saturday evening. Sponsorship opportunities for the statewide event are also available.
AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONFERENCE

AOC 2022
THE EXPEDITION
THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022
1-4 PM: AOC Registration & Check-In
1-4 PM: In-Person YLD Grant Presentations & Coffee Reception
1-3 PM: YLD Law School Affiliate Meeting
5-6:30 PM: YLD Affiliates Expedition Hunt

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022
9 AM-12 PM: Conference Breakfast & AOC Speakers’ Session
   Speaker Schedule Coming Soon
12-1 PM: Conference Lunch w/ Facilitated Discussions
3:30-4:30 PM: Health & Wellness – Choose Your Adventure
   Details Coming Soon
6-10 PM: AOC Gala – Dinner & Dancing at the “Snow Ball”

TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER STREET
505 WATER STREET, TAMPA, FL 33602
“For the first time in AOC history, the YLD will have CLE credits available for valuable affiliate programming on leadership, professionalism, mental toughness, and more.”

Giselle Gutierrez
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Stearns Weaver
AOC Co-Chair

“We’ve revamped the AOC schedule to provide more for our Affiliates - more content and fun! Can’t wait to see you all there!”

Celeste Thacker Hankins
5th Circuit Governor, Attorney at The Villages
AOC Co-Chair

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The YLD asks for your assistance in funding AOC, which will include the member service project grants. In exchange for your sponsorship, you can be recognized in AOC print and electronic materials, including on banners through our conference and on the AOC shirt.* Below are the sponsorship levels for this Winter Expedition themed event:

EXPEDITION LEADER $2,500 - Name & logo recognition on written and printed materials, t-shirt,* and social media (including four (4) social media “tags”); an exhibitor table for two (2) representatives during the grant presentation session of AOC; an exhibitor table for two (2) representatives during the programming session of AOC; verbal recognition during the conference; opportunity to present a 2-3 minute commercial during the programming session of AOC.

SUMMIT $1,000 – Name & logo recognition on written and printed conference materials, t-shirt,* and social media (including three (3) social media “tags”); an exhibitor table for two (2) representatives during the programming session of AOC; verbal recognition during the conference.

MID-CAMP $500 – Name & logo recognition on written conference materials, t-shirt,* and social media (including two (2) social media “tags”).

BASECAMP $250 – Name recognition in program and written conference materials;* One (1) social media “tag.”

“IN KIND SPONSOR – Contribute event themed items for the registration or scavenger expedition bags and be recognized in program and written conference materials; One (1) social media “tag.”

* Please inquire regarding the deadline for inclusion of sponsor logo on printed materials and t-shirts

ADDITIONAL UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT COOZIES $1,500 – With your logo & AOC’s logo.

EVENT COUP $1,500 – With your logo & AOC’s logo.

TRAIL MIX BAR $2,500 – This station will be offered Saturday during AOC programming session and will include the opportunity to set up your own table, mingle and talk with AOC participants.

FRESH FRUIT & SMOOTHIE STATION $2,500 – This station will be open Saturday prior to the program and will include the opportunity to set up your own table, mingle and talk with AOC participants and YLD Members.

REFRESHMENT STATION DURING GRANT PRESENTATIONS $2,000 – This station will be open Friday during the grant presentations and will include the opportunity to set up your own table, mingle and talk with AOC participants and YLD Members.

SCAVENGER EXPEDITION FIRST STOP $2,500 – This opportunity allows the sponsor to set up a table at the first stop of the scavenger expedition as the participants set off into Tampa to complete the expedition! Good opportunity to mingle and talk with AOC participants and YLD Members.

SCAVENGER EXPEDITION LAST STOP $2,500 – This opportunity allows the sponsor to set up a table at the final stop of the scavenger expedition. Good opportunity to mingle and talk with AOC participants and YLD Members.

Questions about the YLD, AOC, or sponsorship of the conference? Please contact the AOC Chairs, Giselle Gutierrez (ggutierrez@stearnsweaver.com) and/or Celeste Thacker Hankins (celesthankins@gmail.com). The YLD greatly appreciates your support!
THE FLORIDA BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
SPRING AWARDS

DEADLINE: APRIL 4, 2022

YLD Outstanding Government Lawyer Award
Lynn Futch Most Productive Young Lawyer Award
Michael K. Reese Quality Of Life Award
Meenu T. Sasser Outstanding Jurist Award
YLD Outstanding Woman Lawyer Of Achievement Award
Cynthia Henry Duval Diversity Award

Awards inquiries: please contact Awards Committee Chair
Ryan Gilbert at RLGilbert@gmail.com
After having the Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition in a virtual setting last year, we are excited to host it in-person year! We’re looking forward to live oral arguments and welcoming our law students. See you in Orlando!“
The pandemic has changed life as we know it for everyone, and attorneys are no exception to that fact. Now, more than ever, being intentional about taking time for self-care is essential to helping us maintain or find balance. That’s why we decided to create the New Year, New Me Bingo challenge to kick off a new year. We wanted to give lawyers, law students, and legal professionals an opportunity to focus on mental health to start the year off, hoping that it will become a habit they continue for the rest of the year. Lawyers love a challenge, and we all love bingo, so it was a perfect combination.

Ashley Gantt
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Gantt Legacy Law, P.A.

NEW YEAR, NEW ME
YLD BINGO
2022
REGISTER
January 3, 2022 to January 31, 2022
Win GREAT prizes!
“We’re excited about this statewide health and wellness initiative, and we encourage all lawyers to participate! You can sign up for a bingo card anytime in January, and all completed cards are due back by January 31. We have some amazing prizes to offer the winners all related to health and wellness, like gift cards to Peloton and Apple fitness, personal training sessions, and more!”

Jessica Kramer
13th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Holland & Knight

If you have questions email flbaryld@gmail.com
Who is the JBA YLS? The Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is an affiliate of the Jacksonville Bar Association. YLS has a large and enthusiastic membership along with a very active and committed Board of Governors. We are dedicated to providing a diverse array of programs and projects designed not only to benefit young lawyers, but all other members of the bar and the community as a whole. YLS conducts many outstanding recurring projects created by our Board. We are responsible for staffing and successfully completing numerous other projects in our area supported by The Jacksonville Bar Association and The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, such as our Holidays in January project which aids children in Duval County who spend the holidays in foster care. YLS, as an organization, also volunteers on behalf of numerous charitable organizations throughout the year, such as the Special Olympics.

What do you want people to know about your organization?
YLS is more than just happy hours and charity events. It is a social support group where all are welcome that serves an important function in the lives of our members. Being a new attorney is very stressful, but having access to a group of other attorneys who understand the stress and who can provide the support needed to get through the tough times is critical to a successful practice. Many of our members have found lifelong friends and mentors through YLS. I would have never met so many other attorneys from different practice areas or members of the judiciary if it were not for YLS.
Do you have any recurring philanthropic initiatives relating to inclusion and equality that you would like to spotlight? The Ribault High School Future Lawyers Program is one of our most successful initiatives and focuses on mentorship. Ribault High School is a school where the majority of students are minorities. In the beginning of the school year, students who join the program are paired with local attorneys and judges. What makes this program so special is that student participants have an opportunity to learn first-hand about the practice of law from some of the best and brightest in our legal community. Minorities are significantly underrepresented in the legal profession compared to the general population and this initiative is critical to the goal of diversifying Florida’s legal community. In fact, many of the Future Lawyers Program participants go on to attend college, graduate school and law school. YLS has even provided college scholarships to some program graduates.

How have you stayed connected with your membership through the pandemic? Do you have any notable or unique ways of staying connected that other affiliates should consider? Social media has been the best way for us to stay connected to our membership. We have used our various platforms to promote both in-person and virtual events. When planning in-person events, we have focused on small group and outdoor events for added safety. For example, we hosted a K-9 Halloween Costume Contest for our dog parents and dog loving members along with a beach cleanup for members who live close to the Jacksonville Beach area.

What initiatives have you found most successful in promoting your diversity, inclusion and equality efforts? YLS has been very successful in hosting CLE’s that cover topics of diversity. For example, YLS hosted a CLE to discuss LGBTQ+ identities and associated legal challenges. YLS has also been successful with philanthropic initiatives that benefit organizations serving women, minorities, and individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. This year, our Annual Chili Cookoff will benefit Big Brother Big Sisters, our Annual Poker Tournament will benefit MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, and our Annual Golf Tournament will benefit Girls of Virtue. Anyone who is interested in learning more about these fantastic organizations is welcome to reach out to a member of the YLS Board for more information.

Any new or upcoming events you want to spotlight? YLS is hosting a bowling tournament in the Spring/Summer with the Special Olympics organization. This will be an exciting event and a great opportunity for our members to meet, socialize and bowl with athletes from diverse backgrounds who have intellectual and physical disabilities.

Do you have any advice for other affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality initiatives? I would recommend that affiliates host recurring events rather one-time. Whether it is annually, or more often, your event will grow each time. When hosting each event, you may find new ways to reach your audience or discover new topics to cover. Also consider joining forces with other bar associations or local community groups. In doing so, you will reach a larger audience.
December 29, 2021

On behalf of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, I would like to thank you and the Florida Bar for your generous donation of $2,027.50. We are beyond grateful for your incredible support and for this thoughtful gift. Your support of the Impact Player Program helps to raise funds to support our mission and is critical in raising awareness of how local families are impacted by our work.

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund is committed to fulfilling our mission of providing financial, emotional, and practical assistance to families tackling pediatric cancer. Your gift will help ensure that we can continue to help our families by putting food on their table while they face this devastating disease. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to BE THERE for our patients and families who are facing the unthinkable.

Thank you, again, for being such loyal teammates. It takes a team to tackle childhood cancer; we are so grateful to have you on ours.

Your gift is deductible to the fullest extent of the law as no goods or services were provided.

With much gratitude,

Edye Wright, CMP
Director of Community Engagement
THE FLORIDA BAR YLD INCLUSION AND EQUALITY COMMITTEE PRESENTS

TAKEOVER TUESDAY

Hosted by

F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr.
Bar Association

FEBRUARY 22, 2022
This year we have a lot to be thankful for as we hopefully rear our heads into brighter times. It is our hope that we can continue this sentiment by giving back with the Toy Drive. We hope you enjoy what the holidays mean to children with these pictures from our YLD Board of Governors family. Finally, as we come into the next year, it is always helpful to take a moment to just breathe. Take part in this month’s ongoing challenge; you would be surprised by what catching your breath really helps you do. Happy holidays, from our family to yours.

Arti Hirani
9th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Meenakshi A. Hirani, P.A.
On December 1, 2021, the Florida Government Bar Association (FGBA) and the Tallahassee Bar Association (TBA) joined forces and hosted a joint Holiday Judicial Reception and Silent Auction in Tallahassee. Traditionally, these are two separate events, but in light of the pandemic, the two associations teamed up. The event was attended by over 170 people and was staffed by members of the FGBA and TBA’s Young Lawyers Sections. A grant given to the FGBA’s young lawyers by the YLD was used to offset the cost of food at the reception.

Chief Judge Lori Rowe of the First District Court of Appeal and Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom of the Second Judicial Circuit gave brief comments on the states of the district and the circuit. The TBA presented its Lifetime Professionalism Award to Patrick “Booter” Imhof, a longtime government attorney who accepted the award to a standing ovation. The FGBA named the late Chesterfield “Chet” Smith, Jr. as its 2021 Government Attorney of the Year. Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody nominated Smith and her Chief of Staff attended on her behalf to share her words about and gratitude for Smith. Chet’s wife, Patricia, accepted the award to a standing ovation from the visibly emotional audience.

FGBA’s 4th Annual Silent Auction benefitting Legal Services of North Florida
("LSNF") ran throughout the evening. FGBA’s Silent Auction Committee, made up almost completely of YLD members (and a few attorneys perhaps one year removed), acquired an impressive spread of donated items and services and offered more than 40 items for auction this year. The auction raised a record-setting $3,763 for LSNF. These funds will be used to draw down federal matching-dollar grants, therefore making double the impact in North Florida’s legal community.

Overall, the event was a smashing success that boosted morale and spread goodwill among young lawyers, seasoned attorneys, and members of the judiciary as we moved into the holiday season.
In the month of October, in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the T.J. Reddick Bar Association conducted a supply drive which provided several items to Women in Distress of Broward County (WID). WID is a full-service domestic violence center that provides help to survivors of domestic violence and their children. The mission of WID is to stop domestic violence abuse for everyone through intervention, education, and advocacy.

This effort was made possible through generous donations from our members and supporters, as well as a grant from The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. In addition, drop boxes were placed at the Victim Advocate Unit Office for the Office of the State Attorney for 17th Judicial Circuit and The Heritage Firm in Plantation to collect the items.

For more information about the T.J. Reddick Bar Association, please visit tjreddickbar.com.

(Left to right) Shena Kit, WID COO
De’Anne Jackson, TJR President
Linda Parker, WID President and CEO
Janice Haywood, TJR Board Member

Shatoria K. Means, Esq.
T.J. Reddick Bar Association
Board Member

Items donated included gift cards, food, and hygiene items.
OCBA YLS Cordially Invites You to Our

ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION & TOY DRIVE

Thursday, December 9
6:30pm – 9:30pm
The Alfond Inn
300 East New England Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789

Open to YLS Members, their guests and sponsors ONLY

RSVP to yls.ocba@gmail.com
For volunteer and sponsorship info please contact:
Jacob Schumer at jschumer@shepardfirm.com

In lieu of paying for a ticket, bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to Washington Shores Elementary School. If you do not have a toy to donate, you may also donate $20.00 at the door.
Volusia County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Holiday Gift Drive

Maria McCorkle
7th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

This year the Volusia County Bar Association YLD continued its tradition of donating gifts for local foster children, led by president-elect Amber Davids. Attorney Davids created this project and continues to chair this much appreciated annual YLD tradition. This year, the Volusia YLD donated five full cars of gifts and over $600 in gift cards for local children in need.

Rachel Myers
Volusia County Bar Assoc. YLD President & Founder of Myers Law Group
DeLand, FL

Amber Davids
Volusia County Bar Assoc. YLD President-Elect & Additional Partner at Cameron, Hodges, Coleman, LaPointe, & Wright, P.A.
Daytona Beach, FL
“The Foster Child Gift Drive is so well received in our community that it has grown exponentially every year. Lawyers of both local bars, other legal community groups, judges, and nonlawyers alike run to the sign-up sheet each year to hopefully be a part of the project. Oftentimes people are turned away because our slots are filled so quickly. I could not be prouder of the project’s founder, Amber Davids. She deserves all the credit as she has been the driving force that makes the difference in so many children’s lives each holiday season.”

- Rachel Myers, Volusia YLD President
Holiday Toy Drive a Success!

Valeen Hyde
4th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, Attorney at The Bedell Firm

Early December 2021 in Amelia Island, the YLD and The Florida Bar Board of Governors (also known as the OLD), competed in a Battle of the Boards competition to raise money and provide toys to children for the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund and the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Together the two boards raised over $4,000 and donated toys to the charities. The money and toys will help children and families in need this holiday season. Great work YLD and OLD! Here is more information about each charity:

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund: https://tcjayfund.org/about
The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation was created in honor of Jay McGillis. Jay was a special young man who developed leukemia while a member of Coach Coughlin’s team at Boston College. In the eight months between Jay’s diagnosis and the day he lost his battle with cancer, the Coughlin family saw firsthand the physical, emotional, and financial strains the illness caused the McGillis Family. After going through the tragic events with Jay’s family, Coach Coughlin vowed that if he ever had the chance, he would create a way to help families with children battling cancer. Coach Coughlin kept his vow and started this foundation to be there in Jay’s honor. For over 25 years, the Jay Fund has evolved in size and scope. They have helped over 5,000 families and given away over $15 million in grants helping thousands of families in Northeast Florida area and the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area.

Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville: https://rmhcjacksonville.org/who-we-are
Ronald McDonald House is the cornerstone program of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, Inc. Since 1988, Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville has supported the needs of over 33,000 families seeking medical treatment at Jacksonville’s major pediatric healthcare providers, including Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Nemours Children’s Specialty Care, UF Health Jacksonville, Brooks Rehabilitation and the UF Proton Therapy Institute. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville is a licensed chapter of a global organization that embraces diversity and inclusion. Families come to Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville from 16 states in the United States and 66 countries globally. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, Inc. has two core programs: The Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Wolfson Children’s Hospital. Families staying at Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville enjoy private and secure accommodations, nutritious meals prepared by our volunteers, access to technology, indoor and outdoor play areas, a fully stocked pantry, transportation to local hospitals and the comfort and affection of REED, our Facility Dog.
Happy Holidays from the YLD family to yours

Riley / Age 12
Emilia / Age 4
Harper / Age 11
Valencia / Age 4
Jack / Age 8
Lila / Age 4
Maverick / Age 2

Mrs. Cohen / First Grade Class
Mason / Age 3
Our son Cameron is almost 2 and a half so he’s starting to gain more of an understanding of Hanukkah and the holiday season. We love taking him around the neighborhood to show him the holiday decorations. Here he is enjoying the seashell dreidel and menorah on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach.

Michael Levine
11th Circuit Governor, Shareholder at Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain
Holiday Toy Drive

Tis the season . . .
Affiliates are encouraged to plan a toy drive event for children in need this holiday season. Don't forget to register your event on www.flayldaffiliates.com and use the hashtag #AFFILIATESASSEMBLE
FREE WEBINAR
What’s New with Public Service Loan Forgiveness and How to Get Your Loans Forgiven!

Christie Arkovich, Esq.

DESCRIPTION
When Congress passed the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, it included a lot of hurdles to qualify which led to an incredibly low number of discharges: less than half of one percent were approved after ten years of payments. Many loans were not eligible, wrong payment plans were recommended by servicers or payments were late or for incorrect amounts. Even paid ahead status caused rejections of qualifying payments. The Department of Education issued a PLSF Temporary Waiver in October 2021 designed to correct these deficiencies, but action must be taken prior to October of 2022 to qualify.

This presentation will address:
- PSLF new rules implemented October 2021
- The fix is in --- but you have only ONE year to qualify for older loans
- Upcoming servicer changes
- How to minimize your Income Driven Payment
- What forms to use

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021
12 pm ET

CLE
Approved for 1 General CLE Credit & 1 Education CLE Credit

Alexandria Nicodemi,
12th Circuit Board of Governor
Manatee County Attorney’s Office

“I cannot imagine a more timely and important webinar for attorneys currently enrolled in the PSLF program. October 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced its first overhaul of the program and with that comes major changes to student loan relief. I am so proud to be a part of an organization that prioritizes educational opportunities for government and public sector attorneys.”
Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Grants

Fall Due Dates

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<th>LAW SCHOOL AFFILIATE GRANTS</th>
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<td>Health &amp; Wellness Grant:</td>
<td>Due by 12/03/2021</td>
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<td>Inclusion &amp; Equality Grant:</td>
<td>Due by 12/03/2021</td>
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✓ Affiliates must register and maintain their webpage.
✓ Grant specific hashtags must be used on all social media posts so the YLD can help promote the event.
✓ Affiliates must take photographs of the event and share it on social media.

CONTACT
Grants: please contact Jose Campa at jose.campa@osceolasheriff.org

Website: www.flayldaffiliates.com
A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PARENTAL LEAVE FOR EMPLOYERS

What to Expect When Your Employee is Expecting

> VIEW PARENTAL LEAVE GUIDE

Randall Baskin
6th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Law
at Baskin Eisel Rightmyer

“Last year the YLD worked on a Parental Leave Guide as part of the Inclusion and Equality Committee’s #YLDisMe series. The Guide, released earlier this year, continues to be an important resource for firms seeking to develop their own leave policies as well as young lawyer members attempting to navigate leave policies at their offices.”
Even though cold weather is moving in, the YLD is heating things up! Hot off the press is the addition of a new affiliate award titled “Best Joint Event” that will celebrate affiliates who work together for the benefit of their members and the community. This November issue has exclusive information on the YLD’s newest webinar, an AOC update, highlights from our social media Takeover Tuesday, and much more. So grab your hot chocolate and join us for all the YLD has to offer this month. You don’t want to miss it!

Sarah Morris
4th Circuit Governor, Office of Criminal Conflict & Civil Regional Counsel, First Region
The Administrative Law Section’s young lawyers got into the giving spirit this Thanksgiving! Thanks to the generous support of section members, over $1,000 was raised to be used towards the purchase of food to provide support to underprivileged families in Tallahassee, FL. Young lawyer section members gathered on November 18, 2021, at Mom and Dad’s Italian restaurant in Tallahassee to distribute purchased food into individual bags. Over 74 bags were filled and donated to Oak Ridge Elementary to children who won’t have access to free or reduced lunches over the Thanksgiving break. Virginia Ponder was also able to secure books for the children’s bags so their learning will continue over the break!

A huge thank you to Flowers Foods in Thomasville, GA, Mom and Dad’s Italian Restaurant, Virginia Ponder, Megan Silver, Judge Gar Chisenhall, Brittany Griffith, James Ross, Matt Bryant, Brittany Dambly, Tabitha Jackson and everyone else who helped make this event a HUGE success!

I have the pleasure of serving as the Administrative Law Section’s YLD Liaison. Within the section, there is a Young Lawyers Committee responsible for cultivating interest in the section among young lawyers and for planning, organizing, and promoting section activities and benefits specifically designed for young lawyers. The committee is chaired by Brittany Dambly. For more information on the section and its programming for young lawyers, follow the “Florida Bar Administrative Law Section” on Facebook. For more information on administrative law, check out the 7hr Basic Administrative Law 2021 CLE available on the Bar’s website. Former section chair, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge, Brian Newman, organizes a week-long, intensive Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) Trial Academy each year for young lawyer section members. You won’t want to miss it!
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for the following Affiliate Awards:

- Affiliate Public Service Project of the Year Award
- Affiliate Member Service Project of the Year Award
- Affiliate of the Year Award (Small, Mid-Sized, and Large)

AND OUR NEWEST AWARD

**Best Joint Event**

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 3, 2021
VISIT FLAYLD.ORG/AWARDS/ TO APPLY TODAY!

#YLDISME #AFFILIATESASSEMBLE #FLAYLD

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The YLD’s new Best Joint Event Award seeks to encourage, highlight, and celebrate the work and results our Affiliates achieve when partnering with other Affiliates. As an idea that was discussed as a recent YLD Council of Affiliates meeting, the YLD is thrilled to announce this new award and looks forward to receiving lots of submissions by the December 3, 2021 deadline.

**Ryan Gilbert**  
8th Circuit Governor,  
Attorney at Morgan & Morgan

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The YLD has also revamped its Affiliate of the Year Award so that this year’s recipients will be honored in the categories of:

- Large Affiliate of the Year  
- Mid-Sized Affiliate of the Year  
- Small Affiliate of the Year

**Leslie Metz**  
15th Circuit Governor,  
Attorney at GrayRobinson, PA.
AFFILIATE OUTREACH CONFERENCE

AOC 2022

THE EXPEDITION

THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

FRIDAY-SATURDAY // FEBRUARY 25-26

TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER STREET
505 WATER STREET, TAMPA, FL 33602

YLD AFFILIATES REACHING NEW HEIGHTS WITH AFFILIATE GRANTS, AWARDS & RESOURCES
AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT:
Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

Alex Palermo
President

Lindsey Siara
President-Elect

Who is the HCBA YLD? The Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“HCBA YLD”) is a group of nearly 800 attorneys living and practicing in the Tampa Bay area. Our membership is open to lawyers younger than 36 or who have less than 5 years of practice. We are proud to have one of the largest and strongest young lawyers’ divisions in the state. Our success is rooted in our membership and the involvement of each of our enthusiastic young lawyers. The HCBA YLD is led by a Board of fifteen dedicated officers and directors who support a network of committee chairs and members who plan and execute a variety of events to benefit our membership and the surrounding community.

What is HCBA YLD's mission? The mission of our organization is to support the initiatives and goals of the HCBA, to promote professionalism and ethical conduct, to provide guidance and support to new lawyers, to provide educational opportunities for our members, to organize programs and events of interest to young lawyers, and to encourage community involvement.

What initiatives have been most successful for promotion of diversity, inclusion and equality? A recent event that was met with tremendous success was our virtual book club entitled “Good Trouble.”

Quick Facts
Name: Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
Number of Members: 776
Founded: 1990
Contact Information: Chester H. Ferguson Law Center, c/o Laurie Rideout, Assistant Executive Director, 1610 N. Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602
Phone: (813) 221-7777
Website: hillsbar.com
Facebook: @HCBAtampabay
Instagram: @hcbatampabayyld
Twitter: @HCBATampaBay

HCBA YLD Members at the Annual Bench Bar Conference
Presented in conjunction with the George Edgecomb Bar Association and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, and with the support of a grant from the Florida Bar YLD, we provided a copy of the late Senator John Lewis’ book “Across That Bridge” to our members. Each week in February – in honor of Black History Month – members joined guest speakers to discuss the book and connect the lessons learned to our local legal community. While our members could not be physically together, the virtual book club offered a sense of community, and an opportunity to unite over our commonalities and discuss a future of inclusiveness and understanding.

What advice do you have for affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality?
Our focus on inclusion and equality post-COVID has been to meet our members where they are; meeting our members at their various comfort levels and offering a wide variety of activities that provide an environment where all our members feel there is an activity or program for them. In the past, success of an event was often correlated to the number of attendees. However, now we have planned several small group events, as well as events at different times of the day and in different locations around town to meet our member’s varying needs.

Do you have any recurring philanthropic initiatives that you would like to spotlight related to inclusion and equality?
Each year, the HCBA YLD hosts a cornhole tournament called Cornhole for a Cause to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. In 2020 alone, Big Brothers Big Sisters paired more than 2,400 children in the Tampa Bay area with caring adult mentors. One major barrier to creating a more inclusive world is the uneven playing field of opportunities afforded to so many young people. The HCBA YLD feels passionately that providing opportunities and caring mentors is imperative to ensure that the young lawyers of tomorrow are more diverse than they are today.

What has your organization done to increase diversity, inclusion, and equality within your membership?
The HCBA YLD has made great strides in creating an inclusive environment for all young lawyers. One example of our efforts is our focus on government and non-profit lawyers. We noticed our membership was lacking in government and non-profit lawyers and in response, three years ago, our Board voted to create an Outstanding Government/Non-Profit Lawyer Award. Creating an outlet to recognize our government and non-profit attorney members is just one way for us to ensure that they feel a sense of recognition and belonging within the larger group. Additionally, our Board is keenly aware of the financial pressures facing young lawyers today and for that reason, we have discounted membership fees for government members, and attempt to offset registration costs when possible for all YLD members. HCBA YLD is also particularly attuned to the inclusion of law students in our YLD. Our Board often offers law student scholarships for membership and to attend large events such as the annual Bench Bar Conference. We also encourage participation in our YLD committees so law students will get to know our members and have opportunities for mentorship and networking while still in law school.

What other resources do you recommend to other affiliates?
We highly recommend reaching out to other local VBAs and seeing what needs there are and how you can work together to meet those needs. Doing so has made us aware of issues we did not even know existed and has also helped strengthen our ties to other local VBAs. By collaborating, you can often combine grants, including those from the FL Bar YLD, to make these joint events stronger and provide even better programming for a larger audience. We like to collaborate because we’re better together!
#YLDisMeAffiliates is still going strong! You will not want to miss HCBA YLD’s #TakeoverTuesday to get ideas and tips on how you can partner with other affiliates and incorporate more inclusion and equality initiatives for your own affiliate organization. Don’t forget to use the hashtag on your affiliate’s social media posts that promote inclusion and equality so that Florida Bar YLD can share them!

I am blown away by the inclusion and equality initiatives CABA revealed during their Takeover Tuesday! Next up is Hillsborough County Bar’s YLD on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 and I cannot wait! Over the holidays we still want to hear about the wonderful things your affiliates are doing as well so do not forget to #YLDisMeAffiliates so we can share it!

Ciara Willis  
13th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Bush Ross, P.A.

Rebekah Taylor  
18th Circuit Governor, DCF Children’s Legal Services
Have you felt more stressed in the office, at home, in the grocery line? Has anxiety kept you awake at night? Have you found yourself losing your patience over that one annoying opposing counsel? It's time to take back your peace and regain a sense of balance. It's time to breathe!

Join the Florida Bar YLD as we start a month-long breathing challenge. Trust us, it will be easy. No need to hit the gym or try that crazy yoga pose. All you need to do is breathe. That's it. Try it now - take 3 deep breaths. It should take you about 15 to 30 seconds. Really, try it right now! Breathe in, hold, and breathe out. Breathe in, hold, and breathe out. Breathe in, hold, and breathe out. Do you feel a little better now? I know I do. Now go follow the Florida Bar YLD on Facebook and Instagram, so you can join us from November 22 to December 17...that way you don't forget to breathe.

Marbely Hernandez
11th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Miami Dade State Attorney’s Office

The Heath & Wellness Committee of the Florida Bar YLD is excited to offer programs that promote a more mentally and physically balanced life. Hopefully, through participating in these endeavors, we can strive to live richer lives and encourage our fellow young lawyers to do the same.

Ben Thomas
6th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Martinez Denbo, LLC

Kayla Richmond
20th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt, P.A.
October is shaping up to be one of the busiest months with a second Council of Affiliates meeting and a statewide service initiative. This October section also has exclusive information on this year’s Affiliate Outreach Conference. It will be an in-person event this year and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sam Cohen
15th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Bressler Amery & Ross
AFFILIATES ASSEMBLE:
More innovation and collaboration take place at the Council of Affiliates second meeting.

Maria McCorkle
7th Circuit Governor, The Florida Bar
Young Lawyers Division

On October 14, 2021, more than 80 YLD leaders assembled again to brainstorm how to better serve our profession and communities. At the meeting, YLD Affiliates provided critical feedback on issues, including relevant programming for Affiliates and facilitating joint Affiliate events.

Additional updates for the upcoming Affiliate Outreach Conference were shared with the YLD leaders. YLD Leaders were able to provide real-time suggestions and comments to help make AOC even more successful.

The Council also heard more from the YLD Inclusion and Diversity Campaign, #TakeOverTuesday, and other ways the Florida Bar YLD is continuing to support Affiliates now and for the future.

We can’t wait for our next week meeting! There’s power in unity when the Florida Bar YLD #AffiliatesAssemble!

Maria McCorkle
7th Circuit
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Daytona Beach, FL
"I want to start by taking a moment to ask you to stop looking forward. Take a moment and look around. Look at where you are. Look at where you started. For so many of you this is not just a major milestone that you fought for, but something that your parents and siblings, teachers, coaches, professors, friends, husbands, wives, and loved ones fought for you with. For so many of you, today is the embodiment of the wildest dreams of your ancestors.

Take just a moment to appreciate that you are seated in the Supreme Court of Florida, having proven yourself by passing the bar, and are about to take the oath of the Attorney.” - David Grimes

On October 13, 2021, Governor David Grimes, on behalf of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, gave his remarks to welcome and congratulate the newest members of the 27,000-strong Young Lawyers Division. Grimes, an attorney within The Florida House of Representatives, stressed the importance of community service, advocacy, bar involvement, and learning from one’s failures. Speaking from his own experiences, he highlighted lessons learned stating “you will have hard days and you will have easy days, but in the end you will learn from them both.” He challenged the new attorneys to leave a legacy that “honors professionalism, civility, and integrity,” and encouraged them to take advantage of the many resources and opportunities available to young lawyers.

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division looks forward to welcoming its newest members and helping them get involved!
The great Winston Churchill once said “we make a living by what we get, but make a life by what we give.” Florida young lawyers across the state epitomized this maxim with their hard work during the YLD’s Pro Bono & Community Service Month this past October. An array of fifteen affiliates across the state donated their time and efforts to various pro bono and charitable endeavors impacting their organization or circuit. Many of the affiliates partnered with local charities, including the Salvation Army, United Way, and Lotus House, with an emphasis on providing pro bono legal services to those in need. Additionally, affiliates collaborated with local legal service organizations that already have a framework in place to facilitate pro bono legal services to make a greater impact during October. Notably, the YLD’s Pro Bono & Community Service Month was scheduled during October to coincide with the nationwide Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Florida Bar was proud to see many of its YLD Affiliates undertake pro bono initiatives aimed at advancing awareness and providing support to the victims of domestic violence statewide. While the point and purpose of the month was the donation of time and services to make a difference, it was also a great opportunity for collaboration and networking amongst affiliates, many of which put on joint service events and benefit happy hours in their circuits. The YLD’s inaugural Pro Bono & Community Service Month was an excellent example of lawyers making a difference locally and demonstrating how affiliate networks and dedicated attorneys are the true strength of the Florida Bar. We have no doubt that the spirit of giving and charity that shone amongst our ranks during October will continue and grow throughout the year! Thank you very much to all of our affiliates for making a difference.
YLD YEARBOOK 2021-22

**Annual Pro Bono (Virtual) Walk-In Clinic**
October 27th, 2021 | 3-7PM

Join us in serving our community by providing no-cost legal advice in the following areas of law:
- Sealing and Expungement
- Family
- Bankruptcy
- Landlord/Tenant
- Guardian Advocacy

Sign up & make a difference!

Pro Bono lawyers will meet individually with clients via video conference to provide legal advice in their selected area(s). Training and support provided.

**HCBA YLD Ghostly Halloween Run/Walk**

Join us to commemorate Pro Bono Week by supporting miles for justice benefiting Bay Area Legal Services with your YLD friends, family and pet-friendly fun run/walk along the Riverwalk ending at Armature Works. Costumes encouraged.

**October 30, 2021 | 9 AM**

**HCBA Building**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Supply Drive for Women in Distress

- Snacks (candy, cookies, chips)
- Personal care items
- Paper plates
- hostel supplies (toothbrushes, soap)
- Paper napkins/towels

Drop off locations:
- The Heritage Law Firm
  950 S. Pine Island Rd Suite 150
  Plantation, FL 33324
- Staff Attorney’s Office
  Victim Advocate Unit
  115 S. 4th Street
  Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**HALLOWEEN DRIVE**

Costumes, Candy, & Fun
for the benefit of Lotus House

Please help us by donating candy and/or Halloween costumes for children of all ages (newborns-18).

Please send donations directly to: Lotus House 123 NW 15th St, Miami, FL 33136 or donate via their Amazon Wishlist (link in bio).

**M&D**

**Happy Hour For A Cause**

Accepting Candy / Halloween Costume donations to benefit Lotus House of Miami!

Thursday Oct 28
5:00 PM
Bulla Gastrobar
2500 Ponce de L
Coral Gables

**PERIOD DRIVE EVENT**

A personal hygiene and feminine hygiene period product drive.

**DONATE!**

**HAPPY HOUR FOR CAUSE**

Join us in serving our community by providing no-cost legal advice in the following areas of law:
- Sealing and Expungement
- Family
- Bankruptcy
- Landlord/Tenant
- Guardian Advocacy
Interview with: 
A. Dax Bello, President

What is the mission of the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA)?

CABA's mission is to promote equality of our members; increase diversity in the judiciary and legal community; serve the public interest by increasing awareness to the study of jurisprudence; foster respect for the law; preserve high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among our peers; provide adequate and equal access to representation of all minorities before the courts; facilitate the administration of justice; build close relationships among our members; provide mentoring and scholarship to law students nationally; and support the indigent community through the funding and administration of an effective pro bono legal assistance project and other community programs. In furtherance of its mission, CABA also includes robust human rights education and advocacy initiatives within its programming and pro bono efforts.

How has the Florida Bar YLD helped your organization's goals?

CABA recently presented a grant application to the Florida Bar YLD Affiliate Outreach Conference. The grant funded a dinner where young lawyers had the opportunity to meet more seasoned lawyers and members of the judiciary. This event was an absolute success and contributed as much to the organization's inclusion and equality goals as it did to CABA's mentoring efforts.

Quick Facts

Name: Cuban American Bar Association
Number of Members: 1,000-4,000
Founded: 1974
Contact Information: 1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd., #399 Coral Gables, Fl. 33134 (305)-857-7229
Website: cabaoonline.com
Facebook: @cabamiami
Instagram: @cabalawyers
Twitter: @CABAlawyers
Do you have any recurring philanthropic initiatives? CABA’s giving arms are its Foundation, The Cuban American Bar Foundation (CABF), and the CABA Pro Bono Legal Services office. The CABF awards dozens of law school scholarships to deserving law students across the country. CABA also has endowed scholarships in place at most of the major law schools in Florida.

CABA Pro Bono Legal Services effectively functions as a law office, employing at least six attorneys and nearly a dozen support staff to spearhead pro bono legal efforts aimed at supporting indigent members of South Florida’s community. CABA Pro Bono Legal Services takes on nearly 1800 cases every year on behalf of Florida’s most underprivileged and vulnerable residents in matters ranging from representing victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, to landlord/tenant disputes and dependency cases.

Do you ever combine efforts with other Voluntary Bar Associations on larger scale projects? Over the course of its existence, CABA has worked with most of the state’s voluntary bar associations. Most recently, following the demonstrations for freedom in Cuba that started on July 11, 2021, CABA led the charge on drafting an open letter to the community and to the people of Cuba, on behalf of approximately twenty (20) voluntary bar associations across the State of Florida.

CABA has previously collaborated with the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association to promote programming to spotlight and identify implicit bias in society and in the practice of law. Throughout the first year of the pandemic, CABA also partnered with Miami-Dade’s Florida Association of Women Lawyers (MD-FAWL) to organize ongoing virtual yoga programming, as part of CABA’s mental health initiatives.

Most recently, and with the assistance of other featured co-sponsors, CABA partnered with the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association to offer a Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation with Florida Supreme Court Justice John D. Couriel. The presentation included reflections on the history of notable Hispanics in law and their contributions to the legal profession, as well as insight on the value of mentorship and how to employ cultural diversity and linguistic fluency as a skillset for success in the legal profession.

Any new or upcoming events you’d like to spotlight? Historically, CABA hosts its annual installation Gala which is one of the preeminent legal soirees in South Florida. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, CABA was unable to host this exciting event in its traditional format. In a creative effort by CABA’s leadership to continue this event in a new COVID friendly format, CABA pivoted its signature event into a “CABA REGALA” which was a regatta type gathering with live music and nearly 100 boats and yachts anchored in Miami’s historic Marine Stadium basin. The funds raised from CABA’s Annual Gala, in whatever form it takes, assist the furtherance of its mission and provide the funding for dozens of law school scholarships and CABA’s Pro Bono Legal Services office.
SAVE THE DATE!

COUNCIL OF AFFILIATES MEETING

Join the YLD Board of Governors for the next Council of Affiliates meeting!

Tuesday, October 19th at 4:00 PM

#FLAYLD #AFFILIATESASSEMBLE #YLDISME

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division will host its next Council of Affiliates meeting on October 19, 2021 where two representatives from each Affiliate will once again be invited to learn about and discuss the YLD's latest initiatives, service projects, the 2022 Affiliate Outreach Conference, and much more!

WITH 80 ATTENDEES REGISTERED FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING IN AUGUST, WE PROMISE TO HAVE EVEN MORE EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION FOR ALL OUR AFFILIATES AT THIS NEXT MEETING!

Learn more at flayldaffiliates.com
ATTENTION ALL AFFILIATES:
October is The Florida Bar YLD's Pro Bono & Community Service Month

The Florida Bar YLD would like to replicate the recent success of the Statewide Back to School Drive and showcase all the pro bono and community service efforts our affiliates are hosting during the month of October! All affiliates are encouraged to plan a community service or pro bono project to take place in October.

Send the details and photos about your event to graham@leesfield.com and The Florida Bar will promote your project!

We were so excited to see everyone at our inaugural Council of Affiliates meeting, and we are looking forward to seeing our Affiliate representatives again on October 19, 2021 for the YLD’s second Council of Affiliates meeting where we will discuss establishing an Executive Council and share exclusive information on the YLD’s third statewide service project to take place later this year.

Brandon Sapp
9th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Morgan & Morgan

Karina Rodrigues
17th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Kelley | Uustal

The statewide pro bono and community service initiative is The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s second statewide service campaign since the launch of the Council of Affiliates. Let us know all the great work your Affiliates are doing in your circuit so we can showcase your efforts!
Lorna Brown-Burton
Candidate for Florida Bar
President-Elect

I am grateful for the warm heartfelt welcome and the overwhelming support I received as I have traveled across the State on my campaign journey. I have had the opportunity to give remarks as well as to give presentations for various Voluntary Bar Associations, Sections, Divisions and Committees that was well represented by many young lawyers while continuing my work on the Florida Bar Board of Governors and my full time practice with the firm Lubell | Rosen. My travel has re-affirmed that the Voluntary Bars, Sections, Divisions, and Committees, which are all also represented by young lawyers, are the heart and soul of the Bar where working together with vision and innovation we can propel the Florida Bar forward.

As an experienced, forward-thinking and solution-driven Florida Bar leader I am more certain than ever that the TIME IS NOW for a leader such as myself who is ready to “ACT”. I am a Florida Bar leader that is “Aware” of the issues facing ALL lawyers and particularly young lawyers; I have the “Boldness” to do something about it; and I will “Take action” that will make a difference. I am a proven leader ready to lead from day one. Here are a few photos that highlight all the wonderful Voluntary Bars, Sections, Divisions, and Committees I have visited along with all the great people that I have met or have had the honor of reconnecting and who have all given generously of their time and thoughts as I work to ensure that ALL members of The Florida Bar have all the necessary tools and resources to be the success they desire no matter their chosen practice area or the vast spectrum of where we chose to practice to include public or private.

As we “Reimagine the Possibilities” of the practice of law and “Focus on ALL Our Promising Future” I am excited for the opportunity to serve and I look forward to hearing more from all of you. Please visit my website at www.electlorna.com to reach out to me and to learn more about my platform as well as to see my upcoming events. Follow me on social media: https://www.instagram.com/lornabrownburton/ https://www.facebook.com/LornaBBurton/ https://twitter.com/LornaBBurton https://www.linkedin.com/company/lorna-brown-burton/ or call me at 954-601-4240 or email me at Lornab@Lebburtonlaw.com.
FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS
DIVISION PRESENTS:

AOC
2022

Affiliate Outreach Conference
SAVE THE DATE!

FRI. FEB. 25 - SAT. FEB. 26
TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER STREET
505 WATER ST, TAMPA, FL

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS &
THE REVEAL OF THIS YEAR'S THEME!
We are so excited with the launch of #YLDisMeAffiliates and Takeover Tuesdays to showcase our Affiliates’ efforts to promote inclusion and equality. On the last Tuesday of each month, our social media pages will be taken over by an Affiliate and we will learn about the Affiliate, their exceptional inclusion and equality initiatives, and practical tips on how other affiliates can implement similar efforts!

The #YLDisMeAffiliates campaign is off to a great start! The Broward County Hispanic Bar Association kicked us off during Hispanic Heritage Month and next we have the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA)!

Each featured affiliate will have an opportunity to introduce themselves, talk about their inclusion and equality initiatives AND take over our social media on the last Tuesday of each month. Be on the lookout for Takeover Tuesdays and #YLDisMeAffiliates to showcase your initiatives.

Ciara Willis
13th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Bush Ross, P.A.

Rebekah Taylor
18th Circuit Governor, DCF Children’s Legal Services
THANK YOU
TO THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND AFFILIATES FOR INVESTING IN FLORIDA’S LAWYERS & COMMUNITIES

During these unprecedented times, synergy between the Young Lawyers Division and its Affiliates has been on full display. This benefits all of our members and truly exemplifies the very best in Florida’s legal profession.

900+ ENDORSEMENTS, INCLUDING:

24 Florida Bar Presidents
23 YLD Presidents
(including the last 16 consecutive past presidents)
132 Past & Current YLD Board of Governors Members

1900 RINGLING BLVD // SARASOTA, FL 34236 // 941-365-7171 // ELECTWESTheimer.COM
Brandon Lee Wolff
Out-of-State Representative, New York, NY, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

I am proud to serve as president-elect of The Florida Bar Out-of-State Division ("OOSD"). I am especially excited to be serving while Larry Kunin leads our division.

I first reached out to Larry during my first year as a Florida Bar and OOSD member. I asked Larry how I could get involved and he advised that the first step is to attend one of the division’s meetings. I made plans to attend The Florida Bar Annual Convention a few months later and was immediately welcomed by the Executive Council members at the OOSD meeting. I then attended other OOSD meetings including meetings by phone (in the days before Zoom) and soon enough I was a member of the Executive Council.

I hope other YLD members who reside outside of Florida take that first step by attending one of our meetings. I have truly enjoyed being a member of the OOSD for many reasons. The division does a great job of representing the interests of out-of-state lawyers.

I have enjoyed meeting members of The Florida Bar who practice in many states. At each of our out-of-state meetings, we plan unique CLEs designed for out-of-state practitioners. Our next meeting will be via Zoom in January. There are always opportunities to get involved with one of our committees.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me at bwolff@kdvlaw.com.

Following the EC meeting, the Division joined the@TheFlaBar Board of Governors for a joint reception. Here is OOSD past president Natasha Dorsey with @FlaBarYLD president-elect @IrisElijah.
FREE WEBINAR
Ten Things I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me 30 Years Ago: A Short Talk for the Long Road

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021
12:15 PM to 1:15 PM

DESCRIPTION
This seminar discusses insights learned in managing the challenges of a life in the law. Litigators and lawyers in other practice areas face hard problems, difficult people, and constantly shifting priorities which continually impact our personal and home life. Litigation and life in the law - in an age of cell phones and tablets - is far too consuming and attention grabbing, and we benefit from slowing down and some perspective gained over time. Mr. Henry will offer his thoughts, from lessons learned along 30+ years of practice, into making hard choices and balancing work, family and personal interests. This presentation will be of interest to young lawyers and those at any stage of their career.

CLE
Approved for 1.0 General CLE Credit

FOLLOW US!
To kick things off in September, YLD Governor Haley Moss hosted an incredibly informative webinar on neurodiversity. September was also the start of #YLDisMeAffiliates where we recognized the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association (“BCHBA”) for their efforts in promoting inclusion and equality. The BCHBA, literally, took over the YLD’s social media in the first of the YLD’s monthly Take Over Tuesday series. Join the cause by posting your affiliate’s efforts and tagging the YLD and using #YLDisMeAffiliates!

Marianne Curtis
11th Circuit Governor, Attorney at Berger Singerman
Who is the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association (BCHBA)?

The BCHBA is a voluntary bar association primarily comprised of Hispanic attorneys and law students. However, membership is open to everyone. The BCHBA proudly conducts educational seminars, provides mentorship and financial assistance to minority law students, participates in community service initiatives, and hosts cultural and social events. Founded in 1989, the BCHBA came about during a time when diversity in the legal field was practically unheard of. Since then, BCHBA leaders have paved the way for a new generation to have opportunities that were never before available. The organization continues to be a prominent voice in the Hispanic population and pushes for progress with a goal of promoting diversity, cross-cultural appreciation and equality in the legal profession.

What do you have planned for your FL Bar YLD social media takeover?

We plan to showcase our accomplishments over the years and events we have coming up this year. Our theme this year is #broadeninghorizons
What are your goals for your organization?
As a minority voluntary bar association (VBA), we take pride in partnering with other VBA’s in our local community. Past partnerships have included the following: Caribbean Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Bar Association, B’nai B’rith Justice Unit, and the T.J. Reddick Bar Association. Part of our responsibility as an organization is to raise awareness about issues affecting minorities and to create opportunities for cross-cultural appreciation to flourish. Many of our events aim to do just that. We also believe that a well-established professional network is crucial for growth. The BCHBA seeks to provide members with ample opportunity to meet leaders in the community and network with other attorneys. Oftentimes, minority professionals face additional obstacles in progressing in their careers. These obstacles can be broken down through mentorship. The BCHBA recognizes the value of mentorship and works to fill the need for mentorship within our membership.

Do you have any new or upcoming events that you would like to spotlight? Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15 and runs through October 15. During this time, the BCHBA traditionally hosts three main events. First, is the Florida Jurist, which will be happening on September 23. At this event, we recognize Hispanic Judges from all over the state that are excelling in their roles on the bench and in their local communities. The second event is Behind the Gavel, which is scheduled for October 7. At this event, we spotlight the 16 Hispanic Judges and General Magistrates serving in our own backyard – Broward County. Through a Q&A session, the Judges and General Magistrates will have the opportunity to speak to the attendees allowing everyone to get to know each other on a deeper level. Finally, we will be hosting Noche Latina on October 22 where we will all gather for an evening of paella, cocktails, cigars, dominos, and dancing to Latin music. Noche Latina is a hit every single year. We encourage you to check our website and follow us on social media for information on these exciting events!

What initiatives have worked on increasing diversity among your membership? We start early by recruiting law students to join our Association and offer free dues while they are in school. We also host programming tailored to law students. For example, this year we are planning a Ladies in the Courtroom event at the local law school where the law students will have the opportunity to hear female attorneys and judges speak about their personal experiences practicing in the legal field. We provide discounted rates for our government employees and hosted a Government Lawyers Appreciation event. We partner with other minority VBAs and support one another in our respective programming.

What advice do you have for other affiliates who want to focus on inclusion and equality initiatives? Partner with VBAs outside of your typical constituents and consider joint programming. For example, BCHBA and the T.J. Reddick Association recently began a series called Unboxed, which is focused on the Afro-Latinx community and the difficulties they face being both of African and Latin decent.
Great Minds Think Differently: A Discussion on Neurodiversity in the Legal Profession

Haley Moss
11th Circuit Governor
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

On September 23, 2021, The Young Lawyers Division and Florida Lawyers Assistance teamed up to host a webinar on neurodiversity in the legal profession. We wanted to go beyond some of what the YLD has done in the past with its #StigmaFreeYLD and reach the point where we are celebrating the differences in how our brains work – and the strengths our different minds bring to the profession.

Florida Lawyers Assistance partnered with us to show what kinds of support are available to lawyers who might be neurodivergent.

Neurodiversity includes lawyers, our colleagues, our clients, and our loved ones who have autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, mental health challenges, and acquired cognitive disabilities. Together, we are able to have a diverse, innovative, and supportive Florida Bar.
Neurodiversity celebrates the strength and diversity among all of us, including those who have cognitive differences such as autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and mental health disabilities. This CLE will dive into the concept of neurodiversity, and how we can accept and support our clients, friends, family members, and colleagues who think differently.

**CLE**
Approved for 1.0 General CLE Credit and 1.0 Diversity Credit

**FOLLOW US!**

**FREE WEBINAR**
Great Minds Think Differently: A Discussion on Neurodiversity in the Legal Profession

**Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021**
12 PM to 1 PM

Haley Moss, Governor
The Florida Bar
Young Lawyers Division

Scott M. Weinstein, Ph. D.
Clinical Director
Florida Lawyers Assistance
On September 15, 2021, the Hillsborough County Bar Association YLD, the Clearwater Bar Association, St. Petersburg Bar Association, and the West Pasco Bar Association co-hosted the first ever Joint Happy Hour Event at Big Storm Brewery. With over 100 attendees at a great local outdoor venue, the event provided an opportunity for Tampa Bay area legal practitioners to network with other legal professionals in hopes of fostering greater relationships between the local bar associations in the Tampa Bay area. Additionally, representatives of Bay Area Legal Services attended to share with the young lawyers present all of the incredible ways BALS serves our community and how the YLD organizations can get involved. They also provided information on the BALS JusticeWorks! Project and gave out some awesome raffle prizes.

The event was a huge success. Not only did it bring together legal professionals from throughout the Tampa Bay area, it helped provide opportunities for those young lawyers to get involved in providing pro bono services to the community. Due to the success of the event, the bar associations plan to host this joint event on an annual basis to continue collaborating and enhancing our relationships as the young lawyers of Tampa Bay.
The YLD’s success is owed to our amazing affiliates. When #AffiliatesAssemble, great things happen! In August, the Inaugural Council of Affiliates meeting had outstanding attendance. Check out the two articles in this August section for more details about what happened when 80 YLD leaders came together and the YLD’s back to school drive. Across the state, our affiliates helped students start the school year off on the right foot.

Mike Levine
11th Circuit Governor, Partner at Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, P.A.
In August 2021, the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division challenged its Affiliates across the state to organize back-to-school supply drives and donate the items to the local schools of their choice. 24 YLD affiliates collaborated to donate 495 backpacks, collect almost 1,800 individual school supply items, and fill an additional 3 carloads worth of supplies. The various drives provided much needed school supplies at a time when students are returning to school amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and when parents and teachers are already stretched thin. The back-to-school drive was the first of several statewide initiatives that Affiliates will continue to collaborate on throughout the year, including a statewide pro bono and community service initiative during the month of October. The YLD is eager to see the results of its Affiliates promoting their already diligent service efforts in their respective communities!
Florida young lawyers—you made this happen for our students!  With only days’ notice, young lawyers created school supply drives across the State of Florida.  The result was impactful and our students and teachers appreciated the YLD’s efforts.  The YLD encourages you to keep that spirit of giving throughout the year.

Valeen Hyde
4th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at The Bedell Firm
What happens when YLD #AffiliatesAssemble?

Innovation. Collaboration. And superpower-like energy. And that’s exactly what was displayed on August 24, 2021, when young lawyers from around the State assembled for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division’s inaugural Council of Affiliates Meeting.

At that meeting, 80 YLD leaders came together with the goal to collectively make a larger impact on our profession and community. The meeting gave all YLD Affiliate participants a chance to brainstorm effective programming in the age-of-COVID; to collaborate on upcoming public service initiatives; to learn ways to get the most out of YLD grant funds and award applications; to get exclusive updates on the next Affiliate Outreach Conference and the Inclusion and Diversity campaign; and to provide feedback to Florida Bar YLD leadership on how it can better support Affiliates in the future.

We can’t wait for our next meeting in October!
Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Awards and Grants

**Fall Due Dates**

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<th>LOCAL BAR AFFILIATE AWARDS AND GRANTS</th>
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**CONTACT**
Grants: please contact Jose Campa at jose.campa@osceolasheriff.org
Awards: please contact Ryan Gilbert at RLGilbert@gmail.com

The newly launched Council of Affiliates has immensely helped our ability to communicate with our young lawyers. We received a record number of grant applications this year! We look forward to the next round of grant applications and record-breaking participation at our Affiliate Outreach Conference in February, 2022.

The YLD Pro Bono Award is the first of our many award applications due this fall, with the remaining fall award applications due in December. Be on the lookout for our next Save the Date, and visit https://flayld.org/awards/ for more information.

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Jose Campa
9th Circuit Governor,
Osceola County Sheriff’s Office

Ryan Gilbert
8th Circuit Governor,
Attorney at Morgan & Morgan
YLD YEARBOOK
THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

President: Todd L. Baker
President-Elect: Iris A. Elijah