



WSBA

WASHINGTON YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

To: WSBA Board of Governors
From: Kari M. Petrusek, WYLD President
Re: WYLD Quarterly Report (Spring)
Date: February 25, 2011

Thank you for this opportunity to report on the current work of the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD).

I am most pleased to share continued work towards integrating the division more fully throughout the WSBA. As an example, WYLD is partnering with the Solo/Small Practice Section and the WSBA Education and Outreach Department on a CLE–explained more fully below – which brings together new/young lawyers to benefit from and to enhance the quality of the WSBA. The Board of Trustees has also been focusing our work on our core values and structure and how we can reach out to more of our members in a meaningful way.

WYLD PROGRAMMING

The WYLD has three focus areas: 1) Member Outreach and Leadership; 2) Public Service and Pro Bono; and 3) Transition into Practice. At the end of the 2009-2010 bar year, the WYLD selected three Directors from among the Board of Trustees, one in each focus area. Directors are responsible for continued evaluation of WYLD programs and events, focusing in particular on continued improvement in line with the WYLD's focus areas, and also on ensuring coordination of WYLD programs and events with other WSBA entities and with WSBA staff.

Programming in these areas has occurred in the second quarter of this bar year as follows:

1) MEMBER OUTREACH AND LEADERSHIP

WYLD Member Outreach Committee: The Member Outreach Committee is responsible for outreach to our members statewide. The committee continues to host monthly social and professional networking events. On January 21, 2011, this committee co-hosted a networking event with the Washington State Psychological Association Early Career Psychologists' local young psychology professionals. The WYLD finds this event to be beneficial to our members as it provides potential referrals from other professionals who may need an attorney, or know someone who needs an attorney; this could become an annual event.

Flowing from the success of the Open Section Night in November, we are working with individual sections to co-sponsor networking/social events with the WYLD around the state. These events will further enhance the relationship between the sections and WYLD, and provide

opportunities for young and new lawyers to meet with more experienced attorneys, and to make connections with people who can help them build skills, answer questions, and possibly create a mentoring relationship.

In December, this committee co-sponsored with the WYLD pro-bono/public service committee an annual holiday party. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet other new and young lawyers and have an opportunity to network. Attendees were encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift or food donation. This is a popular event each year, and had a great attendance.

WYLD Committee for Diversity: The WYLD Committee for Diversity is merging with the WSBA Committee for Diversity (CFD). A proposal to incorporate the WYLD Committee for Diversity into the WSBA Committee for Diversity at the end of this bar year was presented to the Board of Governors and reviewed at the January 27 meeting in Olympia. The WSBA CFD has been very supportive during this transition time, and has incorporated WYLD members into their subcommittees. It is anticipated that the Board of Governors will approve the proposal submitted by the WSBA and WYLD CFD's at the March Board of Governors Meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE (BOT) MEETINGS

December 4 BOT Meeting in Everett

At our second meeting of the year, the WYLD Board of Trustees ("BOT") discussed law school outreach with Dean Niles, from the Seattle University School of Law, taking part in the conversation. Dean Niles spoke to us about how the WYLD can work together with the law school to help law students more easily make the transition from law student to lawyer. We also had our second focus area director conversation around transition to practice, particularly discussing the new WSBA Moderate Means Program. Governor Carla Lee and Executive Director Paula Littlewood also helped lead a conversation with the BOT about ways the WYLD can best partner with the Board of Governors. We explored ideas for better communication to governors about new/young lawyer perspectives, as well as better communication to trustees about the work and vision of the BOG.

February 16 BOT Phone Meeting

At our third meeting of the year, the WYLD BOT had a strategic planning discussion around ways the BOT can reach out to new lawyers across the entire state. We discussed what different counties see as valuable in their respective districts, how the BOT can most effectively bring our colleagues into new resources and opportunities, and different plans and actions we can take to involve more members. This discussion will be continued during part of our March 19 BOT meeting in Spokane.

Next Board meetings: March 19 meeting in Spokane, in conjunction with the Board of Governors; April 30 meeting in Bellevue.

2) WYLD PUBLIC SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROGRAMS:

WYLD Pro Bono/Public Service Committee: This year, the committee's efforts are primarily focused on implementing the "Serving our Seniors" ("SOS") will clinic, which is the ABA YLD

Public Service project for 2010-2011. The clinics will provide free, basic estate planning for low income seniors. We are set to implement “SOS” quickly and efficiently, based on our success with the Washington First Responder Will Clinic, which was based on a previous ABA YLD Public Service project called “Wills For Heroes.” The committee is also looking at ways to work with WSBA in creating a continuous culture of service so that any attorney wanting to take part in a public service project is able to do so. In addition, this committee is helping the WYLD CLE committee promote the next CLE Express in Bellingham, which will take place on March 26. Participants will be encouraged to participate in a LAW Advocates Street Law clinic after this CLE. Participants will assist local Bellingham residents with their debt-related legal issues.

Washington First Responder Will Clinic: The committee held a clinic at the Starbucks headquarters in Seattle on September 11, 2010. It was well attended, and the services provided were greatly appreciated by the clinic’s clients. Upcoming clinics are planned on March 26 in Shoreline, April 16 in Redmond, September 10 in Seattle, and September 17 in Spokane.

Annual Youth & Law Forum: WYLD is an active partner for this event and has had many members in attendance at past years’ programs. The next program will be on April 16 in Seattle. The chair for this program is actively seeking WYLD volunteers to help with this program. The purpose of the Youth & Law Forum is to educate youth and families about their legal rights, protection and responsibilities, law careers, court procedures, and resources.

3) TRANSITION INTO PRACTICE PROGRAMS:

WYLD Trial Advocacy Program: The highly successful WYLD Trial Advocacy Program, held annually, will start preparations for this year’s program in the next few months. The Program is typically held in October and November.

CLE Committee: The WYLD CLE Committee has the next CLE Express planned for March 26 in Bellingham. It is being planned in conjunction with the WYLD Pro Bono/ Public Service Committee. The topic of this CLE will be covering the topic of creditor and debtor rights.

This committee is also planning a full-day CLE on May 6 in collaboration with the WSBA Solo and Small Practice Section. The focus of this CLE will be on solo practitioners starting their own firm. The CLE committee is also partnering with the WSBA Department of Education and Outreach in planning this program. This May 6 program will be a pilot for future New Lawyer Education programming. It represents the kind of skill building education that our members crave after law school, and can hopefully serve as a model for future collaboration.

CONCLUSION

The WYLD appreciates the support of the BOG and is pleased with the progress that the WYLD is making integrating the division more fully throughout the WSBA. We believe that by working together, we can work together to build and enhance our professional community. We look forward to joining you at this meeting and for our annual joint BOT/BOG dinner.



Kari M. Petrusek, WYLD President