

Young Lawyers Theme Introduction

By Shenique A. Moss



The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is eager to present this issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* exploring many of the current concerns among young lawyers. The YLS is a dynamic section of the State Bar, offering its members opportunities to participate in various continuing education and professional development seminars, community service projects, and networking events. These activities help new and young lawyers adapt to the demands of the profession, encourage early involvement in the legal community, and build camaraderie with fellow lawyers. All Michigan lawyers who are under 36 years of age or have been practicing for five years or less are automatically enrolled as YLS members.

On a point of personal privilege, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2016–2017 chair. It was a tremendous honor and a rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. This is an amazing section, and I am proud to be a part of it.

I am also proud of our accomplishments this past bar year as the YLS Executive Council focused on:

- **Educational programming:** We provided quality and relevant educational programming events such as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division fall conference, a “Navigating the District Court, Circuit Court, and Friend of the Court” seminar, the 10th Annual Young Lawyer Summit, and the New Lawyers Seminar, to name a few.
- **YLS membership engagement:** We led a campaign to get our members engaged in the section by inviting them to participate in one or more of our 12 committees.
- **Upper Peninsula young lawyer outreach and engagement:** We established a UP Engagement Committee to improve young lawyer outreach and engagement in the area, and held our first program in recent years in the UP.
- **Law student and law graduate engagement:** We engaged law students and graduates by inviting them to

attend all of our programs and hosting programs like our National Trial Advocacy Competition and “I Am YLS” table outreach during the bar exam.

- **Mental health and wellness:** We hosted mental health seminars and started #WellnessWednesday on our Facebook page to raise awareness of the different mental health and wellness issues young lawyers encounter.
- **Community outreach and pro bono opportunities:** We hosted outreach events around the state, including our Back to School: Know Your Rights event and expungement fairs. We also started #ThankfulThursday on our Facebook page to highlight various pro bono opportunities.

On behalf of the YLS Executive Council, I encourage all members to actively participate in one or more of the section’s 12 committees. Your insights and enthusiasm will make a profound difference in what we can accomplish. Joining a committee can be a great way to get involved with the YLS and engage in specific limited-scope projects or events that you are passionate about. It is also a great way to build your professional network. Additionally, committee participation enables you to contribute to the legal profession as a whole, develop lasting relationships with other young lawyers, gain practice knowledge, and hone your leadership skills. Please contact me (sheniquemoss@gmail.com) or YLS Chair Syeda Davidson (sfhdavidson@gmail.com) with questions. ■



Shenique A. Moss is assistant counsel at the Wayne County Commission in Detroit. In her current position, she primarily focuses on municipal law, contract law, and real estate law. She previously served as an assistant attorney general at the Michigan Department of Attorney General for more than eight years. Shenique is the immediate past chair of the SBM Young Lawyers Section.