

**YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION
2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared and Submitted by
Chairperson John J. Conway, Esq.**

1. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION MEMBERSHIP

As of May 31, 2007 the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section has 6759 active members. It continues to be the largest section of the State Bar of Michigan. There are more than 5,200 YLS member email addresses included in the Section's listserv. The Section has a web site at www.michiganyounglawyers.com, which provides information about the Section and its programs to members.

2. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS

The 2006-2007 State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council Members are:

OFFICERS:

·	CHAIRPERSON:	John J. Conway
·	CHAIRPERSON-ELECT:	Robert K. Fergan
·	VICE CHAIRPERSON:	B. D. ("Chris") Christenson III
·	SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Danielle Mason Anderson
·	EX OFFICIO:	Jeffery E. Kirkey

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

District 1 (Wayne and Macomb)

- Carlos A. Escurel, Jr (Detroit)
- Chiri N. Holt (Detroit)
- Felicia O. Johnson (Detroit)
- Brandy Y. Robinson (Detroit)
- Jennifer M. Harvey (Plymouth)

District 2 (Oakland)

- Ryan J. Deel (Troy)
- Dawn M. King (Southfield)
- Maureen M. McGinnis (Troy)
- Veronica V. McNally (West Bloomfield)
- Solon M. Phillips (Detroit)
- Jessica R. Simmons (Troy)
- James W. Low (Southfield)
- Brent G. Seitz (Troy)

District 3 (all other counties)

- Danielle M. Anderson (Kalamazoo)
- Erika L. Anderson (East Lansing)
- Timothy T. Gardner (Lansing)
- Stephanie Lewin (Zeeland)
- Sean P. McNally (East Lansing)

3. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL MEETINGS

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyer's Section Council has conducted the following meetings:

FUNCTION/EVENT	LOCATION	DATE/TIME
SBM Annual Meeting	Ypsilanti, MI	September 14, 2006
YLS Planning Retreat	Mt. Pleasant, MI	September 30, 2006
YLS Executive Council Meeting	East Lansing, MI	November 15, 2006
YLS Executive Council Meeting	East Lansing, MI	January 24, 2007
YLS Executive Council Meeting	East Lansing, MI	March 21, 2007
YLS Executive Council Meeting	Ann Arbor, MI	May 23, 2007
YLS Conference Call	Teleconference	July 25, 2007
SBM Annual Meeting	Grand Rapids, MI	September 27, 2007

4. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION PROGRAMS:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE BUILD

(Chairperson Bob Fergan)

The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan sponsored on a habitat for humanity renovation project on Saturday, August 26, 2006, in Lansing. Young lawyers worked on the outside of houses, doing painting, fixing up yards, and prep work for construction projects.

YLS ANNUAL MEETING, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

At the Annual Meeting on September 14, 2006, the Section conducted its elections, the results of which were as follows: Chairperson: John J. Conway, Esq.; Chairperson Elect: Robert K. Fergan, Esq.; Vice-Chairperson: B.D. "Chris" Christenson, Esq.; Secretary/Treasurer: Danielle Mason Anderson, Esq. The Section also presented its Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to Marla Linderman, Esq., from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

YLS ANNUAL RETREAT

On September 30, 2006, the Young Lawyers Section brought back its tradition of hosting a programming and planning retreat. The YLS retreat was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. The retreat was conducted to review the goals of the Section for 2006-2007 and the responsibilities of members of the Section. The daylong retreat featured brainstorming and small group sessions followed by the creation of an events calendar for the 2006-2007 bar year.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION FALL CONFERENCE

In October 2006, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division hosted its Fall Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Carlos Escurel, Robert Fergan, and Maureen McGinnis attended the conference on behalf of the SBM Young Lawyers Section.

“NOVEMBERFEST” HAVEN FUNDRAISER

(Chairperson Maureen McGinnis)

In November 2006, The Young Lawyers Section sponsored a social gathering and fund-raiser for the HAVEN center for victims of domestic violence at the Bahama Breeze in Troy, Michigan. The event was co-sponsored with the Oakland Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section.

APPELLATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(Chairperson Timothy Gardner)

On December 4, 2006, the Young Lawyers sponsored an appellate advocacy seminar at the Columbia Center in Troy. The seminar’s special panelist was Hannah Watson, the Fourth District Clerk of the Michigan Court of Appeals. The program was filled to capacity and was well-received by the attendees who learned basic skills, obtained a working knowledge of the Court, and were provided an insider’s guide to the Internal Operating Procedures of the Court. The program was conducted by Tim Gardner who is an appellate attorney with the Attorney General’s Office.

NEW LAWYERS SEMINAR

(Chairperson John J. Conway)

On December 5 and 6, 2006, the Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored the New Lawyers Seminar with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Federal Bar Association. More than 100 new lawyers attended the educational seminar focusing on practice in state and federal court.

HOLIDAY DINNERS FOR THOSE IN NEED ACROSS THE STATE

(Chairpersons Brandy Y. Robinson, Timothy T. Gardner, Chris Christenson and Danielle Anderson)

The Young Lawyers Section sponsored four holiday dinners for those in need and contributed money to pay for the meals. On Saturday, December 9, 2006, the YLS teamed with the Kalamazoo County Young Lawyers Section, to serve needy Kalamazoo residents at Ministry with Community (MWC) in Kalamazoo. The MWC serves meals to 250-300 people every day. On Monday, December 16, 2006, the YLS teamed with the Genesee County Bar Association, to serve needy Flint residents. More than 750 people attended the dinner. On Saturday, December 16, 2006, the YLS teamed with the D. Augustus Straker Bar, the Oakland County affiliate of the National Bar Association, and served residents of the Grace Center of Hope in Pontiac, Michigan.

Held between November and June, the seminars were open free of charge to all members of the Young Lawyers Section. YLS members dialed into the seminar, listened to the presenter, and simultaneously accessed the YLS web site to look at seminar materials and sample documents that were discussed. When the seminar finished, members could download the valuable documents to use in their practices. Individual questions were answered during question and answer periods. For those who couldn't attend the live seminars, the seminars were recorded so that members could listen to them at their convenience at the YLS Web site where the seminars stream via Windows Media Player and are available to download as MP3 files. The telephone seminars included:

Debt Collections in Michigan by Danielle Mason Anderson, Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone PLC, Kalamazoo

21st Century Legal Research by Veronica Valentine McNally, Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing

10 Red IP Flags by Robert Fergan, Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione PC, Ann Arbor

Nuts & Bolts of Appellate Practice by Brandy Y. Robinson, State Appellate Defender Office, Detroit and Timothy Tyrone Gardner, Jr., Michigan Attorney General's Office, Lansing

Hitting You When You Least Expect It: A Basic Guide to ERISA Law for Non-ERISA Lawyers by John J. Conway, Law Offices of John J. Conway, Detroit

An Overview of Personal Protection Orders by B.D. Chris Christenson, III, Christenson & Fiederlein PC, Flint and Maureen M. McGinnis, Donald E. McGinnis Jr. PC, Troy

About 20 YLS members attended each of the telephone seminars live.

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINARS

(Chairpersons Jennifer Harvey and Carlos Escurel)

On April 24, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section hosted another in its financial planning series on the topic of "Buying and Financing Your First Home." The event was held at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. The event included a panel discussion of real estate sales and finance professionals.

50 YEAR HONOREE PROGRAM

(Chairperson Jeff Kirkey)

On May 15, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section again co-sponsored the State Bar of Michigan 50 Year Honoree Golden Celebration. This event was designed to honor attorneys in Michigan who have been practicing law for 50 years. In 2007 there were more than 100 honored guests in attendance all of whom obtained their law licenses in 1957. The event was held at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. Beginning with a "class photo," the honorees were next escorted into the dining room where they enjoyed music with a repertoire ranging from contemporary top 40 to big band. Lunch followed with opening remarks by the current State Bar President, Kimberly Cahill, and the State Bar Executive Director, Janet Welch. The Young Lawyers Section presented "A Golden

On Saturday, December 23, 2006, the YLS served women and children at the Highland Park Rescue Mission, which is one of the state's highest crisis cities.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION MID-YEAR MEETING

From February 9-11, 2007, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division hosted its Mid-Year Meeting in Miami, FL. The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Division sent 6 delegates plus our District Representative and ABA House of Delegates representative to the meeting. YLS attendees included John J. Conway, Carlos Escurel, Danielle Anderson, Jessica Simmons, Solon Philips, Timothy Gardner, and Brandy Robinson. Brent Seitz and James Low also attended.

LAW SCHOOL PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CHARACTER AND FITNESS PROCESS

(Chairperson Tim Gardner)

On January 31, 2007, Young Lawyers Section Council Member Timothy Gardner hosted a panel discussion on the State Bar's Character and Fitness process at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Over the past year, the YLS has hosted similar seminars at Wayne State University, Cooley, and Michigan State University Law School. The discussion provides third year students an overview of the process for completing the Character and Fitness Application for admission to the State Bar. The panelists included Attorney Thomas M.J. Hathaway, Clark Hill and Francis Ortiz, Dickinson Wright, Jeanine Jones of the U.S. Attorneys Office, all of who are members of the Character and Fitness Committee in Detroit. Other panelists included Wendy Neely, of the Attorney Grievance Office and Diane Van Akin of the State Bar of Michigan.

AUGUSTUS STRAKER MLK ORAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

(Chairperson Solon Philips)

In February 2007, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association hosted the Dr. Martin Luther King Oral Advocacy Competition. The Young Lawyer Section co-sponsored the event by providing funds and volunteers. Students of the Detroit and Oakland County school systems wrote essays regarding how they believe Dr. Martin Luther King would address a current event in society. The students competed for savings bonds to be used towards their college education.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM

(Chairperson Maureen McGinnis)

On March 30, 2007, volunteers from the Young Lawyers Section conducted a dress for success program at a clothing boutique for women, many of who are single mothers, and newly entering the job market. Lawyers donated business suits and other clothing with suggestions on how to make a professional appearance in job interviews and at work.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT TELEPHONE SEMINAR SERIES

(Chairperson Jeff Kirkey)

The Young Lawyers Section and the Practice Management Resource Center of the State Bar continued this program by conducting telephone seminars designed to assist young lawyers with various substantive legal topics. The series consisted of six telephone seminars that lasted one hour each and were taught by an Executive Council member on a variety of subjects.

Celebration Quiz Show" hosted by the Section's Ex-Officio Chairperson, Jeff Kirkey. The quiz show kept things lively with trivia questions about the year 1957. Each of the honorees who attended was then recognized by the Chair of the Senior Lawyers Section, Asher Tichlin. Before leaving the luncheon, each honoree received a copy of the group photo and facts about 1957 in a folio.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION SPRING CONFERENCE

The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division hosted its Spring Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from May 3-5, 2007. The Young Lawyers Section sent 2 representatives to the conference, Carlos Escurel and Stephanie Lewin.

"CHOOSE LAW"

(Chairpersons Felicia Johnson and Solon Philips)

On May 2, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section hosted the "Choose Law" program at Renaissance High School in Detroit, Michigan. "Choose Law" is an informative and interactive program developed by the American Bar Association, which is designed to encourage greater participation of minorities in the legal profession. The program discusses pre-law and law school studies, career choices in law, and how to find a mentor.

EFFECTIVE CAREER STRATEGIES FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

(Chairperson Solon Philips)

On May 9, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored a panel discussion with the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association about choosing the right career path after law school and in the early years of practice. The panel included lawyers from distinct practice areas. The panel was moderated by Solon Philips of the Wayne County Corporate Counsel Office and included Angelique Strong-Marks, General Counsel, Handleman Company, and Wendolyn Richards, Miller Canfield, discussing their experiences in the public and private practice of law.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS

(Chairperson Felicia Johnson)

On May 12, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section assembled and distributed approximately 300 food packages and packages of personal care products at a homeless shelter located in the Cass Corridor in Detroit. The event was organized by Felicia Johnson of the Wayne County Corporate Counsel Office. The day began by preparing the lunches and care kits. The day concluded with the distribution of these packages throughout the afternoon.

"IMPROV" FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

(Chairperson Stephanie Lewin)

On May 18, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section sponsored "Improv for Young Lawyers" in downtown Grand Rapids. The program was created by **Stephanie Lewin** of the Herman Miller Corporation. The event was designed to be an evening of improvisational training for young attorneys, helping them to think on their feet and become more lighthearted. Plans are in the works for a condensed version of the improv training to be presented to the YLS Council during the SBM Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids.

INTRODUCTION TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SEMINAR

(Chairpersons Chiri Holt and Sean McNally)

On May 22, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section sponsored a seminar on the basics of Alternative Dispute Resolution at the American Arbitration Association in Southfield, Michigan. The seminar included a panel discussion on the proper method for initiating and resolving claims through arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution such as mediation and facilitation.

WE THE JURY

(Chairperson Chris Christenson)

The Young Lawyers Section won a first place ABA Award of Achievement in the Service to the Public category for our We the Jury program in 2005. Based on its success, the program has been continued every year since. The program is designed to introduce the legal system to children and give them an opportunity to participate in a jury selection and trial process. In May 2007, approximately 65 students from Flint Southwestern Academy participated in the "We the Jury" program. The students were brought to the courts and provided educational tours. The students were instructed to pay attention to all of the various careers that they observed while on their tours, such as clerks, deputies, secretaries, attorneys, and judges. Arrangements were made to have the students tour the 67th District Court and holding cell area, as well as the 7th Circuit Court historic courtroom and the modern courtroom. While at the Circuit Court, the students reported to the jury board for the actual jury orientation. Attorneys from the Genesee County Prosecutor's office and defense attorneys participated and tried a fictitious criminal case.

MANAGING LAW SCHOOL DEBT

(Chairperson Brandy Robinson)

On Thursday, June 27, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section hosted a program about managing law school debt. The panel included Gail Perry-Mason, an award winning financial planner and author, State Representative Bert Johnson, and representatives from the University of Michigan Law School Office of Financial Aid. The discussion centered on how to manage law school debt while also choosing careers in public law and public service.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION – TOUR OF MICHIGAN AND THE BAR LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

(Chairpersons John J. Conway, Carlos Escurel, and Robert K. Fergan)

During the planning retreat in September, one of our goals was to attempt a greater outreach effort with the local bar affiliates. Carlos Escurel, a Council Member and ABA-YLD District Representative, and I have visited nearly every active new lawyer affiliate in the State of Michigan. On March 21, 2007, the YLS Council invited leaders of all of the new lawyer bar associations to a Bar Leadership Workshop hosted by Robert K. Fergan, YLS Chair-Elect. Bob Fergan prepared written materials outlining programs at the State Bar and the American Bar Association along with tools for successful programming; applying for ABA funding for travel; and winning ABA sub-grants for local bar association programming. Representatives from the Council visited nearly every active bar affiliate throughout Michigan where a number of common areas of interest were explored and opportunities to work together were discussed.

MOTOR CITY BLIGHT BUSTERS

(Chairperson Jessica Simmons)

On June 9, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section sponsored a team of young lawyers to work on a neighborhood improvement project located in the City of Detroit with the Motor City Blight Busters. The program was organized by Jessica Simmons who also serves as our representative to the ABA House of Delegates. The YLS provided gloves, protective gear, and lunches for the volunteers.

THE YLS COMMISSIONER BOWLING CHALLENGE TO BENEFIT ACCESS TO JUSTICE

(Chairperson James Low)

On June 15, 2007, the Young Lawyers Section sponsored the first the "Commissioners Bowling Challenge," Teams of Board Commissioner Members and SBM Staff competed against the YLS Executive Council. The losing team made a donation to the Access to Justice fund.

INTER ALIA (Editor Chris Christenson)

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section has published three of its scheduled Inter Alia Newsletters. The newsletters are distributed to more than 6,000 YLS members and posted on the Section's website. Beginning with the winter issue, the newsletter converted to electronic-only publication. Note: the Young Lawyers Section's Bar Year does not conclude until September 2007. More programs are planned for summer and early fall in 2007.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION 2007-2009 APPOINTMENTS

Robert Fergan, incoming chair in 2007-2008, and Chris Christenson, chair-elect, headed a selection committee for ABA appointments. On their recommendations, the following persons were appointed to leadership roles within the ABA: American Bar Association House of Delegates: Jessica Simmons American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division District Representative: Danielle Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,
John J. Conway, Chair
Young Lawyers Section of the
State Bar of Michigan