

## MEMORANDUM

MILLER, JOHNSON, SNELL & CUMMISKEY, P.L.C.

**TO** State Bar Board of Commissioners  
**CLIENT**

**FROM** D. Andrew Portinga  
**SUBJECT** Young Lawyers Section

**DATE** May 24, 2004

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This report is being submitted on behalf of the Young Lawyers Section, as required by State Bar of Michigan Bylaw Article VIII, Section 1.

Young Lawyers Section had a very active and successful year. The YLS sponsored the following programs:

1. Holiday Dinner for the Homeless. On December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>, the YLS sponsored holiday dinners for the homeless at the Grace Center in Pontiac and the Door Steps Center in Highland Park. Angelique Strong Marks was the chair of this program.

2. Race for Justice. On September 12<sup>th</sup>, the YLS sponsored its annual Race for Justice. Over \$5,000 was raised for the Access to Justice Foundation. J.J. Conway and Andy Portinga were the chairs of this program.

3. Supreme Court Swearing-In Trip. On January 20, 2004, nine people traveled to Washington, D.C. to be sworn in at the United States Supreme Court. Wil Steiner was the chair of this program.

4. Pro Bono Day. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the YLS sponsored Pro Bono Day at the Detroit Legal Assistance Center. Faizah Shabazz was the chair of this program.

5. Imprint. The YLS sponsored its annual Imprint Program at Southfield High School. In this program, attorneys corresponded with students regarding a book. This year's book was The Bluest Eye, by Tony Morrison. Jenice Mitchell, Kathy Day, and Michelle Johnson-Tidjani were the chairs of this program.

6. Environmental Issues in Business Transactions. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the YLS sponsored a round-table discussion on Environmental Issues in Business Transactions. Lavonda Jackson was the chair of this program.

7. Senior Lawyers/Young Lawyer Mentoring Program. On February 25, 2004, the YLS hosted a reception to commence the beginning of a Senior Lawyer/Young Lawyer Mentoring Program. This program pairs older lawyers with younger lawyers to encourage

mentoring relationships. Jenice Mitchell was the YLS chair for this program, and Dawn King will be the new chair. John Kigsepp is the chair of this program for the Senior Lawyers Section.

8. Lawyers in Transition. On June 12, 2004, the YLS will sponsor a Lawyers in Transition Program. Noted speaker Hidi Greenberg will assist lawyers who are looking at possibly making career changes. Roxanne Medina-Solomon is the YLS chair for this program.

9. Can Women Have it All? In August, the YLS will be sponsoring a round-table discussion on the challenges that working women face. Angelique Strong Marks is the YLS chair for this program.

Additionally, the YLS has co-sponsored the following programs.

1. The MLK Drum Major for Justice Program (co-sponsored with the Straker Bar Association).

2. The New Lawyers Seminar (co-sponsored with the Labor and Employment Section). This was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Ypsilanti.

3. Moot Court Competition at the University of Detroit. This was held in January of 2004.

4. Golden Celebration. Along with the Senior Lawyers Section, the YLS sponsored a luncheon honoring those who have practiced for 50 years.