

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION
2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared and Submitted by
Chairperson Jeff Kirkey**

I. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION MEMBERSHIP

As of May 31, 2006 the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section has 6,310 active members. It continues to be the largest section of the State Bar of Michigan. There are over 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.

II. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS

The 2005-2006 State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council Members are:

OFFICERS:

- *CHAIRPERSON:* Jeff Kirkey
- *CHAIRPERSON-ELECT:* J.J. Conway
- *VICE CHAIRPERSON:* Bob Fergan
- *SECRETARY/TREASURER:* Chris Christenson
- *EX OFFICIO:* Angelique Strong Marks

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

District 1 (Wayne and Macomb)

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

District 2 (Oakland)

- Ryan J. Deel (Troy)
- Dawn King (Southfield)
- Maureen M. McGinnis (Troy)
- Veronica McNally (West Bloomfield)
- Solon M. Phillips (Southfield)
- Jessica Simmons (Ferndale)
- Elias Xenos (Farmington Hills)

District 3 (all other counties)

- Danielle Anderson (Kalamazoo)
- Thomas Evans (Hastings)
- Timothy Gardner (Lansing)
- Stephanie Lewin (Zeeland)
- Sean P. McNally (East Lansing)

III. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL MEETINGS

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyer’s Section Council has conducted or will conduct the following meetings:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Thursday, September 22, 2005	Kellogg Center East Lansing	9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
Wednesday, November 16, 2005	University Club Lansing	6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, January 25, 2006	University Club Lansing	6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, March 29, 2006	University Club Lansing	6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, May 31, 2006	ICLE Ann Arbor	6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, July 26, 2006	University Club Lansing	6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
September 14 & 15, 2006 Annual Meeting	Eagle’s Crest Ypsilanti	To be determined

IV. YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION PROGRAMS

STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL (Chairperson Dawn King)

Held on Thursday, August 18 at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi, this interactive program addressed the professional and personal demands that young lawyers face, and emphasized the importance of personal balance as the best strategy for avoiding the physical and psychological damage that can be caused by chronic stress.

Martha Burkett, assistant program administrator at the State Bar's Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program and WDIV TV's "Fitness Guru" Peter Nielsen were the featured

speakers. In addition, students from the National Institute of Technology's Massage Therapy Clinic provided free massages.

**S.K.I.P. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
(Chairperson Angelique Strong Marks)**

On Saturday, August 27, 2005 the Young Lawyers Section and D. Augustus Straker Bar Association working with S.K.I.P.-MI, Inc. (Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents), a non-profit organization, hosted a community outreach program called "S.K.I.P. to Make a Difference." The mission of this program was to provide an opportunity for young children who may have had a negative experience with the court system to gain a different perspective about attorneys and the law.

The event was held at the Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield. More than 30 attorneys served as Buddies for the program participants. Presentations from attorneys were made on how they became attorneys that make a positive difference in the legal system and the world. Following the presentations, the S.K.I.P. participants paired up with an attorney "Buddy" to participate in a social activity and to discuss any questions the participants may have about the law.

**VISION 2020 HOME RENOVATION
(Chairperson Bob Fergan)**

The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan worked on a Vision 2020 renovation project on Saturday, September 17, 2005 in Lansing. Vision 2020 is a partner organization of Habitat for Humanity. The goal of Vision 2020 is to develop local, comprehensive revitalization plans that focus resources within a geographically targeted area to eliminate substandard housing and the conditions that cause it by 2020.

Young lawyers worked on the outside of houses, doing painting, fixing up yards, and prep work for construction projects that are part of the Day of Caring initiative.

YLS ANNUAL MEETING AND RETREAT

On September 22, 2005, the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section held its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the State Bar of Michigan's Annual Meeting. The Meeting was held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The Section conducted its elections, the results of which are as follows: Chairperson: Jeff Kirkey; Chairperson Elect: J.J. Conway; Vice-Chairperson: Bob Fergan; Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Christenson. The Section also presented its Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to Erika Julien from Ann Arbor.

After the election, a retreat was conducted to review the purpose of the Section, the goals of the Section for 2005-2006 and the responsibilities of members of the Section.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION FALL CONFERENCE

From October 6-8, 2005, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division hosted its Fall Conference in Louisville, KY. J.J. Conway, Carlos Escurel, Bob Fergan, and Maureen McGinnis attended the conference on behalf of the SBM YLS.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF FUNDRAISERS (Chairpersons Carlos Escurel, Maureen McGinnis, Danielle Anderson, Sean McNally, Veronica McNally)

The Young Lawyers Section sponsored three events to benefit the victims and survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

On Thursday, September 29, 2005, approximately seventy people attended the event held at Big Rock Brewery in Birmingham. Attendees also donated personal items, food, and clothing to the Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan, which were distributed to survivors who have relocated to the Metro Detroit area. The \$1663 in cash donations collected at this event was forwarded to the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. Co-sponsors of this event included the Barristers of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan, and the Young Lawyers of the Oakland County Bar Association.

Also on Thursday, September 29, 2005, over fifty people attended the event held at The B.O.B. in Grand Rapids. The \$840 in donations collected at this event was forwarded to the local Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Red Cross. Co-sponsors of this event included the Grand Rapids Young Lawyers and the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

On Thursday, October 6, 2005, approximately twenty-five lawyers in the Lansing area attended the third fund-raiser. This event was held at 621 in Lansing. \$750 was raised in donations. These donations were forwarded to the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Ingham County Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored this event.

Between the three events, over \$3200 was raised in donations.

WOMEN IN PRACTICE - PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS (Chairperson Veronica McNally)

"Women in Practice - Problems and Solutions" focused on the issues associated with being a woman in practice, such as balancing careers, marriage, and family. The program was held at the Fox and Hounds restaurant in Bloomfield Hills on Thursday, November 17, 2005.

The distinguished panel of women presenters included:
Jill Wheaton, Dykema Gossett
Cheryl Bush, Bush Seyferth Kethledge & Paige PLLC
Victoria A. Valentine, Valentine & Associates, P.C.

More than 60 young lawyers attended this free program.

MONDAYS WITH THE SUITS

(Chairperson Tom Evans)

Throughout the 2005-2006 school year, the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section hosted “Mondays with the Suits”, which presents students in Kindergarten through the 4th grade an opportunity to meet with and be read to by attorneys. Each Monday one attorney visits Delton Elementary School to read to a classroom of children. Additional dialogue on the legal profession and the lawyer’s field of specialization develops between the children and attorney, depending on the kids’ grade level and abilities.

NEW LAWYERS’ SEMINAR

On December 6 and 7, 2005, the YLS co-sponsored the New Lawyers Seminar with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Federal Bar Association. There were over 100 young lawyers that attended the educational seminar focusing on practice in state and federal court. The YLS contributed \$500 and publicity as a co-sponsor of the program.

HOLIDAY DINNERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

(Chairpersons Angelique Strong Marks, 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 10, 2005, 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.

On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the YLS served women and children at the Highland Park Rescue Mission, which is one of the state’s most high crisis cities.

On Sunday, December 18, 2005, 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 19, 2005, the YLS teamed with the Genesee County Bar Association, to serve needy Flint residents. Over 1,000 people attended the dinner.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT SWEARING-IN TRIP

(Chairperson Andy Portinga)

On December 5, 2005, the YLS once again sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C. in order to enable a small group of young lawyers (15) to be admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court.

Participants were able to attend oral argument after the induction ceremony. There was also be a breakfast at the Court and a lecture from the curator.

THE BUSINESS OF BEING A BUSINESS LAWYER

(Chairperson Ryan Deel)

On January 26, 2006, the YLS offered a free lunch program in Southfield that included a panel discussion of well-established, practicing business lawyers. Co-sponsored with the Business Law Section, topics included establishing and maintaining client relationships, managing a large corporate practice, developing skills as a business lawyers, and maintaining ethical standards.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION MID-YEAR MEETING

From February 9-11, 2006, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division hosted its Mid-Year Meeting in Chicago. 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 J.J. Conway, Carlos Escurel, Danielle Anderson, Jessica Simmons, Sean McNally, Veronica McNally, and Jeff Kirkey.

D. AUGUSTUS STRAKER MLK ORAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

On February 19, 2006, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association hosted the Dr. Martin Luther King Oral Advocacy Competition. The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored the event by providing \$1,000.00 in funds. 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.

LAW SCHOOL PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CHARACTER AND FITNESS PROCESS

(Chairperson Tim Gardner)

On February 20, 2006, the Young Lawyers Section and the Michigan State University Law School hosted a panel discussion on the State Bar's character and fitness process. The discussion gave the law students a realistic view of scrutiny that they will face when they apply for admission to the Bar. The panelists included Attorney Brian Morley, District E Chairman of the Character and Fitness Committee in Lansing; attorney Lori Buiteweg, former member of the Character and Fitness Committee; and attorney Brian Laxton, Reynolds Law firm. YLS Council member Tim Gardner moderated the panel.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT TELEPHONE SEMINAR SERIES

(Chairperson Jeff Kirkey)

Co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section and the Practice Management Resource Center of the State Bar, this new series of telephone seminars was designed to assist young lawyers to handle practice management issues that are often difficult or unfamiliar. The series consisted of three telephone seminars that lasted one hour each and were taught by an expert on each subject.

Held between March and May, the seminars were open to all members of the Young Lawyers Section for free. 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 three telephone seminars included:

Marketing Your Law Practice in the 21st Century - Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Speaker: Julie I. Fershtman

Anatomy of Attorney Fee Agreements in Michigan - Thursday, April 13, 2006

Speaker: Marcia L. Proctor

Your Law Practice 2006: Maximizing Performance & Minimizing Risk - Thursday, May 25, 2006

Speaker: JoAnn L. Hathaway

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

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINARS

(Chairpersons Stephanie Lewin, Jennifer Harvey and Carlos Escurel)

On March 30, 2006, the YLS hosted a financial planning seminar for young lawyers. The event was held in Grand Rapids. Margret DeBruyn, a private wealth advisor with Macatawa Bank, presented valuable information on financial planning. About 15 young lawyers attended.

On May 16, 2006, a second financial planning seminar was held at Wayne State University Law School. Asset allocation, sound investment strategy, planning for retirement and reducing personal debt were the focus of the seminar. Financial planning experts Richard Bloom and John Bush were the featured speakers. About 25 young lawyers attended.

S.K.I.P. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE II

(Chairpersons Brandy Robinson and Solon Phillips)

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Young Lawyers Section with co-sponsors the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association and the Black Judges Association of Michigan working with S.K.I.P.-MI, Inc. (Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents), a non-profit organization, hosted a community outreach program called S.K.I.P. II: A Second Chance to Make a Difference. The mission of this program was to provide an opportunity for young children who may have had a negative experience with the court system to gain a different perspective about attorneys and the law. The first outreach program, held in August 2005, focused on helping the S.K.I.P. participants gain

trust in attorneys. Phase II of the program focused on helping the S.K.I.P. participants understand and appreciate the judicial system.

LAW DAY LEGAL ADVICE HOTLINE

Co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section, the State Bar of Michigan hosted its Law Day Hotline on Monday, May 1, 2006. Young lawyers who volunteered answered calls and gave free legal advice as a public service to the people of Michigan.

WE THE JURY

(Chairperson Chris Christenson)

The YLS 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, we offered it again on May 8, 2006. 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.

Approximately 100 students from Mr. Molina's classes at Flint Southwestern Academy participated in the "We the Jury" program. The original "We the Jury" Program called for time in the classroom; however, we thought that if the students could tour the courts, it would have a greater impact. 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.

Real lawyers from the Genesee County Prosecutor's office and real defense attorneys participated and tried a fictitious criminal case. This made the voir dire process very authentic as the students were split into three jury pools from which a jury was ultimately selected. The students were sequestered during their lunch and were asked to come up with a verdict. All three jury groups returned verdicts of not guilty.

50 YEAR HONOREE PROGRAM

(Chairperson Jeff Kirkey)

On May 16, 2006, the Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored the State Bar of Michigan 50 Year Honorees Golden Celebration. This event was designed to honor attorneys in Michigan who have been practicing law for 50 years. In 2006 there were 156 honorees all of whom obtained their law licenses in 1956. The event was held at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, Michigan.

Beginning with a "class photo," the honorees were next escorted into the dining room where they enjoyed music performed by "Intrigue", a versatile band with a repertoire ranging from contemporary top 40 to big band. Lunch followed with opening remarks by the current State Bar President, Tom Cranmer, and the current State Bar Executive Director, John Berry. The Young Lawyers Section presented "A Golden Celebration Quiz Show" hosted by the Section's Chairperson, Jeff Kirkey. The quiz show kept things lively with trivia questions about the year 1956. Each of the 60 honorees who attended was then

recognized by the Chair of the Senior Lawyers Section, H. Rollin Allen. Before leaving the luncheon, each honoree received a copy of the group photo and facts about 1956 in a folio.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION SPRING CONFERENCE

The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division hosted its Spring Conference in Portland, OR from May 18-20, 2006. The Young Lawyers Section sent 6 representatives to the conference including J.J. Conway, Chris Christenson, Carlos Escurel, Stephanie Lewin, Veronica McNally, and Sean McNally.

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR (Chairperson Sean McNally)

The Young Lawyers Section will offer a free "Technology Enhanced Trial Advocacy Seminar" on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at Michigan State University College of Law. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable David W. McKeague from the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge McKeague is a noted expert on electronic evidence issues and the utilization of courtroom technology in the trial process.

INTER ALIA

(Editor Bob Fergan)

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section has published three of its scheduled Inter Alia Newsletters. The newsletters are distributed to over 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 2006. More programs are planned for summer 2006.

V. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION 2005-2007 APPOINTMENTS

- American Bar Association House Of Delegates:
Jessica Simmons

- American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division District Representative:
Carlos Escurel and alternate Sean McNally