

YLD Perspective

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What is the YLD?

A number of years ago the Younger Lawyers Division (YLD) contributed a column to *The Federal Lawyer* as a way to update association members on various activities the YLD sponsored throughout the year. Recently, FBA members have commented that they miss the regular updates and asked the YLD to consider once again contributing a quarterly update to be published in the *The Federal Lawyer*. As the current chair of the YLD, I have the honor of announcing that the quarterly “YLD Perspective” column is back by popular demand!



For members who may be unfamiliar with the YLD, the division is the association's largest division, and its 3,416 members represent almost one-fourth of the FBA's total membership. The YLD's members are individuals who are 36 years of age and younger or who have been admitted to practice for three years or less. The YLD is governed by a board of directors that includes five officers and has strong representation throughout the chapters. In fact, every FBA chapter is encouraged to form a Younger Lawyers Division Committee.

The YLD sponsors a number of programs throughout the year and also runs programs in conjunction with the annual meeting of the association. One of the most successful programs, the Thurgood A. Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition, is held annually in Washington, D.C., during the Midyear Meeting. This year, 30 teams of law students from across the country participated in the Moot Court Competition, which is highlighted in this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. As in years past, the success of the competition could not have been possible without the outstanding leadership of the YLD Moot Court Committee's competition director, Dan Strunk, as well as the many FBA members who volunteered their time to grade briefs, judge moot court rounds, and cheer on the students in the final round held at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. We express our gratitude to all who supported the competition this year, especially Chief Judge Andrew Efron for hosting our final round of competition and serving as our chief justice for the program.

The Moot Court Competition was the first event in the YLD's busy spring and summer schedule, which is packed with activities lasting through the FBA Annual Meeting and Convention. On June 1, the YLD will sponsor its annual U.S. Supreme Court Admission Ceremony for all FBA members who are interested in being admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States and are eligible for admittance.

After the swearing-in, new admittees will be treated to a reception at the Supreme Court, where they have traditionally been greeted by Supreme Court justices. The YLD will also be welcoming summer law clerks to the Washington, D.C., area through the Summer Law Clerk Program. The annual program, which runs from June through August, begins with a kickoff event and generally includes roundtables and question-and-answer sessions at the Department of Justice, at the Department of Defense, and on Capitol Hill, during which law clerks can visit with federal lawyers serving in various federal agencies and departments.

Concluding the YLD calendar are two award programs held in conjunction with the FBA Annual Meeting that seek to recognize outstanding accomplishments and achievements of younger federal lawyers and FBA chapters. The Younger Federal Lawyer Awards are presented annually to outstanding young federal lawyers who have been nominated by their peers and selected by a panel of federal judges and magistrates for the lawyers' accomplishments and commitment to excellence in public service. Award recipients are honored at a luncheon sponsored by the division on the Friday of the FBA Annual Meeting. Meanwhile, during the Annual Meeting's Presidential Installation Banquet held on Saturday evening, the YLD presents the Ilene and Michael Shaw Younger Lawyer Public Service grants to FBA chapters that provide service to the public through the development and implementation of public service projects and pro bono law-related services. To encourage an increased and continued commitment to public service on the part of young lawyers, these \$2,500 grants are administered under the guidance of a Younger Lawyers Committee.

The Younger Lawyers Division is always grateful for the many contributions of its members in carrying out these programs and ensuring their success. The YLD is also always on the lookout for young lawyers who are eager to participate in and lead these initiatives—both nationally and locally. Should you or anyone in your chapter seek to become more involved in YLD activities, please do not hesitate to contact me or Adrienne Woolley at the FBA National Headquarters for assistance. On behalf of the YLD and its national board, thank you for your continued support and the opportunity to provide you with the YLD's perspective. **TFL**

Matthew T. Acock is the chair of the Younger Lawyers Division and has been a member of the FBA since 2004. He is the former legislative director for U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and is currently vice president of Acock Engineering and Associates LP.