

SOUTH CAROLINA younglawyer

MARCH 2018

VOL. 9, ISSUE 7



A REPORT TO MEMBERS OF
THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Member Spotlight: M. Stephen Blevins Jr.

Stephen graduated with honors from Charleston School of Law in 2015. Thereafter, he joined The Rankin Law Firm in Charleston, where he focuses his practice on personal injury, criminal defense and probate litigation. Stephen is a wearer of many hats—he is a devoted husband and father, attorney, small business owner and active leader in the SC YLD, ABA YLD and SC State Guard.

Through his service in the SC State Guard as a JAG Corps, 1st Lieutenant, Stephen, along with other JAG officers, played an integral role in the formation and implementation of the new VALOR program,¹ which stands for Veterans Active/Reserve Legal OutReach. VALOR aims to provide free legal assistance to military members—veterans, active duty military and members of the Reserves. In January, Stephen participated in the program's inaugural free clinic in Rock Hill, which assisted nearly 60 military members and their spouses with wills preparation and power of attorney documents. The clinic also handled various Service Member Relief Act issues. VALOR's second free clinic is set to take place in February in Florence.

Stephen is undeniably a standout member of the SC YLD. He co-chairs the Special Olympics Committee, the Backpack Drive Committee, and is the immediate past chair of the ABA/YLD Service Project Committee. This year, in his capacity as Backpack Drive co-chair, he coordinated the collection of more than 100 backpacks and over 20 large boxes of school supplies from various firms and contributors throughout Charleston. The supplies were distributed during the annual First Day Festival, a celebration of education hosted by the City of



Charleston. More than 8,000 children and families attended this year's festival, where they received free school supplies, information on educational and wellness programs, and healthy snacks, all while enjoying free entertainment, boat rides and tours of the SC Aquarium. Not only did Stephen handle the collection and organization of the items donated, he also purchased additional backpacks and supplies and volunteered to distribute the supplies to children attending the First Day Festival.

Most recently, Stephen attended the ABA's 2018 Mid-Year Meeting in Vancouver, BC, with several other YLD Leaders. While at the meeting, and in his capacity as an ABA YLD Scholar and ABA Public Service Project Team Member, Stephen assisted with a public awareness and service project dedicated to the ABA YLD's national Home Safe Home initiative.² The first portion of the event featured speakers who addressed the link between domestic violence and

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Member Spotlight: Jill Dawson.....2
What's Been Happening3

Letter From the President.....4
Judicial Spotlight: Hon. Martin R. Banks,
Master-in-Equity BC

South Carolina Young Lawyer is published quarterly by the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar, 950 Taylor St., P.O. Box 608, Columbia, SC 29202-0608. www.sctbar.org. Copyright © 2017 South Carolina Bar. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the opinions or policies of the Young Lawyers Division or the South Carolina Bar. Unauthorized reproduction or use of the materials contained herein is prohibited.

Young lawyers attend ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Vancouver



By Sheila Willis and M. Stephen Blevins Jr.

The American Bar Association held its 2018 Mid-Year Meeting in Vancouver, BC, in early February 2018. The ABA's various sections, divisions and forums held dynamic programming and business meetings during the conference. As an affiliate of the ABA Young Lawyers' Division, the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers' Division sent a delegation of young lawyers to attend the meeting.

The official SC YLD delegation consisted of President Lindsay Joyner, President-Elect Ashleigh Wilson and YLD Leader Jeanmarie Tankersley. Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Willis and YLD Leader M. Stephen Blevins attended the meeting as delegates representing the ABA YLD Scholars Program. Other SC YLD Leaders in attendance were Adam Landy, ABA YLD Public Service

Director; Perry MacLennan, ABA YLD Committees Director; C. Edward Rawl, ABA YLD Representative to the ABA Board of Governors; and Tommy Preston, Chair-Elect of the ABA YLD.

During the meeting, the delegates participated in a variety of events including the Home Safe Home Service Project and the ABA YLD Assembly. The Mid-Year Meeting also included timely and topical CLE for the attendees. Several South Carolina attendees participated in a CLE on Title IX updates.

Home Safe Home

The 2017-19 ABA YLD National Public Service Project is Home Safe Home. The ABA YLD, through this initiative, endeavors to make sure everyone has a home where they feel secure or benefit from nurturing relationships by addressing four different types of home violence—intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and animal abuse—in three different ways: through education, outreach and advocacy. In advancing that goal, the ABA YLD partnered with the ABA's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, Animal Law Committee and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to host a public awareness and service project. The event featured four different speakers that highlighted the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Specifically, speakers focused on research showing that many women in dangerous situations delay leaving

with Stephen will tell you they are a better person for it.

Endnotes

¹ The VALOR program is a collaboration between the Attorney General's Office, SC Bar, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Nelson Mullins, U.S. Attorney's Office, SC National & State Guard, VFW, American Legion, DAV and Marine Corps League.

² Home Safe Home is the 2017-19 ABA YLD national Public Service Project. The initiative seeks to ensure everyone has a home where they feel secure or benefit from nurturing relationships by addressing four different types of home violence—intimate partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and animal abuse—in three different ways: through education, outreach and advocacy.

out of fear of leaving their pets behind and how change can be accomplished by providing shelter and care for pets of women fleeing abusive situations. Following the remarks by the speakers, ABA YLD volunteers participated in assembling support packages for women affected by domestic violence in Vancouver. The support packages were funded by the ABA. The SC YLD is a core component of the Home Safe Home Service Project. The project is the shared vision of Chair-Elect Tommy Preston and Chair Dana Hrelac. Adam Landy is the Public Service Director who coordinated the ABA YLD efforts and was instrumental in pulling off the event in Vancouver. M. Stephen Blevins is a Public Service Project Team Member and assisted Adam Landy with the event in Vancouver.

ABA YLD Assembly

The Assembly is the legislative and policy-making entity of the ABA YLD. Delegates from all ABA YLD affiliates (SC YLD is one of them!) meet to debate and vote on resolutions for the organization. The resolutions considered this term involved various topics such as parental leave, accreditation standards of for-profit law schools, young lawyer speaking roles in court, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and many others.

SC YLD members were heavily featured during this Assembly. Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Willis led the Assembly's invocation at the beginning of the meeting and helped coordinate the logistics of the Assembly as a member of the Resolutions Team.

M. Stephen Blevins and Jeanmarie Tankersley were also active participants in Assembly, providing debate comments on two resolutions. Volunteering to provide commentary to kick off the debates, Stephen and Jeanmarie addressed the assembly with thoughtful comments on the proposed resolutions.

Stephen provided comments on resolution 18-5YL proposed by the Litigation Committee. The resolution sought to require all for-profit law schools to implement and maintain transition plans to aid students enrolling in the school in the three

years prior to the school's closing (this resolution is a direct response to the closure of Charlotte School of Law). It also sought to have state bars and legislatures require for-profit law schools to have such transition plans as a precondition of allowing its graduates to sit for the state bar exam. The resolution passed.

Jeanmarie provided commentary on resolution 18-8YL proposed by a member of the Resolutions Team. The resolution sought to urge Congress to enact legislation requiring a major party presidential candidate to make certain financial disclosures or, in the alternative, urge states to require major party presidential candidates to disclose tax returns prior to being included on their election ballots.

Young lawyers also were treated to a debate, hosted by Tommy Preston, between two representatives of the ABA YLD and two representatives from the ABA Fellows Program. This somewhat tongue and cheek verbal sparring match addressed the merits of technology's impact on the legal profession. Spoiler—the YLD won with a rousing speech that wove funny commentary with a poignant story about a student whose theft charges were ultimately dropped after cellphone data, Netflix logins and SnapChat posts proved the student was nowhere near the scene of the crime.

Sheila Willis and M. Stephen Blevins, as ABA YLD Diversity Scholars, attended multiple functions, including the Scholars Dinner hosted by Wal-Mart. The Scholars Program is designed to encourage the participation of minority, solo/small firm, government, private sector and military service attorneys in ABA YLD leadership. The Scholars Program accepts 16 attorneys each year and provides a scholarship for young lawyers to attend the ABA YLD Fall Conference, ABA YLD Spring Conference and the ABA Mid-Year Meeting. The SC YLD is proud to often be represented in the Scholars Program.

The next ABA YLD Meeting is the Spring Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, May 10-12, 2018. The ABA Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago August 2-4, 2018. Check out www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers.html for more information.

What's Been Happening



The 9th Circuit YLD held a new member reception on Nov. 30 at the Blind Tiger.



13 YLD members from the 6th and 16th circuits gathered to welcome new members at Millstone Pizza & Tap-house in Rock Hill.



The 8th Circuit YLD sponsored a Christmas Social on Dec. 15. About 25 YLD members dropped by, as well as Judges Frank Addy and Joseph Smith-deal.



The Color of Justice Committee held a half-day event in Florence for 23 middle and high school students. This was the first event in Florence, and it was a success! Students participated in a mock trial demonstration and did a great job reading and getting into character. After the demonstration, the students divided into four groups to

discuss the verdict and the evidence presented. Each group surprisingly found the defendant guilty by a unanimous decision. The event concluded with a young lawyer panel fielding the students' questions.



On January 13, the 16th Circuit YLD Wills Committee held a workshop for York County firefighters. Four young lawyers volunteered to draft wills, health care powers of attorney and living wills for eight firefighters. The group referred a few firefighters to other lawyers who could assist with more complex needs.



The 11th Circuit YLD held a new member reception on Jan. 31 at Mellow Mushroom. Judge Knox McMahon shared pearls of wisdom about civility, being prepared and the practice of law to approximately 25 YLD members.



On February 10 the Color of Justice Committee held an Upstate program where students worked through a sample mock trial problem, witness statements, actual statutes and pieces of evidence with judge and attorney volunteers. Judge Tarita Dunbar talked with the students about her role as a family court judge, and volunteers presented mock opening statements based on the sample fact pattern.

Letter from the President

Dear Young Lawyers,

Wow! What a great start to 2018 for the YLD! It has been such an amazing start that I awarded 19 Stars of the Quarter!

I hope this issue of *SC Young Lawyer* finds you doing well, and hopefully by the time you read this, the weather will be warm, sunny and pushing you to leave the confines of your homes and offices for some adventure.

I so enjoyed seeing many of you at Kiawah for the Bar Convention. Those who attended were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in an assortment of YLD activities, including a successful public service project at St. John's High School, a CLE about navigating the treacherous waters of ediscovery and a deliciously fun Oyster Roast at the newly renovated Mingo Point, which included young lawyers, judges, past presidents of the YLD and members of the Bar's Board of Governors. We were also fortunate to have Dana Hrelc, chair of the ABA YLD, as our guest for the Convention. Dana participated in the public service project, which was South Carolina's take on the project she implemented for the ABA YLD, providing awareness and activism for domestic violence issues. Hailing from Connecticut, Dana also enjoyed her *first* oyster roast and spoke on the panel for the Bar's Diversity Committee CLE. A special thank you goes to Lyndey Zwing, Emily Bridges, Adam Landy and Tommy Preston for their work on the YLD's Bar Convention Committee and to Perry MacLennan and Emily Limehouse for their work to implement the Home Safe Home project.

If you were unable to attend Home Safe Home during the Convention, I hope that you will be on the lookout and participate the next time we host one of these projects. As a brief overview, the YLD partnered with St. John's High School and Sydney Binney, a Community Domestic Violence Liaison for My Sister's House, Inc., to discuss healthy relationships. The program began with Binney introducing and engaging the students in a discussion of various types of relationships and ended with young lawyers splitting into groups with students to work

through how they would respond to a scenario related to dating violence in a school. Both the lawyers' and the students' eyes were opened to the many ways that relationships can become unhealthy or abusive, and while a tough subject to discuss, I was truly impressed with the students' commitment to the program (several classes were given the choice as to whether to attend and voted to attend), their candor and their perspectives. South Carolina has, since the beginning of recorded statistics, ranked among the top 10 states in the nation for the rate of women killed by men, and 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime in South Carolina. Clearly, this is a problem about which we need to continue to talk and educate both our members and the general public. To that end, this spring our Voices Against Violence Committee will host a resource fair and provide pro bono legal services for individuals who use the services of Sistercare (both those who live in the shelter and those who do not stay in the shelter but still use Sistercare's services), and we will continue to champion change in this area.

It is hard to believe that over half of the Bar's fiscal year is behind us, but I continue to be impressed with our members on a daily basis! Thank you for leading the way in both planning and attending programs meant to make you a better lawyer and projects that make our community a better place to live and raise families. Although we are over halfway to the end of this Bar year, it does not mean anything is slowing down. Rather, we are just hitting our stride! From February 24 through March 17, we will host seven Cinderella Project Boutiques around the state! Our VITA Committee will continue assisting with income tax preparation in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston for those in lower income brackets. Additionally, the Protecting Our Youth Committee, which has already held events in four circuits, has at least another four planned for this half of the Bar year and will host a mass Protecting Our Youth Day at the Richland County Courthouse on April 27. If you

know any high school juniors, seniors or teachers, please direct them to www.sctbar.org/yourbigidea, which is an Instagram scholarship created and funded by our iCivics Committee, and as always, please check the announcements for ways to sign up to speak to a class on iCivics Day! The Make-A-Wish Committee is continuing its efforts to raise money to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Among other fundraisers this spring, we have 12 young lawyers participating in the Trailblaze Challenge, a team Running Wild for Wishes in the Cooper River Bridge Run, and a golf tournament that will be held at Oak Point on Kiawah. Finally, be on the lookout for fun family events that have been planned for you across the state, providing you not only with an opportunity to network with colleagues but to include your whole family in our community.

I close by entreating you *again* to get involved in the YLD. If you have an interest, chances are we have a committee that speaks to it. But this is not to say that we do not want you to join a "Big Bar" committee as well. The "Big Bar" has 28 committees of its own, and those committees are always seeking a young lawyer perspective. If you would like to serve as a "YLD liaison" to a particular Bar committee, please let me know. As always, I am here to serve and assist you, so do not hesitate to contact me by email (ljoyner@gw-blawfirm.com) or phone (803-724-1706) to get involved or share comments, questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to make the South Carolina YLD a leader both in South Carolina and around the country for the service provided to our members and to our communities.

Best,



Lindsay A. Joyner
Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.

Judicial Spotlight: Larry B. Hyman, Circuit Court Judge, At-Large, 15th Judicial Circuit

Interviewed by Liz Smith

Born: April 17, 1949, Conway, SC

Education: University of South Carolina, B.A., 1972 (Political Science); University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 1976

Career: Judge Hyman began his legal career in Greenville, working with Donald Van Riper. He then got the opportunity to take over Judge Floyd's practice in Conway. Judge Hyman worked as a general practice attorney for 32 years, during which he was elected to serve as city court judge from 1983 to 1986. He was elected to At-Large Seat 13 on February 2008, where he remains.

Family: Judge Hyman has been married to his lovely wife, Meredith, for 45 years. They have two sons. Alex, 38, graduated from the William H. Bowen School of Law with a J.D. and has been practicing law in Conway for 12 years. Jordan, 31, graduated from the Charleston School of Law and has been practicing in Conway for six years. Judge Hyman is the proud grandfather to Loey (8), Benjamin (3) and JJ (2).

What the bar would be surprised to learn about you:

I love to cook. I can cook anything from a gourmet meal to homemade biscuits. I particularly enjoy cooking the wild game I have harvested during the hunting season. For birthdays I am always asked to cook my family's favorite meals, and when we host gatherings I am always the "caterer." Good food has always been a way to bring the whole family together, and I enjoy being able to have everyone over to eat the meals I prepare.

Personal life away from the bench:

Typically if I am not at the office, I am at Graybar, my farm. I am an avid outdoorsman. I love spending time outdoors and working on projects all



over Graybar.

I love to hunt waterfowl and spend a part of the hunting season at my house in Canada. I carve my own duck calls. I particularly enjoy training Labrador retrievers.

Conservation of wildlife habitats is a cause that is very important to me. I particularly enjoy sharing the habitat that I have created with my sons and grandchildren.

What is the best advice you can give to young lawyers?

The practice of law is a business. You enter it with the expectation of earning a good living for you and your family. If you are lucky, that really good case will walk through your door. However, you must consider your obligation to your client. Experts, investigators, depositions, etc. are expensive and will place a financial burden on your practice. Do not take on a case that you cannot afford to fund. Before you take the case, make sure you can

adequately prepare the case or find a firm that is willing to associate and share expenses.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a judge, and the hardest part about being a judge?

The most rewarding aspect of being a judge is watching young lawyers grow into seasoned lawyers. I actually practiced with the fathers and mothers of many of those young lawyers.

The hardest part is making decisions that you cannot avoid, but that you know will have devastating consequences for good people.

What experience best prepared you for the bench?

I practiced for 32 years in both civil and criminal courts. This experience has given me the ability to often understand, rather quickly, where the parties are going with their motions and what resolution would be fair to all parties.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the South Carolina legal system?

The lack of mentoring. When I was a young lawyer the Bar was relatively small and the pace was much slower. The older members of the bar were accessible and willing to help younger lawyers. In addition, the younger lawyers usually went to work with an established practitioner. Today I see so many young lawyers who are not able to find positions with firms and are starting their own practice with no experience. Unfortunately, many of the young lawyers who come before me simply do not understand what to do or how to do it. If they simply had an opportunity to sit down for just a few minutes with an experienced practitioner they would have a better understanding of how to handle their particular problem on that particular case.



South Carolina Bar

Young Lawyers Division

950 Taylor St. | PO Box 608
Columbia, SC 29202

NONPROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, SC
Permit No. 599

Your Big Idea: Instagram scholarship contest underway!

The iCivics Committee is very excited to host the Your Big Idea scholarship competition for the third year in a row! Open to all junior and senior high school students across the state, the scholarship was created as an opportunity to engage our students to use technology to think critically about the role they play in our society and the rights they have.



It is very simple for students to participate. Students film and post to their personal Instagram accounts a one minute video that creatively responds to one of several questions we've posed.

The theme this year is free speech, and the questions focus on: the *Mas-*

terpiece Cakeshop case pending before the Supreme Court, the lawsuit filed by President Trump for blocking users from his Twitter page, professional athletes kneeling during the national anthem, and the rights of a university to prohibit a controversial speaker from addressing a student organization on campus.

The winning student will be award-

ed a \$2,000 scholarship! We will accept entries until April 2, 2018. To learn more please visit the scholarship webpage at www.sobar.org/yourbigidea.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Julie Moore at jmoore@duffyandyoung.com or (843) 720-2044.



Stars of the Quarter

- Allison B. Blackwelder**
- M. Stephen Blevins**
- Mary Beth Campbell**
- Marie "Molly" Flynn**
- Taylor D. Gilliam**
- Jeffrey K. Gurney**
- Doward K. Harvin**
- Ti'a L. Hazel**
- Teckla S. Henderson**
- Cameo D. Joseph**
- John K. Langford**
- Samuel C. McGlothlin**
- Soroush "Surge" Moghaddassi**
- Elizabeth F. Nicholson**
- Harrison M. Pratt**
- Sutania A. Radlein**
- Watson "Jake" Rea**
- Virginia S. Riley**
- Saqisha O. Tobin**