

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
MAY 3, 2012
A. MARVIN QUATTLEBAUM JR.**

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Funding for the Judiciary and Court Appointments

The Bar continued to vigorously advocate for funding for the judicial branch as well as court appointments. A version of the budget containing \$41.4 million in appropriations for the Judicial Department, including three new circuit court judges and six new family court judges, has been approved in the House of Representatives. Also approved was \$6.3 million in recurring funding for civil and criminal conflict appointments. The Bar is monitoring progress in the Senate. The Bar remains committed to working with the judicial branch to ensure the courts can provide basic access to constitutionally and statutorily mandated justice.

Member Involvement Task Force

The Member Involvement Task Force was formed in May with the goal of doubling active member involvement in the Bar over the next three years. As part of this effort, the House of Delegates approved the concept of a law student affiliation in January. Proposed constitution and bylaw amendments providing for its creation are on today's agenda. Also, a member survey assessing incentives and barriers to participation in Bar activities concluded in March. The task force will use the responses in its efforts to bolster involvement.

Lawyer Image Task Force

The Lawyer Image Task Force was formed in May to emphasize the meaningful services lawyers provide in contrast to negative influences that question the integrity of the legal profession. The task force launched a series of YouTube videos promoting a true representation of the profession and a *South Carolina Lawyer* feature showcasing the community service efforts of local lawyers. The video series was recently recognized by the S.C. Society of Association Executives as the "Best in the Business" in the public relations category. The task force has also approved providing social media content for Bar member use as a means of further promoting positive developments and images of the profession. A small committee will be formed for content development.

Technology Initiatives

The Bar will undergo a technology audit in the coming months to ensure we remain on the cutting edge of technology in the delivery of services to members. Other new technology initiatives are listed below. In addition, the Pro Bono Program offers its popular Ask-A-Lawyer service via web chat and plans to significantly expand this service. The Bar communicates with members and the public through Twitter and Facebook and used a viral approach with the recent "Proud to Be a S.C. Lawyer" video series to expand this message's outreach. The CLE Division provides the utmost flexibility in obtaining fresh and relevant programming through on-demand seminars and live webcasts. More information on these programs is included throughout the report.

• MyBar Online Community

The Bar has developed an online community, MyBar, that will enhance member database profiles. MyBar integrates with the Bar's existing online member database resulting in a social-media driven private community that allows members to interact with one another and receive information about membership services and benefits.

- **Web Links in Online Member Profiles**

Members now have the ability to display links to their websites through the online member directory. Simply log in to the Bar website, click “Update My Profile” and add your firm’s website in the appropriate field. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to make their websites more accessible to members and the public.

- **Casemaker Legal Research**

Casemaker has been updated with a new look and even better search capabilities. It features faster search results with a more intuitive interface, personalized search history and additional organizational features.

- **Practice Management Assistance Program (PMAP)**

PMAP provides technology consultations by telephone, through the “Bar Bytes” column and through technology tips published through E-Blast and Twitter. PMAP is also the point of contact for Casemaker and the Lending Library. The PMAP Director authors a blog, www.scsmallfirm.com, for solo and small firm lawyers in South Carolina. The blog features information about new products, technology tips and start-up advice. PMAP recently added a second staff person to further address the practice management and technology needs of members.

Ethics Hotline Advice

The Ethics Hotline offers access to experienced staff lawyers who are available to discuss and analyze ethics issues and professional responsibility dilemmas. The call is confidential under Rule 8.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Also, the Ethics Advisory Committee issues advisory opinions for members on prospective ethics problems. The full text of all ethics opinions since 1958 is available on the Bar’s website.

Legislation

The Bar continues to monitor and advocate for legislation pertaining to the interests of Bar members. Members benefit from these monitoring services through *The Legislative Update*, a summary of all significant legislation passed, Weekly Legislative Reports posted on the Bar website during legislative session, and an online legislative tracking system accessible through the website. The Bar encourages members to help inform state legislators of the needs and concerns of the Bar through its Legislative Action Network.

Lawyers Helping Lawyers

The Lawyers Helping Lawyers program continues to assist lawyers affected by depression and/or substance abuse, providing referral services, peer support and monitoring services. Call LHL at (866) 545-9590 for free and confidential assistance, advice or referral, or call LifeFocus Counseling Services at (866) 726-5252 for 24/7 intervention counseling. The LHL staff also maintains a regular on-site presence at the USC School of Law and Charleston School of Law.

2012 Leadership Academy

The fourth installment of the Bar’s Leadership Academy launched in conjunction with the Convention in January. The purpose of the program is to enhance the professional growth and leadership skills of selected members to enhance their ability to make meaningful contributions to the legal profession and community. The graduates will be recognized during the meeting today.

Judicial Qualifications Reports

The Judicial Qualifications Committee released reports in April. The reports reflect the composite perspective of Bar members who were interviewed about each candidate's judicial temperament, character, knowledge of the law and legal skills. The reports were forwarded to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and are available at www.sctbar.org. The Bar remains committed to its involvement in this process. The work of its volunteers is to be lauded, as it is not always without controversy or critique. The end goal of a competent, respected and qualified judiciary is of the utmost importance.

Member Publications

E-Blast is delivered to members' inboxes each week and features advance sheet summaries, CLE information, court news, summaries on pending legislation, tech tips and other legal information. The *South Carolina Lawyer* is published in January, March, May, July, September and November, and *SC Bar News* is published in February, April, June, October and December. Recent issues can be accessed at www.sctbar.org/sclawyer and www.sctbar.org/barnews. The Bar continues to communicate with members and the public via Facebook and Twitter.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Pro Bono Awards

Louis T. Runge Jr., Bradford T. Cunningham and the firm of Sowell, Gray, Stepp and Laffitte, LLC were named 2012 Pro Bono Award winners for their contributions to meeting the civil legal needs of citizens who cannot afford the services of an attorney. The recipients were recognized at the Bar Foundation Gala held in conjunction with the Bar Convention in January.

Pro Bono Recruitment

The Pro Bono Committee has launched a campaign involving a recommitment of current volunteers and recruitment of new volunteers. The Committee seeks to reinvigorate the program in anticipation of the elimination of involuntary court appointments and is working with other statewide groups on alternative ways to structure the program.

Free Legal Clinics

The Public Services Division, with the help of volunteer lawyers, continues to host free legal clinics around the state to educate the public on such issues as bankruptcy, divorce, wills and other legal matters. More than 40 clinics were scheduled during the spring.

Ask-A-Lawyer

The Bar continues to sponsor periodic, regional Ask-A-Lawyer programs, which consist of televised phone banks and web chats, in an effort to assist the public with legal questions. This program emphasizes the positive role lawyers play in their communities.

Lawyer Referral Service

The Lawyer Referral Service currently has 356 Bar members participating. The service is promoted through statewide radio and print advertising and a Google AdWords campaign.

Legal Lessons: A Series for the Public

Installments of Legal Lessons were held this spring in Greenville, Kingstree and Rock Hill. The courses covered an overview of the court system, living wills, family law, landlord/tenant issues, employment law, workers' compensation and a variety of other topics.

Fee Disputes/Lawyers' Fund

The Resolution of Fee Disputes Board has closed 180 cases since July 1. The Fee Disputes Board resolves fee, cost and disbursement disputes between clients and Bar members. The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, which reimburses clients for money or property mishandled by Bar members, received 73 new applications, resolved 35 pending applications and paid \$69,930.41 to former clients.

Ask-A-Lawyer, Legal Lessons and free legal clinics are funded by IOLTA grants from the S.C. Bar Foundation, Inc.

LAW RELATED EDUCATION

High School Mock Trial

Strom Thurmond High School placed first among 11 other high schools at the state High School Mock Trial Competition, held March 9-10 in Columbia. The team will advance to the national competition May 3-6 in Albuquerque, N.M. Bob Jones Academy placed first runner-up. Forty-two teams participated in February's regional competitions that were held in Charleston, Conway, Greenville and Lexington.

The roles of courtroom sketch artist and courtroom journalist were introduced in the 2011 competition and returned this year to broaden participation across a more diverse group of students. Six entries from each category advanced to the state competition, where students recorded their observations from the proceedings through sketches and articles. Entries were judged the week following the competition by local reporters, graphic designers and artists. The winners received a certificate and framed copy of their work.

We the People—Battle of the Carolinas

Students from Wilson High School in Florence and Wando High School in Mt. Pleasant represented South Carolina in the inaugural We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Battle of the Carolinas competition March 30 in Charlotte. These teams were runners-up in the state We the People competition in January. Wando High School placed second in the Battle of the Carolinas competition.

Scholars Academy of Conway placed first in the state competition and competed in the national competition April 27-May 1 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Project Citizen

Students from Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary's Academy for Civic Engagement won the 2012 Project Citizen statewide showcase in April for their portfolio Eat Neat, and Get On Your Feet. Project Citizen encourages students to research a public policy they believe should be revised or created. By doing so, they learn what it means to be effective citizens and are inspired to make changes in their communities. Each portfolio entered in the showcase includes an identified problem, three proposed alternative policies, a class policy and an action plan.

Teacher Newsletter

The LRE Division continues to distribute an electronic newsletter to educate teachers about law related

programs and communicate relevant news and upcoming events. The newsletter is distributed three times each year.

Trainings

The LRE Division has hosted a number of live and webinar trainings. Trainings were held at individual schools and statewide to prepare teachers for implementation of LRE programs. In addition, individual webinars for each topic covered by the Law for Teachers program are available on the LRE website.

LRE Awards

The LRE Committee's Awards Subcommittee has named the following award recipients:

Teachers of the Year: John Goldsborough (Blythewood Middle School) and Misty LeClerc (Wando High School)

Lawyer of the Year: Gene Palmer Vaught III

Citizen of the Year: Virginia Seymour

Schools of the Year: St. Anthony Catholic School (middle school winner) and Ft. Dorchester High School

Legacy Award: Lynn Dickinson

In addition, eight students were awarded mock trial scholarships, and two students were awarded We the People scholarships. These students were recognized for their achievements and participation in law related education programs.

The LRE programs noted above are funded by an IOLTA grant from the S.C. Bar Foundation, Inc. and Bar funds. Competitions are made possible through the efforts of members of the legal community who volunteer to serve as attorney coaches, district coordinators, scoring judges and presiding judges.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

2012 Convention

The 2012 Bar Convention was held in Columbia. Attendees were able to choose from 21 seminars, in addition to a variety of special events, including a rare appearance by U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Scalia and Breyer. Plans are underway for the 2013 Convention, scheduled for January 24-27 in Myrtle Beach. Visit the 2013 Convention website at www.sbar.org/convention for the latest Convention developments as well as sponsorship opportunities.

Solo and Small Firm Conference

The Division hosted the first Solo and Small Firm Conference in September. The program, "Exploring the Business Side of Law Firms," was designed to address the needs of small firm lawyers, including tips on how to build a successful business. It featured two course tracks (Technology for Small Firms and Practice Management) as well as technology and office management exhibitors chosen specifically for small firms. This inaugural program exceeded attendance expectations, and a 2012 conference, themed "Small Firms, Big Opportunities," is planned for September 14.

Programming Options

The CLE Division continues to offer a number of programs in various formats and locations around the state to give members the best value, variety and flexibility in CLE programming. Available formats include live seminars, teleseminars (via phone), online seminars and live webcasts. Please visit www.sbar.org/cle to learn more about the variety of options.

Live Seminars

Since January 1, the CLE Division has hosted 38 live seminars with a total attendance of 2,618. The Division continues to develop a wide variety of challenging programs including basic and advanced level workshops, section member-only programs and mediation training. Some of this year's special programs have included the Concealed Weapons Permit and CLE Training Course, Spring Sporting Clays: Ethics with the Judges, LEAPP Trust Account School and the first Roller Derby CLE. A number of opportunities were provided throughout the month of February for members to fulfill the new substance abuse/mental health CLE requirement. In addition, several topic areas were covered under the "CLE Essentials" series, including civil litigation and family law. Briefcase Lawyer: Essentials for Every Practitioner, covering the fundamentals of a number of areas of the law, was held in conjunction with the release of the new book *The Briefcase Lawyer*, which serves as a quick reference guide on a variety of legal topics.

Distance Learning

The Division continues to expand the Distance Learning catalog, providing new topics and keeping the material in each topic area fresh and relevant. Currently, more than 210 online, on-demand seminars on a wide variety of topics are available 24/7. Members can watch live webcasts of seminars in real time, or pause, rewind and review archived webcasts and online programs for up to 30 days. The Division has released 30 new online seminars and offered more than 26 teleseminars since January 1. In February, 1,415 distance learning purchases were made, the greatest number of purchases during any one-month period to date.

Publications

New CLE books, supplements and software programs published since January include:

Handling Traffic Cases in South Carolina, Fifth Edition

S.C. Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships, Fourth Edition

S.C. Requests to Charge—Criminal, Second Edition

The Briefcase Lawyer: Essential Information for Every Practitioner

Marketing

The Division continues to promote its programs to members through seminar "Preview" catalogs, brochures, e-brochures, E-Blast, Twitter, Facebook and Bar publications. A calendar of seminars is featured in each issue of *SC Bar News*. Look for CLE offerings in any of these resources or visit www.sctbar.org/cle. Last month, the Bar was recognized by the S.C. Society of Association Executives for its Convention marketing efforts.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Community Law Week

The Division is observing Community Law Week during the first week in May with projects designed to provide the public with information about its legal rights and promote community involvement. Projects include Ask-A-Lawyer phone banks airing during newscasts throughout the state, Speakers in Schools events and canned food drives. In addition, a number of circuits are participating in Cocky's Reading Express, a literacy outreach program created by the University of South Carolina through which volunteers visit schools, read aloud to children and give each child a book of his/her own.

Cinderella Project

Since its launch in 2001, the Cinderella Project has become one of YLD's most popular projects. The annual event involves collection of gently worn formal gowns for socially and economically

disadvantaged high school students. This year's project was held in Aiken, Anderson, Columbia, Greenville, Greenwood and Orangeburg. More than 2,500 dresses were collected, including donations from both individuals and local boutiques.

Families Forever Adoption Fairs

In 2008, YLD established the Families Forever project, which focuses on adoption awareness. Annual family fairs provide free adoption information, including seminars addressing domestic and international adoption, foster care and the adoption process. This project was recognized by the ABA in 2009 as the "Most Outstanding Service Project" in the country offered by young lawyers. That year it was also one of 13 programs nationally to receive the "Associations Advance America" Award of Excellence from the American Society of Association Executives. This year, fairs were held in Greenville on January 28 and Charleston on February 18.

iCivics

The iCivics Committee is assisting with the implementation of iCivics, a web-based education project designed to enhance the civics education of students. Most recently, committee members gave an interactive presentation to the second grade classes at H.E. Corley Elementary School about the judicial branch, including a simulation of courtroom procedure.

Special Olympics

YLD continued its support of Special Olympics South Carolina by volunteering at statewide games and other events. Most recently, young lawyer volunteers assisted with the basketball skills competition during the Mid-Winter Games March 3 at The Citadel.

Wills Clinics

Young lawyer volunteers are providing free wills for Habitat for Humanity homeowners throughout the state. Since January, the Division has held programs offering this service in Darlington, Orangeburg, Summerville, York and Oconee County. During the spring, wills clinics were also held for first responders in Charleston, Columbia, Greenwood and Hilton Head.

Assistance to Domestic Violence Victims

The Voices Against Violence Committee hosted a free CLE titled "Domestic Violence: What Every Attorney Should Know" on Feb. 3 addressing the civil and criminal aspects of domestic violence representation, as well as ethical considerations. While the CLE was free to attend, all attendees committed to representing two pro bono clients in Order of Protection actions. In addition, the committee refurbished domestic violence shelters by painting and landscaping at locations throughout the state.

Income Tax Assistance

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, young lawyers provided free tax preparation for households with low-to-moderate incomes at events held in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville. Volunteers received training from the IRS in preparation for these events.

YLD/SBA Pig Cook-Off and Service Project

YLD and the USC School of Law Student Bar Association co-hosted a Pig Cook-Off in March, kicking off an annual rivalry between SBA and YLD. In conjunction with this event, both groups participated in a service project for HomeWorks, a local organization that provides home repairs to those in need.