

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
MAY 24, 2018
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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Strategic Plan

Year three of the strategic plan is nearly complete, and the Board of Governors adopted a revised plan going forward. Efforts will be noted in remarks today.

Attorney Wellness

The Wellness Committee continues to study factors impacting the well-being of attorneys and educates members about resources that will improve their mental and physical wellness. Its work is widely recognized as the model for lawyer wellness programs around the country. The committee just completed an eight-week “Spring into Wellness” Challenge, designed to help members achieve physical, mental, social and financial goals.

The Lawyers Helping Lawyers program continues to assist lawyers affected by depression and/or substance abuse, providing referral services, peer support and monitoring services. The LHL staff maintains a periodic on-site presence at the USC School of Law and Charleston School of Law. Call LHL at (866) 545-9590 for free and confidential assistance, advice or referral. Members may also call CorpCare, which provides up to five free hours of anonymous intervention counseling, at (855) 321-4384 to be referred to a counselor 24 hours a day.

In January the Wellness Committee and the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Commission succeeded in obtaining House of Delegates approval of a proposal to require mandatory instruction in substance abuse and mental health issues every two years rather than every three years.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee recognizes a quarterly Diversity Spotlight Series honoree who is at the forefront in efforts to increase diversity within the profession. The latest honoree was the late Chief Justice Ernest Finney Jr. The committee also produces a video series to emphasize the importance of diversity to the profession and sponsored the Diversity is a State of Mind CLE program in March, which included discussion on implicit bias and creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in law firms.

NextGen Group

A “NextGen” group is studying national and state innovations in the legal profession. Ideas currently being considered include coding classes for attorneys, innovation cohorts and an incubator program for professional development, project experimentation and entrepreneurship.

Future-in-Law

The Future-in-Law eBlast feature launched this past winter and showcases emerging trends and innovations in the practice of law and related provision of legal services. Twenty-eight jurisdictions now require lawyers to stay abreast of legal technology changes to satisfy ethical obligations, and this resource is designed to help keep Bar members up to speed.

Technology Committee

The Bar recently formed a Technology Committee to provide guidance to members on best practices and to identify current technology issues affecting the practice of law, such as cyber security. Lawyers and law office personnel with technology experience are invited to join.

Practice Management Assistance Program (PMAP)

PMAP provides technology advice by telephone, through the “Bar Bytes” column, through the Solo and Small Firm blog at www.scsmallfirm.com, and through technology tips published through eBlast and Twitter. PMAP is also the point of contact for Fastcase, the Bar’s free online legal research benefit for members. PMAP continues to add new content to its video series on law office management topics, available at www.sctbar.org/pmap.

CloudLaw

The Bar is proceeding with the development of this online legal marketplace for members and the public. Through the site, consumers will be able to search and filter by geography, legal need and expertise. They can also contact attorneys directly and schedule an appointment.

Paralegal Certification

The Bar is charged with administering the Court-created Paralegal Certification Program. To date, 62 paralegals have been certified, and recently three state chapters were approved as accredited CPE sponsors. Creation of a dedicated website for this group is underway, which will house a searchable directory of certified paralegals.

Contract Directory

An online directory of contract lawyers and paralegals for use by Bar members has been created and added to the Bar website. Lawyers and paralegals who have indicated an interest in appearing in the directory are included.

Mentoring Program

The Bar administers the Mandatory Lawyer Mentoring Program, including recruitment of new mentors and ongoing support of mentees. The program has sponsored mentoring CLEs across the state and hosted the G. Dewey Oxner Jr. Mentor of the Year Award luncheon on May 3.

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 on the Bar website during legislative session; and an online legislative tracking system. The Bar encourages members to help inform state legislators of the issues and concerns of lawyers.

2018 Leadership Academy

The ninth installment of the Bar’s Leadership Academy launched in February. This highly selective program is designed to equip members to face challenges in the legal community and community at large, maximize networking and relationship building opportunities, nurture principled leadership and increased awareness regarding ethical, professional and community service issues, as well as to develop other skills necessary to give back to the profession and position themselves as valuable leaders in the community. Graduates will be recognized during a special celebration in June.

Meetings in the Counties

The Board of Governors has resumed the hosting of meetings with members at the county level to identify issues important to them. These meetings led to a number of Bar initiatives.

Member Benefits

The Bar continues to add discounts on a number of products and services to its collection of member benefits, such as wellness providers, travel services and office products. For a complete listing of Bar member benefits, visit www.sbar.org/benefits.

Image Video

Production is underway for an image video that will spotlight the benefit the legal profession brings to various local non-profits and their work in our communities. The video is slated to be completed and shared through social media channels in May.

Member and Public Communications

- eBlast is delivered to members' inboxes each week and features advance sheet summaries, CLE information, court news, summaries on pending legislation, online resources, practice management tips and other legal information.
- *SC Lawyer* is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. Members may opt to only receive the digital edition; visit www.sbar.org/sclawyer for more information. Past articles can be found at the link above and through Fastcase.
- The Bar interacts with members and the public on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, including photos from events, public programs, CLE programs and other news. The Bar will soon launch a presence on Instagram as well.
- The Bar routinely communicates with the media and other groups about the wide variety of public programs made available by lawyer volunteers. This year the Bar has also engaged in outreach to libraries to share resources available with important legal information for the public.
- The Bar website is updated daily with new calendar events, CLE programming, news items, featured items and others. Online content includes the Lawyers Desk Book, available at www.sbar.org/deskbook, with both a searchable and PDF member directory.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Guardian *ad Litem* Task Force

This task force has been studying the state's guardian *ad litem* system in order to propose changes to the current statute. The Court sent the task force's proposal to the Docketing Task Force Family Court Subcommittee for review and recommendation to the Court. The subcommittee distributed a survey to family court judges regarding the efficacy of continuing to use lay guardians *ad litem* in contested custody cases.

Vulnerable Adult Task Force

The Vulnerable Adult Task Force was formed to study how South Carolina can better care for its citizens who are considered vulnerable. Subcommittees looked at legal, service, education and funding aspects and sought input outside the task force from those who have experience with the current vulnerable adult system. Members of the task force were appointed to a drafting committee, which has begun drafting proposed changes to the statute to reflect the recommendations of the subcommittees.

Pro Bono Program

Last year the Pro Bono Program was restructured, including appointment of the pro bono board and local committees to develop local projects. Currently, options are being explored for case and volunteer management technology. A Rural Area Subcommittee was appointed to respond to the unique pro bono needs in these areas of the state, and a Pro Bono Board Communications Representative was identified to support promotion of pro bono opportunities and recognition of pro bono volunteer successes. The pro bono page of the Bar website has been enhanced with news, notes, opportunities for pro bono involvement, and recognition of pro bono accomplishments.

SC VALOR

In January 2018 the SC Attorney General launched the SC VALOR program to supply pro bono legal services to veterans throughout South Carolina. The Bar and other groups are helping to coordinate volunteers and staff clinics that provide legal assistance and consultations on SCRA, landlord/tenant problems, wills and power of attorney. During the program's first event in Rock Hill, volunteers prepared wills for 56 vets and spouses.

National Health Care Decision Day

The Bar joined other organizations in April to celebrate Health Care Decisions Day. At the request of the Bar, Gov. Henry McMaster issued a proclamation declaring the week of April 15-21 Health Care Decisions Week in SC. Information for the public was shared via social media and distributed to media outlets.

Social Media Outreach

During National Consumer Protection Week March 4-10, the Consumer Law Section provided helpful tips and resources for the public via Twitter and Facebook. The Elder Law Committee is also supplying social media information in promotion of Elder Law Month during the month of May.

Free Legal Answers

SC.FreeLegalAnswers.org allows individuals who meet certain qualifications to post legal questions to volunteer attorneys. It is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, allowing both the attorney and client to use the resource at their convenience. Questions are sorted based on topic, including benefits, consumer law issues, health care, family, work related issues and more. The identity of the attorney is not made known to the inquirer. Questions to the site are often answered during "Friday Blitzes," which provide an opportunity for law students to see real world questions and interact with local lawyers.

Free Legal Clinics

The Public Services Division, through volunteer Bar members, 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 50 clinics were held during the spring. The Division also partnered with the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging and USC School of Law Pro Bono Program to sponsor "My Will" clinics to offer qualified citizens assistance with creating a simple will.

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 345 Bar members participating. The service is promoted through radio and online advertising and a Google AdWords campaign. 15,149 referrals have been made since July 1.

Law School for Non-Lawyers

Installments of the Law School for Non-Lawyers were held during the spring in Beaufort, Florence 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 106 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 14 new applications, resolved 27 pending applications and paid \$155,310.51 to former clients since July 1.

Ask-A-Lawyer, Law School for Non-Lawyers and free legal clinics are funded by an IOLTA grant from the S.C. Bar Foundation, Inc. and by Bar funds.

LAW RELATED EDUCATION

High School Mock Trial

Heathwood Hall Episcopal School took home first place in the 36th annual SC Bar State Mock Trial Competition March 9-10 at the Matthew J. Perry Jr. Federal Courthouse in Columbia. Nation Ford High School was named the first runner-up, and Wilson High School was awarded the Professionalism and Civility Award. Ruby Dozier of Manning High School won the courtroom artist portion of the competition, and she, along with students from Heathwood Hall, will represent South Carolina at the national competition this month. Forty-two teams participated in February's regional competitions that were held in Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Greenville and Lexington.

We the People

River Bluff High School won its third consecutive We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution state competition in January. The first runner-up was Carolina Forest High School. River Bluff's team competed at the national finals in Washington, D.C. April 27-30.

Skills USA

The LRE Division hosted the 2018 Criminal Justice Quiz Bowl competition, a component of the two-day 2018 Skills USA competition held in Greenville in April. The Center for Advanced Technical Studies in Chapin won its fifth state championship title.

LRE Awards

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

Lawyers of the Year: Gary Craig Lemel and Nathan James Sheldon

Teachers of the Year: Liz Good (Buist Academy, Charleston) and Linsy Dooley (River Bluff High School, Lexington)

Eight high school students were awarded scholarships for their achievement in the Mock Trial program, and one student was awarded a scholarship for achievement in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program.

James Madison Legacy Project Grant

In 2016 the Division received a three-year James Madison Legacy Project grant to work with *We the People* teachers in recruitment, mentorship and professional development. The grant will conclude in September. A 2018 Summer Institute will be held in June.

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. The Division also keeps students and teachers up to date through social media.

Trainings

The Division hosted webinar trainings for Mock Trial and Law for Teachers. Trainings were held at individual schools and statewide to prepare teachers for implementation of LRE programs.

The LRE programs noted above are funded by an IOLTA grant from the S.C. Bar Foundation, Inc. and by 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

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.scbare.org/cle to learn more about your options.

Convention

The 2018 Convention was held at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, where more than 1300 attendees chose from 23 seminars, visited 35 on-site exhibitors, and enjoyed wellness activities and a variety of special events. Plans are underway for the 2019 Convention in Myrtle Beach. Mark your calendars for Jan. 17-20, and visit www.scbare.org/convention for the latest developments as well as sponsorship opportunities.

Live Seminars

Since July 1, the CLE Division has hosted 80 live seminars with a total attendance of 4,982. The Division continues to develop a wide variety of challenging programs including basic and advanced level workshops, section member-only programs and mediation training. Recent programs have addressed such topics as tort law, tech solutions for law firms, issues for solo and small firms, criminal practice, trends and developments in consumer law, unauthorized practice of law, agreements for separation and divorce, evidence, mergers and acquisitions, and “Essentials” programs on a variety of topics.

In late February, and again in April, the Division hosted “CLE Madness: Video Replay by-the-hour CLE Solution” to offer Bar members a last-minute walk-in opportunity for CLE credit, on the topic of their choosing, for \$50 per hour. The two-day February and one-day April events offered, respectively, up to 14 and five hours of MCLE, including up to three hours of LEPR and one hour of Mental Health/Substance Abuse credits.

CLE Big Ticket

In August the CLE Division launched the CLE Big Ticket, which is a low-cost one-year subscription to virtually all of the Division's live and live webcast seminars. In its first eight months, 124 members purchased Big Ticket subscriptions.

Alternatively-Delivered Programming

The CLE Division offers convenient access to on-demand seminars, live webcasts and live teleseminars. The Division continues to expand the catalog of programs, providing new topics and keeping the material in each topic area fresh and relevant. Currently, 344 on-demand seminars 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 61 new online seminars and 43 live webcasts and has offered 219 teleseminars since July 1, with more than 11,894 individual total sales during the period.

Publications

The robust publications department of the CLE Division continues to publish a number of new books, supplements and software programs across various practice areas. Titles published since July include:

Commercial Driver's License Tool Kit

Estate Planning in South Carolina, Second Edition, Volume I: Wills and Trusts

Legal Malpractice in South Carolina

SC Damages 2017 Supplement

SC Evidence Annotated, Twelfth Edition

SC Family Lawyer's Tool Kit 2017 Edition

SC Law of Torts, 2017 Cumulative Supplement Only

SC Rules Annotated 2017

The Master Agreement for Separation and Divorce, 2nd Edition

A complete list of CLE publications, as well as a list of recent releases, are available for browsing in the CLE Store.

Free Course Materials

Fifty-four sets of past seminar handout materials are available on the Bar's website for complimentary download to Bar membership. Uploading of additional materials will continue.

HotDocs

The CLE Division has partnered with HotDocs to develop cloud-based forms systems. Subscriptions to the form libraries will be available for purchase by Bar members in the future. Beta testing will begin soon.

Marketing

The Division continues to promote its programs to members through email, eBlast, signage, social media, Bar publications and a limited number of print mailings. Look for CLE offerings in any of these resources or visit www.sbar.org/shop-cle. Members can opt in to targeted contact lists by logging in to their member profile on the Bar website.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Home Safe Home

The Young Lawyers Division held the ABA YLD's Home Safe Home project at St. John's High School in Charleston, designed to increase awareness and activism for domestic violence issues. Students were engaged in a discussion of various types of relationships and divided into small groups to work through how they would respond to a scenario related to dating violence.

iCivics

This spring the iCivics Committee held its third annual Instagram Scholarship Competition, open to all South Carolina high school juniors and seniors. Participating students created an Instagram video that responded to one of five questions about the First Amendment. The winning student will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. In addition, volunteers traveled to schools statewide on iCivics Day to teach civics lessons to students.

Color of Justice

The Color of Justice Committee sponsors programs for middle and high school students designed to expose students from diverse backgrounds to careers in the legal field. Recently, the committee held a mock trial demonstration in Florence for 23 middle and high school students. Afterwards, students discussed the verdict and the evidence presented, followed by a Q&A session with young lawyers. The committee also 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.

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, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Greenwood and Orangeburg.

Families Forever

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 year, fairs were held in Columbia, N. Charleston and Simpsonville.

Voices Against Violence

The Voices Against Violence Committee recently hosted a resource fair and provided pro bono legal services for individuals who use the services of Sistercare. The committee serves as the connection between the community and shelters that are in constant need of day-to-day items while protecting the privacy of the locations.

Wills Clinics

The Wills Clinics Committee continued its efforts to provide wills and health care documents to first responders and Habitat for Humanity homeowners. Most recently a workshop was held for York County firefighters, where volunteer young lawyers drafted wills, health care powers of attorney and living wills at no cost.

Protecting Our Youth

The Protecting Our Youth Committee hosted panel discussions at schools in eight circuits this year to

address the laws, rules and scenarios that are bringing students into contact with the criminal justice system and to advise them about common pitfalls to which teens are vulnerable. The committee hosted Protecting Our Youth Day at the Richland County Courthouse on April 27.

Community Law Week

The Division observed Community Law Week the first week in May with projects designed to provide the public with information about its legal rights and promote community involvement. Young lawyers throughout the state participated in Cocky's Reading Express to promote childhood literacy, in addition to other events planned in individual circuits.

Income Tax Assistance

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, young lawyers provided free tax preparation for households with low-to-moderate incomes in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville. Members of this committee receive training for preparing basic federal and state income tax returns.

Make-A-Wish

The Division continued its efforts to raise money to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Among other fundraisers this spring, young lawyers participated in the Trailblaze Challenge, led a team "Running Wild for Wishes" in the Cooper River Bridge Run and sponsored a golf tournament on Kiawah Island.

Special Olympics

YLD continued its support of Special Olympics South Carolina by providing sponsorships and volunteers to serve the needs of South Carolinians with intellectual disabilities. Members of this committee recruit and coordinate volunteers and encourage participation at Special Olympics events throughout the state. The Division expanded its annual Bowling Buddies event to Columbia, during which attorneys are paired with athletes for a night of bowling, burgers and fun.

Professional Development and New Admittee Events

The Professional Development Committee continues to host programs throughout the state to pair young lawyers with other young professional organizations for networking and learning opportunities. The Division welcomed new lawyers by hosting events in various judicial circuits.