



#BetterTogether

# Committee Sign Up

2022-23 | South Carolina Bar YLD



**South Carolina Bar**  
Young Lawyers Division

# A Message from the President

Dear Young Lawyers of South Carolina:

Welcome to the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”). I am honored and excited to serve as your YLD President for the 2022-2023 Bar year, alongside President-Elect Taylor Gilliam, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Burch.

The YLD is comprised of all members of the South Carolina Bar in good standing under 36 years of age, and those admitted to the South Carolina Bar as their first Bar within the past five years. Your automatic membership in this professional organization is a benefit provided by the South Carolina Bar. The YLD aims to provide its members with tools to navigate the early years of their careers, foster principles of duty and service to the public, promote professional responsibility, and offer resources to help its members grow personally and professionally. These goals are achieved through the YLD’s 15 committees, which are divided into two groups: service to the public and service to the Bar.

As we continue to navigate the challenges and changes in our communities and in the legal profession over the last two years, there is no better time to develop new ideas, focus on what we value as young lawyers, and ensure we have a positive impact upon South Carolina’s communities. This brochure provides an overview of opportunities for greater involvement in the YLD and the networking, professional growth, and public service programs that our committees offer. At the end of the brochure, you will also find the names and contact information for the YLD officers and Circuit Representatives. We are here to answer your questions and help you find your place within the YLD.

Once you have chosen the committee(s) you would like to join, you can sign up by filling out the back portion of the brochure and mailing it to our wonderful Bar liaison, Kimberly Snipes, or you can fill out the form online at [www.sctbar.org/yld](http://www.sctbar.org/yld). You will hear from the committee chairs after the Bar year begins on July 1, 2022. Be on the lookout for our statewide YLD announcements as well as your Circuit Representatives’ emails to stay in the loop about activities and opportunities throughout the state. Your YLD leadership wants to ensure that you get the most out of your membership, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time.

Very truly yours,



Paige Chamberlain Ornduff

# Organization of the Division

The South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division (Division) was founded in 1974 to foster principles of duty and service to the public, promote professional responsibility, stimulate the interest of young lawyers in Bar activities, conduct programs of interest and value to young lawyers, and to assist in the coordination and improvement of local young lawyer organizations.

All lawyers practicing in South Carolina are licensed through the South Carolina Supreme Court and are mandatory members of the South Carolina Bar. All members of the South Carolina Bar in good standing under 36 years of age, or those admitted to the South Carolina Bar as their first bar less than five years are members of the Division.

The Executive Council is the governing body of the Division. The Executive Council is composed of a president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer, immediate past president, an out of state circuit representative, a circuit representative from each state's judicial circuit, the American Bar Association (ABA)/YLD representative (in alternating years), a law student representative for the University of South Carolina Law School and from the Charleston School of Law, and others appointed by the Division President during his or her term as President.

The Division is an affiliate of the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar ("ABA YLD") and sends representatives to the annual and midyear meetings and to spring and fall meetings of the ABA YLD. As a member of the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the South Carolina Bar YLD and its affiliated organizations share District 10 with the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are currently two local young lawyer affiliates, in addition to the SC Bar YLD and the U.S. Virgin Islands in District 10.

The South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division has enjoyed a momentum of prosperity since it was formed in 1974. The organization has blossomed from a small group brainstorming about projects to an award-winning statewide organization of approximately 4,000 lawyers tackling and conquering myriads of community service and Bar member projects.

The Young Lawyers Division has sponsored and continually strives to sponsor projects, which have a positive impact upon South Carolina's communities. It has been recognized by the ABA in national competition for its various service projects. Diversity and inclusion, wellness, domestic violence, and mentoring are only a few of the public service issues that have been addressed. These issues and others directly related to young lawyer practice remain on the agenda of the Division.

The Division allows young lawyers opportunities to improve the image of the legal profession and fulfill their public service goals. The Division has numerous committees with special projects to be completed. It also coordinates social events to give young lawyers around the state opportunities to network and learn about each other.

# Service to the Bar

## ANNUAL BAR CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The ABC Committee promotes YLD's involvement with the SC Bar Convention by planning, organizing and implementing a CLE program and attendance incentive event. The CLE component will offer a program that is of interest to young lawyers and provide at least three CLE credit hours for attendees. The attendance incentive event will be a social gathering for members of the YLD and their guests. Its purposes are to increase young lawyer participation at the Convention and in Bar/YLD activities. Additionally, the committee will be responsible for planning and organizing a meeting for the YLD Executive Council, committee chairs and co-chairs.



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## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Diversity Committee is to advocate and support diversity in the legal community, to facilitate opportunities for law students and YLD members to grow in their own understanding of diversity, and to promote equality of opportunity for all. The committee is dedicated to creating a more inclusive legal community grounded in respect and appreciation for individual differences. The committee endorses a broad definition of diversity and seeks to create a dialogue through programs and resources that enhance knowledge and encourage understanding of diversity. The most commonly known of these programs is the Diversity Committee's Lunch and Learn Series, which brings in lawyers and other speakers from a variety of backgrounds to discuss a particular topic. Topics have included discussions on mental health, LGBTQ issues, interactions with law enforcement and sexual harassment in the workplace.



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## MEMBERSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE

This committee is tasked with engaging young lawyers in the YLD, regardless of whether they are newly admitted to the SC Bar or approaching the end of their eligibility in YLD. In addition to coordinating member networking events, family friendly events, and new admittee receptions, this committee will also coordinate events designed to provide opportunities for YLD members and law students to interact and introduce law students to the SC Bar and the YLD. This committee also has hosted legislative events designed to bring lawyers together with lawyer legislators, and the committee intends to continue hosting such events next year. This committee has also been a way for the YLD to promote wellness to its members. Several circuits have instituted wellness events for their constituents. This committee is also responsible for the hugely popular family events that bring together spouses and children of our members. This upcoming Bar year, the Membership Events Committee will focus its efforts on partnering with SC Bar Committees and/or Sections in member programming as well as providing unique membership resources.



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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to assist young lawyers in becoming successful in the profession by facilitating networking opportunities with other young professionals, as well as educational opportunities for young lawyers, focusing on relevant issues relating to the profession. The members of this committee will work with the committee chairs to assist the circuit representatives in planning at least one professional development event in each circuit. These events will vary from after work events with other young professional organizations, such as the Young Bankers Division, the SC Association of Certified Public Accountants, and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of SC, to lunch and learn events for YLD members, which take place in a one-hour, lunchtime format, and may at times offer CLE credit. We are looking forward to leveraging technology – webinars and Facebook Live – to bring our programming to more young lawyers across the state.

Over the last four years, the Professional Development Committee has hosted a monthly lunch series at the federal courthouses in Charleston and Columbia through a partnership with Judge Duffy and Judge Childs. These events continue to be well-attended and well-received. The Professional Development Committee has continued to host “Brews and News.” Across the state, young lawyers gather at a local brewery to enjoy good beer and hear an informative talk by local practitioners on topics pertinent to the practice of law such as networking and personal branding. These events have been very well-attended, especially by young lawyers who have an interest in getting more involved in the YLD. This committee will focus on soft skills professional development – with opportunities for business development coaching and business etiquette.



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## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of this committee prepare and update YLD publications and facilitate marketing of the YLD, not only among the Division's members but also to all Bar members and to the public. The committee is responsible for the Division's newsletter, South Carolina Young Lawyer, which is distributed quarterly to all YLD members and is published on the SC Bar's website. South Carolina Young Lawyer has received national awards and recognition for the content provided to YLD members. The newsletter contains committee reports, upcoming events, member spotlights and practice tips, among other valuable information.



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# Service to the Public

## BACKPACK DRIVE COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to collect new backpacks and school supplies for donation to students, schools and charitable organizations in need throughout the state. Beginning in late July through mid-August, committee members coordinate donation drop-off locations at volunteering law firms and agencies, pick up and organize the donated supplies, and then distribute them to the recipients in need prior to the start of the school year.



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## COMMUNITY LAW WEEK

The purpose of Community Law Week (CLW) is to promote the legal profession and provide the public with information about their legal rights. During CLW, each circuit plans and implements at least one service project to further that purpose such as participating in Cocky's Reading Express, speakers in schools, DSS playroom refurbishing project, kids' identification card project, lawsuits project, and others. The committee also has sought a resolution of the governor declaring the first week in May is "Community Law Week." Cocky's Reading Express is so popular with children and young lawyers alike that a large portion of this budget is typically used to purchase books to give to school children in connection with Cocky's Reading Express. During CLW, YLD members visit thousands of students to promote literacy and the legal profession through the partnership with Cocky's Reading Express. The budget request for CLW has been reduced because CLW, while doing many projects during the first week in May, often does projects that pull from other areas of the budget or are free of charge.



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# CINDERELLA PROJECT

Celebrating its 22th year, the Cinderella Project involves gathering donations of gently worn formal gowns, shoes and accessories to benefit high school students across South Carolina. Students from area high schools are invited to attend a boutique held in the spring to “shop” for a dress and other items at no cost. Members of this committee coordinate with local boutiques, community organizations, other legal associations and law firms for collection of the dresses and solicitation of donations. Members will also organize the boutiques and assist the belles of the ball as they shop on the day of the boutique.

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## FAMILIES FOREVER

This committee focuses on educating the public and raising awareness about adoption and foster care in South Carolina and was recently recognized as an Angel in Adoption™ by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) in Washington, D.C. Members of this committee will participate in adoption awareness and education projects by coordinating and hosting Families Forever Fairs throughout the state in partnership with adoption agencies, attorneys and other professionals.



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## MAKE A WISH COMMITTEE

This committee will support the Make a Wish Foundation of South Carolina by providing sponsorships and volunteers to serve the needs of South Carolinians with battling various illnesses. Members of this committee will be responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteers and encouraging participation at Make a Wish events throughout the state. In addition to an annual gala, these events vary from “wish” to “wish” and provide opportunities for young lawyers to serve a worthy organization while interacting with one another.



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## PRO BONO & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Pro Bono & Outreach Committee seeks to encourage and offer opportunities for young lawyers to provide pro bono legal services and outreach to the South Carolina community. The Committee collaborates with the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Board/Program, as well as the pro bono offices at the University of South Carolina School of Law and Charleston School of Law. The Committee supports and promotes community outreach by facilitating and encouraging young lawyer participation in mentorship, volunteer, and sponsorship opportunities provided through partnerships with community organizations and programs, such as the federal drug court program (Bridge) and the Special Olympics of South Carolina, that serve a vast and varied range of South Carolinians.



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## PROTECTING OUR YOUTH THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION

For the purpose of educating at-risk middle and high school students on the consequences of their actions and choices, members of this committee will organize programs typically in the form of panel discussions about various topics including prosecuting students as adults, repeat offenders, new DUI laws, and drug offenses. Programs will be held throughout the state and conducted with assistance from the SC Department of Juvenile Justice, Children's Law Center, the Bar's Children's Law Committee and various other community organizations. Committee members will be responsible for contacting the participating schools, planning the programs, coordinating with the partner organizations, recruiting lawyer, judge and law enforcement volunteers to serve as panelists as well as participating and often times moderating the programs.



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## VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

Voices Against Violence (VAV) has the goals of educating young lawyers and the public about the epidemic of domestic violence and encouraging advocacy for domestic violence victims through legislative initiative, pro bono service and providing hands-on support to shelters and other programs aiding victims of domestic violence. VAV participates in shelter refurbishment projects, which include repainting, rebuilding, landscaping, and other needs. Each fall, VAV runs a necessities and toiletries drive, collecting donations to deliver to shelters throughout the state. The program has expanded to further its reach and impart support in areas that may have less local funding. VAV organizes and hosts a free or reduced-cost CLE program on domestic violence and, through this CLE, works to educate young lawyers to represent victims of domestic violence on a number of issues. Finally, VAV is expanding into new areas with plans to design, print and distribute informational materials and support a statewide initiative to bring dating and domestic violence education and prevention programs into high schools. VAV is always looking for new ideas and seeking new committee members to help further the goals of the program in combating domestic violence.



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## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

The purpose of this committee is to provide free tax preparation for South Carolina residents with annual total household income of \$52,000 or less. Members of this committee will receive training to prepare basic federal and state income tax returns in various communities throughout the state and will assist the chair with recruiting other lawyer volunteers to participate in the tax preparation “super Saturdays.” The training will be sponsored and conducted by the Columbia Cooperative Ministry, the United Way of Greenville County, or the Charleston Trident Urban League that operate VITA sites.



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## WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Wellness Committee provides programming for young lawyers that promote mental, emotional, physical, and social well-being. The Wellness Committee strives to provide resources and tools to young lawyers that address work/life balance, stress management, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, physical health and well-being, and other quality of life issues. The YLD's Wellness Committee also plans to collaborate with the Bar's Wellness Committee to develop programs and events for the Living Above the Bar initiative.



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## WILLS CLINICS

The purpose of this committee is to provide free wills and estate planning documents for first response personnel and Habitat for Humanity homeowners. During the clinics, young lawyers will conduct an interview and consultation, and draft wills and advance directives, leaving first responders and homeowners with fully executed documents. Members of this committee will plan clinics throughout the state and recruit attorney volunteers. Young lawyer volunteers need no prior estate planning experience to take part. Guidelines, forms and training sessions are provided prior to clinics.



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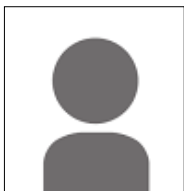
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