

**The Florida Bar
Young Lawyers Division
Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2009 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Orlando - Hard Rock Hotel**

1. **Call to Order** – President Jewel White Cole at 9:18 AM.
2. **Roll Call** – Kim Gustafson, Secretary. The following members were not present: Greg Brown, Greg Haile, Bill Henry, Z. Felicia Jordan, Christina McKinnon, Cynthia Morales, Elisha Roy, and Christine Stenger.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation** – Chelsie Roberts.
4. **Introduction of Non-Members.** Josh Belk (President of Georgia Bar) was present. He and President Jewel White Cole attended the First Southern Bar Presidents Conference which was held yesterday in Orlando. Sean Desmond introduced law students attending the meeting. Victoria Wu introduced Liz Acee (Chair of ABA YLD) and Jay Rankor (ABA Affiliate Director ABA).
5. **Consideration of Minutes of the December 5, 2008 Meeting** - President Jewel White Cole. A motion to approve the minutes was made, properly seconded and approved.
6. **President’s Report** – President Jewel White Cole.
 - (a) The location of the May meeting will be moved to Key West (due to a fire at the Cheeca Lodge).
 - (b) A lengthy discussion regarding the budget was held. The budget projections the BAR gave the YLD were incorrect. YLD revenues were projected to be \$670,000.00; however it looks like only \$500,000 will be earned. President Cole and President-Elect Haughey have attended many meetings with the Bar and have been cutting every line item in this year, and next year’s budget. The Board will need to make hard decisions regarding what needs to be cut in the future (ex. cut law school scholarships). President Elect Haughey reports they recently learned the YLD had a substantial deficit last year.
 - (c) Virgil Hawkins requested sponsorship, which President Cole was going to recommend until learned we don’t have any money. If the YLD is able to raise revenue by the May meeting – the sponsorship will be revisited.
 - (d) A discussion was held regarding board seats for next year. Some current members drew opposition. Initially no one applied for the 3rd Circuit seat; however, the seat was re-advertised and applications have been received.
 - (e) President Cole requests committee chairs to supply a note regarding their progress in meeting goals from the long range planning meeting before her term ends.

- (f) President Cole reports that she invites the local members from the senior board to attend the YLD board meetings held in their area.

7. **President-elect's Report** – R.J. Haughey.

- (a) The Long Range Planning Meeting will be held Feb 27th at Champion's Gate (in Polk County). Everyone is welcome to attend. Tom Miller has sent around a survey regarding the strength/weaknesses of the Board which will be utilized to prioritize for next year.
- (b) President Elect Haughey reports that President Jewel White Cole has been an excellent representative for the YLD Board and has commanded great respect from the senior Board.
- (c) President Elect Haughey distributes and comments on next year's YLD budget. Further discussion regarding the budget was had. It will be a deficit year which the Bar has approved, likely because in the past years YLD has generated a surplus that was given back to the Bar.

8. **Program Administrator's Report** - Tom Miller. No report.

9. **Basic Skills Course Committee Meeting Report** - Belinda Lazzarra reports the committee proposes to eliminate the "in-person" requirement for the Basic Skills courses (this will not affect PWP -- that will still be offered only live) and eliminate video replays. The vast majority of YLs are satisfying "in-person" requirement by watching for video replays. The change is being recommended as a service to young lawyers, for convenience and flexibility. CLE revenues are not down (there was an error in projections). Revenues coincide with historic performance; however costs have gone up. Eliminating video replays will eliminate costs. Additional costs of downloading CLE will be paid by the end user. The Supreme Court and senior BAR are supportive of this change. Live seminars will still be available for those who want to experience "comradery" or networking. The rule change will say "complete" rather than "attend" 3 basic skills courses. CLEs will have security mechanisms in place -- approximately 4 times the attendee will be required to respond to a prompt. This will allow for better checks and balances on attendance than now (as attendance is rarely taken at the end of the seminar). A discussion was had regarding whether this change would put the YLD at risk that sections with expertise in an area may try to lobby to put on basic skills classes, thereby diminishing YLD revenue. The BAR, and the rule, guarantee "basic" seminars can only be put on by the YLD. Any subsequent rule change would be required to allow other sections to put on the basic CLEs. A concern was raised that a local BAR purchase one download and then show the CLE at its office thereby depriving YLD of revenues. While this is possible, only the person who paid for the CLE would be able to receive credit. Every young lawyer will still have to register, and pay for, 3 basic CLEs. A discussion was had regarding whether the rule change will detract from attendance at the live seminars. A discussion was had as to whether or not there will be a lag in revenue by people waiting until the last minute before completing the three required courses. The

committee thinks the opposite will happen - - a revenue boost will result from increased availability of CLEs in a young lawyer's area of interest. President Elect Haughey reports that most people take their courses at the end of the 3 year cycle and the BAR gets an overwhelming number of requests for extensions of time to complete the course requirements (with the basis for extension being there were no courses near them before the cycle ended). President Cole reports that if the Rule change is approved by the YLD BOG, the Senior Bar will read the change at its April and May meetings and then it goes to the Court for a rule change. A vote was taken and the Rule change was approved with one dissent.

10. Committee Reports:

- (a) **Affiliate Outreach Conference Committee** – Cristina Alonso reports there are 72 people registered for the conference. Registration begins at 2PM. There are gift bags for all registrants, board members, and guests. The President's Roundtable begins at 3:30PM and will consist of four roundtable discussions (Diversity, Membership, Pro Bono, and ABA YLD). The Welcome Reception at 5:30PM is sponsored by Wachovia with an open bar and appetizers. Dinner will be at the Hard Rock Live and the after-event is at City Walk. Project Grant Presentations will be made tomorrow from 9AM - 11:30AM.
- (b) **Annual Meeting Committee** – Renee Thompson reports the annual meeting will be held June 24-27 at the Orlando World Marriott and will have a beach theme (Leave Your Footprints in the Sand). The Friday night dinner will have a Jimmy Buffett band. There will be 110 guests at the 50-year member luncheon and the Honorable Joseph Hatchett will be the speaker. The committee will need volunteers for the luncheon. The Past Presidents dinner has a '20s theme. The budget cuts did not affect YL events at the Annual Meeting.
- (c) **Awards Committee** – Doug Woodward announces the Members Service Project, Public Service Project, and Affiliate of the Year award nominations. Board members speak to their knowledge on projects and board members vote. Winners will be announced at the luncheon tomorrow.
- (d) **Budget Committee** – President Elect R.J. Haughey reports that the budget which was circulated needs to be approved and forwarded to the Senior Bar. A motion to approve the budget was made, properly seconded and approved. At the Southeastern Presidents Conference President-elect Haughey learned that most other young lawyers divisions do not have dedicated funds and therefore seek out sponsorships. President-elect Haughey encourages board members to consider this as a future revenue source.
- (e) **Bylaws Committee** – Ed McCarthy reports that the executive committee requested the Bylaws Committee consider an amendment regarding member attendance due to recent low attendance at YLD BOG meetings. The committee vetted whether or not a harsher amendment (i.e. removal) was appropriate.

Ultimately, the proposed change encourages attendance, but does not specify what constitutes an excused absence. President Cole states the out-of-state meeting has never been considered a “required” meeting since it is not subject to reimbursement. Ed McCarthy reports there is a second revision regarding law school liaisons so that one board member serves as a liaison per law school (as opposed to each board member in a given circuit serving as a liaison to each school in that circuit). A discussion was had regarding the change to the attendance requirement in the bylaws. A concern was raised that the amendment will make some board members no longer able to serve due to cost (particularly government, legal aid, and solo practitioners). A board member suggested fewer in-person meetings and encouraged web-based meetings. The possibility of teleconference meetings was also discussed. A discussion was held regarding whether voting by proxy was an option. The proposed bylaw change was read, and unanimously approved.

- (f) **CLE Committee** – Belinda Lazzarra reports half of the CLEs have been completed. Felicia Jordan programmed a wonderful probate guardianship. Belinda Lazzarra emphasized the importance of getting speakers and materials in on time to allow for advertising and generate revenue via attendance. President-Elect Haughey reminds the Board that PWP and basic CLEs are the only two things that Supreme Court asks YLD BOG to do.
- (g) **Communications Committee** – Ward Griffin reports that another great newsletter has been distributed. Changes to the website will need to be addressed given the current budget situation.
- (h) **Diversity Committee** – No report.
- (i) **Executive Committee** – No report.
- (j) **Governmental Affairs Committee** – Chrissy Davis reports that the Court Funding Government Symposium at the Mid-Year meeting was well attended. The committee previously considered putting on a seminar on running a campaign but this will need to be revisited in light of the budget issues.
- (k) **Law Practice Transition Committee** – No report.
- (l) **Law Related Education/Moot Court Committee** – Michael Orr reports the moot court problem will be completed with Supreme Court in the next two weeks and committee meetings will commence within the next month.
- (m) **Law Schools Committee** – Sean Desmond reports for the second year in a row every single law school is attending AOC. The first official board meeting for law students will be held during AOC from 2:30 - 4:30PM, at which time there will be elections for new officers. Mike Orr will advise the law students about the moot court competition. During the Mid-Year meeting, there was a good panel discussion for law students on “How to Market Yourself in this Economy.”
- (n) **Local Bar Affiliates Committee** – No report.

- (o) **Long Range Planning Committee** – President-elect Haughey reports the committee will meet February 27th at Champions Club. The meeting is open to everyone.
- (p) **PWP Committee** – Adam Rabinowitz reports Justice Quince’s uniform introduction for PWP will be filmed soon. The Handbook is being revised to reflect rule changes. The committee will meet on March 14th in Orlando.
- (q) **Quality of Life Committee** – Lou Ursini reports he will be reaching out to members to spotlight individuals doing charitable work in the next newsletter.
- (r) **Pro Bono** -- President Cole reports the RPTLs Save Our Homes program has a significant number of young lawyer volunteers. Also, a recent study commended the YLs pro bono efforts. Heather Pinder Rodriguez thanks those who have provided the names of YL pro bono volunteers. A draft pamphlet that will be included in all PWP course handouts and will be on the YLD website was circulated. The purpose of the pamphlet is to encourage others to participate in pro bono by recognizing other young lawyers’ pro bono work that has benefited their practice. The seminar held in Miami to further Justice Quince’s program to increase Guardian ad Litem (GAL) volunteers was a great success. GAL will have a table at the AOC registration and will speak for 5 minutes at the luncheon on Saturday. Heather Pinder Rodriguez encourages all board members to get the word out that pro bono work is a great opportunity for your practice.

11. **Liaison Reports:**

- (a) Appellate Practice – Chrissy Davis. No Report
- (b) Business Law – Scott Chitoff. No Report.
- (c) City County and Local Government Law – President Jewel White Cole. No Report.
- (d) Criminal Law – Peter Sartes. No Report.
- (e) Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law – Ginger Barry. No Report.
- (f) Equal Opportunity Law – Christina McKinnon. No Report.
- (g) Family Law – Elisha Roy. No Report.
- (h) Government Law – Ward Griffin. No Report.
- (i) Labor and Employment Law – Chelsie Roberts. No Report.
- (j) Out of State Practitioners – Mindi Wells. No Report.
- (k) Real Property, Probate and Trust Law – Felicia Jordan. No Report.
- (l) Tax Law – Tax Law is offering two fellowships for young lawyers to become members.
- (m) Trial Lawyers – Monica Segura. No Report.

12. **Nominations for President-Elect:** Belinda Lazzarra nominates Renee Thompson. Sean Desmond seconds nomination. Renee Thompson accepts the nomination.
13. **Good of the Order**
 - (a) Doug Woodward and his wife had a third child in December.
 - (b) Scott Chitoff and his wife had a child in December.
 - (c) Scott Chitoff has been appointed to the committee for a new courthouse in Broward County.
 - (d) Heather Rodriguex will receive the Orange County Young Lawyer Professionalism Award.
 - (e) Ghenete Wright Muir's election is March 10th.
 - (f) Rhonda Sroman acknowledges Florida Gator National Championship.
 - (g) Sean Desmond encourages everyone to donate to Ghenete's campaign.
 - (h) Al Sauline has been elected to serve as President-Elect of Bay County Bar Association.
14. **Time and Place of Next Meeting** –May 15, 2009, The Pier House, Key West. The out of state meeting is first week in March in Breckenridge, Colorado. Dinner is scheduled Thursday night at Heartstone.
15. **Adjournment** - President Jewel White Cole. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, properly seconded and approved.