

## YLD Judicial Lunch Program

**Overview:** The YLD hosts a local judge for lunch at a restaurant of his or her choice near the courthouse.

**Size:** Approximately 15 YLD members attend. Too many attendees makes them unable to talk with the judge.

**Time:** Usually 1 hour, beginning at noon, depending on the judge's schedule.

**Cost:** Approximately \$12 per person. My local YLD charges local members \$5 and the balance is paid for (or reimbursed) from the YLD budget of our local Circuit Bar Association. The judge does not have to pay for their own meal because this purchase is made by a Bar Association and they get a free lunch.

**Implementation:** Call the J.A. for the judge and identify the YLD. Tell them that you will plan the event around the judge's schedule and lunch preference. Often they will ask if there is a topic on which the judge is expected to speak.

**Topics:** The purpose of this lunch is for YLD members to meet and for a judge to meet them. It is an informal and low stress lunch. Topics often include:

- How the judge's career began.
- What is different since they were a young lawyer.
- What barriers the judge faced in the practice of law.
- Where the judge worked before becoming a judge.
- What benches they have served on as a judge.
- What they like and dislike in their courtroom.
- Pet peeves.
- Old stories.

**Proctoring:** The local YLD President or the BoG rep can traditionally serve as proctor, collecting the \$5 from guests and leading the discussion. Begin by going around the table and having everyone introduce themselves, where they work, how long they've been a lawyer, and what area of practice. Then the attention usually focuses on the judge. You may wish to start the introductions after everyone has ordered to give time for folks to filter in, decide what they want to eat, and chat. That way most of the discussion is in full swing by the time food arrives and the time is used efficiently.

**Questions:** contact Jacob Rush, 8<sup>th</sup> Cir. YLD BoG Rep [jake@rushandglassman.com](mailto:jake@rushandglassman.com)