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Future Meeting Dates

ANNUAL

June 11-14, 2026
Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa
Fernandina Beach, Florida

FALL

October 15-18, 2026
The Westin Hilton Head Island
Resort & Spa
Hilton Head Island, South
Carolina

MIDYEAR

January 14-17, 2027
Omni Hotel at The Battery
Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

SPRING

March 4-7, 2027
Fairmont El San Juan Hotel
San Juan, Puerto Rico

YLD Spring Meeting General Session
April 23, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.
Kimpton Hotel Arras | Asheville, North Carolina

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to OrderVeronica

Recognition of Special Guests and First-Time Meeting Attendees..... Virginia

CJCP | Connect with a Colleague ContestMeghan Golden
Ethics and Professionalism Committee Co-Chair

Pro Bono SpotlightJessica Luegering
Staff Attorney, Georgia Legal Services Program

Executive Council Reports

Board of Directors

Representative Council

Committee Chairs

[Legal Food Frenzy Competition | April 20 - May 1](#)Alexa Dato-Caudell

Affiliate Leaders

Officer Reports

President’s ReportVeronica

Past President’s Report Kenneth

President-Elect’s Report Virginia

Treasurer’s ReportKindall

Budget

Secretary’s ReportCaleb

Approval of Midyear Meeting Minutes

Newsletter Updates Alec and Carlos

Edition Copy | Submission Deadline | Distribution Date

Vol. 67, No. 4 (Summer) | May 1, 2026 | June 2026

Old Business

New Business

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment



April 25, 2026

Dear Board of Governors,

Since the Midyear Meeting, the Young Lawyers Division has continued to live up to our motto of serving the public and the profession. Our committees continue to hold meetings, CLEs, networking events, and service activities throughout the state.

We held our Signature Fundraiser benefitting Middle Georgia Justice on February 28 in Macon, Georgia. Rebecca Grist received the YLD Lifetime Achievement Award and James Banter received the YLD Signature Service Award. We are thankful for all of our sponsors who helped us raise funds for an organization dedicated to justice for all.

Leadership Academy held its first session at the Mid-Year meeting, its second session at the Capitol on February 10, and its third session in Savannah, GA on March 7. We are truly impressed by this year's talented class and their kickball skills.

The Georgia YLD Podcast hosted by Ron Daniels and Bert Hummel continues to release epic episodes. So far, the topics have been both informative and entertaining. As a reminder, this is a limited series, so we encourage you to take a listen while you can.

YLD election season is under way. The following individuals are running for YLD Secretary: Colin Adebayo, Chelsea Dease, and Kelsie Mattox. Caleb Ratliff is running unopposed for YLD Treasurer and Kindall Browning-Rickle is running unopposed for President-Elect.

Now we look forward to what promises to be another successful Legal Food Frenzy Competition. The dates of this year's competition are April 20-May 1. Please sign up to participate in the Competition and help us raise funds to feed food insecure families around the state.

Lastly, we are excited for our upcoming YLD stand-alone meeting April 23-25, at the Kimpton Hotel Arras in Asheville, North Carolina. The weekend is jam packed with activities, including our general session, a CLE, a hands-on service project, a Pro Bono Power Hour, a working lunch with local lawyer/mayor of Asheville, and a joint networking reception with the North Carolina YLD at Burial Brewing.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 30 committees serving the community and profession. Each committee works diligently to provide substantive programming in their respective focus areas. Below are some of the events, activities, and accomplishments of our YLD committees this year:

YLD Business Law Subcommittee

Nathan Miles, Chair

The YLD Business Law Subcommittee is coordinating with the YLD Workers' Compensation Committee and the State Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section to prepare a CLE program on May 7, 2026, regarding the use of AI in litigation and ADR settings. The BLS is also working with the YLD Community Service Project committee to organize a food packing day at the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee

Zipporah Tillman and Mary Kathryn Vasquez, Co-Chairs

The YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee will be partnering with the YLD Labor and Employment Law and Workers' Compensation committees for a networking event. The event is Briefs and Bites Networking Social Date: February 26, 2026, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Location: The Establishment 1197 Peachtree St NE Atlanta, GA.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee

Lyddy O'Brien and Nick Smith, Co-Chairs

YLD Community Service Projects Committee is currently planning a volunteer event at the Atlanta Community Food Bank with another commuter for late February. We have also reached out to Open Hand; for a potential event later this spring.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee

Meagan Hurley and Meghan Pittman, Co-Chairs

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee held regular monthly virtual meetings to conduct committee business, advance CLE planning and coordinate professionalism-focused initiatives aligned with YLD and State Bar priorities.

We are planning a Government lawyers CLE for the Summer with CJCP and the YLD Legislative Affairs Committee. We are also planning data privacy and professional responsibility CLE as well as a depositions etiquette CLE. Our committee has encouraged participation in CJCP mentorship initiative and CJCP AI Ethics CLE.

We are also co-sponsoring networking social in Savannah with Leadership Academy Alumni and planning in-person engagement at the YLD Spring Meeting to strengthen committee visibility and member connections. YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee.

YLD Family Law Committee

Emily Long and Sarah Trahan, Co-Chairs

The YLD Family Law Committee is hosting a virtual CLE on February 13 with the YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee titled, Cupid's Complications: When 'I Do' Becomes 'I'm Done' in the Golden Years.

YLD Leadership Academy

James Banter, Matt Caudell and Kelsie Mattox, Co-Chairs

The 2026 Leadership Academy completed Session 1 at the State Bar Mid-Year meeting. Session 1 involved an esteemed legal panel who provided insight on becoming a leader in the YLD and State Bar. There are five more sessions throughout the remaining Bar year. Session 2 will be on February 10th at the Georgia State Capitol "Learning from Leaders in State Government and Judiciary." Session 3 will be in Savannah on March 6th - 8th "Community Leadership: Leading Together". Session 4 will be in Asheville, North Carolina "Networking Across State Lines". Session 5 will be in Gainesville on May 15th - 16th "From the Bench and Beyond". Session 6 will be our last session and graduation in Fernandina Beach, Florida, on June 11th - 14th "Moving Forward in Leadership" in conjunction with the State Bar's Annual Meeting.

YLD Leadership Academy Alumni

Alex Cark, Chair

The YLD Leadership Academy Alumni Committee's upcoming events include two kickball games co-hosted by the YLD Sports Law Committee on March 7 and 21 in Savannah and Decatur and a networking reception with the YLD Leadership Academy.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Alexa Dato-Caudell and Jack Wareham, Co-Chairs

The dates for the Legal Food Frenzy Competition will be April 20-May 1, 2026. The state-wide goal is to raise \$1 million, with the Attorney General's support. Early registration runs from March 20 to April 20, with bonus points available during this period. Feeding Georgia is working to update the competition website with graphics, email templates, and registration instructions to share with your firms and local bar organizations.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Angelik Holloway, Chair

The YLD Real Estate Committee plans to offer a CLE presentation titled, "Torts in Real Estate" at the annual meeting featuring the incoming YLD President as a panelist alongside other real estate litigation attorneys.

YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee

Morgan Boulineau and Angelik Holloway, Co-Chairs

The YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee hosted the Hustle to Hands-On: Workshop at the Bar Center. Three speakers helped with marketing, automations, and finances for 20 small law firm owners.

YLD Sports Law Committee
Joy Bonner, Chair

The YLD Sports Law Committee has had a blast. In January we hosted a CLE at the Midyear meeting; on February 20 we are hosting YLD Night with the Atlanta Hawks; and in March we are assisting the Leadership Academy with the YLD Kickball games in Savannah and Atlanta.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee
Cayton Chrisman and Olivia Mercer, Co-Chairs

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee completed a service night at the Ronald McDonald House helping prepare a meal for the families staying there. We also purchased tickets for our annual networking event at an Atlanta United match, which will take place on March 14th this year. We are also planning a virtual lunch and learn and/or a wellness walk outdoors when the weather warms up.

YLD AFFILIATES

The YLD currently has seven recognized active affiliates around the state: Young Lawyers of Augusta, Cobb County Younger Lawyers Division, Columbus YLD, Gate City YLD, Glynn County YLD, Houston County YLD, Macon YLD and Savannah YLD. If you know anyone interested in joining the affiliates, please let us know.

YLD MEETINGS

Spring Meeting | April 23-25

Kimpton Hotel Arras
Asheville, North Carolina

Annual Meeting | Jun. 11-14

Omni Amelia Island Resort
Fernandina Beach, Florida
Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

As always, our events are not limited to YLD members only. All are invited to join us in fellowship.

Sincerely,



Veronica R. Cox
YLD President



2026 YLD SPRING MEETING

Treasurer's Report

April 25, 2026

Asheville, NC

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Budget 2025-26</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Advocates for Students with Disabilities	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Business Law	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Community Service Projects	\$1,250.00	\$89.00	\$0.00	\$1,161.00
Corporate Counsel	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Criminal Law	\$500.00	\$638.00	\$0.00	(\$138.00)
Disaster Legal Assistance	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Estate and Elder Law	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Ethics and Professionalism	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00
Family Law	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
High School Mock Trial	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Inclusion in the Profession	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Intellectual Property	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Intrastate Moot Court	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Judicial Law Clerk	\$650.00	\$271.00	\$0.00	\$379.00
Labor and Employment	\$750.00	\$789.00	\$0.00	(\$39.00)
Law School Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$718.00	\$0.00	\$1,282.00
Leadership Academy	\$22,000.00	\$8,537.00	\$0.00	\$13,463.00
Leadership Academy Alumni	\$2,500.00	\$1,665.00	\$0.00	\$835.00
Legal Food Frenzy	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Legislative Affairs	\$700.00	\$519.00	\$0.00	\$181.00
Litigation	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	(\$1,500.00)
Membership Initiatives	\$1,300.00	\$424.00	\$0.00	\$876.00
National Moot Court Competition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Public Interest Internship Program	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
Real Estate	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$380.00
Signature Fundraiser	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solo & Small Firm	\$500.00	\$624.00	\$420.00	\$296.00
Sports Law	\$1,000.00	\$4,819.00	\$0.00	(\$3,819.00)
Standing Committees	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Wellness	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
William Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Women in the Profession	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Workers' Compensation	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$55,350.00	\$30,113.00	\$420.00	\$25,657.00



YLD Midyear Meeting

**General session
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2026
Omni at The Battery
Atlanta, Ga.**

Welcome and Call to Order

YLD President Veronica Cox called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DAMON ELMORE

Damon Elmore provided the Executive Director's report, mentioning the upcoming Board of Governors meeting. The meeting will include voting on a bylaw provision related to misconduct and finalizing nominations for State Bar officers. The next spring meeting is scheduled for March at the Ritz Carlton Lake Oconee, focusing on budget and other important bar business. He discussed changes in CLE rules and the expanded compliance period to two years for Bar members. He also discussed the upcoming legislative session and that the Bar would be keeping an eye out on any new legislation concerning lawyers. He also stated that the Bar would be implementing measures to ensure the Bar parking is being used only by Bar members and not by extended friends or family members without members present.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

President-Elect, Virginia Josey, recognized the special guests attending which included three former YLD Presidents: Ron Daniels, Bert Hummel, Rizza O'Connor and Betsy Hodges. Virginia also recognized many first-time attendees. She also welcomed Judge Bill Adams who attended the meeting on behalf of Middle Georgia Justice.

SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER BENEFICIARY

President Veronica Cox welcomed Judge Bill Adams to the podium, and he expressed his appreciation on behalf of Middle Georgia Justice for being chosen as the beneficiary of the YLD Signature Fundraiser to be held in February. He emphasized that you cannot outgive justice.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

- Board of Directors
 - No report was given.
- Representative Council
 - No report was given.
- Committee Chairs
 - Alex Clark (YLD Leadership Academy Alumni) – spotlighted the two kickball tournaments

to be held in March. One in Savannah (March 7) and one in Atlanta (March 21). All YLD members are encouraged to sign-up and participate. Local judges will need to participate by being the umpires for the games.

- Joy Bonner (Sports Law) – highlighted the YLD Night with the Hawks on February 20, 2026 and that tickets are available for purchase.
- Affiliate Leaders
 - Gate City – Shannon Young stated the Gate City YLD Affiliate would be having a wills clinic on January 24.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report

YLD President Veronica Cox recognized the YLD Leadership Academy class that had their first meeting at the midyear meeting. It is a special class in that it is the 20th year of the program. She also discussed that the YLD has already completed close to twenty events by the time of the meeting. Given that the fall is usually the slower part of the Bar year, it is impressive the number of events that the YLD as a whole had put together. She discussed the Gold Dome track coming up that will emphasize the importance of young lawyers getting involved in the legislative process. She discussed the preparations that are taking place for the YLD Signature Fundraiser that will be taking place in Macon on February 28, 2026. The fundraiser will benefit Middle Georgia Justice.

She stated that there will be two awards given out at the Signature Fundraiser to Rebecca Price and James Banter in recognition of their contributions to the YLD.

The next meeting will be the standalone spring meeting in Asheville, North Carolina on April 24-26, 2026. We will be joined by the North Carolina Bar and have a networking event with them along with a service project.

She also stated that Bert Hummel and Ron Daniels are bringing back the YLD Podcast and an episode had already been released with Scott Wilkinson of the Atlanta Hawks and that more episodes would be coming out soon.

Lastly, her remarks emphasized the need for us to remember that we are all human, we all have things that we have going on and that it is important to encourage each other and lean on other YLD members and the resources provided within the State Bar for support when it is needed.

Immediate Past President Report

Immediate Past President Kenneth Mitchell provided his report in that he encouraged members to attend meetings close by and get involved in the YLD.

President-Elect's Report

President-Elect Virginia Josey announced that the planning for the 2025-2026 bar year is still ongoing but that she has been preparing on the items for her year for quite some time. She also stated the importance of bar service and highlighted her involvement in the Bar disciplinary board. She also discussed the newly formed Senior Lawyers Division that would officially start within the next month.

She also noted a first-time attendee – her son, Daniel Josey, who was born seven weeks ago.

Virginia discussed her upcoming meetings in the 2026-2027 Bar year that include a fall meeting in Hilton Head Island, SC, a Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, GA and a Spring Meeting in 2027 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Lastly, she announced the members nominated for the upcoming Secretary election in the YLD. The members nominated at the meeting included Kelsie Mattox, Chelsea Dease and Colin Adebayo. The election will run during the month of March (begins March 16) and conclude on April 17. Additional nominations can be made in writing following the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

YLD Treasurer Kindall Browning-Rickle announced that she distributed the budget in the materials provided through the QR code at the meeting and encouraged members to use their budgets allocated to their committees.

Secretary's Report

YLD Secretary Caleb Ratliff requested that all meeting attendees sign in via the QR code that was provided so that we can accurately account for attendance. He reported on the Fall Meeting minutes in the meeting materials. After being moved and properly seconded, the Fall Meeting minutes were approved.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter Co-Editors, Alec Chappel and Carlos Fernandez, announced that the winter issue of the newsletter would be going out any day. The deadline for submission of articles for the spring issue is February 1, 2026, and the summer issue deadline is May 1, 2026. Reminded everyone that the articles needed to be only 750 to 1000 words. Stated that the committee chairs are responsible for providing content concerning their various activities. Carlos also stated that he had the first print edition of the YLD Newsletter for anyone that submitted articles. He also highlighted the upcoming CLE legal writing summit that would be put on in conjunction with several other states, and the cost would be free to members.

NEW BUSINESS

YLD Director Jessica Oglesby discussed that there would be a meeting at the Bar center on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, for any lawyers interested in running for legislative office.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Amanda McDonough requested all members to volunteer for Mock Trial and help with coordinating or judging when possible.
- Mary Kathryn Velazquez, staff attorney for Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, discussed the importance of pro bono work by members and highlighted opportunities for members to participate.
- YLD President Veronica Cox started a new job at OpenText as in-house counsel. YLD Treasurer Kindall Browning-Rickle has continued her employment at Daniels Law LLC for more than six months. Essie Strickland and William Hammon (Leadership Academy Alumni 2023) became engaged recently.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**Respectfully,
Caleb Ratliff**

**YLD Secretary
State Bar of Georgia**