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*Future Meeting Dates***SPRING**

April 23-26, 2026
Kimpton Hotel Arras
Asheville, North Carolina

ANNUAL

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

YLD Midyear Meeting General Session
Jan. 16, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.
Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta | Atlanta, Georgia**AGENDA**

Welcome and Call to Order	Veronica
Executive Director's Report	Damon Elmore <i>Executive Director, State Bar of Georgia</i>
Recognition of Special Guests and First-Time Meeting Attendees.....	Virginia
Signature Fundraiser Beneficiary	Judge Bill Adams <i>President, Middle Georgia Justice</i>
Pro Bono Spotlight	Mary Kathryn Velazquez <i>Policy Staff Attorney, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice</i>
Executive Council Reports	
Board of Directors	
Representative Council	
Committee Chairs	
Affiliate Leaders	
Officer Reports	
President's Report	Veronica
Signature Fundraiser Feb. 28, 2026 Overlook on First Macon, Georgia	
Past President's Report	Kenneth
President-Elect's Report	Virginia
Nominating Committee Update	
Treasurer's Report	Kindall
Budget	
Secretary's Report	Caleb
Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes	
Newsletter Updates.....	Alec and Carlos
Edition Copy Submission Deadline Distribution Date	
Vol. 67, No. 3 (Spring) Feb. 1, 2026 March 2026	
Vol. 67, No. 4 (Summer) May 1, 2026 June 2026	
Old Business	
New Business	
For the Good of the Order	
Adjournment	



January 16, 2026

Dear Board of Governors:

I am pleased to report on the happenings of the 79th year of the YLD. Our programming is in full swing, and the year is already shaping up to be both productive and energizing. Thus far, the YLD and its committees have hosted 20 events, including four CLEs, six service projects and 10 networking socials. In short, we have been very busy, and our members have managed to keep up without staging a formal protest, which I consider a victory.

We enjoyed a wonderful Fall Meeting. More than 30 participants joined us for the wellness hike, proving once again that young lawyers can climb mountains both inside and outside the courtroom. The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee delivered a thoughtful CLE with Justice Bethel and Judge Hise, and our Dinner Under the Stars lived up to its charming name.

As I mentioned in my last address, my theme for the year is “Celebrate the YLD.” To that end, I am excited to share that tickets and sponsorship packages for the Signature Fundraiser on Feb. 28, 2026 (Macon, Georgia), are now available. We hope you will join us to support Middle Georgia Justice and to celebrate this year’s YLD Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Rebecca Grist, and YLD Signature Service Award recipient, James Banter.

We finalized our plans for the YLD stand-alone Spring Meeting. The meeting will take place April 23-25, 2026, 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 with the NC YLD and a joint networking reception at Burial Brewing. It will be a weekend with equal parts productivity, fellowship and perhaps a modest amount of craft beer appreciation.

The Midyear Meeting marks another exciting milestone as we kick off the first session of the Leadership Academy Class of 2026. In honor of the Leadership Academy’s 20th anniversary, we will host a special reception to welcome the new class. I encourage you to stop by if you are able, as the enthusiasm of the incoming group is always contagious.

In other news, I am very excited to share that the YLD Podcast returns for a limited series, hosted by our very own YLD-ers for life, Bert Hummel and Ron Daniels. Look out for and listen to our first episode release in January 2026. It will be available for download on Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud, Spotify and YouTube.

Finally, I’d like to extend my sincere appreciation to several outstanding YLD members. Thank you to Alec Chappell and Carlos Fernández for doing such an incredible job putting together the YLD Review and giving us truly quality content. Thank you to the Signature Fundraiser Committee, including Kindall Browning-Rickle, Chelsea Dease, Iyana Smith, Kayla Kudratt, Mallory Flemming, Brandi Holland and Kelsey Kicklighter,

for working very hard to make this event happen. And thank you to the Leadership Academy co-chairs, James Banter, Matthew Caudell and Kelsie Mattox, for their tremendous work shaping this year's programming.

YLD COMMITTEES

The YLD has more than 30 committees working to support our motto of service to 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 Child Protection and Advocacy Committee *Zipporah Tillman and Mary Kathryn Vasquez, Co-Chairs*

The YLD Child Protection and Advocacy Committee and YLD Community Service Projects Committee volunteered Nov. 11 from 1–4:30 p.m. for Empty Stocking Fund Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides toys and school supplies to children in need in and around Atlanta. We picked and packed holiday gift orders for children. The gifts were pre-purchased from other organizations and sponsors. A total of around 15 people signed up to volunteer. The location was the Empty Stocking Fund warehouse, 693 Humphries St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

We plan on hosting a virtual CLE in March or April 2026 concerning representing children with diminished capacities and the ethics surrounding the roles, specifically concerning client-directed vs. GAL advocacy. Panelists will include attorneys, GALs and stakeholders from various child welfare agencies.

YLD Community Service Projects Committee *Lyddy O'Brien and Nick Smith, Co-Chairs*

The YLD Community Service Projects Committee held a Trees Atlanta volunteer day in October and an Empty Stocking Fund volunteer day in November (in collaboration with the Child Protection and Advocacy Committee).

We are planning a volunteer day with Open Hand, an organization that provides medically tailored meals for people in need, for early 2026. We also plan to follow up with other committees on co-hosting a statewide food bank volunteer day in early 2026.

YLD Criminal Law Committee *Devin Rafus and Erin Wingo, Co-Chairs*

The YLD Criminal Law Committee will host a virtual CLE on Dec. 12, 2025, featuring a gang expert to discuss gang prosecutions, recent trends and what to look for in those cases.

YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee
Chelsey Haun and Benjamin Walker, Co-Chairs

The YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee is planning a CLE Hour in winter and are working on Wills Clinic for spring.

YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee
Meagan Hurley and Meghan Pittman, Co-Chairs

The YLD Ethics and Professionalism Committee hosted the Fireside Chat CLE with Justice Bethel and Judge Hise in conjunction with YLD programming at the Fall Meeting in Cloudland. We continue to hold monthly virtual meetings. We are planning a social networking event in Middle Georgia this winter and are discussing another social event in conjunction with the Midyear Meeting. We are actively planning a spring CLE, likely to be held in Atlanta.

We are also discussing a potential mixer in Savannah in March. Additionally, we have been contacted about collaborating with the State Bar's Professionalism Committee regarding its program on attorneys running for General Assembly. We have also resurrected the Rule of the Month postings via social media.

YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee
Caleb Grant and Maggie Martin, Co-Chairs

The YLD Judicial Law Clerk Committee held a committee meeting Nov. 20, 2025. At our meeting, we discussed possible future events to be held in the spring and discussed budgeting as well as the division of duties for future events.

YLD Labor and Employment Committee
Dymond Anthony and Amber Porter, Co-Chairs

The YLD Labor and Employment Committee held a meeting on November 20 to discuss and plan upcoming events. On December 13 the Committee held a service project volunteering with the Clark's Christmas Kids at Wal-Mart for a live shopping event for holiday gifts for children in foster care.

Additionally, the Committee is currently planning a networking event co-hosted with the YLD Workers' Compensation Committee near Valentine's Day as well as a CLE on mediation.

YLD Law School Outreach Committee
Tom Church, Chair

The YLD Law School Outreach Committee has held two events (Emory Alumni Week Recess Event, swearing-in and job fair in Fulton). Plans for a third at GSU were canceled by the school. We are in the early stages of planning multiple events for next year, including an AI panel in Atlanta for all law schools (with in-person and virtual attendance options), a UGA event in Athens, a Mercer event in Macon and a John Marshall event in Atlanta. We are waiting to hear back from GSU on rescheduling. If not, we will plan a separate event.

YLD Leadership Academy

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

The 2026 Leadership Academy class has been selected, and all sessions have been planned. The first session will take place in conjunction with the Midyear Meeting in Atlanta on Jan. 15, 2026. The class consists of 30 young lawyers. We're excited to welcome this outstanding group and look forward to an inspiring year of growth, service and impact.

YLD Leadership Academy Alumni

Alex Cark, Chair

The YLD Leadership Academy Alumni Committee hosted the Alumni Luncheon on Dec. 5 and will plan the Middle/South Georgia Alumni gathering in conjunction with the current LA session in Savannah on March 7. Details have not yet been finalized as of this submission (Nov. 19, 2025). The committee is also assisting with planning the March LA kickball tournaments in Savannah and Atlanta.

YLD Legal Food Frenzy Committee

Alexa Dato-Caudell and Jack Wareham, Co-Chairs

Dates for the 2026 Food Frenzy competition have not yet been released. We appreciate everyone who provided donations or volunteer hours to local food banks during our week of service Oct. 20–26, especially in light of the government shutdown and its effect on SNAP benefits. We are still looking for a personal representative in each region to coordinate in-person group volunteer events in the winter and spring. Please reach out to Jack or me if you are willing to serve.

YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee

Keona Blunt and Nicholas Lewis, Co-Chairs

The YLD Public Interest Internship Program Committee would like to host an event or panel to promote the scholarship, showcase attorneys working in public interest, encourage applicants and explore public interest opportunities.

YLD Real Estate Law Committee

Angelik Holloway, Chair

The YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee recently attended a networking event hosted by the Georgia Bar Real Property Law Section and the Atlanta Bar Association, at Pour Taproom Midtown. Committee members met new and established lawyers and networked with each other as well.

For the spring, the committee is planning to host another networking event in connection with a Real Property Law Section conference and potentially jointly hosting an event with the Atlanta Bar Association on practice tips for new real estate lawyers.

YLD Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee

Morgan Boulaneau and Angelik Holloway, Co-Chairs

The Solo Practice and Small Firm Committee hosted *From Hustle to Hands-On: Your Law Firm Strategy Lab* on Nov. 14, 2025. The program included four practical sessions with local experts on finances, marketing, technology and law firm foundations. Attendees received an interactive workbook and three hours of general CLE credit.

YLD Sports Law Committee

Joy Bonner, Chair

The YLD Sports Law Committee will host YLD Night with the Atlanta Falcons on Dec. 29. In addition to networking during Monday Night Football, we hope to obtain near-field access for group photos and connections. In January 2026, Sports Law, in conjunction with IP Law, will host a CLE during the YLD Midyear Meeting on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, from 3–4 p.m.

The committee will also host its annual Night with the Atlanta Hawks. With the help of partners, the experience has been elevated to provide ample space for networking and conversation, and we plan to invite assistant counsel with the Hawks to discuss their roles. This experience will allow space for members to network, mingle, and enjoy. In addition, we intend to invite assistant counsel with the Hawks to discuss their roles in the organization.

YLD Women in the Profession Committee

Cayton Chrisman and Olivia Mercer, Co-Chairs

The YLD Women in the Profession Committee is planning a service event on November 20th with Ronald McDonald where we will cook a meal for the families staying at the home. We have also paid a deposit to get first dibs on the Atlanta United schedule to host a networking event. We are in talks of doing a CLE or a wine and cheese networking event in the spring as well (after Olivia returns from leave). If you have any suggestions of committees who would be good to pair up with for either the CLE or networking event, we are all ears.

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

Midyear Meeting | Jan. 15-18

Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors.

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.

Thank you for your continued support as we celebrate and elevate the YLD in its 79th year. If the first few months are any indication, it's going to be a great year.

Sincerely,



Veronica R. Cox
YLD President



2026 YLD MIDYEAR MEETING

Treasurer's Report

January 16, 2026

Atlanta

Committee	Budget 2025-26	YTD Expenses	YTD Income	Balance
Advocates for Students with Disabilities	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Business Law	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Community Service Projects	\$1,250.00	\$63.00	\$0.00	\$1,187.00
Corporate Counsel	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Criminal Law	\$500.00	\$1,008.00	\$370.00	(\$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	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$680.00
Law School Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$718.00	\$0.00	\$1,282.00
Leadership Academy	\$22,000.00	\$5,419.00	\$0.00	\$16,581.00
Leadership Academy Alumni	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,700.00	\$6,200.00
Legal Food Frenzy	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Legislative Affairs	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Litigation	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Membership Initiatives	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
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	\$1,510.00	\$0.00	\$2,990.00
Solo & Small Firm	\$500.00	\$624.00	\$420.00	\$296.00
Sports Law	\$1,000.00	\$6,795.00	\$2,655.00	(\$3,140.00)
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	\$1,930.00	\$0.00	(\$680.00)
Workers' Compensation	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
	\$55,350.00	\$19,378.00	\$7,145	\$43,177.00



**YLD FALL MEETING
GENERAL SESSION
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2025
Cloudland at McLemore Resort
Rising Fawn, Georgia**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

YLD President Veronica Cox called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DAMON ELMORE

Reported on the early year operations within the Bar. The Bar is working on carrying out the initiatives of Bar President, Christopher Twyman, which is to focus on economic development, the rule of law (through programming), and making the committee work more efficient. Mr. Twyman also emphasized the need for the AI committee of the Bar to focus on emerging technologies within the practice of law.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

President-Elect, Virginia Josey, recognized the special guests attending which included Executive Director, Damon Elmore, and Karlise Grier. Virginia also recognized many first-time attendees and gave them an opportunity to introduce themselves.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

- Board of Directors
 - No report was given.
- Representative Council
 - No report was given.
- Committee Chairs
 - No report was given.
- Affiliate Leaders
 - No report was given.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report

YLD President Veronica Cox gave an update that she shared with the Board of Governors. She stated that the YLD Committee Chairs had their Committee Chair orientation at the State Bar and had a social gathering at Wild Leap in Atlanta afterwards. The officers and directors also had their retreat in Athens in August and everyone had a great time preparing for the year and bonding over a river rafting expedition. 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 also discussed that Leadership Academy applications had been brought in at a great rate this year, as close to 60 applicants had applied for a class of 30, which is incredible. The first session for them will be the mid-year meeting.

The Fall meeting included a leisure hike around the McLemore property and a Fireside Chat with Justice Charlie Bethel and Judge Melissa Hise from the Lookout Mountain Circuit put on by Megan Hurley and Meghan Golden. She also highlighted the dinner under the stars that would be taking place later that evening and the "Backpack Buddies" initiative that the YLD had going for the weekend as the service project to provide meals for children at Northwest Georgia Hunger Ministries.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Governors at the mid-year meeting in Atlanta at the Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta. That meeting will include several CLEs put on by the YLD IP Committee, Corporate Counsel Committee and the Sports Law Committee.

The Spring Meeting will be in Asheville, North Carolina on April 24-26, 2026.

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 had "nothing to report."

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. Stated that it was great that Bar President, Christopher Twyman, was opening doors for YLD members to have roles within the Board of Governors meetings. In particular, she highlighted members Taylor Wilson (prayer) and Missy Torgerson (pledge) that had roles in the meeting earlier in the morning Board of Governors meeting. She also highlighted several members who were voted into roles within the Bar at large.

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

Virginia highlighted some of her roles within the YLD and the Bar for the upcoming year such as the meetings and membership committee, the nominating committee for YLD officers and the State Bar Disciplinary Board.

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 that we were still early in the Bar year and not much had been spent out of the budget. The Judicial Law Clerk Committee is the only one that has spent any money out of their budget. She encouraged the committee chairs to spend the funds that they have allocated to them.

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 Annual Meeting minutes in the meeting materials. After being moved and properly seconded, the Annual Meeting minutes were approved.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter Co-Editor, Alec Chappell announced that they have a good amount of content for the fall issue, which should be out soon. The deadline for submission of articles for the Winter Meeting is November 1, 2025. 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. He had several members in attendance register on the spot to provide content for the newsletter.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Leadership Academy Holiday Luncheon will be held December 5, 2025. That will be followed later in the evening by the YLD Holiday Party that will only be available for those in YLD Leadership consisting of officers, directors, committee chairs and representative council and a "plus one."

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer McNeely spoke with the members in attendance about the importance of lawyer legislators in the Georgia General Assembly and how there would be a decline in the number (36) of legislators by approximately 10 or so that would be seeking higher office. She encouraged the members in attendance to run for office or be involved at the Capitol to help provide our assistance in the areas that impact our respective practices.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The YLD will be attending an Atlanta Hawks game in a suite this year in a game against the Miami Heat on February 20, 2026. We also booked a YLD night with the Atlanta Falcons on Monday, December 29, 2025.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

**Respectfully,
Caleb Ratliff**

**YLD Secretary
State Bar of Georgia**