

# Young Lawyers Section

## YLS Community Service Days

Each month, the YLS Service to the Public Committee organizes a community service day for MBA members. On October 10, MBA members volunteered at an Iron Chef event to benefit Children's Relief Nursery, a community-based program of LifeWorks NW that specializes in child abuse prevention services

for families with children ages 0-4. Special thanks to the following MBA members who participated: Sean Currie, Milan Hanson, Alisa Hardy, Tracy Hooper, Erika Huebschman and Colette McEldowney.

Our next community service day is with the Oregon Food Bank on November 16. See p. 6.



Erika Huebschman, Alisa Hardy, Colette McEldowney and Sean Currie volunteer at the Iron Chef event

## Ask the Associate

Dear Awesome Associate:

*I'm having trouble balancing my billable hour requirement with my "extracurricular" activities. I no longer have time to do anything. My DVR is overflowing and my dog doesn't know my name anymore. Please help!*

Your friend,  
Sinking in St. Johns

Dear Sinking:

It sounds like you are overcommitted. You obviously can't shirk your work duties, and unless you have compromising photos of someone important, you probably can't negotiate down your billable hour requirement. That leaves your "extracurricular" activities as the best place to look at reducing to provide relief.

You don't need to join every committee that comes your way, or be involved in every nonprofit some guy holding a clipboard on the corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square told you about. When it comes to joining committees or associations, you need to exercise discretion.

You certainly wouldn't indiscriminately post a series of selfies to Instagram from that licentious night on the town with your former frat buddies (heck, cameras weren't even allowed in half the places you went). The same premise holds true here.

You should target committees, boards, and other social opportunities that line up with your personal marketing plan. Look at what you'd get out of an opportunity, both professionally and/or personally, before deciding to join. If it is not fulfilling, either on a personal level or professional level, don't join just so that you'll have one more notch on your resume. Spending some time doing what's important to you will help you clear your mind and be a better attorney. But remember, work comes first. Activities that interfere with your day job can be more harmful than helpful.

Yours Truly,  
Awesome Associate

Send your questions to Awesome Associate at [mbabar.org](http://mbabar.org)

## YLS Lends Heroes a Hand

by Sarah Petersen  
YLS Wills for Heroes Committee

On October 4, the MBA YLS hosted Wills for Heroes, a program devoted to providing simple wills, powers of attorney and advanced directives to first responders, to "protect those who protect us," at Portland State University. Although this ABA-approved program has run in other states, this was the first time the program was offered in Oregon, and both the need and the response were overwhelming.

Traci Ray, Executive Director at Barran Liebman LLP and the MBA YLS President, first learned about the program at an ABA conference in Chicago that she attended while serving as the MBA YLS ABA Delegate. Upon returning, she asked for local support to run the clinic in Portland, and the YLS Board rose to the challenge. A Wills for Heroes committee was formed, including Adam Adkin, Elissa Boyd, Ben Cox, Mackenzie Hogan, Kathy Modie, Sarah Petersen, Sean Ray, Traci Ray, Duke Tufty and Tyler Volm, and the program took form. Eight months later, over 40 volunteers gathered to facilitate the four-hour clinic. YLS volunteers drafted documents for 100 police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and their spouses - each of them heroes.

YLS Board and Wills for Heroes committee member Mackenzie Hogan, who practices estate planning with Harris &

Bowker LLP, worked with the Wills for Heroes program to develop templates for the simple will and other documents. The templates allowed a team of attorneys and paralegals to act as "form fillers," who met with the first responders and their spouses to talk through the questions that must be considered when drafting these documents: Who will be your personal representative? Who will care for your children? Who should make decisions on your behalf? Obviously, these are tough questions to contemplate - perhaps even more so for professionals who may face death the next time they head off to work.

Even though a simple will cannot fit every person's needs, starting the conversation can be an important step. "We always said we needed to do it, but we just never got around to it," said one Sherwood police officer.

Once the form fillers had worked with the first responders to draft the documents, another group of attorneys, paralegals, notaries, and other volunteers were ready to walk the first responders through the next steps. Attorneys explained the documents one more time, to ensure that they reflected each hero's wishes, before the wills were witnessed and notarized. By the end of the day, 100 heroes were able

to walk out with a will, POA and advanced directive.

Mackenzie's templates have now been added to the Wills for Heroes' website, so that Oregon attorney volunteers around the state will have the resources to hold their own clinics. Traci Ray is meeting with other county bar leaders to help them provide the same type of pro bono effort to their local heroes. "The best parts of this project include making an impact on peoples' families and ensuring their peace of mind regarding their personal affairs."

Many of the attorneys who donated their time also noted how meaningful the experience was for them, and how the first responders were truly thankful for the service. In one thank you letter, Officer Amy Bruner-Dehnert said, "Thank you to all the volunteers that put on this event for us. It is truly appreciated! Please pass on my (and my family's) gratitude for taking the time to do this."

Additional thanks to Barran Liebman for generously donating lunch for the volunteers and to Aaron Starr, who works with Gevurtz Menashe and Barran Liebman as their IT manager. Without lunch and IT support, the event would not have enjoyed the same success, which was summed up by Sgt. Rohn Richards of the Hillsboro Police Department: "I just wanted to again say thank you for you and your awesome team's efforts. These events can be a nightmare to run and your team did it flawlessly. Again, bravo and many thanks!"



YLS Wills for Heroes volunteers

## MBA Mentor Program

The MBA Mentor Program is available to all YLS members, not just first-year lawyers. Applications for the MBA Mentor Program, which pairs YLS members with esteemed and experienced MBA members for a six-month period, may be found at [www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org) and are due by December 2. Mentoring matches will be made in December. A kickoff reception will be held in January where the YLS attorneys will meet their mentors for the first time. An additional social and CLE program will be scheduled during the six-month program.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Modie at [kathy@mbabar.org](mailto:kathy@mbabar.org) or 503.222.3275.

## mba yls | EVENT

### YLS Luncheon

#### Portland Prime

121 SW 3rd Ave., Portland

Tuesday, November 12

12-1 p.m.

The MBA YLS is happy to announce its first (of hopefully many) luncheons for all YLS members! Please join us for lunch, socializing and a candid discussion on how to market yourself as a new attorney. This discussion will apply to all newer attorneys, whether you are in a big firm, small firm, out on your own, or looking for a job. The price is \$25 per person. There is a 50% discount for new admittees (first licensed in any jurisdiction in 2013). Space is limited. We hope to see you there!

Register at [www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org).