



The Next Generation

by Tyler Volm
YLS President

The YLS President usually publishes a cover article in an issue of the *Multnomah Lawyer*, and when given the chance to write one this month, I felt compelled to do so for a variety of reasons. My wife and I recently welcomed our first child in August,

and that certainly forces a person into a period of reflection (usually during our 3 a.m. feedings). There have also been developments at the national and local levels that have left many people wondering what comes next. As I attempt to reconcile these two concepts, I got to thinking about my journey with the YLS, and why many of us take time away from our families and jobs to contribute to the MBA.

I initially joined the YLS CLE Committee at the insistence of a friend who was already on the committee. I was new to practice and, like the old adage, felt like I was drinking water out of a firehose. I had numerous other commitments, and was looking at the steep learning curve of those new to practice. As it turns out, joining that YLS committee was one of the best decisions I made in those early years. As I sat in on my first committee meeting, I was struck by the passion and purpose that my fellow committee members displayed. Like me, they too were new to practice, but that

did not hinder them from fulfilling the committee's mission, and *having some fun along the way*. Through this committee I met young lawyers who had been in practice for several years, and they not only showed me the light at the end of the learning curve tunnel through their actions, but they even took the time to meet me for coffee or lunch to directly mentor me in my professional development. I was struck by the generosity demonstrated by my peers, and when I eventually had the opportunity to chair the committee, I jumped at the chance to pay it forward with newer lawyers. Participation in the YLS has undoubtedly expanded my network, and provided me the opportunity to get to know other young lawyers in the area.

After chairing the CLE Committee, I joined the YLS Board. Again, the passion and dedication demonstrated by the other board members showed me that there was much more to the practice of law than writing briefs and billing hours. The time spent on bar committees and boards provides leadership development opportunities that serve young lawyers well throughout their careers. The art of collaboration, delegation, time-management, managing expectations and deadlines, and positive reinforcement (to name just a few) are traits that every professional must learn, and the sooner the better. These skills, which are not taught in the traditional law school curriculum, will help our generation of lawyers prepare to be the next leaders at the local, state, and national levels, as well as within our own firms.

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The YLS also provides its members with opportunities to engage with and give back to the community. Our Wills for Heroes program provides first responders with wills and powers of attorney free of charge, while providing newer lawyers the chance to contribute their knowledge and energy in the process. Through the Bullyproof program, YLS members can directly impact the lives of elementary school students by teaching them to identify and stand up against instances of bullying in their schools. With recent news of increases in this type of behavior around the country, it is that much more timely and impactful that we do our part to educate and equip these young people, some of whom will be joining our ranks in a few decades, with the tools to effectively and calmly diffuse and resolve conflict. Community Law Week, the YOUthFILM Project, and the Imprint Program are just a few other ways that young lawyers give back to the next generation of lawyers, legislators, and litigants. The YLS Board also has a liaison to the Campaign for Equal Justice, which focuses on improving access to justice for low-income Oregonians across the state.

Last, and perhaps most importantly, participation in your local bar organization increases professionalism and civility in what can be, at times, an acrimonious profession. Working together towards our common goals (increasing diversity in the bench and bar, ensuring access to justice, building a new courthouse, etc.) not only reminds us that deep down we all have more in common than we might think, but also that while we may disagree on legal issues, we are members of a profession which embodies dignity, respect, and the chance for everyone to be heard. In the age of emails and limited personal interaction, it is amazing what can be accomplished, and how it can be accomplished, when you know and have worked with the attorney on the other side. We have a pretty special bar here in Multnomah County and camaraderie through participation in the MBA is one way we can all ensure that this is passed on to the next generation of lawyers.

I have asked other members of the YLS Board to write articles about their MBA experiences. While we have all had unique experiences, we share a passion for enhancing the local legal community and our collective satisfaction with the practice of law. While most of you reading this are already members of the MBA, I ask that you consider inviting a friend, colleague, or new associate to an MBA event and let them see for themselves the impact the MBA has in our legal community. There is always room for more chairs, perspectives, and dialogue at the table.

Working together towards our common goals...not only reminds us that deep down we all have more common than we might think....

mba|CLE

To register for a CLE, please see below or go to www.mbabar.org and log in as a member to register at the member rate.

DECEMBER

12.7 Wednesday Representing Incapacitated Clients

Michael Fearl
Tim McNeil
Julie Meyer Rowett

12.8 Thursday The Robe as Sword and Shield: How Should the Bench Model and Enforce Professionalism?

Judge John Acosta
Judge Kathleen Dailey
Judge Jean Kerr Maurer
Ed Harnden
Judy Snyder

12.13 Tuesday Effective Use of Time & Technology: Eliminate, Automate, Delegate, Do

Tom Howe

12.15 Thursday Appellate Update

Judge Stephen Bushong
Justice Rives Kistler

JANUARY

1.11 Wednesday Evidence in Family Law

Judge Patrick W. Henry
Daniel Margolin

1.26 Thursday Brewery Law: The Top 10 Things You Didn't Know You Don't Know

Jesse Lyon
Marcus Reed

1.31 Tuesday 'Til Death (Or Otherwise) Do We Part: The Interplay Between Family Law Issues and Estate Planning

Mark Barzda
Taylor Kittell

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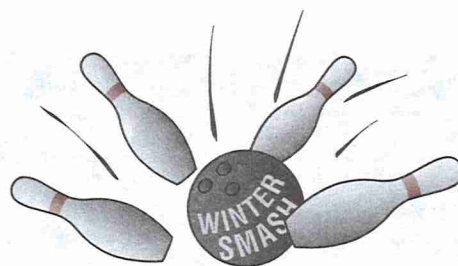
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SAVE THE DATE!

MBA 15th Annual WinterSmash

A Family Friendly Bowling Event

Saturday, February 4
5-8 p.m.
AMF Pro 300 Lanes
3031 SE Powell Blvd



A Multnomah CourtCare Fundraiser



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