



LEGAL FOOD FRENZY: A HUNGER-RELIEF CAMPAIGN



By J. Tanner Watkins, YLD Chair

Hunger is an epidemic in Kentucky. There are more than 700,000 Kentuckians, including 200,000 children, who struggle with hunger. Indeed, one in six adults and nearly one in four children in Kentucky lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. To combat hunger, many Kentuckians rely upon food banks.

The statistics from households that receive assistance from food banks in Kentucky are sobering:

- 67 percent of the households had to choose between paying for utilities and paying for food, with 32 percent reporting making this choice every month.
- 91 percent of the households purchased the cheapest food available, even if they knew it wasn't the healthiest option, in an effort to provide enough food for their household.
- 65 percent of the households have at least one member who suffers from high blood pressure; 41 percent have someone who struggles with diabetes.
- Nearly all (94 percent) of Kentucky's food bank client households with school-aged children receive free or reduced-price school lunch through the National School Lunch Program. Only one in 13 school children who receive free and reduced-priced lunch during the school year have access to such meals during the summer months when school is out.

The members of the Kentucky Association of Food Banks (KAFB) feed 611,000 Kentuckians annually. Last year its members distributed 52 million meals across the Commonwealth. KAFB is comprised of the seven regional food banks that distribute food in all 120 counties in Kentucky through a network of 800 local charitable feeding organizations such as soup kitchens and shelters. Food banks struggle to keep pace with the demand for emergency food assistance, *especially during the summer months*.

To address the Commonwealth's hunger epidemic, the office of the Attorney General Andy Beshear, the Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) and the KAFB have collaborated to create the Legal Food Frenzy – a Hunger Relief Campaign. The Legal Food Frenzy will pit lawyers, law firms, bar associations and law schools across the state in a friendly competition to raise funds for hunger relief. The Legal Food Frenzy will be timed to provide an increase in the supply of food available to meet the increased demand for food assistance during the summer months. Our goal is a lofty one; to raise the equivalent of one million pounds of food (or \$250,000) for Kentucky's regional food banks.

The competition is broken down into the following categories and awards are given to both the firm or organization that raises the most food and/or money on a per capita basis and to the firm or organization that raises the most total pounds of food and/or money:

- Solo Practitioner Law Firm (one-two lawyers);
- Small Law Firm (three-20 lawyers);
- Medium Law Firm (21-100 lawyers);
- Large Law Firm (101 and greater lawyers);
- Bar Association;
- Law school;
- Legal organization (Government, other law departments); and
- Corporate legal organization (Corporate law departments).

In addition to these categories, the firm or organization that raises the most food will be awarded *The Attorney General's Cup* – the most prestigious award of the year!!

THE TIMELINE FOR THE LEGAL FOOD FRENZY:

- 2016: campaign co-chairs, city representatives, and firm champions recruited; campaign materials prepared and distributed.
- January – February 2017: Planning begins for local kick-off events, recruitment efforts.
- March 2017: Statewide Kickoff event at State Capitol hosted by Attorney General Beshear.
- March 1 – April 17, 2017: Sign-up phase.
- April 17 – May 1, 2017: Legal Food Frenzy campaign!
- May 1 – 5, 2017: Donations tabulated. All food and fund donations must be turned in to, or picked up by, the food bank no later than May 1st. Deliver your food and monetary contributions to your food bank and your firm will receive a 25 percent bonus of tabulated pounds! Food items will be weighed at the food bank and the results tabulated in pounds.
- May 19, 2017: Winners Announced.
- June 2017: Winners Reception and Awards Presentation at the Kentucky Bar Association's Annual Convention in Owensboro, Ky.

ROLE OF MEMBERS OF THE KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION:

We are looking for every member of the KBA to take part in this initiative. Whether you're co-chairing the campaign or simply donating, we are looking for 100 percent participation. Particularly, we are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS – There will be one campaign co-chair for each Supreme Court District. The co-chairs guide the development and implementation of the Kentucky Legal Food Frenzy.

CITY REPRESENTATIVES – City representatives will have important, visible leadership roles in the Legal Food Frenzy to promote the competition in your communities and encourage firms, practitioners and other entities to sign up and compete.

- In addition to recruiting your own colleagues to compete, recruit other firms and practitioners in your communities.
- Work with your regional food bank to promote the competition as part of an already scheduled Bar or community meeting to learn more about hunger in your community. Schedule Attorney General Beshear to speak to your group!
- Recruit and work with “Friends of the Food Bank” volunteer attorneys to promote the competition at local Bar Association meetings and YLD meetings.

- Attend the statewide kickoff press conference at the Capitol with the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, Attorney General Beshear, the President of the Kentucky Bar Association, the KBA YLD Chair, and the Executive Directors of the seven Regional Food Banks.
- Promote the Early Signup.
- Promote Volunteering.
- Attend Awards Ceremony at the KBA Annual Convention.

FIRM CHAMPIONS promote the competition to your colleagues and raise as much food and funds as possible at your firm.

- Get the buy-in of your Managing Partner.
- Visit your regional food bank and learn more about hunger in your community.
- Work with your regional food bank to plan the Legal Food Frenzy at your firm.
- Encourage family and friends to donate by sending them the donation link.

Personally, I cannot think of a better way for Kentucky's lawyers to engage in a spirited competition and join forces to combat hunger in the Commonwealth.

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION SEEKS NOMINEES FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

The Young Lawyers Division seeks nominees for four awards given annually for exceptional contributions to the legal profession and the public. Nominations are due Friday, April 1, 2016. For more information on submitting a nomination, please visit www.kbayld.org/home or contact Young Lawyers Division Chair Tanner Watkins at Tanner.Watkins@dinsmore.com.

The **Outstanding Young Lawyer Award** honors a Kentucky attorney who has excelled in the practice of law, civic engagement/bar service, and community service. Any Kentucky young lawyer is eligible for nomination. “Young lawyer” is defined as one who, as of July 1, 2015, has been engaged in the practice of law for 10 or fewer years or who is 40 years old or younger.

The **Nathaniel R. Harper Award** honors a person or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to changing the face of the Bar by encouraging the inclusion of women, minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBT individuals, as well as promoting full and equal participation in the legal profession by all unrepresented or underrepresented groups.

The **Young Lawyer Service to Community Award** honors a member of the Young Lawyers Division for exemplary service to his or her community through volunteerism, service to non-profit organizations, and/or pro bono legal representation.

The **Service to Young Lawyers Award** honors a lawyer, non-lawyer, or organization for exceptional contributions to the professional and personal advancement and mentorship of young lawyers.

CERTIFICATION OF CANVASSING BOARD FOR BAR MEMBERS

SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE 41ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT NOMINATING COMMISSION AND THE 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT NOMINATING COMMISSION

Dear Chief Justice Minton and Mr. Meyers:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 118 of the Kentucky Constitution and SCR 7.040(6), a duly appointed canvassing board, on December 28, 2015, met in the Office of the Executive Director of the Kentucky Bar Association, and tabulated ballots for the special elections as reflected above. Pursuant to the provisions of SCR 7.030(11), the following candidates for the designated commission received the indicated number of votes.

41ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Kenneth A. Buckle, 12 Dryhill Rd, Hyden, KY.....11
R. Scott Madden, 116 Lawyers St, Manchester, KY.....2
Yancy L. White, 2281 S Hwy 421, Manchester, KY.....14

43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Thomas W. Davis, The Time Bldg, 135 W Public Sq, Glasgow, KY.....25
Thomas D. Emberton, PO Box 450, Edmonton, KY.....19

Certified as true and correct Election Results Pursuant to SCR 7.030(11), this 28th day of December 2015.

/s/

Karen Cobb, Chairman

CC: Laurie R. Kidd, Administrative Office of the Courts