



YLD YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION

By J. Tanner Watkins, YLD Chair

While I generally *attempt to* write articles that appeal to all of the members of the Bar Association, this article is directed primarily to our newest members — those who just passed the bar exam and were sworn in on October 19th.

First and foremost, congratulations! Whether your focus is transactional or litigation, civil or criminal, or all of the above, being a Kentucky lawyer is a privilege and an honor. Additionally, I'm quite certain that each of you will be a force of good for the profession, for your clients, the Bar Association and for the communities you serve. So, on behalf of the Bar Association, thank you. To help each of you on your respective journeys, I invite each of you to join the Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. We pride ourselves as the home of the best and brightest young lawyers in the Commonwealth, and that legacy will continue with you and your peers set to join us.

Membership is open to any Kentucky attorney who is 40 years of age or younger or those over 40 who have practiced law 10 or fewer years. As a first year lawyer, your dues to the Young Lawyers Division are waived. Thereafter, dues are only \$20 per year.

As a Young Lawyers Division member, you will enjoy numerous benefits including:

- Several free CLEs offered statewide focusing on practical skills for young lawyers;
- Access to free on-demand and in-person CLE;
- Free networking and social events throughout the state;
- Monthly e-newsletter and access to the Division listserv, a fast and easy way to contact fellow young lawyers;
- Brief In-sights podcast series;
- Professional development programs, such as the *Lawyers As Leaders* series;
- Alternative career development programs, such as the Road Less Traveled series;
- ^{\$}100 in savings on registration to the KBA Annual Convention, where we feature CLE and professional development programs designed by and for young lawyers;

- Numerous public service opportunities, including Bully-Proof, U@18, Voices Against Violence, and legal assistance to disaster survivors;
- Opportunities to advance and promote diversity in the profession;
- Leadership opportunities by serving on one of several YLD committees; and
- Much, much more.

Please consider serving the profession by becoming actively involved in the Young Lawyers Division. There is no finer professional development organization for young lawyers in Kentucky. Whether it is helping to deliver public service benefits across the state, or enhancing our profession through publications and presentations, there are real and ongoing opportunities for every member of our Division to give back to the profession and the community.

For more information concerning the Young Lawyers Division leadership, activities, and opportunities, please visit www.kbayld.org or our Facebook page. If you have any questions concerning the Division or are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me at tanner.watkins@dinsmore.com. I look forward to working with you.

Again, each of you have chosen an honorable profession. Welcome to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky!



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