



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: U@18 AND BULLYPROOF

By J. Tanner Watkins, YLD Chair

Since everyone has read the Kentucky Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Division (KBA YLD) article "Get Involved; Stay Involved" in July's *Bench & Bar*, I'm sure you're all wondering, "How in the heck can I get involved?" Don't worry. The KBA YLD has two great opportunities for you!! U@18 and BullyProof.

## U@18

U@18 was developed by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers' Division (ABA YLD) in 2006. The focus of U@18 is to teach high school students the rights, responsibilities and consequences of adulthood. The hour-long presentation, usually given to high school juniors and seniors, consists of 10 video skits which give students real-life scenarios. After each skit, the presenter (usually a local attorney) engages the students in a thoughtful discussion of the issues raised in the skit. The topics include rights and responsibilities as a customer, tenant, voter, driver, spouse, and citizen.

Last year, the KBA YLD gave the presentations to over 300 high school students in 10 counties. Mike Nitardy, the current chair of the U@18 program, has seen the impact of the program on students firsthand. "It's like a light bulb goes off in some student's heads, when they realize the long-lasting and sometimes life altering consequences of their actions as adults," he says, "very, very, rewarding."

## BullyProof

BullyProof is another program created by the ABA Young Lawyers' Division. BullyProof raises awareness amongst students about the effects of bullying through a one-hour presentation, primarily geared towards middle school classrooms. The presentation incorporates a video presentation, interactive game, and classroom discussion led by the presenter. The vast majority of presenters are local attorneys who volunteer their time and expertise. Through the BullyProof presentation, we hope not only to create awareness among students about the effects of bullying, but promote an open dialogue about real-life solutions, as well.

The KBA YLD was the first ABA YLD affiliate in the country to formally adopt the BullyProof Program. Last year, the Kentucky Bar Foundation (KBF), in partnership with the KBA YLD, gave BullyProof presentations to over 1,000 students in seven counties.

Kentucky lawyer Roula Allouch, had a large part in creating BullyProof at the American Bar Association and was instrumental in bringing it to Kentucky. Allouch says "BullyProof is a very fulfilling

program for both the students and the presenters. First, the program is a blast to present. The students are interactive, competitive and even get a kick out of the yoyos given out as prizes. Aside from being a fun presentation, we have, on several occasions, been approached by students who have shared how bullying has affected their lives. Many students go on to say that without BullyProof, they would have not felt comfortable sharing information about their experiences. This enables us to take this information to the school official and hopefully, in a small way, to curb this awful phenomenon."

Rebekkah Bravo Rechter, the former chair of the KBA YLD, was also very involved with implementing BullyProof in Kentucky. Rechter too was very enthusiastic about the program, stating "every presentation was very well-received by the schools. The kids enjoy it, the teachers enjoy it, the presenters enjoy it." Rechter also stated how important volunteers are to the success of BullyProof. "In part, we are hindered by our success. We have more schools than volunteers. Demand is high for this program and we need to fill the demand."

Between U@18 and BullyProof, the KBA YLD and KBF reached almost 1,500 middle and high school students last year. This year, we have a lofty goal of **doubling** that figure to more than 3,000 students. So, we are looking for volunteers to reach that goal. You can help in one of two ways. First, you can volunteer to give a presentation for either U@18 or BullyProof. The presentations are fun and only last one hour, and the preparation time is minimal. Presenting is also great way to serve both the bar organizations and your local community. We especially need volunteers from the more rural counties in Kentucky. Second, if you know local teachers or administrators (again, especially in Kentucky's rural counties), let them know about the U@18 and BullyProof programs. We are always looking for more communities to serve!

If you are interested in volunteering for the U@18 program or would like to receive more information about it, please feel free to contact the U@18 chair Mike Nitardy at [MNitardy@fbtlaw.com](mailto:MNitardy@fbtlaw.com). Likewise, if you're interested in volunteering for BullyProof or would like any additional information about it, please feel free to contact me at [tanner.watkins@dinsmore.com](mailto:tanner.watkins@dinsmore.com). I hope to hear from you soon!



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