

2015-2016 BCBA Young Lawyers' Section

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letter from the young lawyers' president



Jeffrey M. Wank

As we begin the new year, let us take a look back at some of the highlights from the Young Lawyers Section in 2015:

• **Young Lawyers' Boot Camp Series:** YLS, in conjunction with the BCBA, kicked off its inaugural Young Lawyers' Boot Camp Series. The Boot Camp Series included four educational sessions on various topics for lawyers who recently started practicing. The topics were focused around real, practical situations.

• **Holiday in February:** YLS hosted its annual Holiday in February event at the Museum of Discovery and Science, which provided a day filled with holiday cheers and gifts to 50-60 local foster care children.

• **Breakfasts with the Judiciary:** Each quarter, YLS invited the Judiciary to breakfast with our members at the Broward County Law Library. These events are a wonderful way for our members to become acquainted with the

judiciary in a small, casual atmosphere. At our last breakfast this year, YLS also invited the judicial assistants.

• **Judicial Reception:** YLS hosted a Judicial Reception for all Judges in the 17th Judicial Circuit and Fourth District Court of Appeals. The event had over 200 judges, lawyers, and law students in attendance.

• **CLE Luncheons for Members:** YLS hosted monthly educational luncheons with CLE credits for our members. Throughout 2015, some of the luncheons we hosted ranged from "Technology and Access to Justice", to "The Best Practices for Attorneys" with a Judicial Panel featuring *Judge Alfred Horowitz, Judge Sandra Perlman, and Judge Mily Rodriguez-Powell*, to "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture".

• **Sweatworking! and Social Events:** Recognizing the many benefits of exercise, YLS embarked on an exciting and fun new way to encourage young lawyers to exercise, and network at the same time! On the flip side, YLS hosted monthly happy hours benefitting a different local charity each month.

• **Charity Golf Tournament:** In October 2015, YLS hosted its 28th Annual Charity Golf Tournament and Tee-Off Happy Hour for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity of Broward County. Through the efforts of our golfers, raffles, and sponsorships, YLS was able to donate \$35,000.00 to Habitat!

• **Pro Bono and Legal Aid:** YLS committed to provide Legal Aid of Broward County with attorney volunteers for its Advice & Counsel Hotline for low-income Broward County residents for all of 2015. YLS secured volunteers for each month in 2015 to provide pro bono legal services for hundreds of people in Broward County. YLS was honored by the Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida and received the Spirit of Justice Award during the 14th Annual "For the Public Good" event.

• **Broward Lawyers for Literacy Guest Reading:** YLS recruited lawyers and judges to read in six different public schools throughout the county in May 2015.

• **National Adoption Day:** YLS was the Title Sponsor of this year's National Adoption Day event in Broward County, donating \$1,000. Hosted by Broward Circuit Judge John Bowman, 48 children were adopted at the event held at the Broward County Courthouse.

These are only a portion of the events and success YLS achieved in 2015. YLS's mission consists of (1) enhancing the educational and professional advancement of less experienced attorneys; and (2) giving back to our community through various events and charitable donations. We look forward to accomplishing even more and reaching new heights in 2016! 