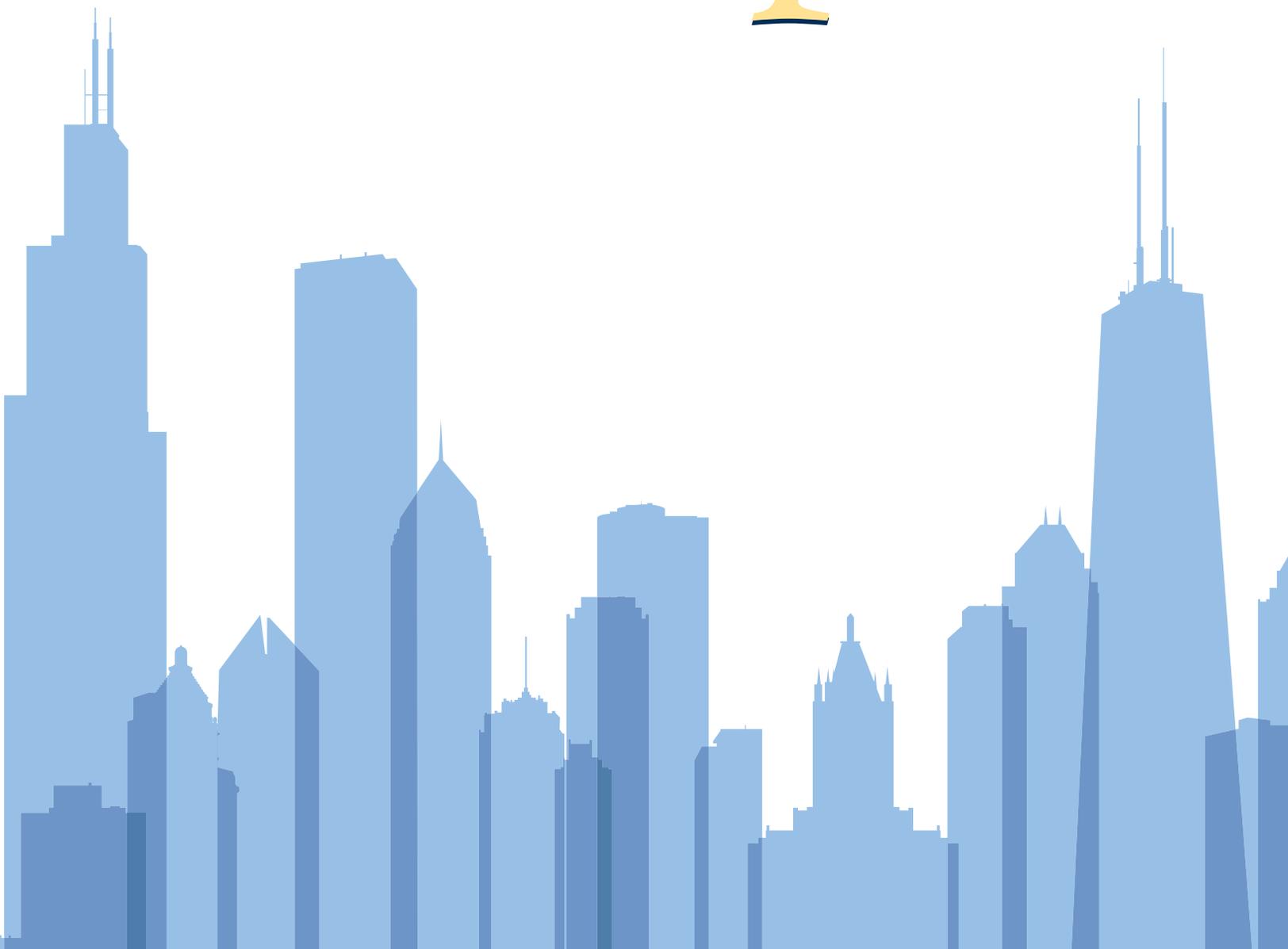


The Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section



2018-19

# *Annual Report*



Over this past year we were able to accomplish many fantastic projects that engaged our community, reached out to our law students and expanded the reach of the YLS. There is always more to accomplish, but I am proud of the work that the YLS did this year to better its members and the community.

Below is a summary and a few highlights of work that the YLS did in 2019. Over the course of this past year, we have renewed the efforts of the YLS Blog. A revised steering committee for the Blog was created and a new streamline for content was developed, including submissions by our fantastic committees.

The @the Bar Podcast continued to produce fantastic material, led by our former YLS Chair Jonathan Amarilio. This year, the YLS created a new Law Student Mentoring Program with DePaul University's College of Law, providing mentors to second and third year law students as they begin their transition in the working world.

The YLS furthered its goal of providing members with valuable resources both in and out of the legal profession by holding a revised Board Match Program. The event exposed YLS members to boards that have young or new member organizations throughout the Chicagoland area and gave them the opportunity to get involved.

In addition, the YLS continued with many of our strong programs. Newly admitted attorneys were invited to participate in the YLS Court Walk Through Program, which took them on a tour of the Dirksen Federal Court Building, introduced them to multiple Federal Judges and clerks, and taught them the basics of navigating the court system.

We also continued our Dear Santa Letter Campaign, answering letters and providing holiday gifts to more than 500 disadvantaged children from the Chicago Public School system. We reprised our annual tradition of celebrating Law Week, providing free legal advice to members of the community, speaking at events about the importance of the First Amendment to maintaining freedom in our society, and hosting a reception for the grant of our Liberty Bell Award to Marshan Allen.

We continued our Lunch with a Judge Series, providing our members with an opportunity to hear from and meet with Judges in friendly and intimate lunch settings. We hosted our annual casino fundraiser, raising another new record amount of money for the Chicago Bar Foundation—the charitable arm of the CBA.

We hosted our annual Meet the Committees Night, the 25th Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair, continued to publish the work of our members in the YLS Journal, continued our outreach to the community via our Wills For Heroes Program (which provides free estate planning and similar legal advice to first responders and veterans), and hosted events through the YLS' Serving Our Seniors committee, which assisted low-income seniors and the disabled prepare advance directives. All of these programs exemplify the dedication of the YLS members to the legal community and the community at large.

The effort of all participating YLS members makes these fantastic programs a success year after year. One of my goals this year was to encourage more YLS members to get engaged in the decision-making process of the executive committee. I am thrilled to say that over the course of this past year, new faces continued to appear at executive committee meetings, and their voices and views were invaluable. Thank you to all Section members who have contributed their time and talent to YLS this year, and for allowing me to serve the organization as Chair.





I want to give specific thanks to several individuals that have supported me and contributed to another fantastic year for the YLS. Starting with those who I have had the pleasure of getting to know better through the Board of Managers, the Chicago Bar Foundation, socials and 8:00am breakfast meetings: CBA President, Steve Elrod; First Vice President, Jesse Ruiz; Second Vice President, Maryam Ahmad; Secretary, Lynn Grayson; and Treasurer, Timothy Tomasik. Working with these individuals on a routine basis was invaluable over the course of this past year.

I also want to thank the Officers and Directors of the YLS, including: Octavio Duran, Jeff Moskowitz, Svetlana Gitman; Alexis Crawford Douglas; Tracy Brammeier; Katherine Oswald; Katherine Schnake; Natalie Chan; and Dan Berkowitz without whose constant support this exceptional year for the YLS would not have been possible.

The staff of the CBA plays a vital role in the ongoing success of the YLS. I want to thank Jennifer Byrne, the YLS Director, for her tireless dedication to this organization. Without Jennifer's organization, reminders and daily help, many of us would be lost, myself included. I want to thank Beth McMeen, who has always been and continues to be a supporter of the YLS. Additionally, I want to thank Sharon Nolan, Karen Stanton and Tamra Drees for their support of the YLS.

I would like to thank Terry Murphy for his guidance, ideas, suggestions, but most importantly for keeping me on the right path. Terry's presence is something special that I do not take for granted and I look forward to working with you this year and for many more years to come.

No one has time to reinvent the wheel, so the path my prior chairs left to follow has been invaluable. I want to thank Jon Amarilio, Katie Liss, Matt Passen, and Paul Ochmanek for the road map you created and the continued support you show on a year-to-year basis. I wish my successor, Octavio Duran, all the best in his upcoming year.

Brandon E. Peck  
2018-2019 Chair  
Young Lawyers Section

## ***YLS Executive Council***

### **2018-2019 Officers**

Chair .....Brandon Peck  
First Vice-Chair..... Octavio Duran  
Second Vice-Chair ..... Jeffrey Moskowitz  
Member Service Manager ..... Alexis Crawford Douglas  
Public Service Manager.....Tracy Brammeier  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Svetlana Gitman  
Project Officers .....Katherine Oswald  
Kate Schnake

### ***YLS Journal of CBA Record***

Co-Editors-In-Chief ..... Daniel Berkowitz and Natalie Chan  
Assistant Editors.....Lindsey Purdy and Nick Standiford

### ***2018-2019 Directors***

Jesse Footlik  
Noah Frank  
Oliver Khan  
Yana Karnaukhov  
Lindsay Margolis  
Alex Passo  
Gavin Phelps  
John Risvold  
Lindsey Seeskin  
Alex Whitt

### ***2018-2019 Special Project Coordinators***

Melissa Dunn  
Martin (Marty) Gould  
Michael Grieco  
Christopher Hoffman  
Daniel L. Peters  
Nicholas D. Standiford  
Xavier Vergara

## ***YLS Committees***

The YLS Committees provide substantial legal education, speaking, and networking opportunities for our members – on a daily basis. This year, each Committee was led by formidable young attorneys or law students who met monthly at the CBA and provided tremendous value for our members. In total, the Committee meetings were attended by thousands of lawyers, both in person and via webcast. Below, each Committee has provided, in their own words, what they accomplished this bar year.

### ***Bankruptcy***

***E. Philip Groben • Alex Whitt • Sean P. Williams***

The Bankruptcy Committee held monthly meetings concerning a wide range of bankruptcy issues, including an introduction to Section 727, a discussion on automatic stays from the creditor's perspective, an overview of objections to discharge, PACA trust claims in bankruptcy and the absolute priority rule, and individual Chapter 11 cases. The Committee's aim is to continue to provide opportunities for members of the bankruptcy bar to network, keep abreast of current issues in the law, and question prominent attorneys in the field.

### ***Career Assistance***

***Jack Bentley • Helena Gonzalez***

The Career Assistance Committee co-facilitated a two-hour seminar attended by 30 people in person on the basics of taking a discovery deposition in Cook County. Octavio Duran was the lead presenter, and with the assistance of Mike Gorman and Matt Stein from Chicago-Kent, presented three mock deposition scenarios to illustrate common practices and pitfalls. The seminar was followed by a social event at Brando's Speakeasy. The Committee also hosted a program entitled, "The Second Career Launch," and were joined by a panel of career advisors from local law schools who reviewed resume and cover letter do's and don'ts.

### ***Civil Rights***

***Samantha Reed • Hannah Walsh***

The Civil Rights Committee hosted monthly meetings on topics ranging from current issues in voting rights, to litigating Chicago Police reform and the consent decree, to the nuts and bolts of Section 1983 litigation and more. The Committee also hosted a seminar entitled, "Immigrant Rights in a 'Welcoming City,'" which provided a look at current litigation and legislation to create, protect and expand protections and rights of immigrants in Chicago and Illinois.

### ***Corporate Practice***

***Amie Bauer—Chair • Matthew Misichko—Vice Chair • Ross Friedman—Vice Chair***

The Corporate Practice Committee continued to host monthly committee meetings on a variety of topics, including Historic Rehabilitation in Chicago: Regulation and Incentives Overview, M&A Transactions, Corporate Lawyer's Guide to Bankruptcy, and Nonprofits 101. Additionally, the spring seminar, "Environmental Issues in Real Estate Transactions," featured two presentations followed by a panel of industry experts.

### ***Creative Arts***

***Ross Hersemann • Sarah Ebel***

The 2018-2019 bar year was a busy for the Creative Arts Committee. The Chicago Video Game Law Summit returned for its fourth year in a row and featured an all-star roster of speakers. Topics during this year's symposium included privacy, licensing, and ongoing high-profile litigation in the video game industry. In addition to CVGLS, the Committee hosted many great speakers throughout the year, including chairs Ross Hersemann and Sarah Ebel, who each shared their expertise with our membership. Ross discussed the legal issues inherent in loot boxes, and Sarah discussed the legal definitions of fossils and minerals as they relate to dinosaur fossil excavation and preservation.

### ***Criminal Law***

***Chastidy Burns—Chair • Mark Galler—Vice Chair • Allan Milan—Vice Chair***

The Criminal Law Committee hosted a variety of programs of interest to criminal law practitioners, including a joint meeting with the YLS Civil Rights Committee where Alan Mills of the Uptown People's Law Center discussed Section 1983 civil rights litigation, a presentation by Jeffrey Moskowitz on how to hang out your own shingle, a seminar on organized crime in Chicago, and others.

### ***Education Law***

***Jeremy Duffy • Rupa Ramadurai***

The Education Law Committee hosted well-attended monthly meetings on topics including supporting vulnerable populations of students, such as those with special education needs or who are transgender, understanding labor and employment issues in school districts, understanding FOIA, federal updates, and barriers to students accessing educational services, generally. The Committee also held a spring seminar on federal updates from The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The Committee is dedicated to educating practitioners in the arena of education law and creating a professional community of support.

### ***Environmental Law***

***Alex Garell-Frantzen • Molly Snittjer***

The Environmental Law Committee hosted monthly meetings on a wide range of topics of interest to environmental and energy law practitioners and consultants, including careers in environmental law for young lawyers, and the environmental impact of block chain and cryptography. The Committee

hosted a seminar in February entitled, “Modern Water Law & Legal Developments in the Great Lakes,” which featured speakers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, the Conference of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

### ***Estate Planning***

***Patrick Bushell • Maureen Loughran • Bridget Byrne—Legislative Liaison***

This year the Committee has hosted well-attended and worthwhile monthly CLEs on practical topics such as “5 Biggest Mistakes for Estate Planners,” specialized CLEs such as Estate Planning and Divorce, Estate Planning and Guardianship in light of updated case law, Special Needs Planning, and will hold its yearly seminar in May regarding Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets in Estate Planning.

### ***Family Law***

***Michele Cass • Melissa Caballero • Adam Zebelian***

The Family Law Committee held a fall seminar on the financial aspects of divorce and a spring seminar regarding the conflict children experience in family law litigation. In addition, the Committee held several monthly meetings spanning the topics of establishing and trying a parentage case, changes in the maintenance law, vocational experts in divorce, and the nuts and bolts of DCFS cases.

### ***Federal Taxation Committee***

***Erik VanderWeyden • Teodor Pinteá***

The Federal Taxation Committee hosted monthly meetings on topics ranging from practical considerations in taxable asset sales, to an introduction to IRS administrative relief and tax court proceedings, to a joint meeting with the Intellectual

Property Law Committee to discuss valuation approaches. The Committee also hosted a seminar entitled “Hot Topics in Federal Tax Law,” which featured international federal and state tax primers and updates, as well as a discussion about the taxation of cryptocurrency.

### ***Future of the Profession Committee***

***Lara Wagner • Kruti Patel***

This year, the Future of the Profession Committee focused on hands-on trainings, hosting a three-part seminar series in the spring. Topics included process mapping, unbundled legal services, and alternative billing models. Each seminar was limited to twenty people, which gave participants the opportunity to fully engage with these topics and practice using these skills.

### ***Health & Hospital Law***

***Jill Eckhaus • Ryan Severson***

The Health & Hospital Law Committee provides a forum for members to exchange viewpoints and keep up-to-date, by both committee members and guest speakers, on current legal issues and developments related to the health care community. The Committee hosted monthly meetings on topics relevant to health law practitioners, including a presentation on using discovery deposition testimony as admissions in medical malpractice trials, featuring John Marshall from Cassidy Schade LLP.

### ***In-House Counsel***

***Jane Mansell • Julia Riley***

The In-House Counsel Committee provides a forum for education, shared expertise, professional development and networking opportunities for in-house counsel.

### ***Insurance Coverage***

***Patrick Emerson • Matthew Novaria • Mark Swantek***

The Insurance Coverage Committee – through various panels and speaking events – addressed a wide array of insurance-related topics. The speakers at these events were predominantly insurance coverage attorneys who provided the benefit of their experience and insights. The Committee’s monthly meetings covered topics, including defective food product claims, public health and safety concerns from an insurance perspective, and more.

### ***Intellectual Property***

***Kenneth Matuszewski • Ashley Rovner • Kelley Gordon • Stephanie Crigler—Vice Chair***

The Intellectual Property Committee offered a multitude of programming, meetings, and panels during the 2018-2019 bar year. The Committee hosted guests each month from a variety of practice areas to discuss trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, patent law, IP valuation, data privacy and security, as well as in-house counsel work. In addition, the Committee hosted its annual Beer, Wine, Spirits, and the Law Seminar, featuring a presentation on branding clearance with several local producers in the beverage industry, as well as a moderated panel discussing the intersection of the law with the alcohol industry. Also,



for the very first time, the IP Committee hosted a combined speed networking meeting with the “Big Bar” IP Committee. By definition, IP constantly evolves and innovates. It is the IP Committee’s mission to also evolve its programming and meet the needs of its members.

### ***International & Corporate Trade Law***

***Olga Dmytriyeva***

The International & Corporate Trade Law Committee hosted monthly meetings on topics ranging from the estimation of damages in international antitrust cases to the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the importance of the US-Mexico economic relationship. The Committee also hosted its annual seminar in April on the international appeal of blockchain and the future of cryptocurrency.

### ***Labor & Employment***

***David Weldon • Sunghee Sohn—Vice-Chair • Patrick Depoy—Vice-Chair • Thomas Cramer—Legislative Liaison***

The Labor & Employment Law Committee is concerned with all legal issues that arise from or affect the employment relationship, including labor-management relations, personnel policies, discrimination claims and other state and statutory claims affecting employment. The Committee once again hosted its popular annual Year-in-Review seminar, featuring Gregory Gochanour, Regional Attorney, EEOC Chicago District Office, Paul Hitterman, Regional Attorney, NLRB Chicago Regional Office, and Hon. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois.

### ***CBA Law & Debate Club***

***Brett Geshcke • Bradley Kaye • Kevin Kelley • Caroline Lourgog***

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Law & Debate Club hosted Justice Michael Hyman, Judge Maritza Martinez, current law students from DePaul, Loyola and Chicago-Kent and intellectual property attorney Caroline Lourgog. The Committee also actively worked on mediation and negotiation simulations, debate exercises and opening/closing statements and direct/cross examination modules. The Law & Debate Club members improved upon their advocacy and public speaking skills while being exposed to different parts of the Law. The Club welcomes all Chicago-Area high schoolers who are potentially interested in careers in law and government to join us at the Chicago Bar Association Building for the 2019-2020 academic year.

### ***Law Student***

***Michael Korman • Matthew Stein***

The CBA’s Law Student Committee provides a forum for Chicago area law students to not only participate in CBA events, but also bring student issues to the attention of bar association leadership, make career contacts and learn more about the realities of practicing law. Each bar year, the Committee plans and hosts several annual events that are specifically designed for law students. This year, the Committee collaborated with the Career

Assistance Committee to co-host a program on the basics of taking your first discovery deposition, and assisted with the planning of a “Bridge to Practice,” that is set to launch in the Fall of 2019, which will prepare law students for their transition into law firm practice.

### ***L.E.A.D. Committee***

***Gina Jenero • Stephanie Nelson***

The acronym L.E.A.D. stands for Lawyer Engagement and Development as the mission of the L.E.A.D. Committee is to provide programming and publish articles specifically geared toward the leadership development and engagement of large and mid-sized law firm associates. The Committee’s monthly meetings are typically hosted in the offices of large law firms around the city. This year’s meeting topics included a presentation on 10 common “thinking errors” that cause stress and anxiety for lawyers, and a presentation on how to build a plan for business development.

### ***Moot Court Committee***

***Matthew Bunn • Catherine Mitchell • Anne Yonover • Zachary Slavens—Vice Chair***

This bar year, the Moot Court Committee hosted a successful moot court competition at the Dirksen Federal Courthouse with 30 moot court teams from law schools locally, regionally, and nationally. The competition allowed students to hone their oral and written advocacy skills while learning from experienced attorneys and judges who helped judge the competition. Students of Loyola University Chicago School of Law were awarded “First Place” in the overall competition and students of UC Hastings College of Law were awarded “Second Place” in the overall competition. The Committee is already hard at work planning the competition for the 2019-2020 bar year.



## **Professional Responsibility**

**Katherine Hayes • Kate Schnake**

The Professional Responsibility Committee hosted monthly meetings on a variety of issues during its meetings, such as diversity and inclusion as it relates to Rule 8.4(j), basics for lawyers on how to avoid legal malpractice claims and ethics investigations, how ethical violations impact civil liability against lawyers, blockchain technology's potential impact on the legal profession, and other basic legal ethics issues such as marketing. The Committee's annual seminar was focused on litigation funding, featuring Bill Farrell, the managing director of Longford Capital, Jeff Katz, the general counsel of Patterson Law Firm and Chris Heredia of the ARDC. The Committee tried to create a balance between very basic ethical concepts with some much more advanced concepts.

## **Public Outreach/Wills for Heroes**

**Joseph Busnengo • John Festa**

The Public Outreach Committee completed its tenth year hosting Wills for Heroes events, where YLS members volunteer in assisting first responders and veterans to create estate plans. The Committee prepared over 500 estate plans this year and over 5000 since we began offering the program. The Committee continues to see an influx in law student and other non-attorney volunteers and is working hard to recruit more estate planners to help at the events in order to reduce wait time and provide better service.

## **Public Outreach/Serving Our Seniors**

**Maureen Loughran • Mallory Moreno**

This year, the Committee hosted three extremely successful events in conjunction with the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL). YLS attorney volunteers assisted in preparing advance directives for around 50 low income, disabled, and LGBT seniors in Chicago as part of these events. Riding on the coattails of this year's success and increased interest, next year the



Committee hopes to continue to hold just as many, if not more, events with CDEL to increase our service to Chicago seniors and provide CLE credit and experience to young lawyers.

## **Real Estate Law**

**Justin Strane • Amy Peterselli**

The Real Estate Committee discusses basic issues in representing clients in property purchases, sales, ownership, and taxation, including condominiums and single family homes. In addition to extensive seminar offerings that address practitioners' concerns and basic principles of commercial and residential real estate transactions, the Committee meets each month for special luncheon presentations by distinguished guest lecturers. This year's meeting topics included a landlord-tenant law overview and an overview of current topics in real estate and title insurance.

## **Social**

**Michele Cass • Octavio Duran • Shelley Sandoval • Jenna Stupar**

The Social Committee kicked off the bar year with the YLS' annual boat cruise social aboard the Anita Dee, which was attended by over 150 young lawyers. Throughout the bar year, the Committee hosted happy hour socials on the second Thursday of every month. Socials were planned at specific locations that were sure to be great settings for networking and socializing in a relaxed atmosphere. The Committee also hosted special events throughout the year, including the year-end social following the Section's annual fundraiser and walk for domestic violence survivors.

## **Tort Litigation**

**Marty Gould • Jack Gould • Steven Vanderporten • Alexander Beehler**

During the 2018-19 year, the Committee hosted a seminar with a panel of distinguished trial attorneys and a Cook County trial judge titled "Maximizing and Attacking Damages in Personal Injury Actions," where pre-trial investigation, deposition strategies, and trial techniques and demonstrative evidence were discussed. The Committee has also continued to have monthly meetings to discuss changes in the law relating to tort litigation, as well as on topics ranging from medical malpractice to environmental-toxic exposure tort cases. The Committee has also made an effort to expand its lectures and focus to all areas of tort litigation, including business torts and professional services.

## **Women in the Law**

**Hayley Gladstone • Emiliya Gumin Farbstein • Kathryn Kohls • Sarah Layden**

The Women in the Law Committee hosted programs on a variety of topics including a presentation on domestic violence awareness given by Lizbeth Riego, a court advocate from Between Friends, and a discussion about how an idea becomes a law given by Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, an advocate for SB 3503, which pertains to lactation rooms in Illinois courthouses. The YLS Women in the Law Committee was also a co-sponsor of the CBA's first annual "Working Women's Legal Summit" hosted on March 8, which is International Women's Day.

## YLS Projects

Each year, the YLS plans projects designed to service our members, the bar, and our community. This year was no exception. The project descriptions outlined in this section of our report demonstrate our commitment to service, and involved the participation of thousands of young lawyers and law students.

### New YLS Projects

#### @theBar Blog

**Lindsey Purdy • Kenneth Matuszewski • Bradley Fuller • Marty Gould • Michael Grieco • Alex Passo • Dana O’Leary • Laura Wibberley**

During the 2018-2019 bar year, the Young Lawyers’ Section launched an online publication called CBA’s @theBar. It strives to promote the YLS’ dedication to professional development, ethical practice, the service of our profession, and the well-being of our members. The blog’s content is sourced primarily by YLS members and has been a consistent source of relevant, substantive content throughout the bar year. There have been over 150 posts on the blog including: substantive legal articles; regularly occurring features including “Meet Our Members,” “Committee Spotlight,” “From the Bench,” “In House Counsel Perspective”; promotional write-ups of Association events; and more. The blog feeds directly into the YLS’ social media pages and has generated 9,000+ views since its launch. The top 20 most popular posts have generated between 100-400 views per post. More than 35 young lawyer and law student members have contributed to the blog, and the steering committee is poised to expand in 2019-2020, with the addition of a second head editor and several regular contributors. The blog can be viewed at <https://cbaatthebar.chicagobar.org>.

#### Build Your Network Law Student Mentoring Program

**Michael Grieco**

The YLS partnered with DePaul University College of Law to launch the “Building Your Network Law Student Mentoring Program” as pilot program, with the aim of expanding to other local law schools in the future. The program paired 2L and 3L law students with YLS members and aimed to connect law students with young lawyer mentors who could relate to the students’ experiences in law school, in preparing for the bar exam, and in finding career opportunities. Additionally, students were able to develop personal relationships with active CBA members who could introduce them to the benefits of bar association involvement.

#### Working Women’s Legal Summit

**Alexis Crawford Douglas • Svetlana Gitman**

YLS leaders helped to develop the first annual “Working Women’s Legal Summit” on March 8, which is International Women’s Day, to motivate and inspire CBA members to examine gender diversity and unequal pay in the legal profession, as well as leverage members’ talents to improve outcomes for working women. The day-long event featured a diverse cross-section of legal professionals from government, private practice, aca-

demia and corporate America to discuss issues facing working women today. It was a sold out event, reaching the CBA’s capacity of 100 in-person registrants and the Committee is in the process of converting the program notes and participant-suggested action items into an article to be published in the CBA Record.



### Recurring YLS Project

#### @theBar Podcast

**Jonathan Amarilio • Chastidy Burns • Nykoel Kahn • Jack Sankor**

The YLS continued producing the @theBar podcast during the 2018-2019 bar year, hosting a number of prominent guests, including: Andrew Walker, the 2018 Chair of the Bar of England and Wales, Amanda Knox’s Italian defense team, retired Judge Bill Kunkle who discussed his prosecution of the John Wayne Gacy Case, and many more. Episodes of the show have been downloaded more than 40,000 times since the show’s launch, and the show garners approximately 2,500 unique downloads per month. In 2018, the podcast won the American Bar Association Young Lawyer Division’s Award of Achievement for best service to the bar project. New episodes drop monthly on Legal Talk Network and can be found on Apple Podcasts, iTunes, GooglePlay, or wherever you download podcasts. The podcast can be found at <https://legaltalknetwork.com/podcasts/chicago-bar>.



### ***Board Match Networking Event***

***Nicholas Standiford***

In April, the YLS brought back its bi-annual Board Match event, which began with a CLE panel where experienced volunteers detailed the opportunities available on not-for-profit volunteer boards, the benefits of board involvement, and the obligations, expectations, and potential liabilities of serving on a board. The panel was followed by a meet-and-greet networking fair with various non-profit organizations. Over 25 non-profit organizations were represented and 80 attorneys attended.

### ***Dear Santa Letters***

***Melissa Dunn • Marty Gould • Kate Schnake***

Once again, the CBA paired with Direct Effect Charities, who receives thousands of letters from disadvantaged youth from the Chicago Public Schools requesting gifts from Santa. The goal of the letter program is to make sure each child who writes a "Dear Santa" letter, which is distributed by the YLS, receives a gift. This year, the YLS was paired with Irma C. Ruiz Elementary School, a CPS school with a low income population of greater than 80%. Over 500 "Dear Santa" letters from students at the school were fulfilled by CBA members in time for the holidays.

### ***Federal Court Walk Through***

***Daniel Peters • Xavier Vergara***

Specifically designed for newly admitted lawyers, the YLS organized a walk-through of the Dirken Federal Courthouse building, including meetings with the clerk, and several judges to discuss basics of navigating the court system. The program included instruction on pretrial procedures by Hon. Sharon Coleman, the roles of the Magistrate Judge, alternative dispute resolution and settlement conferences by Hon. Jeffrey Cole, trial procedures by Hon. Ruben Castillo, the role of appointing attorneys to representative by Hon. Virginia Kendall, practice in federal court by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Erin Kelly and Peter Salib, and a discussion on the function and operation of the clerk's office by Clerk of the Court Thomas Bruton.

### ***Fundraiser for WINGS and Walk for Survivors***

***Octavio Duran • Marty Gould • Xavier Vergara***

The YLS set up a Go Fund Me campaign with the goal of raising \$2,000 for WINGS Program, a local nonprofit agency which aims to provide a pathway to independence for adults and children who are escaping from domestic violence and abuse. On June 6, the fundraising campaign will culminate with a "Walk for Survivors" during which participants will walk one mile through Chicago's Loop. The walk will kick-off at 5:00 pm at the Richard J. Daley Center Plaza and end with the YLS year-end social.



### ***Law Week***

***Nick Standiford***

The Young Lawyers Section celebrated Law Week 2019 from April 27 – May 3, 2019 with a focus on the American Bar Association's theme "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." The week kicked off with "Ask-a-Lawyer Day" coordinated by the Lawyer Referral Service where members of the public had an opportunity to call in and speak with an attorney for free and receive general legal advice. On Thursday evening, the YLS' annual "Meet the Judges Reception" was attended by judges from the Circuit Court of Cook County, Appellate Court, and Federal Court who mingled with CBA members, and Judge Clare McWilliams gave remarks and presented The Liberty Bell Award to Marshan Allen, a Project Manager for the Restore Justice Foundation. Marshan had received a life-without-parole sentence as a teen and spent more than 20 years in prison. He used his time in prison to work on educational and rehabilitative programming and now advocates for statewide criminal justice reform. The week culminated with the Section's annual Law Day Celebration at the Daley Center, featuring musical performances from the CBA's Chorus, and a variety of compelling speeches on the Law Week theme from CBA leaders and the event's key note speaker, Justice Jesse Reyes, of the Illinois Appellate Court.

### ***Lawyers Lend-a-Hand to Youth Book and School Supply Drive***

***Lindsey Seeskin • Kate Schnake***

The YLS partnered with Lawyers Lend-a-Hand to Youth to collect books and school supplies for children who participate in the organization's mentoring and tutoring programs. YLS volunteers gathered for a pizza party in December to wrap the donated books and supplies to be sent home with the children in their winter break from school.

### ***Lunch with a Judge Series***

***Michael Grieco • Kate Schnake***

The Lunch With a Judge series let young lawyers hear from and meet with prominent judges over a lunch time program. This year's participating judges included Judge Brendan O'Brien, Judge Melissa Durkin, and Judge Larry Axelrod, and the topics of conversation ranged from career advice, to paths to the bench, to tips for new practitioners. The programs were hosted by the law firms of Hinshaw & Culbertson and Romanucci & Blandin. Attendees were provided with a unique forum to interact with a judge outside of the courtroom and ask questions.

### ***Meet the Committees Night***

***Alexis Crawford Douglas***

The YLS' annual "Meet the Committees Night" is a recruitment tool for the YLS Committees and public and member service projects implemented by the YLS. This event allowed new lawyers and law students to meet YLS Executive Council members and learn about the different substantive and project-based YLS programs. Attendees were invited to join the Committee's e-mail lists and sign-up to volunteer for projects. The networking event and open reception drew over 200 attendees to meet with the YLS' 28 Committees.

### ***25th Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair***

***Tracy Brammeier (In collaboration with The Chicago Bar Foundation)***

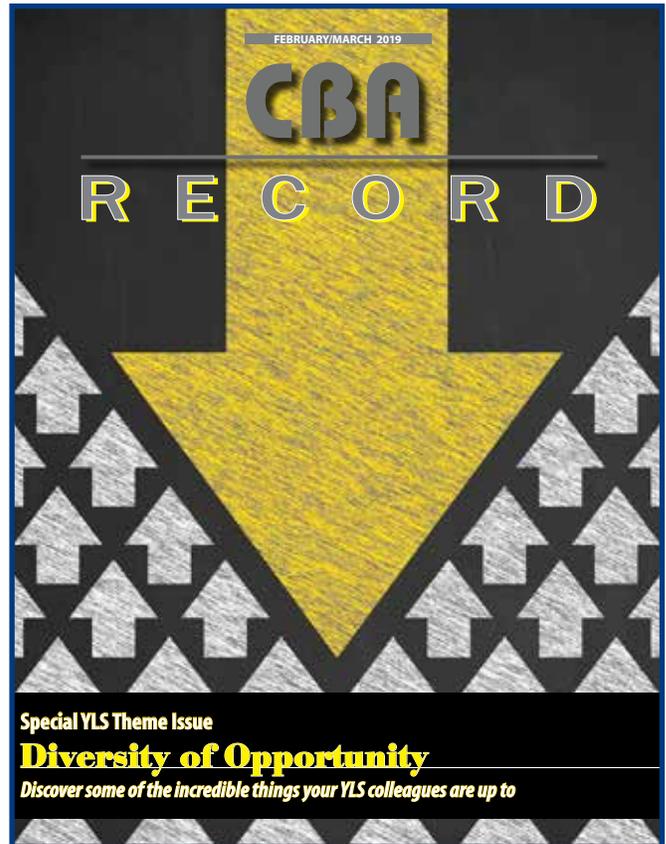
The 25th Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair, co-sponsored by the Chicago Bar Foundation, was held during Pro Bono Week to educate the legal community on pro bono and community service in a casual social setting. The event was hosted by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. The event allowed law students and lawyers of all levels of legal experience to meet with representatives from 40 of Chicago's legal aid, pro bono, and community service organizations to network with like-minded professionals and uncover volunteer opportunities.



### ***“The YLS Game” Casino Night***

**Tracy Brammeier**

The YLS hosted “The YLS Game,” a Casino Night at the Union League Club of Chicago. Over 150 members of the Chicago legal community enjoyed the event’s classic casino games, Texas Hold’em Tournament, and delicious food and drinks. The event was a huge success, raising over \$30,000 for The Chicago Bar Foundation, thanks to generous sponsor contributions and the help of dozens of young lawyer and law student volunteers who planned the event, raised sponsorships, solicited prizes, and acted as dealers.



### ***YLS Journal***

**Daniel Berkowitz • Natalie Chan • Lindsey Purdy & Nick Standiford — Assistant Editors**

The *YLS Journal* is a specially-designated section in each issue of the **CBA Record**. The mission of the *YLS Journal* is to encourage discussion among young lawyers on current law-related topics, provide young lawyers with a diverse compilation of both substantive and procedural articles, educate young lawyers on changing law and practice, and apprise readers of the CBA Record of the many activities and services offered by the YLS. The *YLS Journal* is not only a publication for young lawyers; it is a publication by young lawyers. The *YLS Journal* special edition this year focused on the YLS theme of Diversity of Opportunity.

## *Young Lawyers Section 2018-2019 Award Recipients*

### *David C. Hilliard Award For Outstanding Committee Service*

#### **YLS Estate Planning Committee**

- Patrick Bushell, Peck Ritchey, LLC
- Maureen Loughran, FMS Law Group, LLC
- Bridget Byrne, Goldman Sachs

### *Milton H. Gray Award For Outstanding Project Leadership*

- Joe Busnengo, Miles & Gurney, LLC
- John Festa, Law Offices of John Phillip Festa, LLC

### *Rising Star Award For a Leader with Exceptional Promise*

- Kenneth Matuszewski, Attorney at Law



## Get Involved in the YLS

Community Service · Leadership · Professional Development · Publishing Opportunities · Networking · Social Events



The Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association (the YLS) offers the following opportunities to its more than 9,000 members each bar year (runs June thru June):

**More than 25 practice area and service-related committees.** Sign up for a YLS committee by visiting [www.chicagobar.org/Committee](http://www.chicagobar.org/Committee). You will begin to receive notices of monthly meetings and committee activities.

**More than 50 public service projects and social events.** Learn about YLS public service projects and socials in the YLS Newsletter, the CBA weekly e-Bulletin, on the YLS webpage at [www.chicagobar.org/yls](http://www.chicagobar.org/yls) or by following the YLS on social media.

**More than 50 professional development and Continuing Legal Education seminars.** Learn about professional development and CLE seminars in the YLS Newsletter, the CBA weekly e-Bulletin, on the CLE events page at [www.chicagobar.org/cle](http://www.chicagobar.org/cle) or by following the YLS on social media.

**Publishing Opportunities.** Each issue of the **CBA Record** contains articles and other content specifically for young lawyers. YLS members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. The YLS also accepts submissions to its online public, CBA's @theBar Blog, which can be found at <https://cbaatthebar.chicagobar.org>

### **Fast facts about YLS Leadership**

- CBA members within the first 10 years of practice (regardless of age) are automatically enrolled as members of the YLS.
- The YLS is governed by an Executive Council which is comprised of 10 Officers, 10 Directors, up to 10 Special Project Coordinators and all YLS Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs.
- Any YLS member in good standing can pursue a leadership position within the YLS Executive Council. The YLS welcomes all members to get involved.

Contact current committee leaders, the current YLS Chair, or the YLS Director Jennifer Byrne at [jbyrne@chicagobar.org](mailto:jbyrne@chicagobar.org) to learn about opportunities, including paths to leadership.

