



YLS History

By John Belknap, YLS Board Director.

What is the Young Lawyers Section of the MBA, and what does it do? Does it babble about budgets? Does it set up swanky soirees for socializing solicitors? Does it provide opportunities for mentors to meet mentees? Does it educate eager esquires? The answer to each of the above questions is a resounding "Yes."



One can learn a lot from looking at 26 years of YLS history. Based on meeting minutes and the memories of board members, this reporter set out to understand what we will eventually call "The Early Decades" of the YLS. Knowing where the YLS was "back then" will give insight on where it can go in the future.

A clear theme stands out in the history of the YLS: serving both the bar and the community at large. That mission continues to this day, revitalized every year by new members and fresh ideas.

Phase 1 – 1980 through 1985

As with many historical records, complete meeting minutes through the early days of the YLS are scarce and hard won. Fortunately, one can piece together highlights of the YLS in its infancy without digging too deeply. Many programs that began in the early years of the YLS are still around today.

For example, the YLS held the first Portland Community Law Week. That program, which educates the public about the legal system and involves attorneys in community events, is still a major date on the YLS calendar. Community Law Week has earned recognition and awards on a national level. The YLS also started training hearings officers for contested hearings and it still runs training sessions for animal control services.

Phase 2 – 1986 through 1993

During this period, the YLS focused on obtaining ABA grants, expanding Community Law Week, and educating young lawyers. The following are some highlights and other interesting moments:

- The Lemon Law project provided information for those interested in consumer law.
- In a bold attempt to bring an ABA meeting to Portland, the 1990 YLS Board authorized \$40 for lapel pin roses to distribute at the Chicago ABA meeting, showing Portland's value as a future meeting site. Incidentally, Portland will recognize the return on its investment this year, when we host the ABA Young Lawyer Section conference.
- Young Lawyers have never been short on fundraising innovation. Sadly,

The purpose of the YLS is to (a) further the objectives of the association, (b) stimulate the interest of young lawyers in the activities of the association, (c) conduct programs of interest and value to young lawyers, (d) serve as an organization through which young lawyers may work to solve problems related to law and the legal profession, (e) serve as spokesperson for young lawyers, collectively, to both the association and the public, and (f) further such other purposes as may be mutually beneficial to YLS members.



Duane Bosworth, YLS President 1988-89 and Turid Owren, YLS President 1987-88 YLS received an award for its outstanding Community Law Week project

the 1990 YLS Board's "Casino Night" fundraiser hit a roadblock when research revealed that running a card game operation, even for charity, was illegal in Multnomah County. The board considered moving the event to another location. The meeting minutes do not state whether the "MBA Casino Night Fundraiser, brought to you live from Washington County," ever got off the ground.

- In a nod to temperance uncharacteristic of the early 90s, the 1991 YLS Board adopted the now infamous "Alcohol Rule" - at all events, no more than 50% of the food/drink budget will be spent on alcohol. Many an hors d'oeuvres has been left lonely in search of this higher standard.
- Community service also continued to thrive. It was in this era that the YLS had begun working on the Juvenile Rights Handbook. Since its inception, every two or three years, the YLS has updated the handbook to account for changes in the law and culture. As a result, it has become a vital resource for both minors and organizations that serve youth populations. The YLS even began providing a Spanish version of the handbook late in this period.

Phase 3 – 1994-Present

The past 12 years have seen steady growth for the YLS. Programs that began years ago still remain strong. In 1994, the YLS started the Young Litigators' Forum. The forum, one of the most regularly well attended YLS CLE events, provides a series of lunchtime CLE presentations on themes such as litigation basics and employment law.

(continues on last page)

A Century of Service Pullout

By Kathy Maloney, YLS Staff Liaison.

This issue's pullout focuses on the MBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS). You will find information from past, current and future MBA YLS leaders giving retrospectives as well as descriptions of how the projects and programs operate today.

The MBA YLS was formed 26 years ago and is an important part of the MBA. Approximately one fourth of MBA members are "young lawyers" - members in practice less than six years or under the age of 36. The MBA YLS provides leadership, networking, professional development and service opportunities, in addition to a business development network.

Readers are encouraged to share their thoughts on any part of this pullout and we welcome your suggestions for topics in future issues. If you would like to write a story or article for the pullout, please contact Judy Edwards, MBA Executive Director at judy@mbabar.org.

Centennial Supporter Donors (\$1,000)

Marc Blackman
Monte Bricker
David A. Ernst
John R. Faust Jr.
George H. Fraser
Walter H. Grebe
Michael A. Greene
Leonard Girard
Michael Haglund
Douglass M. Hamilton
Susan M. Hammer
Edwin A. Harnden
Don H. Marmaduke
Jeffrey S. Matthews
Albert Menashe
Lynn Nagasaki
Robert J. Neuberger
Robert D. Newell
Katherine O'Neil
Edwin Peterson
Simeon D. Rapoport
Steven V. Rizzo
Michael Simon
Judy Danelle Snyder
Ruth Spetter
Sylvia E. Stevens
Thomas H. Tongue
Mark R. Wada

Centennial Donors (\$500)

Mona Buckley
Noreen Saltveit McGraw

MBA 100th Anniversary Community Gift Fund Surpasses \$226,000!

Congratulations to our MBA 100th Anniversary Community Gift Fundraising Committee, led by past MBA president, Mike Greene. The purpose of the fund is to commemorate the MBA's past century of service and to launch it into the next century of service to the community. It will be administered by the newly formed Multnomah Bar Foundation and will promote civic education and participation. The MBA kicked off the fundraising campaign by committing \$50,000 to the fund. Listed below are those who have already made their generous donations or pledges. More names will be added throughout the year. If you want to add your name to the list, please contact Guy Walden at the MBA at guy@mbabar.org.

Founder Donors (\$20,000)

Miller Nash
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
Bullivant Houser Bailey

Centennial Partner Donor (\$10,000)

Davis Wright Tremaine

Centennial Benefactor Donors (\$5,000)

Ater Wynne
Barran Liebman
Cosgrave Vergeer Kester
Dunn Carney Allen Higgins & Tongue
Harrang Long Gary Rudnick
Lane Powell
Markowitz, Herbold, Glade & Mehlhaf
Perkins Coie
Stahancyk, Kent, Johnson & Hook
Stoel Rives
Tonkon Torp
Williams Love O'Leary Craine & Powers

Centennial Patron Donors (\$2,500)

Foster Pepper Tooze
Garvey Schubert Barer
Greene & Markley
Kennedy, Watts, Arellano & Ricks
Michael H. Bloom
Yates Matthews & Associates
Multnomah Bar Association
Young Lawyers Section



Video to Commemorate MBA's 100th Includes Past and Future YLS Leaders

As part of their 100th year anniversary, the MBA conducted several videotaped interviews with members of the bar on different topics. The tapes in their entirety will be added to the MBA's archives. They are also being edited into an eight minute video which will be shown at the 100th anniversary celebratory event on May 13. One of the interview topics was the Young Lawyers Section. Following is a transcript of that session. It has been edited for clarity only.

On October 27, 2005, Portland Attorney Katherine O'Neil interviewed an esteemed panel consisting of past and future leaders of the YLS. The participants were:

Michael Haglund, first YLS President (MH)

Ruth M. Spetter, first woman YLS President (RS)

Andrew Schpak, YLS Membership Committee Chair (AS)

Katie Lane, YLS Service to the Public Committee Chair (KL)

Katherine O'Neil (KO)

KO: Mike, let's begin with you. What year did you enter practice?

MH: 1977.

KO: 1977. My memory is that you were the cutting edge of the baby boomers, as they entered practice. Is that a correct memory?



Katherine O'Neil

MH: I think I was on the forward edge of the Baby Boomers entering the bar, yes.

KO: Tell me when and why the YLS was created.

MH: Well, it actually was preceded by two organizations. One Portland area called the Portland Council of Young Lawyers and another statewide organization called the Oregon Young Attorneys Association. They really grew out of some discussions that a number of us had while we were studying for the bar in the summer of '77 and then proceeding as we enter our law jobs in that fall, that there was an emergence of young lawyer groups around the country, that there were none in Oregon and it sounded like a good idea from the standpoint of professional development, learning more about your colleagues and that the organizations would provide good leadership opportunities and some extra energy in terms of public service opportunities.

KO: Did you join the MBA when you entered the practice?

MH: Yes, I did.

KO: And you didn't find a niche for yourself or other young lawyers there?

MH: Not right away. As one would expect, those with greater experience and more

expertise in particular committee areas were able to appropriately get most of the committee assignments. So, there wasn't as much of an outlet or opportunity for younger lawyers. Our goal early on was to form these organizations and we made an initial approach to the MBA, but there wasn't a lot of interest right away. So we thought, let's get them started and hopefully we can generate some credibility with what we actually do over the course of a year or more and then negotiate our way into the MBA as the YLS. That's ultimately what happened.

KO: Had you met with other young lawyers around the US through the ABA or you had just heard about it?

MH: Well, we heard about it and then we made contact with the American Bar Association. They actually gave us a little money to fund three or four of us going to what they called an American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division outreach program. I think four or five of us went to that and we learned about the myriad of activities that young lawyers groups throughout the US were involved in. We, of course, were focused more on what the metropolitan bar associations in the US were doing and it was from those experiences that we developed our own approach to organizing the Portland Council of Young Lawyers. Our first real thrusts were into providing CLEs and public service. Initially, the law day work that started in May of that first year.

KO: So, that would have been May of . . .

MH: Of 1978, and I think actually the first one was in May of 1979. The other big thing that we did was we were able to also secure another ABA grant to have a program that evaluated the feasibility of creating a volunteer lawyers project. The Executive Director of the VLP for San Francisco was our keynote speaker at that conference. I think that was in the spring of - or summer of '78. It ultimately led to the formation of the Volunteer Lawyers Project as, really, the premiere public service project of the Portland Council of Young Lawyers and, ultimately, the YLS in '79.

KO: And you were doing all of that without any paid staff.

MH: That's correct.

KO: You need the energy of a young lawyer to do something like that. That's wonderful. Tell me about, then, your subsequent approaches to the MBA or the MBA's approaches to you.

MH: Well, we, as I recall, we actually gained the credibility because we had a very successful series of CLEs in the federal courthouse that were very well attended and really were the funding base for the other things that we did in terms of the Volunteer Lawyers Project. We actually did hire a part-time Executive Director once that was underway. It was the CLEs that funded the staff side of the Volunteer Lawyers Project and then the law day work that we did. Ultimately we approached the MBA. We called them the "senior board." I think that at the time that the discussions got rolling, Don Marmaduke was the president. Over the course of, I think a period of about six months, we successfully negotiated a transition under which the Portland Council of Young Lawyers became the MBA YLS. That was in 1980.

KO: And you continued to have a separate board?



Community Law Week, 1990 — new US citizens are administered the oath

MH: That's right.

KO: What's the age range for young lawyers?

MH: Well, the terminology that's used is you "age out" of being a young lawyer. I think it's at after you turn 36 or in your first five years of practice, whichever is later.

KO: OK, and my impression is that young lawyer leaders go on to be leaders in the MBA. I believe that was the case with you?

MH: That's right.

KO: And what year were you president of the MBA?

MH: I was president of the MBA in the 1989-90 timeframe.

KO: Which was a big transitional period for the MBA. Can you tell me some of the things you oversaw during those years?

MH: Sure. Probably the biggest single change in that period is that the board delved into the issue of whether the board should be expanded to provide greater opportunities for more individuals from the broadest possible mix of the people who make up the bar in the metropolitan Portland area. We did that. I think we expanded it to a total of 13, including some features that you see elsewhere in the country where you keep the ex-president on for one year and in an immediate past president role, which I think aids transition. We also moved to a situation where you knew a year in advance that you would be the president because you were president-elect, which other bar associations have found is a helpful way to prepare the bar leader for their year as president. The YLS president is also a member of that board of directors which I think is a plus in terms of the interface with the YLS and the MBA itself. The larger group creates a greater opportunity for more lawyers, different types of



Ruth Spetter, YLS President 1983-84 and MBA President, 1990-91 and Mike Haglund, first YLS President, 1980-81 and MBA President, 1989-90

practices, different types of ethnic and gender mixes to all be on the same board.

KO: Was this around the same time that Mona Buckley was hired, or was that after you?

MH: Mona Buckley was hired near the conclusion of my term. Wally Sweek, who was coming in as the president after my term ended was very involved in that search process. She became a very fine MBA Executive Director, as many people remember.

KO: Yes. What year were you president of the YLS?

MH: 1980.

KO: Have you been pleased with the growth of YLS since you launched it?

MH: It's been very satisfying and pleasing, really. It's nice to see that an organization that a number of us helped create back in the late-70s and launched as part of the MBA in 1980 has continued to serve an important function; providing opportunities for younger lawyers to become active in the bar and really become, be the engine of much of the public service that the bar association is involved in. It's great to see how they've expanded and improved many of the programs that we started in a smaller way back in 1980.

KO: An excellent vision. Ruth, what was the year that you were president of the YLS?

RS: Well, it's been almost 30 years, but I believe it was right after Mike, so probably that would have been '81. 1981.

KO: 1981. So you must have been in the group that helped organize YLS in the beginning.

RS: I think that is correct. I remember Mike being really the catalyst and I'm not quite sure how we got the group together that we did have initially, but I remember it very positively.

KO: I believe that women were able to break the glass ceiling in bar leadership at the YLS first. Is that correct?

RS: I think that is correct, yes. We didn't really think about it. It just seemed natural, we were comrades.

KO: You were president of the YLS before the MBA had its first woman president.

(continues on next page)

RS: I think that may be accurate. Yes.

KO: What was the importance of the YLS to you in developing as a bar leader?

RS: I think that what the YLS provided was an opportunity to develop independent skills. In other words, ability to speak in public, to go to meetings with senior bar people and feel really comfortable and accepted. What I found was positive about it, and maybe this is part of the leadership thing, was the opportunity to participate in many different activities. Especially, the volunteer lawyers' day. All of these things gave you confidence as an attorney, made you feel connected to the practice and to the legal community in which you were working.

KO: Has the YLS, since you let go of the reins, lived up to your expectations?

RS: I've been thrilled by the YLS since I've left. I have a very strong feeling that the young attorneys who are involved in the YLS are full of ideas, take it seriously, act very professionally and are doing wonderful things for the image of attorneys in this county.

KO: And you, like Mike, also moved up to MBA presidency. What year were you president of the MBA?

RS: It was probably around '91, 1991, after Wally Sweek served. I was trying to remember, I'm not sure exactly, but I think it was probably very early 1990s.

KO: Additionally, you moved on to the statewide Board of Governors. What years did you serve there?

RS: I served in the state board, I think like '89 to '93. I ended up being first female vice-president of the state bar and it was the same year as the presidency of the MBA, so it was a pretty active time for me. I think it was great to have the view of the state bar and then the county bar. I think it worked very well.

KO: Andrew, you are currently the chair of the YLS Membership Committee. Could you describe some of the current YLS activities.

AS: Sure. A lot of it involves, from the social side, networking and making sure young attorneys have a place where they can get to know the other young attorneys in the county. There's an entire committee that's dedicated to putting on CLEs. There's programs that go on that are once month during lunch, so that people can bring lunch and learn about a particular area of law. They tend to be continuous on the same subject matter. This year it is family law. There is service to the public and there's also pro bono activities. It is interesting to hear about from its beginning because I can't imagine the things they envisioned and the way it's come to covering so many different roles.

KO: What's the current membership of the YLS?



Andrew Schpak

AS: About 1,000.

KO: That's terrific for a county bar association. Why is the YLS still needed, in your opinion?

AS: I think that a young lawyers' association is very helpful to have in a community because, first of all, young lawyers often times have the most ability to dedicate time and energy towards giving back or participating. As people go further on in life, they have more obligations and more time constraints. I also think that when you get someone involved early they have a better chance of continuing that involvement when they get older. If you don't get them on that track early, they never really realize the benefits of being involved. I also think that when you get people involved with the Young Lawyers Association, it builds legal ties within the community and provides for the opportunity to know who your opposing counsel is on a given case and understand them as a person, rather than just as an adversary. It builds a much better rapport in the legal community in terms of litigating cases and working with your peers.

KO: Terrific. Now Katie, you're chair of the Committee on Service to the Public. Can you give us some examples of the kind of activities that committee has been sponsoring?

KL: Sure. I always consider it the other half of the coin of pro bono. We engage in activities that allow young lawyers to become involved with community. We run the Imprint Program where attorneys are matched up with middle school and high school students. They read the same book over the course of a couple of months and exchange letters and talk about the ideas and the importance of staying in school. We run a drop-out prevention program where lawyers go to middle and high schools in the community to show a video of individuals who dropped out of school and have been incarcerated. We engage in discussions with those students about the importance of staying in school, what effect that can have on their lives, what it's like to be a professional and have opportunities available. We run Community Law Week every year; the first week in May, usually. Lawyers throughout the community run advisory booths where people come and get information and legal help. We run a program called Tell it to the Judge that's been very popular in the Lloyd Center. Judges from the federal and Multnomah courts come and interact with the public to explain a little bit about what it is they do and why it's important. In this day and age of *Law & Order* and *CSI*, it serves an important function. We are also training and providing hearings officers for Multnomah County Animal Services. This gives our young lawyers an opportunity to oversee an administrative process and look at the law from a different side as a decision maker, and also serve an important role to the community that wouldn't be possible without our help.

KO: I understand that you also got a grant from the ABA for the juror informational brochure.

KL: Yes, last year during Community Law Week, the theme was the jury. The committee ran with the idea and teamed up with the Courthouse Outreach Committee and applied for a grant from the ABA to produce brochures that would be sent out to the jurors with their summons, providing information about where to park, where they could

find something to eat, what to expect out of security, what to expect out of the day. To make jury service more accessible and encourage people to see it as an opportunity to participate in their government rather than a day of sitting and waiting. We were very excited that we were able to produce that.

KO: That's excellent. What do you see as the future for YLS?

KL: It sounds like it can only get better. I think the YLS is extremely important for a lot of reasons. It provides confidence, it encourages professionalism and tight bonds within our legal community. The future is absolutely anything that we can make it. There are no limitations, because everyday somebody comes with a new idea, a new exciting project. The energy that is in the YLS is always so thrilling to me because, rarely, does anybody ever say no. It's always, well, how can we do it?

KO: Wonderful. How wonderful. Anyone want to add anything? Something posterior?

RS: I would like to add something about the importance of Law Day and Law Week

Basically, the idea is these are people coming out of law school, they just took the bar, and now they're making this transition to a professional world and, potentially, to a town that they've never lived in before. For them it's important to have a resource with a lot of different kinds of practical information. It's everything from information about membership in the Oregon State Bar, reciprocity in Utah, Washington and Idaho. It gives general statistics about people who are similarly situated, age range, types of practice, what the breakdowns are in terms of the community. There was a large survey conducted by the Oregon State Bar in 2001, I believe, and they have the results in there. There are a lot of links in terms of Web sites that are helpful in terms of federal and state resources and various organizations that people might be interested in joining; the minority lawyers, the women's associations. This year we applied to the American Bar Association to get a grant to fund it. They approved it. They recognized getting the information is also a good way to get people to participate in the MBA and the YLS. It includes information about all the committees and about all the handbooks we put out just so that, all the



Mayor Bud Clark signing proclamation for 1987 Community Law Week
L-R: Barbara Skottle, Duane Bosworth, Jill Gelineau, Mayor Clark, Janet Gravdal, David Paradis, Nancy Smith and Darin Honn

now. On top of the fact that it gave the young attorneys an opportunity, perhaps, to delve into areas of the law they don't usually deal with, I think my strongest memory is the law days and being out in public places and people coming and sitting down and just talking to them and making the law accessible instead of frightening. I remember, also, programs helping young lawyers with family issues. Things that were not law related but really important to them as they practice law. And so, I have really fond memories of this organization, of the YLS and the things that have been mentioned about how it forges bonds for the future. I can't thank Mike enough for being that catalyst and getting this all started because I think it's made a difference for many, many people since then.

KO: Are you guys familiar with the New Admittee Guide?

AS: I am familiar with the New Admittee Guide.

KO: Andrew, would you describe that?

AS: Well, last year, the chair of the Membership Committee put it together. She had heard about the idea from a couple other bar associations across the country that had done similar projects.

resources are in one place. We send that out to every person who is admitted to the Oregon State Bar. It just goes out in a mailer saying welcome to the bar, here's some information about the MBA YLS and here's a new admittee survival guide of helpful resources for you.

KO: That's terrific. I wish I had one. I would have survived much better.

RS: Well, you know, along those lines, one of the things I remember we talked a lot about when we first started was that the practice had changed. There were many more people on their own who didn't have the guidance of a firm and, again, the YLS could provide them educational opportunities and a place to ask how the heck do you do this? What does this form mean and where do I go to file this? I think that's a really critical function in today's practice.

KL: I've noticed that a lot of young lawyers are willing and courageous enough now to go out on their own earlier. I think the YLS helps that and encourages that. You gain confidence from participating in everything from Community Law Week to CLEs to membership socials. You have access to this wonderful network of people

(continues on last page)

The Future of Being Young (We'll be Old)

By Katie A. Lane, Chair, Service to the Public Committee.

In his 1973 hit *Sleeper*, Woody Allen awakes from a centuries' long slumber to find the price tag for a call in the futuristic phone booth at \$1 million. What do you suppose your hourly rate will be? Perhaps in the future, the bar will issue holographic admittance certificates; our watches will be light-weight combination cell phone/personal PC/email/television/credit cards; cars will operate on recycled cans; and clients will love hourly billing.

Or not.

There are, however, two predictions for the future of practice in Multnomah County that we all can pretty much rely on: we'll be older and many of the people we'll work with will be younger than us. It's inevitable and much preferred to the alternative.

Sure, it'll be annoying when one of the summer associates asks you what it was like when Tom Cruise was sane or Kurt Cobain was alive. But bite your lip and remember the time you insisted to the senior partner that Harrison Ford, not David Janssen, played Dr. Kimble in *The Fugitive*.

As a former YLSer, it will be your job to turn a blind eye to the youngsters' pop cultural imperfections and do what the MBA has been doing for 100 years: help create great lawyers.

I was once told by a well-meaning mentor that I didn't have enough "juice" to seal the deal in a semi-professional social negotiation (i.e., get tickets for a sold-out client event). He explained that it was an unfortunate consequence of my youth and inexperience, but that I should stick close to folks like him (those with said juice) and I would eventually be able to wheel and deal with the best of them.

At the time I thought this was the funniest advice I had ever received; in hindsight, I think it is the best explanation of what the YLS does. We share our "juice." We stretch our young attorney muscles, learn from our mistakes and recognize one another for the triumphs we have, big or small. We avoid reinventing the wheel, make networking fun and don't blink when we puff to one another about the brief that was just finished or the motion that slid through the courthouse door just in time. We share stories about demanding partners, archaic filing systems and excellent mentors. We support one another because we know it is the best way to ensure we'll like practicing in this community 10, 20 or 30 years from now.

And in 10, 20 or 30 years, we'll be old. Or at least older. We'll have cultivated our own "juice," limbered up those attorney muscles and most likely have become fairly committed to a particular way of doing things. And we might start thinking of reducing our professional activities and spending a bit more time fishing/golfing/with the spouse/doddering around the house.

I implore you not to do this. Stick around and let the new members of the YLS learn from you. Be the demanding partner that the young associates come to respect because you're so good at what you do. Be the excellent mentor that is willing to try something a new way and happy to recognize the young colleague who gave you the idea. Be the old attorney willing to

share your "juice" with the naïve newbie. Be someone to learn from.

We will no longer be the future of the YLS and I can't even begin to imagine what technological and professional advancements that future might hold. But we can be the future of the MBA. We can stay involved, support the YLS and offer to share the "juice" we've earned when we're old, gray and thirty-eight.

Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Past Presidents

Michael Haglund	1980-81
Guy Randles	1981-82
William Savage	1982-83
Ruth Spetter	1983-84
Ronald Rhodes	1984-85
Bill Gibson	1985-86
Susan Eggum	1986-87
Turid Owren	1987-88
Duane Bosworth	1988-89
Michael Yates	1989-90
Kenneth Fox	1990-91
William Conwell	1991-92
Janet Gravdal	1992-93
Darin Honn	1993-94
Jill Gelineau	1994-95
Catherine Shaw	1995-96
Nancy Erfle	1996-97
Michelle Druce	1997-98
Ann Lane	1998-99
Edward Ferrero	99-2000
Samuel Kauffman	2000-01
Kristin Hazard Hamilton	2001-02
Catherine Keenan	2002-03
Jennifer Oetter	2003-04
Todd Cleek	2004-05



Michelle Druce, YLS President 1997-98 and Ed Ferrero, YLS President 1999-2000

Commemorative Video (continuation)

that you know you can call on if you ever get into a tight spot. It makes them feel more comfortable about being able to handle a law practice on their own and I think that benefits the community and our profession, ultimately.

KO: Certainly.

AS: And we do have programs that actually, specifically focus on practitioners who are out on their own. There are discussion boards in place. We also have the MBA YLS, mentorship program where someone who is new to the MBA YLS is paired with a more seasoned attorney who's been around for awhile. They can talk about the general questions that inevitably occur when you're starting to get situated in legal practice without the kind of pressure of speaking with someone within your own office.

KL: I've been on the YLS for the last two years, I started on a committee last year and I'm serving as a chair this year, I don't have the historical knowledge of why the YLS is as wonderful as it is. All I know is that it's a heck of a lot of fun. It's provided

YLS History (continuation)

Not to be left out of the retro-chic trend, the 1995 YLS Board snapped up on a brilliant idea: Bowling! In 2004, the MBA brought bowling back for its WinterSmash, a fundraiser which raises much-needed resources for the CourtCare program at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

The MBA and the YLS helped the OSB explore the possibility of requiring an internship before being admitted to practice in Oregon. That proposal apparently never gained traction.

In 1996, the YLS helped celebrate the MBA's 90th anniversary, during an event destined to become known as "That Small Party" after the MBA's 100th birthday bash is held this spring.

In 1999, the YLS Board boldly split the CLE committee from the YLS Service to the Bar Committee. Not to be outdone, the 2005 YLS Board re-combined the successors to those committees into the Professional Development and Education Committee. The meeting minutes on these hotly debated subjects clearly reflect that each move made sense at the time.

Again, community service was a priority. The Domestic Violence Handbook made its first appearance on the scene in 2000. The YLS continues to update that handbook, which provides valuable information for service providers and those who need help. A Spanish translation is also available.

In 2003 the YLS was honored to win the ABA Affiliate Award. Ever humble in its leadership, the YLS Board meeting minutes note, "We beat Dallas...and we're going to have a party to celebrate." In

English, that statement means that the YLS earned bragging rights in the behind-the-scenes Portland-Dallas rivalry, and it will never give them back.

2004 brought the introduction of the *New Admittee Survival Guide*. This terrific new booklet provides tips and strategies for new lawyers about navigating the local legal community.

In 2005, the Pro Bono Fair, a joint production between the YLS and the New Lawyers Division of the OSB made its debut. The fair was a success, and it looks like it will continue well into the future. The YLS and the OSB also produce the *Pro Bono Opportunities in Oregon* handbook, a statewide listing of resources and pro bono opportunities for lawyers.

The YLS Professional Development Committee started the Peer to Peer program in early 2005, which brings together young lawyers with similar practice areas. Today the program, run by the YLS Professional Development and Education Committee, is thriving.

Also in 2005, the YLS Service to the Public Committee started the Imprint Program, which pairs lawyers with middle school and high school kids who read the same book and write letters to each other. The program was expanded from one classroom last year to two this year.

The Young Lawyers Section has accomplished a great deal throughout its 26-year history. Many of its projects will continue for years to come. Even in the absence of many early documents, one can see the legacy of past YLS volunteers in today's resource handbooks, attorney education projects and community service efforts. That legacy will remain secure as the YLS moves into the future.



2001 MBA Annual Meeting, YLS Board
L-R, Back row: Sam Kauffman, Todd Cleek, Kristin Hazard Hamilton and Peter Leichtfuss; middle row: Jennifer Oetter and Natalie Hocken; front row: Laura Takasumi, Adina Flynn, Cecily Becker, Christine Meadows and Cathy Keenan

me with so many different benefits, and contacts, and confidence, and a firm understanding about the responsibilities of being a lawyer within this community.

MH: It's a great credit to the MBA that it didn't take long for it to embrace the idea of having a young lawyers section. The organization was probably barely a year old when it was folded into the Multnomah Bar Association. I've always looked at that MBA as one of the greatest bar associations in the west partly because that it's had this tremendous history of, if somebody's comes up with a good idea, they're appointed a committee chair and then they can run with it. The YLS is one

of the larger manifestations of that. It has fostered all this creativity that we see in full flower today, in terms of the many things that it does now that it didn't do 20 years ago. It's a terrific testament to the vitality of the Multnomah Bar Association. Not only its pre-existing committee structure, but what has been spawned by its embracing the YLS as a subset of the MBA 25 years ago.