

## YOUNG LAWYERS

Jason C. Pizatella

Chairperson  
Young Lawyers Section  
The West Virginia State Bar



## YOUNG LAWYERS & LEADERSHIP

Most “young lawyers” that I know do not have trouble finding leadership opportunities outside of their practice of law, whether they find it in law firm management, a faith-based initiative, a community organization or even seeking elected office. Let’s face it, no other profession accounts for such a large number of leaders. The legal profession has supplied a majority of American presidents and, in recent decades, almost half of the members of Congress and more than 10 percent of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. Lawyers further occupy leadership roles as governors, state legislators, judges, prosecutors and heads of government and non-profit agencies. Moreover, many of the decision-making, organizational, interpersonal and ethical

skills that are critical in leadership positions are those exhibited by members of the Bar. Yet most lawyers never receive formal education in honing or improving their leadership skills.

I recently learned of an exciting new leadership training opportunity sponsored by the West Virginia Bar Foundation (the “Foundation”) and named after ALPS, known to most of us as the legal malpractice insurance company. For those that are unfamiliar, the Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable entity that is essentially the philanthropic organization of the legal profession and justice system in West Virginia.

The Foundation Board of Directors held the first annual Young Lawyer Leadership Institute

on May 18-20, 2012 at Stonewall Resort in Lewis County. From talking to a few of those that attended, it was an overwhelmingly positive and successful event that provided a small, select group of young lawyers with the opportunity to spend the weekend learning about leadership skills. The diverse group of attorneys had been members of the Bar less than 10 years, were from all types of practice and from all parts of the state. Through a competitive application process, these individuals demonstrated their potential and desire to be future leaders in the legal profession and in their communities.

For two days, the participants listened to presentations and interacted with well-known and well-respected leaders within the

judiciary and the West Virginia State Bar about the specific skills that will benefit them as they continue to cultivate and expand their leadership responsibilities. The following presenters volunteered their time to lead the discussion:

- **United States District Court Judge Irene Berger**  
*Beckley, Professionalism & Leadership*
- **Judge Michael Aloï**  
*Fairmont, Interpersonal Leadership Skills*
- **Retired Law Professor Forest “Jack” Bowman**  
*Morgantown, Leadership Traits*
- **Law Professor Tom Patrick**  
*Morgantown, Civility & Leadership*
- **Kara Williams**  
*Charleston, Organizational Leadership*

- **Mark Bassingthwaight**  
*ALPS, Ethical Leadership*
- **Norwood Bentley**  
*Martinsburg, Public Service & Leadership*

The Foundation’s board of directors has set the second annual Young Lawyer Leadership Institute for May 19-21, 2013 at Stonewall Resort. The number attending next year has been limited to 12 young lawyers. The cost is \$499 per attendee, which includes two nights lodging, meals, MCLE credit and all seminar materials. For more information on this exciting new offering or to apply, contact the Foundation at (304) 343-9823 or tom@wvbarfoundation.org.

*Be sure to look for our upcoming meeting notice in the next Bar Blast.*

## 2013 WEST VIRGINIA STATE BAR

# Annual Business Meeting

STONEWALL JACKSON RESORT

FRIDAY  
MAY 10, 2013  
5:30 P.M.

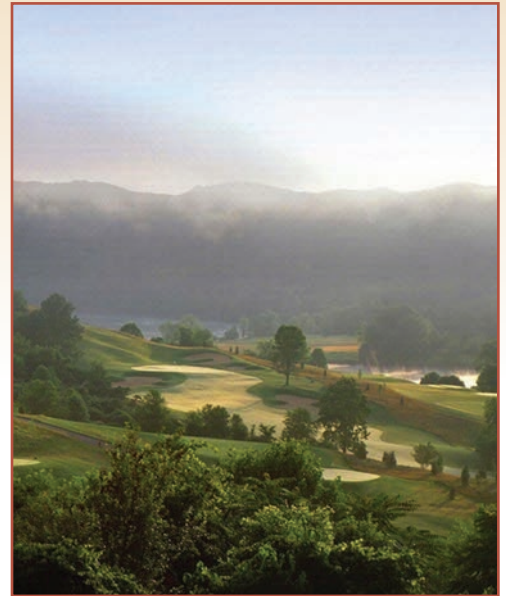


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*This year’s condensed format will feature a dinner and the following presentations:*

- Swearing in of the new state Bar President, President-elect and Vice-President
- Incoming Board of Governor and WYLS Executive Committee Members
- 50 Year Member Recognition • 2013 Citizen Soldier Award
- 2013 Young Lawyer Award • Kaufman Awards • State Bar Video Contest Winners

**This NEW single-day format for 2013 will not include seminars and CLE credit hours.**