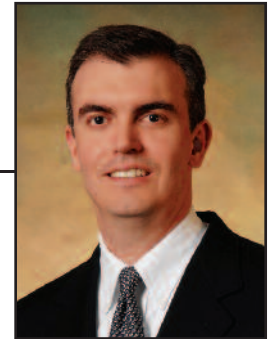


## YOUNG LAWYERS

Jason A. Wharton

Chairperson  
Young Lawyers Section  
The West Virginia State Bar



## A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND AN EXCITING FUTURE

It has been a busy year for the Young Lawyers Section of The West Virginia State Bar. It is also a time to begin looking forward. In the coming months, the membership of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee will change. Young lawyers throughout the state will have the opportunity to place their names into nomination and stand for election as regional representatives.

As the new year approaches, I would encourage the young lawyers of the state to get involved and stand for election to be district representatives of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee. This committee represents the young lawyers of The West Virginia State Bar; it gives

the young lawyers of the state a chair and a voice on The State Bar's Board of Governors.

Over the last year, the Young Lawyers Section has established a social media presence on Facebook to allow young lawyers to connect and interact with one another. Anyone can join the Facebook group – including young lawyers, law students and even practicing attorneys who were once members of the Young Lawyers Section – by simply “liking” the “West Virginia Young Lawyer Section” Facebook page. Each month, the number of attorneys taking advantage of this free opportunity continues to grow. In addition to allowing members to interact, the Facebook page pro-

vides another forum to get the word out to attorneys about programs and events sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section.

One project that has been promoted through social media is the Young Lawyers Section Lunchtime Lecture program, which is presented at the West Virginia University College of Law and is open to law students and the practicing Bar. On November 14, Geoffrey C. Brown of the law firm Bordas and Bordas presented “Finding and Retaining Expert Witnesses.” The Lunchtime Lecture program was designed to bring speakers to the law school to provide additional training in skills that will be used by attorneys during their first few

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years as members of the Young Lawyers Section. It is the generosity of speakers such as Mr. Brown that has allowed this program to be successful and a valuable tool for future members of The State Bar's Young Lawyers Section. If you are a young lawyer or a seasoned veteran and would like to assist with this program by presenting on a topic relevant to new attorneys, please contact the Young Lawyers Section by email at [wvyounglawyers@gmail.com](mailto:wvyounglawyers@gmail.com).

A key project for 2012 will be the update of the Bridge the Gap program. At the request of State Bar President Gary Nickerson, the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee formed a committee at the summer meeting to update Bridge the Gap; this Committee is chaired by Executive Committee member Catherine Eckley. Since the time of the formation of the committee, topics have been selected and several speakers have been arranged to assist in the update. Bridge the Gap is a required program for all newly admitted members of The State Bar within six months prior to admission or within 12 months after admission to The Bar.

The Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee, through the work of chair Patrick Lefebure, continues to assist with the West Virginia Supreme Court's Law Adventure program. The Young Lawyers Section provides scenarios for distribution to West Virginia's middle schools and high schools. The classes use the sce-

narios to prepare skits, which the students act out in courtrooms across the state. The scripts are submitted to the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee to be judged, and the winners are invited to the West Virginia Supreme Court to again act out their winning scripts.

After much work by the immediate past chair of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee, Chris Gardill, the Wills for Heroes program will roll out in 2012. The project is affiliated with the National Wills for Heroes Foundation. This program will bring attorneys to the first responders of our communities to provide simple wills free of charge. The Young Lawyers Section welcomes its own members as well as the members of The Bar as a whole to participate in this program, which will allow us to give back to those in the community who help to protect us each and every day. If you are interested in assisting with Wills for Heroes in your community, please contact the Young Lawyers Section by email at [wvyounglawyers@gmail.com](mailto:wvyounglawyers@gmail.com). **WVL**

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