

**The West Virginia State Bar
Young Lawyer Section - Young Lawyer Board Meeting
Canaan Valley Resort State Park
Davis, West Virginia
January 27, 2024**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order** – Chair-Elect Taylor Coplin
 - **Meeting started:** 9:00am
- 2. Ascertainment of Quorum** – Secretary Nick Gordon
 - Attendance:
 - i. Executive Board present: Chair-Elect Taylor Coplin; Secretary Gordon
 - ii. Committee present: John Isner (3); Sophia Mills (4); Julian Pecora (5); Morgan Spolarich (9); David Pfeifer (10); Nicole Graybeal (11); Les Mallow (12); Bonnie Thomas (13); Mitch Moore (14); Jake Trombley (15), Victoria Camardi (16); MacKenzie Thaxton (WVU rep); Isaiah Robinson (African American Rep); Immediate Past Chairperson Ashton Bias
 - iii. Guests Present: Mary Jane Pickens; Kenadee Murphy; Shannon Smith; Rob Aliff; Angie Volk
 - iv. Absent: Lindsey McIntosh (Chair), Katie Herrmann (1); Kyle Elliott (2); Robin Cisco (6); Kassie Ball (7); Jessica Robey (8); Jay Ford (8)
- 3. Review/Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2023, Quarterly Meeting (Twin Falls State Park)**
 - The Executive Board electronically disseminated the minutes from the last YLB Executive Committee Meeting, which was held at Twin Falls State Park on October 14, 2023, Mullens, West Virginia.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Young Lawyer Board approved the minutes without any changes or corrections.

 - Moved: Ms. Bias
 - Seconded: Mr. Isner
- 4. Presentation by CLE Director Angie Folk**
 - Discussion on process of how to get CLE course approved.
 - Discussion on upcoming 2-year CLE reporting period deadline (24 credits total).
 - WV State Bar only recognizes Pro Bono credit from the following sources:
 - i. Legal Aid
 - ii. State Bar's Free Legal Answer Program
 - iii. State Bar's Tuesday Legal Hotline Program
 - iv. WVU College of Law Center for Law and Public Service
 - 3 requirements to get CLE's approved: 1) written course material, 2) speaker CV/bio, 3) detailed time agenda for course.

5. Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members:

- Chair-Elect Coplin introduced the following newly elected YLB members:
 - District #16 – Victoria Camardi
 - District #15 - Jake Trombley

6. Reports of Officers:

- **Chair McIntosh** – Absent
- **Chair-Elect Coplin**
 - i. **New Bar Blast**
 - To address engagement and more effective communication needs identified during the strategic planning sessions, the State Bar staff is working to upgrade and revamp the weekly Bar Blast.
 - Kenadee Murphy, Communications & Events Coordinator, presented the proposed new version of the Bar Blast
 - a. Current working title is moving from the Bar Blast to “Raising the Bar.”
 - i. Hoping to get rolled out by Spring.
 - ii. Feedback given by various YLB members.
 - ii. **Website Updates**
 - The West Virginia State Bar membership portal will be unavailable due to required maintenance beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 29. It is expected to be available again on Tuesday, January 30 by 5 p.m.
 - iii. **Tuesday Legal Connect**
 - Volunteers are needed for the weekly Tuesday Legal Connect program. Please share need with Young Lawyer Section members.
- **Secretary Gordon**
 - i. Bridge the Gap Report – see below.

7. Bridge the Gap – Secretary Gordon

- The Spring Bridge the Gap will take place, 4.8.24. Sophia Mills (individual private practice), John Isner (public defender), Isaiah Robinson (big firm), Morgan Spolarich (prosecutor) each volunteered to be on YLB Panel Discussion. Lindsey McIntosh or Nick Gordon will moderate.
- Volunteers for spring BTG in general: Nicole Graybeal, Ashton Bias, Victoria Camardi, John Isner, and Taylor Coplin
- Volunteers for fall BTG at Hotel Morgan (10-4-2024): Les Mallow, Jake Trombley, Victoria Camardi

8. Update on Board of Governor Meeting:

- Prior to the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting Executive Director Mary Jane Pickens extended an invite to any Young Lawyer Board (YLB) member who would like to attend. YLB members attending BOG meeting, and BOG meeting attending YLB meetings is a way to work toward the goal of improving the interaction and engagement between the two boards, a goal set during the fall strategic planning meeting.
- Chair-Elect Coplin attended for Chair McIntosh.
 - i. Chair-Elect Coplin reported at the BOG updates of the activities preformed by the YLB, including the successful fall BTG and holiday projects.
- In addition, Mr. Mallow and Mr. Moore also attended.
 - i. Mr. Mallow and Mr. Moore thought that attending the BOG meeting was a good opportunity for YLB members to get a larger picture of the Sate Bar's activities. Going forward, if any YLB member would like to attend the BOG meetings, please just let Mary Jane know prior to the meeting.
- Report of BOG President-Elect Shannon Smith
 - i. BOG approving a new strategic plan for 2024 – 2025.
 - ii. WVU Cancer Institute 5k cancer walk fundraiser: April 13, 2024 in Morgantown at 9:00am
- Report of BOG Member Rob Aliff
 - i. Four Focal Points of the new Strategic Plan:
 - Strengthen member communication.
 - Study emerging tech issues and its effect on the legal profession.
 - Strengthen supreme court partnership.
 - Strengthen governance.
- Report of Executive Director Mary Jane Pickens
 - i. Discussing Keller issues and a push by the Goldwater Organization to challenge mandatory bar participation.

9. Report of WVU Law School Representative – Ms. Thaxton

- School still accepting clothing for law school closet; very popular amongst students.
- Hoping to have more Lunch and Learns during upcoming school year.
- Ms. Thaxton will be graduating in May 2024.
- Mr. Moore will reach out to the law school to discuss new representative and their role on YLB.

10. Committee Reports and Old Business

- **Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring**
 - i. Practice Handbook Status Update
 - Debra Scudiere getting together Subcommittee to work on Mediation contents for the Practice Handbook. They would like a young lawyer on the committee. Mr. Trombley will assist.
 - Chair McIntosh will prepare a list of needed updates to sections of the Practice Handbook prior to the spring meeting. Mr. Moore and Ms. Thomas can work with Steptoe & Johnson summer associates to draft updates to needed sections.
 - ii. Upcoming and Recent Admissions Ceremonies
 - YLB is starting to be allowed again to introduce the YLS at admission ceremonies.
- **Law Student Education and Mentoring**

- i. Lunchtime Lecture Series – Mr. Moore
 - a. Will work with WVU Law School Representative to do a lecture in the spring semester.
- **Community Outreach**
 - i. Holiday Projects
 - Mr. Isner and Chair-Elect Coplin had a successful holiday project in Wood County in collaboration with a donation from the Wood County Bar Association.
 - Ms. Graybeal had a successful holiday project in District 11.
 - ii. Professional Clothing Drive- Bring additional clothes to spring meeting.
 - iii. Ms. Mills and Ms. Camardi will work to identify the next service project and present project at spring meeting.
- **YLS Technology Committee**
 - i. Member should send any photos to Chair McIntosh for social media posts.
- **Budget Committee**
 - i. Budget will be approved by BOG in April
 - ii. Clean Audit
- **JLAP Liaison – Ms. Ball**
 - i. Ms. Ball was absent so no report. Ms. Ball’s term on YLB will end at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Moore nominated Mr. Isner to replace Ms. Ball as the YLB member on the JLAP Board, Ms. Thomas seconded. Measure was approved.
- **Upcoming District Events or Plans– District Representatives**
 - i. Mr. Pecora – updated on great work with Counsel Connections. Mr. Moore and Mr. Pecora will work to bring a Counsel Connections event to Morgantown.

11. Next Executive Committee Meetings and Bridge the Gap: Save the dates!

- April 7, 2024 – Board of Governors and Young Lawyer Board Meetings – Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV
- April 7-8, 2024 – State Bar Annual Meeting – Embassy Suites – Charleston, WV
- August 9-10, 2024 – BOG and YLB meetings –Morgantown, WV
- Nov 1-2, 2024: - BOG and YLB meetings – Adventures on the Gorge – Fayetteville, WV
- Jan 10-11: BOG and YLB meetings – Bavaria Inn – Shepherdstown, WV
- Spring 2025: the Greenbrier

12. Annual Meeting

- **After Party**
 - Vote to approve \$1,000 of YLB budget donated to State Bar Annual Meeting After Party
- Young Lawyer and Mentor of the Year Awards

- Selection Committee: Chair McIntosh, Chair-Elect Coplin, Mr. Moore, Mr. Mallow, and Mr. Robinson

13. Adjournment

- Ms. Thomas will draft a e-mail template overview to send to district members
- Fall meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.
 - i. First: Mr. Isner
 - ii. Second: Mr. Moore