



# West Virginia State Bar

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## Young Lawyer Section

**Young Lawyer Board Meeting**  
**The West Virginia State Bar**  
**Young Lawyer Section - Young Lawyer Board Meeting (Annual Meeting)**  
**Embassy Suites**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**  
**April 7, 2024**

### **Minutes**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Lindsey McIntosh. (Meeting later conducted by Chair-Elect Taylor Coplin as Chairperson McIntosh attended Board of Governor’s Meeting that ran concurrently with the YLB meeting).
  - **Meeting started:** 12:06pm
2. **Ascertainment of Quorum** – Secretary Nick Gordon
  - Attendance:
    - i. *Executive Board Present:* Chairperson McIntosh; Chair-Elect Coplin; Secretary Gordon
    - ii. *Committee present:* Katie Herrmann (1); Kyle Elliott (2); John Isner (3); Julian Pecora (5); Jay Ford (8); Morgan Spolarich (9); Nicole Graybeal (11); Les Mallow (12); Bonnie Thomas (13); Mitch Moore (14); Immediate Past Chairperson Ashton Bias
    - iii. *Guests Present:* Kate White, WV Legal Aid.
    - iv. *Newly Elected Members Present:* Chantel Kidd, Esq. (6); Hannah West, Esq. (7); Blair Wessell, Esq. (8); Alex Urban, Esq. (8)
    - v. *Absent:* Sophia Mills (4); Robin Cisco (6); Kassie Ball (7); Jessica Robey (8); David Pfeifer (10); Jacob Trombley (15); Victoria Camardi (16); Isaiah Robinson (African American Rep); MacKenzie Thaxton (WVU rep).
3. **Review/Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2024, Quarterly Meeting (Canaan Valley)**
  - The Executive Board electronically disseminated the minutes from the last YLB Meeting, which was held at Canaan Valley on January 27, 2023, Davis, West Virginia.

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

- Moved: John Isner
- Seconded: Mitch Moore

**4. Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members:**

- Chair-Elect Coplin introduced the following newly elected YLB members.
  - Chantel Kidd, Esq. (6)
  - Hannah West, Esq. (7)
  - Blair Wessell, Esq. (8)
  - Alex Urban, Esq. (8)

**5. Committee Reports and Old Business Part I**

**a) Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring- Mr. Moore**

- Summer Associates at Steptoe & Johnson PLLC will be working on updating the YLB practice handbook sections. Then those updated sections can be reviewed by a practicing attorney in those respective areas of law.

**b) Law Student Education and Mentoring – Mr. Moore**

- **Lunchtime Lecture Series** – Will plan a new lunch and learn with new law school representative for fall semester.
- **Law School Outreach** - Had a recent meeting with Dean Jen Powell at WVU law school to connect on how the YLB can assist the law school with any needs of law students.

**6. Selection of Secretary**

a) Election Rule - enclosed under Tab No. 2 of agenda.

b) Nominations and Election:

- Mr. Moore nominated Mr. Isner.
- Mr. Mallow seconded.
- Mr. Isner was voted new Secretary

**7. Reports of Officers:**

**a) Chairperson McIntosh**

- i. Review of her attendance at Midyear ABA Conference
  - Discussions regarding challenges facing mandatory bar association.
  - Overarching question: “Is it germane to the practice of law?”
  - Discussion regarding groups/organizations challenging mandatory bar associations nationwide.
- ii. Chairperson McIntosh finally meeting as Chairperson

- iii. Chairperson McIntosh reminded committee members of duties and responsibilities, including fulfilling district goals
- iv. Update on Board of Governor Meeting: No update as BOG meeting ran concurrently with YLB meeting.

**b) Chair-Elect Taylor Coplin**

- i. Report from Bar Leadership Institute (BLI)- Great opportunity to network with bar leaders across the country from executive directors, state bar presidents, and other young lawyer leaders both at the state level and Young Lawyers Section of the ABA.
- ii. Committee Appointments for YLB members passed down from new BOG Chair, Shannon P. Smith:
  - 1. Budget Committee: Taylor Coplin
  - 2. Bylaws and Strategic Planning Committee: Mitch Moore
  - 3. Annual Meeting Committee: Bonnie Thomas
  - 4. JLAP Liaison: John Isner
  - 5. Scholarship Committee: Nick Gordon and Taylor Coplin

**c) Secretary Nick Gordon**

- i. See Bridge the Gap section for update.

**8. Report of WVU Law School Representative –**

- a) No new update; WVU Law Rep MacKenzie Thaxton not present. Ms. Thaxton is graduating therefore there will be a new law school representative in the fall. Mr. Moore will reach out to the law school to learn how the new representative will be.

**9. Committee Reports and Old Business Part II**

**a) Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring**

- i. **Bridge the Gap – Secretary Gordon**
  - 1. Bridge the Gap will take place tomorrow, 4.8.24. Sophia Mills, John Isner, Isaiah Robinson, Julian Pecora each volunteered to be on YLB Panel Discussion. Lindsey McIntosh to moderate.
- ii. Volunteers for spring BTG in general: Bonnie Thomas, Nick Gordon, Hannah West, John Isner, and Taylor Coplin
- iii. Volunteers for fall BTG at Hotel Morgan October 4, 2024: Les Mallow, Jake Trombley, Victoria Camardi.

**b) YLS Technology Committee – John Isner**

- i. Website has been updated, taking individual headshots and group photo for New YLB website.

- ii. Plan to be more active on social media to create presence; still waiting on receiving social media passwords.

**c) Upcoming District Events or Plans– District Representatives**

**d) Community Outreach –**

- i. Victoria and Sophia working to plan project in connection with CASA, potentially Children First in Putnam County. Will bring more details on project needs at the August meeting.
- ii. Kyle – Planning to work with a local weekend snack backpack program in his district.

**e) Budget Committee**

- i. Chair-Elect Coplin will join budget committee replacing outgoing Chair McIntosh.
- ii. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve Chair-Elect Coplin to work with Sarah Hall to approve expenses for YLB member projects with remaining 2023-2024 budget. Member should send in proposals by June 30, 2024. Mr. Isner seconded motion. Motion carried.

**f) JLAP Liaison – Mr. Isner**

- i. Upcoming conference on May 17<sup>th</sup>

**10. New Business:**

- a) Julian Pecora – updated on great work with Counsel Connections. Upcoming events in Morgantown, Huntington, and Charleston.

**11. Legal Aid Presentation by Kate White, Esq.**

- a) Kate White from Legal Aid of WV gave presentation regarding pro bono work
- b) State Bar's legal outreach committee:
  - i. Looking for new attorneys to volunteer
  - ii. Tuesday Legal Connection – contact David M. Frercks, Pro Bono Coordinator for more information or to volunteer.

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

- August 9-10, 2024 – BOG and YLB meetings – Hotel Morgan – 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

**13. Announcements:**

- Angie Volk resigned from her position as CLE Compliance Coordinator; new State Bar employee has begun: Samantha Chase
- Regional Meetings: District Representatives should attend their local meeting and report on their attendance at the November 2, 2024, meeting.
  - September 6, 2024 - Morgantown - WVU College of Law
  - September 12, 2024 – Charleston – Hale Street Center
  - September 13, 2024 - Chapmanville - Giovanni's
  - September 20, 2024 - Huntington – Vandalia Crowd House
  - September 27, 2024 - Fayetteville - The Gaines Estate
  - October 10, 2024 - Shepherdstown - Bavarian Inn
  - October 11, 2024 - Moorefield - South Branch Inn
  - October 18, 2024 - Bridgeport – Bridgeport Country Club
  - November 7, 2024 - Parkersburg - The Blennerhassett
  - November 8, 2024 - Wheeling - Oglebay Resort

**14. Adjournment**

- a) Meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.
- b) First: John
- c) Second: Les