

**The West Virginia State Bar
Young Lawyer Section - Young Lawyer Board Meeting
Stonewall Resort
Roanoke, West Virginia
July 17, 2023**

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairperson Lindsey McIntosh
 - **Meeting started:** 9:03 am
- 2. Ascertainment of Quorum** – Secretary Nick Gordon
 - Attendance:
 - i. Executive Board: Chairperson McIntosh, Chair-Elect Taylor Coplin, Secretary Nick Gordon, Immediate Past Chairperson Ashton Bias
 - ii. Committee: Katie Herrmann (1), Kyle Elliott (2), John Isner (3), Sophia Mills (4), Julian Pecora (5), Kassie Ball (7), Jay Ford (8), Morgan Spolarich (9), David Pfeifer (10), Bonnie Thomas (13), Mitch Moore (14), MacKenzie Thaxton (WVU rep)
 - iii. Guests: Mary Jane Pickens
 - iv. Absent: Robin Cisco (6), Jessica Robey (8), Nicole Graybeal (11)
 - v. Vacant at start of meeting: District 12, 15, 16, and African American Rep
- 3. Review/Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2023, Quarterly Meeting (the Greenbrier)**
 - Chair-Elect Coplin electronically disseminated the minutes from the last YLB Executive Committee Meeting, which was held at the State Bar Annual Meeting on March 26, 2023, at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Young Lawyer Board will be asked to approve the minutes with any changes or corrections.

 - Moved: Mitch Moore
 - Seconded: Ashton Bias
- 4. Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members:**
 - District 4 – Sophia Mills, Esq.
 - Ms. Mills introduced herself to the group. Ms. Mills is an attorney practicing in Putnam County, WV. As the Representative of District 4, Ms. Mills is responsible for the counties of Clay, Jackson, Mason, Putnam, and Roane. This was Ms. Mills' first YLB meeting.
- 5. Reports of Officers:**
 - a. **Chairperson McIntosh**
 - i. Review of Binders and Responsibilities

1. Chairperson McIntosh took the liberty of creating folders and compiling pertinent documents for each member of the YLB. The folders contain past minutes, agendas, by laws, and upcoming events.
2. It will be each member's duty to bring their folder with them to future YLB meetings. Each current member of the YLB will pass down their respective folder to the Representative that succeeds the current member.
- ii. Members updated their contact information on a sheet that was passed around the room. Chairperson McIntosh will send updated contact info to Kathy Henning, Executive Assistant at the State Bar
- iii. Chairperson McIntosh reminded committee members of duties and responsibilities, including fulfilling district goals
- iv. Chairperson McIntosh gave an updated from the BOG meeting from prior day:
 1. Law school dean:
 - a. 110 new students in incoming WVU law class with "increased diversity"
 - b. University-wide budget problems has sparked some changes with WVU Law. There will be a reduction in clinic (including elimination of general litigation clinic), but more of an emphasis on externships.
 - c. Jamie Cooper's More Than a Lawyer Series
 - i. Printed in WV Lawyer Magazine
 - ii. Morgan Spolarich is going to be on Dancing with the Stars; Ashton nominated Morgan to be featured
 - d. Mission WV Fundraising project with Gerald Titus at Capitol Market
 - i. Wants to partner with YLB
 - ii. Last year raised \$18,000
 - iii. Bonnie, Sophia, Ashton, Jay, and Kyle volunteered to participate
- v. Chairperson McIntosh stated her goals for her year as the Chairperson, including:
 1. New Project: Bar Exam Fees Assistance Program
 - a. Chairperson McIntosh announced the plan that the YLB will be working to generate scholarship funds to third year law students who are taking the bar exam. With the absorbent fees that

corresponding with taking the bar exam (purchasing bar prep course, signing up for bar exam and MPRE, etc.), the YLB wants to help alleviate the financial burden by awarded need-scholarships to students. McIntosh announced that she had already rolled over funds from a pre-existing endowment fund at WVU created by her family to help initial fund the bar prep scholarship.

- b. Mitch Moore suggested contacting bar prep companies through WVU student rep to secure better bar prep course rates.
2. Practice Handbook: new idea for updating practice handbook – reaching out to most recent author of each section and having them update their respective section.
- vi. Chairperson McIntosh addressed the current vacancies on the YLB. McIntosh reached out to each young lawyer practicing in the vacant district to inquire as to their desire to join the YLB. The following vacancies were addressed:
 1. African American Representative: Isaiah Robinson was running unopposed and approved:
 - a. Moved: Ashton Bias // Seconded: Mitch Moore
 2. District 16 (Berkely, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, and Morgan): a contested race between Victoria Camardi and Katie Stewart. After each contestants' spiel was read by McIntosh, committee members requested to move on selecting Camardi to the YLB.
 - a. Moved: John Isner // Seconded Morgan Spolarich
 3. District 12 (Braxton, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, and Webster): a contested race between Les Mallow Jr. and Sarah Petito Myers. After each contestants' spiel was read by McIntosh, and multiple members advocated for each contestant, committee members pushed for a vote. By a vote of 8 – 4, Les Mallow Jr. was selected as District 12's new Representative.

b. Chairperson-Elect Taylor Coplin

- i. Update and planning for the next Bridge the Gap CLE; hosted at the Bridgeport Conference Center on October 27, 2023

c. Secretary Nick Gordon

- i. More discussion on upcoming Bridge the Gap CLE.

6. Report of WVU Law School Representative – MacKenzie Thaxton

- a. Mr. Moore and Ms. Thaxton will have a Lunch and Learn in 1st semester of 2023-24 school year
- b. School still accepting clothing for law school closet
- c. September 17, 2023 there will be a golf tournament fundraiser

7. Committee Reports and Old Business

a. Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring

i. Bridge the Gap – Secretary Coplin

- 1. Bridge the Gap will take place, 10.27.2023. Sophia Mills (individual private practice), John Isner (public defender), Ashton Bias (mother), Bonnie Thomas (big firm), Taylor Coplin (in-house counsel) each volunteered to be on YLB Panel Discussion. Nick Gordon volunteered to moderate event.
- 2. Mitch Moore will be presenting again on E-File vs. Old Fashion filing
- 3. Confirmed: Judge Alois, Judge Aboulhosn.
- 4. Probable: Rachel Cipoletti, Mary Jane Pickens, Judge Reeder, Judge Tabit

ii. Practice Handbook – See updated status above

- 1. Mr. Pfeifer not present for an update.
- 2. Mr. Moore indicated Steptoe and Johnson summer associates could potentially help assist with research for updates.

i. <https://wvyounglawyers.com/practice-handbook/>

iii. Upcoming Admissions Ceremonies – Ashton Bias

- 1. Ashton Bias and Lindsey McIntosh working together to have Supreme Court allow YLB members to be present at upcoming Admissions Ceremonies.

a. Next two: September 27, 2023 and October 18, 2023

b. Law Student Education and Mentoring

i. Lunchtime Lecture Series – Mr. Moore

a. See WVU Law School Representative report above.

ii. Bar Exam Box Lunches –

- 1. Providing box lunches to students taking bar exam twice a year has become too pricey and too much of a hassle to continue providing. Therefore there was a move and vote to no longer provide box lunches to bar takers

a. Moved: David Pfeifer // Seconded: Jay Ford

c. Community Outreach

- i. Special Projects/Public Service Committee – Mission WV project (see above)
- ii. Fall Service Project: still collecting clothes for WVU law students in need
- iii. 2023 Holiday Project

- 1. Habitat for Humanity idea or Mission WV project

d. YLS Technology Committee – Chairperson McIntosh meeting with Andrew Eden, IT Director for the State Bar

- 1. Reminder to take and submit photos of any YLB related event to post on social media, gain exposure

e. Budget Committee –

- i. Although Bonnie Thomas was on the budget committee, Lindsey McIntosh will take over after being appointed to the position by Chris Frost, president of the State Bar

f. JLAP Liaison – Ms. Ball – unable to attend 2023 conference

g. Upcoming District Events or Plans– District Representatives

8. New Business: Adding for future agendas:

- a. Annual Meeting Planning with Bonnie Thomas
 - i. Always looking for interest speakers for future events

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

- October 13-14, 2023 – YLS Board Meeting – Twin Falls State Park – Mullens, WV
- *****October 27, 2023 – BTG Bridgeport Conference Center**
- January 26-27, 2024 – YLS Board Meetings – Canaan Valley – Davis, WV
- 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

10. Announcements:

- Working on gathering point for next YLB Meeting at Twin Falls State Park
- **Regional Meetings:**
 - Sept. 8 - Morgantown – WVU College of Law
 - Sept. 14 - Chapmanville - Giovanni's
 - Sept. 15 - Huntington - The Peddler
 - Sept. 20 - Fayetteville - The Gaines Estate
 - Sept. 22 - Charleston - Four Points Sheraton
 - Oct. 5 - Shepherdstown - Bavarian Inn
 - Oct. 6 - Moorefield - South Branch Inn
 - Nov. 3 - Bridgeport - Bridgeport Country Club
 - Nov. 8 - Parkersburg - The Blennerhassett

- Nov. 9 - Wheeling - Wheeling Country Club

11. Adjournment

David Pfiefer made motion to adjourn, Mitch Moore seconded. Adjourned at 11:17am.