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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



Get Involved!

By William B. Oberts

Whether it is family, friends, work, or play, we all lead busy lives. There are plenty of excuses not to perform pro bono work. A cold drink with your friends is tempting over taking the time and initiative to help another. But the moment is over when the drink is finished. In contrast, providing pro bono service can make a lasting impact on the lives of others. In my opinion, the satisfaction of having helped another is more rewarding than that cold drink.

The Illinois Supreme Court provided a concurring opinion by enacting Supreme Court Rule 756(f). SCR 756(f) mandates attorneys to disclose voluntary pro bono legal service and states: “[a]s part of registering under this rule, each lawyer shall report the approximate amount of his or her pro bono legal service and the amount of qualified monetary contributions made during the preceding 12 months.” The rule further delineates what is considered “pro bono legal services” and “qualified monetary

contributions.” Nobody wants a zero on his or her registration form.

Challenge yourself to perform pro bono this year. How can I learn more about pro bono opportunities, you ask? Go to <http://www.probonoinitiative.org>

This year’s CBA/CBF Pro Bono Week theme was “Lawyering for the Soul.” As in the past, the YLS teamed up with The Chicago Bar Foundation and Public Interest Law Initiative for the 14th Annual Pro Bono and Community Service Fair. Exelon and Jenner & Block graciously agreed to once again sponsor the event. Nearly 50 legal service organizations exhibited. Regardless of your time commitment or experience level, you can make a difference in the lives of others.

Most Fit Lawyer Competition

As lawyers, we are competitive by nature and routinely compete in the courtroom. The YLS’ inaugural “Most Fit Young Lawyer” competition is an opportunity for lawyers to compete outside of the courtroom. The competition will be held on October 20, 2007 at the West Loop Gym. Participants will compete by performing a modified version of the Illinois Peace Officer Wellness Evaluation Report (POWER) test taken by police recruits at the Illinois police academy.

The competition is a great way to gauge your overall fitness, regardless of whether you believe that you are the fittest young lawyer in Chicago. The YLS will recognize the overall male and female winners—individuals who rank first in each individual category—and the firm with the most participants at a cocktail reception in November. Participants must register by October 15, 2007. Registration is free. To find out more information or to sign up for the competition, visit www.chicagobar.org.

Life in the Balance Series

The “Life in the Balance” Series is designed to help young lawyers work smart and live well. The initiative will include monthly e-mails sent to members containing balance tips, as well as many special events and activities.

November has been designated as “health month.” In addition to the Most Fit Young Lawyer reception, the YLS will host a cooking class social on November 6th to learn how to cook and eat healthy. The YLS also will provide complimentary health screenings to CBA members (space is limited) on November 14 thanks to the generous support of our friends at the Horton Group. The following are details regarding “health month.” An updated list of all Life in the Balance activities and events can be found at www.chicagobar.org.

Social

What would the month be without an YLS Social? On October 23, the YLS will host an All-Bar Social at Carnivale. Over 30 bar associations have been invited. There is no better way for leaders and members of all bar associations to mix and mingle to discuss working together this bar year. If your bar association is interested in sponsoring or you would like more information, contact Jenni Bertolino at jbortolino@chicagobar.org.

But there’s more! The YLS will also host a happy hour in October. Details are being finalized. Please check www.chicagobar.org for further information.

Wills For Heroes

October will be a month of firsts for the YLS. Not only will we host our inaugural Most Fit Young Lawyer Competition, but we will also kick-off our Wills for Heroes program at the Hoffman Estates Fire Department. On October 27, the men and women of the YLS will “serve and protect” the men and women of the Hoffman Estates Fire Department by providing free wills and

LEARN HOW TO COOK HEALTHY 30-MINUTE MEALS NOVEMBER 6

Join other CBA members to mix and mingle while picking up basic cooking skills at the local chefs’ source, The Chopping Block. The class will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., at the downtown location of The Chopping Block, The Merchandise Mart, Suite 107. At the start of the class, local TV personality Dawn Jackson Blatner RD LDN, a registered and licensed dietitian, will lead a short discussion on eating healthy and then will conduct a cooking demonstration of how to prepare a 30-minute healthy meal. You will then take part in a hands-on cooking activity and learn how to prepare three different complete, delicious, and balanced meals. You will enjoy your tasty meals with complimentary beer, wine or soft drinks throughout the class.

Cost is \$90 per person and class is limited to 40 persons (Note: Fee is paid onsite to The Chopping Block, tax and tip not included. No shows will be billed \$90 to their CBA account or credit card). Nonmembers and law students welcome. This program is being held as part of the YLS Life in the Balance series. Learn more at www.chicagobar.org/lifeinthebalance.

MOST FIT LAWYER CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 15

Network and recognize fit lawyers in the Chicago area at the YLS November social on Thursday, November 15, 2007, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Saltaus, 1350 W. Randolph, Chicago. Attorneys who participated in the Most Fit Lawyer Competition will be recognized at the Social. Includes appetizers and drink specials. Sponsored by LexisNexis.

CHILDREN’S BOOK DRIVE NOVEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 14

The YLS will collect new and gently used children’s books from November 12 to December 14, 2007. All books will be donated to homeless shelters, the children’s waiting room at the Daley Center, the Cook County Juvenile Justice Center, and the William C. Goudy Elementary School (the CBA’s adopted school). Donations may be dropped off in the CBA lobby (321 S. Plymouth Ct.).

other estate planning documents. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the YLS at 312/ 554-2032 or yls@chicagobar.org. A background in estate planning is not required. Your energy and time commitment is all that is needed. All volunteers will be trained before the event.

Get Involved

The YLS provides several opportunities to

get involved in October. Whether it is performing pro bono work, testing your fitness, or socializing with colleagues, I encourage you to take advantage of the events and activities offered this month, and get ready for a wide variety of activities and events in November. ■