

California Young Lawyers Association 2007 Year End Assessment

In 1965, the State Bar's Board of Governors created the State Bar's Conference of Barristers. The name was changed to the California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) in 1977-78 when CYLA's membership on the State Bar's Board of Governors was effectuated through statutory amendment. CYLA's purpose is to provide representation for those attorneys who are 36 years of age or under and lawyers who are in their first five years of active membership in the State Bar. At present, approximately 27% of the active members of the State Bar are CYLA members.

CYLA represents and advocates the interests and needs of young lawyers, promotes the State Bar and public service, assists in the creation, improvement, and coordination of local young lawyer organizations, and provides young lawyer leadership on issues of importance to the State Bar.

Education

1. How activities furthered completion of CYLA's charge:

- Promote interest of new lawyers by keeping them informed of current issues in the profession and assessing additional needs and interests of new lawyers (CYLA Purpose F).
- To offer encouragement and assistance to the new members of the Bar in the task of assuming their responsibilities before the Bar (CYLA Purpose C).

2. Measurable accomplishments achieved or not achieved:

- **Publication Development:** Development of a publication depended on the outcome of the 2007 Young Lawyer Survey. Based on the survey results and the subsequent 2007 Spring Summit in San Francisco, a publication was not developed because the needs of young lawyers, as expressed by the representative sample in the survey, would not be satisfied in this fashion.
- **Disaster Support:** CYLA conducted FEMA training for its board members regarding implementation of the "Memorandum of Understanding" between CYLA and the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.
- **Annual Meeting MCLE Program:** Three MCLE programs were produced for the 2007 Annual Meeting in Anaheim. The programs were:
 - (1) a "Powered by Technology: Using Internet Tools to Manage Your Law Practice"
 - (2) "Insurance: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Faith Wolf?"
 - (3) "Opening a Law Office: Perspectives From Niche Practitioners"
- **Career Development Program:** Development of a career development program depended on the outcome of the 2007 Young Lawyer Survey and subsequent Recommendations. Based on the survey results and the 2007 Spring Summit in San Francisco, a program was not developed because the needs of young lawyers, as expressed by the representative sample in the survey, would be best met after reviewing the Recommendations provided by CMG Consulting.
- **Opening a Law Office:** The state bar committee was formed including two CYLA representatives, state bar staff, and section representatives. The committee selected a format and prepared topic outlines for distribution to a select group of writers. An updated publication is scheduled for printing in 2008.

3. **Measurement of program success:** Success was measured by the number of programs produced, the number of attendees and positive comments received about the MCLE programming. Attendance at each program was as follows:
- (1) "Powered by Technology: Using Internet Tools to Manage Your Law Practice"
 - a. Registrants – 85
 - b. Evaluation forms returned – 14
 - c. Overall evaluation rating - between 4 and 5 (5 being the highest)
 - (2) "Insurance: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Faith Wolf?"
 - a. Registrants – 27
 - b. Evaluation forms returned – 8
 - c. Overall evaluation rating – between 3 and 4
 - (3) "Opening a Law Office: Perspectives From Niche Practitioners"
 - a. Registrants – 61
 - b. Evaluation forms returned – 30
 - c. Overall evaluation rating – between 4 and 5
4. **Changes to direction and desired outcomes:**
- Completion date for the 7th edition of "Opening a Law Office" has been extended to State Bar of California's 2008 annual meeting.
 - No other changes to direction for the other activities.

Outreach

1. **How activities furthered completion of CYLA's charge:**
- Stimulate and encourage interest in State Bar programs and activities (CYLA Purpose A).
2. **Measurable accomplishments achieved or not achieved:**
- **Swearing in Ceremonies:** Attended all of the swearing in ceremonies in December 2007 and June 2007, which involved distribution of CYLA materials and in some instances speaking to the new admittees. To reach all, rather than a very small percentage of newly admitted attorneys who attend the swearing in ceremonies, CYLA continues to send a mailing to all newly admitted attorneys immediately following the ceremonies.
 - **Connection to ABA/YLD Resources:** ABA/YLD district representatives are either members of the CYLA board and/or are former members of the CYLA board. A BOG CYLA representative held an officer position with the ABA/YLD, and CYLA will continue to send one member to the ABA/YLD conferences.
 - **Newsletter:** CYLA was able to produce and distribute four editions (Oct 2006, Feb 2007, May 2007, and Aug 2007) of its E-Newsletter to those individuals who "opted-in" to the distribution list.
3. **Measurement of program success:** Success is measured by the number of young and new attorneys reached, volunteers for committees, increased web site access and phone calls to staff regarding CYLA opportunities and increased number

of CYLA board election nominations. Swearing in ceremonies reached 3,500 new lawyers; and the newsletter was distributed to approximately 900 individuals.

4. Changes to direction and desired outcomes:

- Better access to CYLA members' e-mail addresses would enable CYLA to reach a wider audience, and more effectively serve its membership.

Communications/Public Relations

1. How activities furthered the completion of CYLA's charge:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and material pertaining to duties and responsibilities of new attorneys (CYLA Purpose B).
- Offer encouragement and assistance to new members of the Bar in assuming their responsibilities before the Bar (CYLA Purpose D).
- Assists in the improvement and coordination of young lawyer organizations throughout the State (CYLA Purpose E).

2. Measurable accomplishments achieved or not achieved:

- **Electronic Listserv/Newsletter:** Newsletter format developed and distributed – four issues (Oct 2006, Feb 2007, May 2007, and Aug 2007).

3. Measurement of program success: Success is measured by the number of requests received on-line through the website and CYLA's email ID.

4. Changes to direction and desired outcomes:

- Better access to CYLA members' e-mail addresses would enable CYLA to reach a wider audience, and more effectively serve its membership.

Pro Bono

1. How activities furthered completion of CYLA's charge:

- Stimulate interest in activities and programs designed to increase access to justice (CYLA Purpose A).
- Assist in the improvement and coordinate of young lawyer organizations statewide (CYLA Purpose E).
- Promote interest of new lawyers by keeping them informed of current issues in the profession and assessing additional needs and interests of new lawyers (CYLA Purpose F).

2. Measurable accomplishments achieved or not achieved:

- **Jack Berman Award:** Presented the annual Jack Berman Award of Achievement to Jorge Aguilar. Following precedent set last year, the Jack Berman Award continued to receive high numbers of qualified nominations.
- **Pro Bono Work Facilitation:** Relationships with legal services providers in diverse geographic areas established and areas of need identified. Approximately, 50 young lawyers, through this program, have received training from various pro bono providers throughout the state.

3. Measurement of program success:

- **Jack Berman Award:** Number of nominations submitted for selection increasing from the previous year. Increasing the number of quality nominations.
- **Pro Bono Work Facilitation:** Number of programs which are participating and number of attendees taking cases pro bono publico as a result of the facilitation by CYLA. Tracking how the volunteers heard of the program and keeping a record of cases taken by volunteer name.

Long Range Planning and Leadership Development:

1. How activities furthered completion of CYLA's charge:

- Stimulate interest in activities and program designed to increase access to justice (CYLA Purpose A).
- Offer encouragement and assistance to new members of the Bar in assuming their responsibilities before the Bar (CYLA Purpose D).
- Assist in the improvement and coordinate of young lawyer organizations statewide (CYLA Purpose E).
- Promote interest of new lawyers by keeping them informed of current issues in the profession and assessing additional needs and interests of new lawyers (CYLA Purpose F).

2. Measurable accomplishments achieved or not achieved:

Long Range Planning and Leadership Development: Received strategic planning training at the 2007 Board of Governors planning meeting. Drafting of the 2008 work plan was immediate and a long-range plan is delayed pending the outcome of the 2007 Spring Summit Recommendations by CMG Consulting.

3. Measurement of program success:

- **Long Range Planning and Leadership Development:** Number of board members training in long range planning/strategic planning process and implementation of State Bar's strategic planning cycle; preparation of a long range plan.

4. Changes to direction and desired outcomes:

- CYLA is currently discussing ways in which to "partner" with other sections of the State Bar and local bar associations.