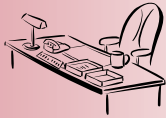


THE ADVOCATE

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION—MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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Expand the Juvenile Drug Court Program

By Judge Edward R. K. Hargadon

The primary challenge facing the future of Baltimore City's youth, and by extension the entire City, is the widespread use of drugs—both narcotics and alcohol. It is beyond question that drugs are the primary reason most adults and juveniles are arrested in Baltimore. Whether using and selling drugs, or committing crimes to pay for drugs, the crime in Baltimore is directly driven by the addictions of far too many residents.

As for the adult population, the criminal justice system offers too few options for dealing with drug addicts. And even if the court is able to find an appropriate treatment program, it is very difficult for the client to return to the community without "picking up". Structure in the adult client's life is crucial, and too few programs offer the necessary structure to foster success. Programs such as the drug treatment programs in the circuit and district courts have a track record of success, as measured by recidivism. However, the limited number of available slots in these programs makes the overall impact negligible.

This makes it all the more important for us, as adults running the criminal justice system, to spare no effort in helping children arrested for drug offenses understand the harm they are doing to themselves and others, and to open these children to a world of possibilities that do not include using and selling drugs. It is a tall order, but the level of the effort and money we give toward helping these children, mostly between the ages of 14 and 18, will undoubtedly have a direct correlation to the number of juveniles who not only stay out of the juvenile system, but who go on to lead productive lives that do not include frequent visits to prison.

One such program worth expanding is the Juvenile Drug Court Program in Baltimore City ("JDCCP"), which is jointly run by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the Department of Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office and the Office of the Public Defender. It has been described by *The Baltimore Sun*, no great fan of Maryland's juvenile justice system and the Department of Juvenile Services, as "one of the success stories in the ever-reformable juvenile justice system...[a program] certainly worth celebrating." (*The Sun* Editorial of June 26, 2004)

The JDCCP provides a highly structured program for the client, which is run by a team of professionals. These professionals include:

- One juvenile counselor and one addictions counselor, who work with the client—on a daily basis for most of the program;



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From the Chair

Annual Report of the Maryland State Bar Association Section of Young Lawyers

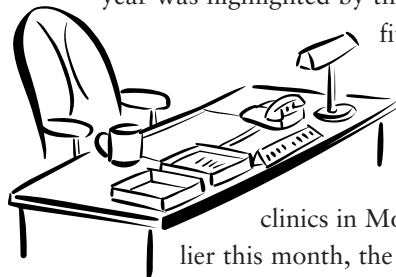
Colleagues:

At the Annual Meeting in Ocean City, it will be my great honor and pleasure to pass the gavel to my friend and colleague, Ruth-Ann Bennett. As my year as Chair draws to a close, I cannot help but be humbled by the hard work and dedication of so many to make this an outstanding year for the Young Lawyers Section. Throughout this year, I have been privileged to meet and work with hundreds of lawyers across the state for the benefit of our organization, our profession, and our community. I would like to take this opportunity to recall our accomplishments and say thanks.

The YLS has hosted numerous programs and events relevant to our members and their practice, many of which have been sell-outs. In October, we recruited a terrific panel of judges, legislators and faculty members to join in our discussion on "Alternative Career Paths in Law." More recently, our Resolutions committee sponsored a debate on the topic of medical malpractice reform, featuring Senator Sharon Grosfeld and Delegate Bobby Zirkin as well as members of the plaintiffs' and defense bars. Our Education committee hosted well-attended education seminars on topics including legal research via the internet, and the basics of drafting a will.

We also created many opportunities throughout the year to network with each other. Our hard-working Membership committee traveled the state to bring our highly successful "Thirsty Thursday" happy hours to Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Frederick, Howard, and Prince George's Counties, as well as an event with the State's two law schools. In addition to our highly successful annual gala, Novemberfest, our Activities committee capped off the year with a sell-out O's Night and bullpen party at Camden Yards for more than 150 of our members.

Our community outreach efforts this year have focused on assisting children at all education levels. In April, our Public Service committee partnered with Community Law in Action to host our first annual student mentoring week, where volunteer attorneys shadowed students at three separate high schools in order to get an inside view of our schools and the issues that students face. The year was highlighted by the YLS's annual fundraiser, Novemberfest, to benefit the Maryland Mentoring Partnership.



We have significantly expanded our *pro bono* efforts this year. This spring, the *Pro Bono* committee recruited volunteer attorneys to host several "Young Lawyers' Nights" at walk-in legal clinics in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. And earlier this month, the YLS co-sponsored a fundraiser at the ESPN Zone



Rachel Cohen, Esq., Chair

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The Medical Malpractice Crisis: A Doctor's Perspective

By Lenox S. Dingle, Jr., M.D.

Last July, at age 58 and after 23 years of maintaining a general surgery practice in Baltimore, I closed the doors to my office for the last time, leaving behind a profession that had been the passion of my life. While I refer to this leaving as a “retirement”, the reality is that I simply quit. A decade of managed care, Medicare cost-cutting, increasing governmental regulation, unfair competition with hospitals and, of course, ever-increasing malpractice rates (the “malpractice crisis”) had all combined over time to render it impossible for me to do the thing that I loved most. I had become cynical, felt oppressed and exploited, and saw no light at the end of the tunnel—so I left. I know of six close friends and colleagues who have, over the past 2 years, made the same decision—2 surgeons, 2 internists, a pediatrician and an obstetrician, each younger than I. And I know of several others who are close to doing the same.

Several weeks ago, I was asked to sit on a panel before a local bar association that was formed to discuss the malpractice issue—its impact, who is

to blame, what can be done about it. I was the only physician in a room full of attorneys and found it interesting to hear their perspectives; particularly interesting was seeing them adopt a defensive pos-

ture, assuming that doctors are holding them to blame for what is happening. While lawyers have never been high on my popularity list (nor on anyone's popularity list that I have ever seen), I am knowledgeable enough to know that there is plenty of blame to spread around.

I have always considered the rising malpractice rates to be the “salt on the wound”, the wound being inflicted by the many other factors that have brought us to this point. Having been nudged to the edge of the precipice, malpractice rate increases are pushing many of us over the edge

A decade of managed care, Medicare cost-cutting, increasing governmental regulation, unfair competition with hospitals and, of course, ever-increasing malpractice rates (the “malpractice crisis”) had all combined over time to render it impossible for me to do the thing that I loved most.

and out of business. A 28 percent rate increase in 2004, followed by a proposed 33 percent increase this year (which would have placed my annual premiums in the \$70,000–\$80,000 range) was enough for me, and others, to make the decision to opt out. While the debate rages over what, or who, are to blame for this or whether it is even justified, the physician finds himself caught between a rock and a hard place.

To begin with, physicians are unable to pass along their costs. As

overhead expenses increase (wages and benefits, rent, utilities, supplies, insurances, etc.), reimbursements for services have gone in the other direction. Health insurance companies, unilaterally, determine what they will pay for physician services and thus establish, in effect, our fee schedules (I heard a colleague refer to them as “physician fantasies”,—not fees).

Rationalizing an attempt to control costs, reimbursements to physicians have been, for the most part, reduced. But in reality, cost-cutting by the insurer is, in fact, nothing more than cost-shifting with patients paying higher premiums and co-pays, and the physician reimbursed less - and costs are still rising. Bill Clinton's balancing of the budget was, in part, at my expense as Medicare has engaged in the same cost-cutting practices and Medicaid has never been competitive. The Medicare rate structure, whose physician reimbursement schedules are poor at best, is rapidly being adopted as the “benchmark rate”. Private insurers are gradually adjusting their rates (usually downward) to align with these rates in order to remain competitive. While price fixing within the industry is illegal, I suppose the adoption of a third-party “benchmark rate” among competitors is not considered collusion. The net result is that physicians—with certain specialties in particular (often the ones with the highest costs)—have



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The Activities Committee

*Meredith O'Conner and
Michael W. Siri, Co-Chairs*

On May 7, 2005, the Activities Committee of the Young Lawyer's Section hosted a Bullpen Party at Camden Yards. For the second consecutive year the event sold out and 150 people attended the Orioles game versus the Kansas City Royals. The Bullpen Party included a pre-game picnic at the stadium, followed by the ballgame. Members of the Maryland Bar community and their families arrived at 2:30pm to enjoy the food and watch the Orioles warm-up before the scheduled 4:00pm game.

The Activities Committee is also looking for YLS members to assist in putting together the section's biggest event of the year—Novemberfest. If you are interested in helping out the Activities Committee, contact Michael W. Siri at siri@bowie-jensen.com.

What We Do, And How to Join Us

*Get Connected with the
Committees of the
Young Lawyers Section*



The Membership Committee

*Jan I. Berlage and
Tamara Goorevitz, Co-Chairs*

The Membership Committee has continued to coordinate monthly

Thirsty Thursdays. April's Thirsty Thursday took place in Prince George's County at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant and was co-sponsored by the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J. Franklyn Bourne Association. The event was a great success and well attended! Thank you to all who attended. In May, we sponsored a Thirsty Thursday for the law students at University of Baltimore and University of Maryland at Little Havana in Baltimore. The event was a great opportunity to give law students an opportunity to network and meet young lawyers. We will be taking a summer break from Thirsty Thursdays but expect that they will resume on a monthly basis again in late summer or early fall so please keep an eye out in late summer/early fall for information for the next Thirsty Thursday!

Spotlight On

The Public Service Committee

Shadow Day: Baltimore City High School Students Educate Young Lawyers

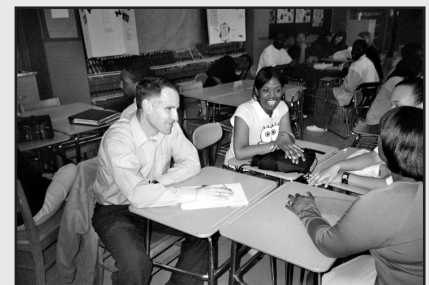
By Sarah Andrews and Susan Wyckoff

In April, the Young Lawyers Section and Community Law in Action (CLIA) hosted the First Annual Shadow Day Program. Each participating young lawyer was assigned to "shadow" a Baltimore City high school student for a portion of the school day. Young lawyers, guided by their student hosts, attended classes and toured school buildings and grounds at one of the following three schools: School #426; Northwestern High School; or

Patterson High School. CLIA served as a catalyst and coordinator for the event. CLIA's mission is to promote genuine youth voice by assisting emerging young leaders as they develop into self-empowered, problem solving individuals and advocates for social change.

Through Shadow Day, young lawyers gained a youth perspective of what it is like to attend a public school in Baltimore City. Lawyers gained first hand knowledge of not only what problems students face on a daily basis, but also what accomplishments students are making. The students were very candid about the problems facing their schools, but they were also very proud of their schools.

To celebrate Shadow Day, on April 14, 2005, Shadow Day partici-



pants gathered in historic Davidge Hall at the University of Maryland Baltimore campus for a Shadowing Follow Up Party. Also on hand at the party, were various organizations to describe volunteer opportunities for young lawyers to become more involved with youth in school and community settings. The feedback received from both the lawyers and the students was extremely positive. The students enjoyed getting to know

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What We Do, And How to Join Us

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the young lawyers who participated and were excited at the prospect of future interaction. Lawyers shared positive experiences and offered suggestions as to how lawyers could continue to be a tremendous resource for the students and their schools.

The students' commitment and enthusiasm for their schools and communities were inspiring to many



Students from Northwestern High school, in Baltimore City, pose with young lawyers from the Maryland State Bar Association.

of the lawyers. At the school that we visited, School #426, the students have developed a student court in which the students advocate for their peers and have published "If You Only Knew" a compilation of reflections of inner-city high school students. There is an abundance of programs and activities that offer young lawyers a way to become more involved with these amazing students, their schools and their communities. By way of example, CLIA offers a mentoring program where students are assigned in groups to law firms where they visit once every five weeks from October to May. To learn more about the resources available, an excellent starting point is CLIA. Lawyers can contact CLIA's



Executive Director, Terry Hickey, Esquire, at 410-706-3875 or *thickey@law.umaryland.edu*.

Thanks again to all of the young lawyers, the students and CLIA for making Shadow Day a success. ❖

Susan Wyckoff and Sarah Andrews are associates at the firm of Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A. in Annapolis. Susan's practice focuses on family law and domestic matters. Sarah's practice focuses on land use and environmental law.

20 years and counting...

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bership with the YLS and their involvement with *The Advocate*, has helped shaped their careers as attorneys and members of the MSBA.

"Probably the biggest thing is that it forced me to consider the wide variety of the *Advocate* readership," Brownlee relates. "I enjoyed the opportunity to work with a variety of people in the MD legal community." Cohen concurs, "Volunteering with the YLS has definitely enriched my career as an attorney, and given me the opportunity to know and work with outstanding attorneys around the state." In addition to opening up its membership up to the legal community throughout the state, the YLS membership helps build lasting friendships. The YLS "helped me survive," Skinner states. "My YLS colleagues are still friends and, even though we might have gone our separate ways, we still

look out for each other and we can pick up from where we left off."

Rowland gives credit to the YLS and its role in shaping the members of the bar, "There is no question that the men and women I worked with in the YLS and in the MSBA are the true manifestation of professionalism. These lawyers work tirelessly to improve the profession, to provide guidance and assistance to newer members of the profession and to set the standard for the bar. They are also the most FUN people you will ever encounter. Working on the *Advocate* brought me into the MSBA and the ABA. Lessons I learned there shaped my whole attitude toward being a lawyer. Even after 15 years I can still honestly say that I love being a lawyer. I still believe that the law is an honorable and heroic profession. Like all young lawyers, I went to law school with these ideals. Unlike most young lawyers, I still have them. I attribute this to being involved with the MSBA

and ABA but especially the YLS."

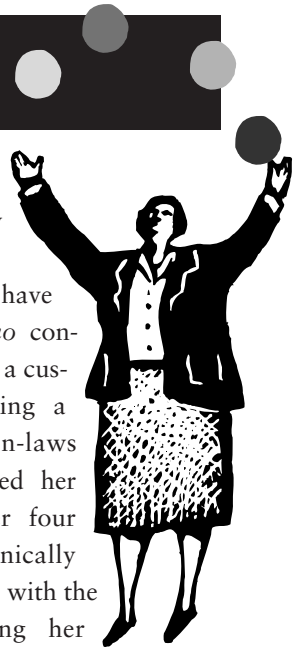
The Advocate hopes to continue the trend of giving back to the profession in terms of news, event highlights, and shaping its editors to achieve the most from their membership. And the current editors hope to one day echo Sharon Rubin's comments on her involvement with the YLS to say, "I wouldn't trade my bar experiences for anything in the world...I made some lifelong friends around the country and got to visit some exciting places. I can truly say it all started with a call to the editor of the *Advocate*."

Here's to another 20 great years! ❖

Gwendolyn S. Tate is the Director of Legal Services for the Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. in Bel Air. She is outgoing co-chair of the YLS Publications Committee. Ms. Tate would like to thank all of the members of the Publications Committee how have worked with her over the past years, particularly Jennifer Horn, Charlene Daniels, and current co-chair, Elizabeth Morris. She wished Ms. Morris and incoming co-chair, Rachel Smith continued success on The Advocate.

The Rewards of *Pro Bono*

By Linda Springrose, Esq.



Ever since I began law school, I have been committed to the idea of *pro bono* work. I have always felt that lawyers were uniquely qualified to offer help in ways that others cannot. And there are so many opportunities that there is something for everyone, no matter what kind of law you practice. The trick, of course, is working it all into your practice.

While in law school my *pro bono* experiences started when I began volunteering as a guardian ad litem work for the Court Appointed Special Advocates program in the St. Louis City Circuit. When I finished law school, I clerked for the Honorable James A. Kenney, III of the Court of Special Appeals, and, although volunteer opportunities are limited in light of the nature of the job, Judge Kenney got me involved in the St. Mary's County Bar Association, our local bar. He was also involved in the MSBA, and mentioned how valuable he thought it was, in terms of both career and getting to know people from around the state. Judge Kenney mentioned that it was involvement in the MSBA that helped him in seeking a judicial appointment.

When I found out about the MSBA Leadership Academy, Judge Kenney was very supportive and encouraged me to apply. I was accepted to begin upon the completion of my clerkship. At that time I was working at the St. Mary's County Attorney's Office. The County Attorney was very supportive of my need to leave early on the nights I had meetings, and I made sure that my hours did not suffer. Driving from Leonardtown to Baltimore, and back again, is a four-hour proposition

which requires some serious self-motivation on those nights when energy is flagging, but I am so glad I did it. The Leadership Academy was a great experience – I made a lot of friends from all over the state, and, as an added bonus, I learned about an opportunity from a fellow Fellow, that led to my current job. My current employer is also supportive about my work with the MSBA, and being in private practice has also allowed me to take the *pro bono* cases I have always wanted to handle.

The rewards of pro bono have far outweighed the frustrations and juggling. I know my clients have been grateful, but doing the work has been just as rewarding for me.

My first two cases arose in response to the YLS Disaster Relief efforts after Hurricane Isabel. One client had come in to the FEMA Center in Annapolis, distraught over the payment being demanded from the company that had packed up her and her husband's belongings and had cleaned up the house. According to her, much of the work being charged for had not been done, and the price seemed a bit high. Unfortunately, negotiations came to nothing, and the company filed suit against them as well as another family on their street. Neither neighbor was in the position to afford counsel and their flood insurance did not cover the expense of an attorney. Through a mediation session with the District Court of Anne Arundel County, we were ultimately able to resolve both

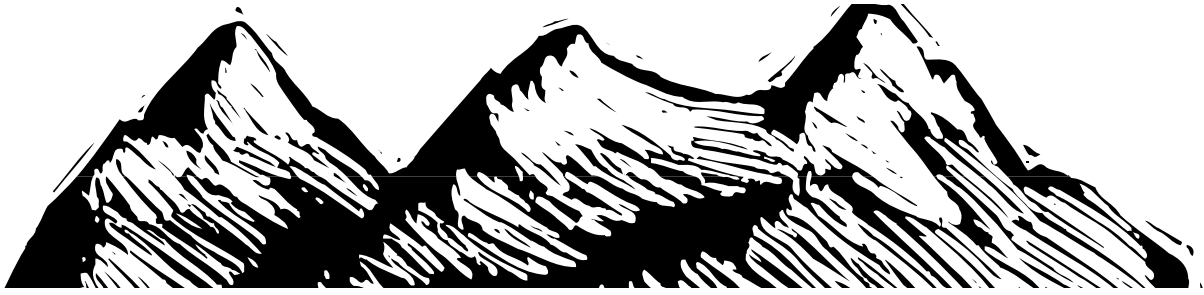
cases in a manner favorable to my clients.

Another case I have taken on *pro bono* concerns the appeal of a custody case regarding a woman whose in-laws successfully stripped her of custody of her four children. Ironically enough, I ended up with the case after meeting her attorney at the YLS *Pro Bono* Fair in June 2004. The attorney, who is a solo practitioner, was unable to spend the time necessary on an appeal, but was a huge help to me along the way.

The case has been, at alternative times, exhausting and rewarding. Through my work on this case, I discovered what little resources poor Marylanders have if they want, or in this case need, to file a civil appeal. I was unable to get my client's transcript fees either waived or reduced, and had begun to fear that we would have to proceed on either partial transcripts, or dismiss the case, when her parents generously offered financial support. Unfortunately, however, some major errors that occurred at the Master's hearing were not before the Court of Special Appeals, because we could only pay to have that transcript prepared from the merits hearing before the Judge.

After receiving the transcripts we were able to procure, I had less than one week to get my brief on file, after which I breathed a huge sigh of relief. Oral argument occurred on April 4,

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Salt Lake City Remembered

By Hughie D. Hunt II

We arrived in the dead of night, unable to see the majestic beauty of Utah. As morning approached, we were in awe of Salt Lake City's natural beauty. Attorneys from across the country gathered to participate in the American Bar Association's midyear meeting. I was one of several young lawyer delegates selected to represent the Maryland State Bar Association. The midyear meeting was jammed full of CLE courses, programs, and other networking events. The midyear meeting provided an opportunity for young lawyers to enjoy their surroundings, sharpen their knowledge within the profession, and network with colleagues from around the country. What I learn each time I visit one of these conferences is that lawyers are some of the most interesting people I will ever meet. In addition to the participants, the mid year meeting was a huge success because of the classes, social events, and of course the skiing! The Maryland delegation left Salt Lake City with a renewed spirit and commitment to the Maryland State Bar Association as well as a desire to return to Salt Lake City for more time on the slopes. ♦

Hughie D. Hunt II is a founding partner of Kemet & Hunt, PLLC and is incoming Chair-elect for the Young Lawyer's Section

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A Closer Look at State-Wide Mock Trials

By Marla Zide

As a young lawyer I have fond memories of watching my father at a trial table litigating a case and years later observing him on the bench. My sisters and I had the run of unused court rooms in the District Court of Fitchburg, Massachusetts two of use arguing cases, one acting as Judge and sometimes we would even act as the jury. As a young adult I did not sit at a trial table again until law school. High school students in Maryland are afforded an extraordinary opportunity and much different experience than I had growing up.

Maryland High School students have the run of the court room at least 4 times a year as either attorneys or witnesses in an organized trial competition setting. Since 1983, the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP) for the schools of Maryland in cooperation the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) and the Maryland Judicial Conference sponsors an annual high school mock trial competition each academic year. CLREP was created in 1975 to promote law-related education in public and private schools.

A goal of CLREP is to develop programs that educate students about the law through "real world" experience". Maryland High School Mock Trial program is one of the programs created to achieve the goals of CLREP.

In a survey conducted by CLREP two years ago 81% per-

cent of the persons surveyed strongly agreed that students who participate in Mock Trial increase their understanding of the rule of law and trial procedure. The objectives of this program include to further understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system. It also increases proficiency in basic life skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning. It strives to promote better communication and cooperation between the high school community and the legal profession. And heighten appreciation for academic studies as well as career consciousness of law professions.

The objectives of this program include to further understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system. It also increases proficiency in basic life skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning.

Participation in the mock trial program includes representation from most counties in Maryland and more than 30,000 students have participated to date. The 2004-2005 season was no exception to this trend, a total of 137 teams from across the State participated with approximately 1900 students competing. Most teams compete at least 4 times in local matches. Virtually all competitions take place in either district or circuit court rooms. The teams consist of 8-12 students, a Teacher coach and an Attorney coach.

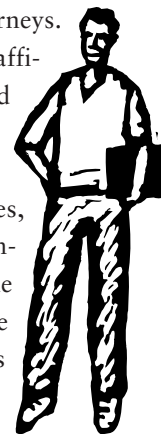
Once the teams are compiled, they are given a case book which includes affidavits, evidence and a modified version of the Federal Rules of Evidence. Six students compete in each competition representing either the prosecution or defense. Three stu-

dents are assigned the roles of witness while three play the attorneys. Students must memorize affidavits, rules of law and develop the theory of the case. Competitions are a trial event. Local judges, attorneys and masters volunteer their time to act as the trier of fact during these competitions. The trials usually take between 1 to 2 hours each. Students are timed during their opening, closing, direct and cross exam. Both the prosecution and the defense teams must ask the Court to qualify an expert witness and the students are also expected to enter stipulated documents into evidence following the evidence rules given in the case book.

Last year, I was contacted by the local bar association to act as a co-attorney coach with a colleague for Annapolis High School. This was to be a first for both the high school and myself. For a period of 2 months, November and December, we met with the team twice a week to practice for the competitions. Competitions followed in January and continued through March. In Anne Arundel County both prosecution and defense teams participate in 3-4 competitions in a season. Although we did not have a winning finish, the experience was worthwhile for both attorney and coach.

This was my second year acting as the attorney coach for Annapolis High School. Most of the students returned to participate in this year's competitions. As the attorney coach it is my job to help students develop their direct exam, cross-exam, opening and closing statements. It is my goal as the attorney coach to guide the students

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A Closer Look at State-Wide Mock Trial

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on trial procedure, court room decorum, and the rules of evidence. I also assist the students in devising their strategy for both the prosecution and defense roles. It was amazing to watch the student's progress from last year through this year. As the season began it was fantastic to hear stories about how the Mock Trial experience was beginning to shape the student's career goals and interests. In addition to being impressed by the student's growth as witnesses and attorneys I will particularly impressed with their growth as members of society. Their development as leaders was great, their respect of each other and their willingness to teach the new students truly amazed me.

Freshman to Senior students can participate in the Mock Trial Program. I am always impressed with their dedication and commitment. Over the past 2 years I have developed relationships with these students and felt close ties to the community. I am

impressed that so many schools participate in this program. Anne Arundel County was the home of the 1999-2000 State Champions from Broad Neck High School coached by Master Cynthia Ferris.

As a young litigator, I strive to understand the Rules of Evidence, develop my personal professionalism

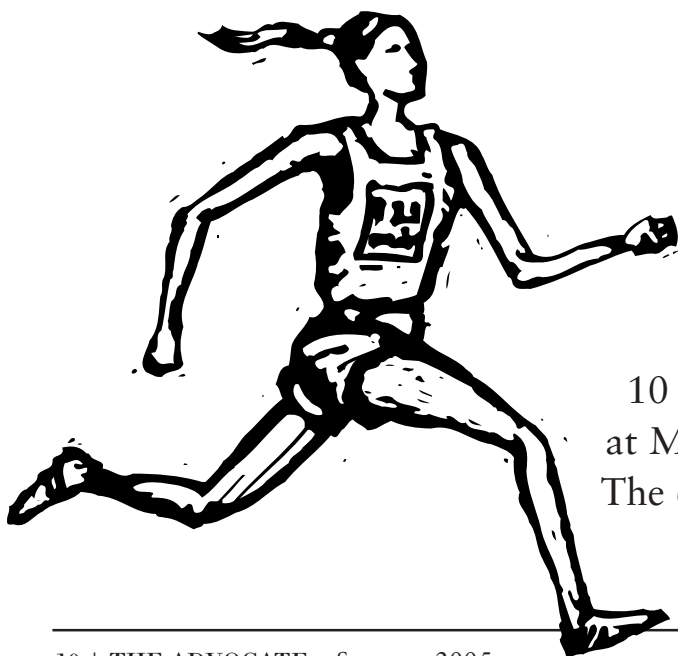
One of the thrills of being an attorney coach is watching the students develop. Their ability to adapt and improve their reasoning, rationalization, organization skills and utilize their creativity are just some examples of how they grow from the experience.

and court room decorum. Through working and reviewing with the students, I have become more proficient in my knowledge and defined myself accordingly. One of the thrills of being an attorney coach is watching the students develop. Their ability to adapt and improve their reasoning, rational-

ization, organization skills and utilize their creativity are just some examples of how they grow from the experience. This season we did end with a winning record and I look forward to next season, new students, a new case and a new drive to win.

The success of the Mock Trial program depends on the participation of members of the bar. Attorneys, masters and Judges act in the judicial role during the competitions. These members of the Bar making rulings on evidence, objections, score the students performance and make a ruling based on the facts of the case. Volunteering to be an attorney coach or a Judge in these competitions is rewarding on many levels. Anyone interested in learning more about this statewide program can log on to www.clrep.org or send an email to info@clrep.org. If you are interested in learning more about your county's participation in the program contact your local bar association. ❖

Marla Zide, is a practicing Family Law Attorney in Glen Burnie, MD with the Law Offices of Alan S. Forman.



Young Lawyers **SUN RUN** in Ocean City

Friday, June 17th at 7:30 am

Sponsored by the Daily Record

10 K (6.2 miles) and 5k (3.1 miles) runs begin at Montego Bay on 130th Street, S. Ocean Drive
The event is free however, registration is required

Contact MSBA to Register



Riding the Circuit

3RD CIRCUIT

BALTIMORE COUNTY

*Adam T. Sampson,
Circuit Representative*

As Summer begins, the Baltimore County Bar Association (BCBA) will install a new President – Dominick A. Garcia. In addition, Debra G. Schubert will be next term's President-Elect. Congratulations to Dominick and Debbie as well as to Ann Brennan, who has been selected as the newest member to the Executive Council.

The annual golf outing was held in May. As always, many of the County's judges and lawyers took the day off to compete for bragging rights. Howard "Ziggy" Sigler, Entertainment Committee Chair, again organized a flawless outing.

In April, the Professionalism Committee, under the leadership of Judge Ruth Ann Jakubowski, presented its first annual professionalism award to Leon Berg, who is a solo practitioner in Towson. Anyone who has had a case with Leon knows he is deserving of this honor.

During March, the Young Lawyers' Committee held a "Casino Night" at the Grey Rock Mansion in Owings Mills. Chair Rachael Letourneau and her committee worked hard to arrange the event, which helped raise money for the YMCA and BCBA Bar Foundation. Guests were treated to gaming, good food, a martini bar, and cigar bar. There was also a silent auction.

Doris Barnes is the new Executive Director of the BCBA. If you have questions concerning any upcoming events, please contact Doris at (410) 337-9103.

4TH CIRCUIT

HOWARD COUNTY

*Claude de Vastey,
Circuit Representative*

The Howard County YLS has had a great year and would like to thank everyone who participated in our events. To finish out the year we are assisting with the county-wide "We the Jury Program" and saying farewell to Judge Raymond Kane on May 19th. We hope next year to have even more events and everyone's continued support.

5TH CIRCUIT

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Marla Zide, Circuit Representative

The Spring is always an exciting time of year in Anne Arundel County; the naval academy gradation brings the Blue Angels to Annapolis, excited tourists explore the waterfront and there is finally parking available because the legislature is out of session. On June 14, 2005 the Anne Arundel County Bar Association is hosting a CLE encourage criminal attorneys to learn about the proposed

new adult drug court program. The softball season started on April 28, 2005 for the 19th year. If you are interested in joining contact the Anne Arundel County Bar Association. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Ocean City at the annual meeting.

6TH CIRCUIT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

*Bradford S. Bernstein,
Circuit Representative*

The Montgomery County Bar Association wrapped up another successful year on May 6, 2005 with its 111th Annual Meeting & Law Day Celebration. The keynote speaker was Benjamin R. Civiletti, the former Attorney General of the United States. At the meeting, the new officers of the Montgomery County Bar Association were installed. The president of the Montgomery County Bar Association for the 2005-2006 year will be Paul F. Kemp. We wish Paul the best of luck for another fantastic year.

On May 25, 2005, the Montgomery County Bar Foundation presented the 2005 Bar Revue. Several attorneys and judges performed skits, songs and dances to the enjoyment of the packed F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Dinner was catered by Red Hot & Blue and it was a great night of entertainment.

As always, if you are interested in getting involved with the Montgomery County Bar Association, please feel free to contact the Bar Association at 301-424-3453

7TH CIRCUIT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

*Marnell A. Cooper,
Circuit Representative*

On April 28, 2005, the MSBA Young Lawyers Section co-sponsored

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Riding the Circuit

continued from page 11

a Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour with the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J Franklyn Bourne Bar Association. More than thirty (30) lawyers from the young lawyer section and senior bar arrived at the 94th Aerosquadron in College Park to enjoy food, drink and networking. The MSBA would like to thank all the members from the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association for making this Thirsty Thursday event a success.

On May 11, 2005, the MSBA Young Lawyers Section and its Pro-Bono Committee sponsored a pro-bono clinic for residents of Prince George's County. The MSBA would like to thank the more than twenty-five (25) lawyers who signed up to provide free legal advice to the Prince George's Community.

The current Young Lawyer Section 7th Circuit Representative for Prince George's County, Marnell Allan Cooper, is stepping down. We need another young lawyer in Prince George's County to take advantage of this opportunity to represent Prince George's County on the Young Lawyer Section Council. Your duties will be to report to Section

Council the activities of the Bar Associations in Prince George's County and to assist the Section Council.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Ruth-Ann Bennett at rbennett@fandpnet.com. ❖



From the Chair-Elect

As I look back on the past year and our accomplishments, I am inspired and encouraged by what the future of the Young Lawyers' Section ("YLS") promises. Considering that the MSBA is a voluntary organization, it is understandable that it is sometimes difficult for the Bar to retain an active membership—we all get overwhelmed by client deadlines, pressures of the office, and family obligations.

However, throughout 2004–2005, under the leadership of Rachel Cohen as our Chair, I have found a renewed sense of participation throughout our Section. I believe that this renewal is due, in large part, to Rachel's own dedication to the YLS and her "lead by example" attitude. Rachel has always been at the forefront of any project undertaken, from our continuing disaster relief efforts and Happy Hour outreaches to counties across Maryland, to our state-wide Pro Bono Roadshow and our charitable events, like Novemberfest. I am sure that if you attended any of our events this year, you met Rachel!

Rachel's activities are not limited to social appearances; rather, she has done her most influential work quietly. As a tireless member of the MSBA Board of Governors and Neil Helfrich's Executive Committee, Rachel has consistently ensured that the YLS and our interests are well-represented. Through Rachel, the YLS has maintained a strong, respected voice in the MSBA, which can be rare in such large organizations.

But our efforts cannot be successful without you! To continue our successes into the upcoming Bar year, it is imperative that we have a solid volunteer core from which to draw. We all have talents and interests which can benefit the community through the YLS. The YLS is looking to put them to use. For example: if you are someone who likes speaking to groups about the legal profession, join our Public Service Committee and help promote the We the Jury Program in schools throughout the State. Is party planning and fund raising your forte? Get you in touch with our Activities Committee where you can assist with planning of the 15th Annual Novemberfest celebration. Are you someone others seek out when they have a computer-related question? Then join our Technology Committee and put your ideas to work. Or do you just need some pro bono hours? We have that opportunity, too, through our Pro Bono Committee.

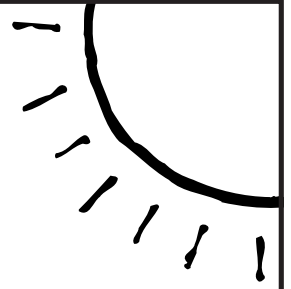
Become involved in the YLS and reap the rewards of being a part of the MSBA's largest active Section. I look forward to meeting you all at the YLS events next year! ❖

Ruth-Ann Bennett is a litigation associate with the law firm of Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. and, is the incoming Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section.



*Ruth-Ann Bennett,
Chair-Elect*

The Young Lawyers Section at the MSBA ANNUAL MEETING



Don't forget to make plans today for this year's Annual Meeting, June 15th through the 18th, at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. This year, the Young Lawyers Section is proud to present programs in association with the Solo and Small Firm Section, as well as the Leadership Academy.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Judicial Nominations: Curious about the judicial nominating process and/or have judicial aspirations of your own? Learn about the process from members of the bench and the MSBA's Judicial Appointments Committee. Featured speakers include the Honorable Clayton Greene, Jr., the Honorable James A. Kenney, III, the Honorable Brian Kim, and Rignal Baldwin, Jr., former committee chair and current member, MSBA Committee on Judicial Appointments.

Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions: Co-sponsored with the Leadership Academy, this program is an absolute "must attend" for anyone representing non-U.S. citizens in criminal matters. Featured speakers include Rachael Ullman, Esquire, Laura Rhodes, Esquire, Lori Rosenberg, Esquire, James Botluk, Esquire and Mary Holper, Esquire.

Driving Under the Influence: Co-sponsored with the Solo and Small Firm Section, this program will instruct criminal law practitioners on the finer intricacies of trying a criminal DUI case. Featured speakers include Lenny Stamm, Esquire and John Kudel, Esquire.

Disaster Relief Training: An annual event, join members of the Young Lawyers Section Disaster Relief Committee and a FEMA representative to learn more about the invaluable services provided by our Section members.

These programs are just a few of the many highlights for what will prove to be a fun and educational meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the Section's business meeting on Thursday afternoon, following the annual "An Afternoon at Secrets." Other highlights include the President's Reception, the Young Lawyers Annual Sun Run, and Solo Day programming for solo and small firm practitioners. More events are being planned as the *Advocate* finds its way to your mailbox, so be sure to check out www.msba.org for the latest information and registration details.



Did you know?

In addition to the fabulous networking opportunities and membership benefits that come with being an Attorney Member of the Maryland State Bar Association you are entitled to vendors discounts including the following:

ABA PUBLICATIONS

The Maryland State Bar Association is offering outstanding ABA Publications to its members at substantial discounts. The publications are offered at 30% less than the ABA non-member price. Currently there are thirty publications being offered. A description of all the ABA Publications and an order form is available.

You may fax the order to Pat Yevics at 410-837-0518.

CAR RENTALS

Special rates are available with Avis, Budget, and Hertz. Refer to the following phone and account numbers: Avis—(800) 331-1212, Account Number A/A—493100; Budget—(800) 455-2848, Account Number T440900; Hertz—(800) 654-2210, Account Number 42292.



CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

MSBA Members receive preferential pricing on all courses offered by the Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers (MICPEL). MSBA members get a \$30 discount on all regular, live MICPEL courses. Plus, MICPEL gives an additional \$20 discount on programs to young attorneys who are members of MSBA's Young Lawyers Section, and a \$20 discount to MSBA Section members when they attend a program sponsored by their Section. For more details contact MICPEL at 410-659-6730 or at www.micpel.edu.



MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription Services, Inc. will enable MSBA members to order and renew their magazine subscriptions in a convenient easy to use format—all at guaranteed lowest rates—Save up to 50% off regular magazine subscription rates! Go to www.buymags.com/msba to start ordering your subscriptions today!

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Advance Business Systems offers copiers and fax machines plus accessories, laser printers, shredding machines, digital network systems and other equipment and supplies for law offices to MSBA members at discount prices. Contact the sales department at 410-252-4800.



PROFESSIONAL PRINTING

Maryland State Bar Association Members can receive a special contract rates on printed stationery, engraved and printed letterhead, envelopes, business cards and other stationery products through Baltimore Office Supply Company (BOSCO). For more information about services, and to order stationery for your business needs, contact John Atkinson, BOSCO Vice President of Sales, at 410-539-5184.

SHIPPING

Members can receive a 22% savings on overnight shipments from Airborne Express with morning delivery usually by 10:30 a.m. Call (888) 758-9855 and give the MSBA code N32-YMLD. New Airborne Customers are eligible for free shipment of their first 2 pound package, within 2 weeks for receiving an Airborne Starter Kit.



**For more information on these and other exciting benefits,
out the Member Benefits on the MSBA website, www.msba.org!**

How To Draft A Will

by Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Esquire

One of the best kept secrets of the legal profession is that one may graduate from a prestigious law school, be in the top of their law school class, yet never have seen or drafted a Last Will and Testament. On March 2, 2005 over fifty members of the MSBA's Young Lawyers section met in search of the answer to the burning question, "How do you draft a simple will?"

Wills are subject to state law and should be drafted to reflect the law of the jurisdiction where a client resides. Title 4 of the Estates and Trusts Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland ("E&T") lists the statutory requirements for a Maryland will:

1. The testator must be of sound mind.
2. The testator must be at least 18 years of age.
3. The testator must sign the will at its logical end.
4. The testator must not act fraudulently or under undue influence.
5. Two competent witnesses must see the testator sign the will.

Under E&T §4-105 a will may be revoked by (i) a subsequent will or codicil, (ii) by destroying the will, or (iii) by divorce or annulment of a marriage of the testator—this applies only to the provisions concerning the spouse.

Maryland also has a statutory scheme for distribution of property in the event one dies without a will; this scheme is set out under E&T §§3-101 - 3-112, Intestate Succession. There are also some special situations that

Maryland law addresses, such as the elective share; under E&T §3-203 a surviving spouse may choose to take a share of a decedent's estate despite the provisions of the will. If there are no surviving issue (children) from the marriage the spouse may take a one-half share of the net estate. If there are surviving issue the spouse may take one-third of the net estate.

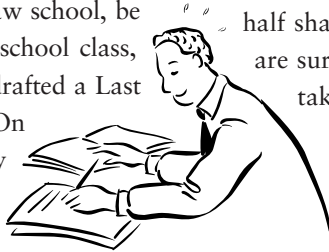
Prior to drafting a will, an attorney must have a clear understanding of the financial situation, family dynamics, and future plans of a client. Many attorneys have a data sheet and require new clients to bring the completed sheet to the initial interview along with other pertinent documents such as deeds and insurance policies.

Attorneys differ on how they review draft documents. Some mail the drafts to clients with an accompanying letter of explanation. Other attorneys prefer to meet with the client and review the drafts. After a will is signed, there is no requirement under Maryland law to file a will, however, under E&T §4-201 an original will may be placed in the local county Register of Will's vault for safekeeping until an estate is opened.

A will may be the most important legal product that an individual will purchase from an attorney. Thanks to the Young Lawyer's section of the MSBA, we have approximately fifty new Maryland attorneys that are more comfortable with their ability to provide this valuable service to their clients. ❖

Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Esquire is a sole practitioner that focusing on Elder Law, in addition, she is the Director of Development for the Law Foundation of Prince George's County, Inc.

Prior to drafting a will, an attorney must have a clear understanding of the financial situation, family dynamics, and future plans of a client.



THE ADVOCATE

Say it here...

Do you have an area of expertise that your colleagues are always asking you about? Have you been trying to spread the word about your last *pro bono* case? Or do you just have an article that you would like to get published? *The Advocate* is your opportunity to shine!

The Editors of *The Advocate* are looking for "nuts and bolts" articles on different areas of law to share with the Section and *pro bono* experience pieces to let the Section know that interesting cases are waiting for them as they aspire toward their *pro bono* goals. If you are interested in submitting an article, or would like more information, contact Elizabeth Morris at YLSAdvocate@msba.org

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The Medical Malpractice Crisis: A Doctor's Perspective

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seen payments reduced by as much as 50% or more.

It is estimated that there are 40 million uninsured Americans; I believe this to be a conservative figure. Certainly, in communities such as Baltimore City the number of uninsured is far above the national average. Because of their poverty, these patients are often the least healthy and are at highest risk. As a surgeon I, and others like myself, rendered care out of obligation (when I was on hospital call) and out of a sense of compassion, frequently without hope of compensation. Uncompensated care is becoming an increasing burden on practitioners with its impact felt more acutely in the face of rising costs.

Practicing physicians find themselves in an unfair competition with hospitals. Hospitals have been protected because the Hospital Cost Review Commission (HCRC) determines their rates, with these rates being paid regardless of the insurer. The amount of uncompensated care is considered and factored into the rate determination. My mother was recently hospitalized for 1 week in Philadelphia with her total bill being over \$49,000. Her insurers (Medicare and a secondary payor) paid every cent, excluding a \$300 deductible, within a couple of weeks of its submission. Claims that I would submit for surgical care would routinely be paid at 30-40% of the claim, oftentimes less, if I were paid at all. Because of this protected rate structure, hospitals have the financial capability to establish their own satellite clinics within communities, hire physicians and market them aggressively. Millions of dollars annually are spent on hospital advertising, infra-

structure expansion and modernization; hospitals cannot claim to be cash-strapped. Their employed physicians are often in direct competition with the community-based physician and they are subsidized either directly or indirectly. To add insult to injury, the patients that we bring to those hospitals generate hospital revenue. Unwittingly, when we admit patients

For whom, then, is there a "malpractice crisis"?... Those who may be affected most will likely be the poor uninsured or underinsured patient because as costs rise and the numbers of physicians decline, those remaining physicians will be working harder for less and will become more selective in the types of patients that they choose to treat.

to the hospital or utilize hospital services, we are put in the position of underwriting our own competition.

Maryland is a physician-rich state which benefits both hospitals and insurers but places physicians at a competitive disadvantage. In a 1994 report issued by the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission (MHRPC) entitled Statewide Estimates of 1994; Categorical Service Capacity and Need for 2000, the number of physicians in the state in 1994 was compared with the estimated needs of the state in the year 2000 using formulas developed to determine ideal patient/physician ratios. The results were very illuminating. In 1994 there were 1,924 internists (est. 2000 need 1,489-1,659), 1,004 pediatricians (est. 2000 need 128-135), 861 obstetricians/gynecologists (est. 2000 need

191-193), 1,021 general/family practitioners (est. 2000 need 1,399-1,431), 1,146 adult psychiatrists (est. 2000 need 779-815), and 496 general surgeons (est. 2000 need 588-694). This report seems to indicate that there are whopping excesses of pediatricians and obstetricians in the state, significant excesses of internists and adult psychiatrists, and moderate deficiencies in family practitioners and general surgeons.

For whom, then, is there a "malpractice crisis"? Certainly, there is a crisis for the physicians who are forced to pay the higher rates without the means of increasing their incomes or passing along these costs. Many more physicians will make the choice that I made, and fewer young people will go into medicine, but because Maryland has so many doctors, the impact will not be felt for some time. If there is meaningful tort reform with caps placed on awards, it will be a "crisis" for malpractice attorneys, but thus far, they have managed to protect their interests. Many patients will be inconvenienced and forced to change physicians – they may be unhappy, but not in crisis (you will note that those facing the largest premium increases, the obstetricians, are the most expendable according to the MHRPC report). Certain geographic pockets may suffer temporary physician shortages. Insurers and hospitals will be able to pass along their costs to the consumer. Those who may be affected most will likely be the poor uninsured or underinsured patient because as costs rise and the numbers of physicians decline, those remaining physicians will be working harder for less and will become more selective in the types of patients that they choose to treat.

As physicians we find ourselves in

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Expand the Juvenile Drug Court Program

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- One Assistant State's Attorney who is dedicated to the JDCP;
- One Assistant Public Defender, also dedicated to the JDCP, who meets with the clients on a regular basis; and
- One Circuit Court judge, also dedicated to the program, who meets with each client, in court, on a monthly basis.

In addition, and equally importantly, the parent(s) or guardian are expected to play an active role in the client's probation, including reporting to the DJS counselors when needed, and appearing in court once a month. If necessary, the court may issue an order controlling conduct to encourage the parent to become more cooperative in the client's development.

Clients who enter the JDCP usually have a lengthy history of drug-related, but usually non-violent, offenses. Referrals are made by DJS, the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office or a Juvenile Master of the Baltimore City Circuit Court. A candidate is interviewed to determine if he or she is a substance abuser or is chemically dependent. The client and the client's parent(s) or guardian are advised of the intensity of the program and the expectations of each of them. If still agreeable, the client is placed on indefinite probation by the judge and enters the program.

The client has to meet a variety of expectations, specifically, and at a minimum:

- Being enrolled in school, or if no

longer in school, seeking a GED certificate;

- Actively seeking and gaining legal employment, if the GED certificate or diploma has been achieved;
- Attending all addictions counseling, juvenile counseling, substance abuse education, and psychoeducational sessions required by the counselors;
- Keeping the curfew established by the counselors;
- Not using any substances, including alcohol;
- Undergoing all required urinalysis; and
- Complying with the rules at home and in school.

The program is composed of three phases. In Phase I, the client has daily contact with the DJS staff, and depend-

ing upon the client's history of compliance prior to entry into JDCP, the client may be on some form of home detention. In Phase II, the contacts with the counselors may be reduced to several times a week rather than each day. In Phase III, the client may be in contact with the counselors on a weekly basis and

attend Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous. If a client is successful, each phase takes three months.

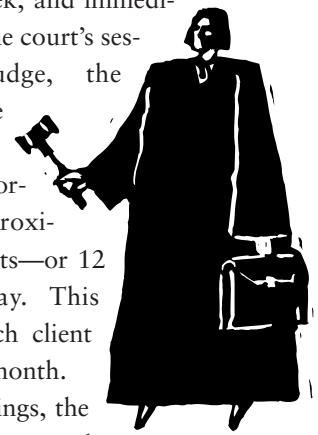
If a client is not conforming to the program's requirements, he or she may be sanctioned. There are a series of sanctions ranging from a written essay, to community detention, to short stays in a juvenile detention center, to 30 or 60-day stays at a DJS facility or substance abuse treatment facility, to a long-term placement at a training school or substance abuse treatment facility.

Twice a week, and immediately prior to the court's session, the judge, the lawyers and the counselors review the performance of approximately 25 clients—or 12 clients per day. This means that each client is seen once a month.

At the meetings, the members of the team discuss the client's successes and challenges, and assess an overall rating score for the client's progress. Although the score is not in itself necessarily critical, it is helpful in looking at overall trends in the client's development. Most importantly, the team agrees on the issues the judge should discuss with the client, and the goals for the following month. If sanctions are proposed, the attorneys are heard on this during the meeting. By the time the court hearing begins, everyone is very familiar with the client's progress, and in most cases there is a consensus on what should be done. This does not mean that the State and the Public Defender cannot and do not advocate strongly for a position if they disagree with DJS's recommendation. They do. But they do so with a common goal as to what is in the best interests of the child before the Court.

At the hearing, the client is addressed directly by the judge and, if sanctions include a loss of liberty, those sanctions are levied. A review of a good month will draw accolades, including possibly a standing ovation.

Clients are also rewarded in other ways for their accomplishments. They receive gift certificates to local stores for staying free of substances and overall compliance with the program. Other



Graduating from the program is the client's goal, but the real goal, obviously, is to give these young men and women the opportunity to succeed once they leave the program.

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Expand the Juvenile Drug Court Program

continued from page 17

incentives may include certificates to attend driving school, touring colleges, or attending sports, recreational or cultural events with counselors.

Graduating from the program is the client's goal, but the real goal, obviously, is to give these young men and women the opportunity to succeed once they leave the program. Upon graduation, they should have gotten, or are well on their way toward getting, a full education; some go on to college upon leaving the program. Upon graduation, and after a 60 day after-care monitoring period, the client's entire record of delinquency findings is stricken—effectively giving them a clean record. Many have jobs. Most have done something they've never done before—worked very hard and successfully at achieving a positive goal. In short, they have tasted a life of possibilities rather than one of inevitable defeat.

Challenges for the program are many. Only about 80 clients are

served on an active basis. This is obviously a small percentage of the total population of the City's youth within DJS who have been involved in drug related activity. More money should be appropriated to accommodate more offenders. Also, while it appears that approximately one-third of JDCCP's clients graduate, research should be done to determine what happens to these graduates once they leave the program. In short, what is the recidivism and "life-success" rate of the graduates?

Nevertheless, from the standpoint of watching a child's life change before your very eyes, and in some cases watching that child become a responsible adult before your very eyes, this program undoubtedly works. The question is that with all the problems our juvenile justice system has today, why is it so hard to expand what works? ❖

The Honorable Edward R.K. Hargadon is a judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

The Medical Malpractice Crisis: A Doctor's Perspective

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this situation with no one but ourselves to blame. We have failed to organize ourselves effectively. Our medical societies have proven to be totally inadequate in addressing our concerns. This is reflected in the fact that medical society membership, in this time of "crisis", is low and declining. Where there should be alarm there is apathy (physician demonstrations this year in Annapolis notwithstanding); we have not devel-

oped any "big-stick" strategies that might result in meaningful empowerment of physicians. I predict that, without some radical changes, independent practicing physicians will go the way of the small farmer. What we are now witnessing is the development of the medical equivalent of ConAgra; big-business medicine with fewer choices and fewer at the controls. Therein may lay the real crisis, for which we will all have to pay. ❖

Dr. Lenox S. Dingle, Jr. recently retired from a general surgery practice in Baltimore City after 23 years of practice.

From the Chair

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to benefit the *Pro Bono* Resource Center of Maryland, which is celebrating its 15th Anniversary.

This year marked the 20th Anniversary of *The Advocate*, which received a face-lift this year under the steady leadership of Gwen Tate and Liz Morris. We have also updated our website (visit us at www.msba.org/sec_comm/sections/yys), and made use of our expanded YLS listserv to better communicate with our members.

My sincere and heart-felt thanks go to all of the members of the YLS Section Council, who generously gave of their time and talents to make this year a success. Special thanks go to our officers, Chair-Elect Ruth-Ann Bennett, Treasurer John Murphy, Secretary Michael Siri, Member-At-Large Jonathan Kagan, and Immediate Past-Chair Suzanne Lewis, who each devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to help shape our agenda and ensure the success of all of our programs this year.

The last duty of any good officer is to make oneself dispensable. I know that the YLS will continue to thrive next year under the steady leadership of Ruth-Ann Bennett, who will assume the role of Chair later this month. I am confident that you will enjoy getting to know and working with her, and will be impressed with her as I already am, in the coming year.

I thank you each of you for a very memorable year.

Kindest regards,
Rachel S. Cohen
Chair

Rachel Cohen is an Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, and is Chair of the Young Lawyers Section.

The Rewards of Pro Bono

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2005, and, although the case has been an uphill battle, I am so glad I took it on. Without my assistance, my client would have been unable to take on this huge appellate task.

Oddly enough, being able to find the time to work this case into my regular caseload, and still bill the required number of hours, has been easier than I thought. In fact, it was easier to handle that aspect of the



case than it was to handle the stress of the transcript problems. My experiences have led me to bring the situation of appellate transcripts to the attention of

virtually anyone that will listen.

The rewards of *pro bono* have far outweighed the frustrations and juggling. I know my clients have been grateful, but doing the work has been just as rewarding for me. I will always do what I can to make room for *pro bono* work.

There is always a way to work *pro bono* into your practice. Not to mention that there are things that the Court of Appeals counts as *pro bono* that you may not consider. For example, educational programs about the law for others (Have you volunteered at a school or for a moot court program?); bar association work; taking a case; volunteering at a clinic; or doing corporate work or volunteering on the board of a non-profit organization. All of these fall under the *pro bono* heading. These are commitments of varying

time intensity, so you can choose what works best for you.

The YLS *Pro Bono* Committee is trying to ensure that all of its members are educated about the various opportunities out there, and we have “sponsored” volunteers at two clinics this year: one in Montgomery County and one in Prince George’s County. If you are interested in getting involved in either of these clinic programs, contact me. I will put you in touch with the appropriate provider. Look for more of these opportunities next year, as well, as the two new chairs of the Committee take the reigns. I know they will build on what we have done this year and make it even better. ❖

Linda Springrose is an associate at Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. and is the outgoing chair of the YLS Pro Bono Committee. Ms. Springrose is also the recipient of this year’s Alex Fee Memorial Award for her dedication to pro bono service.

JOIN US AND GET INVOLVED!

Take advantage of the various committees and activities that the Young Lawyers Section has to offer. Tell us how you would like to get involved:

YES! Sign me up. (check all that apply):

- Activities committee.** This committee plans the Section’s signature gala event, Novemberfest, as well as organizing various other events to benefit our membership throughout the year.
- Disaster Relief committee.** In conjunction with the ABA and FEMA, this committee provides emergency legal assistance to victims of federally-declared disasters.
- Education committee.** This committee sponsors educational programs targeted to be of value to our membership, including legal research, trial skills, and time management.
- Membership committee.** This committee wages a continuing campaign to increase the Section’s membership by sponsoring socials and other events statewide.
- Pro Bono committee.** This committee works to increase pro bono representation by young lawyers statewide by promoting *pro bono* service, sponsoring

projects, and seeking expanded *pro bono* opportunities for lawyers in every specialty.

- Public Service committee.** This committee coordinates the Section’s public service projects throughout the year, enabling us to give back to our community.
- Publications committee.** This committee publishes *The Advocate*, our award-winning quarterly. We need writers, editors and people who can contribute story ideas.
- Law Student projects.** This committee plans social and educational events to help our associate members bridge the gap from law school to practice.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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Clip and return this form to the MSBA Young Lawyers Section, Attn: Greg Derwart, Maryland Bar Center, 520 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, or email your interests and contact information to Greg Derwart at gderwart@msba.org.

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