

# Perspective

A publication of the Young Lawyers Section  
of the New York State Bar Association

## A Message from the Section Chair

Dear Young Lawyers Section member:

Welcome to the new-est edition of *Perspective*—the printed publication of the NYSBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS)! When you read this, we will have just finished the 2012-2013 Term of the YLS, and we will be at the start of the 2013-2014 Term—our 75th Anniversary Year! This past year was an exciting one to serve as your Section Chair. YLS ran numerous programs, all with social, educational and networking opportunities. Although it seems like ages ago now, our first formal program of the 2012-2013 Term was the Supreme Court Admissions Program, held in Washington, D.C., June 10-11, 2012. General William K. Suter, 19th Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, was our keynote speaker at the Sunday dinner, and NYSBA President Seymour James, Esq. moved the admission of our admittees before the Court. After the admission ceremony, we were honored to have Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Justice Sonia Sotomayor spend time speaking with



our group in the Courthouse’s East Conference Room.

On October 18-19, 2012 we held the YLS Fall Meeting and CLE Program in Albany. Lisa R. Schoenfeld, Esq., our Chair-Elect, was the Program Chair and she organized a terrific two-day event that included an Executive Committee meeting, full-day CLE program, tour of the New York State Capitol Building (including the Assembly and Senate Chambers), and a dinner at the famous Albany restaurant Jack’s Oyster House.

January 2013 rang in the New Year, and brought with it the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Annual Meeting. From January 21-26, 2013, attorneys from across the State and around the world met in New York City to address the legal issues of the day, attend numerous CLE programs,

socialize at many different events, and conduct Association business at the House of Delegates Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Association. On January 23-25, YLS held numerous events of its own as part of Annual Meeting, including a half-day CLE chaired by Erica M. Hines, Esq., the annual two-day Bridge the Gap program co-chaired by Erin Flynn, Esq. and Alena Shautsova, Esq., and the Section’s Annual Executive Committee meeting at which the Officers



Annual Meeting Panel

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and Executive Committee members for the 2013-2014 Term were elected. YLS also presented the Annual Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to James M. ("Jimmy") Paulino II, Esq. from Rochester.

Later in the year, the Fourth Annual Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy was held at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York on March 20-24, 2013. The Trial Academy is designed to provide opportunities for inexperienced attorneys to become familiar with the courtroom, its procedures and decorum, as well as trial practice and skills. The Academy teaches hands-on practice of trying cases, including *voir dire*, opening statements, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments. Experienced practitioners and judges from across the State share their expertise as lecturers and faculty members. We fully expect to hold the Fifth Annual Trial Academy in March 2014, so please mark your calendars now and keep your eyes open for more details!

Finally, as the calendar comes full circle, the YLS is again in Washington D.C. in June 2013, for our now-annual United States Supreme Court Admissions Program.

Since 2013-2014 is also the Young Lawyers Section's 75th Anniversary Year, plans are under way for an exciting anniversary celebration—sometime in the summer of 2013.

I am pleased to announce that by the close of the 2012-2013 Term on May 31, 2013, there were no vacancies on the YLS Executive Committee, and we had a very active Executive Committee. Going forward in the 2013-2014 Term, if you have an interest in an Executive Committee vacancy, or a position on one of the YLS Committees, please contact Lisa R. Schoenfeld, the incoming Section Chair, any of the other YLS Officers, or our Section Staff Liaison Tiffany Bardwell.

Our Section publications, *Electronically In Touch* and *Perspective*,



Outstanding Young Lawyer Award presented to James M. ("Jimmy") Paulino II, Esq. from Rochester

are always in need of great articles. Please consider drafting a submission for either or both. All of our District Representatives, Committee Chairs and Section Liaisons should submit at least one article during the course of their 2013-2014 term, concerning a substantive legal issue, or a program or event. But we also welcome articles from our general YLS membership, as well as from non-YLS attorneys.

One of the initiatives this year was to amend the Section's By-Laws so they would be updated, and to resolve internal inconsistencies. The YLS By-Laws Committee was chaired by our Treasurer, Sarah Gold, Esq., and through great effort by Sarah and others we have current and updated Section By-Laws.

A second big initiative was the creation of a YLS Civics Poster/Essay Contest—one answer to the call of the ABA and NYSBA for encouragement of better civics knowledge and education for our students and citizenry. A Special Committee of YLS was charged with developing, organizing and running the contest. For the start, only several Judicial Districts across the State were involved. The contest was open to high school students studying U.S. History and Government, with monetary prizes for the top three essays and the top three posters in the State. YLS was fortunate to have anonymous donors who pledged financial support for the program. The Co-Chairs of the

Civics Prize Special Committee are Erica M. Hines, Esq., YLS 4th District Co-Representative and 2013-2014 Section Secretary, and Michele L. Babcock, Esq., YLS 9th District Co-Representative. As of the time I am writing this Message in March, our goal will be to have the submissions received and judged, with award announcements ready, before YLS' 75th Anniversary celebration this summer 2013.

Finally, another initiative was to increase our Section membership beyond that of the very successful Chair year of James Barnes, Esq., one year earlier. The goal was to increase membership not only beyond 4,000 members, but to reach 5,000 members or more. On June 1, 2012, YLS was the fourth largest Section of the State Bar out of 25 Sections, and we numbered approximately 4,000 members. Through a series of membership initiatives and the hard work of many, approximately 1,000+ new members have joined YLS over the past year! At the time of this writing, in March 2013, YLS members numbered 5,000, and we reached our goal! In addition, as of this writing, YLS regained the top spot in Section membership! YLS repeatedly ran neck-and-neck with the Trusts and Estates Law Section for the position of largest Section of the State Bar Association. In fact, in addition to March 2013, YLS was, at several other times over the past year, the largest Section of the State Bar! Thank you to everyone who assisted in reaching this goal—particularly our new YLS members. The more members YLS has, the more benefit there is for our membership, in terms of programming, professional development, and social networking.

It is now time for me to say goodbye as Section Chair. It is absolutely amazing to me how quickly this year went. Right from June 1, we undertook what we knew would be a very ambitious agenda. My fellow Officers were terrific colleagues,

and we all worked together, along with our Immediate Past Chair James Barnes and our Executive Committee, for the best interests of the Section. As we go to press, prior to the completion of the Term on June 1, we are pleased to say that we are well on the way to accomplishing the goals we set for this year. The Section is in great hands with new Chair, Lisa Schoenfeld, and the other Officers—Sarah Gold, Chair-Elect; Jason Clark, Treasurer; and Erica Hines, Secretary. I thank them for their partnership, input and friendship as we addressed numerous matters, both big and small, this past year. Finally, no list of thank-yous would be complete without including the NYSBA Staff—who are second-to-none. Tiffany Bardwell is our tireless Section Staff Liaison, who has also become a great friend. Without her knowledge and assistance the Section would not have been able to successfully complete our goals this year. The same is true of Megan O’Toole, our past Staff Liaison and the current Manager of Membership Services for NYSBA. Megan and her colleagues in the Membership and Meetings Departments—Kathy Heider and Adriana Favreau—were invaluable in their assistance with our Annual Meeting and Trial Academy programs. My thanks to them, and all of the NYSBA Staff who help make our programs run smoothly and successfully.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Section Chair this past year, and I thank you for having afforded me the opportunity to do so. I wish the Section continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

**Michael L. Fox, Esq.**  
**Section Chair, June 2012-June 2013**  
**Jacobowitz & Gubits, LLP**

## Perspective (Young Lawyers Section Newsletter) is also available online

The screenshot shows the NYSBA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for My NYSBA, Login, Join, Renew, Web Survey, FAQ, Online Store, About NYSBA, Contact, and Site Map. Below this is the NYSBA logo and the text "NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION Serving the legal profession and the community since 1876". The main content area is titled "Young Lawyers Section Newsletter (Perspective)" and includes a "About this publication" section. A sidebar on the left contains a "MEMBER LOGIN" form, a "JOIN / RENEW" button, and a list of navigation links such as Home, My NYSBA, Blogs, CLE, Committees, Events, For Attorneys, For the Community, Forums / Listserves, Membership, Practice Management, Publications / Forms, and Sections. The main content area lists "Inside the Current Issue (Fall 2012)" with a link to "A Message from the Chair (Michael L. Fox)" and "Past Issues (Section Members Only)" with a list of issues from Fall 2012 to Fall/Winter 2006, each with a PDF link.

## Go to [www.nysba.org/Perspective](http://www.nysba.org/Perspective) to access:

- Past Issues (2000-present) of *Perspective*\*
- *Perspective* Searchable Index (2000-present)
- Searchable articles from *Perspective* that include links to cites and statutes. This service is provided by Loislaw and is an exclusive Section member benefit\*

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