



Reflections on the American Jury System

By Cynthia Richardson Wyrick
President, Young Lawyers Division

As most of you know — or certainly will after reading this issue of *The Quarterly* — the TBA YLD hosted the 25th annual statewide mock trial competition last month. Almost 200 talented high school students descended upon the Metro Davidson County Temporary Courthouse facilities in Nashville to present the case of *State v. Edward* — a case involving the murder of a music industry executive. Given that this year's case was criminal in nature, you will not be surprised to learn that competitors argued the case before a jury. But you might be surprised to learn that last year's competition, which involved a civil case, still required students to try the matter before a jury. Why would the state mock trial competition involve a jury for such civil cases? After all, as I can tell you from just my ten years of practice experience, even those of us who call ourselves litigators are trying fewer and fewer cases. This is especially true with regard to jury trials, as opposed to bench trials. So why not have these talented future lawyers prepare their case for presentation in mediation or before a judge alone? The answer is simple. Despite significant changes in the way that we practice law, the constitutional principle of trial by jury remains as the foundation of our legal system.

As "modern" lawyers, we now are trained to resolve our legal disputes short of the courtroom. Many of us are Rule 31 listed mediators. Most judges order mediation in civil cases before the matter may proceed to trial. In criminal cases, the state and the defendant almost always discuss a plea bargain — a negotiated resolution of the case, prior to trial. Does this mean that our jury system is becoming unnecessary or antiquated? Absolutely not! While I am a strong believer in mediation, and try to resolve cases without the need for a trial when possible, it is important for me to know that if I cannot resolve a matter amicably, I can present it to a jury of my client's peers. I believe that a group of men and women, who live in my client's community, are generally in the best position to determine what the outcome should be in a civil or criminal matter.

Unfortunately, our jury process is under heavy attack at both the state and federal levels. It seems that every time I turn on the television or open the newspaper, I hear about another "outrageous" jury verdict. Of course those of us who practice law know that the examples cited in the media and by some politicians are the rare exception. What so many seem to forget is that when they attack the jury system, they are saying in essence that average citizens are not qualified to sit in judgment on legal matters within their own communities. After all, the juries that rendered the cited verdicts are made up of individual jurors, and each of us, as citizens, are potential jurors. Sometimes juries will reach a verdict that is not appropriate under the circumstances, but the same may be said of even the wisest jurist.

Each year in May, the American Bar Association and the TBA recognize Law Day as an opportunity to educate our citizenry about the legal process and the history of legal developments in this country. This year the theme for Law Day is "The American Jury: We the People in Action." The theme was chosen to help Americans better understand the jury system and the role they can play in keeping it a vital component of our legal process. After all, trial by a jury of one's peers is a cornerstone of American democracy. Along with voting, it is one of the main ways that people directly participate in governing our nation. By entrusting jurors from the community to decide legal cases, we reinforce that we are an open, democratic government. By giving ordinary people a central role in the justice system, we also put a human face on the law. The law might be made from afar, but each jury applies it locally. For all of these reasons and more, we should hold the jury system in high esteem.

On a practical level, each of us can use this year's theme as an impetus to begin a dialogue with members of our communities about the jury system and the important role they play in maintaining it. As lawyers, we are uniquely posi-

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Law Day 2005: Art & Essay Contest Reaches out to Local Schools

By Stacey Cason, Chair
Law Day Committee

In celebration of Law Day, which is officially observed each year on May 1, the YLD again sponsored its annual art and essay contests. This year's Law Day theme is "The American Jury: We the People in Action," which plays on the "We the Jury" initiative launched by American Bar Association President Robert Grey. The program is designed to educate Americans on the importance of their role in the jury process, and to impress upon them the importance of jury service. This year for the first time, contest brochures were mailed directly to every school in the state. Elementary and middle school students were invited to submit artwork in any medium that reflects the theme. High school students were invited to submit original essays. Contestants sent their entries to the YLD district repre-



sentative in their area and local judging is on-going. Once the district representatives complete the local judging, entries will be forwarded to the Law Day Committee for statewide judging. Winners in each category will be announced during the 124th Annual Tennessee Bar Association Convention, which will take place June 15-18 in Knoxville. Look for winning entries to be displayed at the convention. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this year's art and essay contest a success.

Stacey is an attorney in the Nashville firm of Manier & Herod PC and serves the YLD as chair of the Law Day Art and Essay Contest Committee. She can be reached at scason@manierherod.com.

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tioned to provide factual information about the jury process and to counter the distorted view of the system that is currently in fashion. In fact, given our profession and position in society, it is not just our opportunity, but also our duty to engage in this debate.

By sponsoring the mock trial competition each year and by continuing to employ a jury process, the TBA YLD is beginning that dialogue with young people at a time when they are first learning to appreciate the strength of our legal system. Our efforts communicate that a trial by one's peers continues to serve as the foundation of our legal system and is central to our belief in a system of justice.

While the mock trial competition provides a platform for reaching high school students, the TBA YLD also sponsors a Law Day Art and Essay Contest for grammar and middle school students. This year these younger citizens have used their creative talents to explore the jury system. These programs would not be successful without the assistance of countless attorney volunteers. The fact that lawyers across the state continue to support these valuable programs underscores the serious level of commitment we have

to these principles.

Despite the negative perception of the legal community by some, it is comforting to know that, whether through individual dialogue or collective efforts of organizations such as the TBA YLD, lawyers remain undeterred and steadfast in their commitment to the just concept of trial by jury. I am proud to be a member of a profession willing to devote its time and resources to such an important mission. As you read this article, Law Day activities will be in full swing. I hope you use this opportunity not only to reflect on the benefits of our jury system, but also to become an active member in a profession that has both the ability and inclination to raise community awareness and make the concept of trial by jury a working reality.

Cindy is a shareholder at the Sevierville law firm of Ogle, Gass & Richardson PC. She focuses her practice in the areas of general civil litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice, workers compensation and family law. She can be reached at crwyrick@aol.com.

Mock Trial: An Unqualified Success ... Again

By Danielle Barnes, Chair
2005 Mock Trial Committee

Another fabulous year in the mock trial universe has come and gone. Once again, the annual TBA YLD statewide competition was a tremendous success and continues to surpass expectations.

As chair of this year's competition, I took (and still take) great pride in the Tennessee program. The first item worthy of mention is the fact that this year's problem was written from scratch by Vice-Chair Jordan Keller. His efforts, while daunting, ensured that this year's competition was fresh and unique.

Teams that progressed to the state competition presented the case of *The State of Tennessee v. Kerry Edward*, a criminal suit arising from the murder of a music industry executive. Kerry Edward, a member of the fictitious popular country band Six Shooter, was charged with murdering the band's manager, who was alleged to have been blackmailing Edward. The murder weapon was a music award that each member of the group received. Edward alleged that he was framed and that the deceased had many enemies. The parties and the eye-

witnesses offered differing accounts of what transpired the night of the murder. The student participants clearly enjoyed dissecting the problem and its colorful characters for presentation at trial. Some witnesses even donned boots, hats and fringed vests to dress the part!

The sheer number of this year's participants also was impressive: 18 teams totaling almost 200 students from across Tennessee competed at the state competition level. Considering that these teams earned the right to participate at the state level by surviving local competitions against area high schools, it is easy to understand why this competition is one of the most visible projects undertaken by the TBA YLD.

At the state level, the students endured a grueling two-day competition, with each school participating in four preliminary rounds. The teams had to be prepared to present the case as both the prosecution and defense. Moreover, the teams did not know which side they would present until just before the start of a

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[1] Sarah Atkinson of St. Mary's Episcopal High School plays the prosecuting attorney in the final championship round.



[2] Final round judge Patricia Cottrell and TBA President Charles Swanson greet the Hume-Fogg team members and supporters.



[3] Competitors eagerly await the announcement of which two schools will advance to the final championship round.

Mock Trial: An Unqualified Success ... Again *(continued from page 3)*

round. These elements served to keep the students on their toes and ready to respond to new challenges.

The championship round on Saturday afternoon pitted Memphis' St. Mary's Episcopal School against Nashville's Hume-Fogg Academic High School. Hume-Fogg defeated St. Mary's to repeat as the state champion in a well argued closely scored final. Hume-Fogg will go on to represent Tennessee at the National Mock Trial Competition in Charlotte on May 5-8.

In addition to watching the students embrace the mock trial experience, one of the most encouraging aspect of the competition was witnessing the hard work and enthusiastic contribution of so many volunteers. This year, over 200 volunteers served without hesitation to ensure a well-organized and seamless competition. Judges from across the state took time from their schedules to travel to Nashville and preside over the rounds — giving students an authentic courtroom experience. A particular thank you is due to Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Cottrell who served as the final round judge. Judge Cottrell has been a strong and consistent supporter of the mock trial program, and we are grateful for her service.

This competition also would not have run as

smoothly as it did without the assistance of Stacey Shrader, TBA Young Lawyers Division Director. A relative newcomer to the world of mock trial, Stacey handled the logistical issues and problems that invariably arise with such a large undertaking with mastery and grace. A special thank you goes to Stacey.

On a personal note — realizing my connection to the competition and hoping that you will forgive any potential bias — I dare say that the mock trial competition is one of the best and most worthy programs offered by the TBA YLD. It is now in its 25th year and is going stronger than ever. It touches the heart to see the students compete with such passion. Their passion makes me want to become a better lawyer as I know that they will one day mature and become outstanding members of our profession. The willingness of judges and volunteers to give of their valuable time demonstrates that there is still compassion and altruism in the practice of law. Perhaps most importantly for me, the competition is about connectedness and excellence. It offers comradeship in the purest form for both the participants and the organizers: four hundred individuals are thrown together for 48 hours and must find ways to work together. And

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**Nashville's Hume-Fogg Academic High School:
The 2005 Tennessee State High School
Championship Team**

Left to right: Neal Shechter, Maggy Randels, Eric Lind, Kendall Toarmina, Faculty Advisor Ken King, Austin Whitaker, Pooja Srinivas, Elizabeth Leiserson, Diana Ekman and Kiri Mack-Hansen

2005 Mock Trial Results



The Hume-Fogg Academic High School team reacts to news that they have won the state competition for the second year in a row.



St. Mary's Episcopal High School of Memphis accepts the second place trophy in the 2005 state mock trial competition.



Family Christian Academy of Chattanooga accepts the third place trophy in the 2005 state mock trial competition.



Webb School of Bell Buckle accepts the fourth place trophy in the 2005 state mock trial competition.

Team Placements

- 1st Place Hume-Fogg Academic High School of Nashville
- 2nd Place St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis
- 3rd Place Family Christian Academy of Chattanooga
- 4th Place Webb School of Bell Buckle

Individual Awards

- Best Attorney, 1st Place — Sarah Atkinson, St Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis
- Best Attorney, 2nd Place — Kali Stewart, Franklin High School
- Best Witness, 1st Place — Shelby Bodiford, Family Christian Academy of Chattanooga
- Best Witness, 2nd Place — Sarah Shadrick, Unicoi County High School of Erwin

Practice Tips: Scope and Limitations of Approved Expenses in Association with Adoption

By Jason H. Long, Editor

The Quarterly

I wanted to stay consistent with the theme of this year's TBA YLD focus of CASA and working as advocates for children when developing an idea for a practice tips article. Hence, this article focuses upon an aspect of adoption law often overlooked or underappreciated. For those seeking to venture into the wonderful world of adoption law, you would be well advised to study up front the statutes regarding approval of expenditures that may be made in connection with an adoption. Doing so will save a great deal of embarrassment and difficulties that could arise down the road.

A common problem for attorneys and litigants engaged in an adoption is the scope of approved expenses that may be paid for or on behalf of a potential birth mother. It is important to remember that unless a licensed child-placing agency has made an expenditure on behalf of a birth mother, there are only certain fees that may be paid in an adoption. Specifically, Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-109 sets out what payments are prohibited and permitted in connection with an adoption. That section specifically prohibits any person or entity "other than the department or a licensed child-placing agency or licensed clinical social worker" to charge fees on behalf of any person legally adopting or accepting a child for adoption. The statute prohibits the transfer of anything of value in connection with the adoption or the placement of a child. Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-109(a)(1)(A).

Section B of that statute delineates those payments that may be made and approved by the court. A person seeking to adopt a child may pay the following:

- Reasonable charges or fees for hospital or medical services for the birth of the child;
- Reasonable charges or fees for medical care and other reasonable birth related expenses for the mother and/or child;
- Reasonable counseling fees for the parents or prospective adoptive parents and/or child;
- Reasonable legal services or the reasonable costs of legal proceedings related to the adoption of any child;
- Reasonable and **actual** expenses for housing, food, maternity clothing, child's clothing, and utilities or transportation for a reasonable period not to exceed ninety (90) days prior to or forty-five (45) days after the birth, surrender or parental consent to the adoption of the child.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-109(B)(i) (emphasis added). The payment of expenses for housing, food and the like may exceed the approved period set forth in the statute provided that permission is granted by the court after the filing of a detailed affidavit of the birth mother or prospective adoptive parents as to why such expenses should be extended. *Id.*

The statute notes that the approved expenses must be incurred "directly in connection with the maternity, birth, and/or placement of the child for adoption, or for legal services or for costs of legal proceedings directly related to the adoption of the child, or for counseling for up to a period of one (1) year for the parent who surrenders the child or consents to the adoption of a child." Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-109(B)(ii).

While the statute does not indicate that the payment of non-approved expenses will invalidate the adoption itself, certainly such payments, if not disclosed and approved, could threaten the validity of a surrender or other potential voluntary termination, and may provide a basis for challenge to such a termination down the road. In addition, and perhaps most importantly, the receipt of any remuneration for the placement of a child for adoption that is not approved by the court is specifically prohibited and constitutes a Class C felony. Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-109(b).

Prior to the finalization of any adoption it is necessary to file an affidavit with the court stating what attorney's fees were charged in the case for the court to give approval as to the reasonableness of those fees. Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-120(b)(1). Speaking from personal experience, at least in Knox County, the affidavit must be submitted for approval even if the case was taken pro bono and the fees were \$0.00. Further, the agencies involved with the matter also must submit affidavits that detail any fees charged for the placement of the child as well as fees for home studies performed or supervision of the placement. Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-120(b)(2).

Issues surrounding approved expenses most often occur in one of two contexts during the course of an adoption: 1) The prospective adoptive couple has been matched with a birth mother through an out-of-state unlicensed "agency" that charges a fee for its service; or 2) The prospective adoptive parents want to show their appreciation to a birth mother through the purchase of a gift or other token of affection.

There are several private companies, often refer-

ring to themselves as agencies throughout the United States that will place a child for adoption for a fee. Prior to accepting any case in which the prospective adoptive parents have paid such a fee, it is important to determine whether or not the business entity is a licensed child-placing agency. While such fees may be paid in several jurisdictions, no fees are permitted in the state of Tennessee for such placement unless the fees have been paid directly to a licensed child-placing agency. The payment of such fees to any other entity constitutes a felony. The truly unfortunate aspect of these cases is that if a prospective adoptive couple already has paid a fee to one of these companies and a match has been made, the damage has been done. The prospective adoptive parents are often excited about the fact that a match has been made and it is difficult, as an attorney, to inform these families that the match is improper and, in fact, illegal, due to the payment of the fee. Prospective adoptive parents need to be informed, before they even begin the process to avoid any agency holding itself out to provide matching services, unless they can establish that such an agency is properly licensed.

The second pitfall normally occurs during the course of the adoption process when families want to show their friendship to a birth mother by purchasing

a token of appreciation. While often these gifts are of *de minimus* value, nonetheless they technically violate Tennessee law with respect to unauthorized payments to the birth mother. Prospective adoptive families should be encouraged to maintain good relationships and communication with the birth mother but discouraged from promising or purchasing such gifts.

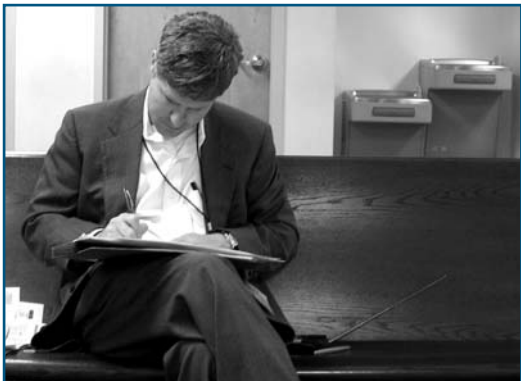
It is important to remember that, prior to the finalization, a court will be required to review and approve all expenditures associated with an adoption. Attorneys representing parents seeking an adoption would be well advised to have their clients keep strict records of such expenses and make sure up front that the parents know specifically what expenses they can pay. It will result in significantly less difficulty at the end of the adoption in trying to explain such expenses to the court. No matter the size or nature of the payment, the overriding concern is that the court is not left with the impression that a birth parent has been paid in connection with a match or surrender.

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while promoting team building, the experience also fosters individual excellence. The resulting experience makes us better lawyers and better people.

Thanks again to everyone who played a role in making the 2005 mock trial competition a success. The Mock Trial Committee hopes that everyone who participated gained from the experience. We are looking forward to next year already!



2004 mock trial chair David Johnson appears a bit more relaxed this year.

Danielle served as the chair of the 2005 statewide mock trial competition and now is enjoying some much-deserved rest. She holds the position of Assistant General Counsel in the Tennessee Department of Human Services. She can be reached at danielle.barnes@state.tn.us.



Chancellor James F. Butler of the 26th Judicial District catches a few z's between rounds; proving that the mock trial competition puts even the hardest jurists to the test.

ABA Happenings: Van Horn Wins High Office

By David Changas, Editor

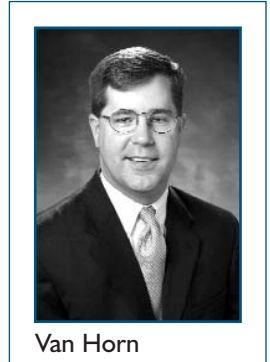
E-DICT

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division held its Midyear Meeting in Salt Lake City in early February and the TBA YLD was well represented. In addition to President Cindy Wyrick, President-Elect Danny Van Horn and Vice President Lisa Richter, David Johnson, Laura Steel, Jonathan Steen, Jonathan Cole and David Changas attended. The Spring ABA-YLD Conference is set for May 19-22 in Miami and will be followed by the division's Annual Meeting in Chicago in August.

The ABA-YLD's focus this year has been on the "We the Jury" program implemented by 2004-2005 Chair Barrett Watson, who took the idea from ABA President Robert Grey's initiative. "We the Jury" is designed to teach the American public — most importantly students — the importance of jury service. Programs have been implemented throughout the country to bring that message to the classroom. The ABA offers program materials to anyone who is interested in presenting the program to students. Tennessee is one of the states to have officially adopted the program and this year's Art and Essay contest, which is coordinated by the TBA YLD, used "We the Jury" as its theme. Several excellent entries have been received from students across the state.

An exciting event also took place at the Midyear Meeting for one of Tennessee's own. YLD President-Elect Danny Van Horn was elected Clerk of the ABA-YLD Assembly. In fact, in a rare show of unanimous support by the diverse organization, his nomination for the position was unopposed. Van Horn will serve in

this role for one year from August 2005 to August 2006, while also serving as TBA-YLD president. He then will be elevated to Speaker of the ABA-YLD Assembly at the Annual Meeting in August 2006. As Speaker, Van Horn will be one of the two highest-ranking officers in the ABA-YLD. When asked about this new challenge, Van Horn said "I can't begin to adequately thank all of the folks who have supported me along the way. Certainly Jonathan Cole of Nashville has been instrumental in helping me. I know that I didn't win this election on my own and I'll do my very best to represent Tennessee as best as I possibly can." The only other Tennessean to have held this position in the history of the ABA-YLD was former TBA President John Tarpley, who served from 1990-91. The TBA YLD congratulates Van Horn on his accomplishment. We are proud to have one of our own achieve such a distinction, and wish him well in this endeavor.



David is an attorney in the Nashville firm of Lewis, King, Krieg & Waldrop P.C. He serves the YLD as editor of E-DICT — the division's monthly electronic newsletter. He can be reached at dchangas@lewisking.com.

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YLD ELECTION 2005

YLD Election Filing Results

Young lawyers desiring to hold elected positions in the 2005-2006 bar year filed nominating petitions in April. Pursuant to the YLD bylaws, candidates unopposed for a position are deemed elected on April 1. Congratulations to the following unopposed candidates who have been elected:

Secretary:

Erin McArdle of Kingsport

Treasurer:

Sarah Cope of Murfreesboro

East TN Governor:

Tasha Blakney of Knoxville

Middle Tennessee Governor:

Patrick Carter of Columbia

District 1 Representative:

Myers Massengill of Bristol

District 3 Representative:

Michael Brezina of Knoxville

District 5 Representative:

Valerie Richardson of Signal Mountain

District 7 Representative:

Evan Cope of Murfreesboro

District 11 Representative:

Wes Bryant of Columbia

District 13 Representative:

Anna Banks of Jackson

Contested elections will be decided by secret ballot at the division's annual meeting in June in Knoxville.

A successful candidate must receive a plurality (the greatest number) of votes. In the event of a tie vote of the membership, the YLD Board elects the candidate. In the event of a tie vote of the board, the YLD president breaks the tie. Balloting will be held for the following positions:

YLD Vice President

Jason Long of Knoxville

Nathan Rowell of Knoxville

West TN Governor

David Billions of Memphis

Michelle Sellers of Jackson

Due to a vacancy for the District 9 representative, a nominating committee of the YLD officers was convened to nominate a candidate. On April 26, the committee nominated Shannone Raybon to serve in that position. Shannone graduated from Vanderbilt University and earned her law degree from Ohio Northern University. She currently is a solo practitioner in Nashville and a member of the TBA's 2005 Leadership Law class (TBALL). A vote to approve her nomination will occur at the annual meeting.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact TBA YLD Director Stacey Shrader at sshrader@tnbar.org, 615-383-7421 or 800-899-6993.

YLD ELECTION 2005

Getting to know you ... Getting to know all about you

YLD Vice President

Candidate: Jason H. Long

Hometown: Knoxville

Firm: London & Amburn PC

Law School: University of Tennessee College of Law (1996)

Jason has served as a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Board since 1998, first as chair of the Membership Committee and now as editor of *The Quarterly*. He is a member of the TBA's 2005 Leadership Law program (TBALL) and serves his local bar as president-elect of the Knoxville Barristers. His practice areas include medical malpractice defense

Candidate: Nathan D. Rowell

Hometown: Knoxville

Firm: Watson & Hollow PLC

Law School: University of Tennessee College of Law (1995)

From 1994 to 1995, while in law school, Nathan served as a law clerk to Judge Houston M. Goddard, Presiding Judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals. After graduating from the University of Tennessee College of Law, he clerked for Judge Don T. McMurray of the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He joined the firm of Watson & Hollow in 1997 and has

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Getting to know you ... Getting to know all about you *(continued from page 9)*

Candidate: Jason H. Long *(continued)*

and adoption law, and he serves as an adjunct professor of legal writing and appellate advocacy at the University of Tennessee. His wife, Carol Anne, also serves on the TBA YLD Board as this year's Continuing Legal Education Committee chair, and the two are expecting the birth of their first child in June. With regard to his vision for the YLD, Jason says he is committed to the continued public service and membership benefits provided by the division and wants to continue the strong relationship that has been created between the big bar and the YLD. He sees membership in the division as an opportunity to achieve personal fulfillment through service while also having fun. He says he is excited about the opportunity to run for vice president and looks forward to a good turn out at the YLD membership meeting during the TBA annual convention.

Candidate: Nathan D. Rowell *(continued)*

been a partner since 2002. He concentrates his practice on employment law and civil rights. Nathan has served on the board of the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division since 1999 as both the former editor of *The Quarterly* and as the current treasurer. He also has served on the Editorial Board of the *Tennessee Bar Journal* since 1998. Nathan says that he views the YLD as a tremendous asset not only to young lawyers, but also to the bar in general. Along those lines, he wants to increase participation of the division's membership, provide more services and opportunities to young lawyers, and have the YLD play an even larger and more visible role in the state's legal community.

West TN Governor

Candidate: David Andrew Billions

Hometown: Memphis

Firm: Rossie, Luckett, Parker & Ridder PC

Law School: University of Memphis School of Law (1999)

David is a shareholder in the Memphis firm of Rossie, Luckett & Ridder PC where he has practiced since 1999. He focuses his practice in the area of general civil litigation with a concentration in premises security and products liability defense, insurance law, construction law and breach of contract. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Georgia in 1994 and his J.D. from the University of Memphis in 1999, where he also served on the Moot Court Board from 1998 to 1999. He is a member of the Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi and American Bar Associations. And he is admitted to practice before all state and federal courts in Tennessee and Mississippi including the Fifth and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeal. David also recently was admitted to the Defense Research Institute where he serves on the Lawyer's Professionalism and Ethics Committee. In addition, he was recently nominated for membership in the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association. David has been active in many local civic organizations and has volunteered for the Memphis Area Legal Services Pro Bono Project since 2003. He is married to Anne Stewart Mullins of Atlanta, and they have one child, Jack, who is nine months old.

Editor's Note: Biographical sketches were compiled by TBA staff based on information provided by the candidates.

Candidate: Michelle Greenway Sellers

Hometown: Jackson

Firm: Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC

Law School: University of Tennessee College of Law (2000)

Michelle has been associated with the firm of Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell PLC since August 2000. In November 2000 she was admitted to practice law in Tennessee and is admitted to practice in the following courts: the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Her practice focuses on the representation of physicians, nurses, hospitals and clinics in medical malpractice litigation; and attorneys and other professionals in professional malpractice litigation. Michelle has been involved in the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division since 2000. She served as the District 13 representative for two years, and has held the position of West Tennessee Governor for the past two years. During her time on the YLD Board, she has served on the Executive Committee, Long Range Planning Committee and Continuing Legal Education Committee. In addition to currently holding the position of West Tennessee Governor, she is the YLD's West Tennessee delegate to the TBA House of Delegates and is a member of the TBA's Leadership Law Class of 2005 (TBALL). Michelle serves her local bar as president of the Jackson-Madison County Bar Association, an organization she also has served as vice-president, treasurer and member of the Board of Directors.

YLD ELECTION 2005

Voter Awareness Committee Enjoys Banner Year

By Wade Hinton, Co-Chair
Voter Awareness Committee

This year the Voter Awareness Committee (VAC) enjoyed its most successful year to date. The VAC is committed to educating and empowering high school and college students throughout the state of Tennessee regarding the importance of voting and becoming involved with the political process on the local, state and national levels.

This past year the VAC was co-chaired by Ed Stanton of Memphis and myself. We were able to partner with agencies and organizations that already had established voter awareness projects. This joint participation allowed for greater exposure for the YLD and resulted in voter registration drives being held on the campuses of the University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The VAC additionally distributed letters to each of the 500 high school

principals throughout the state of Tennessee offering the principals an opportunity to bring a member of the TBA YLD to the school and personally address a civics or history class to discuss the importance of voting and participating in the political process. Several schools took us up on that offer.

The VAC wants to thank everyone who helped make this year such a success. The committee's efforts helped focus attention upon an important topic and offered the YLD a valuable opportunity to reach out to the greater community and make a meaningful impact.

Wade serves as co-chair of the Voter Awareness Committee and practices law in the Chattanooga firm of Roberson & Hinton LLP. He can be reached at whinton@srhwlaw.com.

Statewide Public Service Day: Districts Across the State Support CASA

By Jenny Coques Rogers, Chair
Statewide Public Service Day Committee

It's that time of year. Law Day has rolled around and, with it, the annual Statewide Public Service Day for the TBA YLD. Started in 2001 under the leadership of then YLD President Scott Carey, Statewide Public Service Day was initiated as an attempt to raise public awareness of the spirit of volunteerism that exists in our bar. Each district across the state coordinates a day of local public service. While each district's project traditionally has varied, this year's efforts have been coordinated to reflect the YLD's support for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and foster care children in Tennessee.

This year's projects, which are scheduled to take place during Law Day activities April 30 through May 7, range from informing the public about CASA's work to holding fundraising events for the agency. Specific events of note include:

- Featuring CASA's work on a morning news program;

- Bringing a local CASA representative to the area Law Day brunch and hosting a volunteer drive in connection with a violence against children awareness rally; and
- Assisting CASA with their annual fundraising concert.

This year for the first time, the YLD has partnered with the YLD Fellows to include a greater number of volunteers in these projects. Thanks is due to Fellows President Pamela Reeves and YLD Fellows Liason Jonathan O. Steen for strengthening that partnership.

To get involved in a project in your area, please contact Statewide Public Service Day Committee Vice Chair Adam Knight at aknight@sedlaw.com. Thank you in advance to everyone who has worked and volunteered their time to make Statewide Public Service Day a success.



The Tennessee Bar Association
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37219

REEL JUSTICE

Lights! Action! Camera!

Don't be surprised to find long lines at the ticket booth when this summer's blockbuster hit premieres June 15-18 at the Knoxville Marriott.

Lawyers from across Tennessee will be lining up to catch the latest screening of the Tennessee Bar Association's Annual Convention. And they won't be disappointed. This year's production — the 124th annual — promises three days of entertainment, education and networking. Key ingredients to any hit show.

Reel Justice is the theme of this year's convention and movies will play a part of several events, from a night of fabulous food and entertainment at the newly renovated Tennessee Theatre — featuring Robinella & CC String Band in concert — to an ethics program spotlighting some of the biggest stars in Tennessee continuing legal education, each offering their take on ethical issues presented in popular movies.

Of course that's not all you'll find at this year's production. Other screens at our CLE multiplex will be

presenting compelling programs on electronic filing, the new Limited Liability Companies Act, the impact of domestic violence, and how pro bono work can be good for your practice.

Attendees at this year's convention will be treated like stars, with seats at some of the best tables in town during the annual Bench/Bar Luncheon and CLE program, and the popular Lawyers Luncheon, which annually honors the accomplishments of some of our state's top attorneys. In addition, you'll have plenty of time in the lobby to socialize and network with judges and other attorneys from across the state who will be joining the TBA in Knoxville. Again this year, the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and the Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women will be holding sessions jointly with the TBA.

Don't miss this star-studded event! Can't wait until June? Catch an exclusive sneak preview of the event at <http://www.tba.org/conv2005>.