

# THE QUARTERLY

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## Post-Bar-Tum Depression, Reflections of a Lawyer-in-Waiting

By Sherry A. Wilds

I am not very tolerant of living in a gray area of uncertainty, so the three months between the bar exam and its results were, for me, reminiscent of the waiting period for irreconcilable differences in a divorce long past. This black hole of time can be especially difficult if you are unsure of your next career step. However, even if you are already lined up in your dream job, living in bar limbo can be troubling.

### Preparing for the Shame

Waiting for bar results involves a kind of inoculation, protecting your dignity in the event of failure. Several approaches to this have been helpful to me. First, gently remind your friends and relatives of the many bar failures of JFK Jr. In fact, you don't even have to do this at all! In every conversation about your impending results, someone will say, "Remember, JFK Jr. failed the bar nine times!" At this point, refrain from correcting the inaccuracy since you will be able to save face with this particular crowd even if you are 0 for 5.

For those fortunate ones who are already employed with a firm, the waiting period between bar and results can also be excruciating. Not only does Aunt Mary, Cousin Tom, and that lady from church, whose name you can't remember, repeatedly ask if you have the results, you are surrounded at work by those who have the key to your outcome. Yes, they know where to find out your fate

on the Internet, perhaps discovering it before you do. Maybe result day is the right time to disappear to a Motel 6 somewhere off I-40. Just make certain you take your laptop and have Internet access. Remember, hitting the refresh button until the pass list is posted can result in early stages of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Next, don't give out the exact  
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## Tennessee Young Lawyer Elected to Leadership Position of ABA/YLD By Jason H. Long

At the American Bar Association annual convention in Chicago this past August, Jonathan Cole, attorney in the Nashville office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell and member of the TBA Young Lawyer's Division, was elected secretary/treasurer of the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division. Jonathan's election places him in the chain of leadership for the ABA YLD which will elevate him to chair-elect for the 2002-03 year and will culminate in



Jonathan Cole

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## The Quarterly

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## 2002 State High School Mock Trial Competition

By Ali Fowler

Preparation for the 2002 State High School Mock Trial Competition is underway. This annual competition, sponsored by the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, is a terrific opportunity and experience for participating students. This year's competition is scheduled for **March 15-16, 2002**, and will be held in the Davidson County Courthouse in Nashville. Approximately 18 teams will be participating, and the winning team will advance to the National High School Mock Trial Competition in St. Paul, Minn., on May 9-12, 2002. In light of the large number of participating teams, the Mock Trial Committee is looking now for volunteers to act as judges, scorers and bailiffs the days of the competition. If you have an interest in helping with this year's competition, **please contact Ali Fowler at:**

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

100 Peabody Place, Suite 900

Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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afowler@bassberry.com

The incredible experience and opportunity that this competition provides the participating students is not possible without the generous support and time that the Tennessee legal community consistently has provided. The Mock Trial Competition appreciates that support and thanks you in advance for your continued support with this year's competition. ■



TBA YLD representatives and friends at the ABA Annual Convention in Chicago. From left, back row: Scott Carey, Jim Wheeler, Jason Long; front row: Susan Carey, Cindy Wyrick, Greta McMillan, Carol Anne Lamons and Greg McMillan.

## Praise for Mock Trial Volunteers



Jim Wheeler  
TBA YLD President

At this time of year when I sit down to write about the Young Lawyers Division, the one thing that is impossible to get off my mind is the Mock Trial competition. As teams are practicing and preparing for their local competition, our state Mock Trial Committee is hard at work preparing for the state competition in Nashville. Of all the many projects and services of the Tennessee Young Lawyers Division, Mock Trial is probably the most visible and most well-known to the general public. Additionally, we have found some great leaders throughout the years from the ranks of Mock Trial coaches, judges, local coordinators and state committee leaders. If you want to find a young lawyer who is dedicated to public service, look no further than your local competition coordinator. I would like to tell you about two extraordinary people I have come into contact with in my years as a young lawyer through the Mock Trial program.

Julie Bennett currently serves as the State Young Lawyers Division secretary. Julie became involved in Young Lawyers short-

ly after I did, and was the very first Mock Trial coordinator under the then newly-formed Northeast Tennessee Young Lawyers Association. Julie was responsible for coordinating three local competitions covering nine counties and an area that would take a cou-

“While the time commitment to coach a team is significant, the return on your investment will be incredible.”

ple of hours to drive from one end to the other. Julie not only handled putting together committees of local individual competition

coordinators, but entirely ran one of those competitions by herself and kept us all in line. On top of that, Julie did this for several years.

While I was no longer responsible for the Young Lawyers affiliate in Northeast Tennessee, I couldn't help but worry how we would ever replace Julie Bennett when it came time for her to turn over the reins of the Mock Trial program to someone else. I was very relieved to meet Erin McArdle, a young lawyer practicing in Bristol. She took over Julie's position with the same enthusiasm and commitment to the students involved in this program and singlehandedly ran the nine-county program for a number of years and continues to do so, even as she serves as President of the Northeast Young Lawyers Association. Erin added a new twist when she brought the competition together on one Saturday, busing students into Bristol to the only courthouse in the area that

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The TBA YLD Board members at the fall planning conference in Natchez Trace State Park.

# President's Letter

## Praise for Mock Trial Volunteers continued from page 3

would accommodate the entire competition. She has recruited coaches, scorers, and judges until many lawyers won't take her calls between January and March each year. Her husband, TBA YLD Board Member Dan Coughlin, and I have the same conversation with her each year at the State Mock Trial Competition. Namely, that next year she needs to turn the reins over to someone else, but by fall, it is always very clear that she is in for the long haul, and she convinces us all that we all have plenty of work to do in the Mock Trial program, and that there is a place for everyone, including her, in our local competition.

I realize that there are stories like these throughout our state, and I relate these two simply because I have personally been in-

involved in my local competition. I hope that this article will cause you to pause for a moment and pick up the phone or write your local competition coordinator and do two things. First, thank them for the effort they put in on behalf of our Bar and for the high school students in the area. Then I'd like to ask that you do something to truly make their job at this time of year a little easier. Volunteer to serve your local mock trial program in some capacity. While the time commitment to coach a team is

significant, the return on your investment will be incredible. If you answer the call to volunteer as a scorer or judge for the local competition, you will lighten the load of the person who has to pick up that phone over and over to fill in a schedule. ■



TBA YLD representatives and family at the ABA Fall Meeting in St. Louis.

From left, back row:  
Dan Coughlin,  
Jonathan Steen,  
Erin McCardle,  
Michelle Steen and  
Matthew Steen.

## Cole Elected to Leadership continued from page 1

his election as chair of the ABA YLD for the 2003-04 year. Jonathan's election opens up several doors for Tennessee young lawyers who desire to become involved in the bar association on a national level, and he is eager to encourage such participation.

Jonathan is no stranger to volunteer work on behalf of his community and his profession. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1991 and received his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1994. During his years at U.T., Jonathan was a member

of the National Trial Team, served as Moot Court Board Chair, co-founded the Pro Bono Project at the College of Law, and was awarded a Dean's Citation for service to the College of Law. He has been at Baker Donelson since his graduation where he primarily practices in the areas of products liability, environmental law and commercial litigation. In 1997, he married Lisa Ramsay, also a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law and an attorney at Lewis, King, Krieg, Waldrop & Catron PC. They have one daughter, Anna Grace (age 3),

and are expecting a son in March. Jonathan also serves as Chairman of the Green Hills YMCA, he is a past president of the Avalon Neighborhood Association and is a graduate of the Young Leader's Council.

Jonathan's election as secretary/treasurer is the culmination of several years of dedication to the ABA YLD that began when he was appointed to the affiliate programming committee. Asked about the purpose behind the ABA YLD, Jonathan simply states that, "the ABA keeps the law a profession and not simply a business. It

serves as our voice on national affairs. It is the one body with the resources available to make a difference on a national and international level.” His service to the organization has given him the opportunity to meet “wonderful individuals” devoted to the same principles and allowed him to make social and business contacts throughout the nation that he anticipates will last a lifetime. As Jonathan puts it: “The ABA YLD provides an opportunity to have fun while doing good for our communities.”

For those unfamiliar with the ABA YLD, its structure is very similar to the TBA YLD. Any licensed attorney under the age of 36 or within their first five years of practice is eligible for membership. With over 130,000 members, the YLD is the largest division within the American Bar Association. The leadership structure of the ABA YLD is comprised of a chair, chair-elect, secretary/treasurer, assembly speaker, assembly clerk, constitutional representatives, district representatives, and at large delegates. Ed Stanton of Memphis currently serves as the district representative to the ABA YLD for the Tennessee/Kentucky district. In addition, the actual functions of the ABA YLD are carried out by various standing committees composed of chairs, vice-chairs and members.

The activities of the ABA YLD are divided into two broad categories: substantive law and public service. The substantive committees within the ABA YLD mirror the

committees of the ABA itself with a substantive committee addressing practically any area of the law conceivable. Committee members work on newsletters, CLE programming and various other projects to assist members in their daily practice. The service arm of the ABA YLD focuses on its standing service projects and normally selects a single primary service project to focus upon. This year, that project is entitled “Tolerance Through Education” and is a coordinated nationwide effort to educate elementary school students to appreciate diversity and seek to resolve conflicts through peer mediation and other alternatives.

The ABA YLD does much of its work through correspondence and teleconferencing but there are four meetings per year, which provide an opportunity for members to interact with one another. The ABA YLD will be meeting in Philadelphia for the mid-year meeting this February. Future meeting sites include: Denver (2002 spring meeting), Washington D.C. (2002 annual meeting), Cincinnati (2002 fall meeting), Seattle (2003 mid-year meeting) and New Orleans (2003 spring meeting). These meetings provide free CLE programming, and invaluable opportunities to network and participate in ABA YLD projects.

There is no better time than the present for young lawyers from Tennessee to become involved in the ABA YLD. Committee appointment in the organization is done ex-

clusively by the chair-elect who will select positions based upon applications submitted. Normally, an individual seeking a senior level appointment to a committee, whether that be the position of a chair or vice-chair, will need to have demonstrated some prior participation in the ABA YLD. Next year, Jonathan will be in the position of appointing these chairs and vice-chairs, so it is critical that Tennessee lawyers who desire to get involved do so now. An appointment to a committee this year will provide an opportunity to get an understanding as to how the ABA YLD works and will provide a foundation from which one may seek a senior level appointment in the following year. It is a rare opportunity for one of our bar members to be in a position to open up so many doors for other Tennessee attorneys who have a desire to contribute, and Jonathan is encouraging all who wish to become involved to do so.

Application for a committee appointment may be done by filling out the form on the ABA YLD website ([www.aba.net.org/yld/home.html](http://www.aba.net.org/yld/home.html)) and returning the same to the address noted on the website prior to Feb. 28, 2002. Time is running short on the application process and those interested should either go to the website or contact Jonathan directly or through his e-mail address, [jcole@bdbc.com](mailto:jcole@bdbc.com) for further information as soon as possible. ■

# Affiliate Updates

## Knoxville

By Carol Anne Lamons

The Knoxville Barristers had a very busy and successful year. The annual Charity Golf Tournament was held in September and raised \$1,600 for the Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Knoxville. The Committee for Hunger Relief has been working overtime, their biggest project being a Professional Clothing Drive to benefit less fortunate members of the community. Over 1,500 pieces of clothing were collected in the drive, and the clothes will be distributed to those who complete a free eight-week training program on résumé building and interview techniques. The Barristers are extremely grateful to Prestige Cleaners, who so generously agreed to dry clean every item of clothing free of charge. The Hunger Relief Committee also continues to operate a Mobile Meals-On-Wheels route each Friday, and sponsored an Angel Tree for the holidays. Co-chairs, **Saja Hoffpaier** and **Tasha Blakney** received the Barrister's President's Award at the annual Christmas dinner in recognition of their efforts. In December, a new slate of officers were elected as follows: **Mary Beth Maddox**, president; **Greg McMillan**, president-elect; **Robin Gresham**, vice president; **Alexis Smith**, secretary/treasurer, **Bill Mynatt** and **Jason Long**, members-at-large. With the new year upon us, efforts are focusing primarily upon the upcoming Mock Trial Competition.

Now that **Sam Doak's** presidency has come to an end, we thank him for all of his hard work over the past year and acknowledge the many successful endeavors of the Barristers under his term of office, and we look forward to much continued success under the leadership of Mary Beth.

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## East Tennessee

By Erin McCardle

In our region we are working hot and heavy on the Mock Trial Competition. Our competition consists of schools from many counties, including Greene, Hawkins, Unicoi, Carter, Washington, and Sullivan counties. We have one double elimination competition. Luckily, we have the total support of our local Boy Scouts and many businesses.

A social event is being planned with the judges in

our area to increase membership of the Young Lawyers Division.

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## Madison County

By Beth Williams

The Madison County YLD is currently trying to become an organized group and seeking officers. If you are interested in participating, please contact your local representative, **Michelle Greenway** at (731) 423-2414. Also, the YLD helps with the regional Mock Trial Competition, which is going to be held on Feb. 16, in Jackson at the Criminal Justice Complex. If you want to volunteer, please call **Beth Williams** at (731) 423-2414 or **Jennifer Craig** at (731) 424-6211.

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## Memphis

By Edward Stanton III

The Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association is off to a great start this year. In November of 2001 the following new officers and board of directors were elected to serve: **Edward Stanton III**, president, **Marcy L. Dodds**, vice-president/president-elect, **Kirk A. Caraway**, **Craig C. Conley**, secretary/treasurer, **Susan A. Hinsley**, **Amy Webb Martin**, **Bobby F. Martin Jr.**, **Gayle R. Sevier**, **Christopher B. Sullivan**, **Shannon Toon** and **Richard S. Wade**.

The MBA/YLD along with the Memphis Redbirds Baseball Foundation raised nearly \$10,000 in its annual Field of Dreams 5K Race. The proceeds benefitted the RBI (Returning Baseball to the Inner City) and STRIPES (Sports Teams Returning in the Public Education System) organizations. The MBA/YLD is also preparing to host this year's District High School Mock Trial Competition. Nearly 30 teams have already registered for this year's competition, the largest number of schools to compete in one single district in the history of the competition.

In addition, the MBA/YLD has numerous activities slated for 2002 including a Minority Pre-Law Conference with over 250 high school students, an annual golf tournament, informative and thought provoking CLEs, and the famous MBA/YLD Basketball League just to name a few. ■

## Post-Bar-Tum Depression continued from page 1

date of bar results to friends and relatives who don't know any better. When asked, I just muttered vaguely something about results coming around the end of October. I hoped they would assume that meant close to Halloween and would then get so caught up in the upcoming holidays they would forget all about it. Don't count on this method working, though. Many friends and relatives read every word of the newspaper from the obituaries to the local arrest report. Of course, if you pass, you want to tell them right away. This way they won't have spent all their money on Christmas shopping and can still take you out for a nice dinner to celebrate.

*"A Change is as Good as a Rest,"  
Don't Believe It*

Adjusting to real life again after years of law school and bar review can be traumatic. For example, I had grown accustomed to multi-tasking. You know the drill: eating and reading, nordic track and reading, scrubbing the tub and reading, reading and reading. In fact, a book had become an extra appendage for me over the last several years. So, after the bar exam I naturally gravitated to a long awaited mystery novel. It was only after I had highlighted the primary issues and determined the applicable rule of law did I realize that a break from using my brain was in order.

During this phase of my life in the gray zone I decided to quit reading and start participating. I watched trials at the courthouse instead of viewing weeping therapy patients on Oprah. I ate dinner with attorney friends instead of lunching with my dog, Checks. I looked for my dream job instead of dreaming about getting a black bordered telegram with two words — "You Failed."

Staying busy may help prevent a lawyer-in-waiting from checking hourly to see if the Board of Law Examiners decided to break tradition by posting results early. A calendar

once teeming with activities and assignments can immediately be transformed into a barren wasteland with only a dentist appointment for September 15th. If you don't fill your day planner (or palm pilot) soon, you may become a fearful victim of all those bar exam horror stories. Much like urban legends, they have just enough truth to make them believable. The 60 year-old law clerk who has failed the bar 14 times is just one example.

To alleviate my fears and boredom, I took a different kind of bar exam so I could help serve drinks at the local dinner theater where my husband was in a show. By the way, I passed the ABC exam and am now qualified to serve alcohol, should the need ever arise again. I was amazed at how many actors need a lawyer. The problem was they wanted one for free and I wasn't yet a lawyer. They kept asking anyway.

### The Silver Lining

The gray area between bar exam and results does have a silver glint to it. Being referred to as a "Young Lawyer" at age 40 can be an ego-booster. It certainly is preferable to "New Lawyer," "Elderly Neophyte" or "Inexperienced Know-It-All." I personally thank whoever coined this flattering designation.

In case I don't make the list this round, I'm learning to be patient with gray areas. They consistently occur in the law as well as in life. "Maybe yes, maybe no" was the mantra of one of my instructors in law school. In fact, I just bought a new gray suit for my first day as a "young attorney" — or for luck should I be faced with round two of bar exam limbo. ■

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*"A book had become an extra appendage for me over the last several years."*

# Disaster Relief



Joe Johnson  
Disaster Relief Chairman

## “Operation Volunteer” is TBA YLD Response to Terrorist Attacks

By Joe Johnson

Since Sept. 11, many Tennessee Bar Association members have expressed an interest in providing assistance to the war effort. On Sept. 28, 2001, TBA staff members Betsy Hilt and Beth Sims participated in an ABA LAMP (Legal Assistance for Military Personnel) conference call. They learned that with the military on alert, it was possible that military lawyers may need help in meeting the legal demands of Tennessee’s military personnel. The TBA YLD, through its disaster relief program, launched “Operation Volunteer.”

“Operation Volunteer” involves a three-step process. The first step involved is recruitment. In a letter to TBA members, I requested that each TBA member recruit other lawyers who will make themselves available to provide legal services to military personnel in the following areas: Family Law, Estate and Probate, Real Estate, Consumer Protection and Business Law. There is a sign up form on the TBA website (<http://TBA.org.news/operationvolunteer.html>), and all lawyers are encouraged to sign up.

The second step would be training. ABA LAMP is planning and developing training sessions to help prepare volunteer attorneys for the sometimes unique legal issues that military personnel face.

The third step is simply following through and helping those in need if called upon to do so. There has been a good response from Tennessee attorneys up to this point, proving the volunteer spirit is alive and well in Tennessee. If you have any questions about “Operation Volunteer,” please feel free to contact me at (615) 384-0284 or at [joejoe12347@cs.com](mailto:joejoe12347@cs.com). ■

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