



EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE

# YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

## KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, July 21, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. CDT/1:00 p.m. EST

Holiday Inn Riverfront – River Room B

Paducah, KY

#### I. **Opening Remarks** (Elizabeth A. Combs, Chair)

Chair, Ms. Combs, called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. CDT.

Executive Committee Members present in person/on Zoom included: Elizabeth Combs; Don Combs; Kyle Bunnell; Lee Metzger; Blake Johnson; Lindsay Porter; Calesia Henson; Johnson Bastien; Amanda Johnson; Ryan Mosley; Lincoln Caudill; Christine Stanley; Lexy Holland; Jennifer Dominici; Carlin Conway; Alex Stewart; Linda Dixon; Jonas Bastien; and Al'Lisha Hanserd.

Executive Committee members absent were: Kelsey Bryant; Elivia Rabe; Franklin Milan; Brittany Riley; Sebastian Torres; Whitney Rowe; Kristen Cody; Janet Luo; Sam Reinhardt; Dayana Perez; Alexis Ecarma; Kara Legg; Ashely Sexton; and Chris Barber.

#### II. **Introductions**

##### A. **EC Roster**

Ms. Combs reviewed the Executive Committee Members present to introduce themselves.

##### B. **Committees**

Ms. Combs discussed this year's Committee Assignments, as well as the new structure for Committees, which include the roles of Assistant Chairs.

##### C. **2023-2024 Calendar**

Ms. Combs reviewed the 2023-2024 Calendar in the Executive Committee Orientation Packet.

#### III. **Executive Committee Training**

Ms. Combs began the Executive Committee training by discussing composition of the Executive Committee including the officers, district representative, and affiliate representatives. She also discussed recent changes to the bylaws, which were made and approved in January 2023. Ms. Combs also reminded Committee Members that proposed changes/amendments to the bylaws must be approved by the KBA.

##### A. Young Lawyers Division Overview and Bylaws

###### 1. **Officers**

- a. **Chair:** Elizabeth Combs
- b. **Chair-Elect:** Don Combs

- c. Vice Chair: Kyle Bunnell
- d. Immediate Past Chair: Lee Metzger

- 2. Executive Committee
  - a. District Representatives
  - b. At Large Representatives
  - c. Affiliate Representatives
  - d. Law School Representatives

B. Expectations of All Executive Committee Members

Ms. Combs stated that each Executive Committee Member is asked to attend all in-person meetings as well as the monthly Zoom meetings. She will be sending out a poll to ascertain the best dates for the monthly Zoom meetings after the Summer meeting. Currently the dates for the in-person meetings are:

- a. October 7, 2023 in Lexington at 10 a.m. EST
- b. January 13, 2024 in Louisville at 10 a.m. EST
- c. April 13, 2024 in Lexington at 10 a.m. EST
- d. May 9-10, 2024 Annual Convention in Covington (Annual Meeting/YLD Luncheon May 9, 2024)

C. Relationships

Ms. Combs discussed various relationship partners with the YLD and provided contact information regarding each organization and its key members.

- 1. Lawyers Mutual of Kentucky
- 3. Board of Governors
- 4. Kentucky Supreme Court
- 5. Kentucky Bar Foundation (KBA has representative on the KBF- Kyle Bunnell)
  - a. Guion Johnstone – Executive Director – gjohnston@kybar.org
  - b. Gwen Smallenburg – Program Manager – gsmallenburg@kybar.org
- 6. KBA Staff
  - a. John D. Meyers - Executive Director – JMeyers@kybar.org
  - b. Melissa Blackwell - Director of Administration – mblackwell@kybar.org
  - c. Lori Reed – Section Liaison – LReed@kybar.org
  - d. Jesi Ebelhar – Graphic Designer – JEbelhar@kybar.org
  - e. Shannon Roberts – Director of Communications – SRoberts@kybar.org
  - f. TBD – Director of CLE –
  - g. Laura Cole – New Lawyer Program Coordinator – lcole@kybar.org
  - h. Caroline Carter – Program & Publications Coordinator – Annual Convention and KLU – ccarter@kybar.org
  - i. Brian Hilton – Staff Accountant – bhilton@kybar.org
  - j. Machell Phillips – Technology Manager – Mphillips@kybar.org

7. American Bar Association
  - a. Jonas Bastien, ABA District Representative for KY/TN
  - b. KY/TN rep shifts back to TN for in 2024-2025

D. American Bar Association Delegates at YLD Meetings

Ms. Combs reminded members that there is money in the budget for YLD members to attend ABA events and to reach out to her or Ms. Bastien to discuss if they'd like to attend. Ms. Combs also reminded Committee members of the Midyear Meeting in Louisville and encouraged attendance if possible since Gene Vance of Stoll Keenon Ogden, Lexington was in charge of planning it and is currently Chair of the House of Delegates for the ABA.

The dates for the ABA meetings are as follows:

1. Annual Meeting – August 2-8, 2023 – Denver, CO
2. Fall Conference – TBD
3. Midyear Meeting – January 31-February 5, 2024 – **Louisville**
4. Spring Conference – TBD

E. Committees/Programming

Ms. Combs gave a brief overview of the 11 substantive committees of the YLD before asking previous and/or current chairs to discuss each respective committee:

1. CLE Committee: Ryan Mosley and Amanda Johnson, Co-Chairs

Mr. Mosley, previous chair, discussed the responsibilities of the Committee, which include:

- i. Legal Aid University
- ii. Kentucky Law Update
- iii. Convention

Mr. Mosely also discussed the planning of a Small Firm/Solo Practice CLE in partnership with LMICK. The goal is for the CLE to be held at UK Law in Fall 2023/Spring 2024.

2. Communications Committee: Alex Stewart and Blake Johnson, Co-Chairs

Mr. Stewart, previous chair, discussed the Communications Committee and its responsibilities, which include:

- i. Website CLEs – CLEs from Convention
- ii. Social Media
  - a. Young Lawyer Spotlights
  - b. Updating on current events

c. Legal Food Frenzy updates

Mr. Stewart encouraged members to nominate spotlight members, send Wellness Wednesday posts, and send updated photographs for the YLD webpage.

3. Community Outreach Committee: Elivia Rabe and Kristen Cody, Co-Chairs
  - i. Disaster Legal Services
  - ii. Voices Against Violence
4. Convention Committee: Christine Stanley and Janet Luo, Co-Chairs

Mrs. Stanley discussed the responsibilities of the Convention committee, which include:

- i. Reps to KBA Convention Planning Committee Meetings
- ii. Sponsor CLEs
- iii. YLD Reception
- iv. YLD Annual Luncheon
- v. Exhibit Booth, Mental Health Booth, and Puppy Pit

Mrs. Stanley also provided a report of the t-shirts sales at the 2023 Convention, the proceeds of which were donated to the Lexington Humane Society, which staffed this year's puppy pit and brought animals to the Convention. \$680 was raised and several shirts were left, which will be sold in the future and donated to Puppy Pit partners.

5. Education Outreach Committee: Jonas Bastien and Franklin Milam, Co-Chairs; Al'lisha Hanserd, Asst. Chair

Ms. Combs discussed the responsibilities of this committee, which include:

- i. U@18
- ii. KY High School Mock Trial Association

Mr. Bastien stated that he would reach out to last year's chairs to obtain information about a contact of the Mock Trial Association competition and school district contacts for the U@18 program.

6. Health and Wellness Committee: Jennifer Dominici and Brittany Riley, Co-Chairs

Mr. Conway, as a previous chair, discussed this committee, which includes:

- i. Assist in the planning of District-wide wellness activities
- ii. Liaison to the main KBA Wellness Committee
- iii. Plan and sponsor wellness events and/or CLEs, including Convention
- iv. Wellness Wednesdays

He encouraged members to send in Wellness Wednesday social media posts to the Communications Committee.

Mr. Bastien also asked about forming an ad hoc committee to further discuss Question 31 on the Character and Fitness Portion of the Bar Application. Mr. Metzger volunteered to assist. Mr. Bastien will reach out to the ABA, in his capacity as the new ABA affiliate representative, to get ideas about how and whether other states have looked into/addressed similar questions.

7. Inclusion & Diversity Committee: Calesia Henson, Chair; Linda Dixon and Ashley Sexton, Co-Asst. Chairs

Ms. Henson, previous chair, discussed the activities of the Committee, which include:

- i. Why Choose Law/Pipeline program
- ii. Diversity and Inclusion Summit
- iii. Nathaniel Harper Diversity Award

She also discussed the successes of last year's programming, including the recently held Why Choose Law/Pipeline program.

8. Law Student Outreach Committee: Kelsey Bryant and Lindsay Porter, Co-Chairs

Mr. Bunnell discussed this Committee, as a previous chair. It includes the following activities:

- i. Road Less Traveled
- ii. Law school social events
- iii. Bar Study Scholarships

Mr. Bunnell commented on the importance of communicating with the affiliate law school representative for the successful planning of events in conjunction with this committee.

9. Legal Food Frenzy Committee: Lexy Holland, Chair; Lincoln Caudill and Sebastian Torres, Co-Asst. Chairs

Mr. Bunnell, previous chair of the Legal Food Frenzy, discussed logistics and planning of the annual statewide campaign. He emphasized the importance of early planning and the assistance needed from all district reps to promote campaign in their district and host social event.

Ms. Holland said the Committee would meet soon to discuss its fundraising goals for the 2024 campaign.

10. Membership Committee: Kyle Bunnell, Chair; Whitney Rowe, Asst. Chair

Mr. Combs, previously chair of the Membership Committee discussed the duties of the Committee which include:

- i. Exhibit at New Lawyers Program
- ii. Solicitation of Nominees for Awards
  - a. Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
  - b. Nathaniel R. Harper Award
  - c. Young Lawyer Service to Community Award
  - d. Service to Young Lawyers Award
- iii. Annual social events in the 7 Supreme Court Districts
  - a. Each District Rep plans at least two social events in his/her district for YLD members, plus LFF event
  - b. One event should be planned in conjunction with KLU – See calendar
- iv. New member outreach programs/ improvement of member services

Mr. Combs also discussed ideas about sending birthday messages to each member as well as bar acceptance anniversaries with YLD information. The Committee also discussed the Awards process and recommended that applications sent in previous years be forwarded/considered in the next year's selection process for awards.

11. New Events Committee: Carlin Conway and Sam Reinhardt, Co-Chairs; Chris Barber, Asst. Chair

Ms. Combs discussed the purpose of this Committee is to plan the 2024 Barristers' Ball/YLD Gala, which will likely be held in May 2024 in Lexington. The committee will also brainstorm new ideas for YLD events and/or add-ons to current events.

F. General Committee/Programming Information (Elizabeth Combs)

Ms. Combs reminded committee members when organizing events and programs to coordinate with the KBA, specifically Lori Reed, Section Liaison for approval. She also told members that she must submit certain activity requests in advance of approval. Ms. Combs further reminded individuals to submit information about events to the YLD Communications Committee to be shared on social media.

Ms. Combs also reminded Committee members to utilize pre-payment if possible for tax deduction or obtain tax exemption certificate in planning events and to be sure and submit the KBA Expense Reimbursement Form.

**IV. Business Meeting**

Ms. Combs opened the business meeting at 2:17 p.m. CDT after a brief recess.

A. Chair Report (Elizabeth Combs)

Ms. Combs asked for approval of At-Large Representative Appointments. A motion was made by Mr. Combs and seconded by Mr. Bastien. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Combs stated that her theme for the 2023-2024 YLD Year: *Authentic Inclusion*. Her goals for the year include:

- i. Education of YLD programs and activities to more young lawyers across Kentucky
- ii. Increase Membership with focus on inclusion and engagement
- i. Continuing the success of and inspiring new engagement with all YLD programs - Legal Food Frenzy, Health & Wellness efforts, all outreach efforts (Community, Law Student, Education, etc.), Barrister's Ball, sponsorship engagement
- ii. Have Fun!

Ms. Combs also provided the Board of Governors Meeting Report. Ms. Combs explained the Board of Governors' Committees, which include Child Protection, Audit, Communications/Publications, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the profession, Ethics, and Ethics Hotline. She also discussed that the Board of Governors was again planning to do virtual Town Halls in each district.

Ms. Combs also discussed CLE options being available on YLD website and the updates that would be made in conjunction with the KBA to add the YLD-sponsored CLE to the website in the coming weeks.

B. Chair-Elect Report (Don Combs)

Mr. Combs provided the Committee with an overview of the 2023-2024 budget. Mr. Combs also discussed the idea of creating a self-staining endowment for the YLD or an investment account. He asked for a motion to approve starting an investment fund. Ms. Combs asked for a floor amendment to the motion to read "pursuing the idea of starting an investment fund would be granted to the YLD Officers." Mr. Stewart seconded. The amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Combs also asked approval of the 2023-2024 budget. After discussion, Mr. Conway moved to accept the budget as proposed. Mr. Caudill seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Combs also provided an update of the Kentucky Bar Foundation Meetings for the 2022-2023 year. Mr. Combs discussed the projects the KBF supported as well as the annual luncheon. He also explained to the group that Mr. Bunnell, as Vice-Chair would serve on the KBF Board for the 2023-2024 Bar year.

Mr. Bunnell reminded the group to take advantage of the Young Lawyers' payment plan and encouraged members to become Life Fellows/Fellows to support the KBF's mission.

C. Vice Chair Report (Kyle Bunnell)

Mr. Bunnell distributed the April 18, 2023 Spring Meeting Minutes and asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes as read. A motion was made by Ms. Combs and seconded by Mrs. Stanley. The Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Mr. Bunnell distributed the June 22, 2023 Bar Convention Minutes and asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes as read. A motion was made by Mr. Combs and seconded by Mr. Bastien. The Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

D. Old Business

No old business.

E. New Business

No new business.

V. **Adjournment**

Before entertaining a motion to adjourn, Ms. Combs made the following announcements:

- A. Doodle Poll to determine date/time of YLD Monthly Zoom Calls forthcoming
- B. Next YLD Monthly Zoom Call – TBD
- B. Next YLD In-Person Meeting – October 7, 2023 in Lexington at 10 a.m. EST
- C. Reminder re: Board of Governors' Dinner tonight at 6:30 p.m.
  - Freight House (330 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street);
  - Shuttle will board at 6:15 p.m.; and
  - Attendees include Board of Governors, CLE Commission members, YLD Executive Committee members, and KBA Staff.

Ms. Combs called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Metzger made the motion to adjourn; Mr. Caudill seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Kyle R. Bunnell*

Kyle R. Bunnell, Vice-Chair