

The Young Professionals Council at Work: Identifying and Creating Opportunities for AHLA Young Professionals

Last year AHLA launched the Young Professionals Council (YPC or Council) to promote the interests of young members by identifying and creating opportunities to network and develop leadership skills and encouraging active participation in AHLA activities, events and volunteer efforts. Over the past several months, the 15 young professionals who comprise the YPC have been hard at work. Our Publications Work Group will give you just a flavor of what the Council has been up to. – *Alison Vratil Mikula, Chair*

The YPC has been:

- » Planning in-person networking events to take place in Boston at the 2011 Annual Meeting;
- » Launching the Young Professionals Discussion List as a forum for sharing insights, collaborating, and engaging in discussion;
- » Developing a “brown bag” webinar series designed to address issues of particular interest to young professionals;
- » Collaborating with Practice Group leaders to identify ways in which young professionals can get involved in Practice Group activities; and
- » Publicizing opportunities for young professionals to contribute to Practice Group and AHLA efforts.

The commitment of AHLA leadership and staff to engaging the Association’s young professional members and developing the “next generation” of leaders in healthcare law makes this an exciting time for us, as young professionals, to become more active participants in AHLA. The members of the YPC hope that all young professionals will use the YPC as a resource and look for ways to get involved in and contribute to the Association through Practice Groups efforts, publication opportunities, in-person events, public interest initiatives, or other areas of interest.

Our time and talents, as well as the diversity that we as a group bring to AHLA, are assets to the Association. Young professionals, we hope that you will share your time and talents and, in the process of doing so, deepen your knowledge of substantive healthcare law, expand your professional networks, develop your leadership skills, and have a good time!

Network

The YPC Networking Work Group seeks to support young professionals in the development of strategies for engaging

young professionals and providing opportunities for networking at three levels (i) attracting and engaging young professionals as law students; (ii) helping young professionals connect with their peers and more experienced practitioners, as they transition from students to practitioners; and (iii) providing a forum for young professionals to connect with and develop relationships with other young professionals, other AHLA members and AHLA leadership.

The YPC Networking Work Group is currently working on development of a “brown bag” webinar series designed to address issues of interest to young professionals. The first webinar, which we hope to hold in May, will kick-off the series with a panel of individuals in various stages of their career. The topic of the first webinar will be “When I first started practicing, I wish I had known...” a candid discussion regarding the trials and tribulations of developing a practice as a young professional. The Networking Work Group is soliciting ideas from young professionals on future webinar topics.

In addition, the YPC Networking Work Group is in the process of developing strategies to reach out to law students and is working to put together networking events for young professionals at the 2011 AHLA Annual Meeting in Boston. Young professionals who would like more information on the Networking Work Group’s activities, or have ideas for the Networking Work Group should contact Council member Andrea Impicicche at andrea@hallrender.com.

Publish

Getting published is one of the most effective ways to become involved with AHLA and gain visibility among peers. The Publications Work Group is exploring several ways to encourage young professionals to write and publish for AHLA. The YPC Publications Work Group helped to review and provide comments to a proposal for a New Author pilot program. The new program will provide assistance to young professionals and other AHLA members in identifying publishing opportunities and providing guidance on how to author a publication for AHLA. The pilot program is expected to last 6-9 months and involve 5-10 teams of “author guides” and “author apprentices.”

As part of an ongoing initiative to promote writing opportunities among young professionals, the YPC Publications Work Group is working to identify AHLA publication opportunities for young professionals and identify young profes-



sional volunteers. Individuals are encouraged to consider writing for the *AHLA Connections* magazine, Practice Group publications, and the AHLA Health Law Wiki.

For more information on the YPC Publications Work Group or publication opportunities please contact Council member Stephanie Fuller at sfuller@kslaw.com.

Get Involved

The YPC Involvement Work Group seeks to connect young professionals with opportunities to be more active in Practice Groups and other AHLA activities. The Council has found that there are many young professionals in AHLA who want to be more involved, but young professionals often do not know currently where to look for those opportunities. AHLA leaders do not have a resource for directly connecting with interested young professional members, and our group is working to facilitate those connections.

Young professionals who want to be more involved in AHLA should subscribe to the Young Professional Discussion List and watch for future communications about the different opportunities that exist for young professionals within AHLA. In the meantime, young professionals can feel free to contact any of the Vice Chairs of Membership for the Practice Groups or Council member Robert Hess at robert.hess@huschblackwell.com. There are a wealth of opportunities for young professionals to be involved in AHLA and the Council looks forward to publicizing those opportunities over the next year.

Give Back

The YPC Public Interest Work Group is dedicated to supporting AHLA's public interest programs. Those programs are designed to help the public to better understand healthcare issues and prepare for difficult situations, ultimately leading to better care and planning for both the healthcare consumer and the community in which he or she lives. This Work Group fosters young professional involvement in those efforts.

The Council will be sponsoring one of the items to be presented at the upcoming Public Interest Silent Auction in Boston during the 2011 Annual Meeting. This item will be a gift pack designed for young professionals and will include a registration and lodging at one of AHLA's in-person programs as well as several key publications. Proceeds generated from the Auction will support the public interest mission of AHLA. If you are interested in getting involved in the Public Interest

Work Group, please contact Council member Tizgel High at Tizgel_High@chs.net.

Stay Connected

The YPC utilizes different forms of social media, including the Young Professionals Discussion List, professional networking (LinkedIn), social networking (Facebook), blogging, Twitter, RSS, tagging, and podcasts. The YPC Social Media Workgroup specifically focuses on developing strategies to connect AHLA members of the past, present and future in a collaborative forum to facilitate communication, insights, and promotion of AHLA membership, involvement, networking, publications, and public interest initiatives.

The AHLA Young Professionals Discussion List provides a forum for attorneys new to the practice of health law to share insights, collaborate, and engage in discussion. Join the Discussion List today!

Recent discussion list topics include: use of social media in practice; conferences young professionals should attend; educational materials for new healthcare lawyers; new/hot fields of practice for healthcare lawyers; health reform implications; and website resources and blogs for breaking healthcare news.

If you would like to contact the Social Media Workgroup, please contact Council member Annie Hsu at ahsu@central-healthplan.com.

Next month: More information about networking events and opportunities for Young Professionals at the Annual Meeting and In-House Counsel Program in Boston.

Thanks to the members of the Young Professionals Council's Publications Work Group for this month's article: **Stephanie Fuller**, Chair, King & Spalding, Atlanta, GA; **Emily H. Lee**, Manatt Phelps Phillips LLP, New York, NY; **Annie Hsu**, Central Health Plan, Irvine, CA; **Stacey Lipitz Marder**, Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, Garden City, NY; **Keith J. Seo**, Riddell Williams PS, Seattle, WA; and **Daniel F. Shay**, Alice G. Gosfield & Associates PC, Philadelphia, PA.