

# YLS President's Message

By John F. Edgar

A year ago, when I was elected President-Elect, it seemed an eternity until I would step into the position of President of the KCMBA Young Lawyers Section. However, my tenure as President-Elect came to a screeching halt last week while I was in Los Angeles. Cary Powers, who truly makes the YLS tick, gave me a call on my cell phone reminding me that my first President's Message was due the next day. Needless to say, my response was "Excuse me? What did you just say?" As you can see, I got the job done.

Now that my position is in full swing, as with most of my predecessors, I would like to thank last year's YLS Board for a job well done. It seemed as though every event sponsored by the YLS proceeded without a hitch. It was the Board's hard work and determination that allowed such success. Indeed, the YLS sponsored more events and had more turn-out at events than ever. This success was also due to the tremendous efforts of the outgoing President, Trish Sexton. As I said at the YLS Board meeting in December, Trish worked tirelessly over this last year. She raised the bar as to what is expected of future YLS Presidents. Thanks Trish for your hard work and for making my job just a little more difficult. Finally, I need to thank Cary Powers for the success of the YLS past, present and future.

This coming year should be an exciting year for the YLS. The Board and I hope to implement new projects and ideas, while continuing the past successes. One possible new project is quite intriguing, which is an intra-bar kickball tournament. Fellow Board member Nate Orr ingeniously thought of this idea where various firms can enter teams to compete for the prestigious "KCMBA Kickball Championship." Of course, as with most of the YLS projects, if this project goes forward, the proceeds would go to one of the YLS' designated charitable organizations.

As President, I also look forward to serving

on the KCMBA Board, as well as working with the Board members to further the objectives and goals of the KCMBA. In addition, I want to encourage the members of the senior bar to take part in many of the YLS activities throughout the year. As you may or may not know, the YLS has numerous events which include volunteer projects, Law Week (Ask-A-Lawyer and speaking engagements, for example), charitable events and social events. By all means, members of the senior bar are encouraged to attend these great events. They are rewarding, fun, and a great way for the young attorneys to get to know the senior bar on a more personal level. Indeed, this interaction is important for those members of the YLS. We look up to the senior bar in many ways. And, as young attorneys, we rarely get to interact with the senior bar outside of the work environment. Knowing a person on a social level adds tremendously to our practice. For example, when I file a new case, and the answer is served (or motion to dismiss), it is a pleasure to see when the opposing counsel is an attorney you know outside of the adversarial environment. When that relationship is already established, the case moves much more smoothly and efficiently for all parties.

Senior bar involvement also encourages other young attorneys to become involved in the KCMBA. Finally, as you can tell, one of my goals this coming year is to illicit more involvement in the YLS. While that goal has always been one to which the YLS has strived, there are other avenues in which this can be achieved. For example, at the KCMBA holiday reception on December 9, I met several young attorneys for the first time. Each of these attorneys was not aware of the many YLS activities throughout the year. Why? That is the question I hope to address in more detail in the coming year. I hope those of you who have suggestions will contact me directly and offer your opinions.

Again, the YLS is looking forward to another busy but fun year. Please keep up to date with the KC Counselor, Sidebar E-newsletter and the KCMBA Web site at [www.kcmba.org](http://www.kcmba.org). Finally,



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I would encourage all those members of the Young Lawyers Section to contact me, or any other member of the YLS Board, if you are interested in becoming more involved. There are so many ways to do so.

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