

9 Seek 7 Seats on YLD Executive Committee

Robert (“Bert”) H. Bender Jr.

Professional Background: associate, Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP; Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Activities: Military Affairs Committee liaison, Young Lawyers Division; mentor, Philadelphia Veterans Court; pro bono attorney, Philadelphia VIP; Brehon Law Society; Young Friends of the Youth Sentencing and Re-Entry Project.

Candidate’s Statement: I believe as lawyers we have a responsibility not just to work within our profession but also to be proactive members of the greater community, and the Philadelphia Bar Association is the natural arm of that community involvement. Through my work with various veterans groups, I have witnessed issues affecting the veterans community that also affect our greater community, such as treatment for addiction and a lack of access to basic legal services. As a member of the Executive Committee, I will focus on finding ways to allow us as attorneys to utilize our unique skills and collaborate within the Greater Philadelphia community, especially the growing millennial population. When I moved back to Philadelphia for law school, I returned home to a city in the midst of a renaissance, teeming with opportunity but also filled with untapped potential and still struggling to overcome systemic and longstanding problems. I am excited for the opportunity to continue to work with the Young Lawyers Division, the Bar Association, and the community as a whole to build on this momentum.

Eli H. Klein

Professional Background: law clerk to the Hon. R. Barclay Surrick, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Activities: Federal Courts Committee liaison, Young Lawyers Division; board member, Graduate! Philadelphia; board member, Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; board member, Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project; Justice Rising Advocate and Young Friends board member, Community Legal Services; board member, Young



Bender



Klein



Kordestani



Ladov



McDonough



Poore



Steckclair



Webb



Witsch

Friends of Philly Fights Cancer; board member, Young Friends of Rittenhouse Row; outreach chair, board member, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Candidate’s Statement: As a native of the Philadelphia area, I am dedicated to this city, professionally, philanthropically and personally. I am actively engaged in the Philadelphia legal community, and remain committed to charitable endeavors to seek to continually improve the most energized city in the country. During my time in private practice I represented a variety of pro bono clients: I handled cases from the Prisoner’s Civil Rights Panel and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, and assisted some of Philadelphia’s most at-need clients in conjunction with Philadelphia VIP. In joining the Executive Committee, I hope to build on my current role as the Federal Courts Committee liaison to the Young Lawyers Division and continue the YLD’s current momentum to maximize our exposure, service, and networking offerings to young lawyers across the city.

Negar M. Kordestani

Professional Background: associate, Blank Rome LLP; Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law.

Activities: Class of 2014 Advisor to the NovUS Chapter of the Villanova Law Alumni Association; Member, Columbia University Alumni Club of Philadelphia; YLD Member, Philadelphia Bar Association.

Candidate’s Statement: I hope to expand my engagement in the Philadelphia legal community as a member of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee. My civil practice includes

matters related to business disputes, and I also have experience representing companies in litigation arising from the enforcement and defense of restrictive covenant agreements. In addition, I have represented pro bono clients in a variety of matters including a parole revocation matter and a breach of contract case. If elected, I will actively engage and participate in the numerous YLD committees that develop programs that help children, the elderly, and the disadvantaged in the Philadelphia community.

Hillary N. Ladov

Professional Background: associate, Wade Clark Mulcahy; Rutgers University School of Law.

Activities: Brandeis Law Society liaison to Young Lawyers Division; managing attorney, Rutgers 501(c)(3) Pro Bono Project; pro bono attorney, Philadelphia VIP; vice president, Rutgers School of Law Recent Graduate Council; board member, Friends of Farmworkers (formerly Board Observer for Friends of Farmworkers); secretary, Hillel of Greater Philadelphia.

Candidate’s Statement: With great privilege comes great responsibility, which is why it is my responsibility to serve the community and create equal opportunities for all to succeed. Throughout my academic and professional careers, I have always served the public interest and engaged in meaningful community building. As the Brandeis Law Society liaison to the Young Lawyers Division, I have experienced first-hand the YLD’s commitment to service. I aspire to be a member of the YLD Executive Committee so that I may continue to champion the programming and services that provide

those essential opportunities for all to succeed.

Catelyn McDonough

Professional Background: associate, Anapol Weiss; Widener University Delaware Law School.

Activities: Community Service Committee, Brehon Law Society; Fundraising Committee, Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association; New Lawyer’s Division, Pennsylvania Association of Justice; member, American Association of Justice.

Candidate’s Statement: I have always been one to stay actively involved in my social and professional communities. I originally joined the Young Lawyers Division when I was a law student and quickly learned all of the great benefits this organization brings to young members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Soon after joining, I became my law school’s liaison. I knew I always wanted to have an active leadership role within the YLD because it does so much more than provide networking opportunities for young attorneys – it provides a voice for the future of our Association. I am campaigning for an opportunity to be a part of that voice.

Jason W. Poore

Professional Background: associate, White and Williams LLP; Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Activities: committee chair, Youth Court Ad Hoc Committee; Medical-Legal Committee liaison, Young Lawyers Division; board member, The Spruce Foundation; committee member, Committee to Organize Lawyer in the Classroom program; court-certified arbitrator, Philadelphia Court of Com-

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mon Pleas.

Candidate's Statement: I believe dedication to improving one's community is an inherent part of the practice of law. Since law school I have consistently pursued my passions for justice and the Philadelphia community in various ways, including organizing get-out-the-vote campaigns and representing Philadelphia VIP clients. This past year, I started an Ad Hoc Youth Court Committee as part of my participation on the YLD Executive Committee. Youth Court is a student-run disciplinary system for student offenders who incur minor school infractions. The goals of Youth Court include fostering a positive view of the justice system, changing the paradigm from punishment to restorative justice and teaching students about the legal system. This is an exciting program that benefits the students and Philadelphia community-at-large. I hope to earn an elected position on the YLD Executive Committee to continue my work with the Youth Courts and the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Stephanie Steckclair

Professional Background: associate, Berner Klaw & Watson LLP; Widener University Delaware Law School.

Activities: Board Observer for Philadelphia VIP; Family Law Section Liaison, Young Lawyers Division; volunteer attorney, Philadelphia VIP; volunteer attorney, Support Center for Child Advocates; alumni advisor, Public Interest Law Alliance, Widener University Delaware Law School.

Candidate's Statement: An attorney's achievements do not rest in their billable hours alone. Being an active and engaged participant in our legal community is tantamount to personal success. My commitment to the Phila-

delphia legal community and citizens is demonstrated by my work with Philadelphia VIP, Support Center for Child Advocates and active involvement with the planning and organization of events for the Young Lawyers Division as the Family Law Section Liaison. My prior experience in domestic violence and public interest organizations inspires me to advocate for those without a voice. I look forward to bringing my perspective to the YLD Executive Committee.

Andre J. Webb

Professional Background: staff counsel, Styliades Mezzanotte & Hasson; Widener University Delaware Law School.

Activities: Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel liaison, Young Lawyers Division; executive committee, Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel; Zone One chair, Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division; Rodney Inn of Court.

Candidate's Statement: As the landscape of our legal community continues to evolve, the development of young attorneys is more paramount than ever. For the past year, I have served on the YLD Executive Committee as a liaison to the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel. I have enjoyed assisting with mock trial competitions, law week activities and numerous charitable events. I was fortunate to spearhead the planning of our 2016 Annual Diversity Reception, which was a huge success. With your vote, I will continue my involvement on the Executive Committee by cultivating an atmosphere of collaboration through partnership and outreach.

Michael C. Witsch

Professional Background: associate, Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads LLP; Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law

Candidates For YLD Executive Committee

THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION'S YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION ANNUAL Election of Executive Committee members will be conducted via online ballot for the first time. This year, nine candidates are seeking election to seven seats available on the YLD Executive Committee. Committee members serve three-year terms.

According to Article IV, Section 406, Paragraph B, "The election shall be conducted electronically over the Internet pursuant to procedures established by the Board to preserve the confidentiality of the Member's vote and the integrity of the voting process. The position of the nominee on the ballot shall be determined by lot. The drawing of lots shall be conducted by the Judge of Elections not less than 25 days before the commencement of voting in the presence of the nominees and/or their representatives. The form of the ballot shall be prescribed by the Board."

Members will receive their ballots in an email on Monday, Nov. 21 with instructions. Online voting will end on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. Only members in good standing of the Association's Young Lawyers Division may cast votes in this election. Attorneys are members of the Division if (1) they have not yet reached or reached the age of 37, or (2) they have not yet reached or reached the third anniversary of their first admission to the bar of any state.

Candidates for Office (elect seven)

Robert H. Bender Jr.
Eli H. Klein
Negar M. Kordestani
Hillary N. Ladov
Catelyn McDonough

Jason W. Poore
Stephanie Steckclair
Andre J. Webb
Michael C. Witsch

Activities: Appellate Courts Committee liaison, Young Lawyers Division; co-president, Holy Cross Club of Greater Philadelphia; alumni admissions representative and Class Reunion Committee member, College of the Holy Cross; volunteer attorney, Philadelphia VIP; volunteer attorney, Homeless Advocacy Project; member, Brehon Law Society; member, Bachelors Barge Club.

Candidate's Statement: I am running for the Executive Committee to further the Young Lawyers Division's efforts in serving the public and providing a collective voice to the members of our profession. It has been a tremendous privilege to work with the YLD this year to accomplish many of its core goals,

such as introducing students to the law during Law Week's "trial" of Gold E. Locks and raising money for worthy groups such as the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. I look forward to achieving our many remaining goals for this year, including having moderated a panel on interviewing skills for young lawyers at the YLD's October Boot Camp program, helping Philadelphians clean their slates through the YLD's historic expungement clinic, and spearheading our annual holiday toy drive. I have enjoyed all that we have done this year to achieve these goals and hope to take on a leadership position to further them next year.

Member Benefit: Zipcar

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS CAN NOW receive discounted rates on Zipcar membership. This new benefit allows members to get reduced rates on their new or existing Zipcar memberships. With hybrids, sedans, minivans, cargo vans and pickups available by the hour or the day, Zipcar is a great solution to all your driving needs.

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For more information, visit the Member Benefits page at PhiladelphiaBar.org.