



GET CONNECTED WITH THE YOUNG LAWYERS CONFERENCE

THE VOICE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU CANADIEN

A common interest group of the CBA, the **Young Lawyers Conference (YLC)** looks after the needs of lawyers under 40 years old or with less than 10 years at the Bar. It also welcomes law students.

The CBA promotes the interests of young lawyers through a number of activities. In 2002, the CBA passed a resolution on tuition fees that called on governments to restore funding levels and to increase student loan funding; called on law faculties to adopt tuition policies that ensure access; asked law societies to take action against high fees; and urged members of the profession to contribute to law schools to alleviate financial need.

The CBA belongs to NPACT – the **National Professional Associations Coalition on Tuition** – which brings the clout of eight professional associations to the fight against increased tuition fees.

The **YLC** has published a number of books. *The Future of the Legal Profession*, published in August 2000, provides insight into the changes the legal profession is undergoing as a result of our aging population, as well as our society's evolving knowledge of computer technology. It also looks at changes in the profession such as alternative billing arrangements.

Other **YLC** titles include: *Articling: How to Begin Your Search*; *So You've Been Invited to Become a Partner: A CBA Guide to Legal Partnership in Canada*, and *Flying Solo*. **YLC** publishes a newsletter, *The Young Lawyer*, containing items of national interest to its members.

The **YLC** maintains a high profile at the CBA's Canadian Legal Conference through its luncheon and its popular **Winning Advocacy Skills Program**, sponsored by the Foundation for Legal Research. This highly successful program focuses on skills improvement through demonstrations by experienced counsel, followed by critiques by judges.

The **YLC** sponsors an annual prize - the **YLC Pro Bono Service Award**. Presented at the **Young Lawyers Luncheon** at the CBA Canadian Legal Conference, the award recognizes a deserving young lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the community and the

profession through his or her pro bono work. The award is made possible thanks to the generous funding of Canadian Bar Financial Inc.

At the national level, the **YLC** Executive is composed of five young lawyers from diverse backgrounds and regions of the country. Once a year, the national **YLC** Executive meets with the **YLC** chairs from the Branches. This meeting offers a forum to share ideas, discuss common concerns and to network with colleagues from across the country.

Young lawyers who would like to become active members of the CBA should join a Young Lawyers Section in their Branch. These groups are always looking for new members to attend programs and help organize local events, including receptions with senior lawyers and judges, fund-raising for local charities, and discussions and speakers on issues of interest to young lawyers.

Goals of the YLC:

- The advancement of the professional education and welfare of young lawyers across Canada.
- The promotion of fellowship among all members of the Bar.
- The advancement of the standards of the legal profession and the administration of justice.
- The promotion and maintenance of membership of young lawyers in the Association.