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Help End Distracted Driving

**By Matthew A. Passen
YLS Chair**

We see it every day on our roadways: drivers staring at their phones—texting, emailing, programming their GPS—or engaging in some other form of distracted driving. According to the National Safety Council and Department of Transportation, distracted driving accounts for approximately 1.1 million motor vehicle crashes each year, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths and 400,000 injuries. If anything, these numbers are low, because unlike crashes caused by intoxicated drivers, there is no “blood test” for distracted driving.

This year, the CBA Young Lawyers Section is working to address this epidemic. The goal of our “End Distracted Driving” program is simple: to make our community safer by changing the way people drive. Although drivers in all age groups are guilty of driving while distracted, our program focuses specifically on young people.

The Program

After Philadelphia attorney Joel Feldman’s 21-year-old daughter, Casey, was killed by a distracted driver, he began speaking about distracted driving. With the help

of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, he created an evidence-based distracted driving presentation that integrates health communication, behavioral science, and teen-targeted persuasion principles. The presentation—which our attorney-volunteers will give to high school students across Chicagoland—has been scientifically proven to change distracted driving attitudes and behaviors. The program is completely free to the schools.

Mr. Feldman’s niece, Tess Feldman, practices immigration law in Chicago and is an active YLS member. She expressed her pride in this program: “Seeing the YLS embrace this cause with such force has been fantastic. I’m proud of the work my uncle is doing to end distracted driving and proud to be a member of a bar association doing this great work in our community.”

Early Praise for the Program

A few weeks ago, Mr. Feldman, Katie Liss and I visited my alma mater, New Trier High School, to give three presentations to driver’s education classes. The students were engaged, and the presentations received high praise from teachers and administrators. That afternoon, Joel and I filmed a “Justice and Law Weekly” TV program on WYCC with CBA president, Patricia Brown Holmes, which aired in November. YLS member Octavio Duran was also recently interviewed about the program by Univision, the Spanish TV news station. Finally, Illinois Senate President, John Cullerton, attended our kick-off reception and expressed his strong support of this new initiative.

We Need Your Help

Whether you are a young lawyer or a seasoned practitioner, we need your help to make this important program a success. There are two main ways to help.

First, volunteer to give a presentation at a high school. The presentation is intended to last one hour, so the amount of volunteer time is limited. We provide you with the necessary materials, including the presentation, wristbands to give to students, and a

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Understanding Financial Statements

Tuesday, December 15, 2:00–4:30 pm

MCLE Credit: 2.5 IL MCLE Credits

Location: Chicago Bar Association, 321 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604

Presented by: Continuing Legal Education

An entity's financial statements convey a great deal of significant information regarding its financial position and the results of its operations. The ability to understand financial statements is a critical skill for corporate, family, trial and other lawyers. It also is essential for lawyers reviewing financial statements to be able to "read between the lines." This session focuses on understanding financial statements, intermediate level financial analysis and essential concepts underlying the presentation of financial information and determining their veracity. At the end of the program, lawyers will be able to ask better questions regarding financial statements produced to them and/or know when the level of complexity is such that they need to hire an accountant to assist in reviewing those financial statements.

The program provides special emphasis on "financial shenanigans," ways in which Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") are manipulated and practical suggestions on how to find misstatements in financial statements of both public companies and medium sized, family owned businesses. The program is ideal for corporate attorneys, trial lawyers, bankruptcy counsel, family law practitioners and general counsel.

Speakers: Lee A. Gould, CPA/ABV, JD, CFE, CFF; and Michael D. Pakter, CA, CPA, CFE, CIRA, CDBV, CFF, Managing Members, Gould & Pakter Associates, Managing Members, Gould & Pakter Associates, LLC

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the committees for planning/suggesting committee agenda items, reviewing and recommending legislation, reviewing and recommending Rule Changes at the state and federal levels, suggesting and helping select speakers for meetings and CLE seminars, writing articles, etc. Members who have demonstrated leadership and planning skills are recommended each year to serve as future Chairs and/or Vice-Chairs of the committee.

The list of outstanding speakers at CBA Committee meetings during September and October is very impressive and much too long to list in this article. As an example of how successful some of our committees are, the Trust Law Committee chaired by Jared McCloud, McDermott Will & Emery, with Vice-Chair Mel M. Justak II, Reed Smith, had almost 100 in person and online attendees at their September and

October meetings. Any CBA member is welcome to attend any committee meeting regardless of whether they are registered on the committee's roster. For a complete list of upcoming committee meetings, speakers, MCLE credit and webcast availability simply check the Weekly E-Bulletin which is emailed every Thursday to all members.

One of our past presidents was fond of saying "When lawyers get together good things happen." Participating in one or more committees will advance the highest and best interests of the legal profession and will help supercharge your legal career and leadership skills.

For more information or to join a CBA committee, visit www.chicagobar.org/committees. It's simple and will provide a multitude of personal and professional benefits that will last throughout your career. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Need assistance with Chapter 7 Bankruptcy filings. Must be familiar with Best Case Bankruptcy Software. Very flexible hours at your discretion including evenings or Saturdays. Suburban Woodridge Law Office Location. 630/971-3600.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

The rates for classified ads are \$2.50 per word for CBA members and \$3.50 per word for nonmembers. Checks made out to The Chicago Bar Association must accompany all ads.

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"Family Safe Driving Agreement" for the students to discuss later with their families. Simply review the presentation beforehand; each slide is filled with presenter notes to discuss with the students. No training is necessary; however, we filmed a training video available on the CBA website.

Second, help us connect with more high schools to host a presentation. Our goal is to deliver this presentation to as many schools and students as possible throughout Chicago and the neighboring suburbs. A personal introduction goes a long way. If you have connections with high school administrators, teachers or PTA organization, please help make an introduction.

To help us End Distracted Driving in Chicagoland, contact me or the YLS at 312/554-2031 or yls@chicagobar.org. ■

UPDATE YOUR MEMBER

PROFILE

If you recently moved to a new firm, got a new email address or added a new practice area, please take a moment to update your member profile at www.chicagobar.org. And while you're at it, add yourself to the CBA's online member directory, a great new way to connect with fellow members, market your law practice, find law school classmates and more.