

LAWYER

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The Value of Persistence in a Legal Career

Young lawyers can find in the YLD, a place to practice persistence, to learn and to grow.

One of my favorite quotes is by President Calvin Coolidge who famously said that “nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.” In my early legal career, I often remembered Coolidge’s words as I experienced several challenges and tribulations with establishing my place in the practice of law. For instance, in my first evidentiary hearing I missed a crucial piece of evidence, resulting in an unfavorable ruling. In fact, my first year as an attorney was more or less characterized by constant trial and error. However, what I thought at the time was a series of setbacks and failures, actually were periods of growth and development that I now find invaluable, as they taught me lessons that I will always remember in the practice of law.



Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 8

As with the beginning of any new career, young lawyers often come face to face with new experiences that test our abilities and knowledge of the law. In those times, young lawyers could benefit from remembering the value of persistence and of learning to press on through adversity.

The importance of persistence is also prevalent before we even become attorneys. This past February, a new wave of future lawyers gathered to take the bar exam in Tampa. For those bar-takers reading this article and who received news of not passing the exam, know that a single setback does not define your future legal career, and that a number of very successful attorneys did not pass the bar exam on their first attempt.

The YLD provides valuable opportunities to young lawyers and law students for practicing persistence, through the development of legal education, a supportive network, and valuable perspectives. This past January, the YLD hosted a networking happy hour, which boasted a huge turnout of lawyers thanks to the planning efforts of our Social Events Committee. On February 6, the

YLD hosted its first quarterly luncheon of 2024, and partnered with the HCBA's Mediation and Arbitration Section to put on an informative panel on effective mediation practices. The event, planned by our Professionalism and Ethics Committee, addressed best practices and methods for young lawyers to use in their first mediations, as well as tips and advice for handling subsequent mediations. This April, the YLD will host a luncheon and roundtable discussion in furtherance of recognizing imposter syndrome in the practice of law, and overcoming it. Lastly, the YLD offers leadership opportunities in our various committees and a chance for young lawyers to stay involved in the legal community.

Young lawyers can find in the YLD, a place to practice persistence, to learn and to grow. As echoed by President Coolidge, the measure of a young lawyer's success rarely comes solely through talent, genius, or education alone. Only through constant practice can we finetune and perfect our legal careers. The YLD is here to help in that task. I would encourage all of Hillsborough County's young lawyers to become involved in the YLD, and together we will "Press On!" ■

YLD Hosts Gasparilla-Themed Happy Hour

The Young Lawyers Division hosted a fun happy hour with a Gasparilla theme on January 25 at the Pour House at Grand Central. Attendees enjoyed the casual networking and opportunity to get out of the office.

Thank you to our happy hour sponsor, Milestone Reporting.

