

New year (whew!), new board members, new staff and...more volunteers?

By Mike Jones
MCBA President

Happy New Year, everyone! I'm sure you will join with me in wishing that 2002 is a better year than 2001.

In 2001 we all were faced with unprecedented challenges to our economy, national security and peace of mind. In these difficult times, it is more important than ever to support, protect and preserve our system of justice.

The Maricopa County Bar Association is pleased to welcome four new members to our board of directors:

► **Leslie Davis**, a sole practitioner, will wear multiple hats this year as she not only joins the board but also continues to chair the Family Law Section for the third year.

► **Jay Zweig** of Gallagher & Kennedy



is new to the board but has volunteered at the MCBA for many years. Jay was a founding member of the Litigation Section and last year's chair of that section.

► **George Chen** of Bryan Cave joins us this year with new ideas and an excellent track record in civic service. He has been a leader in the Asian American Bar Association and donated many pro bono hours to Community Legal Services and the Florence Immigration Project, to name just a few.

► We also are pleased to have my Superior Court colleague, **Judge Louis Araneta**, join the board. He has been a member of the bench since 1989 and brings a wealth of experience in all areas of the law. We hope to continue our civic and educational programs with the bench and bar, and learn from his insights.

Finally, we are pleased to have **Terri Zimmerman** returning. Terri is the only incumbent who was re-elected, and she has been an active member of the board for two terms. She also has been an active member of the *Maricopa Lawyer* editorial board for more than a decade. No doubt you've seen her photographs, which appear regularly in this publication. Terri is back by popular demand.

We are having a ball...the Barristers Ball, that is! On Feb. 9 we host our *ninth* Barristers Ball and Silent Auction at the Camelback Inn Resort. This year's beneficiary is The Center for Habilitation, which works to help empower Arizonans with disabilities. The ball is a wonderful and fun black tie dinner and dance (with a live band) that you don't want to miss. The theme this year is Mardi Gras. The auction always includes artwork, golf packages, spa visits and weekend getaways at prices that are a bargain. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table. The Young Lawyers Division is working hard to find sponsors and auction donations. If you would like more information about the ball, becoming a sponsor or donating items, please contact Shane Clays, MCBA YLD director, at 602-257-4200, ext. 111. Come on out and have a ball and help raise funds for a good cause at the same time.

The MCBA is pleased to welcome several new members to the bench. On Jan. 30, the Maricopa County Superior Court will swear in as its newest hearing officers: **Bernard Owens, Wesley Peterson, David Arrow** and **Steven Holding**.

Cynthia Peterson joins the MCBA staff as our new program coordinator in the CLE Department. Cynthia is a native Phoenician who returns to the valley after living and working in Austin, Texas. She is off to a great start and will be bringing



Araneta



Chen



Davis



Zweig

some exciting CLE programs your way this year.

The MCBA continues to rely on volunteers, like you and me. If you've ever had an interest in becoming more active in your

MCBA, this is the time to volunteer for one of our standing committees:

► The **Volunteer Lawyers Project Board** is an advisory committee to the Volunteer Lawyers Project (a joint venture of the MCBA and Community Legal Services);

► The **Membership Committee** not only brainstorms ideas for attracting new members but also recommends and develops new benefits for our members;

► The **Bench-Bar Committee** works to continue good bench-bar relations and communications;

► The **Maricopa Lawyer editorial board** supports this publication and is always interested in new writing talent and ideas;

► The **CLE Committee** creates and develops ideas for CLE programs;

► The **Lawyer Referral Service Committee** monitors and supports the MCBA's Lawyer Referral Service; and

► The **Website Committee** develops creative ideas for your MCBA website, www.maricopabar.org.

The MCBA exists to help its members. If we can help you, or if you simply have ideas to share, please call us at 602-257-4200 or me directly at 602-506-2030. I appreciate your input and suggestions. □

A few hours can make a difference

By Susan Wissink
MCBA / YLD President

As I embark on my new position as president of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, I welcome your thoughts on what we want to accomplish this year. I look forward to working with you and hope that many of you will become involved with the YLD.

When I graduated from law school and joined a law firm, I felt like I didn't have any free time to spare on bar activities. A friend asked me to volunteer at Law Week during my first year of practice. The few hours I donated turned into more as I grew to enjoy supporting the community through YLD activities. It turned out that balancing my career with my volunteer work not only helped me grow as a person, but also helped my professional career as well.

In the past few months, the work of volunteer lawyers throughout our country has served thousands of people victimized by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Through a committee I chair for the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association, I have coordinated disaster legal services on behalf of the ABA's YLD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the terrorist victims. Within days of Sept. 11, more than 1,500 attorneys wanted to donate their time to help. To date, the ABA's YLD has helped more than 1,000 relatives of victims with legal issues ranging from negotiating with landlords over extensions of time to pay



rent to helping obtain death certificates for missing loved ones.

Hopefully, we'll never see another terrorist act or tragedy, let alone one of such overwhelming scale and impact. If any good comes out of such a horrible day, I hope that it is the renewed commitment of attorneys to help others in need.

The MCBA's YLD offers you the opportunity, right here at home, to make a difference in your community. We have several committees, including Law Week, which is a weeklong "give back to the community" event. Volunteer to work at pro bono clinics, or you can offer to grade essays for students. Head up a committee, or just give a couple of hours. The YLD also sponsors a domestic-violence drive each year that allows women and children who have escaped from abusive partners the opportunity to obtain personal items and clothing. We're always looking for volunteers to help collect items and work at the drive itself.

This year, we're starting a new project called "Tolerance Through Education." The ABA's YLD, in conjunction with educators, has put together a curriculum to take to third-grade classrooms and teach children about the importance of tolerating others' differences. We will need numerous volunteers to give two to three hours of their time to work with students, in addition to preparation time.

If any of these projects interest you, please contact Shane Clays at the MCBA, 602-257-4200. We hope you will get involved in our organization and make a difference in someone else's life.

► *Susan Wissink is an associate at Fennemore Craig and practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, securities and general corporate law.* □

MARICOPA LAWYER

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Errors will be corrected in a subsequent issue.

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