

YLS Selects Award Recipients

By Justin Leonard, YLS President.

I am pleased to announce the 2010 recipients of the YLS Award of Merit and the YLS Rookie of the Year Award. The awards will be presented at the MBA Awards Dinner on May 11. All of this year's winners stand out as incredible volunteers who have dedicated tremendous time and energy to the YLS and its mission, which is to provide leadership opportunities and professional development for young lawyers and to involve them in pro bono and public service.

Award of Merit recipients



Collin McKean

Collin serves as co-chair of the YLS Futures Committee, as well as participating in the ONLD Futures Workgroup and volunteering his time for MBA events such as the 9th Grade Matters Program and the Lewis & Clark Career Center's programs for recent grads. Besides a history of accomplishments with the YLS, Collin has also been active with the ONLD and served as an informal liaison between the organizations. Most recently, Collin has been instrumental and tireless in improving the technical features and capabilities of the YLS, including enhancements to the Futures Committee's website, the addition of Web 2.0 commenting features to Futures articles and incorporation of services provided by LinkedIn and Facebook. Collin has a background in family law and litigation and recently formed McKean Law Office.

Slone Pearson

Slone is a member of the YLS Service to the Public Committee. She is being honored for the development of three new programs that support Central City Concern (CCC): arranging volunteers for a Mock Interview Program to help teach critical



interviewing skills; providing access to legal information services for veterans at CCC's "Veteran's Stand Down & Job Fair" event; and planning a social and fundraiser on May 5 to benefit CCC's Employment Access Center (EAC). The EAC assists local individuals on the path to self-sufficiency through employment and prepares them to live productive lives as skilled workers, ready to fill the needs of local businesses. In addition to her inspired efforts to create these new CCC programs, Slone serves as co-chair of the Community Law Week subcommittee. An associate at Hagen O'Connell, Slone specializes in international trade regulation.



Josh Ross

Josh has served on YLS committees since 2006, first on the Service to the Public Committee and then as a founding member of the YLS Futures Committee. One nominator described him as a "workhorse" because he has done so much to benefit the YLS over the years. Most recently, Josh was instrumental in forming an alliance with the City of Portland to coordinate the "9th Grade Matters" Youth Corps program. The 9th Grade Matters event took place in July 2009, and provided at-risk youth with an

opportunity to tour a law firm and the Multnomah County Courthouse, and participate in group discussions with Judge Adrienne Nelson, attorneys and law office staff. The goal was to broaden the horizons of the ninth graders and show them career options that they may not have previously considered, including legal secretary, IT staff, paralegal or attorney. When not working on YLS projects, Josh is a senior litigation associate at Stoll Berne.

Rookie of the Year Award recipient



Jennifer Woodhouse

Jennifer, a staff attorney at Legal Aid Services of Oregon, joined the YLS Pro Bono Committee in late summer 2009, at the beginning of the committee year, and has done an incredible amount of volunteer work in the last nine months. Jennifer serves as the co-chair of the *Pro Bono Opportunities Handbook* subcommittee, and she was also instrumental in arranging the committee's wine-tasting fundraiser. Besides recruiting a number of new volunteers for pro bono projects, Jennifer also serves as the Committee's liaison to the Legal Aid Services of Oregon Pro Bono Committee. Jennifer is described as being "hard-working, innovative, and a self-starter" and she is not intimidated by complex projects or tight deadlines. When she learned of her award, Jennifer admitted, "I feel a little guilty accepting an award for doing something that's so much fun" – a sentiment that helps explain why YLS members continue to do so much good work. Besides making a difference in the community and developing relationships with other lawyers, service on YLS committees is a lot of fun.