



YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

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STATE BAR OF GEORGIA®

2027
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY

What is the Leadership Academy?

Founded in 2006, the Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia is a program for young lawyers who are interested in developing their leadership skills as well as learning more about their profession, their communities and their state.

The Leadership Academy counts more than 500 alumni. Those alumni members include solo practitioners, judicial law clerks, partners in large and small law firms, assistant district attorneys, public defenders, nonprofit lawyers, ADR specialists and in-house counsel for Fortune 500 companies. The benefits of having a friend and legal resource in practically every corner of the state and in any practice area cannot be overestimated.

Who Should Apply?

YLD members who have a history of involvement and leadership in their communities, offices and/or profession; who want to become more involved in the YLD and State Bar; and, who

want to network with state and national leaders and hear their perspectives on effective lawyering and leadership should apply.

What If I Have Applied Before?

If you meet the criteria in the Who Should Apply section, we encourage you to apply again. We have far more qualified candidates apply each year than we can accept for that year's

class so you should not be discouraged if you have previously applied and not been selected.

What Should I Know Before I Apply?

Participating in the Leadership Academy requires a commitment of time and resources from each participant; however, alumni tell us that their experience in the program and the rewards of their participation greatly outweigh any sacrifice they make to attend.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process and are chosen from every corner of the state and every imaginable practice area.

The YLD Leadership Academy Class of 2027 begins in January 2027 and meets once a month for six months. Participants who attend all six sessions will receive 9 CLE credit hours. Those without perfect attendance will only receive CLE credit for the sessions they attend. CLE credit will be turned in for participants before session six in June 2027. Participants must attend at least four of the six sessions to graduate and be considered alumni of the program.

Why Should My Employer Support My Participation?



Build Networks

Meet judges, clients, potential clients and fellow lawyers who can refer you business; know who to call when you need to find local counsel to better serve your clients. The networking and business-development opportunities are limitless.



Get Recognized

Alumni have gone on to be elected to the State Bar Board of Governors, recognized in the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise-10 to Watch," named as *Atlanta Magazine's* "Rising Stars" and *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under 40" and a variety of other accolades.



Quality Programming

The YLD Leadership Academy of the State Bar of Georgia is a nationally recognized program. The Leadership Academy was awarded first place in the nation in the Minority Project Category of the American Bar Association YLD Awards of Achievement Program.



Earn 9 CLE Credit Hours, and ...

For the 2027 program, participants will have the opportunity to earn 9 CLE credit hours, and **include possible admission opportunities to be sworn into state and federal courts, pending availability.**

What is the Cost of Tuition?

The tuition options for participation in the 2027 Leadership Academy are listed below. Tuition covers all CLE fees, program costs and hotel accommodations for overnight sessions (if selected), and most meals. Transportation to and from sessions is not provided. **Unused hotel nights cannot be transferred from one session to another or to other participants.**

Tuition Option*	Includes	Cost
Full Tuition with Double-Occupancy Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals and hotel accommodations for all multi-day sessions, sharing a room with another class member	\$1,100
Full Tuition with Single-Occupancy Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals and hotel accommodations for all multi-day sessions, in a private hotel room without a roommate	\$1,990
Full Tuition with No Hotel Stays	CLE fees, program administration costs, meals for those participants not planning to stay overnight for any of the multi-day sessions	\$770

***Tuition options cannot be changed after the first session.**

Please note that for sessions held in conjunction with other State Bar or YLD meetings, there *will* be additional costs not covered by your tuition if you elect to attend additional CLEs, meals, receptions, etc., offered through the larger Bar meetings, but which are not specifically included in the Leadership Academy programming. All Leadership Academy participants are encouraged to take advantage of attending these other Bar events to supplement the Leadership Academy programming.

Payment plans as well as full and partial scholarships are offered to participants on the basis of need. To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must also complete the **scholarship application**. Selection of applicants is independent of those who apply for a scholarship. Please note: scholarship recipients may only miss one session.

No refunds will be given after the deposit deadline of Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, has passed.

Application Process & Deadlines

All **applications**, including **scholarship applications**, must be completed by Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. **No extensions will be granted.**

Letter(s) of recommendation are **required**. They can be from individuals or organizations and do not need to be limited to members of the profession. Applicants may also submit additional information (not to exceed one page). Please email these items to yld@gabar.org by Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. **No extensions will be granted.**

Participants will be selected by the Leadership Academy Committee and will be notified of their selection by Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, via email. Once notified, participants must confirm their invitation by Oct. 9, 2026, or the invitation will be forfeited. A non-refundable deposit of half the selected tuition cost (less scholarship, if awarded) must be received no later than Monday, Nov. 2, 2026. The other half will be due by Friday, Feb. 19, 2027.

Applicants must be in good standing with the State Bar and meet the requirements to be a young lawyer as defined in the **bylaws**.

Schedule*

SESSION 1

Jan. 15-16, 2027 | Atlanta, Georgia

Becoming a Wholistic Leader

One hotel night included in Leadership Academy tuition.

SESSION 2

Feb. 8, 2027 | Atlanta, Georgia

Learning from Leaders in State Government and the Judiciary

SESSION 3

March 18-19, 2027 | Lawrenceville, Georgia

Bar Service and the YLD

One hotel night included in Leadership Academy tuition.

SESSION 4

April 16-18, 2027 | Macon, Georgia

From the Bench and Beyond

Two hotel nights included in Leadership Academy tuition.

SESSION 5

May 14-16, 2027 | Savannah, Georgia

Finding Balance: Wellness, Service and the Bar

Two hotel nights included in Leadership Academy tuition.

SESSION 6

June 10-13, 2027 | Kissimmee, Florida

Two hotel nights included in Leadership Academy tuition.

**Programming is subject to change.*



Members of the 2026
Leadership Academy Class
at Session 1 at the 2026
Midyear Meeting.