

2026-2027



Are you interested in getting involved in the bar association and learning how it works from the inside? Are you looking for opportunities to make professional contacts, develop referral sources, enhance involvement in your community, and position yourself to assume a leadership role within the bar? Are you a member of the ACBA who has been practicing law for less than ten years? If so, consider participating in the Young Lawyers Division Bar Leadership Initiative (BLI) program, where you will obtain an unrivaled professional experience!

BLI was developed out of an acknowledged need for additional leadership training for the young lawyers of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Its goal is to aid and encourage young lawyers in developing their professional and community leadership skills, and to position themselves to assume a leadership position within the Allegheny County Bar Association. The ACBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) has developed a program for qualified young lawyers who have an interest in participating in the ACBA, but who have had little or no involvement in our bar association thus far.

In order to graduate from the BLI Class (for which you receive free registration and hotel accommodations at the ACBA Bench-Bar Conference in June) you must fulfill certain requirements by April 30 of the program year in which you are a class member. In order to successfully complete the program, you must attend the meetings and programs described below, unless you are excused from participation by the BLI Chair. The program year runs from July 1 to May 31 of each year.

Mandatory

Each BLI class member must complete the following:

- Attend BLI orientation and at least 75 percent of BLI scheduled meetings
- Attend one YLD Council meeting
- Attend at least 75percent of the scheduled meetings of your assigned YLD committee
- Attend at least one meeting of any non-assigned YLD committee
- Attend the YLD Annual Meeting
- Participate in the Children's Gift Drive
- Attend the YLD Holiday Party
- Help to select and participate in the class project

Credits

Additionally, each BLI class member must earn at least twenty (20) credits by completing any combination of the following:

- Attend a Board of Governors Meeting (1 credit)*
- Attend an ACBF Board of Trustees Meeting (1 credit)*
- Attend a meeting of an ACBA committee, section, or division (1 credit)*
- Attend an ACBA sponsored meeting or event (including, but not limited to, ACBA committees, sections, divisions, or sports leagues) (1 credit)*
- Attend a YLD event (does not include the Happy Hour of the Month) (2 credits)
- Attend a YLD Happy Hour (1 credit)
- Attend a YLD Lunch and Learn program (2 credits)
- Conduct a law school presentation on behalf of the ACBA or YLD (2 credits)
- Author an article for Point of Law (5 credits)
- Chair/co-chair a YLD-Council approved event or program (5 credits)
- Create a post to your social media account(s), which must include tagging the YLD's social media account, about your attendance at a YLD event (1 credit)**

*Cumulative maximum of 5 credits for non-YLD events/meetings

**Cumulative maximum of 4 credits for social media posts

You are responsible for self-reporting to the Chair of the BLI your attendance and participation in the above activities. You will not earn credit for activities not reported.

Please direct any questions regarding the 2026-2027 BLI Class to Mary Ann Fiorilli at mfiorilli@acba.org

**ACBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
BAR LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Employer Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____ Work Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Year Admitted to Practice/Graduation Year: _____ Year Joined ACBA: _____

1. Are you willing and able to complete the entire BLI program? The Bar Leadership Initiative Program runs from July 1 through May 31 and requires you to attend ACBA & YLD meetings, serve on at least one YLD Committee and attend its meetings, and participate in educational, social, and public service programs throughout the year.

Yes: _____ No: _____

2. Have you applied for BLI in the past? Yes: _____ No: _____

3. Are you a current or past YLD Council member? Yes: _____ No: _____

4. Are you licensed to practice law in a state or jurisdiction other than Pennsylvania?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, list the state or jurisdiction and the year admitted to practice:

5. Providing the following information is optional. YLD membership and eligibility for the BLI Class is open to all qualified applicants regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, creed, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation,

and/or disability. Minority participation in BLI is strongly encouraged.

Do you identify as a minority?

(Optional) Yes: _____ No: _____ If yes, what? (Optional) _____

6. Please list and describe your past and current involvements with the ACBA and/or ACBA Young Lawyers Division, if any.

7. Attach a written statement describing why you would like to be a member of the ACBA YLD's Bar Leadership Initiative program. Your statement should be 500 words or less.
8. Attach your resume for review and list on a separate sheet any additional information that you would like the BLI Selection Committee to consider when reviewing your application, including but not limited to other organizational memberships and activities, community service, pro bono work, etc.
9. Obtain a personal reference using the form that is attached to this application. Enclose and send along with your completed application.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have completed this application for the ACBA Young Lawyers Division BLI program and that you agree to complete the full program, if chosen to be a member of BLI.

Signature of Applicant

Date

APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Please return this form, along with any attachments, on or before **May 22, 2026**, to the following:

ACBA YLD Bar Leadership Initiative Program

Attn: Mary Ann Fiorilli

400 Koppers Building

436 Seventh Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

E-Mail: mfiorilli@acba.org

Telephone: 412-402-6611

**ACBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
BAR LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROGRAM
PERSONAL REFERENCE AND RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend _____ (name of applicant) for participation in the ACBA Young Lawyers Division Bar Leadership Initiative program.

Name of Reference: _____

Employer Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____ Work Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. Under what circumstances do you come into contact with the applicant and how frequently?

3. What three words best describe the applicant? _____

4. How would you evaluate the applicant's leadership abilities?

5. Any additional comments:

Signature of Reference

Date

Submission Deadline is May 22, 2026