Dear Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee member:

Welcome to the 2012-2013 term of the NYSBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS). This will be an exciting year and as always we have plenty of social, educational and networking opportunities for you. You will want to be in Albany on October 18-19, 2012 for the YLS Fall Meeting. Lisa Schoenfeld, Esq., YLS Chair-Elect, is putting together a great program and it will be our second formal meeting of the term – given that we just recently held our first program of the term, the Supreme Court Admissions Program, in Washington, D.C., June 10-11, 2012. General William K. Suter, Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, was our keynote speaker at the Sunday dinner; and NYSBA President Seymour James, Esq. moved the admission of our admittees before the Court.

January 2013 brings in the New Year and also the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Annual Meeting. We will be in New York from January 23-25, 2013 for our half-day CLE and Section meeting on Wednesday, January 23, and hold our annual two-day Bridge-the-Gap program on Thursday and Friday, January 24-25, 2013.

We are planning to hold the Fourth Annual Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York, for five days in March 2013, so keep your eyes open for more exciting details about that program. The Trial Academy is the cure for the inexperienced attorney because it provides an opportunity to become familiar with the courtroom, its procedures and decorum, as well as trial practice and skills. The Academy teaches hands-on practice of matters at the heart of trying cases, including *voir dire*, opening statements, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments. Experienced practitioners and judges from across the State share their expertise as lecturers and critique faculty members. Mark your calendars!

The YLS will also be heading back to Washington D.C. in May or June 2013, for our United States Supreme Court Admissions Program.

This year, NYSBA President Seymour James, Esq., has numerous projects and initiatives that members can become involved with. We encourage all YLS members to be active in our Association, and to help further its goals and projects.

We are also pleased to announce that most of our Executive Committee positions have been filled. Some vacancies do exist, however, and if you know someone who may be interested in becoming more involved with YLS, please have them contact me or one of the other Officers to discuss the potential of their taking a position on the Executive Committee.

Our Section publications, *Electronically-In-Touch* and *Perspective*, are always in need of great articles. Please consider drafting a submission for either or both. We are also encouraging all District Representatives, Committee Chairs and Section Liaisons to submit at least one article during the course of the term, concerning a substantive legal issue, or a program or event.

One of my initiatives this term is to amend the Section's By-Laws so they are updated, and to resolve internal inconsistencies. The new By-Laws Committee is chaired by our Treasurer, Sarah Gold, Esq., and we have made great progress already. The amended By-Laws are already under consideration and subject to votes for implementation.

Finally, another of my initiatives is to increase our Section membership not only beyond 4,000 members, but hopefully closer to 5,000 members. Last year YLS crossed the 4,000 member threshold, but following the membership dues and "drop" period, we fell below 4,000 and are now just over 3,700. We need to emphasize to our colleagues who are not YLS members the

great benefits of being a member of our Section, so that we not only obtain new members but also retain them for years. I am asking each member of the Section to recruit just one new member this term. If accomplished, that alone would put us over 7,400 members!

Here is the link to your 2012-2013 Leadership Handbook: **www.nysba.org/ylsleadership.** This handbook should provide you with answers to many questions you might have regarding the Young Lawyers Section and the New York State Bar Association. Please take the time to review the contents. If you have any questions about the Handbook, or the Section, please feel free to contact me at mlf@jacobowitz.com, or feel free to contact our Staff Liaison, Tiffany Bardwell. Tiffany's contact information is noted below.

Thank you for being a member of our Section, and its Executive Committee. This should be a busy, fun and exciting year!

Sincerely,

Michael L. Fox, Esq.
Section Chair