

Baxter, Kathy

From: Vincent E. Doyle III <ved@connors-vilardo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Bucklin, Patricia; Baxter, Kathy; Seymour W. James, Jr.; Claire P. Gutekunst; David P. Miranda; David M. Schrauer
Subject: Fwd: Resolution for NYSBA Executive Committee
Attachments: 2012 Budget resolution.doc; ATT00001.htm

Executive Committee
Agenda Item #14

Begin forwarded message:

From: Richard Bader <richard.bader@gmail.com>
Date: October 24, 2011 7:58:13 AM EDT
To: "Vince Doyle, III (President, NYSBA)" <ved@connors-vilardo.com>, "Doyle, Vince" <VDOYLE@nysba.org>
Cc: Oliver Young <OYOUNG@courts.state.ny.us>
Subject: Resolution for NYSBA Executive Committee

Dear Vince,

Attached and below is a resolution adopted unanimously by the LYC Committee at our meeting last Thursday.

The Committee respectfully requests that its resolution be presented to the Executive Committee. It is also being submitted to the Finance Committee Chair for presentation to the Finance Committee for its consideration. Essentially, the resolution urges the NYSBA's full support of the LYC program's 2012 budget request; hopefully it speaks for itself. The entire committee is concerned that the LYC's 2012 budget request seems to be the sole program budget request not yet resolved, and staff at NYSBA has made several requests for justifications for the LYC's 2012 request and, most recently, for a "bare minimum needs" recommendation. I worked with our director on the budget over the summer. We submitted a "bare minimum needs" budget request; anything else would, I think, be an inappropriate and wasteful exercise in incrementalism.

I have copied Oliver Young, Esq., the LYC's Executive Committee Liaison, on this email.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you, if you wish. My cell number is 518-461-3982.

Best regards,

Rich Bader, Chair

Law, Youth and Citizenship Committee

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RESOLUTION OF THE NYSBA LYC COMMITTEE OCTOBER 20, 2011

WHEREAS, New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) President Vincent E. Doyle III "sounded the alarm" in a June 15, 2011, press release about the possible diminishment of civics education in New York, and the NYSBA publicly announced that "civics education is a top legislative priority for the New York State Bar Association".

WHEREAS, NYSBA President Vincent E. Doyle III cogently stated in that same press release: "A vibrant democracy needs engaged citizens who understand the rights and responsibilities of being an American."

WHEREAS, the NYSBA stated in the June 15, 2011, press release that "The State Bar Association is concerned about what appears to be a trend toward the weakening of New York's commitment to educating all students about civics."

WHEREAS, the NYSBA has undertaken a Fall Radio Campaign highlighting the importance of civic education and focused its premiere broadcast on "why citizens need to understand how their government works."

WHEREAS, the NYSBA declared in the headline of its lead story in the current issue of the *State Bar News*: "State bar calls civics education key to democracy. will continue its advocacy."

WHEREAS, the NYSBA established the Law, Youth and Citizenship (LYC) Program in 1974 to promote citizenship and law-related education in schools throughout New York

State, by assisting educators in creating opportunities for students to become effective citizens able to participate fully in our democratic society.

WHEREAS, the LYC program has, to date, successfully been able to carry out its mission by directly reaching over 5,000 students each year through *We The People*, *Project Citizen*, its statewide Mock Trial Competition and Mock Trial Summer Institute, as well as thousands more indirectly through its training of hundreds of teachers each year.

WHEREAS, the educational programs sponsored by the LYC program began the 2011-2012 academic year under the expectation that these valued civic education programs would be in force for the school year and trusting that the bar leadership would support these activities, many teachers and students have already begun these programs, and the LYC has made arrangements into 2012 to host and oversee these programs. WHEREAS, the NYSBA Law, Youth and Citizenship (LYC) program's 2012 budget request is a minimum bare needs request, and its Department request was nearly \$10,000 **less** than its LYC Department budget for 2011.

WHEREAS, the LYC program has already taken very substantial efforts to cut expenses, including eliminating the LYC Annual Meeting CLE for 2012, and cutting its administrative staff person to 50% (she is one of three staff, including the program director).

WHEREAS, the LYC program has lost \$221,000 in funding for 2011-12 for its *We The People*, *Project Citizen* and *Representative Democracy in America* programs, as a result of the cut of federal funding to the Center for Civic Education (CCE).

WHEREAS, other than the now eliminated CCE funding, the LYC program does not have the authority to approach or accept funding from agencies or organizations other than NYSBA and the New York State Bar Foundation.

WHEREAS, the New York State Bar Foundation has cut its funding to the LYC program from \$72,550 in 2006 to \$37,000 in 2011, a reduction of nearly 50%, and the Bar Foundation advised LYC that requests for funds to the Foundation are at an all time high.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS

RESOLVED, the LYC Committee urges the President of NYSBA, NYSBA's Executive Committee and NYSBA's Finance Committee to fully support the LYC program's 2012 budget request as a commitment to addressing the NYSBA's "concern about what appears to be a trend toward the weakening of New York's commitment to educating all students about civics."

Adopted unanimously by the Committee, October 20, 2012