



Donate online at [youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org) or fill out and mail the enclosed donation form.

- \* \$3/month will provide food for two delegates during one of our statewide events
- \* \$5/month will purchase case materials for one Mock Trial team
- \* \$10/month will provide housing for one delegation during their stay in Olympia
- \* \$55/month will provide financial support for one Mock Trial team to attend the state competition



Help support teens in your community by making a contribution that is right for you...

In the Y we welcome everyone. Thanks to you, our partners in the community, we are able to support each student and offer additional financial assistance to those who need it most. Y&G volunteers are working hard to raise \$125,000 to support teens around Washington this fall.



# THE SEASON FOR GIVING



A program of the YMCA of Greater Seattle

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

“As I wind down a 45-year public service career, I can’t think of a more effective program than Youth & Government to help today’s students develop real-world skills for a lifetime of productive civic involvement. ” -Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed

**JOIN SECRETARY REED & SUPPORT Y&G TODAY!**

# CAPITOL QUARTERLY



## YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth & Government  
PO Box 193  
Olympia, WA 98507  
[www.youthandgovernment.org](http://www.youthandgovernment.org)

WINTER 2011

## GET ENGAGED: POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS & CAREERS IN POLITICS

**OPEN TO ALL CURRENT AND PAST  
Y&G PARTICIPANTS, FRIENDS & FAMILY**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011**

**Noon - 2pm**

**Microsoft Campus - Redmond, WA**

This year's panel, brought to you by the Y&G Alumni Association, is sure to be as informative and inspiring as the last!

"GET ENGAGED: POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS & CAREERS IN POLITICS" will provide a great background and starting point for those students and alumni who are interested in being involved in the upcoming election, or those who have future aspirations of a life in politics. After the panel and lunch, our generous host, Microsoft, will be offering tours of their "**Home of the Future**" which is bound to be a thrill.

Hope to see you there!

More details and registration information can be found at [youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org)

### Inside This Issue

Upcoming Winter Events	2
Program Calendar	3
Fall Trainings	4
Alumni Message	5
Mock Trial Case Preview	6
Volunteer Opportunities	7

### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

**December 6**

Youth Legislature Deposit Due

**December 10**

CONA Interviews

**December 19**

"Get Engaged" Event

**December 23**

Mock Trial District Registration Due

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MOCK TRIAL DISTRICT EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2012

After months of preparation and practice, Washington Mock Trial teams will go head-to-head and compete at District Competitions throughout the state during the month of February.

Visit or volunteer at a competition near you! For more information on event times and locations contact the Y&G office.

**Benton-Franklin**

February 25

**Pierce**

February 25

**South King**

February 25

**Clark**

February 22 &amp; 23

**Snohomish**

February 10 &amp; 11

**Whatcom**

February 25

**King**

February 25, 28

March 1 &amp; 5

## YOUTH LEGISLATURE DISTRICT EVENTS

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2012

In the lead up to the 65th Youth Legislative Session taking place in May, delegations around the state will participate in Mock-Legislatures at the district level. During these district events, delegates are given the opportunity to debate their bills in informal settings and receive feedback from their peers. This feedback and practice will set the stage for the upcoming session in May.

Elections will also take place at districts where many of this year's sessions leaders will be elected. These positions include, Chairs and Vice Chairs, Rostrum Officers, Press and Lobby Core members. Each district will also nominate one candidate for the Major Officer positions of Governor, State Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State and Director of Elections. These nominees will run in an election during the 65th Youth Legislative Session and serve terms the following year.

The best of luck to all delegates!

Get more info on all of the events at [youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org)

# 'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TODAY!

## CALLING ALL ATTORNEY'S

Attorneys - Here is your chance to sit in the jury box!  
Join Lawyers from across the state and help determine this year's State Championship Team.

**When: March 25-27, 2012**

**Where: Thurston County Courthouse**

**Contact: Y&G Office - (360) 357-3475 or online at [youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org)**

## HOST HOMES NEEDED FOR THE 65th YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Families are asked to host students for three nights, provide breakfast three mornings and dinner Friday evening. Students' advisors will transport them to and from the Capitol.

**When: May 2-5, 2012**

**Where: Thurston & South Pierce Counties**

**Who: YOU!**

**Contact: Y&G Office - (360) 357-3475 or online at [youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org)**

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

Please cut and send checks to:

Seattle YMCA, c/o Donation Processing; 909 4th Ave; Seattle, WA 98104

or [donate online at youthandgovernment.org](http://youthandgovernment.org)

**Yes**, I would like to support YMCA Youth & Government with a financial contribution of:

- \$1,000 (Governor's Cabinet)
- \$500 (Sustainer)
- \$250 (Friend)
- \$50 (Supporter)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my contribution to support:

- Youth Legislature
- Mock Trial
- CONA
- Area of most need
- Youth & Government endowment

This donation is in honor or in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Billing information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2012 MOCK TRIAL CASE MENACIN' TENNYSON

## WRINGING THE TRUTH FROM "MENACIN' TENNYSON"

In his poem "Ring Out, Wild Bells", Alfred Lord Tennyson commands the pealing church bells to "Ring out the false, ring in the true." Ahh, but it can never be quite that simple – as students hard at work on the 2011-12 YMCA mock trial case entitled "Menacin' Tennyson" are now learning!

As they delve into the SUV-bicycle collision that tragically took the life of the poet's descendant Millicent Tennyson, their goal is to "wring out the false and wring in the true." It may be that it was just an unfortunate accident; it may be that former state legislator Locksley Hall deliberately struck her with his SUV; or, it may be that Millie brought it upon herself by her own disregard for the laws and her own safety. Each side has its own perspective on the "true."

As always in a mock trial case, the facts must be looked at in different ways in order to wring the truth from them. Was Millie Tennyson really such a menace or, to the contrary, was Locksley Hall menacing her? It is likely not a coincidence that – each speaking from a biased perspective – Locksley uses the same word to stereotype bicyclists that Chinook Bicycle Club President Devon Bideford uses to brand all motorists: "selfish".

One key lesson of the mock trial experience is the broadening of one's perspective. In mock trial, students practice looking at every factual, legal and social issue from multiple angles. Preparing their case for trial gets them in the healthy habit of asking what are the vulnerabilities or weak points of my position and what counterargument might exist? Meanwhile, scrimmaging with teammates assigned the flip side breeds respect for those advocating opposing points of view and raising tough questions about one's own stand.

American courts never presume to guarantee the production of correct results. Rather, their promise is a scrupulously and therapeutically fair process by which competing propositions are challenged until only one is left standing. Mock trials demonstrate this process by placing students smack dab in the middle of ambiguous facts whose ultimate unknowability is, in fact, absolute.

Early next year, when the disputed facts of this case clash in a courtroom – like Locksley's Escalade and Millie's fixie – there will be a distinct ringing. Students will be sounding the bell of truth while ringing up a valuable and fun learning experience.

Honorable William L. Downing  
King County Superior Court  
Case Author

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST & PROCLAMATION SIGNING

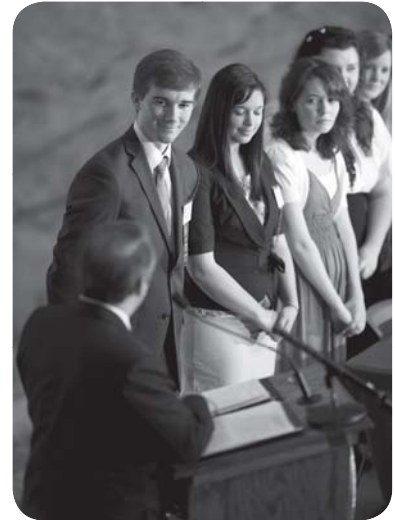
### FEBRUARY 2012

Join Governor Gregoire, Youth Governor Bobby Clark, Youth Legislature students, volunteers, alumni and supporters for the annual Governor's Breakfast & Proclamation signing.

The Proclamation signing is the first official event of the Youth Legislature Program. Governor Gregoire and Youth Governor Clark are invited to give brief remarks and sign the proclamation calling the Youth Legislature to order. Attendees also have an opportunity to catch the "real" legislature in action, as the signing takes place during the legislative session.

**Where:** Rotunda of the Legislative Building  
Capitol Campus, Olympia, WA

**When:** February TBA



Major Officers listen to Lt. Governor Brad Owen during the 2011 Governor's Breakfast and Proclamation Signing.

## 2011 - 2012 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location
December 10	Youth Legislature Program Committee Meeting	Seattle, WA
December 19	Get Engaged: Event	Redmond, WA
December 23	Mock Trial District Registration due	
February TBD	Proclamation Signing	Olympia, WA
February	Mock Trial District Competitions	Statewide
March 1	Youth Legislature Registration due	
March 3	Youth Legislature Program Committee Meeting	Olympia, WA
March 23-25	Mock Trial State Competition	Olympia, WA
April 13-14	Youth Legislature Leadership Training	Olympia, WA
May 2-5	65th Youth Legislature	Olympia, WA
May 3-6	National High School Mock Trial Championships	Albuquerque, NM
June 28-July 6	Conference on National Affairs (CONA)	Black Mountain, NC

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## FALL TRAININGS

A record number of coaches and advisors attended Mock Trial and Youth Legislature trainings this fall. Trainings mark the kick-off to Y&Gs program seasons and offer adult mentors an opportunity to network with one another and receive training for the upcoming year.

Our events this fall included time for new coaches and advisors to get training on the basics of running a program. Workshops were also offered to leaders to brush up their skills and learn new tips and strategies on leading successful programs.

A big thank you to our workshop facilitators and Y&G program chairs, Eleanor Peavey and Judge Robert Lewis. We are looking forward to another great year of Youth & Government!

### YOUTH LEGISLATURE FACILITATORS

Eleanor Peavey - Mill Creek Family YMCA

Jennifer Arnold - The Office of the Code Reviser

Jen Landry - Dale Turner YMCA

Lindsay Pryor - Office of the Secretary of State

Krystal Starwich - Northshore YMCA

### MOCK TRIAL FACILITATORS

Judge Robert Lewis - Clark County Superior Court

Judge William Downing - King County Superior Court

Roger Brodniak - Archbishop Murphy High School

Michael Guadagno - Nicoll Black & Feig Law Firm

Jackie Hofer - Camas High School

Andy McCarthy - Seattle Prep



Judge William Downing shares this year's Mock Trial Case, "Menacin' Tennyson", during Mock Trial Training.



Camas High School Mock Trial Coach Jackie Hofer leads a workshop on the benefits of Mock Trial.



Left: New and returning advisors smile for the camera during lunch at Youth Legislature Advisor Training. From left: New advisor Marcus Riccelli of the Spokane YMCA, returning advisor Mary Pryor of Dayton High School, alum Lindsay Pryor, and new advisor Andy Pryor from the Walla Walla YMCA.

# ALUMNI MESSAGE

Youth and Government is a powerful tool against the plague of apathy facing our generation: demonstrating how the legislative process works allows young people to see for themselves that there are tangible ways that individuals can make an impact on the world around them. At least that's what it did for me.

I was a member of Youth and Government from 2001–2004 through the Heritage High School delegation. Although I never ran for a leadership position within the organization, the simple experience of being involved in this program made a lasting impact on me. What is unique about this program is that it pushes young people to think critically, asking them to consider the problems and injustices of the world and suggest solutions. Then comes the hands-on civics lesson of demonstrating how these ideas can be turned into bills that become the laws that govern our society.

Although the legislative process is just one of many ways to make an impact on society, to me, understanding this one process made me more comfortable with, and aware of, other outlets and opportunities to become a more engaged citizen.

I followed my experience in Youth & Government by studying Political Science and Human Rights at the University of Washington. After graduating from the UW in 2008, I went to work attempting to do my part to make an impact on the world around me. My first job out of college was at a non-profit in Seattle, The Mockingbird Society. The Mockingbird Society advocates for, and helps to give voice to, the foster care population of Washington State. This work opened my eyes to a whole array of injustices children around us are facing. I was also lucky enough to work as a Legislative Aide to Former State Representative Deb Wallace before her retirement. The skills and lessons I learned in Y&G were immeasurably valuable when I worked in an institution I once "mocked."

When Representative Wallace retired I reflected on my experiences and decided to pursue a legal career to work on behalf of those in need. I am now very excited to take the lessons of Youth and Government with me to Yale Law School this fall. After studying at Yale, I hope to return to Washington State to work in child advocacy, fighting on behalf of those in society that are both our most innocent and our most vulnerable.



Youth Legislature  
Alumna, Alicia LeVezu

Alicia LeVezu  
Youth Legislature Alumna  
2001–2004