

## TOP 23 FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR AFFILIATES

1. **Raffle or Silent auction** – Ask businesses to donate vacation packages, airline tickets, amusement park tickets, limo service, passes to the zoo, ice skating rink. Seek out local craft makers, such as a quilting club, to donate items. Bidders may be attracted to bid on things to do or events to go to: lessons from golf pros, riding lessons, spa sessions, makeovers sponsored by a salon or clothing store, sessions with an interior designer for one room in their house (think Trading Spaces on the cable channel TLC), tickets to a show. Other bidders may want service items: gourmet meal prepared in their home by a local restaurant chef, Talent Lessons for cooking lessons or how to arrange plants, service coupons such as a car wash, raking leaves, baking two dozen cookies, house cleaning, babysitting.
2. **Night Out for Baseball** - Ask a baseball ballpark to donate a percentage of its profits on a specific night to your charity or event. If possible, staff the concession stands that evening for a percentage of the profits.
3. **Bowl-A-Thon** – Make one Saturday bowling night a competition at a local bowling lane.
4. **Golf, miniature golf, volleyball or basketball tournament at \$1/hole or basket** – Tournaments require advanced planning but are quite profitable. Consider sponsorships for each golf hole from law firms, court reporter services, or local businesses. Offer door prizes such as golf shirts, golf balls, sunglasses, basketballs, certificate to a sports store.
5. **5k run** – Ask a local sports store or business to sponsor your event. This event could double as a health fair or health screening in cooperation with local hospitals, the local chapter of the American Heart/Lung/Kidney/Breast Cancer Association. You could also get assistance from your local law school students to volunteer to assist with name tags, prizes, clocking the runners' times, etc.
6. **Have a party for the dogs** – Obtain corporate donations from pet stores or dog food companies and set up a Pet Day in a local park (or restaurant that is pet-friendly) perhaps in the summer or around Halloween. You could have a bone pile, a doggie ball play area, kiddie swimming pools for dogs to splash around in. Include contests for the most creatively dressed dog, the dog who looks most like its owner, etc. Contact your local pet adoption agency to promote pet adoptions. If you want to do this on a smaller scale, consider asking a local watering hole or hotel to host a Doggie Happy Hour. Both dogs and their owners get food and drinks! See e.g., [www.doggiehappyhour.com](http://www.doggiehappyhour.com).
7. **Young Lawyers Charity Ball, Cocktail or Winter/Spring Holiday Party** – You may want to coordinate with your local young professional associations for a joint event at a ballpark, a popular bar, hotel or civics center. Themes: Under the Sea, Hawaiian, Key West, 70s & 80s Party, James Bond spy party, Old West, Football/baseball/soccer season kickoff party, potluck, Asian, Australian, Margarita night.
8. **Dinner with the Judiciary** – Invite federal, state and local judges from your area to a dinner. Assign a young lawyer to each judge and seat the judges one to a

- table. Consider hosting this event with several surrounding counties. Give out awards for service to the bar and fun awards such as whom traveled the farthest.
9. **Selling flowers/candy/plants for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day**
  10. **Food fundraiser** – Some companies such as the Goodies Factory will sell you food preparation kits to sell to others. These include complete kits of ready to bake cookie dough, pizzas, coffee, cheesecake, lollipops, etc.  
<http://www.thegoodiesfactory.com/>,  
<http://www.prettygoodpopcorn.com/Fundraising.html>
  11. **Taste of the Town** - Ask a caterer to cater a meal or tasting event and charge admission fee. Or have a local chef give a cooking lesson and charge a fee.
  12. **BBQ Contest and/or Dinner** – Advertise a BBQ contest with prizes. Create categories (pork, beef, etc.) and invite local celebrities to be on the judging panel. This may work especially well in conjunction with a tailgating party before a big football game.
  13. **Old books, records, tape, cd and DVD sale** – This is a great opportunity to trade your books and tapes for new ones, particularly children's books.
  14. **White elephant/ Flea market event** – Collect items from your bar members and have a big yard sale. Advertise well in advance of the date.
  15. **Holiday Bazaar** – Invite local businesses or small shop owners to display their wares at an annual Holiday Bazaar. Another possibility would be to have a holiday cookie sale where customers can mix and match a dozen cookies for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  16. **Holiday Wreaths or Swags.** <http://www.christmasforest.com/FUNDPLAN.HTM>
  17. **Safety kits, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, jumper cable packages** – Sell these items at a state fair, carnival or back-to-school event.
  18. **Cookbooks** – Gather your bar association members' best recipes and publish them in a booklet.
  19. **Corporate Sponsors** - Check with companies in your area regarding their donation to charity policies. Many will donate money for a specific event and you can set up a specific account for that event (perhaps in your local affiliate foundation, if one exists). The corporation gets a tax write-off and you get an event funded.
  20. **Local Bar Associations** - Be sure to check with your local and state bars for specific grants or separate fundraising accounts (i.e. IOLTA accounts) and submit applications. Also check with the ABA YLD subgrant program every year and apply if you have a program that meets the criteria.
  21. **Happy Hour** - Obtain sponsor for drinks and then charge a small admission fee.
  22. **Sell Your Own Legal Publications** - Summarize recent opinions of the local, federal district and bankruptcy courts.
  23. **Sell Advertisements in Your Organizations Website/Newletter.**