

# NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND INCREASED MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW

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## JFB Board of Directors

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Debra M. Davis

In hopes of reinvigorating the membership and encouraging more active membership, the JFB Board has been looking into ways to improve participation at our general membership meetings. We are dedicated to making our meetings more interesting, more informative, and more specific to our members' needs and interests.

To that end, we have adopted an abbreviated business meeting format, which will allow more time for socializing and continuing legal education programs. We put this plan into action at the March general body meeting. Our plan is to make reports available in written form for your information. Our focus will be less on

the business end of the organization and more on member services and programs.

At our March membership meeting we were able to solicit a sponsor to pay for refreshments (Northwestern Financial) and **Lloyd Johnson** hosted a lively discussion on the pros and cons of modifying the existing format of motions for reconsideration of criminal sentences. Thanks again to our guest panelists **Robert L. Dean**, Deputy State's Attorney for Prince George's County and **Michael Banks**, former Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County and current criminal defense attorney. (Ed. Note: Please see article below)

By the time you get this newsletter we will be into Spring. Membership dues are trickling in. Please make it a priority to pay your dues without further delay so that JFB Bar Association will have the benefit of the funds throughout

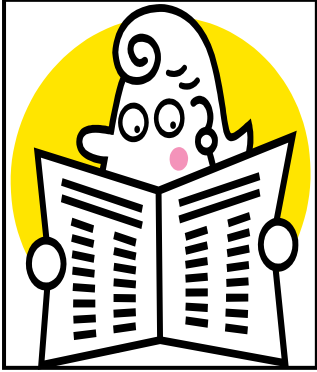
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## RECONSIDERATION OF SENTENCES

JFB's March General Membership Meeting featured a panel discussion on Motions for Reconsideration of Criminal Sentences. Panelists **Bob Dean**, Deputy State's Attorney for Prince George's County and a member of the Rules Committee, and criminal defense attorney **Michael Banks**, led a spirited discussion on this issue.

Although **Judge William L. Missouri**, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and a member of the Committee studying the issue was unable to attend the meeting he advised JFB beforehand that

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### JFB Newsletter Committee

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The **JFB Newsletter Committee** strives to insure that the *JFB Newsletter* provides a valuable resource to its members. But we need your help. The Newsletter Committee invites your participation as a Committee member or as a contributor. We welcome articles and information on topics of interest to JFB members. For further information, please contact **Sharon V. Burrell** or **Lloyd A. Johnson**. (See above.)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

the year. In response to a widely held criticism that dues payments are not acknowledged, this year the membership committee will be forwarding membership certificates and welcoming letters to all members.

We have several events lined up. Our Annual *New Admittees' Reception*, and the Reclamation Social to name just two forthcoming

Events. In addition, President-Elect **William A. Snoddy** has already begun planning the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Awards Banquet on November 4, 2004 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD. Please save that date.

Of course, as usual, the JFB Board welcomes your ideas and comments. Thanks for all of your continued support.

Debra M. Davis, Esquire  
President, JFB Bar Assoc.

## COMING SOON! [WWW.BOURNEBAR.ORG](http://WWW.BOURNEBAR.ORG)

Plans are underway for the unveiling of JFB's Internet web site at [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org). Budding webmaster, **Lloyd A. Johnson**, with the invaluable technical support of Howard University law student Joel **Braithwaite** expects the site to be operative by mid May.

Once the website becomes operational, the JFB Newsletter will be posted on the website, obviating the need for e-mail attachments. It will also feature news, forthcoming events, membership info and Board profiles, and back issues of the Newsletter.

## LYLES ELECTED TO BOWIE CITY COUNCIL

JFB's **D. Michael Lyles** was overwhelmingly elected to the Bowie City Council by voters in Bowie's 4th District in a special election on March 11, 2004. In a well-attended ceremony that received considerable media coverage, Bowie **Mayor G. Fred Robinson** administered the oath of office to Lyles.

In his remarks following the ceremony, Lyles indicated that his election would not have taken place without the support of his family and pledged his unstinting efforts to serve his constituents and the City of Bowie.

Lyles is a long-time member of the JFB Bar Association and most recently chaired the Third Annual



D. Michael Lyles is congratulated by Bowie Mayor G. Fred Robinson following Lyles' swearing-in as 4th District Councilmember..

Oratorical Contest. (See related article in March 2004 JFB Newsletter).

Lyles is also a litigator in the Prince George's County Office of Law's Major Litigation Section.

## RECONSIDERATION OF SENTENCES (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

he favors a five (5) year limit on a judge's authority to reconsider sentences in cases of crimes of violence unless the State and Defense otherwise agree. He does not favor any limitation on the authority to reconsider in other types of crimes.

Judge Missouri continued, "In crimes of violence the victim(s) or their families should not have to live with tragic events for a period longer than the person can be placed on probation. In other cases, usually driven by addiction, the court needs the ability to reconsider after the individual has gone through an intensive addiction

rehabilitation program which sometimes comes after a few years in jail."

Dean presented an excellent review of the historical context of Motions for Reconsideration. While he generally shares Judge Missouri's views, he made it clear that not all prosecutor's offices do. Banks stressed the rehabilitative imperative for defendants and argued against any changes in the existing rule.

The meeting was the first in the revised meeting format in which practice areas are considered. JFB's April meeting will be a joint meeting with the NAACP and the May meeting is expected to focus on professional courtesy and ethics.

## DID YOU KNOW...



JFB member and Prince George's County State's Attorney **Glenn F. Ivey** is back at his desk on a somewhat reduced schedule following surgery.

Meanwhile, County Attorney **David Whitacre** is eagerly anticipating his release from Washington Hospital Center to continue his recuperation at home. Dave is well-known to most JFB members and has been extremely supportive of our work. Get well soon, Dave!

If you receive this Newsletter by e-mail, it may not be too late to apply for the **Maryland State Bar Association's Leadership Academy, which is** accepting applications for its Leadership Class for 2004-2005 - but you must act without delay since the application deadline is Wednesday, March 31, 2004. For further information, visit the MSBA Internet web site at [www.msba.org/seccomm/leadership](http://www.msba.org/seccomm/leadership) or contact **Abigale Bruce-Watson** at (301) 572-3247 or by e-mail at [abruce-watson@omng.com](mailto:abruce-watson@omng.com).

JFB is co-sponsoring a CLE on **"Immigration Issues Arising in Other Substantive Areas of Law"** at 9:00 a.m. on Satur-

day, April 10, 2004 in the Jury Lounge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Upper Marlboro. The CLE will address the host of issues faced by counsel who represent foreign-born clients in non-immigration matter such as ... When may criminal convictions result in deportation proceedings? What are the consequences of probation before judgment? How do employment law and immigration law intersect? And much more ...

Speakers include **Steve Smitson, Esquire**, CASA of Maryland and **Rachel Ullman, Esquire** of Johnson & Yang, P.C.

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The *JFB Newsletter* invites letters and articles. Submissions should be sent by FAX to (301) 809-0921 or by E-mail, in MS Word format, to [lloydajohnson@comcast.net](mailto:lloydajohnson@comcast.net). Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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***Important Dates to Remember***

***CLE: Immigration Issues***

Sat., April 10; 9:00 a.m.  
Jury Lounge, Circuit Court  
Upper Marlboro, MD

***General Membership Meeting***

Thurs., April 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD

***New Admittees Reception***

July 2004  
Date & Place TBA

***MEMBERSHIP INVOICES — A “Kind & Gentle” Reminder***

If you haven't paid your 2004 membership dues yet, please do so without further delay. Your tangible and continued support makes it possible for JFB to conduct relevant CLE programs, to improve access of legal services to minority communities, and to publish this Newsletter.

Make your check payable and send to JFB Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121. If you have any questions or concerns about your membership status please contact our Membership Chair, **Belinda Bell** at (301) 504-0626, extension 1338 or by e-mail at [mitch1738@msn.com](mailto:mitch1738@msn.com).

***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION***



The **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Assoc. Inc.** is committed to legal excellence, community service, and the advancement of African-American minorities in the legal profession. Our membership consists primarily of African-American attorneys who live and/or work in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Membership classes are:

**Active:** Licensed to practice law in Maryland. Dues: admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$25; all others — \$50.

**Associate:** Licensed in *any other jurisdiction*, who lives in Montgomery or Prince George's County. Dues: admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$25; all others — \$50.

**Student:** Matriculated at a Washington metropolitan area law school *or* lives in Montgomery or Prince George's County and matriculated in any law school. Dues: \$5.

**New Admittees:** Admitted to practice in Maryland in the last 12 months. Dues waived.

For membership applications, contact **Belinda Bell** at (301) 504-0626, extension 1338 or by e-mail at [mitch1738@msn.com](mailto:mitch1738@msn.com)