

# 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



**J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association  
30th Anniversary**

*"Membership (to paraphrase a current song) means never having to say you're sorry for not having joined."*

... **Leonard Robert Davids**

Often times Bourne members are asked what are the benefits of joining the J.

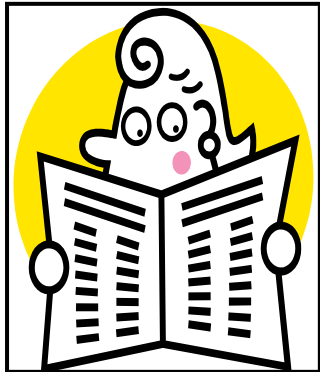
Franklyn Bourne Bar Association? The answer is quite simple really- *Judge Dawson's Gumbo*. Just kidding, it's the *People*, of course! Although, I do believe *Judge Dawson's Gumbo* is the best because it is prepared with the finest ingredients--sausage, crabs, shrimp, okra, etc., and best of all, it is served up and shared by Bourne members committed to (1) insuring, (2) defending, (3) educating, (4) safeguarding and (5) assisting African-Americans in the community both socially and professionally.

I was first introduced to Bourne as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year law student by one of my earliest mentors, Gregory K. Wells, Esq., almost seventeen (17) years ago. I remember attending my first Scholarship Banquet, which was chaired by then president, Elizabeth M. Hewlett. It remains one of my most vivid memories perhaps because I, having recently graduated from Spelman College and new to the area, was looking for a support network that

could facilitate my transition from law school to the professional stage. Sitting at a table in the back of Martin's Crosswinds so many years ago, I was struck by the sight of a packed room filled with judges, elected officials, state and county attorneys, agency and department heads, law firms and many others all of whom were a handshake away for anyone wishing to introduce themselves. What a network of individuals, I thought!

Over the years, I have been lucky enough to interact and dialogue with numerous Bourne members on issues both big and small and I have been the better for it. To that end, I can say, without hesitation, membership in Bourne is a must! Please join me and the JFB Board in kicking off our 2007 Membership Drive Seafood Feast on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Past President, **Judge Herman C. Dawson**. You can expect food, fun, and best of all, folks willing to share their knowledge with you.

Speaking of sharing one's expertise, **kudos** go out to Co-Chairs of the CLE Committee, **Judge Michelle D. Hotten** and **Shelley Johnson**, for presenting yet another outstanding CLE Program. Special thanks to **Judge Dwight D. Jackson**, **Judge Crystal D. Mittelstaedt** and **Judge Krystal Quinn Alves** for sharing their insights on "**Getting through the Commission - the Road to the**



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

**Bench.** If anyone is interested in pursuing a judgeship, copies of the judicial application is on our website at [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org).

Next month on May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will observe the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Association. In recognition of this milestone, Co-Chairs of the Founder's Day Committee, **Elizabeth Hewlett** and **Midgett Parker**, are working on a very special program to

honor our founding members. Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** More details on this event will be coming to a mail box near you! See you at our next general membership meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Regards,  
**Abigale Bruce-Watson**  
*President*

### JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor  
*Emeritus*  
**Lloyd A. Johnson**

Newsletter Editor  
**Joel Braithwaite**  
(202) 276-4902  
E-mail:  
[joel.braithwaite@gmail.com](mailto:joel.braithwaite@gmail.com)

Contributing Editor  
**Dione Duckett**

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 **Joel Braithwaite**. (See above.)

## JFB SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date for the **2007 JFB Scholarship Golf Tournament: Tuesday, May 29, 2007**. This event funds our awards of cash scholarships to high school and law students. The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$500 per foursome and the tournament's format is "Captain's Choice." The fee includes range balls, awards and prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin, lunch and other golf gifts. We will golf at **Tantallon Country Club**, 300 Saint Andrews Drive,

Fort Washington, MD 20744 at (301) 292-1100. Thank you to **Garland H. Stillwell**, and **Judge Toni E. Clarke**, Golf Committee Co-Chairs.

Send your registration to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121. Checks are payable to the **"J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc."** Contact Garland at (202) 663-8147.

## SEAFOOD FEAST

Calling all members, past and present, seasoned or new, or anyone looking for a quality Bar Association to join, **Judge Herman C. Dawson, Sr.**, will be hosting one of his famous back yard **Seafood Feast** to launch JFB's 2007 Membership Drive Campaign.

Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Friday, April 27, 2007 from 6-8:30 pm at the residence of Judge Dawson. Please RSVP to Kamilah House at 301-952-3676 by April 18th.

Judge Dawson's get-togethers are truly special events. They are always well-attended by members of both the bench and the bar. This is a true benefit of membership.

## CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

Christmas in April is here! This year's homeowner is a 77-years-young widow who resides at 5018 North Englewood Drive, Fairmount Heights, Maryland. Her home is directly across from Fairmount Heights High School, approximately 1 block off of Addison Road.

The work needed is relatively "simple" - painting, retiling the kitchen, yard clean-up (including removal of debris) and "sprucing". The date is April 28, 2007 at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. We should finish well before noon.

If you think you can help, please call or email Maurene Epps Webb at 3 0 1 - 9 5 2 - 3 6 4 4 o r [mewebb@co.pg.md.us](mailto:mewebb@co.pg.md.us).

## DID YOU KNOW?



**Baltimore City Girls Task Force** is sponsoring a **Street Law Program** at the **Waxter's Girls Center and the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center**. The free training for instructors is scheduled for **Friday, May 4, 2007** from 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM with continental breakfast and lunch served. The program qualifies as Pro Bono Service for members of the Bar. Participants are expected to teach one to two Street Law classes per year. In the past Bourne has sponsored

Street Law Programs at various alternative schools in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. If anyone is interested they can Fax or email their contact information to FAX 443-263-8952 and email vtaylor@opd.state.md.us (Waxter is located in Prince George's County and is a detention center for females involved with the Department of Juvenile Services.)

Give a **Mother's Day gift** that makes Mom feel good while it does good. Donate \$35 to the **Storybook Project** - an amount that enables a child whose mother is in prison to receive a new book and a tape of his or her mother reading that book and sending her love.

And in return, the Project will send your mother a Mother's Day card letting her know that a donation has been made in her honor! Please make all checks payable to NAWJ-The Storybook Project. Your donation is tax deductible. All donations along with your mother's name and address may be sent to: Jennifer Forquer, Strickler, Sachitano & Hatfield, P.A., 4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 900N, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; (310)657-8805.

Attorneys sought to serve on **Board of Directors** of the **Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.** and or the **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland**. The MSBA Committee on Appointments makes recommendation to the Board of Governors concerning the appointment of attorney members to the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., and the Board of Directors of the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland. The **Legal Aid Bureau** is a nonprofit organization, with offices throughout the State of Maryland, which provides free civil legal services to low-income individuals. Attorney members of the Board are expected to be supportive of the purposes of the Legal Service Act and to demonstrate an interest in and familiarity with the delivery of legal services to low-income individuals. The **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland** serves as statewide coordinator and clearinghouse for volunteer attorneys providing free legal services to low-income individuals. The Committee seeks candidates who are committed to the delivery of civil legal services to low-income individuals through volunteer lawyers, and exhibit an interest in and familiarity with volunteer legal services and volunteer legal programs. Interested persons should submit their resumes to Thomas M. Meachum, Chairman, Committee on Appointments, Maryland State Bar Association, c/o Reese & Carney, LLP, 10715 Charter Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, Maryland 21044 or fax their resumes to Mr. Meachum at (410) 730-7729, no later than **May 31, 2007**.



**Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.** April 16, 2007, will be remembered as one of the darkest days in the history of the **Virginia Tech** community and the world beyond. To remember and honor the victims of those tragic events, the university has established the **Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund** to aid in the healing process. The fund will be used to cover expenses including but not limited to: Assistance to victims and their families, Grief counseling, Memorials, Communication expenses, and Comfort expenses. If you would like to mail a check, make it out to "Virginia Tech Foundation Inc.," designate your gift for the "Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund" on the memo line, and send it to: *Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund, University Development (0336), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. For more information, please call 1-800-533-1144.*

The *JFB Newsletter* is published monthly except July. All rights are reserved but articles may be reprinted without permission, provided proper credit is given. JFB members receive this newsletter at no cost. Statements expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc.** or its officers.

The *JFB Newsletter* invites letters and articles. Submissions should be sent by E-mail, in MS Word format, to joel.braithwaite@gmail.com. Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

## TRIBUTE TO THE HON. G. R. HOVEY JOHNSON

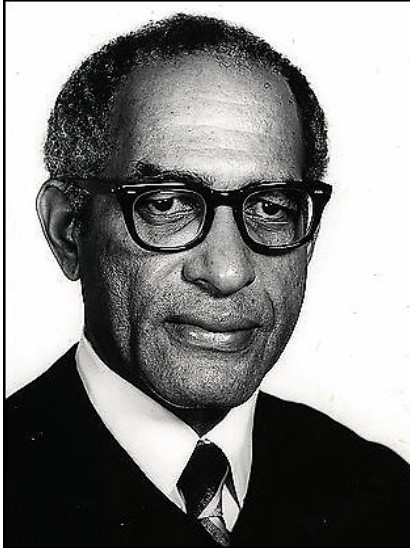
By: Judge William D. Missouri

The Honorable George Rice Hovey Johnson died on November 20, 2006 after forty-three (43) years of dedicated service to his country and community. He was born on November 13, 1930 in Richmond, Virginia and attended that city's public schools. Upon graduating from high school Hovey, to his friends, enrolled at Prairie A & M College, Prairie View, Texas. During his time at Prairie View he joined the Army R.O.T.C. Hovey received his B. S. degree in mathematics in 1951 at which time he entered the United States Army as a second lieutenant. He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1974, retiring as a Colonel after a distinguished career, which included two (2) tours of duty in Vietnam. During his twenty-three (23) years of Army service, Hovey received the following recognition: two (2) Legion of Merit Badges; three (3) Distinguished Flying Crosses and Bronze Stars; two (2) Meritorious Service medals; six (6) Air Medals; two (2) Joint Service Commendations; and the Army Commendation Medal.

Judge Johnson attended George Washington University while stationed at the Pentagon during his last few years in the Army. Thereupon, in 1974, he retired from the Army, and received his Master of Science Degree. Thereafter, he attended the Georgetown University Law School, from which he received his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1977. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1978.

Judge Johnson's legal career began in 1978 when he was appointed an Assistant Public Defender, which position he held with dignity and competence until his appointment to the Prince George's County Circuit Court. In November 1982 Governor Harry Hughes appointed George Rice Hovey Johnson as the 2<sup>nd</sup> African-American judge to serve on the Prince George's County Circuit Court. It was that appointment that led to our friendship.

Even though I knew of and had met the Colonel (the title I usually addressed him by) prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court, I had not



had any in-depth conversations with him. However, after his appointment to the Circuit Court, which appointment came after Judge Arthur M. "Monty" Ahalt's appointment the same year, destiny took a hold of ensuring our relationship. That destiny was Arthur A. "Bud" Marshall's, the Prince George's County State's Attorney during that time, decision to run against Judges Ahalt and Johnson for a seat on the Circuit Court. I was an Assistant State's Attorney and Mr. Marshall appointed me as his campaign treasurer. Upon receiving that appointment, which would culminate with the election in 1984, I made an appointment to see Judge Johnson early one morning. As an aside, to those who did not know George Rice Hovey Johnson, if you wanted to see him, your best time to do so would be around 7:00 o'clock in the morning. Hovey usually arrived at the office before 7:00 a.m. and sometimes as early as 5:00 a.m. However, he was sure to be there by 7:00 o'clock in the morning and those of us who knew that would stop by for a visit. But I am getting ahead of myself.

On the designated morning, I entered Judge Johnson's chambers and explained the reason for my presence. I told him about being named the treasurer for Mr. Marshall's campaign, but that I would not do anything in that capacity to injure him or his chances of being elected. He listened attentively and then offered these comments, "Well, Bill I really don't understand why you are serving as treasurer of Marshall's campaign and I disagree with your decision, but could you tell me why you are doing it?" I told him that it was a matter of loyalty for me. I explained that Bud Marshall gave me a job and was supportive of my progression in the office, and had become a friend. Therefore, when asked to serve my only response could be yes. Hovey then replied again that he disagreed with my decision, but respected my loyalty. He further opined that he would not hold that decision against me. I thanked him for his graciousness and his fair and objective assessment of my reasons for serving in Mr. Marshall's campaign. That early morning conversation began a relationship between Hovey Johnson and me that was tenuous at first, but slowly began to cement. In fact, Hovey was an advocate for my appointment to the District

## *TRIBUTE TO THE HON. G. R. HOVEY JOHNSON (Cont.)*

Court for Prince George's County in 1985, and was one of my principal presenters during the investiture.

Returning now to my previous statement regarding the early morning meetings in the Judge's office. There was a group of us who gathered regularly in Hovey's office beginning at around 7:00 a.m. until approximately 8:45 a.m. The regulars were Cathy Bouchard, Maureen Lamasney, Hovey's loyal and dedicated aide, Charlotte Hagan, and me. Periodically, there were visits from various other members of the legal community. In fact, any judge or lawyer who came early to court knew that Hovey would be in chambers and that they could obtain a hot cup of coffee or tea. Moreover, they also knew that they could engage in the discussion of the day. The topic *du jour* would be anything from world affairs, to national politics, to regional, local, and courthouse issues. Hovey Johnson was a well-read, strong willed person with definite opinions. He knew what he liked and what he did not like. He strongly disliked people who took advantage of the weak, he never forgot a lie told to him, and the liar lost his respect. Moreover, he was a teacher and supporter. He taught at Prince George's Community College for many years beginning about 1985 and continuing past 2000. He also served as a Director of the Prince George's County Bar Association and on the Commission on Judicial Disabilities for a number of years. Moreover, Hovey was a member of the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure from 1990 until 2000, at which point he became a member Emeritus. Upon his retirement, he recommended that I replace him on the Rules Committee. And because of his dedicated service to the court, his recommendation was honored.

George Rice Hovey Johnson not only supported my career as a judge, notwithstanding my serving as Bud Marshall's treasurer during the campaign between 1982 and 1984, but he was instrumental in the advancement of other African-Americans in the County. In fact, he personally met with County Executive Parris Glendening and encouraged him to release the Honorable Larnzell Martin, Jr., from his obligation as County Attorney so Judge Martin could apply for a position on the District Court of Maryland. County Executive Glendening relented and the rest is history. That is but one example of

Judge Johnson's support. Suffice it to say he assisted many in their legal careers and he did so without thumping his chest or yelling "look at me" or making everyone aware that he had some role in the advancement of a particular individual. This is the type of person he was. He was fair and impartial in all of his interactions with people he met. If he was a friend, he was the most loyal friend that one could ever find. But on an objective basis, I found as a litigant appearing before him, that contrary to some beliefs that he was a difficult judge, he was a fair and impartial jurist who believed that everyone who appeared in court, regardless of which side they represented, should be well prepared. In other words, he did not tolerate easily slovenliness, laziness, disrespect, or a failure to do due diligence.

The young lawyers who have never had the opportunity to appear before or get to know George Rice Hovey Johnson have missed a golden opportunity to drink at the fountain of wisdom from one who had a starred military and judicial career. He was an advisor to many, including me. But more than that, he was my connection to a lot of things, including the Baltimore Orioles, where he would often, once he discovered her affinity for the game, provide my wife with tickets to the O's games. Although he provided the tickets to my wife he told her she could bring whatever date she desired to bring, and fortunately she always decided to take me. In addition to the other things I have said, I again repeat that he was a fair and impartial judge. His courtroom was always quiet and orderly. And he was my true barometer and an unselfish leader. He was a loyal, loving husband, father and grandfather, a patriot, an extraordinary jurist, and he was indeed my friend. But he was not only a friend to me; he was a friend to all attorneys because he loved the legal profession. It pained him whenever an attorney failed to properly prepare for a court appearance.

The Honorable, Colonel, George Rice Hovey Johnson is missed by his family, friends, judicial and military colleagues, secretaries, lawyers, clerks, students, and all who knew him. And, despite the tragic circumstances surrounding his death, nothing can mar the commitment and dedicated service he gave to his country and community, nor the loyalty, love, and respect he showed for his family and friends.

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

The **2007 General Assembly session** adjourned on April 9, which is also referred to as “Sine Die”, at midnight. The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association began the session with a dialogue that included our State and County elected officials from Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. As a result of the Association’s commitment to addressing issues involving education, public safety, healthcare, gaming and voting rights, we informed our elected officials of our readiness to be involved in the process and to let our voice be heard. The Legislative Committee is happy to report that Bourne was involved in the legislative process and kept abreast of the issues affecting our communities. The status of the bills the Legislative Committee has tracked during the session that are of interest to the membership are as follows:

- **Truancy Reduction Pilot Program** (HB 1325): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Truancy - Prohibition Against Issuance of Learner's Instructional Permit** (HB 571): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Voter Registration Protection Act** (SB 488): Approved by Governor on April 24 (Chapter 159)
- **Election Law - Voting Systems - Voter-Verifiable Paper Records** (HB 18): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Elective Franchise - Authority to Establish Early Voting** (HB 201): Approved in House, died in Senate
- **Prince George's County Hospital Authority**

PG 430-07 (HB 510): Approved in House, died in Senate

- **“Jessica’s Law”** (deny parole to those who commit first-degree rape against a child younger than 13 – HB 930): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Gangs** (provide additional tools to prosecutors – HB 713): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Drug sentences** (allow twice-convicted drug dealers the chance for parole instead of the mandatory 10-year sentence – HB 992): Passed and sent to Governor for signature
- **Death penalty** (replace the death penalty with life without parole – HB 225): Voted down in Senate committee
- **Juvenile sex offenders** (allow court to require registration of offenses committed by juveniles): Passed in Senate, died in House
- **Assault weapons ban** (ban the sale and possession of 45 assault-style weapons): Voted down in Senate committee
- **Smoking ban** (ban smoking in bars and restaurants statewide – HB 359): Passed and sent to Governor for signature

The Legislative Committee looks forward to continuing to bring forth to the membership all issues that impact the Association’s mission of defending, protecting and assisting in the cultural, economic, social, and political development of the African-American community through the vehicle of law.

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair

## FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION

On **May 6, 1977** the resolution establishing the **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc.** was adopted by fifteen (15) courageous men and one (1) woman. This group of Maryland Attorneys met with a view toward organizing a Black Law Club to develop and further the interest of attorneys practicing in the Maryland suburban jurisdictions surrounding the Washington Metropolitan Area. In recognition of their foresight and audacity, Past Presidents, **Elizabeth Hewlett** and **Midgett Parker**, will be presenting a very special program in tribute to our founding members on **Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** Please come out and hear from some of these individual’s perspective, then and now, about our Law Club.

## ASSOC. BLACK CHARITIES

**Associated Black Charities** (ABC) needs your vote: ABC is recognizing three categories of Maryland legal legends: **Timeless Legends** (those legal giants who have passed away, but whose legal and philanthropic contributions continue to last and influence those who have followed); **Living Legends** (those who are forty years of age and above and who continue to distinguish themselves both in their professional and philanthropic endeavors); and **Future Legends** (those under forty who are on their way to distinguishing themselves both in their careers and their philanthropic endeavors). Please visit the ABC website ([www.abc-md.org](http://www.abc-md.org)) and nominate an individual or individuals you believe to be deserving of this recognition. Bonus: By voting, you may win a ’07 Mercedes.

**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 1121  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

**JFB Membership Drive Seafood Feast  
Home of the Hon. Herman C. Dawson, Sr.**  
Fri., Apr. 27, 6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
Call Kamilah House, Esq., Judge Dawson's Law  
Clerk at (301)952-3676 for more info.

**Christmas in April  
w/ Prince George's County Bar Association**  
Sat., Apr. 28, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
5018 North Englewood Drive  
Fairmount Heights, Maryland

**JFB's Montgomery County Committee**  
Sat., May 5, 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
Montgomery County Bar Association  
27 West Jefferson Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Founder's Day Celebration/  
General Membership**  
Thurs., May 17, 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
Prince George's Community College  
301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland  
Largo Student Center, Room 232A

**JFB Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament**  
Tues., May 29, 2007  
**Tantallon Country Club**  
300 Saint Andrews Drive,  
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

## ***SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS***

Let's give the gift of charity – J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow... Thornton Wilder

In keeping with JFB's mission, the Scholarship Fund has been raising money and awarding scholarships to local area law students to help defray the cost of law school tuition. Please join with us in those efforts by making a donation to the Scholarship fund. Donations are tax deductible and any amount would be appreciated. Checks should be made payable to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

## ***AFTERNOON TEA ANYONE?***

**The Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland, Inc.**, invites you to join them for **The Second Annual Afternoon Tea**. This program will honor "Champions of Justice" and is in Memory of the Honorable **Mabel Hubbard**, the first African-American female judge in the State of Maryland. The Afternoon Tea will be held at Camelot of Upper Marlboro, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD on Sunday, May 6, 2007, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$45.00 per person and \$2.00 Raffles will be held for a Tea Gift Basket. For Tickets & Additional Info Contact: Tiffany Alston (301)952-1420. All proceeds go towards the BWBA Book Scholarship Fund for deserving African-American female students attending a law school in the Washington, D.C. area.

## ***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED.***



**JFB** 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 Janelle Jordan & Judge Herman C. Dawson.