

NEWSLETTER

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Debra M. Davis

By the time you read this message I will be on my way to Charlotte, North Carolina to represent the members of the J. Franklin Bar Association at the **National Bar Association's**

79th Annual Convention.

This is the eighth consecutive NBA Convention I have had the privilege to attend. Aside from the business at hand, it is an opportunity to reconnect with friends that I have met along the way and of course to participate in the continuing legal education seminars.

This year's convention is especially noteworthy for me because my friend, local Washington attorney, and JFB member, Kim Keenan, will be installed as the NBA's new President. The leadership of the NBA will once again be in the hands of an attorney from our region. Just three years ago **Mike Rosier** of Oxon Hill, Maryland was installed as president.

In October, our President-Elect **William A. Snoddy** will attend the Maryland State Bar Association's (MSBA) Bar President's conference. The MSBA reaches out to assist local and specialty bar associations and last year I attended the conference.

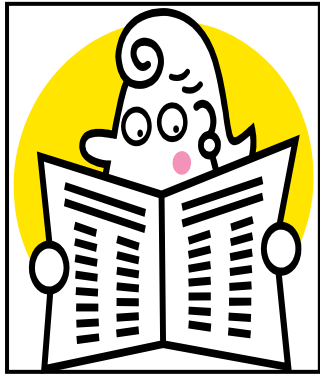
The conference provides opportunities for bar associations of

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JFB "RECLAMATION" SOCIAL



Over 70 JFB members and guests attended JFB's "Reclamation Social" on June 30, 2004 at **Reggie's Sport Kafe** in Bowie, MD. The informal gathering of JFB's past, current and prospective members succeeded in "recruiting, retaining, and reclaiming" our membership.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

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different sizes to exchange ideas. A recurring theme is the need for medium to large bar associations to have an executive director. I was fortunate this year to be able to hire an assistant, **Micheline Coates**, to assist me solely with JFB matters. Micheline's assistance has made a world of difference for JFB.

Our future planning must explore ways to ensure continuity between administrations that an executive director provides. As always, I welcome your suggestions.

Our **New Admittees Reception** on July 31st was well-attended

by New Admittees, judges, JFB members, and guests. Congratulations again to all of these New Admittees – many of whom joined JFB. Thanks to **Joseph and Shawn Wright** who hosted the event at their lovely home and **Robin Bright** who chaired the event. The comments of **Chief Judge Robert Bell** of the Maryland Court of Appeals and the **Honorable Judge Arrie Davis** of the Court of Special Appeals encouraged both New Admittees and experienced practitioners.

See you at our September 16th **General Membership meeting** at the Greenbelt Community Center, Greenbelt, MD.

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

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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.)

JFB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Dear members,

One of the hallmarks of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's program year is the awarding of scholarships at our annual **JFB Scholarship Awards** banquet which will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2004. For almost as long as our organization as been in existence, our members had taken pride in the fact that one or more budding legal minds will benefit from the camaraderie, the mentorship and the financial support of our organization.

I ask that each JFB member take responsibility for circulating the scholarship application to at least three law students. The criteria are set forth clearly in the application. (Please see related article on page 3.) Note that the law student must be enrolled in an accredited law school at the time of the scholarship award.

Of course, if anyone can identify a donor to the JFB Scholarship Fund, all such donations are welcome – and fully tax-deductible since the JFB Scholarship Fund, Inc. is an incorporated 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit entity. Contributions – no matter their amount - will help a law student complete his or her dream. It is our responsibility and one of the charges of our Bar Association to help increase minority representation in the practice of law. Our Scholarship Awards help achieve this cause. I look forward to your help and support.

Interested persons may secure Applications for the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's Scholarship program in three ways.

First, visit our Internet Web site - www.bournebar.org — and simply follow the prompts.

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JUDGE ROGER GREGORY KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT JFB BANQUET.

Judge Roger L. Gregory of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will deliver the keynote address at our Bar Association's 20th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 4, 2004 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt.

Judge Gregory is the first African-American appointed to the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the only judge on any circuit to be appointed by a president from both parties. The Fourth Circuit encompasses the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and has the highest percentage of African-American residents of any Circuit in the nation.

A native of Petersburg, Virginia, Judge Gregory graduated with honors from Virginia State University in 1975 and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1978. In

1982, he formed the law firm of Wilder & Gregory with L. Douglas Wilder. After Wilder was elected as governor of Virginia, Judge Gregory became the firm's managing partner and headed its litigation section until his judicial appointment.

The Banquet Committee will also mark the occasion of our 20th Scholarship Awards Banquet by presenting a retrospective look at our banquets through the years. You can help make this happen if you have photographs from "back in the day." Please send such photos to the Bar Association c/o Banquet Committee, P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773 or hand them to William A. Snoddy. All photographs will be returned.

If you are interested in serving on the Banquet Committee or otherwise assisting in the planning of this event, please contact William A. Snoddy at (301) 952-4874 or by e-mail at wasnoddy@co.pg.md.us.

JFB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. (Cont.)

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Second, for those who receive this Newsletter electronically - copies of the Application accompany this edition as a PDF attachment.

Third, copies may be received by contacting Garland Stillwell by (202) 663-8147 or by e-mail to Garland.Stillwell@shawpittman.com.

If you are interested in helping JFB to tangibly support law students by serving on the JFB Scholarship Awards Selection Committee, please call me at (202) 663-8147 or send an e-mail message to Garland.Stillwell@shawpittman.com.

Garland H. Stillwell, Esquire
Chair, JFB Scholarship Awards Selection Committee

DID YOU KNOW ...



JFB's Vice-President, **Karren J. Pope-Onwukwe**, is a candidate for election to the County Council of Maryland. Karren also represented Maryland at the recently-held Democratic National Convention.

Michael Pearson has left the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, where he served for five years, to join the law firm of noted criminal defense attorney, **Fred Bennett**.

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 FAX to (301) 809-0921 or by E-mail, in MS Word format, to 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.
P.O. Box 1121
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Date to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., September 16th, 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD

NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION PHOTOS



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