

# 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



William A. Snoddy

As she prepares to take the bench, JFB member **Crystal Dixon Mittelstaedt** reflects on how far she has come from Jersey City, N.J. While growing up, all Crystal wanted to do was get a college degree. Not a modest goal for a poor African-American girl being raised, along with her brother, by a single mother.

"As a child I never dreamed I would be a lawyer. I certainly could not have imagined becoming a judge. Growing up in Jersey City did not offer much opportunity for poor African-American kids. But I always went to school and wanted to do the right thing," she said. "It became my goal to

get a college degree. That desire kept me in school."

Because of that desire, on August 11, 2005, Crystal will be sworn in as a judge on the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County during an Investiture ceremony at the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro. Crystal fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the **Honorable Josef B. Brown**.

When Crystal was a teenager, her family relocated to Prince George's County where she attended Suitland High. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland at College Park. It was at Maryland where the seed to attend law school was planted. "I majored in economics. During my senior year, I took a domestic relations class as an elective. The professor was a lawyer

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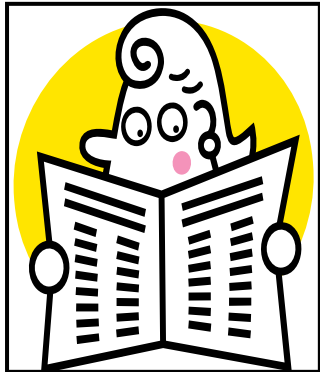
## NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION — August 13th.

JFB's Annual New Admittees Reception will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 13th at the home of **Joseph and Shawn Wright**, 302 Tamarack Court in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

This casual event recognizes our newly-admitted colleagues and affords them an opportunity to meet and network with JFB members, judges, and others. (First-year membership dues are also waived for these New Admittees.)

RSVP to **William A. Snoddy** via e-mail at [wassnoddy@hotmail.com](mailto:wassnoddy@hotmail.com).

**Directions:** Beltway to Exit 14 (Rte. 2145/Central Ave.); turn right on Rte. 214 to Rte. 193; left onto Keverton Dr.; right onto Ridgely St.; left onto Burleigh St.; right onto Clairborne St.; left onto Hillrod Ln.; left onto Tamarack Ct. Wright home is at the end on the street.



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

(continued from page 1)

and he encouraged me to go to law school. He thought it was an ideal profession for a woman," she explained.

After completing Antioch Law School in 1986, Crystal served as the last law clerk for the **Honorable James H. Taylor** of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1987, she joined the Prince George's County Office of Law as an Associate County Attorney in the Government Operations Division

where she represented various County agencies. In 1989, Crystal moved to the Litigation Division where she amassed an impressive record of successfully defending claims against the County and its employees and became the County's "go to" person on condemnation matters.

Crystal, her husband **John** and their daughter **Julia** live in Upper Marlboro.

William A. Snoddy, Esquire  
President, JFB Bar Assoc.

### JFB Newsletter Committee

#### Sharon V. Burrell

Chair

(240) 777-6722

E-mail:

[sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov)

#### Newsletter Editor

#### Lloyd A. Johnson

(301) 367-5115

E-mail:

[lloydajohnson@comcast.net](mailto:lloydajohnson@comcast.net)

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.)

## PRINCE GEORGE'S MARBURY EXPANSION.

The long awaited opening of the **Prince George's County Circuit Court's Marbury Wing Expansion** will occur during the first three weeks of August with cases being scheduled in the new courtrooms beginning the fourth week in August. Court goers should be pleased and refreshed by the new, open and natural light feel of the public areas of the Marbury Expansion. There should be plenty of public seating and other adequate accommodations consistent with the volume of services provided in that Wing of the courthouse. The Marbury Expansion contains nine new jury courtrooms that are completely handicap accessible. They are all designed in the traditional center bench layout, similar to most of the courtrooms that were in the Duval Wing.

Temporarily, all of the Circuit Court Judges will be moving back to the courthouse from the first floor of the County Administration Building. Twelve new judges' chambers have been created in the Expansion, which includes the chambers for Administrative Judge, the **Hon. William D. Missouri**, on the second floor.

The ground and first floors of the Marbury Expansion offers expanded offices and waiting areas for the Family Division. On the ground floor you will find a large enclosed area for the paralegal unit, scheduling conference check-in, and waiting area. Across the hall from that area will be offices designated for family support services screening, psychological evaluations, mediation, home studies and domestic violence services. The Director of the Family Division and other Family Division administrative offices will be located on the first floor.

The Office of the State's Attorney's Homicide and Sex Offense Units will occupy the new office space on the third floor of the Marbury Expansion.

The entire courthouse has new signage to better assist the public to navigate through the courthouse complex. Additionally, the Marbury Wing has been renumbered consistent with the numbering in the Marbury Expansion. All of the rooms

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## DID YOU KNOW?



JFB members are cordially invited to the Investiture ceremony for the installation of **Crystal Dixon Mittelstaedt** as Judge for the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County on Thursday, August 11th in Courtroom 300 of the Circuit Court for Prince

George's County in Upper Marlboro. A reception will follow immediately after the ceremony.

A trust fund has been established for the college education of the infant son of **Elton Pierre**, a JFB student member, who shortly after completing his second year at Howard University's Law School, was shot and killed in Washington, DC. Contact Joel Braithwaite at [JBraithwaite@law.howard.edu](mailto:JBraithwaite@law.howard.edu) for details.

**JFB's Membership Committee** reports a 45 percent increase in dues-paying members for 2005 over the 2004 program year. In the words of the late president John F. Kennedy, "Success has many parents ...". The Committee attributes the membership increase to outreach to former members of JFB, identifying and reaching out to attorneys not previously affiliated with JFB, organizational program activities, and greater appreciation of JFB's role in serving the legal profession and our African American communities.

Stay tuned for a forthcoming announcement on the identity of the keynote speaker at **JFB's Annual Scholarship Banquet** on Thursday, November 3rd at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD. Committee Chair, **Sharon V. Burrell**, reports that Banquet tickets will soon be available. For further information, contact Sharon at [sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov).

## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

**Governor Robert Ehrlich** extended the application deadline for Montgomery County's Circuit Court into August/September after the Montgomery County Trial Courts Nominating Commission forwarded five names for the three (3) vacancies, created by (i) the elevation of **Judge Patrick L. Woodward** to the Court of Special Appeals, (ii) the retirement of **Judge Dennis McHugh**, and (iii) a newly-created judgeship as a result of recent action by the General Assembly. Clearly Governor Ehrlich sought a wider range of nominees from whom to make the appointments.

In Prince George's County, the vacancies for two (2) District Court judgeships, created by legislative action of the General Assembly, have five carry-over nominees previously approved by the Trial Courts Nominating Commission. Several additional applicants will be considered by the Commission on October 12, 2005. JFB's Judicial Nominating Committee, co-chaired by **Debra Davis** and **Michael Banks** will schedule interviews with judicial applicants shortly.

## JFB ATTORNEY RESOURCE DIRECTORY.

JFB, in cooperation with the Maryland Daily Record, is in the final stages of pre-publication process of its Attorney Resource Directory. Publication is expected to coincide with the Annual Scholarship Banquet on November 3rd.

The Directory will include the name, firm, business address, business telephone and e-mail addresses of JFB members and other African American attorneys. It will be available free of charge to current 2005 dues-paying JFB members.

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](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.**  
P.O. Box 1121  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

### ***Important Date to Remember***

**Investiture of  
Crystal Dixon Mittelstaedt**

Thurs., Aug. 11th, 4:00 p.m.  
Circuit Court, Room 300  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**New Admittees Reception**

Sat., Aug. 13th; 4:00 p.m.  
302 Tamarack Court  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**General Membership Meeting**

Thurs., Sept. 15th, 6:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

## ***MARBURY EXPANSION WING. (Cont.)***

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including courtrooms in the Existing Marbury Wing and the Expansion will have a four digit numbering system. The numbering system was designed to make it easier to locate rooms within the courthouse complex. For example, old courtroom 157M will now be courtroom M1404 and old courtroom 258M will now be M2403. Under this

new numbering system, the letter before the four digits represents the wing of the courthouse, the first number represents the floor of the courthouse and the last three numbers represent the room location on that floor. The Duval Wing will have this same numbering system when it is rebuilt.

Honorable Shelia R. Tillerson Adams  
Chair, Building Committee

## ***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 **Lloyd A. Johnson** at (301) 367-5115 or by e-mail at [LloydAJohnson@comcast.net](mailto:LloydAJohnson@comcast.net).