

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



Sharon Y. Christmas-DeBerry

I recently returned from the 84th Annual Convention of the National Bar Association. Newly-elected President, **Mavis Thompson**, stressed the importance of building and maintaining the pipeline of the

NBA. Like so many bar associations across the country, the NBA has seen a decrease in its membership and sponsors. As a NBA affiliate, we can help maintain the pipeline by fostering and participating in NBA events and regional meetings, building relationships with local BLSA chapters, inspiring our young lawyers division, and participating in the Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition, which is very similar to our oratorical contest spearheaded by the **Honorable Hassan El-Amin**.

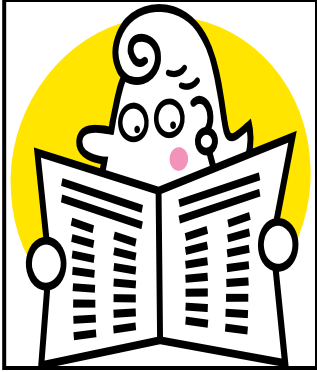
During the Regional IV Meeting, which is comprised of the various affiliate chapters from Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia., the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, as one of the largest affiliate chapters in the region, was specifically called on to become a more involved affiliate in the NBA. Because I believe that Bourne should be more active and not just tote the logo of the NBA on its letterhead, I accepted the nomination



Sharon Christmas-DeBerry, Derron Parks, Hon. Sharon Burrell and Joel Braithwaite

of Assistant Executive Director for Region IV and Alternate Member of the NBA Board of Directors. It is my hope and desire that through my participation in the NBA, the Bourne membership will become more aware of NBA events and thus more involved. President-Elect, **Derron Parks**, has likewise expressed his desire that Bourne become more active in the NBA; so I am certain that we will rise to the challenge of becoming more active affiliate. In 2011, The 86th Annual Convention of the NBA will be held in Baltimore. As an affiliate chapter within the region in which the convention will be held, its our responsibility and duty to participate in the planning of the convention. Planning meetings will begin soon, and I will keep you abreast of dates and times. I urge you to get involved and make this event one of the best conventions ever!

Sharon Y. Christmas-DeBerry
President



JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor
Emeritus
Lloyd A. Johnson

Newsletter Editor
Joel Braithwaite
(202) 276-4902

E-mail: joel.braithwaite@gmail.com

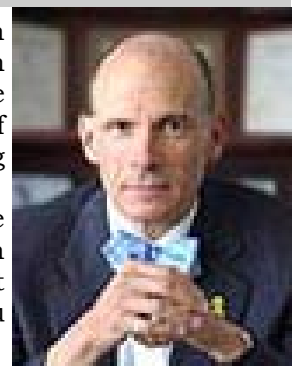
The **JFB Newsletter Committee** strives to insure that the *JFB Newsletter* provides a valuable resource to its members. But we need your help. The Newsletter Committee invites your participation as a Committee member or as a contributor. We welcome articles and information on topics of interest to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

NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION

On July 25, 2009, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association held its annual **New Admittee's Reception**. The event was well attended. Members of the judiciary came out in numbers to show their support and commitment to our newest colleagues. Among the judiciary present were the **Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge** of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the **Honorable Arrie Davis** from the Court of Special Appeals, The **Honorable Alexander Williams and The Honorable Charles Day** from the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, **The Honorable William D. Missouri, Chief and Administrative Judge**, Seventh Judicial Circuit and Administrative Judge for Prince George's County; from the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, The **Honorable Sharon Burrell**; from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County **the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, The Honorable Michele D. Hotten, The Honorable Larnzell Martin, Jr., The Honorable Herman Dawson, and The Honorable Beverly Woodard**; from the District Court for Prince George's County **The Honorable Thurman Rhodes, The Honorable Krystal Alves, The Honorable Tiffany Anderson, and The Honorable Lawrence Hill, Jr.**; and from the Orphans Court for Prince George's County, **The Honorable Althena Malloy Groves**. **Chief Judge Bell, Judge Davis, Judge Williams and Judge Missouri** imparted words of wisdom to our new admittees and stressed the importance of becoming involved in Bourne and other bar associations. They encouraged them to seek the advice and mentorship of experienced attorneys and the bench and stressed the importance of civility and adhering to the rules of ethics. Thanks to the efforts of **the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Wennesa B. Snoddy, Bridgette A. Greer**, and our fabulous hosts **Earl and Andree (Green) Checkley**, our New Admittee's Reception was a tremendous success. Thank you to our sponsors: **Adrian Gardner (MNCPPC), Gantt & Barnes, LLC, Ayo Stevens, Esq., Gina Smith, Esq., Bridgett Ann Greer, Esq., Marva Jo Camp, Esq., Arretha Jones Arrington, Esq., Theresa L. Moore, Esq., Nakia Gray, Esq., Samuel C. Hamilton, Esq., J. Wyndal Gordon, Esq., and Felcia L. Greer, Esq.**

ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY CLE AT SEPT MEETING

The Honorable Paul Grimm will present a seminar on electronic discovery at our general membership meeting on September 17, 2009. Judge Grimm is the Chief Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, in Baltimore. He is considered one of the leading experts on electronic discovery. He is the co-author of *Discovery Problems and their Solutions*, published by the American Bar Association and has written other books on depositions and evidence. Judge Grimm is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law. You won't want to miss this one!



UPCOMING EVENTS



NAACP

The **Prince George's County Chapter of the NAACP** will hold its **Annual Freedom Fund Dinner** on Friday, September 18, 2009 at the Camelot, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD. **Benjamin P. Jealous, President** and CEO of the NAACP will be the Keynote Speaker. Tickets \$75. Call 301 883-4841 to reserve your ticket.

4TH ANNUAL HOWARD BAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

July's Maryland Bar Exam marked the end of the fourth annual **Howard Law Bar Mentorship Program**, an effort between **Howard University School of Law**, the **Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland** and **JFB**. This program harkens to JFB's mission to insure the continuation of African-Americans in the legal profession. The effort was spearheaded by **Dolores Dorsainvil** and **Joel Braithwaite**.

Several JFB members — too many to name in this column — served as bar mentors providing support to Howard Law's, American's, UDC's and Georgetown's recent graduates during this most trying time in their life. As with all things, that too did pass. CONGRATULATIONS ALL!

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.

KUDOS TO JUDGE TONI E. CLARKE

Congratulations to the **Honorable Toni E. Clarke** for being honored with the Rita C. Davidson Award by the Women's Bar Association of Maryland. The Award was established in 1985 to honor individuals who have contributed to the integrity of the legal profession, advanced the interest of women engaged in the practice of law, promoted legal education, aided in the administration of justice, and advanced the status of women in society and the legal profession. The Award is the highest honor of the Women's Bar Association and is named for the Honorable Rita C. Davidson, a long-time WBA member who was the first Award recipient.

INVESTITURE OF MICHAEL PEARSON

On August 5, 2009, **JFB Member Michael Pearson** was sworn in as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Maryland for Prince George's County. Mr. Pearson fills the Circuit Court vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Ronald D. Schiff. Governor O'Mally is quoted as saying, Governor O'Malley, Mr. Pearson "has demonstrated a deep dedication to community service, hard work, and bettering the practice of law. [He] has the intellect, thoughtfulness, sense of fairness, and expertise to be an excellent judge."

The Governor's Press Release of his appointment follows: Mr. Pearson is an Assistant State's Attorney in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. He is currently a senior prosecutor who handles exclusively homicide cases. Mr. Pearson initially served as a prosecutor in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office from 1999-2004 and returned to the office in 2007; in his seven-years as a prosecutor, he has tried approximately 150 cases to verdict. He also has experience in private practice at the Greenbelt-based firm of Bennett & Bair, LLP, where he represented clients in Circuit and District Courts across the state.

Mr. Pearson has served on the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J. Franklin Bourne Bar Association, and as the co-chair of the Prince George's County Bar Association's Criminal Law Section for the past three years. He is a member of 100 Black Men of Maryland, Inc., as well as a member of the A.M.E. Church's Law Ministry. He graduated from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Taken from <http://www.gov.state.md.us/pressreleases/090708.asp>

BILLY MARTIN TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



On **November 5, 2009**, we will have our **Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet** at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD. **Billy R. Martin, Esq.** will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Martin is a partner in the firm Howrey, LLP 's global litigation practice, focusing on white collar criminal defense. His diverse practice includes substantial jury trial experience and representation of individuals and corporations in connection with federal and state criminal investigations, as well as in civil disputes, including financial fraud, improper employment practices, professional liability, civil rights violations and complex commercial disputes. Mr. Martin also maintains an active sports and entertainment practice. He is consistently recognized as an established legal authority and is frequently invited to offer commentary and legal analysis on major television networks such as ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Court TV and BET. His list of celebrity clients include former and present NBA players Jayson Williams, Allen Iverson, Juwan Howard, and Rod Strickland, former heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe and NFL Quarterback Michael Vick. Mr. Martin HAD also represented White House intern Monica Lewinsky, the parents of slain Capitol Hill intern Chandra Levy, actor Wesley Snipes, and U.S. Senator Larry Craig.

NATIONAL PRO BONO CELEBRATION

After years of discussion and planning for an annual national celebration of pro bono, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service chose 2009 to launch this important initiative. The Committee is sponsoring this pro bono recognition from October 25th through the 31st. The celebration is a coordinated national effort to showcase the great difference that pro bono lawyers make to the nation, its system of justice, its communities and, most of all, to the clients they serve. The week is also dedicated to the quest for more pro bono volunteers to meet the ever-growing legal needs of this country's most vulnerable citizens.

The Standing Committee has emphasized that "although national in breadth, this celebration provides an opportunity for local legal associations across the country to collaboratively commemorate the contributions of America's lawyers and to recruit additional volunteers to meet the growing need."

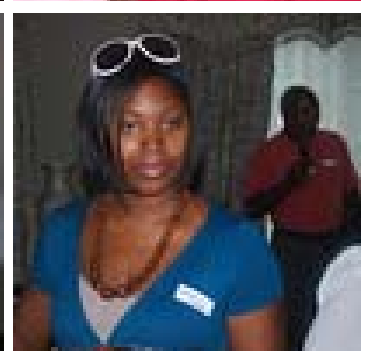
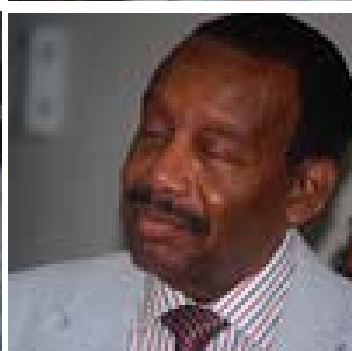
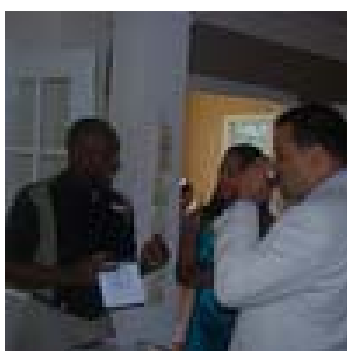
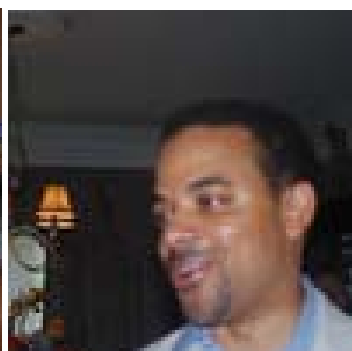
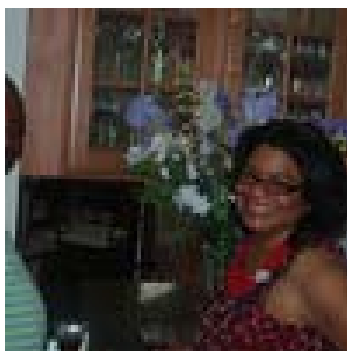
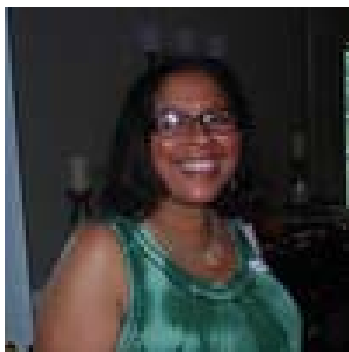
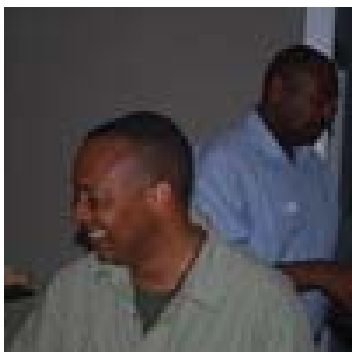
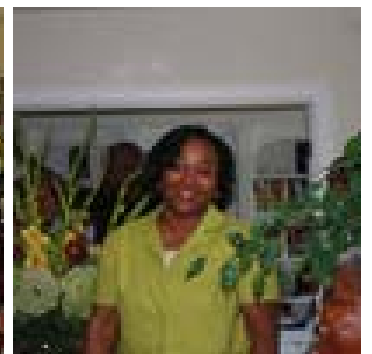
To that end, The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association will host a law day/legal clinic during which we will provide answers to legal questions on a broad range of topics, including family law, bankruptcy, foreclosures/loan modifications; criminal law, personal injury, landlord/tenant law, wills and estate planning, real estate law and employment law. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon Y. Christmas-DeBerry via telephone or email at deberry4law@aol.com or (301) 883-8616. Remember, we have an obligation to give back.

BITS & BRIEF — SSN/FTIN DISCLOSURE

As you are probably aware by now, recent legislation mandates that the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland provide the Comptroller of Maryland with the names, addresses and social security numbers or federal tax identification numbers of lawyers to assist the Comptroller in determining whether a lawyer has paid all undisputed taxes and unemployment insurance contributions payable to the Comptroller or the Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to assist in identifying new businesses within the State. Additionally, the Court of Appeals, upon request by the Child Support Enforcement Administration, must provide the CESA with the full name, address and SSN of an attorney, and the Court may suspend an individual's license or deny a license to an individual, upon notification from the CESA that licensee or applicant is in arrears on child support payments. Accordingly, attorneys barred in Maryland must provide their SSN or FTIN to the Client Protection Fund by September 14, 2009. Failure to do so could result in the Fund referring your name to the Attorney Grievance Commission for further action. If you have not yet done so, please forward the form you received from Judge Bell immediately. If you did not receive a form or have misplaced it, you can find it on the Court of Appeals website.



PHOTO GALLERY: JFB NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION



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

Important Dates to Remember

JFB's Montgomery County Committee
Sat., September 5, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Bar Association
27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD
Holly Reed (301) 587-9480
Breakfast will be served.

JFB General Meeting

*You are cordially invited to attend
On September 17, 2009*

CLE: "Electronic Discovery in Federal Court"

*Guest: Hon. Paul Grimm, US Magistrate Judge
Organized by the Honorable Michele D. Hotten
Radisson Hotel, 9100 Basil Court, Largo, MD 20774*

JFB Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet

*On November 5, 2009, we will have our Annual
Scholarship Awards Banquet at Martin's Crosswinds in
Greenbelt, MD.*

Special Guest: Billy Martin, Esq.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

In November of each year, we hold our **Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet**. Proceeds from the banquet are used to award scholarships to law students to help defray the cost of law school tuition. However, contributions can be made to the fund year round.

In keeping with JFB's commitment to increased minority participation in the practice of law, 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.**

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

The J. Franklyn Bourne Newsletter is happy to announce that we will now be accepting advertisements. Line ads start at \$15 for two lines, \$19 for three lines, \$23 for four lines and \$4 for each additional line. Display Ads rates are displayed below. "PRINT READY" ads must be received by the 10th of the month before publication.

DISPLAY AD SIZE	1 TIME	3 TIMES	6 TIMES
Business Card	\$40	\$30	\$25
Quarter Page	\$90	\$80	\$70
Half Page	\$120	\$105	\$90
Full Page	\$220	\$200	\$180

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED.



Membership classes are:

Active: An "active member" shall be any attorney who is a member in good standing and is licensed to engage in the practice of law in the State of Maryland. **Dues:**

admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$50; 5 years or more \$100.

Associate: An "associate member" shall be any professor of law or person who is a member in good standing and is licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction other than Maryland and who

lives in either Montgomery or Prince George's County. **Dues: admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$50; 5 years or more \$100.**

Student: A "student member" shall be any student matriculating at any accredited school of law located in Maryland or Washington Metropolitan Area who supports the principles and objectives of the Association and who, upon application and approval of the Board of Directors, pays the applicable membership fee. **Dues: \$10.**

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