

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



William A. Snoddy

It is with great humility that I assume the mantle of leadership of this great organization. For those of you who know me, feel free to skip ahead. For those of you who do not know me, I am a 1995 graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law. I am an Associate County Attorney in the Prince George's County Office of Law, where I practice primarily in the area of civil litigation. Prior to joining the Office of Law, I worked for the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. in Riverdale and the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore City.

I vividly recall attending my first JFB Bar Association meeting in

the fall of 1995 at the Prince George's County Community College. Having just returned to Prince George's County from North Carolina, I had little or no connection to anyone in the legal community here and I was unemployed. [Well, I had a job. But I didn't go to law school to sell ladies shoes at Hecht's.] Marc Curry, a JFB member I met in North Carolina when he was a law student at G.W., suggested that I come out and meet some of the membership, i.e. prospective employers. The meeting room was filled to capacity with attorneys, judges and future judges from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. There was a palpable spirit of collegiality. Needless to say, I did not get a job out of that meeting. My experience that evening, however, prompted me to attend future events and to become

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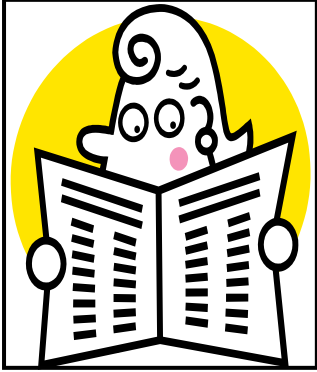
JFB ELECTIONS ...



Past-President Debra Davis; President William A. Snoddy; Pres.-Elect, Sharon V. Burrell

JFB's annual elections were held on November 18th at the Greenbelt Community Center. (See results in President's article.)

Following the elections, JFB's Elections Chair, Hon. Charles B. Day, administered the oath of office to our the newly-elected President, **William A. Snoddy**, and President-Elect, **Sharon V. Burrell**.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

actively involved in the organization. Through Bourne I have met some of my closest friends and mentors.

Much has changed since I attended that meeting in 1995. While the collegiality among members remains, the meetings are not as well attended and membership has slipped a bit. In order to continue JFB's continuing mission of dedication to legal excellence, community service, and the advancement of minorities in the legal profession, we need your active participation. Our voice will ring louder with more members in the choir. I renew **Immediate Past President Debra Davis's** challenge that each of you step up your participation. I encourage you to log onto our website at www.bournebar.org, download the membership application and send it in with your dues.

The Executive Board's challenge is to better serve you. In order

to do so, however, we need to hear from you. We want to know what services/activities you would like Bourne to offer; what changes, if any, would make it more likely that you would attend meetings; and what suggestions you have for how JFB can meet your needs and/or expectations. Please drop me a line at was-noddy@hotmail.com or stop me when you see me on the street or in the courthouse. Better yet, tell me on January 20th - at our next membership meeting at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Congratulations to the other elected members of the Executive Board and thank you and the Executive Officers for your service to JFB — **President-elect Sharon V. Burrell, Treasurer Robin D. Bright, Recording Secretary DeAndrei Drummond, Corresponding Secretary Shelley Johnson** and Executive Officers **Garland H. Stillwell and M. Andree Green.**

William A. Snoddy, 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 HOLIDAY PARTY.

JFB's Annual Holiday Party on December 9th at Florian Hall in Bowie was very well-attended. Several old faces (not literally, of course) and several new faces joined the festivities.



Krystal Quinn Alves and Agnes M. Powell

In addition to toys contributed at the party, used clothing and toys will be gathered at the January 20th membership meeting. (See related article in "Did You Know".)



Michael Pearson, D. Michael Lyles, Anu Kemet

DID YOU KNOW?.

The Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges elected Prince George's County Circuit Court **Judge William D. Missouri** as its next chair at a meeting Nov. 15. Howard County Circuit **Judge Diane O. Leasure** was named vice chair of the Conference. Judge Missouri and Judge Leasure began their newly elected positions on Dec. 4.

Judge Missouri has been Circuit Administrative Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit since 1997, and the County Administrative Judge since 1992. He has served as vice chair of the Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges since 2003. Judge Missouri is a member of the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee, Maryland Judicial Conference, and the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. He has chaired the Legislative Committee for the Maryland Judicial Conference since 2001.

After two hospitalizations earlier this year, JFB Past-President, **Bridgette A. Greer**, is up and about, and was seen at the November JFB Meeting and the Holiday Party earlier this month. Welcome back, Bridgette!

"Suffer the Little Children." Do you have any used toys or clothing— winter or summer— suitable for children up to five years of age? JFB is collecting these items for a volunteer-operated orphanage in Zimbabwe where each of its 37 children have been orphaned or abandoned by their parents and suffer from the AIDS virus. These children receive no medication whatsoever and their life expectancy rarely exceeds 5 years.

The facility receives no governmental or international support and its sponsors make every effort to provide each child with comfort, love and affection before his or her premature death.

Toys and clothing will be collected at the January 20th membership meeting, shipped to a U.S. collection point and then transported to the orphanage.

JFB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY!

JFB's 2005 Membership Committee is conducting a vigorous membership campaign. The Committee, composed of **Felecia Greer, Sallie Williams, Bridgette Greer, Carolyn Saxon, George Simms, Joel Braithwaite, and Lloyd A. Johnson**, Chair, has already identified over 400 African-American attorneys who currently reside in or practice in Montgomery and Prince George's counties — but are not currently active members of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association.

Plans include a personal letter to each attorney from President William A. Snoddy, introducing himself and sharing the advantages of membership in the JFB Bar Association and the opportunity to be included in the planned Second Edition of the JFB Attorney Resource Directory.

Student memberships will be spearheaded by our student membership coordinator, Joel Braithwaite, a third-year student at Howard University School of Law.

The Committee seeks additional members - with the opportunity to perform its assignments via telephone and e-mail, not formal meetings. For further information, contact Lloyd A. Johnson at (301) 367-5115 or by e-mail at LloydAJohnson@comcast.net.

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.

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Important Date to Remember

***General Membership Meeting
and Elections***

Thurs., January 20th, 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD

3rd Annual Oratorical Contest

February, 2005
To Be Determined

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.