

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

Sharon V. Burrell
President

Robin D. Bright
Treasurer

Shondriette D. Kelley
Recording Secretary

Shelley Johnson
Corresponding Secretary

Abigale Bruce Watson
President-Elect

William A. Snoddy
Immediate Past President

Keith A. Parris

J. Wyndal Gordon

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Sharon V. Burrell

Greetings. Although it was suggested that my initial message contain personal information so that those who don't know me can do so, being the cautious type I was not comfortable with the widespread dissemination of information. Instead, I decided to let members get to know the personal side of me at the Bourne Holiday party that I hosted at my home on December 3rd. Bourne members and guests who bravely crossed the Prince George's County line into Montgomery County enjoyed an evening of food, fun and surprises. If you were one of the attendees, you learned that I can be both flexible and a risk taker and you also got a sense of my taste in music from performers both living and presumed dead. But,

what I want to do with Bourne during my term in office.

Let's bring back the good old days! When I first joined Bourne over a decade ago, the meetings were always well-attended and elections were taken so seriously that there had to be a moratorium on campaigning during the annual banquet. The first time I ever ran for office, I sought the position of recording secretary and lost – to a man who couldn't even type, but who had gotten his votes lined up. I want to go back to the days when meetings were standing-room only, when people spent weeks getting proxies for issues, and telephone lines buzzed between meetings. When I mentioned the good old days to a former president, she said that there was a lot of contentiousness during that time. My response was, yes, but people were committed. I want to bring back that commitment by *all* members of

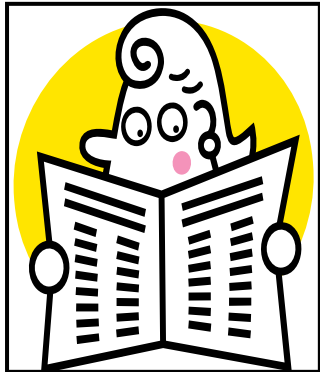
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JFB ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Abigale Bruce Watson of Arlington, Campbell & Watson, (abwatson@verizon.net) has been elected President-Elect for J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association. Abigale has been a long-time active member of JFB and will assume the office of President in December 2006. Other elected JFB officers for 2006

are **Robin D. Bright**, State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, Treasurer (rdbright@co.pg.md.us); **Shondriette D. Kelley**, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Recording Secretary (skelly-hus12002@hotmail.com), and **Shelley Johnson**, of Knight, Manzi, Nusbaum & LaPlata, Corresponding Secretary (sjohnson@kmmnl-law.com).

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JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor

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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 **Lloyd A. Johnson**. (See above.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

Bourne. I want to go to meetings and Bourne functions where more than the three "Montgomery County S's" are present – **Sallie (Williams), Sam (Hamilton)** and **Sharon**.

My main goals are to maintain the successful programs that Bourne has in Prince George's County and to increase Bourne's presence in Montgomery County through additional programs and activities. We have already begun. The toys that members brought to the Holiday Party were donated to the People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring. The Church has a Toy Land program that collects toys from groups and individuals and allows parents who are experiencing financial difficulties to pick out toys for their children.

I am excited about working with the newly elected and appointed Executive Board, which is comprised of both seasoned members and new

faces: **President-elect Abigale Bruce-Watson, Treasurer Robin D. Bright, Recording Secretary Shondriette D. Kelley, Corresponding Secretary Shelley Johnson and Executive Officers Keith A. Parris and J. Wyndal Gordon.**

But in order for Bourne to be successful, we need the support and participation of all members. We have committees that need chairs and members and I invite each of you to contact me to let me know what you are interested in doing. I can be reached at 240-777-6722 or by e-mail sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov.

I recognize that we all have other things going on in our lives, but if everyone makes a commitment to do what he or she is able to do, then we can bring back the good old days. As Stevie Wonder sang, "I wish those days would come back once more cause I loved them so."

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Assoc.

MSBA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Maryland State Bar Association's Leadership Academy is accepting applications for its Leadership Class for 2006-07. The Leadership Academy is a special committee of the MSBA dedicated to increasing state bar participation while fostering diversity and stewardship among new members of the Maryland bar.

Leadership Academy Fellows serve for a 12-month term and create and implement a public service project. The deadline for submitting applications for this class is March

31, 2006. You may apply on-line by visiting the MSBA web site at www.msba.org and click on the special committee link to the Leadership Academy. For further information contact **Sharon V. Burrell** at 240-777-6722 or Sharon.Burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov.

In recent years, several JFB members, including JFB's Immediate Past President, **William A. Snoddy**, have participated in the Leadership Academy and have had nothing but fine words to say about the program.

DID YOU KNOW?



Montgomery County Committee: Reminder, for attorneys who reside or practice in Montgomery County, the purpose of the Montgomery County Committee is to increase the visibility and recognition of JFB in Montgomery County. The

Committee's importance was recognized several years ago when the JFB bylaws established the Committee as a Standing Committee. In the past, through the Committee, JFB sponsored such community-oriented activities as a high school Street law program and Community Law Day. The president is seeking to revitalize this Committee. For further information contact **Sharon V. Burrell** at Sharon.Burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov.

POSITION AVAILABLE: **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service** is recruiting for an attorney to fill the position of Deputy Director. MVLS is the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Maryland and has been at the forefront of the pro bono legal services community. The Deputy Director will assist the MVLS Executive Director in managing the pro bono pro-

gram, supervising the staff, and managing the grants and other funding streams and will serve as alternate to Executive Director for public functions and activities.

The position requires strong organizational skills, ability to craft practical solutions for program design and problems, public speaking ability, and ability to work with senior lawyers at major law firms and at least seven year's broad legal experience including one or more in family law, consumer law, landlord-tenant law and tax. Some management experience preferred. Evidence of commitment to public service or pro bono work. Submit resume immediately to **Winifred C. Borden**, Executive Director, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, One North Charles Street, Suite 222. Baltimore, MD 21201. FAX: 410-837-0431. Email: Winnie@mvlslaw.org.

FLASH! Baltimore **Mayor Martin O'Malley** has tapped long-time JFB member, **Delegate Anthony Brown** (D-Prince George's) as his running mate in next year's race for Governor. Brown serves as Majority Whip in the Maryland House of Delegates. His selection as a candidate for Lt. Governor, follows his keynote address at JFB's Scholarship Banquet in November. Del. Brown recently returned almost 10-month stint in Iraq as an Army reservist.

JUDICIAL WATCH

Congratulations to long-time JFB member, **Krystal Quinn Alves**, on her recent appointment to the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County. Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Krystal served as Chief of the Juvenile Division of the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County,

Meanwhile, in Montgomery County, **Judge Eugene K. Wolfe** was appointed Administrative Judge of the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County, effective upon the retirement of Judge Cornelius Vaughney. Judge Wolfe is the first African-American jurist to hold this position in Montgomery County. Prior to assuming the Bench in 2001, Judge Wolfe was an active member of the JFB Montgomery County Committee and spearheaded a JFB high school Street Law program.

Governor Robert Ehrlich has appointed **Judge Michael Algeo** and **Judge Thomas Craven** of the Montgomery County District Court, and private practitioner **Ronald Rubin** to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.

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 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 Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., January 19th 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

JFB ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1.)

In addition, JFB President, **Sharon V. Burrell**, has appointed **Keith A. Parris**, Law Offices of Keith A Parris (kparris@parrislaw.com) and **J. Wyndal Gordon**, Law Offices of J. Wyndal

Gordon (jwgaattys@aol.com) to serve as Executive Officers on the JFB Board of Directors.

In accordance with the JFB bylaws, Immediate Past President, **William A. Snoddy**, Montgomery County Attorney's Office (wasnoddy@hotmail.com) will also serve on the JFB Board.

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** by e-mail at LloydAJohnson@comcast.net.