

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

As President of our esteemed organization, I enjoy the privilege of representing the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association at events throughout the State of Maryland. My goals are to reinforce our presence in the community, to provide a face of the group of legal minds who are committed to uplifting the Bench, the Bar and our communities and, lastly but most importantly, to build coalitions wherever I go.

Recently, I was privileged to attend the investiture of **Judge Clayton Greene** to the Maryland Court of Appeals. For the first time in Maryland history there are now two African Americans who sit on the highest court of the State. I remember first meeting Judge Greene and his wife at

Bourne's annual New Admittees Reception a couple of years ago. He has been and continues to be supportive of our organization.

I am also pleased to report that Maryland's National Bar Association Affiliates, consisting of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, the Monumental Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys, the Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland, and the Waring Mitchell Bar Association of Howard County, formed a coalition and were able to help fund the reception for Judge Greene's investiture. A few of us are making "Black History" on a daily basis.

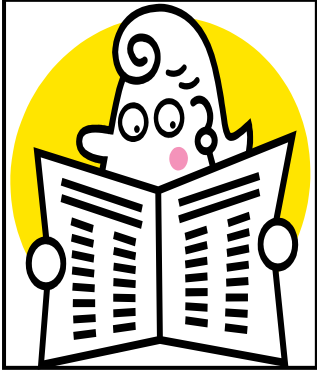
Our Legislative Breakfast at the Greenbelt Marriott on February 7th was a success. **Marva Jo Camp** and **Abigail Bruce Watson** organized an informative and inspiring program, as usual. Our thanks to them for once again stepping for-

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Meet Your Legislators Breakfast



Delegate Odie Patterson (D-P.G.), Chair of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus, consults with JFB's President, **Debra M. Davis**, on legislative priorities during a break at JFB's Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel on Saturday, February 7, 2004.



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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.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

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ward to insure the success of the Breakfast. I reminded the audience that most of the leaders in the room were involved in at least one other organization, and "had at least three jobs". Our active members are involved in local bar associations, church groups and politics while still practicing law full time. Our

goal must be to inspire others to become active in at least one organization.

There is still much work to be done in so many different arenas. In honor of **Black History Month**, let's continue to coalition build, to inspire others to leadership, to share our accomplishments and mark milestones

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

JFB 2004 Oratorical Contest — February 28, 2004

Some of the best high school students in Montgomery and Prince George's counties will debate the topic, "*Do Historically Black Colleges and Universities Still Serve a Worthwhile Purpose?*" in **JFB's 2004 High School Oratorical Contest** at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2004 in the Auditorium of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt, MD. Admission is free.

With a First Prize scholarship of \$1,000, five judges, trained or experienced in public speaking, will evaluate contestants on the basis of originality, skill in selecting examples, logic, comprehensiveness, voice and diction, style and poise in speaking. There will

be other prizes and awards to each contestant in the competition. Several high schools have already indicated their intention to participate in JFB's 2004 Oratorical Contest. The deadline for submission of contestant's 500-word double-spaced essay to high school sponsors is February 14, 2004.

This year's contest is the second of what is fast becoming a JFB tradition for February, Black History Month.

For further information about the Oratorical Contest, contact **D. Michael Lyles, Esquire**, by e-mail at dmlyles@co.pg.md.us or by telephone at (301) 952- 5585 or **Amir Guerami**, by at (301)780-8182 or e-mail at Amir.Guerami@courts.state.md.us.

Case Note: *Illinois v. Lassiter*, 540 U.S. ____ (2004)

In *Illinois v. Lisster*, 540 U.S. ____ (2004), decided on January 13, 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court held that an information-seeking checkpoint did not violate the Fourth Amendment. *Facts*: Police establish a checkpoint at the scene of a serious hit and run accident, handing out flyers and seeking the public's assistance in gathering more information

about the accident. As the defendant approaches the checkpoint, he swerves and almost hits an officer. After he failed a field sobriety test, the defendant was arrested, charged, and subsequently convicted of DWI. On appeal, he challenged the stop's constitutionality.

(Continued on page 4)

DID YOU KNOW...

The **Annual Alan Goldstein Criminal Law Seminar** of the Prince George's County Bar Association will be held on **Saturday March 27, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro, MD**

from 8:30 to 1:00 P.M. Featured presenters will include **Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia**, Judge, Court of Appeals; **Hon Joseph F. Murphy, Jr.**, Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals; **Hon Dwight Jackson**, Judge, Circuit Court for Prince George's County. There will also be a focus on confessions presented by **Andrew Jezic, Esq.** and **Frank Molony, Esq.** co-authors of "*Maryland Confession Law*" and a special visit by Prince George's County Sheriff **Michael Jackson**.

The **Maryland State Bar Association's Leadership Academy** is accepting applications for its Leadership Class for 2004-2005. The deadline for submitting applications for this class is March 31, 2004. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, visit the MSBA Internet web site at www.msba.org/seccomm/leadership or contact **Abigale Bruce-Watson** at (301) 572-3247 or by e-mail at abruce-watson@omng.com.



Karren J. Pope-Onwukwe, JFB's Vice-President, was among those greeting Senator Barbara Mikulski when Maryland's Senator formally opened her re-election campaign on the MLK Birthday Holiday on January 19th in Bowie, MD.

Krystal Alves, President of the Prince George's County Bar Association and a member of JFB Bar Association, seeks volunteers from JFB to participate in the televised membership drive of **Maryland Public Television on Sunday, March 21, 2004, 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at the MPT Studios located in Owings Mills, MD.

For further information, contact Krystal by e-mail at kqalves@co.pg.md.us or by telephone at (301) 952-3500. before Friday, February 20, 2004.

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING --- The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland ("PBRC") has expanded its **Bridge the Gap ("BtG") Training Series!** These half-day courses are offered to volunteer attorneys for just \$30! Attendees are expected to accept one pro bono case. Upcoming BtG trainings include: *Mitigating the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records*; February 18, 2004, Baltimore. For more information or to register, contact the Pro Bono Resource Center of MD at: ((800) 492-1964 ext. 261; or email: pbrc@probonomd.org.

"African-American Women of the Maryland Bench" - The Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland, Inc. welcomes the entire legal community to honor Maryland's finest members of the Bench at a judicial reception on **Thursday, March 25, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Law Offices of Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum & LaPlaca, 14440 Old Mill Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Please RSVP no later than March 15, 2004 to **Dolores Dorsainvil** at (202) 256-3545 or by e-mail at d_dorsainvil@hotmail.com.

Arthur Horne is organizing a **Celebration of January and February Birthdays** on Tuesday, February 17th at Ruby Tuesday's in Greenbelt, MD. So that Arthur can reserve as many seats together as possible RSVP by e-mail to ahorne9291@aol.com without delay.

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 Dates to Remember

Jan./Feb. Birthday Celebration

Tuesday, February 17th; 6:00 p.m.
Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant
Greenbelt, MD

***JFB 2004 High School
Oratorical Contest***

Sat., February 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Eleanor Roosevelt H.S. Auditorium
7601 Hanover Parkway
Greenbelt, MD

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., March 18, 6:30 p.m..
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD

Case Note: Illinois v. Lassiter, 540 U.S. _____ (2004)(Cont.)

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The Court affirmed the lower court finding that the defendant's Fourth Amendment rights were not violated, reasoning that unlike other checkpoint cases (see *Indianapolis v. Edmond*, 531 U.S. 32, 2000), which are set up to ferret out crime and, thus, require individualized suspicion, the purpose of this checkpoint was

simply to seek information. The stop itself was brief, non-intrusive, and provided little or no basis for anxiety or alarm to citizens who are stopped. Accordingly, the concept of individualized suspicion has no role to play in this case.

Courtesy of Laura Gwinn, Assistant State's Attorney
State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County

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