

# 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

Greetings! Once again it is that time of the year when America reflects upon the struggles and celebrates the achievements of African-Americans. We are all aware of the important role African-American

lawyers have played in the civil rights movement. Maryland lawyers in particular have a legacy of leadership. Baltimore's Thurgood Marshall was among a team of lawyers who began the assault on Jim Crow in Maryland courts when they represented Donald Murray in his successful suit to desegregate the University of Maryland's law school. Their work culminated in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954,

which led to the dismantling of de jure segregation.

While there is much to celebrate – surviving the Middle Passage, enduring slavery and persevering through segregation and discrimination, there is still much work to be done. A quote from **Booker T. Washington's** 1896 speech, "Democracy and Education," says something that is still relevant more than 100 years later:

"It is said that the strongest chain is no stronger than its weakest link. In the Southern part of our country there are twenty-two millions of your brethren who are bound to you by ties which you cannot tear asunder if you would. The most intelligent man in your community has his intelligence darkened by the ignorance of a

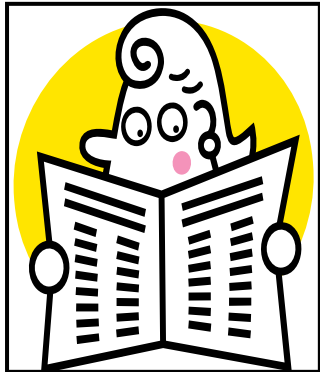
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## ORATORICAL CONTEST on FEBRUARY 26th .

Once again, the area's best and brightest high school students will compete in JFB's **4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Oratorical Contest**. The contest will be held *Saturday, February 26, 2005 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.* at Eleanor Roosevelt High School Auditorium 7601 Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt, MD. This event has quickly become one of JFB's most invigorating outreach efforts.

**Judge Hassan El-Amin**, the Committee chair, and the planning committee are enthusiastic about this year's student competition. Committee members include **Anu Kemet, D. Michael Lyles, Donna Shepherd, Youshea Berry, and Kanika Johnson**. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Judge

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

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fellow citizen in the Mississippi bottoms. The most wealthy in your city would be more wealthy but for the poverty of a fellow being in the Carolina rice swamps. The most moral and religious among you has his religion and morality modified by the degradation of the man in the South whose religion is a mere matter of form or emotionalism."

Washington's speech was a declaration to Southern whites that their destiny was intertwined with their Black brethren and that the future of the South was tied to the achievement of full citizenship of African-Americans.

Today, Washington would likely substitute the southern references with "impoverished inner city," "urban ghetto" or any other term used to characterize communities inhabited by African-Americans who have yet to achieve the promise of educational, economic and social upward mobility and address his words to those Blacks who are living the *American dream*. Others, however, may argue that Washington's words could be taken to mean that African-Americans as a whole are stained by the failings of their

brothers and sisters who fail to put forth the effort to advance.

For instance, last May during an NAACP commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, **Bill Cosby** took a segment of the Black community to task for parental failures that he said have led to high dropout rates, crime and other social problems. Cosby stated that "the lower economic people are not holding up their end in this deal," choosing to spend \$500 on sneakers rather than \$200 on "Hooked on Phonics." Cosby's remarks are still being debated nearly a year later. Is the Cosby right?

If you have not made up your mind or you would like to hear arguments on both sides, then attend JFB's 4th annual **Oratorical Contest** on *February 26, 2005 at 10 a.m.* at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland. High schoolers from Prince George's and Montgomery counties will speak on: "Bill Cosby's Comments on Black Parenting: On Point or Off Base?" The contestants will compete for college scholarships up to \$1,000. I hope each of you will come out and support our young people as they pursue achievement and excellence.

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

### JFB Newsletter Committee

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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.)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICES.

JFB membership dues invoices for the 2005 program year will be mailed shortly to each JFB member who paid her or his dues in the 2004 program year. If you have any questions or concerns about your status, contact our treasurer, **Robin Bright** by telephone at (301) 952-3500 or by e-mail at [rdbright@co.pg.md.us](mailto:rdbright@co.pg.md.us).

In addition, JFB members will be asked provide JFB with current information on their legal education and practice emphasis for inclusion in our forthcoming Attorney Resource Directory.

For advertising information contact **Lloyd A. Johnson** at (301) 367-5115 or by e-mail at [lloydajohnson@comcast.net](mailto:lloydajohnson@comcast.net).

## DID YOU KNOW?.



Mark your calendar for *Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>* for the **Annual Goldstein Criminal Law Seminar** in the Jury Assembly Room of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro. This is an excellent opportunity for judges, defense attorneys, and

prosecutors from around the state to get together and listen to experts discuss new developments in the criminal law.

**BLACK ALUMNI CONFERENCE** —The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) of Georgetown University Law Center will hold its inaugural **Black Alumni Conference** at the Law Center on 600 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC on the weekend of *February 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>*. The Conference will feature panel discussions, a networking reception and a formal banquet. **Mark H. Morial** (Law, 1983) will deliver the keynote address.

For more information contact [blackalumni-conf@law.georgetown.org](mailto:blackalumni-conf@law.georgetown.org)

**JOIN JFB'S LISTSERVE** – JFB has established a Yahoo Group ListServ among its paid/active members in order to improve our communication within the association. To register on the JFB's Yahoo Group ListServ, navigate to [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org) and double-click the icon on the left. The JFB ListServ is secure and will ensure that all JFB members regularly receive timely information on JFB activities.

**LANGUAGE & ADA INTERPRETERS**— The Circuit Court for Prince George's County has clarified the process by which language interpreters and ADA interpreters may be requested for civil and criminal hearings and trials. For full details on this amended policy, contact **Judge William D. Missouri's** Administrative Aide, **Iris D. Wyvill** at (301) 952-3728.

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## ORATORICAL CONTEST (Continued)

(Continued from page 1.)

El Amin stated, "we are excited about our theme and the ideas that will come from the students of our region as they consider this particularly relevant issue while assessing their place in the world as they plan for the future."

Last year's contest included 12 student competitors. This year the committee hopes to double the number of student participants by extending invitations to 33 Montgomery and Prince George's County public schools. Schools have been encouraged to hold intra-school competitions and/or nominate up to three students to compete as finalists at the JFB contest. The first place winner will receive a \$1000 college scholarship with additional scholarships and prizes to other contest winners.

This year's theme is –"*Bill Cosby's Comments on Black Parenting: On Point or Off Base?*" Each student will deliver a prepared 3-5 minute speech, incorporating arguments or perspectives on Cosby's highly publicized observations.

A 3-5 judge panel will evaluate contestants on the basis of originality, logic, comprehension, an style and poise in speaking. Judges will also offer students brief individual critiques of their performance.

For further information or to volunteer please contact **Kanika Johnson** at (301) 780-8182 or by e-mail at [kanika.johnson@courts.state.md.us](mailto:kanika.johnson@courts.state.md.us) .

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.**

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

***Important Date to Remember***

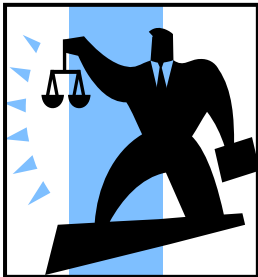
***General Membership Meeting***

Thurs., March 17th, 6:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

***3rd Annual Oratorical Contest***

Sat., February 26th, 10:00 a.m.  
Eleanor Roosevelt H.S. Auditorium  
7601 Hanover Pkwy  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

***DID YOU KNOW...***



**IMPORTANT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE—**

Please note that our February General Membership Meeting, normally scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, February 17th, will not be held in light of the

**joint meeting of the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association** at the Courthouse of the U.S. District of Maryland, Southern Division at 6500 Cherrywood Ln., Greenbelt, MD on *Tuesday, February 8th.*

***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).