

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 V. Burrell

"Enriched by our past, prepared for our future." That was the theme of a documentary video about the **Tuskegee Airmen** that was shown at the joint meeting between JFB and the Prince George's

County Bar Association on February 7th. As we celebrate Black History month, it is important to reflect on how far we have come and where we are going.

We began the month by mourning the loss of the First Lady of the civil rights movement, **Coretta Scott King**, whose strength and courage served as an inspiration to us all. With her passing, an era has ended. The question that has been asked by many is, who are our leaders of today? But equally important are the

tomorrow and what are we doing to help prepare them?

The Tuskegee Airmen gave an exciting and educating presentation about their skills and accomplishments, and also spoke of the discrimination that they faced on a daily basis. **Col. Hank Henry** spoke of how black officers were not allowed to eat in the same cafeteria as white officers, even though German prisoners of war were allowed to do so. And no matter how much experience the black officers had, they were always considered "trainees." The Airmen recognized that they had to be better than the white officers to be taken seriously. They accepted the challenge and surpassed all expectations, despite the obstacles. **Tuskegee Airman Charles Herbert Flowers** was one of the first African American Army pilot instructors and made sure that the black pilots he trained were always well-prepared.

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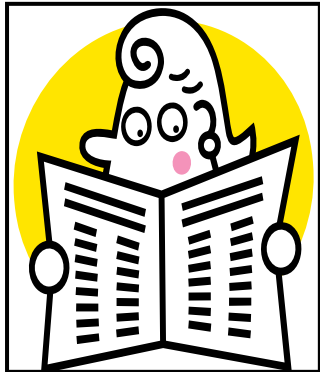
ORATORICAL CONTEST—February 25th



William Snoddy (l) and Judge Hassan El-Amin pose with 2005 JFB Oratorical Contest winners.

On Saturday, February 25th, local high school students will be cheering "*Hip Hop Hooray*," for JFB's *5th Annual High School Oratorical Contest*. The contest will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Prince George's County Administration Building in Hearing Room One, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro.

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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 **Joel Braithwaite**. (See above.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

Tuskegee Airman Cicero Satterfield was the only non-commissioned officer present. Although he was not a pilot – he was an airplane mechanic – Satterfield certainly contributed to the success of the Tuskegee Airmen, for without persons making sure that the planes would fly, there would be no pilots. He stated that “in the dimension of time there is only one constant – now. We cannot extricate ourselves from the present.” The principles espoused by the Airmen are principles that apply to everyone. We must act now to prepare the next generation for tomorrow.

As lawyers, we have a responsibility to always be prepared and as JFB members we have the responsibility to ensure that the principles of the organization are carried out. One of the most important principles is the continuation of African Americans in the legal profession. Based on the turnout at the January and

February meetings, I believe that we are well on the way to ensuring that Bourne’s mission will be fulfilled and that Bourne continues to be a viable and respected organization, not only this year, but into the future.

At the January meeting JFB members approved the budget and received copies of the revised bylaws and the directory – two important sources of information for JFB. It was encouraging to see so many new members, as well as returning members, who were eager to volunteer for the programs discussed. Our new members are certainly our future, and it is up to seasoned attorneys to share past experiences that may help the attorneys new to the practice of law to prepare for their futures.

Let’s also help prepare and encourage our young people by attending the **Oratorical Contest on February 25th**. Let’s support our leaders of tomorrow – today.

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Association

ORATORICAL CONTEST (cont.)

District Court judge and committee chair **Judge Hassan El-Amin** and the contest planning committee are especially enthusiastic about this year’s student competition. Committee members include **Donna Shepherd, Youshea Berry, Joseph Wright, D. Michael Lyles, Kimberly Lewis, Anu Kemet, Kanika Johnson, Ryan Scully and Ken Courter**. Judge El Amin observes, “This oratorical contest has quickly become one of JFB’s most invigorating outreach efforts. This year’s contest theme has created more interest and excitement than ever.”

Last year’s contest included 19 finalists from an original field of approximately 40 student contestants. Although the number of contest

finalists is limited to 20 this year, the committee hopes to double the number of student applicants. To achieve this goal, the committee has published announcements in local newspapers with a combined circulation of over 500,00 copies. Local radio stations will also air ads about the contest. County 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 \$1,000 college scholarship and additional scholarships and prizes will be awarded to other contest winners.

This year’s theme is “*Hip Hop: How Is It Affecting Us?*” Over the past decade, the world has witnessed the

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DID YOU KNOW?



▶ On the move—JFB Treasurer, **Robin Bright**, has moved to the Calvert County State’s Attorney’s Office.

▶ Check out JFB’s Internet web site. www.bournebar.org. Our web guru, **Joel Braithwaite**, has added

pages on JFB’s Montgomery County Committee, Events, and steps on becoming an attorney. The latter page is especially informative for persons considering legal careers and is linked with relevant pages from the web site of Howard University Law School.

▶ **Harvard University** has announced that undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. Harvard’s presi-

dent **Lawrence H. Summers** said, "When only 10 percent of the students in Elite higher education come from families in lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough in bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution."

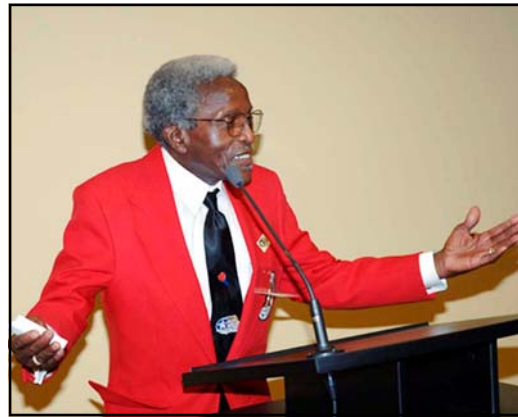
If you know of a family earning less than \$40,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, visit Harvard’s financial aid web site at: <http://fao.fas.harvard.edu/> or call the school’s financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

▶ The **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc.** and **MICPEL** are pleased to announce their *Bridge the Gap Training Series for 2005 – 2006*. This series is uniquely tailored to the needs of pro bono and public interest lawyers, and is offered in an effort to expand the provision of high quality legal assistance to those in need. For more information, call the Pro Bono Resource Center at: 410.837.9379 or 800.492.1964 ext. 3045.

JFB Honors Tuskegee Airmen.



Tuskegee Airmen surround JFB’s Sharon Burrell



Tuskegee Airman, Cicero Satterfield



JFB’s, Sam Hamilton (r) with a Tuskegee Airman

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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.

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Important Dates to Remember

JFB Oratorical Contest

Sat., Feb. 25th; 10:00 a.m.
County Admin. Bldg., Hearing Room 1
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., March 16th; 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

JFB ORATORICAL CONTEST. (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

growth of hip hop and its ascendance to an art form recognized throughout the world. It is clear that hip hop has gained a stronghold in American culture.

Each student will deliver a prepared 3-5 minute speech on the impact of hip hop on his or her life and future as well as its effect on society. The students have the freedom to address the theme as they wish. Arguments that range from social activism in the hip hop movement; to the misogynistic and materialistic lyrics of various artists; to the introduction of hip hop colloquialisms like "bling-bling" into common vernacular; to the use of hip hop music to market and sell everything from Coca-Cola to securities.

A panel of judges will evaluate contestants on the basis of originality, skill in selecting examples, logic, comprehensiveness, voice and diction, and style and poise in speaking. Judges will also offer students individual critiques of their performance.

The guest speaker will be **Dr. Jared Ball** of the University of Maryland who trains young people of color to create their own music and radio shows.

This event is free and open to the public. For further information or to volunteer please contact **Ryan Scully** (301) 780-8182 or by e-mail at ryan.scully@courts.state.md.us.

Youshea A. Berry, Esquire

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 **William A. Snoddy** by e-mail at wasnoddy@hotmail.com.