

# 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



**J. Franklyn Bourne**  
Bar Association  
30th Anniversary

ONE  
GENERATION  
PLANTS TREES  
THE OTHER GETS  
THE SHADE

Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Judge Thurgood Marshall, Madam C. J. Walker, Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois are among the recognized names generally bandied about during Black History Month.

While these individuals deserve our continued recognition, other names are deserving of our acknowledgment and they are JFB's founding members.

Almost 30 years ago, sixteen (16) lawyers made history with the adoption of a resolution establishing the J. Franklyn Bourne Law Club and they are as follows:

**Judge Alexander Williams, Jr.**  
**Franklin D. Henderson**  
**Paris A. Artis**  
**Othello Jones**

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## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

During our Legislative Reception held in January, various issues involving education, public safety, healthcare, gaming and voting rights were discussed with our State and local elected officials. As the General Assembly session in Annapolis continues and has reached day 50 of the 90 day session, the Legislative Committee wanted to update the members on some of the bills that would be of interest to the Association.

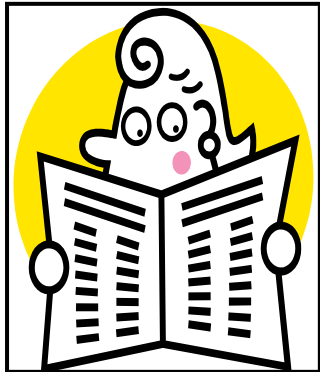
There is a truancy bill that has generated a lot of discussion in Prince George's County, HB 506/SB 113, which would establish a pilot program similar to the program implemented on the Eastern Shore and includes electronic monitoring of truants. The bill has not passed out of the House

Delegation and has been special ordered for more discussion.

The death penalty repeal bill, HB 225, has been supported by Governor O'Malley and the Montgomery County Council. HB 225 would provide that an inmate who has been sentenced to death before the bill's October 1, 2007 effective date and who has not been executed, may not be executed and will be considered as having received a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Another popular bill that was passed out of the House is the early voting bill, HB 201, which authorizes the General Assembly to provide by suitable enactment a

*Continued on Page 4*



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

Continued from Page 1

**Larry Harbin**  
**Judge James H. Taylor**  
**Samuel C. Hamilton**  
**Joseph A. Finalyson**  
**Joseph Gibson**  
**John T. Days**  
**Ronald Hill**  
**Steven A. Hamilton**  
**Tillman L. Gerald**  
**Leonard L. McCants**  
**Judge DeLawrence Beard, and**  
**Janet Webb.**

Because of the courage and foresight of the above individuals, our bar association exists today. To quote Shaakira Raheem, the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Oratorical Contest held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, **“One generation plants trees and the other gets the shade.”** While we bask now in the shade, it is imperative that we continue to plant trees for the next generation to come.

I am proud to say that this sentiment was more than evident at this year's oratorical contest under the leadership of **Judge Hassin El-Amin** and his committee members. **Judge El-Amin** and committee members, **D. Michael Lyles, Joseph P. Wright, Shannon Weaver, Ryan Scully, Ken Courter, Donna Shepherd, Amirah Salaam, Tamika S. Brown, and Stacey Ann Llewellyn,** did an “outstanding job” with the coordination and promotion of this event.

As many of you know, this year's topic was “Strengthening Our Schools and Our Families - What Needs to be Done.” The participants offered up solutions which included, but were not limited to, more after school programs, parental involvement, and greater interdependency

between school and family life.

In addition to the outstanding student performances, attendees were treated to a keynote address from **Dr. Ron L. Watson**, newly elected At-Large member of the Prince George's County School Board.

Special recognition goes out to **Maurene Epps Webb**, Mistress of Ceremonies, who kept the audience entertained with Black History Trivia and the contest judges, **Judge James P. Salmon, Judge Michele D. Hotten, and Archie L. Palmore, Esquire.** On behalf of our association, I extend a heartfelt “Thank you” to all who made this event a rousing success!

To close out Black History Month, the joint bar meeting with Prince George's and Montgomery County featuring the “Buffalo Soldiers,” which was cancelled due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, February 28, 2007.** See attached flyer for more details.

Lastly, please note that our upcoming General Membership Meeting on **Thursday, March 15, 2007** will feature a CLE Program presented by **Gregory K. Wells, Esquire**, entitled **“Elizabeth, this is the big one-How to screen for the big case and what to do when you get it?”** I look forward to seeing everyone at our new meeting place location: Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland, Largo Student Center Room 232A. See [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org) for directions and parking information.

Regards,  
 Abigale Bruce-Watson, Esquire  
 President, JFB Bar Association

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

## HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

On Saturday, February 24, 2007, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association held its **Sixth Annual Oratorical Contest** at the Prince George's County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Eleven local high school students wowed bar association members, teachers, parents and other spectators with their thoughtful orations on this year's topic, **"Strengthening Our Schools and Our Families: What Needs to be Done?"** College scholarships were awarded to the top three students.

**Thais Francis**, a junior from Charles Herbert Flowers High School, won Third Prize and a \$250 scholarship. Her schoolmate, **William Fernandes**, a senior at Flowers, was awarded Second Prize and a \$500 scholarship. However, it was the only participant from Montgomery County who stole the show. **Shaakira Raheem**, a senior at Al-

bert Einstein High School, won First Prize and a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association extends its congratulations and thanks to all Contest participants. In addition, JFB would like to thank the Contest judges, **The Honorable James P. Salmon, The Honorable Michele D. Hotten, and Archie L. Palmore, Esquire**. Also, a special thanks to **The Honorable Hassan A. El-Amin** and the Oratorical Contest Committee for planning this year's event, **Maureen Epps Webb**, Mistress of Ceremonies, and **Dr. Ron L. Watson**, Member of the Prince George's County Board of Education and this year's guest speaker. Thank you for making the Sixth Annual Bi-County Oratorical Contest a success!

Sharon Weaver, Judicial Law Clerk



William Fernandes (2nd), Thais Francis (3rd), Shaakira Raheem (1st), Judge Hassan El-Amin and Abigale Bruce-Watson. (From left to right)



Dr. Ron L. Watson, Member of the Prince George's County Board of Education



Participants patiently awaiting their opportunity to orate.



Judge El-Amin, Pres. Watson, the participants, Judge Hotten, Judge Salmon and Archie Palmore. (From left to right)

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER (Con't)

Continued from Page 1

process to allow voters to vote at specified polling places in specified locations and on specified days prior to specified election dates and submits the amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. There does not appear to be any significant movement on any slots bills this session.

As to healthcare, HB 510 is an emergency bill sponsored by Del. Niemann that would create a Prince George's County Hospital Authority that would develop and implement a long-term plan for hospital and health care services, as well as having the authority to acquire the health care facilities and leases held by Dimensions Health Care. The Prince George's County Council is in opposition to the bill.

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.

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 [joel.braithwaite@gmail.com](mailto:joel.braithwaite@gmail.com). Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

## ANNUAL JFB SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the tentative date for the 2007 JFB Scholarship Golf Tournament: Tuesday, May 29, 2007. This is JFB's premiere fundraising event to fund the awarding of cash scholarships to high school and law students.

While the course is still to be decided, other things are not. The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$500 per foursome and the tournament's format is "Captain's Choice." The fee includes range balls,

awards and prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin, lunch and other golf gifts.

Send your registration to Garland H. Stillwell, Esquire, Golf Committee Chair, J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121. Checks are payable to the "J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc." Contact Garland at (202) 663-8147.

## HUSL MENTOR RECEPTION

The Meet and Greet for Howard Law School has been scheduled for March 22. The reception will be held in the President's Suite in Houston Hall at 6:00 p.m. at the Howard University School of Law.

I hope prospective mentors can attend as it will be a great way to meet your mentee and ease their fears about the bar exam! Please RSVP to: Dolores Dorsainvil, at 410-514-7063 or by email at [Dolores.Dorsainvil@courts.state.md.us](mailto:Dolores.Dorsainvil@courts.state.md.us).

We are still accepting mentors wishing to volunteer. Lets get these students over the bar.

## BUFFALO SOLDIERS — TODAY

**JFB, the Prince George's County Bar Association** and the **Bar Association of Montgomery County** will host the postponed joint membership meeting today, Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at the Federal Court house in Greenbelt. In honor of Black History Month, we proudly present the **Buffalo Soldiers** as our guest speakers. The evening's schedule is 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: CLE Presentation: "**How to Avoid Complaints & Grievances While Handling Personal Injury & Domestic Relation Cases**," Dinner; 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$20 for children (ages 6-17).

**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 1121  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

***Important Dates to Remember***

**Joint JFB, Prince George's & Montgomery Counties' Bar Associations Meeting**

Wed., Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m.  
U.S. District Courthouse  
6500 Cherrywood Lane  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

**JFB's Montgomery County Committee**

Sat., Mar. 3, 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
Montgomery County Bar Association  
27 West Jefferson Street  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Holly Reed (301) 587-9480

**General Membership Meeting**

CLE by Gregory K. Wells  
Thurs., Mar. 15, 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
Prince George's Community College  
301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland  
Largo Student Center  
Room 232A

**HUSL Bar Mentorship Reception**

Thurs., Mar. 22, 2007, 6 p.m.  
President's Suite, Houston Hall  
Howard U. School of Law

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Christmas in April**

Sat., Apr. 28, 2007

**Scholarship Golf Tournament**

Tues., May. 29, 2007

***SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS***

Let's give the gift of charity – J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow... Thornton Wilder

In keeping with JFB's mission, the Scholarship Fund has been raising money and awarding scholarships to local area law students to help defray the cost of law school tuition. Please join with us in those efforts by making a donation to the Scholarship fund. Donations are tax deductible and any amount would be appreciated. Checks should be made payable to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

***CHRISTMAS IN APRIL***

Christmas in April will be celebrated on April 28, 2007, and we need you! Our homeowner is a 77-years-young resident of Capitol Heights whose home is in need of light cleaning, painting and re-tiling. If interested in helping out please call or email Maurene Epps Webb at 301-952-3644 or mewebb@co.pg.md.us.

Christmas in April is a non-denominational volunteer program that repairs the homes of senior citizens who are either low-income and/or physically challenged. It is an opportunity for us to give back to the community, to meet other professionals, and to spend time with family members. Please save the date.

***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED.***



**JFB** 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 Janelle Jordan & Judge Herman C. Dawson.