

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND INCREASED MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Joint Bar Mtg.</i>	1
<i>Did You Know</i>	3
<i>Membership Info</i>	4

JFB Board of Directors

Debra M. Davis
President

Karren J. Pope-Onwukwe
Vice-President

Robin D. Bright
Recording Secretary

DeAndrei Drummond
Corresponding Secretary

Adrienne L. Morgan
Treasurer

William A. Snoddy
President-Elect

Bridgette A. Greer
Immediate Past President

Sharon V. Burrell

Maureen Epps-Webb

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Debra M. Davis

Happy New Year! Can you believe that "Y2K" was four years ago? This is my first opportunity to address you this year. It is traditionally a time for resolutions, evaluations and rededications to things that are important to us. Whether you resolve to be more physically fit or to keep in touch with old friends, don't forget to consider your obligation as lawyers to the community.

As leaders it is important for each one of us to give back to the community in which we live. Our community is only as strong as the weakest of us. There are several issues on the horizon that will be addressed this year that our communities will need our leadership. We will make ourselves available as an organ-

ization as a resource to answer questions.

For example, the Prince George's County legislative delegation has asked JFB to serve as a resource as they address issues such as slots in Prince George's County, a review of the Bail system for the entire State of Maryland, and the National elections in November, to name a few issues. We will spearhead our alliance with our political leaders at our Annual Legislative Breakfast later this month. This is an excellent opportunity to meet local officials from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. We will also present our legislative agenda. If you are interested in working on this committee contact **Marva Jo Camp** by e-mail at mjcamp17@aol.com.

Thanks a bunch to **Joe and Shawn Wright** for inviting us into their home for our Annual Holiday Party. They threw a top-notch

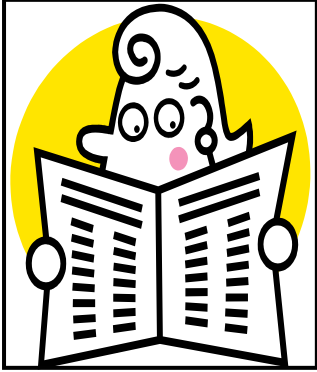
(Continued on page 2)

JOINT BAR ASSOC. MEETING - February 10th



The **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association** and the **Prince George's County Bar Association** are pleased that **Hon. Glenn F. Ivey**, State's Attorney for Prince George's County, will be the guest speaker at the Joint Bar Associations' Meeting on February 10, 2004 at the Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt, MD.

(Continued on page 2)



JFB Newsletter Committee

Sharon V. Burrell

Chair

(240) 777-6722

E-mail:

sharon.burrell@co.mo.md.us

Newsletter Editor

Lloyd A. Johnson

(301) 809-0944

E-mail:

lloydajohnson@comcast.net

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.)

(continued from page 1)

event with wait staff, great food and drink. Those who missed it missed a great time. Several toys were collected and distributed to a local church.

We are starting the year off with the appointment of one of our members to the Circuit Court of Prince George's County. Congratulations to **Master Cathy Holtenberg Serrette** for her recent appointment to the Circuit Court bench. Master Serrette has extended a personal invitation to all JFB members to the investiture on Monday, January 12, 2004 in courtroom 300 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. I am honored to be selected as a presenter.

Whenever I call upon people to assume leadership roles I get a tremendous – and positive – response! Hats off to **Adrienne L. Morgan** who has assumed the position of Treasurer following the resignation of **Belinda Bell. Karen Gooden** has agreed to serve as the liaison between JFB and the

Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP. **DeAndrei Drummond** will be our liaison to the Judiciary. Our President-Elect **William Snoddy** has already begun planning our 20th annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. There are several other positions to be filled. Please call me at (301) 899-9400 if you have a preference. I will also be calling you. Active involvement in J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association is a tremendous networking opportunity.

Join us as we strengthen and rebuild our leadership network by preparing members for leadership positions in our own organization and throughout Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Our first **General Membership Meeting** will be held at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road in Greenbelt, MD on **Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.** Need directions? Contact **Lloyd Johnson** at (301) 809-0944 or by e-mail at lloydajohnson@comcast.net. See you there.

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

JOINT BAR ASSOC. MEETING (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1.)

Prior to the meeting, **John Burns** has assembled a panel of practitioners to discuss "Crimes and Misdemeanors: Federal Bankruptcy and Financial Frauds - Litigation Issues and Tactics from the Government and Private Sector." The panel will include bankruptcy practitioner and civil litigator, **John D. Burns, Esquire** of The Burns LawFirm, LLC, Panel Chair,

Andrew Radding, Esquire, Adelberg Rudow, Dorf & Hendler, (civil and criminal litigation), **Robert Bonsib, Esquire**, Marcus & Bonsib (civil and criminal litigation), **Tamara Fine, Esquire**, United States Department of Justice, (bankruptcy crimes prosecutor), **John Doherty, Esquire**, Assistant United States Trustee, Department of Justice (bankruptcy litigator). Mr. Burns will also present a bankruptcy update on new case law and developments.

DID YOU KNOW...

Judge Cathy Serrette's Investiture January 12, 2004. Chief Judge Graydon S. McKee III and the Associate Judges of the Seventh Judicial Circuit cordially invite you to the Investiture of **Cathy Holenberg Serrette** as an Associate Judge of the Circuit

Court for Prince George's County on Monday, January 12, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom 300, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. A reception will follow immediately afterward in the Courthouse atrium.

A Tribute To Ben Wolman. The Fraternal Order of Police will celebrate Ben Wolman's years of service on Thursday, January 15, 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the FOP Lodge 89, 2905 Old Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Hors d'oeuvres and libations; \$10 at the door. For further information call: (301) 952-0882 or **Joe Wing** at (410) 216-7838 (home) or (301) 233-0625 (cell).

Elder Law Section Meeting. You are invited to a meeting of the Elder Law Section on Thursday, January 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel in Largo. The program will feature **Jason A. Frank**, noted Maryland Elder Law Attorney. Please RSVP by no later than January 20, 2004 to **Jackie Byrd** (301) 464-7448 or by e-mail at jbyrd@byrdandbyrd.com or **Karren Pope Onwukwe** (301) 927-3145 or by e-mail at kpopeatty@hotmail.com. Also, mark your calendars for the upcoming Elder Law Section meetings on March 18, 2004, May 20, 2004 and June 24, 2004.

Prince George's College Students Seek Mentors. Prince George's Community College seeks to pair paralegals and pre-law students with practicing attorneys in varied areas of practice in Prince George's County. Attorneys will be paired with a paralegal/pre-law student with interests and/or specific questions in the attorney's area of law. Interested mentors should be available by phone to answer questions and be willing to share a day with one of the students. If interested, please leave a message with **Rosa Bush Williams** at (301) 322-0060. **Judge Mason** will call you to coordinate!

Maryland Public Television Volunteers:

JFB will again provide volunteers for the Maryland Public Television membership drive telethon. The date for our participation is Sunday, March 21, 2004, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the MPT Studios in Owings Mills, Maryland. As in previous years, 25 volunteers will be needed to answer telephones and accept pledges while the telethon is on the air. Please call Phil Epstein at 301-390-6600 if you would like to serve as a volunteer for this activity. Our participation gives JFB and the entire legal profession, a very positive public image.

Annual Goldstein Memorial Criminal Practice Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2004 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Jury Assembly Room, Court House, Upper Marlboro. 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 2004-2205. The deadline for submitting applications for this class is March 31, 2004. If you are interested in learning more

(Continued on Page 4)

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.

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

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

Joint Bar Assoc. Meeting

Tues., Feb. 10th
Federal Courthouse
Greenbelt, MD

JFB 2004 High School Oratorical Contest

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

DID YOU KNOW ... (Cont.)

(Continued from Page 3.)

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.

JFB's High School Oratorical Contest will be held on **Saturday, February 28th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of Eleanor Roosevelt H.S., 7601 Hanover Pkwy., Greenbelt, MD.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Still Serve a Worthwhile Purpose?". First Prize" \$1,000 Scholarship. The deadline for submission of contestants' 500 word, double-spaced speech (essay) to high school sponsors is February 14th.

For further information please call or e-mail Michael Lyles at (301)952-5585 or by e-mail at dmlyles@co.pg.md.us or Amir Guerami, at (301) 780-8182 or by e-mail at Amir.Guerami@courts.state.md.us.

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