

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

Happy New Year! We start off 2006 with heartfelt congratulations to recently appointed Prince George's County District Court **Judge Krystal Quinn Alves**. I attended Judge Alves' swearing in ceremony on December 22, 2005, at the Prince George's County Courthouse and it was standing room only. A veritable Who's Who in Prince George's County and the legal community participated in the program as presenters. Congratulations are also in order for the **Honorable Eugene Wolfe**, who was appointed Administrative Judge for the Montgomery County District Court.

With the new year comes resolutions and I hope that each of you has made a resolution concerning the

J. Franklyn Bourne to: a) become active, b) recommit yourself, c) increase your level of participation, or d) maintain your level of support, whichever fits your particular situation. Come to the first meeting of the year at the Greenbelt Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on January 19, 2006, ready to join a committee and share your ideas. Our committee chairs are already working hard for Bourne.

Also come to the meeting with your checkbooks. As you know dues are the lifeblood of most organizations, and Bourne is no exception. At the January meeting, the Board will be presenting a budget for the upcoming year, which depends on your participation. As an added incentive for you to come to the January meeting, the directories will be distributed that evening. The directories are free to any dues-paying members of 2005 or 2006.

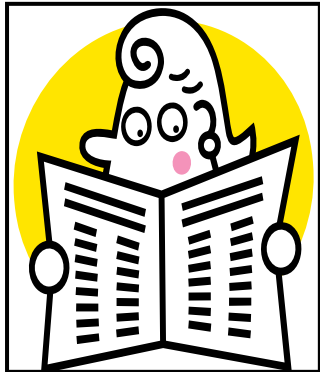
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FEBRUARY JOINT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JFB and the Prince George's County Bar Association will host a joint membership meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at the Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt. In honor of Black History Month, we proudly present original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. as our guest speakers.

The evening's schedule is: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: CLE Presenta-

tion: "Effective Appellate Advocacy – Pitfalls to Avoid;" 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Cocktail Hour; 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner Program. Tickets are \$35 for PGBCA and JFB members and \$45 for non-members. Please send payment to the Prince George's County Bar Association, 14330 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 by February 1, 2006.



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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)

We are looking forward to an exciting year in which we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of J. Franklyn Bourne, starting with the Oratorical Contest scheduled for *Saturday, February 25, 2006*, at the Prince George's County Administration Building hearing room. **Judge Hassan El-Amin** and his committee have worked tirelessly to put on another successful program.

As a scheduling reminder, we typically have a joint CLE dinner meeting in February with the Prince George's County Bar Association to celebrate Black History Month. This year's meeting will be held on *Tuesday, February 7, 2006*, at the federal courthouse in Greenbelt. The CLE

will be on appellate advocacy and our dinner program guest speakers will be original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. Further details are provided in this newsletter.

With the New Year comes changes. One good change that I invite you to check out is our newly designed web site at www.bournebar.org. Many thanks to our webmaster and chair of the newsletter committee, **Joel Braithwaite**, for his creativity and hard work.

I have received many calls and e-mails from members offering their support. I appreciate each and every one. Let's keep those calls and e-mails coming!

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Association

IS BOURNE STILL RELEVANT?

Perhaps I am going through "Sex in the City" withdrawals, but I think a provocative question is always good for the soul. At JFB's November meeting, our president recalled being asked the above question by a member of the majority community, who, of course, cited the many successes of African-American lawyers in the Counties in support of his position.

After all, the argument goes; African-American lawyers are now fully integrated into the Bar Associations of Prince George's County, Montgomery County and the State. In particular, in Prince George's County we have steadfastly held positions not only on the Board of Directors, but have held the presidency on a consistent basis over the last several years.

At the State Bar level, an African American recently completed his

term as president and members of the minority community are being recruited to participate in the State Bar's Leadership Academy Program, which was specially established to encourage diversity. Likewise, the Montgomery County bar has held open discussions on "Diversity" issues. With so much parity existing, why then is Bourne still relevant?

Before this question can be answered, we must examine our history and our mission to determine, if in fact, we have accomplished the Association's goals. Our history tells us that, JFB was named after the Honorable J. Franklyn "Frankie" Bourne (1917-1972), the first African-American District Court Judge in Prince George's County, Maryland. Judge Bourne was committed to effectuating necessary social changes and the advancement of African-American attorneys.

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DID YOU KNOW?



Kudos to JFB member **D. Michael Lyles** for his recent overwhelming re-election to the Bowie City Council.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE: Assistant Public Defender, St. Mary's and Calvert Counties. Salary

range: \$49,898—\$77,284. Contact Hiring Committee, Office of Public Defender, 6 St. Paul St., Suite 1400, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Juvenile Law Center seeks staff attorney. Application deadline: January 20, 2006. Contact **Marsha Levick**, Legal Director, Juvenile Law Center, 1315 Walnut St., Ste. 400, Philadelphia, PA 19107. (215) 625-0551.

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REMINDER: The MD Court of Appeals requires each lawyer licensed in Maryland to report on her or his pro bono activities and interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) annually. The Rules of Professional Conduct set an “aspirational” goal of 50 hours annually — JFB work *may* meet this goal. Reporting deadline is *February 15, 2006*. Failure to report can result in decertification from the practice of law in Maryland.

JFB DUES: Watch your mail for your annual JFB dues invoice for the 2006 program year. Prompt payment of your dues saves JFB the time and expense involved in sending reminder notices—that could otherwise be expended on other program activities. Membership inquiries may be directed to our newly-appointed Chair of our Membership Committee, **William A. Snoddy** whose e-mail address is wasnoddy@hotmail.com.

IS BOURNE STILL RELEVANT? (Cont.)

(continued from page 2.)

Thus, the Association’s continuing mission remains the same:

- ▶ *Dedication to legal excellence;*
- ▶ *Dedication to community service; and,*
- ▶ *Dedication to the advancement of minorities in the legal profession.*

Undoubtedly, we have had some measure of success in all of the areas above. An African-American is the Court of Appeals’ Chief Judge and our numbers on the bench continue to increase with the recent appointment of **Judge Krystal Quinn Alves**, a JFB member, to the District Court for Prince George’s County. Former JFB presidents have served and continue to serve in leadership positions throughout our government. JFB has awarded over \$30,000 to area law students through our Scholarship fund. We continue to recognize and support local community service projects.

In light of these advancements, are we done? Is there no longer a need for scholarship assistance to minority students or to teach new admittees about the profession or how to attain leadership positions in the bar and beyond? As a

collective, are we going to turn over those responsibilities to the respective majority bars, now that some believe full integration is a reality? I am beginning to think the answer to the above questions is “Yes.” At our November meeting, more than ¾ of the attendees were new faces, which speaks well of the Association’s future, but where were the not so new faces? Merriam-Webster defines legacy as “something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.” Our new members are reaching for those entrusted with Judge Bourne’s legacy with outstretched hands; are we not responsible for passing the torch? Some say: “with success comes complacency,” I say “we have a lot more running to do.”

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

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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.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Important Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., January 19th 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Joint JFB & Prince George's Bar Associations Membership Meeting

Tues., February 7th; 5:30 p.m.
U.S. District Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT VACANCIES.

Applications for three vacancies on the District Court for Montgomery County are being received through January 17, 2006. These vacancies result from the retirement of **Judge Cornelius Vaughey** and the recent elevation of **Judge Thomas Craven** and **Judge Michael Algeo** to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.

The Montgomery County Trial Court Nominating Commission will consider applications on

March 16-17, 2006 before making its recommendations to **Governor Ehrlich**.

Applications may be downloaded via the Internet www.courts.state.md.us/judgeselect/judgeappl.html. Contact **Deborah Unitus** at (410) 260-1256 or **Linda Etzold** at (410) 260-1271 with any questions or information on deadlines or the application process.

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.