

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>Black History Month</i>	1
<i>Bar Mentorship Program to Expand</i>	3
<i>Legislative Corner</i>	3
<i>Did You Know?</i>	4
<i>Focus on Future</i>	4
<i>Scholarship Donations</i>	5
<i>Kudos</i>	5
<i>Membership</i>	5

JFB Board of Directors

Abigale Bruce Watson
President

Hon. Hassan Ali El-Amin
President-Elect

Shondriette D. Kelley
Treasurer

Sharon Christmas Deberry
Recording Secretary

Karren Pope-Onwukwe
Corresponding Secretary

Sharon V. Burrell
Immediate Past President

Maurene Epps Webb
Executive Officer

Hon. Toni E. Clarke
Executive Officer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



J. Franklyn Bourne
Bar Association
30th Anniversary

ON THE ROAD TO SIGNIFICANCE

Happy New Year All! In last month's President's message, I asked for your assistance in moving our bar association "From Success...To Significance," and I am proud to say, I am overwhelmed by your response to date.

Past President, **Garland S. Stillwell** and his wife, Camille, graciously opened their home to host JFB's Annual Holiday Party.

With food, drink and fellowship in large supply, members gave generously to Executive Director, Denise C. McCain, of the Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Prince George's County, to support their Children's counseling group program. Because of your support, children affected by domestic violence in our area now have the needed supplies to work out their difficulties through Art Therapy. Keep those contribu-

BLACK HISTORY MONTH & BOURNE

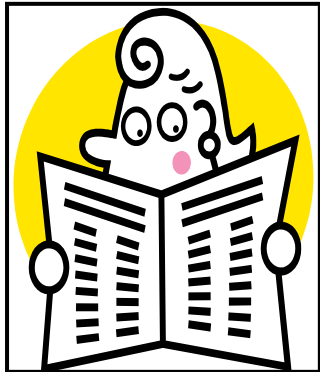
JFB presents two events in celebration of Black History Month.

First, **JFB, the Prince George's County Bar Association** and the **Bar Association of Montgomery County** will host a joint membership meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 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). Please send payment to the Prince George's County Bar Association, 14330 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper

Marlboro, MD 20772 by February 6, 2007

Second, **JFB's Oratorical Contest** will examine high school students suggestions for "Strengthening Our Schools and Our Families: What Needs To Be Done?" The contest will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Prince George's County Council Main Hearing Room. Generous sponsors, such as Models, allow the students to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship and other prizes.

The **MSBA** recently presented the **JFB** with the 2006 Best Service to the Public Project Award for its annual bi-county **High School Oratorical Contest.**



JFB Newsletter Committee

**Newsletter Editor
Emeritus
Lloyd A. Johnson**

**Newsletter Editor
Joel Braithwaite**
(202) 276-4902
E-mail:
joel.braithwaite@gmail.com

**Contributing Editor
Dione Duckett**

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.)

tions coming! For a listing of the needed art supplies, go to our website.

With our theme for the 2007 bar year firmly established, Board members and Committee Co-Chairs attended a retreat on Saturday, January 13, 2007 to discuss ways of improving our Association. Old and new ideas were explored including resurrecting the JFB ski trip, family picnic and happy hour following our general membership meetings. New ideas included a JFB celebrity basketball game to raise money for our scholarship fund, as well as adding tennis to our annual golf tournament. If anyone is interested in working on any of our standing committees, please contact the Committee Co-Chairs. Becoming significant within our community depends upon us all doing our part.

Leading by example were Past Presidents, **Arthur Horne** and **Midgett Parker**, who joined **O'Malley, Miles, Nylen and Gilmore, P.A., Arrington & Watson, LLC** and long time Bourne member, **Stan Brown**, in sponsoring JFB's Legislative Reception and General Membership meeting, which was held on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at the Greenbelt Marriott. Committee Co-Chairs, **Colette R. Gresham** and **Traci R. Scudder** did an outstanding job with the program. Thanks to all those who made this event a worthwhile experience.

Our conversations with elected officials will continue throughout the year, as mandated by our mission to defend, protect and assist in the cul-

tural, economic, social and political development of the African-American community through the vehicle of law. To that end, a **Legislative Corner Column** will be added to our newsletter to keep you informed on bills which affect us.

As a scheduling reminder, we are again joining with the Prince George's County Bar Association and, for the first time, the Bar Association of Montgomery County to celebrate Black History Month. This year's meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the federal court house in Greenbelt. See this newsletter for further details on the joint program.

President-Elect, Judge Hassan Ali El-Amin and his committee are gearing up to host the 2007 High School Oratorical Contest, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 10:00 am. at the Prince George's County Administration Building. Please come out and show your support for our young people, and more importantly, spread the word about this community event.

Lastly, your 2007 Membership dues are now due. Invoices will be forwarded to you shortly. As you know, dues are the life blood for all organizations and JFB is no exception. Please pay promptly and don't forget to give an extra donation to our scholarship fund.

We are off to a roaring start. Let's keep the momentum going!

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

HOWARD LAW BAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO EXPAND

Plans have tentatively been made to expand last year's very successful **Howard Law Bar Mentorship Program**. Last year, the program yield phenomenal results as sixteen out of the twenty students being mentored passed the bar. As currently envisioned, the **Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland** along with **JFB** will solicit its members to volunteer again this year as mentors for HUSL 2007 graduates planning to sit for the MD bar.

This year, however, the program will likely be extended to include both BLSA's at American University's Washington College of Law and University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law. This is possible since we anticipate having more mentors than mentees similar to last year. In the spirit of reaching back, this year we will also solicit help from the HUSL 2006 graduates who successfully passed to serve as mentors in our program.

The program is envisioned as a philosophy more than any rigorous requirements for mentors or mentees. There is a flexibility that the program wishes to retain so that if all a student needs is a phone call on Sunday, then that is provided, if a five minute conversation every day is needed, then that is provided. The arrangement would be worked out between the mentor and the mentee.

Other bar associations have become very interested in running a version of this program. That requires that a person from that association get a list of willing mentors and contact the BLSA at the local law schools to see how many graduates are taking the bar examination in that jurisdiction. Currently, the Washington Bar Association, and the Northern Virginia Black Attorney's Association are looking to start similar programs. While this program may not have the resources to include BLSA students from the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore law schools, it is hoped that the other National Bar Affiliates local to those law schools could institute a mentorship program. Input from anyone with connections to these associations and institutions about creating a parallel program ran by those local bar associations will be appreciated.

Currently, there are plans to host a meet and greet for the students participating, mentors, past mentees (to speak about their experience with the program), and Maryland Bar Examiners. Most likely, HUSL will host the meet and greet since it is conveniently located among UDC and AU law schools. Email joel.braithwaite@gmail.com if you want to mentor. Stay tuned for more Bar Mentorship info formation.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

On January 18, 2007, JFB held its **2007 Legislative Reception**. This event provided our membership with an invaluable opportunity to meet and dialogue with elected official on issues of mutual interest and concern.

The 423rd General Assembly session officially began on January 10, 2007 and will adjourn on April 9, 2007. This session promises to generate various debates on some pertinent issues and concerns shared by JFB, for example, legalization of slots at Maryland racetracks, death penalty moratorium or abolishment, and voting, disenfranchisement. JFB Legislative Committee will continue to track and monitor the bills that impact our mission and update the membership.

Bills of interest for JFB are as follows: PG 316-07 (Docketing Fee for Appearance of Counsel) – this bill establishes a fee and collection structure for attorney appearance filings; PG 404-07/PG 408/07 (Compensation for Election Judges) – these bills propose an increase in compensation for election judges; PG 418-07 (University of Maryland Medical System) – this bill requires the University of Maryland Medical System to acquire the Dimensions Healthcare system; and MC/PG 104-07/MC/PG 118-07 (WSSC Minority and Local Small Business Enterprise Program) – these bills seek to reestablish MBE programs.

It is only through our vigilance that we will ensure the full participation of African-Americans in the democratic process.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)** at the **University of Maryland School of Law** will hold its 32nd Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 17, 2007 from 7 p.m. – 12 a.m. at the Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore, Maryland. This year's theme is "Destined for Distinction."

Constellation Energy Group in Baltimore, MD which is seeking a Senior Attorney with corporate/securities experience. For more information, contact Paul Higgins, Managing Director, Major, Lindsey & Africa at 202-628-0660 Ext-227.

Summer Congressional Internships are an excellent way for your college or law student(s) to learn firsthand how our government works, and to play an important role in a legislative office. Further information is available at individual websites for Senators Cardin, Mikulski, and Congressmen Cummings, Hoyer, Van Hollen, and Wynn. Deadlines for summer applications are around the end of March. State internships are also available and can be pursued.

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. Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE — RETIREMENT & ESTATE PLANNING

Attorneys absolutely make the worst clients. In no other areas of practice does this cliché ring more true than in retirement and estate planning (also malpractice defense, but beyond the scope of this article). The truth of the matter is that legal practices are not known for their stellar retirement planning. Unfortunately, the longer these retirement and estate planning issues are ignored, the fewer the options that are available. Fortunately, lawyers can take steps to legally prepare for these inevitabilities. All options involve seeking professional help. That means you need to retain other professionals to help you out of the quagmire of inactivity.

So then the question becomes what type of professionals do you need? Well, first on the list is a certified financial planner. A financial planner can provide help with choosing a retirement plan, determining the amount of money to set aside regularly, using SIMPLE Plans and SEPs, implementing age-weighted profit-sharing plans, etcetera, etcetera. Do you know that 70% of your income is needed to sustain your standard of living in retirement. Please do not forget about life insurance, short term and long term disability and other protections. A certified financial planner can

help you with insurance also. Let a professional handle it.

The second type of professional required is an attorney. Yes, that is right, counsel, you need counsel. Estate tax planning is imperative to pass on wealth to your decedents. Most lawyers do not think of themselves as millionaires. That is probably true, while you are alive at least. But, looking to the real estate market, where a house cannot be purchased in most parts of these counties for less than half a million dollars, you nest egg alone places you half way to the Maryland estate tax exemption of one million dollars. Add insurance and, in your passing, you have achieved millionaire status and the matching tax bill. For those attorneys that the IRS has actually confirmed their millionaire status with the appropriate tax rate, you are overdue for financial planning.

The bad news is that your situation will not improve with neglect. Ignoring this problem only makes it worse. The good news is that professionals are available to help. Let us know if a CLE on this topic will be appreciated. Most attorneys do plan to retire, and planned or unplanned, another retirement is also certain. Proper planning is a must.

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

Important Dates to Remember

JFB's Montgomery County Committee

Sat., Feb. 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

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

Tues., Feb. 13th, 5:30 p.m.
U.S. District Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770

SAVE THE DATE

2007 High School Oratorical Contest

Sat., February 24, 2007 10:00 a.m.
Prince George's County Admin. Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

WE ARE MOVING!

General Membership meetings are being moved from the Greenbelt Community Center to Prince George's Community College, Largo Student Center, Room 232A. Parking is available in Lot B off of Largo Road (Route 202) and adjacent to Largo High School. Directions on website.

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.

KUDOS

Please join in congratulating our distinguished jurists in a "Job Well done."

On January 16, 2007, Past President Judge Michele D. Hotten was appointed member of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure by the Court of Appeals. Judge Hotten also serves as a member of the Maryland Pattern Civil Jury Instruction Subcommittee.

Chief Judge Bell was elected President of the National Conference of Chief Judges and Judge Missouri has become the President of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. These prestigious positions bring honor to Maryland and our legal system, and is deserving of recognition by us all.

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.