

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



Judge Hassan El-Amin

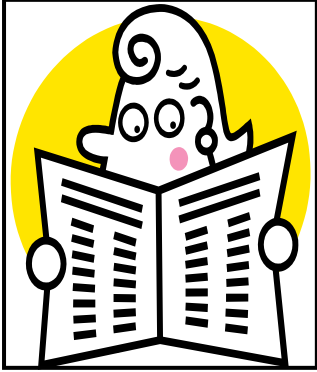
In order for our bar association to continue to be a force for positive change and improvement, we must build upon the momentum that culminated in our **30th Anniversary Celebration and 23rd Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet** in November 2007. Many say it was the most well-attended and high-spirited banquet in our history, and that's saying a lot because we have staged some fabulous banquets. To our members and non-members alike, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association has become all but synonymous with the remarkably enjoyable banquet we produce each year, attendance at which seems almost mandatory for anyone who's planning to be a factor in the politics of Prince George's—and to a lesser, but growing extent—Montgomery County. Special credit goes to all the members of the Banquet Committee, but particularly to Immediate Past President Abigale Bruce Watson whose dynamic year of leadership has launched us into a higher orbit.

In fact, this Association is much, much more than our Annual Banquet. We don't want to become known for only one event per year, when in fact we are responsible for dozens of programs, efforts and causes throughout the calendar year.

The question we should ask ourselves is, "How can we use the same energy and purpose we apply to producing the banquet to achieve the principal aims and purposes of our association, the purposes of **"promoting legal excellence, community service, and increased minority participation in the practice of law?"**

Having now seen first-hand and close-up the amount of time and energy that go into producing the banquet, I suggest it's simply not possible to maintain, on a sustained basis, the intensity and raw effort that our Annual Banquet requires, especially without a permanent staff. Yet there is one key factor, one element that **CAN** be transposed to all of our efforts, year round, and it is the key ingredient I want us to derive energy from this year. It is in fact the ingredient that attracted Harry Belafonte to our humble effort: the ingredient called **SINCERITY**. When people from all quarters asked me, "How did you get Belafonte? Why would he come here, to your banquet?" I most often replied, "Sincerity." We are doing something we believe in, and, blessed with some initial access, we were easily able to communicate to Mr. Belafonte the depth of our commitment.

Commitment to what? To making Prince George's County (and where applicable in



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

Montgomery County) a model of what a community with an educated African-American political majority (or constituency) can be. (After all, both counties have an African-American County Executive.) Commitment to building up our schools, our families, our religious and civic institutions to the point where they can ward off and counter those negative and/or oppositional forces that have historically held us back.

out their shingles to earn their living—to support themselves and their families—through the private practice of law. This year we will focus on improving the flow of information and cash to those practitioners. Secondly, we will continue to join forces with those leaders and associations who are desperately attempting to save young African-American males and whose cry is, “Build Up Our Schools! Boycott These Prisons!” In the months ahead, I hope to explain in greater detail how we can make progress toward those goals, while at the same time having fun—the “deep” fun that comes from collective work, growth, achievement, and giving back. I sincerely look forward to working with each and all of you.

Regards,
Hon. Hassan Ali El-Amin
President
J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association

We as socially conscious attorneys, privileged to be living in this time, and having “come to the place for which our fathers sighed,” are ideally positioned to achieve the broad goals set out in our organization’s motto. For example, we have the skills, the access and most importantly, the collective will, to strengthen or bolster the practices of those brave members who have hung

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 **the editor**.

JFB's BOYCOTT PRISON INITIATIVE

On Friday, November 2, 2007, with JFB’s assistance, Mr. Belafonte and other community leaders vested in children issues held a breakfast meeting at the Hilton in Greenbelt, MD. At the meeting, stakeholders exchanged ideas about issues affecting children and learned more about a grassroots initiative called “the Gathering for Justice.” This initiative is the brainchild of Mr. Belafonte and its mission is to coordinate and engage organizations in a common covenant for justice and ending child incarceration. In keeping with **JFBs Boycott Prison Initiative**, we are looking to collaborate with similar minded organizations to stop this trend of continued imprisonment of African-Americans. Anyone interested in finding out more about this organization can visit the website: www.thegatheringforjustice.org.



JFB ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

It was a pleasure to see all of the members who came to the JFB Annual Holiday Party. Folks ate, danced, watched a movie, and chatted from 7 pm until midnight. Everyone appeared to be relaxed and had a good time. In the true spirit of the season, some of the party-goers brought gifts, which were taken to the Family Crisis Center, along with a check for \$100 made possible by Marilyn Pierre's generous return of her proceeds from the "50/50" drawing. Thank you to Holly and Jodi Reed, our gracious hosts. Here are a few photos from the Holiday Party.



JFB PLANNING RETREAT

Saturday, January 12, 2008: Board of Directors and Committee Head 2008 Planning Retreat, at the home of Hassan and Martha El-Amin from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm. **All directors and committee chairs and co-chairs are urged to attend.** If you headed a committee last year or are named below, please consider yourself invited to this meeting! Here's the list:

Isaac Marks – Judicial Selection | Judge Herman Dawson – Membership | Abigale Bruce Watson and Roger Thomas - Partners in Education | Wennesa Snoddy and Judge Sheila Tillerson Adams – New Admittees | Traci Scudder and Colette R. Gresham – Legislative Agenda | Letoria Knight and Dennis Whitley – Law School Outreach/BLSA | William Snoddy and Karen Gooden – Black History | Maurene Epps Webb and Karen Pope Onwukwe – Community Service | Holly Reed and Marilyn Pierre – Montgomery County | Judge Toni Clarke and Joseph Wright – Scholarship Golf Classic | M. Andree Green – Nominations, Elections and Bylaws | Michael Ron Worthy and Charles Walton – Solo and Small firm/Young Lawyers | Judge Michele D. Hotten, Gregory Wells and Shelly Johnson – Continuing Legal Education | Sharon Christmas DeBerry and Elizabeth Hewlett – Banquet | Garland H. Stillwell and Shondriette Kelley – Scholarship Award | Joel Braithwaite – Newsletter and Web Page | Keith Parris – Lawyer's Referral

Please contact Sylvia Boyd, Judge El-Amin's secretary at 301.952.4011, for address and directions.

7TH ANNUAL ORATORICAL BI-COUNTY CONTEST

In observance of Black History Month, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association will hold its seventh **Annual Bi-County Oratorical Contest** on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The topic for this year's contest is **"Who Should the Next U.S. President Be and Why?"**

Eleventh and Twelfth grade students in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties will present their orations on this topic and compete for \$1,750 in college scholarships and other prizes donated by various sponsors. The contest will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008 from 10:00 am to 1:00

pm in the Prince George's County Administration Building, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. In the event of inclement weather, the competition will be held at the same location on Saturday, March 1, 2008. The event is free to the public.

For further information, please contact Ibrahim Moiz at ibrahim.moiz@mdcourts.gov, or Lyndsey Kuykendall at lyndsey.kuykendall@mdcourts.gov.

IOLTA ACCOUNT RULE CHANGES

Changes made to Rule 16-606.1 and Rule 1.15 of the Maryland Lawyer's Rules of Professional Conduct will take effect on January 1, 2008. Compliance can be accomplished if the following measures are employed:

- A trust account must be titled in only three names, "Attorney Trust Account;" "Client Fund Account;" "Attorney Escrow Account."
- The accounts must be in an approved financial institution;
- All checks and deposit slips must bear the required title as specified for the trust account;
- With the exception of a reasonable sum to cover bank charges, an attorney's own funds may not be commingled in the fiduciary account;
- Checks on the fiduciary account may not be drawn payable to "cash" nor are ATM withdrawals permitted from that account;
- Each deposit slip must indicate separately the identification of the person (client or third party) to whom the funds belong;
- There must be a separate record made of the deposit which shows the date, amount and the identity of the client or third person for whom

the funds were deposited AND the purpose of the deposit;

- A record for each client or third person must be maintained in the form of a ledger or equivalent computer generated record. A separate record for attorney's own funds (i.e. for the bank charges) must also be maintained;
- You should reconcile your fiduciary account every month to assure that all funds of clients or others match the money held in the fiduciary account AND you have not invaded the funds of any client or third person by disbursing funds belonging to another;
- You do not make a disbursement based on a deposit you have not made nor the deposit having cleared;
- You also must have an account separate from your fiduciary account for the funds which are yours and not that of clients or others;
- No funds from the fiduciary account may be disbursed if the same would create a negative balance for any client or third party.

If you have questions about the rule, call the office of Bar Counsel (410) 514-7051.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Dates to Remember

**2007 J. Franklyn Bourne General Body Meeting
Preempted by**

Jan. 17, 2008. Retirement Celebration for
Honorable DeLawrence Beard,
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

All members are urged to attend. (see below)

SAVE THE DATE(S)

Feb. 1, 2008. The MD Chapter of the Federal Bar is planning a re-enactment of the Extradition Hearing of runaway slave Margaret Garner. (see flyer)

Feb. 5, 2008. Joint Prince George's County Bar Assn and JFB Meeting at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse Special Black History Month program TBA

Feb. 23, 2008. Annual Bi-County High School Oratorical Contest at the Prince George's County Administration Building

March, 2008. JFB Legislative Reception. TBA

JUDGE BEARD'S RETIREMENT

You are cordially invited to a retirement party of

The Honorable DeLawrence Beard

Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit

For the State of Maryland

On Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriot Hotel and Conference Center, Grand Ballroom, at 5701 Marinelli Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

Enjoy a *Maryland Eastern Shore Seafood Buffet*.

\$100 per Guest; Cocktails until 7 p.m.; Business Attire.

RSVP by December 1, 2007 to The Retirement Committee for The Honorable DeLawrence Beard, c/o David Modell, Treasurer, 7700 Old Georgetown Rd, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — PLEASE MAIL 2008 DUES TODAY



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.

Due checks should be made payable to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

For membership applications, please visit our website, www.bournebar.org, or contact Janelle Jordan & Judge Herman C. Dawson.

Announcing
**The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's
2008 High School Oratorical Contest**

Topic:
“Who Should the Next President Be and Why?”



Come hear some of the best students in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties along with a special Guest (to be announced) debate this controversial issue!

When: Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 10:00 am
(“Snow Date” March 1, 2008)

Where: Prince George's County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

ADMISSION IS FREE AND PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!
First Prize: \$1,000 College Scholarship!

STUDENTS: START PREPARING YOUR ORATIONS NOW!
Deadline for determining finalists is February 8, 2008.

For application package, contact your school's principal or guidance counselor or e-mail Lyndsey Kuykendall, J.D. (Lyndsey.Kuykendall@mdcourts.gov) or Ibrahim Moiz, J.D. (Ibrahim.Moiz@mdcourts.gov). Please also visit our website at www.bournebar.org

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association is committed to the principles of legal excellence, community service, and increased minority participation in the practice of law.

The Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Is pleased to present

"Garner Versus . . . "

The Trial of a Young Slave Mother

Presented at the Baltimore federal courthouse,
Ceremonial Courtroom (101 W. Lombard Street)

Friday, February 1, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
(reception with light fare to follow)

Attendance is free, but reservations are required

(contact Cecilia Reilly, 410-949-1155/creilly@zuckerman.com)

Margaret Garner was a Kentucky slave who fled to Ohio in 1856 with her husband and three children, pursued by U.S. Marshals who intended to return the family to her Kentucky slave owner under the Fugitive Slave Act. Although the Garners made it to safety in Ohio, the Marshals quickly descended on them. As they broke down the cabin door, Margaret Garner, desperate to keep her children free, slashed the throat of her two-year old daughter, killing her instantly. Mrs. Garner was in the midst of killing her other two children when the Marshals physically restrained her.

Her case – later the basis for Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved* -- immediately became a lightning rod for the larger battle over slavery. Her extradition hearing in Ohio federal court – which led to her compelled return to Kentucky -- was a microcosm of the arguments that divided free and slave states and led to the Civil War four years later.

Now an all-star cast of Maryland state and federal judges and trial lawyers from around the country brings this gripping story to life. Civil rights attorney and MacArthur Award recipient Bryan Stevenson will be joined by U.S. District Judges Alexander Williams and André Davis, U.S. Magistrate Judges Paul Grimm and James Bredar, and the Hons. Joyce Baylor-Thompson and Howard Chasanow (ret.), along with leading attorneys John Chamble, Michelle Roberts and Bill Brennan, in a stirring re-enactment of these remarkable events.