

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



Debra M. Davis

The JFB Bar Association is off to an exciting bar year. We have already sponsored our Annual Holiday Party, co-sponsored the reception for the investiture of **Judge Clayton Greene** to the Maryland Court

of Appeals, co-sponsored the Black History month celebration with the Prince George's County Bar Association, participated in the **Education March and Rally** in Annapolis, the **Legislative Breakfast** and the series of on going presentations celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision sponsored by the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, The Prince George's County Bar Association, Prince George's Community College, and the Prince George's County Branch of the NAACP and others.

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2004** at the Greenbelt Community Center. In an effort to make our meetings more informative and helpful to practitioners, we are changing the format. This month's meeting will feature a panel discussion on the pro's and con's of Reconsideration of Sentences in criminal cases. Stay tuned for more information. In April, we plan to hold a joint meeting with the NAACP.

I am pleased to report that the J. Franklyn Bourne **3rd Annual High School Oratorical Contest** was once again a huge success. Our bar association awarded three very deserving high school students college scholarships for their outstanding presentations. Co-chairs **D. Michael Lyles** and **Judge Hassan El-Amin** did a great job in organizing the competition, which included a guest speaker and a book signing. Those in attendance

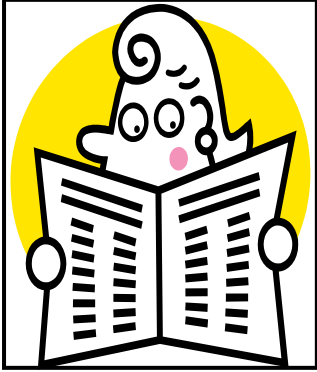
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JFB Oratorical Contest.



Students from Charles H. Flowers High School, which conducted an intra-school competition, took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the JFB's Oratorical Contest. Here, the winners posed with their faculty advisor, Ms. Aarons, wife of JFB's Clayton Aarons.

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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 **Sharon V. Burrell** or **Lloyd A. Johnson**. (See above.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

were treated to a first class affair. Thanks so much to the committee.

Two years ago District Court **Judge Thurman Rhodes**, at our Annual New Admittees' Reception, challenged each of us to not rest on our laurels and recited some troubling statistics of minority underrepresentation among judges in the State of Maryland. In short, their underrepresentation was essentially unchanged since his appointment to the bench in 1988. Since then, I have retold Judge Rhodes' remarks on many occasions.

Now, as you may know the **Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland** is hosting a reception for all African-American female judges in the State of Maryland in honor of Women's' History Month. Would you believe that there are less than twenty-five African-American woman, including

Orphan Court Judges, in the entire State? Five African-American women sit in Prince George's County, Eight African-American women are in Baltimore City. There are no African-American female judges in Montgomery County. It is incumbent upon us, especially Maryland's specialty bar associations, such as the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, to redouble efforts to identify qualified minority applicants and to continue to stress the importance of diversity on the bench. The Women's Bar Association event is scheduled for Friday, March 25 at Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum and LaPlaca, in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Lastly, for those who haven't already sent in their dues, a dues invoice is attached to this newsletter. Please pay your dues promptly so that we can continue Bourne's excellent programs.

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

JFB Oratorical Contest (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Each contestant made telling points as they debated the question "Do Historically Black Colleges and Universities Still Serve a Worthwhile Purpose?" competing for a \$1,000.00 first place, a \$500.00 second place and a \$250.00 third place scholarship to a college or university of their choice.

Judge James Salmon of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, **Honorable Betty Hewlett**, Chairman of the Maryland National-Capitol Park and Planning Commission and **Mr. Agai B. Jones** judged the competition and privately critiqued each contestant afterward.

Our special guest speaker, **William "Kojo" Jones, Jr.**, co-author of *Red White Black and Blue*, a dual memoir of race and class in Appalachia, presented each of the nine contestants with an autographed copy of his book.



JFB President Debra Davis poses with Oratorical contestants prior to competition.

DID YOU KNOW...

JFB member and Prince George's County State's Attorney **Glenn F. Ivey** is resting comfortably after his successful kidney cancer surgery. Experts in the field indicate that because the tumor was found early and his relatively young age, Glenn's prognosis is good. He is recuperating at home and is expected to return to his normal duties in several weeks. Anyone wishing to express compassion and concern is asked in lieu of flowers or gifts, to make a donation to the Prince George's Chapter of the American Cancer Society at (301) 933-9350 or the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland at (410) 494-8545.

Attorney Position Available: Civil practice; MD Bar admission required; DC Bar admission preferred; civil practice experience and will train the successful candidate. Salary plus bonus \$40,000.00 -\$50,000.00 with experience. Must be willing to build a practice area and work long, productive hours. Applicants must fax resumes to the attention of Mireya Fiallos at (301) 887-0990. Williams & Worthy, LLC, 5400 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale, MD 20744. Telephone (301) 887-900. Web: www.williamsworth.com.

The **Maryland State Bar Association's Leadership Academy** is still accepting applications for its Leadership Class for 2004-2005, but the application deadline is March 31, 2004. For further information, 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.

"African-American Women of the Maryland Bench" - The Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland, Inc. welcomes the entire legal community to honor Maryland's finest members of the Bench at a judicial reception on **Thursday, March 25, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Law Offices of Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum & LaPlaca, 14440 Old Mill Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Please RSVP no later than March 15, 2004 to **Dolores Dorsainvil** at (202) 256-3545 or by e-mail at d_dorsainvil@hotmail.com.

FREE TRAINING: Representing Parents and Guardians in CINA Cases will be presented on Saturday, March 20, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Annapolis Judicial Training Center in Annapolis, MD. The Representation Subcommittee of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project encourages attorneys with some experience and interest in juvenile court to volunteer to represent parents and guardians in CINA ("Child in Need of Assistance") cases. Training is targeted to attorneys interested in earning pro bono hours by taking cases at a reduced fee or waiving the fee, earning the skills you need to be part of the Public Defender's panel list, and for newly hired PD CINA staff attorneys. Registration deadline is March 10, 2004. For further information and to register contact Hope Gary, Esquire, at (410) 260-1728.

The **Annual Alan Goldstein Criminal Law Seminar** of the Prince George's County Bar Association will be held on **Saturday March 27, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro, MD** from 8:30 to 1:00 P.M. 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 *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

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Important Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

CLE: "Pro's & Con's of Motions to Re-consider Sentences."

Thurs., March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Greenbelt Community Center

15 Crescent Road

Greenbelt, MD

New Admittees Reception

July 2004

Date & Place TBA

MEMBERSHIP INVOICES.

As a cost and labor-saving measure, your **2004 JFB membership invoice** is attached to this Newsletter – rather than being mailed under separate cover as in the past. Remember, your tangible and continued support of your organization makes it possible for JFB to conduct relevant CLE programs, to improve access of legal services to minority communities, and to publish this Newsletter.

Please make your check payable and send to JFB Bar Association, Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121. Please direct any questions or concerns about your membership status to our Membership Chair, **Belinda Bell** at (301) 504-0626, extension 1338 or by e-mail at mitch1738@msn.com.

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