

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

“Committed to the principles of legal excellence, community service, and increased minority participation in the practice of law.” That is the motto of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association. Have Bourne members been living up to that motto? Absolutely! On Saturday, April 29, 2006, J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association members, in conjunction with Prince George’s County Bar Association members, fulfilled the second part of our motto by participating in the *Christmas in April* program. JFB and PGCBA members spent the day sprucing up the home of Mrs. Muriel Wade of Capitol Heights under the leadership of **Past JFB and PGCBA President Maurene Epps Webb**. It was a very rewarding experience for everyone involved.

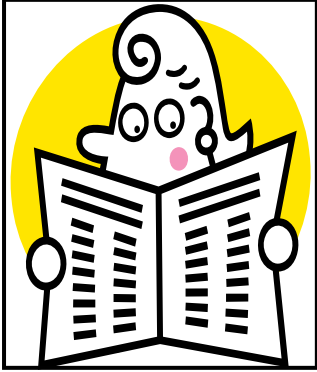
Not only did the Christmas in April program provide an opportunity for us to give back to the community in collaboration with other professionals whom we might never have met, but it also was an opportunity for some to spend time with family members and provided a valuable experience for our young people. Several attorneys brought teenage children who used the day to not only participate in a worthwhile project with their parents, but also to satisfy some of their community service requirements. First prize for family involvement goes to **Past JFB President Debra M. Davis** who brought her husband **Chris**, two daughters, a sister and a brother-in-law to help. JFB members **Colette Gresham, Shondriette Kelley and Dennis Whitley** also worked tirelessly that day. Mrs. Wade was very appreciative of our efforts and she told me that seeing all of us working so hard to help her had inspired her to

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MAY 18th JFB MEETING CLE—MENTORING

Mentors - Been one? Want one? The May 18th meeting of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Assoc. will feature a CLE on mentoring, addressing such topics as (1) benefits of having a mentor, (2) what to look for in a mentor, (3) how to convince someone to be *your* mentor, (4) should *you* be a mentor.

Our panel will include past JFB president, **Garland H. Stillwell** and **Karren Pope-Onwukwe**, past president of the Prince George’s Women’s Bar. Both have had mentors and been mentors. Come with your questions and be prepared to share your experiences on ... **Mentors - Been one? Want one?**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

in turn help others. A retired federal government worker, Mrs. Wade vowed to use her skills to give back to the community too. And isn't that what it's all about, giving back to the extent that you can?

While we used elbow grease and muscles for the Christmas in April program, there are plenty of opportunities to be of assistance in the community and to use your legal skills as well as other skills you may have. One JFB member who has been busy providing legal skills pro bono is Executive Board Member **J. Wyndal Gordon** who answered Montgomery County Circuit Court **Judge James Ryan's** request for stand by counsel for accused sniper **John Allen Muhammad**. Wyndal put together a team that will provide stand-by counsel throughout the trial. I recognize that many of us lived in fear during October 2002 when the snipers were on the rampage in Montgomery and Prince George's County. But what Wyndal is doing is consistent with the principles that **Chief Judge Bell** espoused for attorneys at the March meeting: to ensure that there is something that seems like justice for all, no

matter what the person is accused of doing.

Bourne members have also been busy working on the other two parts of our motto: legal excellence and increased minority participation in the practice of law. Our CLE chair, **Agnes Powell**, has been hard at work putting together CLEs that will be informative and interesting. Please plan to attend the May general membership meeting where there will be a CLE on Mentoring.

While I really appreciate all of the dues checks that have been coming in, I would like to see more members at our general membership meetings. The meetings provide a great opportunity to network and share ideas with colleagues. Each month we have had new attorneys attending the meetings and joining Bourne. If you aren't there, you are missing a valuable opportunity to meet the next leaders of Bourne and of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Also, if you haven't received your directory, please contact Membership Chair William Snoddy or me so that you can keep in touch with JFB members between meetings.

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Association

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 **Joel Braithwaite**. (See above.)

JUVENILE COURT NEEDS MENTORS

Judge Katherine D. Savage of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County tells us that the newly-created juvenile mentoring program needs a few good men and women! This new initiative serves youngsters in the Montgomery County Juvenile Court System.

The mentees are children who have been abused and/or neglected or are under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services following a finding of delinquency.

This is a diverse mentee population and the sponsors seek mentors with diverse backgrounds — male and female and especially those that are bilingual. A one-year commitment to meet regularly with the mentees is required. These young people have challenges and difficulties, but are also filled with promise.

For further information, contact **Otoniel Perez** at opez@ymcawashdc.org or by telephone at (301) 585-2120, ext. 2574.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?



Assistant Bar Counsel Position: The Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland is accepting applications from members of the Maryland Bar for the position of Assistant Bar Counsel. Duties consist of screening of disciplinary complaints, presenting

complaints before Peer Review bodies, litigation before circuit courts, arguments before the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and other duties as directed by Bar Counsel. The applicant must be able to manage a substantial case load and be an experienced litigator. Applicant must be able to speak and read Spanish fluently. Any applicant, if selected, must submit to a background check. There is a 120-day probationary period. Starting yearly salary is \$50,405.00. To obtain an application form call **Debra Zachry**, Office Manager at (410) 514-7064 or (800) 492-1660. Applications

must be received no later than 06/02/2006. Applicant must have been admitted to the Maryland bar for at least 5 years and have engaged in active trial work for 5 years.

Employment in Maryland Judicial System: If you are interested in non-judicial employment opportunities in the Maryland judicial system, visit the Maryland Courts web site <http://www.courts.state.md.us/jobs/index.html>.

Montgomery County Inn of Court: Applications for the Montgomery County Inn of Court are now available and may be obtained from Kathy Parker, Secretary to **Judge John W. Debelius, III**, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, 50 Maryland Avenue, Room 901, Rockville, MD 20850, telephone number: (240) 777-9212, email: kparker@mccourt.com, or **Dorothy Fait**, Membership Chair of the Inn, One Church Street, Suite 800, Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 251-0100, email: dfait@faitandwise.com. Complete applications must be returned no later than June 1, 2006.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL PHOTOS



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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.
P.O. Box 1121
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., May 18th; 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

IS THIS YOUR NEXT TO LAST NEWSLETTER?

If you haven't paid your 2006 JFB dues yet, this edition of the JFB Newsletter will be your next to last JFB Newsletter.

JFB dues are payable the first of each year and, as a courtesy, we continue to send the Newsletter to active members of the previous year for six months—through the June edition.

If you have any uncertainty about your membership status for 2006 contact Membership chair **William A. Snoddy** at wasnoddy@hotmail.com or JFB treasurer, **Robin Bright** at brightrd@co.cal.md.us.

If you are one of those procrastinators — don't wait any longer.

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.