

# 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



**J. Franklyn Bourne**  
 Bar Association  
 30th Anniversary

I know I have heard it said somewhere before, **"The true measure of any organization is its membership!"** Whoever came up with that statement must have had JFB members in mind. Thanks to the **Honorable Her-**

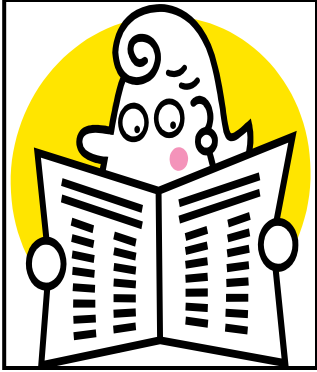
**man C. Dawson** and his wife, **Paula Dawson**, our JFB Seafood Feast Membership Drive was a smashing success! Many thanks go out to **Janelle Jordan**, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee along with **Judge Dawson**, his law clerk, **Kamilah O. House** and **Adrienne L. Morgan**, who graciously welcomed new, experienced and seasoned members of the Association to this event. Numerous applications for membership were distributed. If you have not already done so, please join or renew your JFB membership today.

After a sumptuous Seafood Feast, JFB members tackled the clean up of the home belonging to a 77-years-young widow in Fairmount Heights, MD as part of Christmas-in-April. Maurene Epps Webb, Co-Chair of the Community Service Committee did an outstanding job of "rallying the troops" and supervising from afar, (just kidding, Moe). The end result of a collective effort with the Prince George's County Bar Association was

a very satisfied home owner. For further details, see below article and pictures.

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, our membership was treated to a rare look back into our history courtesy of 9 of 16 JFB Founding Members. The **Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr., Paris A. Artis, Othello G. Jones Jr., Lawrence Harbin, Samuel C. Hamilton, Joseph L. Gibson, Ronald C. Hill, Tillman L. Gerald, and Janet D. Webb** took us back to a time when it was difficult for an African American attorney to walk the halls of the court house free from racial prejudice. Court house staff, majority practitioners and even judges were less than courteous when dealing with minority lawyers. Yet, through it all, they persevered and left for us the legacy of Bourne. While from amongst our membership ranks, many have been able to achieve the title of being "First In History," we must not neglect those who will follow us. "WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING BECAUSE WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE FROM." Kudos to co-chairs, **Elizabeth Hewlett** and **Midgett Parker**, for making our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary an unforgettable affair! Thanks also to our sponsors: **Midgett S. Parker, Shipley & Horne, P.A., William H. Murphy, Jr. & Associated, Gingles, LLC and Shadoan, Michael and Wells, LLP.**

Rounding out the month was our **Scholarship Fund Golf**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

**Classic**, which was held at Tantallon Country Club this past Tuesday, May 28, 2007. Thanks to the hard work of **Garland H. Stillwell** and the **Honorable Toni Clarke**, Co-Chairs of the event. I am proud to announce that the monies raised from this outing will enable us to continue our tradition of awarding scholarships to area law school students at our banquet in November. Thanks to all the volunteers and golf participants. Congratulations to our own **Judge El-Amin** and his team for their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, followed closely by Past President **William Snoddy's** team in

3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Next month's CLE program will feature **Bill Brennan** and **Arthur Horne** who will discuss Attorney Grievance issues. Please join us on **Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD, Largo Student Center, Room 232A.**

**Regards,**  
**Abigale Bruce-Watson**  
**President**  
**J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association**

### JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor  
*Emeritus*  
**Lloyd A. Johnson**

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

## CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

Once again **Christmas in April** was a resounding success! Members of the **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association**, the **Prince George's County Bar Association**, and the general public came out on Saturday, April 28, 2007 and worked to enhance the habitability of the home of a widowed senior in Prince George's County.

The volunteers pulled together and were able to clear brush from her yard, plant azaleas, cover an opening to the crawl space, paint, and install fixtures! .

I want to personally thank our President, **Abigale Bruce Watson** (and her daughters **Amanda** and **Ashley**), **Erik Nyce**, **John Fredrickson**, **Dennis and Rhonda Whitley**, **Shondriette Kelley**, **Wil-**

**liam Snoddy**, **Tim Leahy**, **Lori Jemison**, **Nan Hainsey**, the **University of Maryland** students and two new members' whose names will be a mystery until next month (when I hopefully find the sign up list), for all of their hard work. I also thank the members of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar and the Prince George's County Bar for their contribution toward feeding us and purchasing mulch and landscape stones.

Rest assured that next year I will again be looking for you all to participate, so don't ignore my calls! I guarantee that you'll gain as much from the experience as the homeowner in need of your help.

Maurene Epps Webb  
 Co-Chair Community Service



# PHOTO GALLERY



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](mailto:joel.braithwaite@gmail.com). Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

## DEVELOPING SOLO PRACTICIONERS

May 2006 Howard University School of Law Graduates **Nakia V. Gray** and **Wole O. Falodun** have launched successful solo practices since their December 2006 Maryland bar admission. (and yes, they both participated in the Howard Bar Mentorship Program). Each has developed strategies for retaining, maintaining, and growing their client base. But like any other quest, it is better to improve the prototype rather than reinvent the wheel. This article profiles the beginning of their journey and challenges our distinguished and judicious membership to offer you coffers of knowledge as mentors and advisors to all eager young lawyers of JFB.

Both Mrs. Gray and Mr. Falodun were asked the following questions:

1. What motivated you to start your own practice?
2. What has been your strategy for growing your practice?
3. If you were offered pearls of wisdom from an experienced solo practitioner, what would you ask?
4. What obstacles have you overcome in this process?
5. What practice area are you most interested in learning more about?
6. In which practice area(s) do you want to focus?
7. What would you like to achieve in the next five years?

In the fall, JFB plans to launch a series of workshops specifically geared toward the success-

ful development of young attorneys. Our goal is to exhibit ourselves as stellar members of the Maryland Bar. If you are interested in facilitating conversations on one or several of the following topics, please contact Letoria Knight at [torihouse@yahoo.com](mailto:torihouse@yahoo.com) with your availability and the scope of your interest.

- **PREPARING YOUR TOOLBOX:** What every attorney needs to start their own practice at minimum expense and risk
- **PRE-TRIAL LITIGATION:** Hearings, Motions, and Settlement
- **DEVELOPING & PROTECTING YOUR REPUTATION:** Avoiding the Attorney Grievance Commission
- **TRIAL ADVOCACY:** District Court, Civil and Criminal Practice
- **TRIAL ADVOCACY:** Circuit Court, Civil and Criminal Practice
- **BEFORE YOU APPEAL:** The Basics of Appellate Practice

### JFB YOUNG LAWYER SPOTLIGHTS

Nakia V. Gray, Esq.  
Law Office  
[www.nakiagraylaw.com](http://www.nakiagraylaw.com)

Wole O. Falodun, Esq.  
The Falodun Law Group, LLC  
10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215  
Columbia, MD 21046  
[wole@falodunlaw.com](mailto:wole@falodunlaw.com)

## KUDOS

Long time member of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, **Gabriel J. Christian** – Lead Counsel, Gabriel J. Christian & Associates, L.L.C. is among the has 12 gubernatorial appointments to the Appellate Courts Judicial Nominating Commission. Congratulations **Gabe!** Well done.

**Associated Black Charities** (ABC) Honoring the Legal Legends of Maryland recognized JFB Members at its 2007 Black Charities Gala. JFB honorees fell into three categories: **Timeless Legends: J. Franklyn Bourne** (those legal giants who have passed away, but whose legal and philanthropic contributions continue to last and influence those who have followed); **Living Legends:**

**Maurene Epps Webb; Judge Herman Dawson; Karren Pope-Onwukwe; Arthur Horne; Hon. Elijah Cummings; and Hon. Robert Bell** (those who are forty years of age and above and who continue to distinguish themselves both in their professional and philanthropic endeavors); and **Future Legends:** (those under forty who are on their way to distinguishing themselves both in their careers and their philanthropic endeavors).

**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., June 2, 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
Montgomery County Bar Association  
27 West Jefferson Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

#### **General Membership Meeting**

Thurs., May 17, 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
Prince George's Community College  
301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland  
Largo Student Center, Room 232A

#### **Save the Date**

New Admittees Reception  
Sat., July 14, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Home of Judge Tillerson-Adams

## ***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.

## ***NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION***

It's that time of the year again to welcome new admittees into the Maryland State Bar. We can all remember how satisfying it was to not only pass the Bar Exam, but to be sworn in as practicing attorneys. Please join us in welcoming our new admittee's to the Bar at our annual New Admittee's Reception.

This year's event will be at the home of Past President, **Judge Shelia R. Tillerson-Adams** and her husband, **Timothy Adams**, on July 14th, 2007 from 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Co-chairs of this event, **Judge Tillerson-Adams** and **Wenessa Snoddy**, invite you to join us in a fun-filled afternoon of networking. Don't miss it.

## ***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.