

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND
 INCREASED MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Preparing for Judicial Nominations	1, 3
From the President	2
Judicial Nominations Committee	3
8th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic	4
April General Body Meeting Photos	4
Health & Good Cheer Committee	4
Howard Bar Mentorship Program	5
Membership	6

PREPARING FOR JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS



Hon. Thurman Rhodes

As a follow up to our President's call to action in last month's newsletter ("We Need More Black Judges"), I would like to offer a few words of advice to those who may have judicial aspirations.

Over the years, many lawyers have come to me requesting advice on obtaining judicial appointments. I wish I could offer some magical formula that will guarantee success. Unfortunately, I cannot. Nevertheless, I suggest that the ultimate keys to success are preparation, timing, and perseverance. At the outset, you should immediately obtain a copy of the "Confidential Personal Questionnaire" found at the Maryland Judicial website <http://www.courts.state.md.us/judgeselect/judgeappl.html> even if you are not planning to apply for any immediate openings. This is a very long and tedious form and it should not be prepared in haste or at the last minute. This is the primary document that will be reviewed to ascertain your fitness for judicial office other than your personal interviews. Additionally, you should begin immediately preparing sufficient writing samples that are examples of your very best work. I would also strongly urge that you have a reliable colleague, judge or law professor review and critique your writing

samples and your entire application well in advance of submission. While there are those who place great import upon political connections and sponsorships for these coveted positions, you must be ever mindful that the most important decision is ultimately up to the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Governor to determine first, on an objective basis, whether you are a candidate fully qualified and capable of assuming judicial office.

This brings me to my second suggestion: that you carefully review the "Handbook for Judicial Applicants" found at the Maryland State Bar Association's website http://msba.org/sec_comm/committees/judappt/. This document lists seven factors that are applied in the MSBA Judicial Nominations Committee's evaluation process. I would suggest that you set personal goals for addressing all criteria in both your professional and personal lives. While it is important to be well versed in the law and comfortable with court proceedings, it is equally important that you enjoy the respect of your community as a person recognized for your civic involvement and charitable activities. Such activities not only display the sense of humility necessary to make important decisions with respect to the lives of others, but also signal your connectedness and

Continued on Page 3

JFB Board of Directors

Judge Hassan Ali El-Amin
President

Sharon Christmas DeBerry
President-Elect

Tiffany Alston
Treasurer

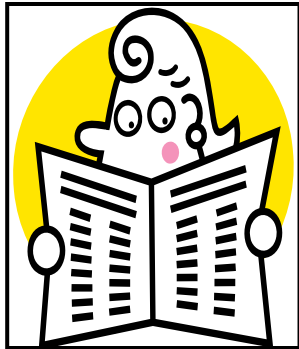
Traci Scudder
Recording Secretary

Letoria G. Knight
Corresponding Secretary

Abigale Bruce Watson
Immediate Past President

Holly Reed
Executive Officer

Michael Pearson
Executive Officer



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Judge Hassan El-Amin

We're Due for a Dues Increase

At its March 2008 meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to recommend an increase in J F B B A ' s annual dues, beginning January 2009. As proposed, the dues will increase in each category: Active and associate membership annual dues will increase from \$50 to \$100 for attorneys admitted to the Bar for more than 5 years, and from \$25 to \$50 for attorneys admitted for less than 5 years. Student member dues will increase from \$10 to \$20. Dues for the first year after bar admission will continue to be waived.

For a long time we seem to have prided ourselves in having the lowest dues of any of the major bar associations. Not to worry: even with this proposed 100% increase JFB will still be the "best bargain" among the local bar associations. And this is the first dues increase in recent memory (20 years?). Obviously, the dollar has declined in relative value since 1988. More importantly, our expanded meeting format and the wide variety of programs we host and produce throughout the year require a boost in our treasury. We seem to average about 120 dues paying members yearly. At \$50 apiece, that gives us a base income of approximately only \$6,000. About half of this money trickles in during the last half of the

year; although dues is payable on or before January 1, many members wait until the fall, around election or Banquet time, to ante up. We need approximately \$6,000 alone to launch the Web-based **Bourne Pages** directory I have proposed. Our 120 fully paid active and associate members will give us a base income of \$12,000, which will allow us to maintain the current level of activities and initiate the much-needed **Bourne Pages** so that the public can better patronize our private practitioners.

"How have we been functioning with such a small budget?" you wonder. Our fundraisers, such as the Scholarship Golf Tournament and the Annual Banquet, especially the Banquet—which has typically netted us between \$5,000 and \$15,000—account for the bulk of our income. But producing the Banquet now costs about \$50,000, and we need about \$7,500 seed money for that and for the Golf Tournament.

So it is that the main item on the May 15, 2008 General Membership Meeting Agenda is the long-overdue Dues Increase. Please don't miss this meeting. It will be hosted by Toll Brothers in their luxurious model home at 8100 Kittama Drive, Clinton MD, with complimentary food, beer and wine. Spouses and/or significant others are welcome. (They can tour the house while we take care of business in the lower level.) A splendid time should be had by one and all!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Hon. Hassan Ali El-Amin
President

JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor

Emeritus

Lloyd A. Johnson

Newsletter Editor

Joel Braithwaite

(202) 276-4902

E-mail:

joel.braithwaite@gmail.com

The **J F B 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**.

DIRECTIONS TO MAY MEETING

Driving directions to May meeting: Beltway (I-95) south to Exit 7A, Branch Ave (Rte 5) south. Go 5 1/2 miles to Surratts Rd. Left on Surratts for 1.1 miles to "Cheltenham Estates" sign. Turn left onto Kittama Dr. Model home is on the corner of Surratts and Kittama.

PREPARING FOR JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS (Con't)

commitment to the community and people you hope to serve.

Third, I urge you to remain attentive to the letter and the spirit of the Code of Professional Responsibility and maintain civility with other members of the bar and the bench. When in doubt, don't hesitate to discuss your performance with any member of the bench directly, including myself. Rest assured that we are all eager to have others join our ranks that have a desire to take on the challenges and rewards we face on a daily basis.

While these suggestions may prepare you for judicial appointment, how do you determine when the timing is right for you to apply? Let me suggest that you refer to the "Maryland Manual" on line where you will find the biographies of all Maryland judges including their dates of birth. Remember that all judges "must" retire at the age of seventy; therefore, you can easily calculate the certainty of a number of vacancies <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/29ap/html/Oolist.html>. Next, refer to the judiciary budget submissions in each legislative session to ascertain the creation of any new positions. Finally, consult the judiciary website frequently to explore any new vacancies <http://www.courts.state.md.us/judgeselect/judicialvacancy.html>. That being said, when should you submit your application? My suggestion is that if you are really serious about being a member of the judiciary, you should apply as soon as you have met all the minimum requirements for appointment.

If you are lucky enough to be nominated by the Commission on your first attempt, then you are truly one of the fortunate few! Conversely, if you are not nominated on your first submission, regard it as a learning opportunity and work on any shortcomings you feel you possess; i.e., trial experience, diversity of practice, bar involvement, and continue to apply again and again, if necessary. Once nominated remember that your nomination remains active for two years and plan to campaign like the dickens during that time until you are appointed. Nevertheless, if you're not appointed within the two year period, don't be deterred. Remember, none of you have attained the positions you now hold as licensed practitioners without having successfully completed the grueling process of three or four years of law school and the agony of the bar examination. If you did not quit then, I urge you not to do so now. One of the reasons I frequently hear lamented about the lack of minorities in the judiciary is the dearth of "qualified" applicants. I offer a challenge to each of you who truly aspires to be a member of the judiciary to dispel that notion.

Thurman H. Rhodes Sr.
Associate Judge of the District Court
District Five

JFB MEMBERS ON JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES

Thanks and Kudos for Jobs Well Done! The officers and members of JFB proudly thank the following members of its Judicial Nominations Committee, who have given so much of their time and energy over the past several months to study and interview the dozens of applicants for the recent court vacancies: **Tiffany Alston, Vernell Arrington, Maurene Epps-Webb, M. Andrée Green, Marilyn Pierre, Holly Reed, William Shipp, Gina Smith, William Snoddy, Dennis Whitley, and Isaac Marks, Chair.**

We also express our pride in and gratitude for the JFB members of the Governor's Nominating Commissions who have been working very hard to ensure fairness and minority representation in nominating judicial candidates to the Governor: Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission member **Gabriel Christian**; Trial Courts Commission District 11 – Montgomery County member, **Michael Banks**, Trial Courts Commission 13 -- Prince George's County members, **Gregory Wells (Chair), Abigale Bruce-Watson, ShaRon Kelsey, Bridgette Greer, Felecia Greer, and Arthur Horne, Jr.** Thanks, too, to those who serve on the judicial nominations panels of the various specialty bars. Among them are **Elizabeth Hewlett, (MSBA), Charles Maynard, Pauline Johnson, and Aaronette Carter.**

8TH ANNUAL JFB SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF CLASSIC

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's Eight Annual Scholarship Golf Classic, co-sponsored with the Prince George's County Bar Association, will be held at the Marlton Golf Club, 9413 Midland Turn, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, on June 2, 2008. The Tournament Shotgun Start is at 9 a.m. with a Clinic available at noon. This is the premiere fundraising event for each organization for the awarding of cash scholarships to high school and law students.

The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$400 per foursome and the tournament's format is "Captain's Choice." The fee includes range balls, awards and prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin, lunch and other

golf gifts. The Golf Clinic costs \$50 per person and includes lunch and the awards ceremony.

Send your registration to **Joe Wright**, Esquire, Golf Committee Chair, J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121. Checks should be made payable to the "J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc." Contact Joe Wright, 240-472-4533 or by email at crimlawyer@yahoo.com. Please see attached flyers and sponsorship forms at the end of the newsletter.

PHOTOS FROM APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Guest speaker Victor Long, Esquire following his presentation.



JFB Members enjoying the food at our meeting. This new format is recruiting new faces.



Guest speaker William Lightfoot, Esquire (r), with CLE Co-Chair and Judicial Nomination Commission Chair, Greg Wells



Betty Hewlett holds Corresponding Secty Lectoria Knight's daughter.



Judge Tim Rhodes (l) and Atty Betty Hewlett "à table!"



JFB Recording Secty Traci Scudder (r) and Treasurer Tiffany Alston enjoy their meal during the presentation.

JFB HEALTH & GOOD CHEER COMMITTEE FORMED

In response to Judge El-Amin's request at last month's General Membership Meeting, a "Health & Good Cheer Committee" is being formed to spread love and sunshine to and among JFB members, particularly during difficult times. **Courtney Boozer, Nikia Gray and Carolyn Starks-Saxon** are the initial volunteers on this committee. Anyone interested in serving please telephone Carolyn Starks-Saxon at 301-952-3239, e-mail cssaxon@co.pg.md.us.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Dates to Remember

JFB Co-Sponsored Art Show

ART IS UNIVERSAL

Fri. May 2, 2008, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sat. May 3, 2008 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive,
Potomac, Maryland.

Marilyn Pierre (301) 279-9020

JFB's Montgomery County Committee

May 3, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Montgomery County Bar Association
27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, Maryland

Holly Reed (301) 587-9480

May 15, 2008. 6:30 p.m.

JFB General Meeting

Agenda: Long-Overdue Dues Increase

Toll Brothers Model Home
8100 Kittama Drive, Clinton, Maryland

SAVE THE DATE(S)

Jun. 2, 2008: JFB SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT & CLINIC

Co-Sponsored with PGCBA
\$125 per person. \$400 per foursome.

Marlton Golf Club
9413 Midland Turn

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Joe Wright, 240-472-4533

crimlawyer@yahoo.com

Sat. Jul. 26, 2008. New Admittees Reception

Home of the Honorable Alexander Williams

HOWARD BAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM RETURNS

Howard University's School of Law will once again host a Bar Mentorship Program for graduates taking the Maryland State Bar Examination. The program was spearheaded in the past two years by The Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland, Inc. and the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association. This year we will also have volunteer mentors from the Washington Bar Association, Law Professors Division. The program has been extended to American University's Washington College of Law and the University of the District of Columbia so we anticipate a good number of participants.

The Dean's Office sponsored a "Meet and Greet" on Monday, April 12, 2008 in the President's Suite at the campus of Howard University's School of Law. There prospective mentors and mentees had the opportunity to interact. A guest speaker from CLEO's Mid-Winter Bar Preparation Seminar, Professor Barbara Smith, Esquire and members of the Maryland Board of Law Examiners were also present. Our own, Maurene Epps Webb engaged students and mentors about the process of writing and grading bar exam responses. We were also graced with the presence of the Secretary of the Maryland State Board of Law Examiners, Mr. Bedford T. Bentley, Jr. who shared his pearls of wisdom with the third year graduating law students. If anyone knows of law students taking the Maryland Bar who are not already in the program, please refer them to **Joel Braithwaite**, joel.braithwaite@gmail.com or **Dolores Dorsainvil**, d_dorsainvil@hotmail.com.

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.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION AND
THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



GOLF CLASSIC

To Benefit the J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund and
Designated charity of the Prince George's County Bar Association



MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008

9:00 a.m. Tournament Shotgun Start

12:00 p.m. Golf Clinic

Marlton Golf Club
9413 Midland Turn
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

TOURNAMENT FORMAT: Captain's Choice/\$125 per player/\$400 per foursome*

Fee includes: Range Balls for 1st-2nd-3rd place, Prizes for Longest Drive &
Closest to Pin, Luncheon and other Golf Gifts.

*** (Must sign up as a foursome.)**

CLINIC: \$50 per person (includes awards ceremony and luncheon)

Participation is limited – send in your reservation NOW!

For questions, please contact **Georgia Perry, 301-952-1442** or gperry@pgcba.com
or **Joe Wright, 240-472-4533** or crimlawyer@yahoo.com

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____.

Please reserve _____ spots for June 2, 2008 Tournament and _____ spots for the Golf Clinic.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Foursome to Include: _____

Firm/Address: _____

Would like to play with: _____

Clinic Participants: _____

Return this form with check made payable to "J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc." and
mail to Prince George's County Bar Association, 14330 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.
A portion of your donation may be tax deductible. Consult your financial advisor for details.

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association and
Prince George's County Bar Association

Golf Classic

To benefit the J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Sponsorship Options

PLATINUM

\$5,000.00

- (3) Foursomes (Free Photos)
- (6) Clinic Participants
- Major Signage at check-in
- Name on Give Away Item
- Greet Golfers at Luncheon

GOLD

\$2,500.00

- (2) Foursomes (Free Photos)
- (4) Clinic Participants
- (1) Tee Box or Green Sign
- Greet Golfers at Luncheon

SILVER

\$1,500.00

- (1) Foursome (Free Photos)
- (2) Clinic Participants
- (1) Tee Box or Green Sign

General Sponsorships

\$750

- (1) Golfer
- (1) Clinic Participant
- (1) Tee Box Sign

\$300

- (1) Golfer
- (1) Tee Box Sign

\$200

- (1) Clinic Participant
- (1) Tee Box Sign

\$150

- (1) Tee Box Sign

**Questions: Contact Georgia Perry, 301-952-1442 or
gperry@pgcba.com or Joseph Wright, 240-472-4533 or
crimlawyer@yahoo.com.**