

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## JFB Board of Directors

**Debra M. Davis**  
*President*

**Karren J. Pope-Onwukwe**  
*Vice-President*

**Robin D. Bright**  
*Recording Secretary*

**DeAndrei Drummond**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**Adrienne L. Morgan**  
*Treasurer*

**William A. Snoddy**  
*President-Elect*

**Bridgette A. Greer**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Sharon V. Burrell**

**Maurene Epps-Webb**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Debra M. Davis

It has been an honor to serve as your president this year. I have been called upon time and time again throughout the year to be the face of the organization and to speak about the causes we hold close to our hearts. This is the last time I will address you as President.

This year we set out "to strengthen our ties with the bar and the community by partnering with other organizations". We worked with over 20 organizations to increase our visibility in the community. We kicked off the year by

adopting a legislative agenda and presenting it to the Prince George's County Delegation at our Annual Legislative Breakfast. We organized and marched to the State Capitol in support of full funding of schools. Our members testified before the legislature in support of full funding of our public schools and in favor of the moratorium on the death penalty. We wrapped up the 2004 legislative session by hosting a Legislative Wrap up in a joint membership meeting with the Prince George's County NAACP.

Keeping with past tradition we continued to rejuvenate current members and welcome new members at our annual reclamation social and new admittees reception. In concert with our National Bar Association affiliates in Maryland

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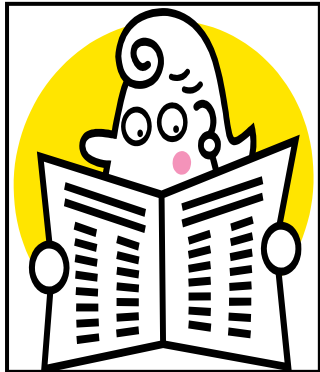
## JFB ELECTIONS ...

Be sure to attend JFB's **General Membership Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th at the Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Road in Greenbelt, MD. Nominations will be received from the floor for election of JFB's President-Elect, Treasurer, and Corresponding and Recording Secretaries for the 2005 bar year.

If you can't attend the meeting, you may secure an absentee bal-

lot by contacting Lloyd Johnson at [LloydBowie@comcast.net](mailto:LloydBowie@comcast.net).

Following the elections, **William A. Snoddy**, our President-elect will chair a planning session for the 2005 bar year to receive your program and other suggestions and to share opportunities to serve JFB and our communities. Be sure to participate in this session to make your views known on the direction of JFB.



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

(continued from page 1)

we sponsored a reception at the investiture of the **Honorable Clayton Green Jr.** on his appointment to the Maryland Court of Appeals.

We continued to support and encourage high school students through our annual high school oratorical contest. In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision we partnered with several organizations in the community to put on a series of lectures and presentations entitled

"Reflections on *Brown*" spanning a three month period. We also helped to register a historic number of new voters and partnered with the L.U.K.E. Foundation's "Stretch to Vote" campaign, taking voters to the polls.

I have worked with a myriad of community and bar leaders. I believe by working together this year we were able to increase our service to the community. I look forward to working with our 2005 board Again, thank you all for your support.

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

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

## JFB BANQUET.

"[I]s it the twilight of nightfall or the flush of some faint-dawning day?" Quoting from W.E.B. DuBois's *Souls of Black Folk*, United States Circuit Court **Judge Roger L. Gregory** posed that question to the more than 300 attendees at our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet held November 4, 2004 at Martin's Crosswinds. Judge Gregory's query came during a stirring and thought-provoking keynote address in which he called us to action to make better the lives of our young people. Judge Gregory, the first African-American appointed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, made clear that our efforts will determine whether what lies ahead for them "is the twilight of nightfall or the flush of some faint-dawning day."

In addition to Judge Gregory's keynote address, the banquet featured the presentation of awards for Legal Excellence, the President's Award, the Community Service and the Scholarship Awards. **Judge Arrie Davis** of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland received the Legal Excellence

Award for his outstanding career as an attorney and jurist. The President's Award was garnered by **Joseph and Shawn Wright**, who opened their home to the Bar Association for both our Holiday party and New Admittees Reception. **Charles Davis of the L.U.K.E. Foundation** took home the Community Service Award for his "Stretch the Vote" campaign, which offered voters limousine rides to the polls.

The scholarship recipients were **Joel Braithwaite**, a third-year student at the Howard University School of Law, **Andrea Clarke** of the American University Washington College of Law, and **Krystin Richardson**, a first-year student at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Thank you to all of those who attended the Banquet or otherwise purchased seats. The Banquet's continued success is due largely to your participation, especially our sponsors, patrons, advertisers and table purchasers.

William A. Snoddy, Esquire  
JFB President-Elect  
Chair, JFB Banquet Committee

## DID YOU KNOW?.



You—and your friends and colleagues—are invited to the **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's annual Holiday Party** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at Florian Hall, 13701 Old Jericho Park Road in Bowie, Maryland.

Dress is casual. As in the past, we're asking that you bring a toy or gift to benefit the less fortunate in our communities.

**Directions:** Beltway to Rte 50 (East) and continue to Rte 197 (North). Continue north on Route 197, about 1 mile past Bowie State University, and look for Florian Hall on right. *Alternate Route:* Rte 301 to Rte 197; continue north, past Rte 50, about 1 mile past Bowie State University, and look for Florian Hall on right.

**Position Available:** The Public Defender Office of DC seeks a special litigation attorney to handle civil and criminal litigation with minimal supervision to work on systemic criminal justice

projects with the other four divisions at PDS. Successful candidate will work in such areas as the reliability of eyewitness testimony, the suppression of exculpatory evidence, and the composition of local jury pools. DC Bar membership or eligibility for reciprocity required. GS-14 appointment potential. Contact: Jennifer Thomas, Legal Recruiting Manager, Public Defender Service for D.C., 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 or e-mail at [JenThomas@pdsdc.org](mailto:JenThomas@pdsdc.org).

**Position Available:** The Public Defender Office of DC seeks an Appellate Division attorney to handle criminal appeals in the DC Court of Appeals; successful candidate must work well with clients and write and argue a substantial number of appellate briefs in serious criminal cases, represent clients in post-conviction proceedings, participate in moot courts and advise and train PDS and CJA attorneys on legal issues and appellate practice. GS-14 appointment potential. Contact: Jennifer Thomas, Legal Recruiting Manager, Public Defender Service for D.C., 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 or e-mail at [JenThomas@pdsdc.org](mailto:JenThomas@pdsdc.org).

## HARRY COLE JUDICIAL COUNCIL NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION.



JFB President-Elect, **William Snoddy** and JFB President **Debra Davis**, at New Admittees Reception.

Photo by Hon. Larnzell Martin

The Harry A. Cole Judicial Council hosted its **Annual Reception for New Admittees** to the Maryland Bar on November 10th at the Anne Arundel County Courthouse in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Topeka KS Bd. Of Education*. **Judge Robert Bell** delivered opening remarks.

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](mailto:lloydajohnson@comcast.net). Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

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**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

***Important Date to Remember***

***General Membership Meeting  
and Elections***

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

***Annual Holiday Party***

Thurs., December 9th, 6:30 p.m.  
Florian Hall  
13701 Old Jericho Park Road  
Bowie, MD

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***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](mailto:mitch1738@msn.com)