

# 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

We have come to the end of a very busy and productive year, which was highlighted by another successful Scholarship Awards Banquet. At the Banquet, Bourne recognized all of the Past Presidents, but I would personally like to recognize and thank three Past Presidents who provided invaluable support to me during my term as President. First, I'd like to thank **Keith A. Parris** for serving as an executive officer, chair of the Lawyer Referral Committee, and freelance photographer when needed. Keith is a trusted adviser and friend whose wise counsel and support I treasure.

Next, I'd like to thank **Debra M. Davis** for co-chairing the Judicial Nominating Committee, which was super busy this year, and for giving me the benefit of her experience.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank **Sallie E. Williams**. I began writing this column before Sallie's death, and spoke of her in the present tense. It is with a heavy heart that I am finishing it now that she is gone. Although Sallie was not able to attend most of the meetings and events this year due to illness, she was always available to provide me with sage and sometimes salty advice via telephone and e-mail. She was a mentor, a neighbor, and a friend. I will miss her.

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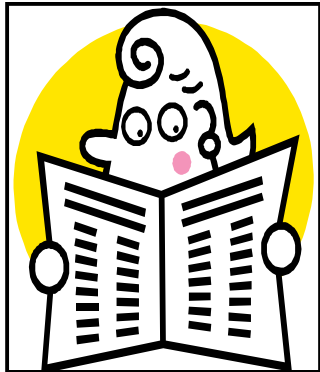
## PAST PRESIDENT SALLIE E. WILLIAMS

**Sallie E. Williams**, 1999 JFB President, passed away on November 12 at the Gilchrist Center Hospice of Baltimore. Sallie was admitted to the bar in 1984, after having pursued another profession. She began her career working for Samuel Hamilton and then became an Assistant State's Attorney. Sallie spent the remainder of her career in a solo private practice.

Bourne was greatly strengthened under Sallie's administration through the amendment of the by-laws to provide for standing  
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Past President Sallie E. Williams



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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.)

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

In my initial address to you I stated that my main goals were to maintain the successful programs that Bourne had in Prince George's County and to increase Bourne's presence in Montgomery County through additional programs and activities. I believe that my goals have been accomplished.

Over the past year we continued with established programs, such as our joint Black History Month and Christmas in April project with the Prince George's County Bar Association, the Oratorical Contest, and the Scholarship Golf Classic. We explored new activities such as the joint Happy Hour with the Hispanic Bar Association and established a dialogue with other specialty bar associations in a coalition led by the Asian Pacific Bar Association.

We made our presence known in Montgomery County by donating toys to the People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, by donating clothes to the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville, by reestablishing a liaison to the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Montgomery County, and by sponsoring a Community Law Day Program in Montgomery County.

I would like to thank all of the members of the executive board, committee chairs and members for their hard work. I chose committee chairs who – although they may not have always agreed with me – always had the best interests of Bourne in mind. Bourne was able to have successful and interesting meetings and programs because of the commitment of the committee chairs and members. I urge every member to support the Association and to work on the committees. Please come to the final meeting of the year on Thursday, November 16, where we will elect officers. And please be sure to pick up your directory if you have not already done so.

During this administration I tried to ensure that Bourne remains viable and respected and I hope that it will continue to be so. One of the reasons why I wanted to be President of Bourne was because the organization has been very important to me and I felt an obligation to give back to it. My debt will never be paid in full, but I hope that I have made a substantial down payment on it. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Bourne.

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire  
President, JFB Bar Association

## PAST PRESIDENT SALLIE E. WILLIAMS (Cont.)

committees, the development of a membership brochure and resource directory, and the institution of formal policies and procedures for the election of officers.

A memorial service will be held for Sallie on November 18, 2006, at the Rapp Funeral and Cremation Services, 933 Gist Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Light refreshments and visiting with family will begin at 2:00 p.m. and the memorial service begins at 3:00.

The family invites her friends to come to a repast at 13215 Conductor Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904 after the memorial service.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will be creating a scholarship in Sallie's name. If you would like to contribute, make checks payable to Montgomery County Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, P.O. Box 4236, Silver Spring, MD 20914. (Memo: Sallie Williams' scholarship)

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

On November 2, 2006, Bourne had another successful Scholarship Awards Banquet. The keynote speaker, **Congressman Elijah E. Cummings**, gave a rousing speech to over four hundred fifty guests. Bourne awarded scholarships to three law students: **Tiffany D. Johnson**, **Avia M. Trower** and **Christina J. Weaver**, and presented the Legal Excellence Award to the **Honorable Hassan El-Amin**, District Court of Prince George's County.

President's Awards were presented to **Joel Braithwaite** and **Shondriette D. Kelley** for their consistent service to Bourne over the past year. **Yvonne Hefley** took home the Community Service Award for her dedicated service to Prince George's County. Thanks to Banquet Committee Co-Chairs **Abigale Bruce-Watson** and **Vanita Taylor**, the Committee, and to all who supported the banquet and who helped to make the evening a success.



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**DID YOU KNOW?**



**JFB Wins Best Project Award.** The Maryland State Bar Association presented JFB with a Best Service to the Public Project Award for its **High School Oratorical Contest**. The award was accepted by Bourne President Sharon V. Burrell at MSBA's Annual Conference of Bar Presidents in Ocean City on October 21.

Our Bourne members were successful in the general election! Congratulations to **Lt. Governor-elect Anthony G. Brown** and to **Athena Groves** and **Vicky Orem** who were elected as Orphans' Court Judges in Prince George's County.

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.

**FOCUS ON HEALTH — BECOMING AN ORGAN DONOR**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each day, about 74 people receive organ transplants. However, 19 people die each day waiting for transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated organs. Nationwide, there are currently 93,949 candidates on a waiting list for transplant of various organs. As of November 3, 2006, there were only 10,026 organ donors.

Organs are not the only cause for concern. A bone marrow transplant is a potentially life-saving treatment for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood diseases. Here, race and ethnicity plays a crucial part because tissue type is inherited. Therefore patients are most likely to match someone of their same race and ethnicity.

Thousands of Americans are in need of vital organ and tissues. There is a special need to recruit more African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics or Latinos. For many, the chance to live a full life won't come unless many more of us consider organ and tissue donation. Discuss organ donation with your family and friends. Help others find a chance to live a full life. Talk to your family about organ donation. Talk to your family about DONATING LIFE.

As a resident of Maryland, you can indicate your wishes on your driver's license or state ID when you apply for or renew it. Through the MVA's Organ Donor Program, Marylanders can give the gift of life and health to someone else by donating organs or other tissues after death.

Look for the statement on your license application or renewal that says: "Please check if, upon your death, you desire to help others by becoming an organ donor." If you want to be a donor, check the "Yes" box. You may also fill out an organ donor card. Make sure you present the application or card to the clerk when you apply for or renew your license.


Maryland has also established The Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. When renewing or applying for a new Maryland driver's license, you have the opportunity to contribute \$1 to the Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. Contributions help promote public education and awareness regarding organ, tissue and eye donation.

*This is part of a new series dedicated to the health of our members. The series intends to promote sound mind, body and soul. J.B.*

**12%**  
of the U.S. population is African American

**35%**  
of patients awaiting kidney transplants are African American

**0**  
lives will be saved if you do nothing

Organ Donation   
(Help you have the power to save lives.)

1-866-LETS-GIVE  
[www.shareyourlife.org](http://www.shareyourlife.org)

**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 1121  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

#### **General Membership Meeting**

Thurs., Nov. 16th, 6:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center

#### **Room 202**

15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

#### **Annual Holiday Party**

Date & place TBA

## ***ANNUAL ELECTIONS***

At JFB's Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 16th we will elect our officers for 2007. Elections will be held for the following officer positions: president-elect, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary.

Only members in good standing are eligible to be officers. To serve as president-elect or treasurer, a member must have the additional qualifications of three consecutive years of active membership and have served on a standing committee for at least two years. JFB's officers and two appointed executive officers make up the Association's Executive Committee.

## ***HOWARD LAW BAR MENTORSHIP A SUCCESS***

On November 3, the results of the Maryland Bar Exam were released. These results also measured the success of the inaugural **Howard Law Bar Mentorship Program**, an effort between **Howard University School of Law**, the **Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland** and **JFB**. We know that at least sixteen of the twenty participants have passed the bar.

The effort was spearheaded by **Dolores Dorsainvil** and our own Past-President **William Snoddy**. Several JFB members — too many to name in this column — served as bar mentors providing support to Howard Law's graduates.

J. Franklyn Bourne was very involved in efforts to realize the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* in Prince George's County, Maryland. To be sure, without passing a bar examination, we would not benefit from the work of Judge Bourne and others.

The Howard Law Bar Mentors Program harkens to JFB's Mission to insure the continuation of African-Americans in the legal profession.

We look forward to working with Dean Schmoke and the graduates of Class of 2007 in next year's mentorship program. Congratulations, once again, to the new members of the Maryland Bar.

## ***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION***



**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 **William A. Snoddy** by e-mail at [wasnoddy@hotmail.com](mailto:wasnoddy@hotmail.com).