

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

JFB fulfilled one of its stated missions -- service to the community -- through its Community Law Day Program held on September 16. The Montgomery County Committee and the Community Service Committee worked very hard to put together a fantastic program. Although turnout was light, everybody who attended gained valuable information. Thanks to all of the members of both committees who made the event possible. Thanks also to the attorneys, judges and police officers who participated in the program.

Bourne has resumed its general membership meetings after a summer break. On September 21st members were treated to a CLE given by **U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Day, Prince George's Circuit Court**

Judge Michele Hotten, and Prince George's District Court Judge Hassan El-Amin. The judges provided advice on appearing in court, pet-peeves and warnings on what can happen to attorneys when they don't comply with the rules and are not responsive to clients. This leads us into our last CLE for the year, "**How to Avoid Grievances and Malpractice,**" in conjunction with the general membership meeting on October 19th at the Greenbelt Community Center. Our panel will tell you what to do and, more importantly, what not to do, to avoid putting your license to practice law on the line. Come with your questions and your experiences to share with our members.

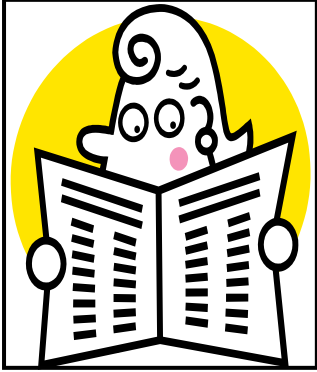
Even though this bar year is winding down, there are still opportunities for JFB members to be of service to Bourne and to our community. I know that many of you had planned to be more active in (continued on Page 2)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

Invitations have been mailed for JFB's Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet to be held on Thursday, November 2nd at Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt, MD. The theme of this year's banquet is "Preserving Our Legacy, Leading by Example" and the keynote speaker will be Congressman Elijah E. Cummings.

Scholarship applications are online.

Please return your response card as soon as possible to reserve your table or seat. For information contact Banquet Committee Co-Chairs Abigale Bruce Watson at (301) 731-0005 or Vanita Taylor at (443) 263-8939. Don't forget to submit your nomination for the Community Service Awards to Shondriette Kelley at SKelley@mdlab.org.



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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.)

(continued from Page 1)
Bourne this year, but other things kept getting in the way. Well, here is your chance. Much of our focus now is on the **22nd Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet** to be held on November 2, 2006, at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. Show your support for Bourne by purchasing a table and/or an ad for this event.

Less than a week after the banquet, general elections will be held across the country. Bourne members are desperately needed to insure that voters' rights are protected in Maryland. Let's make sure that we preserve the rights that others fought so hard to obtain.

During the CLE in September, **former JFB President Judge Michele Hotten** urged Bourne members to get involved in the serious issues facing our community. Protecting the right to vote is certainly one of them.

We will close out November with our own Bourne elections. The deadline for all nominations is Monday, October 16, 2006. An application can be obtained from the JFB website. Don't delay. Do it today! The future of Bourne is counting on you.

Sharon V. Burrell, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Association

CLE: AVOIDING GRIEVANCES & MALPRACTICE

Be sure to attend the October general membership meeting for this informative CLE. Topics will include: *How to Respond to Bar Counsel*; *How to Handle Attorney Fees*; *The 5 "C's"*; *Tips on How to Handle the Problem Client*, and much, much more. Our panelists will be **Dolores Dorsainvil**, **J. Wyndal Gordon** and **Garland Stillwell**. If you are a practicing attorney, this is one CLE you don't want to miss!

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and Judge Lynn Battaglia invite you to a town hall meeting to discuss the Report and Recommendations of the Professional Commission, which were submitted to the Court of Appeals on May 31, 2006.

Before the Court of Appeals decides whether to adopt the recommendations, the Commission will conduct presentations across the state to explain the contents of the report and to answer questions and receive comments on the materials.

The town hall meeting will be held in Prince George's County on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Jury Assembly Room, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

In Montgomery County, the town hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Courtroom 1, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. The Report is available on line at <http://mdcourts.gov/professionalism/pdgs/finalreport.pdf>.

DID YOU KNOW?



The **MSBA** will hold its **8th Annual Solo and Small Firm Conference** on Saturday, **November 11, 2006**, at the BWI Marriott from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a Pre-Conference Program on Friday, November 10, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday's

topics include: Technology You Can Use, the Return of Tips, Tips and More Tips, and Efficient Practices. Friday has two topics: How to Start a Solo Practice and Disasters Happen: How to Plan for the Worst. The cost to attend both programs is \$145 while Friday and Saturday costs \$60 and \$105, respectively. For further information see www.msba.org.

The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) seeks a Board member committed to its mission of promoting equal access to justice through the recruitment, training and support of volunteers and serving as a resource

for the legal community. Members regularly attend Board meetings; serve on at least one committee; make an annual financial donation; and promote the PBRC in the legal and business communities. Interested persons should submit their resumes to Thomas M. Meachum, Chairman, Committee on Appointments, Maryland State Bar Association, c/o Reese & Carney, LLP, 10715 Charter Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044 or fax their resumes to Mr. Meachum at 410-730-7729, no later than November 2, 2006.

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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. Editor reserves the right to shorten any submissions to meet space limitations. Deadline is the 29th of each month.

COMMUNITY LAW DAY



Montgomery County Police Officers:
Det. Terry Ridgley, Officer George Stevens,
Lt. Marcus Jones, and Lt. Porsha Jones

JFB held a Community Law Day, "Survival Techniques for the 21st Century," on Saturday, September 16, 2006, at the People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring. The well-planned program included judges' panels on guardianship and the elderly and juvenile arrests, detentions & adjudications.



JFB Member Aaronette Carter, Washington Mystics' Nakia Sanford, and JFB Member Holly Reed

Members of the public were especially interested in the police officers' panel, which provided advice on what to do when a police officer stops a person for a traffic violation. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jared Ball, the author of "Hip Hop as Mass Media." The audience was treated with a special guest appearance by Washington Mystics' basketball player Nakia Sanford.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Important Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Thurs., Oct. 19th, 6:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
Room 202
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Annual Scholarship Banquet

Thurs., Nov. 2nd, 6:30 p.m.
Martins Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770-3053

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our JFB members who were successful in their primary elections for state and local offices in September and will be on the ballot in November. Statewide, **Anthony G. Brown** is running for Lt. Governor on the ticket with Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley. In Prince George's County **Athena Groves** and **Vicky Orem** are running for Orphans' Court Judges.

WANTED: Bourne members who can spare a day to ensure that citizens are not disenfranchised in the upcoming general election. Be a part of the Election Protection Project. Training will be provided. Please contact JFB President Sharon Burrell at (240) 777-6722 for further details.

DID YOU KNOW (Cont.)

The **Montgomery County Children's Education Project**, sponsored by the Maryland Disability Law Center and the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office, offers a free seminar to lawyers. It covers advocating for children experiencing difficulties in school because they are not receiving the appropriate special educational services, or who are facing suspensions/expulsions from school. The training is Tuesday, October 24 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Office of the Public Defender 199-P East Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. RSVP to Jennifer Barmon at (240)-773-9648, jbarmon@opd.state.md.us, or Judge Marielsa Bernard at (240) 777-9366, mbernard@mcccourt.com.

The **NAACP** Freedom Fund banquet is Friday, October 20, 2006 at the University of Maryland Conference Center from 6 to 9 p.m. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Ronald Walters, Director of African American Leadership Institute. Individual tickets are \$100, which includes \$30 for membership. For info contact June White Dillard at jwdatty@juno.com.

The National Association of Women Judges, host of the **Montgomery County Storybook Project**, takes the Storybook Project nationwide. The Project helps inmate mothers tape record stories to send to their children. To volunteer or contribute, please contact Judge Marielsa Bernard at (240) 777-9366.

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.