

# 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**  
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**Sharon V. Burrell**

**Maurene Epps-Webb**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Debra M. Davis

I bring you greetings from your colleagues at the **National Bar Association** convention in Charlotte, NC. Next year's NBA convention will be held in Orlando, FL. The upcoming national elections and the need to get out the vote was a central theme throughout the convention as NBA affiliate bar associations shared their voter registration and Election Day projects.

The **Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** has called upon all lawyers to join its "election protection" effort and has established

a nationwide telephone bank to answer State-specific questions regarding election rules. On Election Day, the telephone bank will be manned by lawyers like you, and will be an immediate legal resource for voters who encounter obstacles in casting their votes. Over 200 attorneys from the Washington, DC area will participate. See: [www.lawyerscomm.org](http://www.lawyerscomm.org).

The convention was a great opportunity for bar association leaders to share their concerns and their successes. One common trend every bar president is faced with is the level of active participation of the membership.

I recently read an article in the MSBA Law-Brief, authored by **Neil Helfrich**, MSBA President, entitled, "*The Pres Says: Why Don't*"  
(Continued on page 2.)

## HELP WANTED - SLACKERS . . .NEED NOT APPLY

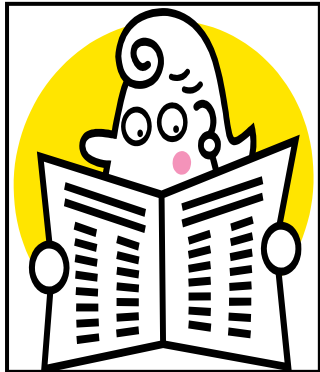
If you are "a slacker" . . . "a jive talker" . . . "a half-stepper" . . . less than "thorough" . . . "lame" . . . or "shaky" . . . PLEASE DO NOT READ ANY FURTHER.

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association ("JFB") Nominations and Elections Committee is looking for "a few good men" (and women). Applications are now being accepted. Superior leadership skills are a must. No experience required but helpful.

All applicants must possess a servant's heart, above average intelligence, the ability to work independently and as a team player. Salary is non-negotiable.

Interested candidates should submit applications immediately. Positions available include **President-Elect, Vice President,**

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### JFB Newsletter Committee

#### Sharon V. Burrell

Chair

(240) 777-6722

E-mail:

[sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:sharon.burrell@montgomerycountymd.gov)

#### Newsletter Editor

#### Lloyd A. Johnson

(301) 809-0944

E-mail:

[lloydajohnson@comcast.net](mailto:lloydajohnson@comcast.net)

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.)

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

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*You Participate?*" In the article Neil points out that 80 percent of the Bar Association's business is accomplished by 20 percent of its members, makes reference to the under participation of MSBA members, and asks the poignant question of "Why don't you participate?"

The JFB Bar Association shares this challenge. As my term as your bar president approaches its final quarter, I find the need to encourage more participation. I am sure you would all agree that the mission and vision of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc. are still very relevant. We still need to advocate for diversity on the Bench. We still need to support the small and solo practitioners. We cannot afford to lose the voice and vision of the founders of JFB.

I realize that activism comes in different forms with differing levels of commitment. Not everyone can or will be on the "front line", but those who believe in the mission of JFB must "hold up the rear" and must support our organization by paying their dues. Your dues provide the means to address our *raison d'être* with programming, scholarships, etc. Your dues help give us "bragging rights" on the influence of JFB in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and State-wide.

Check your records, if you have not paid your dues yet, pay now!! If you want to know more about how JFB needs your help, call me. Meanwhile the few and proud "20 percenters" will continue to carry the torch.

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

## HELP WANTED - SLACKERS . . . NEED NOT APPLY

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**Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary. The deadline for all applications to be submitted is 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2004.** Applications will be accepted by electronic mail, "snail" mail, personal delivery, Pony Express and courier pigeon.

The timely submissions of qualified candidates will be published in this Newsletter. Thereafter the

names of said candidates will appear on a certified ballot for voting by the membership. Any candidate who is unopposed by the close of business on September 27, 2004, will assume office on December 1, 2004.

Fight "slack-attack." Step up and serve . . . Applications are available on the JFB web site.

Hon. Charles B. Day  
Chair, JFB Nominations and Elections Comm.

## JFB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

The deadline for receipt of applications for JFB's Scholarships is October 4, 2004. Interested persons may secure Applications by visiting our Internet Web site - [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org) - and following the prompts or by contacting **Garland Still-**

arship Awards Selection Committee at (202) 663-8147 or by e-mail at [Garland.Stillwell@shawpittman.com](mailto:Garland.Stillwell@shawpittman.com).

If you are interested in helping JFB to tangibly support law students by serving on the Committee, contact Garland without delay.

## JFB's 20th SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET.



Tickets will soon be available for JFB's 20th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 4, 2004 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD.

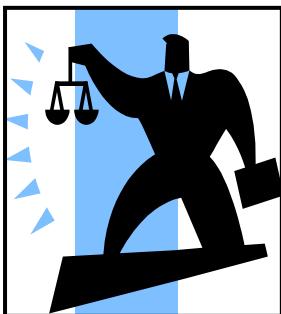
Our keynote speaker, **Judge Roger L. Gregory** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, is the first African-American appointed to the Court of Appeals

for the Fourth Circuit, and the only judge on any circuit to be appointed by a president from both parties.

The Banquet Committee will present a retrospective look at JFB banquets through the years and wants your help in sharing photographs you might have from "back in the day." If you would like to participate in this novel approach, please send such photos to the JFB Bar Association c/o Banquet Committee, P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121 or hand-deliver them to **William A. Snoddy**, Chair of the JFB Banquet Committee. All photographs will be returned.

The Banquet Committee needs your help in a variety of ways. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, assisting in the planning of this event, or wish to offer suggestions for the Committee's consideration, please contact William by telephone at (301) 952-4874 or by e-mail at [wassnoddy@co.pg.md.us](mailto:wassnoddy@co.pg.md.us).

## DID YOU KNOW...



JFB's September General Membership Meeting C.L.E. topic will be "How to make Partner in a Majority Firm", chaired by **Roger Thomas** of Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum and LaPlaca and **Gina Smith** of Meyers, Rodbell and Rosenbaum. The meeting

will be sponsored by **Rochele Butler of Paychex Inc.**

**Clayton Aaron's son** won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National Bar Association's annual Drum Major for Justice oratorical contest at the convention. He represented District 12 in Washington, D.C.

JFB's **Kim Keenan** was installed as the new President of the National Bar Association. Also seen in attendance at the NBA conference were **Betty Hewlett, J. Wyndal Gordon, Clayton Aarons, Michael Worthy, Charles Byrd and Carolyn Saxton.**

"Stretch to Vote" campaign, co-sponsored with the L.U.K.E Foundation a nonprofit, nonpartisan charitable organization in Prince George's

County, will provide limousine transportation for voters to the polls. *Because voting is a luxury.* Volunteer poll workers and *limousine drivers* are needed. Call **Michael Harris** at (301) 683-2129.

The Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County advises all attorneys that, effective January 1, 2004, the *Hicks Rule* applies to all Criminal Appeal ("CA") cases in

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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.

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

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

**Important Date to Remember**

**General Membership Meeting**

Thurs., September 16th, 6:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD

**20th Scholarship Awards Banquet**

Thurs., November 4th, 6:30 p.m.  
Martin's Crosswinds  
Greenbelt, MD

**DID YOU KNOW .... (Cont.)**

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Prince George's County. Hence a trial judge may deny a request for a continuance, however approval of continuance requests may be granted *only* by the Administrative Judge or the criminal coordination judge.

Further, whenever a pre-sentence investigative report (PSI) is ordered in a case, the attorney representing the defendant is required to deliver the appropriate documents (Form 2294) to the Division of Parole and Probation ( P & P ) and obtain the appropriate receipt before leaving

the courthouse on the day of the event. The P & P office is located in Room 068B of the Bourne Wing of the Prince George's County Courthouse Complex.

The **Maryland Hispanic Bar Association** will hold its **11th Annual Gala** on Thursday, September 23, 2004 at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Md. from 6:00-9:30p.m. Maryland's **Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele** is the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$50.00 per person or \$500.00 for table of 10. For additional information, please call **Audrey Creighton**, President, at 240-773-9603.

**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)