

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



William A. Snoddy

Two of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's stated missions are to protect and assist in the economic and social development of the African-American communities through the vehicle of the law and to insure the continuation of African-Americans in the legal profession. At no time in recent history has this been more critical than today. The assistance of African-American attorneys is needed in our public schools and the community at large. African-American attorneys are also needed to assist those who aspire to the profession.

Anyone who has read a newspaper or looked at television in recent days is aware of the devastation Hurricane Katrina has wrought

on Mississippi and Louisiana. In New Orleans alone, thousands are believed to have perished as a result of flooding that left approximately 80 percent of the city submerged.

The city's African-American population has been the hardest hit. More than two-thirds of New Orleans' population is African-American. Of that number, 42 percent live in poverty. This would explain why most of the people you see on television being scooped from roof tops, huddling in the Super Dome or scavenging are African-American.

If you are interested in helping, the American Bar Association recently announced that it is enlisting the ABA Young Lawyers Division and other lawyers to assist hurricane victims in the coming days and weeks.

(Continued on page 2)

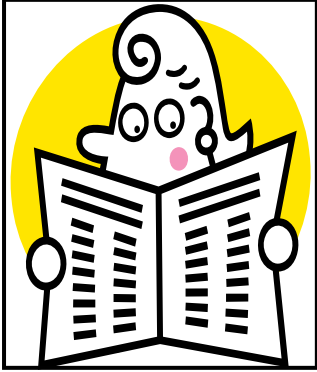
NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION

JFB honored New Admittees to the Maryland Bar at its Annual New Admittees Reception on Saturday, August 13th. Joseph and Shawn Wright generously and graciously hosted the well-attended event.

In addition to recognizing our newly-admitted colleagues, the event afforded them an opportunity to meet

and network with JFB members, judges, and other guests.

Chief Judge Robert Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals and JFB President William A. Snoddy welcomed the New Admittees - most of whom took advantage of JFB's waiver of membership dues for New Admittees. (See photos on page 2.)



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

(continued from page 1)

The lawyers will assist with insurance claims, home repair contracts, wills and other documents, and related issues. Attorneys will be staffing a Federal Emergency Management Agency toll-free hotline open to disaster victims. FEMA is now in the process of establishing a hotline. A complete listing of the FEMA hotlines and other available legal resources will be posted on the ABA Web site at www.abanet.org.

Closer to home, there are other projects to which you can add your skills. JFB is in the process of reviving its relationship with the Prince George's County Public Schools. Previously, JFB's members participated in a Doctor/Lawyer program in which doctors and lawyers talked with children about the medical and legal ramifications of being involved with drugs. If you are interested in contributing to the formulation and development of future JFB school programs please contact me at wasnoddy@hotmail.com.

JFB, in conjunction with the **Black Women's Bar Association of Suburban Maryland**, is also planning a mentoring program for **How-**

ard University Law students preparing for the Maryland Bar examination. I encourage each of you, especially the Howard Law alums, to contribute to this effort by reading and critiquing practice exam answers or offering your proven test taking tips.

Our next general membership meeting will be **Tuesday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds** in Greenbelt. This meeting is a joint meeting of local and specialty bars and replaces our general membership meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 15. The guest speakers for the joint meeting will be **Kweisi Mfume** and **Congressman Benjamin Cardin**, both of whom are candidates for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by **Sen. Paul Sarbanes**. The cost of the meeting is \$25 and includes dinner.

Congratulations are in order. Our newest judge, the **Honorable Crystal Mittelstaedt** of the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County is also our newest mother. On August 12, one day after her investiture, Judge Mittelstaedt and her husband John became the proud parents of baby boy Adam.

William A. Snoddy, Esquire
President, JFB Bar Assoc.

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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.)

NEW ADMITTEES RECEPTION (Cont.)



JFB President William A. Snoddy and President-Elect Sharon V. Burrell, with special guest, Chief Justice Robert A. Bell



New Admittees with JFB President William A. Snoddy, Chief Justice Robert Bell, and Past JFB President, Judge Michele A. Hotten.

DID YOU KNOW ... HURRICANE KATRINA; How You Can Help.



The **National Bar Association** (NBA) is poised to assist the people of the Gulf Coast region affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and is calling upon the U.S. Government to enhance its response to the suffering and death taking place before our eyes. Calling

the initial efforts "grossly inadequate," the NBA is urging government leaders and law enforcement officials to be rational in securing public safety. "Any order to shoot criminal suspects on sight is inconsistent with due process and the rule of law," said NBA President **Reginald M. Turner**.

Turner is asking that each NBA member, affiliate chapter, section and division contribute to the **American Red Cross**, and other local, state and national humanitarian agencies providing food, water, shelter and other basic necessities to hurricane victims. "We ask that NBA members identify on calls or web responses their membership in the National Bar Association so that we may stand united in our efforts," said Turner. JFB is an affiliate of the NBA.

Already there are stories of NBA members providing extraordinary assistance to families in need. **Judge Cynthia Stephens** of Detroit, the NBA Chaplain, diverted from her vacation to go to Houston to minister to the spiritual and earthly needs of families transplanted from New Orleans. **Russell Wilson** of Texas, personally provided food, water, clothing and shelter for a stranded family of nine people, paying for them to continue to stay in

temporary housing from which they were about to be evicted. We truly belong to a noble profession!

Finally, the NBA is joining with its local affiliates, such as the **J.L. Turner Legal Association** of Dallas, Texas, and the **Houston (TX) Black Lawyers Association**, whose relief efforts are already underway as they tend to the specific needs of people on the ground. The NBA also joins its national affiliates and the **American Bar Association** (ABA) to provide pro bono legal services and to help lawyers re-establish practices disrupted by the hurricane. Details regarding these efforts will be posted in the coming days on the NBA and ABA websites, www.nationalbar.org and www.abanet.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE): If you or others are interested and are available for "hands on" assistance to Hurricane Katrina's evacuees, the **American Red Cross** needs interviewers at the DC Armory and other locations in Prince George's & Montgomery counties immediately. There is also an urgent need for help in responding to telephone inquiries at Call Centers in Silver Spring and Falls Church. Persons are needed for (minimum) 3-week deployments to impacted areas *over the next 15 months*.

Already, some JFB members have responded to these opportunities. The conservative estimate for immediate, emergency assistance is 15 months! FYI, as of Wednesday evening, each individual at the local Call Centers has an average of 100 calls on "hold", down from 300 calls on "hold" on Monday.

For further information visit – do not call – your local ARC Chapter. The address is listed in the Yellow Pages.

Lloyd A. Johnson
Editor, JFB Newsletter

JFB ELECTION OF 2006 OFFICERS.

Applications for positions of **President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary**, and **Recording Secretary** must be submitted by no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 26, 2005 and will be accepted by electronic mail, "snail" mail, personal delivery, Pony Express and courier pigeon.

For further information contact George Simms at (240) 777-7383 or by e-mail at george.simms@montgomerycountymd.gov

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 loydajohnson@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 Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting

Tues., Sept. 13th, 5:30 p.m.

Martins Crosswinds

7400 Greenway Center Drive

Greenbelt, MD 20770-3053

Dinner & Meeting \$25

Annual Scholarship Banquet

Tues., Nov. 3rd, 6:30 p.m.

Martins Crosswinds

7400 Greenway Center Drive

Greenbelt, MD 20770-3053

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS.

Applications for JFB's (law school) scholarships are now being accepted. The deadline for receipt of JFB's Scholarships is October 4, 2005. Interested persons, law students and others, may secure Applications by visiting our Internet Web site - www.bournebar.org - and following the prompts or by contacting **Garland Stillwell**, Chair of JFB's Scholarship Awards Selection Committee at (202) 663-8147 or (202) 663-8007 or by e-mail at garland.stillwell@pillsburylaw.com.

Applicants will be evaluated on the strength of commitment to community service, references and academic achievement. Scholarship recipients will be announced at JFB's Annual Scholarship Banquet on November 3rd.

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

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 **Lloyd A. Johnson** at (301) 367-5115 or by e-mail at LloydAJohnson@comcast.net.