

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



J. Franklyn Bourne
Bar Association
30th Anniversary

"WE'VE COME SO FAR... BUT YET NOT FAR ENOUGH"

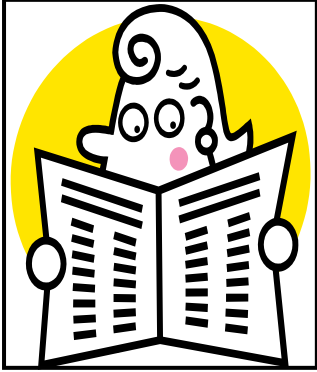
In recent weeks, the news has brought us stories about the Jena 6, nooses being hung at the University of Maryland's campus, and Bill O'Reilly's surprise that an African-American restaurant in Harlem, New York could actually function like any other restaurant in a given neighborhood. Is it just me or does it seem like we are in a Twilight Zone episode? Oh, how I wish that were true, because the reality is much more alarming. These stories should serve as a wake up call to us all.

In the event that any one needs to be reminded, the struggle for equality is still ongoing and we should all be asking ...HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE IT? How you ask? I know; through organizations such as ours. JFB was created for that very purpose, yet we have far too many empty seats at our membership meetings. All of us should be taking advantage of what JFB has to offer and nowhere was this more evident than at our September meeting. Kudos to **Judge Michele D. Hotten and Gregory K. Wells** for putting on a superb CLE program entitled, "Conducting an effective deposition - views from the practitioner and the bench."

Seasoned and new practitioners alike in attendance were treated to an informative program. Helping one another achieve excellence in the legal profession is in the spirit of who we are. Thanks to all who participated.

Our next general membership meeting on **October, 18, 2007** will be a joint affair sponsored in collaboration with The Bar Association of Montgomery County, the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian Pacific Bar Association, the Maryland Gay/Lesbian Bar Association, the Daniel O'Donnell Law Society, the Montgomery County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association, and the Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society. This joint event entitled the **PARTY AROUND THE WORLD** was developed to celebrate the contributions that make each bar association unique. Contrary to news reports, unique and different doesn't mean inferior. In the face of bigotry and oppression, we must seek common ground to rise above it. See page 3 for further details on this event.

The JFB Scholarship Fund Committee, chaired by Garland H. Stillwell, Esquire will again be hard at work within the coming weeks to determine the award recipients for this year's banquet. Any one interested in assisting on this committee should contact Mr. Stillwell at garland.stillwell@pillsburylaw.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

In addition, please contact **Judge Hassan El-Amin** or **Sharon Christmas DeBerry** if you need tickets for this year's banquet. If you haven't already purchased your tickets, please do so ASAP and join us for a great evening of fellowship and friendship.

Lastly, JFB is looking for a few good men and women to run for elected office. If you have ever thought about serving, I encourage you to consider lending your time

and talents to us. Achieving equality will not occur unless good people are prepared to fight for it...every single day. See below for more information on the upcoming elections.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) launch party on **October 6, 2007**.

Regards,
Abigale Bruce-Watson
President
J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association

JFB Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editor Emeritus
Lloyd A. Johnson

Newsletter Editor
Joel Braithwaite
(202) 276-4902
E-mail:
joel.braithwaite@gmail.com

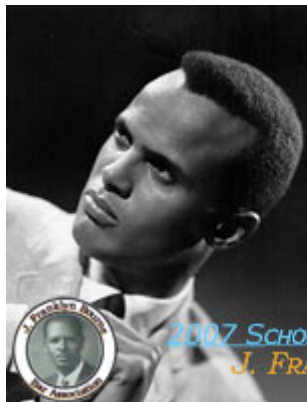
Contributing Editor
Dione Duckett

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.)

V.I.P. RECEPTION AT ANNUAL BANQUET

Join JFB for the **V.I.P. Reception** featuring Keynote Speaker, Harry Belafonte, to begin at 5:30 p.m. on November 1, 2007.

Members who are interested in meeting Mr. Belafonte "up close and personal" and to perhaps have a photo taken with him are encouraged to attend. The cost of



this VIP Reception is \$100 per person, in addition to the modest ticket price of \$65 per seat or \$600 per table for the Banquet.

Since space is limited, members interested in attending this reception are encouraged to purchase their tickets from **Judge Hassan El-Amin**, (301) 952-4011 or **Sharon Christmas DeBerry**, (301) 883-8616.

BOURNE WANTS YOU!

The Nominations and Elections committee is now accepting nominations of candidates for office for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.

The deadline for all nominations is the close of business on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. Candidates for office should submit an application to Committee Chair **M. Andree Green** at andree.green@ppd.mncppc.org. For more information on the Election process, please visit our website at www.bournebar.org.

Any candidate who is unopposed by the close of business on October 16, 2007, will assume office beginning December 1, 2007. Please contact Ms. Green at 301-952-4501 if you have questions.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Prince George's County Bar Association (PGCBA) is hosting a Pro Bono Legal Services Fair at UMUC Inn and Conference Center, 3501 University Blvd. East, Adelphi, MD 20783 on **October 2, 2007 from 4:30 pm-8:30 pm**. Please contact Bar Headquarters or visit them on line at www.pgcba.com for more information about pricing/registration.

The 9th Annual Solo and Small Firm Conference is scheduled for Friday, **November 2, 2007** from 8:00-1:00pm and on Saturday, **November 3, 2007** from 8:00-4:00 pm at the BWI Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD. Please visit www.msba.org if you are interested in registering for this event.

Juan Williams of National Public Radio has agreed to join the Lawyer's Literary Circle for our discussion of his much acclaimed book: **Thurgood Marshall - American Revolutionary** on Thursday, December, 13th. I hope that all of you will be able to attend. Our meetings are held in the offices of Miles & Stockbridge P.C., 11 North Washington Street, Suite 700, Rockville, Maryland 20850 and begin at 4:30 in the afternoon. There is no fee for this event. Please call **Jim Demma** at (301) 762-1600 or **Marylin Pierre** at (301) 279-9020 to let us know that you are coming so that we can make sure that we have enough snacks.

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.

JUDICIAL VACANCIES

The Honorable Judge William B. Spellbring, Jr. retired effective January 31, 2007, and Judge E. Allen Shepherd retired effective on March 27, 2007, thereby **creating two vacancies** on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Any judge or lawyer interested in appointment to these vacancies should request a personal data questionnaire from Deborah A. Unitus or Linda Etzold, Administrative Office of the Court, 410-260-1291 or download the questionnaire from the Judiciary's website at www.mdcourts.gov. Completed personal data questionnaire and two writing samples (at least 16 copies) must be received in the Administrative Office of the Courts by the close of business at 4:30 pm on **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

Due to the retirement of Judge James A. Kenney, III a judicial vacancy exists on the Court of Special Appeals (At Large). Closing date for this vacancy is Tuesday, **October 9, 2007**.

PARTY AROUND THE WORLD

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, the Bar Association of Montgomery County, the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian Pacific Bar Association, the Maryland Gay/Lesbian Bar Association, the Daniel O'Donnell Law Society, the Montgomery County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association, and the Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society are sponsoring a PARTY AROUND THE WORLD!

The Party Around The World concept was developed to celebrate the contributions that make each bar association unique in its own way. There will be no speeches or awards but we will have a SPECIAL DOOR PRIZE consisting of Wine Tasting and Tour of Sugarloaf Vineyard (For 10 People), in Comus, Maryland. The event costs \$30.00 per person.

The Party Around The World will be held at the Women's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland on Thursday, October 18, 2007 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please call the Bar Association of Montgomery County, 27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (301) 340-2534 if you have questions regarding this event.

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

Important Dates to Remember

JFB's Montgomery County Committee

Sat., Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Bar Association
27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD
Holly Reed (301) 587-9480

**JFB's Young Lawyers Division
Decades Party with a Purpose**

\$20.00 per person
Sat., Oct. 6, 9:00 p.m. - 'till
16604 Peach Street
Bowie, MD 20716

General Membership
Thurs., Oct. 18, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Party Around The World
\$30.00 per person

Women's Club of Chevy Chase,
7931 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland

SAVE THE DATE

**2007 J. Franklyn Bourne 23rd Annual
Scholarship Awards / 30th Anniversary
Banquet featuring Harry Belafonte**

\$65.00 per person
Thurs., Nov. 1st, 6:30 p.m.
Martins Crosswinds
VIP Reception 5:30 p.m.
\$100.00 per person



DECADES PARTY

DECADES PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

at 16604 Peach Street, Bowie, MD 20716
on Saturday, October 6, 9:00PM

The J. Franklyn Bourne Young Lawyers Section invites you to attend one of the biggest parties this side of D.C. to help raise money for the JFB Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$20.00 and your purchase is tax-deductible. The DJ will be spinning something for all tastes. So get ready, get ready, get ready for the hottest party of the year. You don't want to miss it! You can purchase tickets from **Letoria Knight, Derron Parks, Mia-Len Woodard, Allison Green, Joseph Wright, Abigale Bruce-Watson, Jae Stanton, or Rachel Stafford.** Tickets are limited so buy now!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED.



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 Janelle Jordan & Judge Herman C. Dawson.