

OF NOTE

October 19

JYL Membership Meeting
at the University Club
12:00 Noon

**REMINDE YOUR
CO-WORKERS**

October 19

Fall Party at Baptist
Children's Village
5:00-8:30pm

Volunteers Needed for set-up
and take-down / Pizza Provided
We'll Entertain 25-30 Children
for 2 hours. Email Denise Wes-
ley for more information
dwesley@curriejohnson.com
(601-969-1010) or
Matthew McLaughlin at
mmclaughlin@balch.com
(601-965-8162)

October 22

Mississippi Innocence Project
The fundraiser will be held in
Jackson and will feature speech-
es by Scott Turow and John
Grisham. So far, the anticipated
tasks for volunteers are very
low impact, e.g., promoting the
event around your firm, hanging
posters, but there may be some
opportunities to work at the
event itself. If you are interested
in helping with this event as a
volunteer, please send an email
to David Pharr at dpharr@
bradleyarant.com. The Inno-
cence Project reviews prisoner
claims of wrongful conviction
and pursues post-conviction re-
lief where exculpatory scientific
(DNA) evidence is available.

Summer Social Events Segue Into New Season

JYL has had three fantastic social events in the past few months. In April, there was a big turnout of young lawyers at Trustmark Park where we watched the Mississippi Braves take on the Birmingham Barons. The Braves won 8 to 1 over the Barons and, more importantly, the young lawyers at the game relaxed on the party deck of the stadium, and feasted on traditional ball park food and drinks while watching the game.

On August 9, young lawyers from all over the area came out to Hal & Mal's to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Those attending enjoyed the Oxford band RiverLeft as well as some of Hal & Mal's cuisine.

Most recently, JYL joined with the Hinds County Bar Association on October 10 to host a welcome party for the newest inductees of the Mississippi Bar. Everyone there celebrated on the patio of Sal & Mookie's in Fondren, where all got a chance to sample drinks



Riverleft, made up of Jackson Purvis, drums; Blake Mogabgab, guitar and vocals; and Michael Saucier, bass perform at the Hal & Mal's Brew Pub for the JYL August social.

from the new restaurant's extensive menu and enjoy the unique Sal & Mookie's pizzas. There was a great turnout at this event, which is always a fun time for Jackson-area lawyers of all ages to gather together in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

More social events will be coming soon. Watch for details about the JYL-Hinds County Bar joint Christmas party in December.

BY MISSY ROSE

*Ms. Rose is an associate at
Page, Kruger & Holland*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are well into our new year, but this is my first written opportunity to thank Trey Bourn and last year's board for an excellent job. Membership is at an all-time high, finances are in order, we are making an approximately \$8,000 donation to the Boys and Girls Club from the proceeds of our most successful golf tournament, and we had a membership event that reaffirmed JYL's commitment to a diverse membership.



David Pharr
JYL President

To mark that year of achievement, we promptly decided to have more parties. We removed another membership meeting from the calendar to make room for an additional social. In recent years, we have struggled with dwindling attendance at membership meetings and enjoyed increased attendance at social events, so this seemed like a logical step. We have heard from some members who are disappointed that we now have so few lunch meetings. As always, this is a fluid process so let your preferences be known. If you miss the old monthly (or even bi-monthly) membership meetings, or have strong opinions about anything else we are doing or not doing, please tell a board member or notify the Complaints Desk at dpharr@bradleyarant.com.

October is a big month for JYL. We welcomed our new colleagues and members to the bar on October 10 at Sal & Mookie's. Our next membership luncheon is set for October 19. Our speakers will discuss the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Mississippi Blues Commission. On the evening of October 19, we are hooking up with the Magnolia Bar to throw a party for the kids at the Baptist Children's Village. Look for more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

JYL is planning a social in a front lawn along the route of the Mississippi Blues Marathon. We also intend to staff a water table near the social with JYL volunteers/partygoers. If you will commit to staffing a shift at the JYL water table during the race on the morning of January 5, 2008, please contact Missy Rose or Ann Heidke.

Mississippi's version of the Innocence Project is now up and running in Oxford. *Continued on Page 3.*

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If you are 37 or younger, or have practiced law fewer than 3 years, you are eligible for membership in JYL

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Membership in Jackson Young Lawyers is open to any duly licensed member of the Mississippi Bar who is a resident of the greater Jackson, Mississippi metropolitan area and is either 37 years of age or younger, or has been a member of the Mississippi Bar for less than three years.

The annual membership dues for JYL are \$100 and are billed once a year to each member. (First year member-

ship dues are waived for federal, state, and local government employees.) The dues cover JYL monthly luncheons, newsletters, and various social functions during the year.

To become a member of JYL, complete the membership application, available on Page 4. Your name will be placed on the membership roster and you will receive notices informing you of upcoming JYL events.

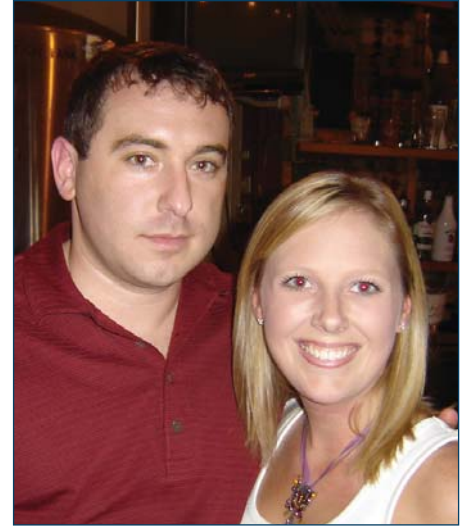
JYL Socials



(Left) Matthew Thompson and Stephen Masley at the JYL social co-hosted by the Hinds County Bar Association at Sal & Mookie's on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007, to welcome the new bar admittees. (Center) Tanya Dearman and Adam Powers enjoy the JYL social at the Hal & Mal's Brew Pub held on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007. *Photography by John Scanlon*



(Below) Robert Greenlee and Jennifer McGrath at the JYL August social earlier this summer at Hal & Mal's.



Continued from Page 2: President's Corner

Its representatives approached JYL for help with a fundraiser in Jackson on October 22 and the JYL board decided that we should help. With speeches by Scott Turow and John Grisham, it should be a fun event. The Innocence Project New Orleans has been operating in Mississippi for a few years and the fledgling Mississippi edition needs support. If you are inclined to help with the fundraiser or would like more information, again, please contact me at dpharr@bradleyarant.com.

Our new committee leaders have hard acts to follow (in some cases, their own), but almost everyone is off to a fast start. Hopefully, you indicated your committee preference in your membership renewal but, if not, contact one of those committee chairs and get involved. We now have descriptions of each committee on the website, www.jacksonyounglawyers.com.

Our Diversity committee has been moving quickly with Denise Wesley and Matthew McLaughlin at the helm. They are collaborating with the Magnolia Bar Association's Young Lawyer Section on events and activities. Look for their report in this newsletter.

We are expanding the focus of our Pro Bono committee to highlight clinics and mediation as alternative ways to do pro bono work. JYL's City Court Mediation Program and MVLP's recently revived Legal Lines have both qualified as sources for pro bono hours under MRPC 6.1. Ideally, JYL should have a dedicated time slot for staffing Legal Lines. Justin Matheny is this

year's Pro Bono chair. Lindsay Watts is actively seeking volunteers for the City Court Mediation Program. The mediations take place once a month on a regular schedule and you can sign up for a two to three hour session well in advance. The mediation program is rewarding for many reasons, including the positive impact it has on the municipal court docket, allowing judges to clear cases that might be resolved with a simple conversation between feuding neighbors. It is also a bracing change of pace from civil practice, as any of that committee's members can attest. Now, it has the added benefit of qualifying as pro bono work.

Finally, as you might have noticed, we are short on newsletter writers this year. If you would like to write columns for future newsletters or help in other ways with the Newsletter Committee, please contact John Scanlon at jscanlon@hsglawfirm.net.

There are many more committee activities than I have room to describe. Please get involved according to your interest. JYL is great for community involvement, bar leadership opportunities, maintaining professional relationships, and making new friends outside your usual circles. Lawyers who ignore these things tend to be less satisfied with their profession.

BY DAVID PHARR

EST. 1936 Mr. Pharr is a partner at
Bradley, Arant, Rose & White.

Diversity Committee Keeping Busy

The JYL Diversity Committee is gearing up for another year of actively establishing a membership base that reflects the diversity of the legal field and its practitioners.

Following the momentum of the Spring membership meeting featuring Dolphus Weary and former Governor William Winter's thoughtful observations on race relations in Mississippi, this year's hands-on approach to diversity is designed to demonstrate that diversity works. JYL representatives have already met with Ashley Wicks of the Magnolia Bar Young Lawyers to plan joint projects starting with a Fall Party at the Baptist Children's Village.

"The members of the Magnolia Bar Young Lawyers are excited about collaborating with the Jackson Young Lawyers on community service projects," Wicks said. "This will benefit both organizations and give the membership of both organizations a chance

to do something for the community while networking with each other."

JYL also hopes to work with the Magnolia Bar Young Lawyers on another community service project on Martin Luther King Day, although this has not yet been finalized.

In addition to working with the Magnolia Bar, the Diversity Committee plans to survey each and every JYL member, and perhaps some non-members within the JYL membership criteria as well, to find out how JYL can better meet the needs of its members and potential members. Members who receive the survey in the mail are requested to take some time to consider the questions asked and share any suggestions and ideas through the survey. This way everyone can do his or her part to make diversity work for everyone. The surveys are slated to be sent out after the Fall Party is finished.

BY DENISE WESLEY

Ms. Wesley is an associate at Currie, Johnson, Griffin, Gaines & Myers

JYL Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Method of Payment _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Employer _____

Committees or Activities of Interest _____

Law School _____ Date of Graduation _____

Check, made payable to Jackson Young Lawyers

Please bill me for the total amount

Mail Check for \$100 to: Jackson Young Lawyers Association ■ Post Office Box 22842 ■ Jackson, MS 39225-2842

May It Please the Court

With The Honorable Ann H. Lamar

Justice Ann Hannaford Lamar of Senatobia was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court May 21, 2007, by Gov. Haley Barbour to fulfill the remainder of the term of former Presiding Justice Kay B. Cobb, becoming the third woman to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Justice Lamar is the daughter of Leon Hannaford, a Jackson School of Law graduate, who served as a Chancery Court Judge for about seventeen years in Desoto, Tate, Panola, Yalobusha, Grenada, and Montgomery counties.

Justice Lamar is a former circuit judge from the 17th Circuit Court, made up of DeSoto, Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate, and Yalobusha counties. She was appointed to the Circuit Court vacancy created when former Circuit Judge George C. Carlson Jr. was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001. From January to May 2007, she presided over the 17th Circuit Drug Court, supervising program participants in four of the five counties in the district.

She has served as chair and vice-chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, district attorney and assistant district attorney in the 17th District, president of the William C. Keady American Inns of Court, a member of the Mississippi Judicial College Board of Governors, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Prosecutor's Association.

JYL: What advice would you have for a young lawyer?

Justice Lamar: I would advise young attorneys to get involved in an area of the practice of law that they are interested in, that they enjoy. You know the field of law opens up so many different opportunities from litigation to any number of things, and some of us are more suited to certain areas of the law than others, and so I think that's the first thing. Just make sure you are working in an environment and in an area of law that interests you so that you can excel. Secondly I would always tell

attorneys that this is a profession and they need to remember that. That professionalism should be very important to them. Civility is important with fellow attorneys, clients and with the bench as well. Never underestimate, particularly to young attorneys, the importance of being prepared, both in the facts and in the law and in whatever situation you find yourself. You owe that to your clients, you owe that to your fellow members of the bar, and you owe that to the bench. Honesty and integrity are qualities, without which, that I think you can not be a good lawyer. So I say remember that.

JYL: Sounds like good advice. Is there an impact that you hope you will be able to bring to the Court and if so, what is it?

Justice Lamar: I guess I have always realized it, but it has certainly been brought home to me since I have been in this Court that you have nine people and they come from various backgrounds and experiences and each brings something a little different, I think, to this job, and hopefully the collective wisdom of this Court brings a good result and the desired result. I would hope that one of the things that I bring to the Court is my experience, my practical experience - that is to sit on the trial bench almost six years and probably almost twenty years before that as district attorney and as a prosecutor and also about eight years in private practice. So I have

“I have seen the profession from a number of different angles and I would hope that that practical experience is one of the things that I bring to the Court...”

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Continued from Page 5: Justice Lamar

seen the profession from a number of different angles and I would hope that that practical experience is one of the things that I bring to the Court and one of the things I hope is important.

I think all you can do in this job is to do the very best you can to approach each case and each assignment, if you will – there are more than cases going on up here – each assignment with an aim to do the best to contribute to our profession, to the practice of law, to the ultimate goal of bringing justice, in every way that I can. And I don't know any other way to approach it when I say that. Just in all the different areas, I think approach it with the mindset of doing the best that we can to benefit our profession and ultimately the citizens who are needing access to our courts.

JYL: How would you say your view of the Supreme Court's role has changed since you went from a sitting trial judge to a sitting Supreme Court Justice?

Justice Lamar: Obviously there are a lot of things that you can not really understand until you are here. And I have spent all of my career, both in private practice and prosecution and on the bench, in a five-county area of the state. Obviously, when you get to this position, you are looking at cases from all over the state and a lot of different ways of doing things and a lot of problems potentially encountered in other parts of the state that maybe I didn't encounter where I was – and so I am getting a much broader picture I think of what goes on in the state. I think you probably cannot have a real concept of the magnitude of this job, I'll just say, until you actually are faced with it. That is the importance of each case you are dealing with and also, the amount of work. And I don't know if people have a real concept of that. You know I had one fellow at home that kept telling me "Oh, you'll like that job if you can

just keep from getting bored." Well I haven't been bored yet. (Laughter.) There has been no time for that. But I'm not sure the general perception is accurate about the amount of work that goes on here.

JYL: Tell me about your appreciation of the position of a law clerk and what he or she means to you and what he or she can benefit from the experience of serving as a law clerk.

Justice Lamar: I think any young lawyer would benefit from a time of service at the Court. I just don't think there is any substitute for seeing up close how the process works and it to me would just be invaluable in later years of practice to see what goes on here because they also get a much bigger picture of what's going on than they would ever get in any one individual area of the law or area of practice.

My perspective is that I love working with young attorneys in a large part because the law is still interesting and exciting to them. They haven't gotten bored or burned out at that point and they're still interested and excited about all the different things that are going on, and I love that, and I think you get a lot of energy from those young attorneys – and I used

to love working with law students and young attorneys when I was at the district attorney's office. But also we've got some really – some of the brightest young lawyers coming out of school that want to do time here, and they are very good with research, and I just enjoy the time with them.

JYL: I asked how your view of the Court has changed – how have your day-to-day duties changed from those of a sitting trial judge, to those of a sitting appellate judge, a Supreme Court Justice?

“My perspective is that I love working with young attorneys in a large part because the law is still interesting and exciting to them.”

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Continued from Page 6: Justice Lamar

Justice Lamar: Well, you know, I have been here since May 21; today is September 26. I have had on a robe one day – one time, other than at my investiture – and that surprises me a bit. I am a little surprised at how few opportunities I have had for oral arguments or to actually see attorneys. When I was Circuit Judge, obviously I had almost daily contact with litigants and with attorneys and so it is quite different. Most of the cases now are submitted on briefs, very few where there's an actual argument. So there is a tremendous difference in my duties now as opposed to what they were when I was a trial judge.

JYL: How critical of a part of a case do you view oral argument?

Justice Lamar: Obviously it's not important or essential or necessary in every case, but certainly there are cases where oral arguments could be beneficial and helpful to the Court.

JYL: What would you say are the "red flag" dos and don'ts to someone bringing a case before the Supreme Court, to an attorney bringing a case before the Supreme Court?

Justice Lamar: I'm not sure other than what I said to you earlier about preparation – being prepared in the law and in the facts. Don't misrepresent your case, the facts are what they are – I think sometimes attorneys are too interested in the outcome of a case and I have seen occasions when I felt that testimony or evidence was taken out of context. So I would say be honest and represent the facts accurately to the Court. You know, communication is one of those things that is so important for attorneys – and it goes for the written word as well as the spoken word – and let's just say sometimes, I have seen briefs where I felt like lawyers were not effectively communicating with the Court.

JYL: Anything else you want to add about your experience in the first few months of being a sitting Justice?

Justice Lamar: You know, I have said this before, but it has been very interesting. I am not bored. The people down here truly have been wonderful to work with and they helped to make the transition just as smooth as it could be. I don't know whether the people out there can appreciate what an adjustment it is to come to Jackson from the far reaches of this state to do this job. It is a personal adjustment. I had to get a place to stay down here. I am two hours from home – it's too far to commute, certainly for me, anyway. So there have been adjustments on a personal level as well as professional but everyone here really has been super nice and the transition actually has been smoother than I anticipated that it would be. I have really enjoyed the time on the Court.

You know, as a trial judge you are called on to make all sorts of decisions, evidentiary decisions, pre-trial decisions and that decision will generally rest on your shoulders. It is different now to have to get agreement with your other justices to come down with any decision. That is a different situation for someone who has been a trial judge for a long time. I really have enjoyed the give and take with the other justices, the exchange of ideas. One of our justices calls it "pulling taffy." That part, just to have that give and take on the different ideas and cases and legal theories – I really have enjoyed that a great deal.

"I really have enjoyed the give and take with the other justices, the exchange of ideas."

BY JOHN SCANLON

Mr. Scanlon is an associate at Hawkins, Stracener & Gibson

May It Please the Court is an opportunity for the members of JYL to learn directly from learned members of the Bench. If you've got a suggestion for a future column, send an e-mail to John Scanlon at jscanlon@hsglawfirm.net

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