

### OF NOTE

**October 17**

JYL Membership Meeting  
at Hal & Mal's  
12:00 Noon  
**REMINDE YOUR  
CO-WORKERS**

**December 5**

HCBA/JYL December Social  
*Details to Follow*

#### **Did You Know?**

U.S. District Court Judge  
Daniel Jordan is a past-  
president of JYL.

JYL started in 1936.

JYL gave \$19,000 to charities  
last year.

#### **Don't Forget!**

Past issues of the JYL  
Newsletter are available at  
jacksonyounglawyers.com.  
Check out past interviews with  
Mississippi Supreme Court  
Justices Jess Dickinson, and  
Ann Lamar, Hinds County  
Circuit Judge Swan Yerger, and  
catch up on past JYL activities  
as we continue to serve the  
metro area.

Submissions to the Newsletter  
can be made to the editors:

**John Scanlon**

jscanlon@sdmlaw.com

**David McCarty**

dmccarty@davidnutt.com

## Building a Better Jackson – One Home at a Time

At one time, Wood Street was known as the most dangerous place in the metro Jackson area. To combat that perception, Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson introduced The Nehemiah Project in September of 2003. The Nehemiah Project was a \$5.4 million initiative to build 100 homes in three years in Jackson's inner city neighborhoods, many of them surrounding Wood Street. The goal of the project was to revitalize neighborhoods and reduce crime while impacting businesses, schools and the entire city. Without question, the project was a success.

Encouraged by the renewed outlook in the community and overwhelming volunteer support, the Metro Jackson Habitat launched The Nehemiah Project: Phase II in 2006. As a part of Phase II, HFH/MJ began work on its most ambitious project to date in the fall of 2008 – Park View Place. With new infrastructure of road, water, sewer,

curbs and gutters, Park View Place will provide 18 new homes for qualified families.

In the spirit of service to the Metro Jackson community and in the hopes of furthering positive economic growth

in the city, JYL coordinated a fall volunteer project with the Metro Jackson Habitat for Humanity. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, JYL members helped to build a home for the Jamison family at 1442

*Continued on Page 3*

## Ramsey speaks at JYL Meeting



Legendary editorial cartoonist and blogger Marshall Ramsey pretends to receive an award from President Alex Purvis. Marshall spoke at our recent Membership meeting at Hal & Mal's, and JYL donated \$500 in his honor to the Leonard E. Warren Melanoma Foundation.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope this issue of the JYL Newsletter finds you enjoying cooler temperatures or at least a cold beverage. The editors asked me to give some football predictions or offer some poetic reflections on the turning leaves, but I feel obliged to use my first opportunity in this forum to address some actual business. If you are interested in my football predictions, please feel free to contact me. If you like autumn poetry, please contact the poetry committee.

As we start the new JYL year, I want to thank the prior administration for a great year in 2007-2008. Under David Pharr's leadership and thanks to the efforts of the committee chairs and members, JYL continued to contribute in the Jackson community. Among other great accomplishments, we contributed \$19,000 to local charities during our last fiscal year.



**Alex Purvis**  
JYL President

For 2008-2009, the JYL Executive Committee's big picture goal is to increase the level of consistent participation. We have a relatively large membership, but actual participation has been dwindling over time. There are several possible explanations for that downturn, but none strikes me as a valid excuse. The EC's hope is that we can convince every member of this organization to get involved in some meaningful way,

and we are looking at some new things to increase the level of participation.

For example, after a long and good relationship with the University Club, we are now experimenting with new venues for the membership luncheons. On July 25, we held our first membership meeting of the new JYL year at Hal and Mal's. Marshall Ramsey was a wonderful speaker and addressed a crowd of approximately 100, by far the largest gathering we have experienced in some time. Recognizing that Marshall deserves most of the credit for that level of participation, I hope the turnout was also a sign of increased interest in JYL.

Of course, participants increase participation. JYL's leadership plans to do its best to create good opportunities for participation, but the members must

*Continued on Page 7*

## JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Purvis, President  
apurvis@bradleyarant.com

David Pharr, Past President  
dpharr@bradleyarant.com

Corey Hinshaw, President-Elect  
chinshaw@watkinseager.com

Mary Clay Morgan, Secretary  
mmorgan@bradleyarant.com

Brandon Jolly, Treasurer  
bjolly@bakerdonelson.com

Tanya Dearman, Director  
dearmantk@fpwk.com

Ann Heidke, Director  
amh321@hotmail.com

Missy Rose, Director  
mrose@pagekruger.com

Malissa Winfield, Director  
malissa.winfield@butlersnow.com

## MEMBERSHIP & DUES

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

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.



## *Continued from Page 1: Building a Better Jackson*



Wood Street. Throughout the day, volunteers, working alongside the future homeowners, were assigned various tasks such as measuring, cutting and placing the exterior trim and siding, painting all exterior surfaces, and caulking. Volunteers climbed scaffolding, learned to use nail guns and circular saws, and, at the end of the day, were covered head-to-toe with paint, caulk, and sweat. Special thanks go to all project volunteers: Alex Purvis, Jennie Pitts, Ryan & Loren Pratt, Marlena Pickering, Lindy Brown, Jennifer Gillis, Ash Taylor, Brett Harvey, and Tiffany Grove.

Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson's goal is to eliminate substandard housing locally and throughout the world and Jackson Young Lawyers is committed to doing its part to help make this goal a reality! Plans are already underway for JYL's participation in another Habitat build during the spring of 2009.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about this project, please contact Lindsay Watts, chair of the Community Service Committee, at [lwatts@youngwilliams.com](mailto:lwatts@youngwilliams.com).

**BY LINDSAY WATTS**

*Ms. Watts serves as JYL Community Service Chair and is an associate at Young Williams P.A.*

Top: Marlena Pickering, left, and Lindsay Watts carefully apply paint to windows. Below Left: The volunteers at the Habitat House pause for a moment of prayer before work begins. Right: Ash Taylor and Brett Harvey work together atop scaffolding to hang siding on the Habitat House.



## JYL Golf Tourney Reaches New Heights

On June 26, 2008, at Patrick Farms Golf Club in Pearl, JYL held its 15th Annual Golf Tournament, raising more than \$3,800 for the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Jackson. Roughly 64 players, comprising 16 teams of JYL members and friends, competed in the four-person scramble event.

The team of Matt Grenfell, Kevin Hahn, Chad Hutchinson, and Chad Biggs of Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada, PLLC took first place, with each player receiving a \$100 gift card to Nevada Bob's Golf. The second place team from Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush, P.A. was comprised of Scott Jones, Mike Gatling, Eric Toney, and Mason Montgomery, with each player receiving a \$75 gift card to Nevada Bob's Golf. Third place went to the team of Stephen Stack, Jeff Upchurch, Seth Robbins and Mark Ishee of Watson & Jones, P.A. with each player receiving a \$50.00 gift card to Nevada Bobs' Golf.

This event could not have been possible without the tournament's numerous sponsors and supporters. JYL would like to thank the following firms and companies for their sponsorships: Adams

& Reese; Balch & Bingham; Bradley Arant Rose & White; Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada; Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz; Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes; Chinn & Associates; Choice Copy; Dobbs & Dutro; Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy; Grantham Poole CPAs; Hawkins Stracener & Gibson; Horne, LLP; Jones, Funderburg, Sessums, Peterson & Lee, PLLC; McGlinchey Stafford; Mockkbee Hall Drake & Hodge; Phelps Dunbar; Robinson, Biggs, Ingram, Solor & Farris; Watkins & Eager; Wells Marble & Hurst; and Wise Carter Child & Caraway.

The event was organized by JYL Athletic Committee members Matt Grenfell, Jason Fortenberry, Mason Lowe, Brad Moody, and Clarence Webster, III, who co-chairs the Committee with Brad. Many thanks to the Committee for overseeing such a successful and fun event! We have a handful of T-shirts remaining from the event. Please contact Clarence at [cwebster@bradleyarant.com](mailto:cwebster@bradleyarant.com) if you are interested in purchasing one for \$10.00.

### BY CLARENCE WEBSTER, III

*Mr. Webster serves as JYL Athletics Co-Chair and is an associate with Bradley, Arant, Rose & White.*

## JYL Membership Application

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Method of Payment
Address _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Check, made payable to Jackson Young Lawyers
Telephone _____	Fax _____ Email _____	
Employer _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me for the total amount
Committees or Activities of Interest _____		
Law School _____	Date of Graduation _____	

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

# May It Please the Court

## With Chief Justice James W. Smith, Jr.

**T**he Honorable James W. Smith, Jr. serves as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. He joined the Court in 1994, and was elevated to the position of Chief Justice in 2004. He previously served as a district attorney and County Court Judge in Rankin before joining the Supreme Court.

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

Chief Justice: I would advise that future attorneys intern with either a district attorney, public defender, trial judge or appellate judge during law school. Secondly, try to actually clerk for a judge upon graduation. The experience is certainly worthwhile and usually results in an extremely good position with a law firm afterwards. Finally, a young lawyer can acquire invaluable experience as an assistant district attorney, public defender or getting a city prosecutor or county prosecutor position.

### **How did your view of the appellate role change after leaving the trial court?**

I served ten years on the trial bench as a county judge. I also served as a special circuit judge and special chancellor on many cases. As a trial judge you are used to making quick decisions without consultation except for the arguments of counsel. The appellate bench allows for sufficient time to adequately research all issues, consult with justices and incorporate their collective views into an opinion which, in my view, is a must for any justice to be effective, productive and consistently to author numerous opinions for the Court. Agenda-driven appellate judges simply are not successful.

Obviously, listening and communicating with each other is crucial to success as an appellate court justice.

### **How have your day-to-day duties changed since you became Chief Justice of the Court?**

Research, reading, writing and editing memos and opinions is exciting, fulfilling and very enjoyable. In short, it is simply fun.

A Chief Justice, as Administrator of all the courts of our state, has a role that most justices do not envy. The administrative duties require 75 percent or more of a Chief Justice's time. These duties are often very tiring, unpleasant, time consuming, distracting, and frequently hostile. It takes a tremendous amount of patience to serve as a Chief Justice.

That said, nevertheless, I have found the job to be very rewarding. The accomplishments that we have achieved with my colleagues, trial judges and the Bar are too numerous to list, but reflect the success of being a positive leader and committed to positive changes for the bench and the bar.

---

“Agenda driven appellate judges simply are not successful and usually write an excessively large number of dissents.”

---

*Continued on Page 6*



## Continued from Page 5: Chief Justice Smith

**Is there an impact that you hope you bring to the Court as Chief Justice, and if so, what is it?**

Eagle Scouts have a “charge,” a portion of which states: “Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God. Whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which you may be justly proud.”

I have strived to furnish the leadership to the Court, in progressively changing for the best many areas of the practice of law. My intent is to leave the profession much better off than when I entered it.

**What are your suggestions to counsel appearing before the Supreme Court? What mistakes should be avoided?**

The Scout motto is “Be prepared” – many are not. Know your case. Don’t dwell on the facts. You have limited time – select the issue you believe will be successful and focus on it. If oral argument is granted, submit other issues as briefed and focus on what you believe will prevail. Tell the truth. Don’t misrepresent facts or issues. Cite proper supporting cases. Be respectful to opposition counsel and especially to the Court. Civility and professionalism should be the order of the day. Briefs should be short and simple. Avoid words which play fast and loose with the Court. Be especially cautious on rehearing – be respectful – remember you are trying to convince some members of the court that you are correct and that the Court

misconstrued the facts or the law. Outright disrespect and language utilized accordingly can result in show cause hearings, striking your pleadings and/or sanction.

**JYL: Each appellate judge has two law clerks. Tell me about the position of a law clerk and how it can benefit a young lawyer’s career.**

I am one justice who changes both clerk positions every year. I simply want more young lawyers to have this opportunity to serve as a clerk. Most of my clerks have been English or Journalism majors as I am looking for someone who can express themselves and communicate with ease. My clerks are admonished to thoroughly read records, study briefs, check all issues carefully, never accept point blank without question the cases cited and authority – and ultimately produce a memo that covers every aspect and issue raised in the case.

---

“I simply want more young lawyers to have this opportunity to serve as a clerk... In short, clerks are invaluable.”

---

Our Court generally is served by great clerks. I usually have the best of the best. I rely heavily upon my clerks to get it right and they usually do. However, they also know that the ultimate opinion as written is the decision of the justice and the collective wisdom of those justices who contribute to that opinion. In short, clerks are invaluable.

*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 email to John Scanlon at [jscanlon@sdmlaw.com](mailto:jscanlon@sdmlaw.com).*

## Continued from Page 2: President's Corner

take the initiative. In that regard, please consider taking these 3 steps:

1) Check out the JYL Website: [www.jacksonyounglawyers.com](http://www.jacksonyounglawyers.com). This is the best way to get a snapshot of JYL. You'll find information on the organization as a whole, committee opportunities, a calendar of events, and updates on coming events. On a related note, we are also considering a Facebook page. Like my grandmother with the internet, I personally harbor some fear of Facebook. But I'm becoming convinced by others with a proper perspective on social networking sites that JYL needs to journey into this frontier. Look for more information on that in the near future.

2) Sign up for a committee (see committee info and chair contact information on the website). We have great committee leadership this year. We recently held a meeting of all committee chairs, and I was

impressed by the enthusiasm and interest for keeping JYL's best traditions and starting new ones. Several committees are heading in new directions, and the key ingredient to their success will be participation from the membership. The amount of time you contribute is up to you, but there is no better way to get involved in JYL. Committee participation is also the best stepping stone to leadership positions in JYL as our primary resources when considering leadership nominations are the committee rosters.

3) At a minimum, come to the membership luncheons, socials, and committee events. Assuming you have paid your dues (if you haven't, please do through the website), JYL wants to feed you, quench your thirst, and satisfy your craving for social interaction. Our first two membership meetings at Hal and Mal's have been great, as well as the

joint HCBA/JYL Swearing-In Social which recently took place at Sal & Mookie's on October 2. The next JYL membership meeting is scheduled for October 17, and the next HCBA/JYL social will be held December 5.

Two months ago, several past JYL Presidents gathered for a reunion of sorts. Most of them remember JYL as the organization for young lawyers in Jackson. JYL was not an obligation. It was an opportunity to help the community and, as importantly, to spend time with other young lawyers outside of the courtrooms and boardrooms. I hope you feel as I do that such a community for young lawyers should still exist in Jackson. Please consider getting involved on some level and do not hesitate to contact me if I can help you do that or if you have suggestions otherwise.

*Mr. Purvis is an associate with Bradley, Arant, Rose & White.*

## CALLING ALL PHONES!!!

The Community Service Committee is collecting the old cell phones you no longer use in a benefit to assist the Secure the Call Foundation, which is a non-profit coalition of Law Enforcement, Women's Shelters, Neighborhood Watch Groups, Community Service Organizations and Senior Citizen Centers. Secure the Call Foundation accepts all makes and models of mobile phones and converts them into 911 emergency-only phones. The phones are given away for free to those in need.

It's estimated that Americans have more than 45 million old, unused cell phones. These phones could be helping citizens feel safe and secure by converting them into 911 emergency-use cell phones. Your friends, family members and others in your firm who are not JYL members can donate and the donation is tax deductible. You can download a tax receipt at [www.donatemycellphone.org](http://www.donatemycellphone.org).

This is an easy and positive way to get involved. Bring your old cellphones to our next Membership meeting, which will be held on October 17, 2008, or e-mail me for more information.

**BY TIFFANY GROVE**

## JYL Gathers Supplies for JPS

School budgets don't always supply children and teachers with the resources they need to succeed in school, and it is estimated that teachers spend between \$500 and \$700 of their own money each year on supplies for their classroom. Through the Jackson Public Schools Partners in Education (P.I.E.) Store, teachers have free access to donated school supplies. The JYL Community Service committee conducted a supply drive for P.I.E.,

and it was a hit on all fronts. Two file boxes full of paper, index cards, glue, crayons, markers, folders, highlighters, and more were generously provided by members and collected at the July meeting at Hal & Mal's. The donated supplies were subsequently donated to the P.I.E. Store. The donations were very needed and appreciated. Thanks go to all who donated.

For more information on the Community Service committee, contact co-chairs Lindsay Watts (at [lwatts@youngwilliams.com](mailto:lwatts@youngwilliams.com)) and Tiffany Grove (at [tgrove@wmjlaw.com](mailto:tgrove@wmjlaw.com)).



## ON THE MOVE

**Amanda K. Jones** is now counsel to Governor Haley Barbour, focusing on legal, policy, and legislative items. Amanda is a former member of the Litigation and White Collar Criminal Defense Practice Groups at Bradley, Arant, Rose & White. She was the JYL "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" in 1998, and received our Pro Bono Award in 2005. In 2005, the Mississippi Center for Justice honored her with an Award for Exemplary Pro Bono Service in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina.

JYL Director **Tanya Dearman**, of Forman, Perry, Watkins, Krutz & Tardy, will marry **Paul M. Ellis**, of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Cannada, on October 25, 2008.

Community Service co-chair **Tiffany Grove**, of Wiliford McAllister & Jacobus, and her husband Bryan are getting into the sandwich business. The couple are buying the Flowood and Madison locations of the popular Lenny's Sub Shop.

JYL jill-of-all-skills **Mary Largent Purvis** is now a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Mississippi College School of Law. She teaches Sales & Leases, Contracts, and Secured Transactions, in addition to working with the Academic Support Program.

**Matthew McLaughlin**, of Balch & Bingham, was named one of the Mississippi Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40."

**Lindsay Thomas** has joined the law firm of McGlinchey Stafford. Lindsay is a magna cum laude graduate of Mississippi College of Law where she served as an articles editor of the Law Review and was on the Moot Court Board.

Newsletter committee co-chair **John Scanlon** has recently become an associate with the law firm of Sessums, Dallas & Morrison, PLLC. John is a 2005 graduate of Mississippi College of Law and has been in civil litigation practice since 2006, after serving for one year as a judicial law clerk for the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Newsletter committee member **Shanda Yates Johnson**, of Wells Marble & Hurst, recently published an article in the MDLA Quarterly. "Request No. 1: Admit That You Are Not Seeking Damages in Excess of \$75,000. Response: I'm Not Gonna and You Can't Make Me. Determining Whether the Amount in Controversy Requirement is Satisfied Based on Plaintiffs' Responses (or Lack Thereof) to Requests for Admissions" appears in the summer 2008 volume and is available online at <http://www.wellsmar.com/MDLAQuarterly.pdf>.

*Made a change, made partner, or just made good? Tell us, and we can spread the news to your fellow JYL members. Visit the JYL website at [jacksonyounglawyers.com](http://jacksonyounglawyers.com) and drop us a line through the "On the Move" link.*

FOR ALL THE LATEST JYL NEWS

**jacksonyounglawyers**  
**.com**