

JYL

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

OF NOTE

Thursday, December 3

Join JYL and the Hinds County Bar Association for our annual Christmas party from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Old Capitol Inn.

We'll be collecting donations for Toys for Tots, so bring a new unwrapped toy and help make a child in need's Christmas a little brighter!

Mark your calendars

JYL will again work a water station along the route of the Mississippi Blues Marathon on **Saturday, January 9, 2010.**

Email Tiffany Grove at tgrove@wmjlaw.com for more information.

JYL's next membership meeting will be held on **Friday, January 22, 2010** at 12:00 p.m.

Don't forget!

Past issues of the JYL Newsletter are available at www.jacksonyounglawyers.com.

Submissions to the Newsletter can be made to the editors:

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JYL Lends a Hand at Annual Habitat Build Day

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization whose purpose is to build and sell affordable housing at no profit to low-income families who lack adequate shelter. More than 1,700 affiliates in the United States and 550

international affiliates coordinate Habitat house-building projects in over 3,000 communities worldwide. The Metro Jackson Habitat chapter is in the top 10 of U.S. affiliates in the total number of houses built, having built over 400 homes to date.

Habitat houses are purchased by families at affordable prices, thanks to the donated labor of Habitat volunteers and the support of partner organizations. The average home built by Metro Jackson Habitat is a three bedroom, two bathroom home that costs \$65,000. In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments,



JYL volunteers Tiffany Grove, Corey Hinshaw, Abby Peterson, Johnny Givens, Ann Heidke, Wayne Parker, Beth Murray, Scott Murray, and Eric Patterson help build a Habitat home

homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

Many JYL volunteers willingly rolled up their sleeves and donated their first Saturday in November to help a family reach their goal of moving into their first home before Christmas. The house JYL worked on was in the final week of an eight-week scheduled build. Upon arrival, JYL members were promptly put to work, performing such jobs as painting, cleaning up the job site, lacquering cabinets, and doing other odd jobs. Thanks to all the

project volunteers: Corey Hinshaw, Ann Heidke, Scott & Beth Murray, Johnny Givens, Abby Peterson, Natalie Crowder, and Eric Patterson. We are already looking forward to next year's build day! If you are interested in participating in JYL's build day next year, please contact Tiffany Grove, chair of the Community Service Committee, at tgrove@wmjlaw.com.

By Tiffany Piazza Grove

Mrs. Grove is an associate at Williford, McAllister & Jacobus, LLP.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fall and football are upon us and it is an exciting time of year. Likewise, it is an exciting time to be a member of the Jackson Young Lawyers. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as the President of this outstanding organization with a long history of service to our profession and our community. Thanks to the hard work and able leadership of my predecessor, Alex Purvis, and all of



the board members, committee chairs, and committee members who have put so much time and energy into the work and mission of this organization, JYL has continued to thrive and serve. Over the past year, attendance at our luncheon meetings has increased exponentially and the number of community service opportunities available as well as participation among our members in these opportunities has been exemplary. We are well positioned to continue in this tradition and accomplish even more during this bar year.

An ongoing goal is to increase our membership numbers, increase participation among members, and increase and diversify the opportunities available for our members. Despite the tough economic times of late, we have seen an increase in the membership of JYL and hope to continue to grow our membership throughout the year. We want JYL to be the professional organization for all young lawyers in the Jackson metropolitan area and an organization that embraces and promotes diversity among its members as well as diversity within the profession. Equally important, JYL has long

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If you are 37 or younger, or have practiced law for fewer than three 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.

Annual membership dues are \$100 and are billed once a year for each member. (Membership dues are waived for government and public-interest employees in their first year of practice and are \$50 per year thereafter.) The dues cover JYL luncheons, newsletters, projects, and social functions during the year.

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

JYL and Young CPAs Close out the Mississippi Braves' Home Game Season

On September 1, 2009, JYL and the Mississippi Young CPA Network held a joint social at the pavilion at Trustmark Park. JYL and the Young CPAs watched and cheered the Mississippi Braves conquer the West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx 4-2 in the Braves' last home game of the 2009 season. JYL members, who made a great showing, relaxed and enjoyed the food and drinks and the rare opportunity to socialize with a non-lawyer professional organization. The Young CPAs, a new committee of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, showed up in great numbers as well as it was the final event in their day long annual state-wide seminar. Based on the feedback from members of both organizations, it is certain that another joint JYL/Young CPA social is in the future!



JYL members Abby Peterson, Kathleen Shields, Mary Clay Morgan, Missy Rose, and Tianna Raby taking in the Braves game

JYL's next social event is our annual JYL-Hinds County Bar Association joint Christmas Party. The party is scheduled for December 3, 2009, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm, at the Old Capitol Inn. We look forward to seeing you there.

By Tianna Hill Raby

Mrs. Raby is an associate at Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy.

Alex Alston, Eyewitness to Mississippi History, addresses JYL

At JYL's September 18 membership meeting, Alex A. Alston, Jr., a former JYL president, shared his experiences of practicing law as a young attorney during segregation and in the tumultuous years that followed. In his recent book, "Devil's Sanctuary: an Eyewitness History of Mississippi Hate Crimes" (Lawrence Hill Books, 2009, \$26.95), Alston and his co-author James L. Dickerson recount their first-hand experiences as white Mississippians during the Civil Rights movement.

Alston witnessed much of our State's darkest past. As a law student in 1961, he saw the riots on the campus of Ole Miss sparked by James Meredith's enrollment. As a young attorney, he heard judges use racial slurs in open court as a matter of course. A judge once reprimanded Alston in front of a jury for using the term "Mrs." to refer to his African-American client. Alston's message to JYL was that, while Mississippi's past of racial injustice is painful to remember, stories of our darkest days must be shared, not covered up, to allow us to progress.

By Mary Clay Morgan

Mrs. Morgan is an associate at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings.



JYL members Ben Sones and Justin Peterson catch up at the Braves social

JYL and HCBA Welcome New Admittees

The tradition of welcoming new members to the legal profession continued this year on October 1, 2009, when the Jackson Young Lawyers co-hosted its annual fall social in conjunction with the Hinds County Bar Association. The event was held at The Auditorium, located in the recently renovated Duling School, and was planned to coincide with Fondren after Five. The social featured fantastic cuisine, including hors d'oeuvres by Auditorium chef, Nathan Glenn. With a large turnout of new admittees and seasoned lawyers, the social was certainly a success.

By Brad Reeves

Mr. Reeves is an associate at Balch & Bingham.



New admittee Justin Starling celebrates his admission with HCBA member Jack Price



General Counsel for the MVLP LaVerne Edney catches up with JYL member Scott Jones

JYL members assist at Jubilee!JAM

On the afternoon of June 20th, several Jackson Young Lawyers endured extremely high temperatures and helped lend a hand at the 2009 Jubilee!JAM Arts Fair and Kid!JAM in downtown Jackson. Volunteers assisted the regional artists, many of whom are members of the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild, as they displayed and sold their artwork on the historic tree-lined streets surrounding the Mississippi

Governor's Mansion. Volunteers also helped set up for the electrifying performers scheduled to take stage later in the night, like Joan Jett & the Blackhearts and Tantric. Of course, volunteers were able to enjoy the live rock, country, roots and blues music that filled the streets throughout the day.

By Tiffany Piazza Grove



JYL members Kristin Kazery and Tiffany Grove rock out with Brookhaven's own The Colonels

May it Please the Court

With Judge Jimmy Maxwell

Judge Jimmy Maxwell of Oxford was appointed to the Mississippi Court of Appeals on February 2, 2009, by Governor Haley Barbour. Judge Maxwell formerly served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Oxford. As a federal prosecutor, he successfully represented the United States Department of Justice in numerous jury trials and prosecutions for offenses ranging from public corruption and white collar fraud, to money laundering, drug trafficking, counterfeiting, smuggling, immigration, and gang-related crimes. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, he practiced with the law firm of Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A.

Judge Maxwell is actively involved in the legal community. He is the president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar and has formerly served as president of the Lafayette County Bar and the Tri-County Young Lawyers (Lafayette, Yalobusha and Calhoun Counties). He has also served on the Diversity in the Law Committee, the Board of Bar Commissioners, and the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Prosecutors Association.

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

Judge Maxwell: If you want to be good at something, you have to really throw yourself into it and work hard. While certain natural abilities might put you ahead of the game, I truly believe most skills are learned through dedication, preparation and a lot of hard work. If you want to become a better trial lawyer, read everything you can get your hands on about trial strategy and communication skills. To learn how to cross-examine witnesses, go watch a talented criminal defense attorney in action. Since they spend a lot of time cross-examining witnesses, most are pretty good at it. Find someone who stands out in an area of law you are interested in and pick their brain. Attorneys love to give advice and tell war stories.

What should a lawyer never do?

Never ruin your good name. There is simply nothing more important than a lawyer's integrity, credibility, and reputation. Establish a good reputation early on, and never let anyone take it away – ever. From day one you want to be viewed by other attorneys and judges as honest, competent, and hard working. You certainly do not want to start your career tagged as one of those attorneys "you better get it in writing from." We all know the untrustworthy types and all feel the same way about them.

You've handled dozens of extremely complex cases and trials. What is your advice to the young trial practitioner on how to focus on the most important components of a case?

The most important component of any case is deciding how to pitch it to twelve ordinary people in a way they will understand. In complicated cases you simply cannot get caught up in the weeds. If you do, you will lose the judge, the jury, and most likely the case. I tried to follow a general rule in prosecuting complex white collar cases and unusual fraud cases. I tried to break each case down to "lyin', cheatin' or stealin'" to put the case in a context the jury would understand. Juries may not fully comprehend all aspects of a mail fraud or money laundering scheme, but they do know when someone is stealing or a victim has been cheated. Whether trying a criminal case or a civil lawsuit, all cases need a theme. It is also important to remember that the jury only hears the evidence one time. Choose your theme wisely and try to weave it through your trial from voir dire to closing.

So much of modern practice involves written advocacy. How should lawyers work to better their written product?

Be brief, clear, and concise in your writing. You hear this repeated over and over, but it really is tried and true advice. Frame your issues clearly and put them front and center before the Court. Also, try to write in the active voice in short sentences. It makes for a smoother, more enjoyable read.

Another problem I have found is procrastination. Lawyers

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are busy, and the last thing they have time to do is sit down and write an appellate brief. When I waited until the last minute to get started on briefs or important motions, I was never fully satisfied with the products I turned out. But brief writing is like anything else. Most of the apprehension goes away once you sit down, dig in, and get started. I found it helpful to set an early deadline to begin my briefs and motions, and I tried to stick to it.

What are your suggestions to counsel appearing before the Court of Appeals? What mistakes should be avoided?

Too many lawyers get up and read straight from their briefs. We have already read the briefs, so this is of little benefit to our decision process. Try to make it a habit not to use notes or at least keep them to a minimum. They are a crutch, and it is hard

to be persuasive with your nose in a legal pad. If you watch our best lawyers, public speakers and communicators you will notice they tend to follow this advice. A good oral argument should be a mixture between advocacy and conversation. Get to the heart of the issue quickly and try not to spend time on unimportant matters. Set out to address your points and respond to your opponent. And when the questions come, answer them honestly. Stretching the record or legal authorities will come back to bite you. Judges learn rather quickly who tends to play fast and loose with the facts and law and who shoots straight. This goes back to reputation and credibility.

By David McCarty

Mr. McCarty is a sole practitioner who also collaborates with former JYL member Drew Martin of the Martin Law Firm.

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JYL Collects Supplies for JPS Teachers

At its September membership meeting, JYL collected supplies and monetary donations for the Jackson Public Schools' Partners in Education Store ("P.I.E. Store"). JPS teachers often do not have all of the educational items necessary to provide an optimal learning environment for their students and therefore must pay out of their own pockets to get the necessary goods. The P.I.E. Store provides JPS teachers with some of the missing, but necessary, items, at no charge.

Thanks to the efforts of JYL, the P.I.E. Store's shelves were filled with countless boxes of notebooks, paper, crayons, and other essential supplies. Blair & Bondurant, P.A., was the largest financial donor, while Theresa Barksdale Patterson, with Wright Law Firm, and Victoria Rundlett, with Daniel, Horton, Coker, and Bell, both answered the call of duty by raising money for the P.I.E. Store.

The JPS teachers quickly took advantage of our donations, and the P.I.E. Store thanked us heartily. Thank you to all who raised money and donated supplies to this worthy cause.

By Eric Patterson

Mr. Patterson is an associate at Blair & Bondurant, P.A.



JYL Community Service Committee Co-Chair Eric Lee Patterson presents JYL's donations to P.I.E. Store Director Rebecca Starling

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been and should continue to be the primary outlet for social interaction with other young lawyers in our area and a great way to make business and professional connections that can last a lifetime. The importance of the JYL socials should not be understated. Positive, non-adversarial experiences of interacting and socializing with other young lawyers through this and other organizations fosters more satisfaction, collegiality, and civility among young lawyers and ultimately our profession as a whole.

There is a wealth of ongoing opportunities available through JYL. I encourage you take advantage of one or more of these opportunities. Invite a friend or colleague to join as well. Please go to the website at www.jacksonyounglawyers.com, check out our Facebook page, and read the emails we send out notifying you of JYL events. JYL allows you to provide much needed assistance to fellow community members, gain practical and worthwhile experience in a legal setting, enhance your leadership experience, work on newsletter publications, or simply interact and socialize with fellow young lawyers. And if there is not a committee, activity, or event in which you have an interest or if there are other things you would like to see JYL doing, please let me know. This is your organization and it should serve you and reflect your interests and experiences. I am always interested in your ideas or suggestions and welcome the opportunity to hear from you, so please contact me at chinshaw@watkinseager.com or 601-965-1822. I hope to see all of you at a membership meeting, social event, community service project, or other committee activity very soon.

Corey Hinshaw is the 2009-2010 JYL President and an associate at Watkins & Eager.

JYL to Help Provide Wills for Heroes

If you are interested in learning more about or volunteering with the Mississippi Wills for Heroes program sponsored by the Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division, please contact Corey Hinshaw at chinshaw@watkinseager.com. The inaugural events are tentatively planned to be held in Hancock county in February, the Jackson area in March and April and North Mississippi in June. You can also learn more about Wills for Heroes at www.willsforheroes.org.

New Executive Director Brings Enthusiasm to Job

As most JYL members already know, Mary Largent Purvis's reign as Executive Director of JYL has come to an end. While Purvis leaves big shoes to fill, incoming Executive Director Danielle Ireland is up for the challenge.

"Working with the dedicated members of the Executive Committee and the various committee chairs and co-chairs over the past few years was rewarding," Purvis said. She had the opportunity to see firsthand the work that JYL does in the local community through the organization's annual fundraisers such as the Legal Beagle, and the JYL Golf Tournament, as well as through several community service projects.

Purvis is confident that Ireland will do an excellent job as Executive Director. "JYL is so fortunate to have Danielle serving as the new Executive Director, and she is already doing an incredible job," Purvis said. "She will bring so much to JYL, and I look forward to seeing the organization continue to grow and thrive."

Ireland, a native of Slidell, La., completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, later attending law school at the University of Alabama. While in law school, Ireland served as the Special Works Editor for the Law Review. After finishing law school, she clerked for United States

District Court Judges Edwin L. Nelson and L. Scott Coogler in Birmingham.

Ireland subsequently practiced with the litigation and appellate groups at the firm then known as Bradley Arant Rose & White until 2006 when her daughter, Emily, was born. Emily's baby sister Abby was born in 2008. Ireland's husband, Robert, practices at Watkins & Eager. The Irelands attend St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Ireland is excited to be involved with JYL once again. "I want to continue the good work Mary has done in communicating with the membership in a streamlined and efficient way. I am working on ways of making the renewal of membership process less cumbersome," Ireland said. "Mary did a lot of work to try to piece together JYL's history and I want to continue that effort and bring it into the future by maintaining good historical records of the group's activities and leadership."

By Shanda Yates

Ms. Yates is an associate at Wells, Marble & Hurst.

JYL Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Employer _____

Committees or Areas of Interest _____

Law School _____ Date of Graduation _____

Mail with your dues to Jackson Young Lawyers Association P. O. Box 22842 Jackson, MS 39225-2842