



THE NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10

Membership Meeting and CLE
at the University Club
12:00 pm

March 11

JYL Legal Beagle 5k Run/Walk
Regions Drive-Thru Parking Lot
Jacksonian Plaza
8:15am

April

JYL Social
No Luncheon Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

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President's Corner
Patrick McCraney

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Outstanding Speakers Address
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Members Enjoy
February Social

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Legal Beagle 5k
Entry Form

JYL Helps Local Charities Brighten Lives

Over the past few months, the JYL Community Outreach Committee has been busy collecting items for local charities.

At the Hinds

County Bar Association/JYL Christmas Party on December 8, 2005, JYL members collected toys for delivery to Stewpot Community Services. JYL members showed up in force with gifts for the children of Stewpot, and these items were delivered on December 9 by JYL members Seth Hunter, Melody McAnally, and Will Manuel.

During December and January, JYL held a "Clean Out the Closet" clothing drive to benefit Gateway Rescue Mission. Once again, JYL members donated abundantly, and JYL was able to deliver a pick-up truck load of clothes to Gateway after the membership meeting on

January 27. Many firms and individuals made this clothing drive one of the most successful by JYL to date.

This spring JYL has volunteered to serve lunch at Stewpot Community Services on the weekend dates of Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, May 20 (dates tentative). Many people forget that Stewpot also serves meals on the weekend! The details are still being ironed out, but we will either prepare the meal ourselves or purchase catered food and then deliver it and serve it to the Stewpot Community. If you would like to volunteer for this project, or have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact Seth Hunter



Past JYL President Will Manuel delivers toys donated by members to Stewpot during the holiday season.

at shunter@curriejohnson.com or (601) 969-1010 to get involved.

Legal Beagle 5k to Honor Fallen Officer

Once again, it's time to start training for the annual JYL Legal Beagle 5K run/walk! This year's race, dedicated to the memory of Jackson Police Officer Thomas Catchings, will be held on Saturday, March 11 beginning at 8:15 a.m. with race day registration beginning at 7:00 a.m. Officer

Catchings assisted JYL with traffic control during last year's Legal Beagle just five days before he was killed in the line of duty. Officer Catchings's wife and family will be presented with a plaque in his memory at the conclusion of this year's race.

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**March
11**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope you will take a moment to read over this newsletter. In it, you will see that Jackson Young Lawyers (JYL) is a thriving and relevant organization within the legal community and beyond. Each week, our dedicated members are actively serving the Jackson community: providing pro bono legal services, volunteering in local classrooms, serving a hot meal at an area shelter, or rolling up their sleeves at a community service project.



Patrick McCraney
JYL President

Contrary to some prevailing (and inaccurate) misperceptions, JYL is far more than a social club. The core mission of JYL is community service and, for that reason, we need more active and more widespread participation among our members.

Some of you may wish to get involved, but you need more information (hence, this newsletter). Also, you should attend the meetings. You can get information there and also hear an interesting message from some of our community leaders that make Jackson a better and more interesting place to live. We typically meet the third Friday of every other month at the University Club, at noon. We hope to see you there.

The other, significant obstacle to membership involvement is time (or the absence of it). As young lawyers, something we all share in common is competing demands for our time as we try to balance the requirements of our profession with personal interests and obligations. Ultimately, we are all forced to establish priorities and make difficult decisions about how we spend our time. That said, we should all make time to try and find ways to enhance the image of our profession or improve the community where we chose to earn our livelihood and raise our children. Our organization provides you that chance: JYL organizes and/or financially underwrites two major philanthropy projects, a pro bono case load, a teen court diversion program, a classroom instructional series on the jury system, a city court mediation program for minor criminal offenses, a toy drive at Christmas and countless other community service projects throughout the year. As you can see, there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved, and I encourage you to do so.

I look forward to seeing you at a JYL service project or social function in the near future.

JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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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

membership 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 Luncheons Feature Outstanding Slate of Speakers

We've had the great fortune to have some excellent speakers at our bi-monthly meetings so far this year.

Our September speaker was Dr. Dolphus Weary, President of Mission Mississippi. Dr. Weary shared his personal story about growing up in Mississippi and leaving for college in California with no intention of returning to the Jim Crow South. But he returned to Mississippi because he felt called to a ministry for racial reconciliation in his home state. He spoke movingly about his efforts to make an impact on pervasive segregation in our churches and the improvements that could spread from places of worship to the rest of society. Mission Mississippi is a non-profit organization that has focused its efforts on fostering conversations and joint activities among Mississippi's churches, which remain largely segregated. He reminded us that positive race relations are vital to our quality of life and success as a community. Dr. Weary emphasized the need for us to build and maintain honest relationships with people from different backgrounds and try harder to understand the perspectives of people who don't look like us. We are grateful to him for sharing this message with us.

Leland Speed spoke at our November meeting. Mr. Speed is a legendary Jackson businessman and the executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). He gave us an instructive description of the decisions that set his companies on their successful courses and referred us to an influential book about growing businesses called *Good to Great*, by Jim Collins. Mr. Speed shared his optimistic view of Mississippi's prospects in light of regional and national development trends. He assured us that the Coast would bounce back quickly and dramatically. Mr. Speed let us know that he will use the MDA's resources to positively influence the redevelopment of storm-damaged areas. He recommended that we read Andres Duany's books and the reports of the Governor's Commission and the Mississippi Renewal Forum. He also mentioned some creative ideas for using tourism resources that remain surprisingly untapped, like the Mississippi River and our music heritage, to make Mississippi a leader in the growing tourism and recreation economy. We are grateful to him for spending lunch with us in November and for employing his skill and experience in this public role.

January's speaker was Malcolm White, executive director of the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). Mr.

White has owned and operated Hal & Mal's for many years and received a 2004 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for his work as an arts patron. He founded the Mal's St. Paddy's Day Parade, which annually benefits the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. He began his current job with the state agency for the arts just after Katrina decimated much of the arts community on the Coast. Mr. White described the function of MAC as a distributor of private and public grant monies for artists and arts educators. He told us about a recent trip to an annual conference in Washington where arts support



(L-R) Melody McAnally, David Pharr, Malcolm White, Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission, and Patrick McCraney gather at the January luncheon.

agencies from every state petition the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for funding. He said Mississippi was a perennial stand-out in those presentations. Mr. White also shared with us his optimistic outlook for the redevelopment of downtown Jackson. In addition to his years as a downtown business owner, he has served on numerous civic boards, such as the TelCom center board, and has a good grasp on the challenges and opportunities facing Jackson. He convincingly argued that downtown is on the brink of significant redevelopment.

For the March 10 meeting, the Board is putting together a CLE presentation in lieu of a speaker.



Social Events Keep Young Lawyers Connected

Jackson's young lawyers have enjoyed several fun and exciting social events recently. JYL again joined up with the HCBA for a Christmas party at the Old Capitol Inn in early December. We had a great turnout and the party was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season.

Many thanks to Choice Professional Copy Service for co-sponsoring the February social, which was held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at Old Venice. We had a good turnout and a great time. Look for details coming soon about our outing to a Mississippi Braves game in April!

Whether you're a regular at JYL social events or have not yet experienced one, they are your chance to come out and be a part of the action.



Members enjoy Christmas Party! Above: David McCarty, Matt & Mary Clay Morgan, John Lawrence, Melody McAnally, and Justin Matheny; Bottom Left: Frederick Salvo, Chris Shaw, and Jennifer Evans; Bottom Right: Mary Clay Morgan and Danielle Ireland.



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



Legal Beagle 5k - Continued from Page 1

The race will start on Old Canton Road near the LeFleur Station U.S. Post Office behind the I-55 Kroger and will finish on Jacksonian Plaza Road alongside the I-55 Kroger, near the Regions Bank's drive-through parking lot. This is the old Phidippides Watermelon Classic 5K course - a flat and fast USATF certified course and a Mississippi Track Club Grand Prix event. Registration is only \$15 in advance of the race or \$20 on race day. As in previous years, the proceeds from the race will benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Mississippi Bar, which places pro bono, non-criminal cases for underprivileged Mississippians with volunteer lawyers.

There will be awards for Male and Female runners and walkers for the following categories: (1) the standard five-year age groups from under 14 to over 70, (2) overall, (3) masters, (4) grand masters, and (5) senior masters. Additionally, this year, JYL will be awarding a trophy to the firm or business with the most overall participants.

Also for the first time this year, there will be a corporate team competition for the 5K run and walk: 3- to 5-member teams made up of part-time or full-time employees or retirees of a company will compete together, with the top 3 finishers for each team being scored. Companies may enter more than one team, but

no race day team registrations will be accepted. Team registration is \$40.

The popular Legal Beagle long-sleeve T-shirt is included in the entry fee and also available for sale to non-racers for only \$15. There will be door prizes from Fleet Feet and complimentary bagels and coffee from Beagle Bagel.

Volunteers for race day are needed. If you would like to volunteer or if you need more information, please email Jim McNamara (jim.mcnamara@arlaw.com), Chair of the JYL Philanthropy Committee, or Leigh Vernon (lverson@watkinseager.com). We look forward to seeing you on March 11!

JYL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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