

OF NOTE

March 14

Legal Beagle 5k Run/Walk
Details on Page 6
Registration Form on Page 7

March 19

JYL St. Patrick's Day Party
Details to Follow By Email

March 27

Membership Meeting & CLE
at Mississippi Museum of Art
12:00 Noon

Attendance is worth 1.0 ethics hour of MS CLE credit. Tucker Carrington, Director of the MS Innocence Project, will address the potential conflicts between an attorney's ethical obligations and the prohibitions against using race and gender as factors in jury selection. The discussion will be based in part on Sebastian Junger's book "A Death in Belmont," so a reading of this book which will provide context to the presentation is highly recommended.

The Capital Street catering will include a lunch of shrimp and grits, roasted seasonal vegetables, spring mix salad, french bread and bread pudding with whiskey sauce. To register, e-mail your name and bar number to Ashley Tullos Young c/o Francis Brown at fbrown@bakerdonelson.com. Slots are limited and will be granted on a first come, first served basis.

Submissions to the Newsletter can be made to the editors:

John Scanlon

jsanlon@pdmd.biz

David McCarty

davidmccarty@gmail.com

Blues Marathon a Two-Front Victory for JYL

On January 3, nearly two thousand runners from 40 states and ten countries greeted the new year, slogging their way through a wet Jackson morning for the second annual Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon. Divina Jepkogei, a 23-year-old first-timer from Kenya, finished first, setting a new race record of 2 hours and 46 minutes.

More than 800 volunteers helped staff the race, and a whole slew of them sprang from the ranks of the JYL. Community Service Chair Lindsay Watts led a team comprised of Erin Pridgen, Christen Hobbs, Adam Kazery, Andy Clark, and Jennie Pitts, who partnered with BankPlus to keep the runners hydrated.

Over on the other side of town, Director Missy Rose hosted our second-annual JYL Blues Breakfast Bash, where she and Director Mary Clay Morgan, along with members Tianna Hill, Alexandra Markov, Lindsay Thomas, and David McCarty, furiously passed out Gatorade, water, orange slices, bits of banana, and yes, Vaseline (if you don't know, don't ask). Partygoers were supplied with Broad Street goodies and a



JYL members volunteering to help in the marathon included, from left: Lindsay Watts, Jennie Pitts, Andy Clark, Erin Pridgen, Christen Hobbs, and Adam Kazery.

necessary range of volunteer aids such as Bloody Marys and mimosas.

This year it seemed there were almost more JYL folks on the road in the marathon than on the sidelines. While both teams had their hands full with the abundance of runners, everyone shares the same thought: people running in marathons are extremely thankful and friendly as can be.

BY LINDSAY G. WATTS

Ms. Watts serves as JYL Community Service Chair and is a member of the Real Property, Tax & Trust Group at Young Williams, P.A.



JYL volunteers help ensure the marathon participants are not without a drink.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Late New Year! 2008 was a great year for JYL and we are looking forward to a successful 2009. Please keep reading those JYL emails and participate in the socials, service events, and membership meetings whenever you can. If business is "slow" because of the economy, consider filling some of your time with JYL activities. There is value in this type of networking and service.



Alex Purvis
JYL President

Let me also take this opportunity to announce formally JYL's venture into the Facebook world. As too few of you know, we fired up JYL's Facebook page in October. Unfortunately, the page is still in need of "friends." With many reservations and encouragement from hipper JYLers, I signed up for Facebook for the first time recently, and I must admit that I have been pleasantly surprised. If you are already active on Facebook, or if you are considering joining, please join the JYL group. This is just another great way for us to communicate as a group and to keep in touch with you about what is going on in JYL.

I also encourage you to think about and share other ways that JYL can stay current. We have made some significant changes in the past few years, but there is always room for more positive change. This organization represents the youthful side of this great profession. We should consider it one of our primary tasks to keep the Jackson legal community on the cutting edge.

We want to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone else in JYL Leadership to let us know what you think. This wonderful organization has been around long enough to develop good and bad habits. Part of our mission this year is to focus on the good things we are doing and identify those few items that merit some reconsideration. When I pass the gavel later this year to Corey Hinshaw, I hope that JYL will have a fresh perspective on where it stands and where it needs to go.

Continued on Page 6

JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Purvis, President
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David Pharr, Past President
dpharr@babc.com

Corey Hinshaw, President-Elect
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Mary Clay Morgan, Secretary
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Brandon Jolly, Treasurer
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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 fewer 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.

Making an Immediate Impact: JYL City Court Mediation Program

The life of any civil case can easily exceed two years. Like it or not, most civil cases settle at some point -- whether soon after initial filing, on the eve of trial, or on the steps of the court house.

Many young attorneys want to feel the reward of seeing the cases they work on reach a resolution in which they directly participate. Whether it's the billable hour, the contingency fee, or a cost-benefit analysis, several obstacles can stand in the way of the fundamental desire that sent many to law school -- to help people solve problems. Mediation was created for mutual problem solving. Thus, those wanting to make an immediate impact while serving the community and improve your mediation skills should participate in the City Court Mediation program.

The program is easily JYL's best kept secret. Mediators with the City Court Mediation program handle cases assigned from City Court Judges including matters of simple assault, stalking, animal nuisance, threatening to do physical harm, and damage to property. Members of the JYL City

Court Mediation Committee attend and conduct monthly mediations at the Jackson Municipal Courthouse on the last Tuesday of every month. All volunteers are welcome and no special training or certification is required. This committee provides practical alternative dispute resolution experience and civic lessons for lawyers who may not otherwise see much Municipal Court action.

Mediators must listen to the Complainant and the Respondent to evaluate the seriousness of the case and assist both parties in determining whether it is in their best interests to remand the case to the file, send the matter back to the judge for trial, or establish a resolution of some kind. As in civil mediations, both parties are encouraged to take a realistic look at their individual cases and the city court mediator has the responsibility of being the voice of reason. For JYL members who feel they suffer from a work week that doesn't allow them to make an immediate impact, or for those who just want to improve on analytical, oral, and problem solving skills, the City Court Mediation program is a great opportunity to hone important skills while making a difference.

BY JODY OWENS, II, & MITZI GEORGE

Mr. Owens, of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC, is Chair of the City Court Mediation Committee; Ms. George of Anderson, Crawley & Burke, PLLC, is the Co-Chair.

Community Service Needs Combs, Sheets, Toothbrushes and More for 'Our House'

When Lindsay Watts and Tiffany Piazza-Grove became the new co-chairs of the JYL Community Service Committee, they wanted to find a new way for JYL members to help out in the Metro area. Realizing the heavy work and family commitments everyone has, the directors hit on an idea: even JYL meetings could be a volunteer opportunity.

For the upcoming March 27 membership meeting, Community Service is asking members to help out Our House, an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless

youths ranging from ages 12 to 17. Operated by Catholic Charities, Our House helps kids from across Mississippi, focusing in Hinds County, and provides a safe environment that is focused on eventually returning the youngsters to their own homes. Those in need are provided round-the-clock crisis counseling, as well as individual, family and group counseling.

Our House needs JYL's help to provide basic amenities to make these kids' lives better. Everyday items like shampoo,

soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, socks, hair combs and brushes, lotion, bath towels, wash cloths, dawn dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, twin sheets, etc., are all needed and appreciated. Monetary donations will also be accepted -- just make the check payable to JYL. Those interested in donating should come to the March meeting with a kit bag's worth of supplies -- enough to make the lives of a few kids in need that much easier.

Two JYL Committees Team Up for Children's Fall Festival Party

The JYL Diversity Committee, along with the JYL Community Service Committee, gathered young lawyer volunteers to host JYL's second annual Fall Festival party for the children at the Baptist Children's Home on October 31, 2008, in west Jackson.

Organized by 2008 Diversity Chair Denise Wesley, the festival was a success by the accounts of children and adults alike. The volunteers arrived after work on Friday afternoon to set up and decorate for the party. Numerous Jackson young lawyers donated baked goods which happy youngsters won as prizes to enjoy.



Volunteers from two JYL committees recently joined together to host the second annual JYL Fall Festival party at the Baptist Children's Home in the fall. Pictured are, from left: Ann Heidke, Katrina Sandifer, LaToya Redd, Denise Wesley, Jessica Townsend, Tonya Blair, Lindsay Watts, Sandra Buchanan, and Mary Wesley.

Denise thought of many fun activities to keep the kids and chaperones busy for nearly two hours, including face-painting, a cake walk, the "limbo" (a favorite), a cotton candy machine, guessing games, crafts, and other fun. Donations made a dinner of pizza and drinks possible.

The kids had a great time and Baptist Children's Home is looking forward to JYL organizing another festival this year. Some of the JYL volunteers who donated their Friday night to make a child smile included Denise Wesley, Matthew McLaughlin, Jessica

Townsend, Erin Pridgen, Katrina Sandifer, LaToya Redd, Tonya Blair, Lindsay Watts, Sandra Buchanan, and Mary Wesley. Many thanks to those not included on this list who made the event a success as well.

BY ANN HEIDKE

Ms. Heidke is a judicial law clerk for the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

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

JYL and the Mississippi Center for Justice to Partner on Educational Advocacy Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Committee of JYL is pleased to announce an exciting partnership with the Mississippi Center for Justice (MCJ), a non-profit, public interest law firm committed to advancing racial and economic justice.

The organization is supported and staffed with attorneys, community leaders, and volunteers who work to develop strategies to combat discrimination and poverty throughout Mississippi. As part of one of its policy initiatives, MCJ is working with families and students in local school systems to ensure fairness at the disciplinary hearing level.

Federal law requires that students facing suspension or expulsion receive notice of the accusations against them and an opportunity to be heard at an administrative hearing. School administrators may hold an informal hearing for a suspension that will last less than ten days. However, for expulsions and suspensions that will last more than ten days, school

administrators typically hold formal hearings where the school board attorney(s), teachers and counselors, and the student and his or her parent(s) and guardian(s) will be asked to attend and discuss the accusations being made against the student.

Students who find themselves at the disciplinary hearing stage are often unrepresented by an attorney or other educational advocate. Educational advocacy at the disciplinary hearing stage is critical because a student's long-term absence from school could have severe consequences on the student's future. Research suggests students who are represented in these hearings have a greater chance of being allowed to stay in school or, at a minimum, receive accommodations from the school that will prevent them from falling too far behind in their education.

MCJ has one staff attorney who represents students at disciplinary hearings. The number of requests MCJ receives for this service far exceeds the

organization's current staffing. Last fall, MCJ approached JYL about the possibility of a partnership whereby JYL attorneys would provide free legal representation to students and families at disciplinary hearings. JYL has agreed to partner with MCJ on this pro bono project and needs help from its members to get the project off the ground.

Attorneys who have not represented a client in this capacity should have no fear. MCJ has developed an extensive "Educational Advocacy Resource Manual" that provides nearly everything an attorney will need to prepare for and attend a discipline hearing. In addition to discussing discipline procedures and steps to prepare for a disciplinary hearing, the manual also provides a glossary of key terms on school discipline and special education, a flow chart that details what happens when a child is accused of a disciplinary violation, and sample incident reports, fact sheets and case logs. MCJ attorneys will also be available to provide support for JYL attorneys who need it. It is the hope of MCJ and JYL that this partnership will help lend a voice to students and families who find themselves in need of an advocate who can help to protect a student's best interests for the short- and long-term.

If you are interested in this pro bono opportunity, please contact Tiffany Graves, Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, at tgraves@watkinseager.com by Monday, March 16, 2009. MCJ will provide a short training session for all interested JYL attorneys and we would like to hold this session in April. This project will go toward the Mississippi Bar's pro bono reporting requirement and the training session can be an opportunity for CLE credit.

JYL Helps Save Christmas

The Community Service Committee and JYL members outdid themselves again this year, playing Santa's helper for dozens of needy Metro-area kids. Every year at the joint JYL-Hinds County Bar Association Christmas Social, holiday revelers are encouraged to bring a toy (or two) for the Toys for Tots Drive sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Despite the economic woes of the past year, members dug deep, and there were toys literally piling up to head-height at the entrance of the Old Capitol Inn.

The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a shiny new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. Over the 59 years of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Marines have distributed more than 370 million toys to more than 173 million very deserving children.

The Community Service Committee expresses sincere thanks to everybody who came and helped make Christmas a little bit brighter for the recipients' neighborhoods.

BY TIFFANY M. GRAVES

Ms. Graves is an associate at Watkins & Eager, PLLC.

Continued from Page 2: President's Corner

In that regard, I think it helps to keep JYL's "Mission Statement" in mind:

The purpose of this organization is to aid in the administration of justice; to promote among its members higher ethical and professional standards in the practice of law to advise, inform, and educate its members in all matters relevant to the practice of law; to operate seminars and other educational programs; to promote fellowship among its members and to sponsor social activities for members and their guests; to present programs and conduct projects to educate the public at large about the judicial system, the role of the attorney and the rights of the individual under law; to promote service to the public by its members; and to uphold the honor, dignity and integrity of the legal profession.

JYL is accomplishing its goals through the good work of our active members, but there is always room for improvement. Increased participation will only increase the level of success.

Finally, let me report on recent and upcoming events. On January 17, JYL members marched with the Hinds County Bar Association in Jackson's Martin Luther King Parade. It was cold and the parade was long, but the experience was well worth the time. I expect that this will become a JYL/HCBA tradition, and I hope you will consider participating in the future. The parade is a wonderful recognition of an important man and presents a great opportunity for JYL to participate in a great Jackson event. Be on the lookout for announcements about this next year.

You should also be looking forward to this year's Legal Beagle 5K, which is scheduled for March 14. We will once again be donating proceeds to MVLP, and this event continues to grow each year. Even in the face of snow and bitter cold in 2008, Brad Moody and his committee were able to put on a great race. You can get your entry forms from Brad or just use the one printed below to sign your firm or business up as a sponsor and start training. With the momentum from the Blues Marathon, we expect this to be our biggest race to date.

I wish all of you the best in 2009, and I hope you will continue making JYL an important part of what you do.

Mr. Purois is an associate at Bradley, Arant, Boult & Cummings, LLP.

ON THE MOVE

JYL stalwarts **Corey Hinshaw**, **Alex Purvis**, and **Lindsay Watts** were all elected as Directors of the Mississippi Bar's Young Lawyer Division.

JYL newsletter co-chair **John Scanlon** has recently joined the law firm of Pyle, Mills, Dye & Pittman as an associate.

Made a change, made partner, or just made good? Tell us, and we can spread the news your fellow JYL members. Visit the JYL website at www.jacksonyounglawyers.com and drop us a line through the "On the Move" link.

Upcoming Legal Beagle Following in Footsteps of 2008 Success

The tenth annual JYL Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, March 14. This year's race will be on the heels of great success of the 2008 event, which included 403 race finishers with a record number of 288 5K runners, and raised \$5,750.00 for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The JYL Athletic Committee is still requesting registration for any runners and walkers who want to participate. Those who pre-register for the race may pick up their packets on Friday, March 13, from 3-6 p.m. at the Fleet Feet store on Avery Boulevard off County Line Road.

Additionally, \$700 in prize money will be awarded this year. See race entry form, below.

LEGAL BEAGLE 5K

Run/Walk

USATF CERTIFIED COURSE (MS02006RH)

Sponsored by: *THE JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION* to benefit *THE MS VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT*

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Run/Walk Start: 8:15 a.m.

Refreshments by Beagle Bagel! **A MS Track Club GRAND PRIX Event!** Door Prizes by Fleet Feet Sports!
\$700 in Cash Prizes to Top 3 Female and Male Finishers in 5K Run & Walk!

Join Jackson Young Lawyers and other sponsors for this fun filled run/walk on the **OLD PHIDIPPIDES WATERMELON CLASSIC 5K (3.1 miles) COURSE**, a **flat and fast** USATF certified course through residential streets of Northeast Jackson. The run will start on Old Canton Road near the LeFleur Station U.S. Post Office and finish alongside the I-55 Kroger on Jacksonian Plaza. Run proceeds will benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Mississippi Bar Association, which places pro bono cases for underprivileged people with volunteer lawyers. There will be awards for M / F runners and walkers for overall, masters, grand masters, and senior masters and top three awards for the standard five-year age groups from under 14 to over 70. There will be a trophy for the firm or business with the most overall participants. The popular Legal Beagle T-shirts are included in the race materials and are also available for sale without race entry. A one mile fun run will be held at 9:15 a.m. In the fun run, there will be awards for overall male and female, and top three awards in the following age groups: 5 & under, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, & 13-15. **Registration will be held in the parking lot of Regions Bank alongside the I-55 Kroger (between the post office and the old Krystal).**

This year's race will also feature a team competition (5K run and walk only). Teams may have 3 to 5 members, but only the top 3 finishers for each team will be scored. Please submit entry forms for each team member, and send all entries and fees in a single envelope. Each team must provide a team name. No race day team registration, please. Team registration fee is \$50. Awards to top 2 teams in 5K run and walk.

REGISTRATION FORM

5K WALK: []

5K RUN:[]

1 MILE FUN RUN: [] (children 15 and under)

Name: _____ Phone:(home) _____ (work) _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: (as of March 14, 2009) _____ Male:[] Female:[]

T-shirt size: S[] M[] L[] XL[] XXL[] (XXL: \$2.00 extra) **Name of Participant's Firm or Business:** _____

Name of Team (if applicable): _____

Cost: Pre-registered (5K run, walk, and fun run): \$20
Race Day (5K run and walk): \$25
Race Day (fun run): \$20
Team Pre-registration only (5k run and walk only): \$50
Family (5 maximum): \$50
T-shirt only: \$15

**Make checks payable to:
Jackson Young Lawyers Assoc.**

Release and Waiver

I, the undersigned, in consideration of acceptance of the entry and registration as participant in the Legal Beagle 5K, waive any and all claims which I and my heirs or assigns may now or hereafter have against Jackson Young Lawyers Association, its members, the Mississippi Track Club, Inc., Express Printing, Inc., Regions Bank, and all officials, volunteers and sponsors of the Legal Beagle 5K which may indirectly or directly result from my participation in the Legal Beagle 5K. I further warrant and represent that I am in proper physical condition to participate in the Legal Beagle 5K and am not participating in this event against physician's advice nor am I taking medications which would impair my health or ability to participate in the Legal Beagle 5K.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: (if participant is under 18) _____

Mail Registration Forms to: JYL c/o Brad Moody, P.O. Box 14167, Jackson, MS 39236-4167