

Jackson Young Lawyers Aid Community SUMMER 2010

On Thursday, June 17, 2010, volunteers from the Jackson Young Lawyers (Diversity Committee, Pro Bono Committee, and Community Service Committee), the Young Lawyers of the Magnolia Bar Association, as well as the MS Volunteer Lawyers Project, assisted in a free, community-wide, legal clinic at Black's Chapel Church located at 3425 Robinson Street in Jackson, Mississippi. The legal clinic was held from 4:30-8:30 p.m. and focused on simple wills and misdemeanor expunge-

ments/expunctions.

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project provided the training and technical assistance to the volunteer attorneys for the evening. Prior to the client intake, attorneys received training on the preparation of wills and expungements, taught by local attorneys, Ermea (EJ) Russell of the Russell Law Firm and Ken Harmon of Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC. During the clinic, attorneys and

clients were treated to refreshments from Lenny's Deli, courtesy of Tiffany Grove and the Community Service Committee.



JYL volunteer Karen Clay prepares to handle client intake sessions.

Over 100 citizens attended the clinic and many received advice and counsel on how to protect their families. Following a screening process, volunteer attorneys were able to assist 25 citizens in preparing their wills or expungement motions. According to one of the clinic's participants, "This program (legal clinic) is a blessing for me in that I have been denied em-

OF NOTE

Mark your calendars: our next membership meeting will be held on Friday, October 8, 2010 at noon at Hal & Mal's. United States Magistrate Judge F. Keith Ball will be our speaker.

Stay tuned for information on our annual social welcoming new admittees to the bar, which will be coming up in October! If you're not getting the JYL emails, [contact Danielle](#) and we'll be sure to get you on the distribution list.

Check out our newest newsletter feature, Where Are They Now, featuring interviews with former JYL Presidents! The first Where Are They Now column, with insights and thoughts from former JYL President Doug Minor, is on Page 8.

Submissions to the newsletter or suggestions for newsletter pieces may be made to JYL Executive Director Danielle Ireland. We'd love your input!

Past issues of our newsletter can be found on our [website](#).



JYL members LaToya Jeter and Erin Pridgen are joined by Judge Patricia Wise at the Wills and Expungements Legal Clinic.

Continued on page 6.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to everyone who attended the first membership meeting of the 2010-2011 Jackson Young Lawyers year. The year is already off to a great start, and I am looking forward to what's in store. JYL has a long history of service to our profession and our community, and the 2009-2010 year was an outstanding one. Thanks to the hard work and able leadership of Corey Hinshaw and last year's board members, committee chairs, and committee members who have put so much time and energy into this organization, JYL has continued to thrive and serve. In the last year, JYL has raised over \$13,000 for MVLP and the Boys and Girls Club through the annual Legal Beagle and golf tournament, participated in the Wills for Heroes program, hosted a Wills and Expungements Day for the Community with MVLP and other organizations, and had great attendance at our socials and membership meetings. We are well-positioned to continue in this tradition and accomplish even more during the upcoming bar year.



Of course, in order to keep building on our past successes, we need your active participation and your membership dues. Committees are still being formed for the

Continued on page 7.

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.

2009-2010 JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Clay Morgan, President
mmorgan@babbc.com

Melissa Rose, President-Elect
mrose@pagekruger.com

Corey Hinshaw, Immediate Past-President
chinshaw@watkinseager.com

Jennie Pitts, Secretary
jpitts@cglawms.com

Lindsay Thomas, Treasurer
lthomas@watkinsludlam.com

Tiffany Graves, Director
tgraves@cmslawyers.com

Brad Moody, Director
bmoody@bakerdonelson.com

Michael Bentley, Director
mbentley@babbc.com

Marlena Pickering, Director
mpickering@bakerdonelson.com

CABA/JYL Golf Tournament Raises Money for The Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi

The annual Capital Area Bar Association/Jackson Young Lawyers Golf Tournament was held at Annandale Golf Club on May 25, 2010. The event was a great success. A total of 26 teams played in the event and several others showed up after the golf was complete for the silent auction. The silent auction contained 32 items consisting of golf lessons, gift certificates from numerous local restaurants and businesses, gym memberships, wine tasting for 8 at Colony Wine Crossing, two

night stay and 4 rounds of golf at Harrah's Tunica, one night stay (including dinner) at The Beau Rivage, weekend get-a-way in New Orleans, pearl necklace valued at \$1,000 from Carter Jewelers, and a signed Eli Manning New York Giants jersey. The tournament raised approximately \$13,500, a portion of which will go to the The Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi.

Those serving on the JYL tournament committee this year were

Jonathon Bissette, Scott Colom, Cliff Decker, David Ellis, Stephanie Hughes, Mason Lowe, Ryan O'Beirne, Jonathan Werne, Everett White, and Andrew Wilson. Thanks for your hard work and dedication in putting on this event.

by Matt Grenfell

Mr. Grenfell is an associate at Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada PLLC and is the Co-Chair of the JYL Athletic Committee.

2010-2011 Committee Chairs

Athletic

Jeremy Clay
jclay@babbc.com

Matt Grenfell
matt.grenfell@butlersnow.com

Brad Moody
bmoody@bakerdonelson.com

City Court Mediation

Clarence Webster
cwebster@babbc.com

CLE/Speakers

Mason Lowe
mlowe@babbc.com

Community Service

Tiffany Grove
tgrove@wmjlaw.com

Eric Patterson
eric@bbfirm.com

Pro Bono

Ashley Nader
ashley.nader@butlersnow.com

Diversity

Harriett Johnson
hjohnson@aclu-ms.org

Alison O'Neal
onealae@fpwk.com

Membership

Price Donahoo
pdonahoo@cctb.com

Ashley Wicks
awicks@watkinsludlam.com

Newsletter

Tray Hairston
tray_hairston@mssd.uscourts.gov

Anna Powers
apowers@wellsmar.com

Social

Tianna Raby
rabyth@fpwk.com

Brad Reeves
bmreeves@balch.com

We are still looking for one or two young lawyers to chair the Outreach Projects committee. This is your chance to get more involved with JYL in a unique and exciting way — our plan for the Outreach Projects Committee this year involves launching a new scholarship or grant program. JYL needs your ideas and enthusiasm to get this project off the ground!

For more information, contact Mary Clay Morgan at mmorgan@babbc.com.

If you'd like to join one of these committees and haven't already done so, please sign up using our [online form!](#)

JYL Members Enjoy Tasty Crawfish and Good Company

On the evening of Thursday, May 20th, members enjoyed JYL's Second Annual Crawfish Boil at The Crawdad Hole on Lakeland Drive. This year, Choice Copy Service of Jackson graciously hosted the event, which was a huge success. JYL members and their summer associates were treated to the area's most delicious crawfish, corn, and potatoes while relaxing on the patio of The Crawdad Hole.



Above: Former JYL Presidents Doug Minor and Alex Purvis are joined by summer clerk Bethany Tarpley, a law student at MC.

Even a few rain showers throughout the evening couldn't dampen the spirits of the members who came out to eat, drink and socialize.

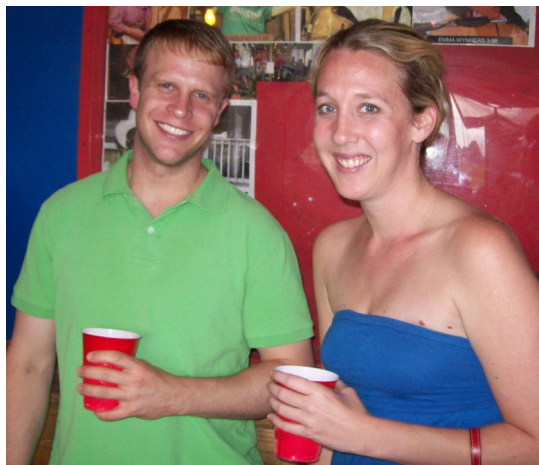
JYL would again like to thank Choice Copy Service for its generosity in providing the food and drink for this event. We would also like to encourage members to consider using Choice for your next project. Check them out at www.choicecopyservice.com.

*by Missy Rose
Ms. Rose is an associate at
Page Kruger and Holland
and the President-Elect of
JYL.*



Above: Katrina Sandifer and Erin Pridgen dive into some crawfish.

Right: Johnny Givens and JYL Secretary Jennie Pitts enjoy a cold beverage thanks to Choice Copy Service.



Above: Corey Hinshaw, Brad Moody, and Molly Jeffcoat manage to stay dry despite the inclement weather.



Above: Summer associate Joe Leavens joins Forman Perry young lawyers Casey Butts and Clare Rush at the Crawfish Boil.



Above: Clay Chandler, Alison O'Neal, Nick Gialourakis, and Johnston Walker catch up over crawfish.

Pro Bono Committee Spotlight: JYL Member and 2010 JYL Pro Bono Award Recipient, Ashley N. Wicks

Ashley N. Wicks is an Associate at Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A. in Jackson. Ashley is licensed to practice law in Mississippi and Texas and is also a Certified Public Accountant. She has been practicing law since 2006. Ashley is a Business Law Fellow with the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association, Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Business Law Committee, Co-Chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Committee and Parliamentarian of the Magnolia Bar Association. She also serves on the ABA's Committees on LLC, Partnership and Unincorporated Entities and Taxation and the Mississippi Bar's Seminar Committee. She serves on the Mississippi Secretary of State's Partnership/LLCs Law Study Group.

Given her obviously busy schedule, it is difficult to imagine that Ashley has time to work on *pro bono* cases; however, she believes it is a lawyer's obligation to help those in need. Ashley has volunteered with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project ("MVLP") for the past year. In that capacity, she has assisted with MVLP's Legal Line and provided *pro bono* services to a client with a complex estate matter. Ashley enjoys *pro bono* work because it allows those less fortunate to benefit from the service of law-



yers. She appreciates the personal nature of *pro bono* cases and the exposure that they offer to so many different areas of the law.

Ashley believes that there are several reasons why young lawyers should do *pro bono* work. First, she thinks young lawyers can benefit from the experience they will get from *pro bono* service. "They can interact directly with clients, opposing counsel and judges – something they may not be able to do so readily in a larger firm setting." She also thinks that young lawyers can develop business through *pro bono* work. "By advocating for *pro bono* clients, young lawyers can spotlight their skills and talents in front of judges and other lawyers and that may lead to business referrals in the future."

Ashley encourages young

lawyers to seek out the advice of more experienced attorneys when faced with a challenging *pro bono* case. She advises solo practitioners, in particular, to accept *pro bono* cases. "Once you learn the procedure, it is not that complicated, and once you develop a skill in an area, you can solicit and retain that type of work for yourself in the future." Ashley has personally sought help from the MVLP staff when she has confronted a complex case and has found them to be especially helpful. While she has only volunteered with MVLP, she believes that lawyers would find the same support from any of the legal services organizations.

Ashley was recently honored with JYL's *Pro Bono* Award. The Award is presented annually at the Evening Honoring the Judiciary. The Award honors a young lawyer who has provided exceptional *pro bono* service over the course of the award year. Ashley was surprised to receive the Award, noting that, "I think *pro bono* work is just what we're supposed to do."

by Tiffany Graves

Ms. Graves is an associate at Corlew, Munford & Smith, PLLC, and a member of JYL's Executive Committee.

Judge Jimmy Maxwell Demystifies the Appellate Process at Annual CLE Meeting

JYL was honored to have Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Jimmy Maxwell speak at its May 14 meeting at Hal and Mal's. Many JYL members brought their firm's summer associates to the May meeting. The law students got a taste of Hal and Mal's famous catfish and a hint of the camaraderie shared by the young lawyers in Jackson.

Judge Maxwell's presentation, besides providing interesting insight into the Mississippi appeals process, was approved for one hour of CLE credit. Judge Maxwell, who is also a current member of JYL, has served on the Mississippi Court of Appeals since being appointed by Govern-

nor Haley Barbour in February of 2009. Judge Maxwell is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi and also spent time in Jackson, Mississippi in the private sector as a civil attorney.



Judge Jimmy Maxwell joins JYL Immediate-Past President Corey Hinshaw for a photo following his CLE presentation.

Judge Maxwell's presentation provided the answer to the question: What actually happens behind the scenes, from the time a case is appealed to the time the mandate is handed down? He walked through the process and added his own thoughts and opinions from the vantage point of the newest Court of Appeals judge.

JYL sincerely appreciates Judge Maxwell taking time out of his day to speak at the May JYL meeting.

*by Missy Rose
Ms. Rose is an associate at Page Kruger and Holland and the President-Elect of JYL.*

Continued from Page 1: *Wills and Expungements Clinic*

ployment for years because of this one infraction on my record.”

Erin Pridgen, chair of the Diversity Committee, said “although the program was helpful to low-income residents, it may have been the attorneys that received the most benefit from the clinic.” Not only did the attorneys develop skills in new practice areas, they also received 5 hours of CLE credits, which included 1 hour of ethics, for their participation.

Pridgen served as co-chair of the event, along with La'Verne Edney, General Counsel for MVLP and Kristen Beal, MVLP's Administrative Coordinator. A special thanks to the following participants: Magnolia Bar Association, MS Volunteer Lawyers' Project, Black's Chapel Church, Judge Patricia Wise, Ermea (EJ) Russell, Ken

Harmon, Pamela Guren Bach, Andrea' Barnes, Barbara Ann Bluntson, Michael Bentley, Taurean Buchanan, Pamela Burns, Mark Carter, Karen Clay, Anthony Davis, Matthew Dry, Margaret Enfinger, Karen Futch, Debra Giles, Tiffany Grove, Dorene Harper, Ann Heidke, LaToya Jeter, Patrick Lofton, Annette Pridgen, Dorian Pridgen, Katrina Sandifer, Ramona Seabron-Williams, Shondra Dotson, Dellwyn Smith, Stephen Stamboulieh, Damon Stevenson, Tracey Stokes, Krystal Walker, T. Murray Whalen, and Shirley Williams.

*by Ramona Seabron-Williams
Ms. Seabron-Williams is employed by the Office of the State Auditor and was a member of the JYL Diversity Committee in 2009-2010.*

JYL Presents Record-Setting Legal Beagle Proceeds to MVLP

At JYL's May membership meeting, JYL was delighted to present Shirley Williams, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, with the proceeds from this year's Legal Beagle. JYL raised over \$9,400 for the MVLP in the Legal Beagle's most profitable year in the event's history.

At right, Leigh Vernon and Brad Moody present Shirley Williams with the always-exciting Big Check.



Continued from Page 2: *President's Corner*

2010-2011 year, and now is a great time to get involved. You can look at a list of JYL's committees and sign up to join a committee on our website, www.jacksonyounglawyers.com. Please take a moment to look at what these committees have done in the past, and let us know if you would like to participate. Several committees still have leadership positions open, and we welcome new blood and new ideas on all of our committees.

Finally, I encourage you to pay your membership dues, if

you have not already. As this newsletter reflects, JYL's socials, membership meetings and service projects offer young lawyers invaluable opportunities for networking and experience. At \$100 for a year's membership, our dues are a bargain. This year, in an effort to streamline the payment of dues for firms with multiple members, we sent out group billing statements that allow law firms to sign up all of their interested young lawyers with one payment. If you are not sure if your firm has already paid your dues, or if you need an individual dues statement, please con-

tact us at jacksonyounglawyers@comcast.net.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your President this year. I am always interested in your ideas or suggestions, so please feel free to contact me at any time at mmorgan@babco.com or 601-592-9945. I look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming JYL events.

*by Mary Clay W. Morgan
Mrs. Morgan is an associate at
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
LLP and the current President of
JYL.*

Where Are They Now?

With Former JYL President Doug Minor

It's always fun interviewing someone you know, but when dealing with the ever-industrious Doug Minor, catching up with the interview subject for a face-to-face can prove quite elusive. Nevertheless, I caught up with Doug, the twenty-fourth president of the Jackson Young Lawyers, in his office as he was preparing to depart Jackson for an out-of-town trip to work on a big project. Doug and I had the pleasure of sharing a 45 minute conversation while James, Doug's 8 year old son, quietly waited in a spare office across the hall, during what perhaps is one of the most challenging weeks of the year for parents with school age children - the week before school starts when summer camp has ended and parents are in childcare limbo. Although busy, Doug had quite a lot to say.

Doug Minor enjoys the reputation of being a "great litigator" according to Chambers & Partners – the leading publisher of guides and directories for the legal profession. Doug was also recently named to *Best Lawyers in America* in the practice area of Commercial Litigation. He is a native of Oxford, Mississippi and currently resides in Madison, MS. Doug attended undergrad at Harvard University and earned his law degree from Georgetown University. He is currently a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings.

JYL - As a former Jackson Young Lawyers president, what's your advice to young lawyers as they transition from law school to practice?

"Learning is the most important thing for young lawyers as they transition from law school to practice," says Doug. "In the early years choosing a job where you will learn is far more important than the salary. The money will come if you have developed your skills." According to Doug, "there's a human element to becoming a good attorney. You will enjoy what you do and be better at it if your pursuit of being a good attorney is balanced with other priorities in your life." He urges young lawyers to have a "defined work ethic - to be self starters." Doug says that "young lawyers should have an internal compass that points them in the direction they want to go." He admonishes young lawyers to be "focused, disciplined, and have a self directed plan of career development."

JYL – What philosophy defines you and your practice as you've grown from first year associate to partner?

Although it sounds cliché, Doug warns young lawyers to never lose sight of the forest for the trees. He recounted many years ago being told by a much older lawyer that "good litigators understand it's not about the fight – it's about the victory. The best lawyers never lose sight of the ultimate goal."

JYL – What is your favorite thing about the practice of law?

Doug says his favorite thing about the practice of law is that it's always different. He enjoys not having to do the same thing over and over – "every case brings with it a variety of different legal questions, different lawyers on the opposite side of the table, different judges, and therefore different challenges." According to Doug, his practice provides him with "the recurring infusion of the new and different."

JYL – What is your advice to young lawyers as they begin to deal with the stress of the practice of law?

"Have a balanced life" says Doug. "There should be other things about your life that have nothing to do with the practice of law." He suggests having a pursuit that takes your mind far away from the law, and being as dedicated to it as your job. According to Doug, "hobbies balance the stress of arguing for a living. They're the best coping mechanisms."

JYL – What's your advice to the incoming or current JYL President?

"Competition among the various organizations has grown exponentially since the 90s" says Doug. "Young lawyers have many more avenues for being involved in their profession and community. JYL should focus on ways it can distinguish itself among the many opportunities and maintain its very central role in the Jackson area."

by Tray Hairston.

Mr. Hairston is a law clerk to Chief United States District Judge Henry T. Wingate. He will be an associate with Balch & Bingham, LLP fall 2010. He is the Co-Chair of the JYL Newsletter Committee.

JYL and CABA Gather to Honor Local Judges

On May 13, 2010, lawyers from the Capital Area Bar Association and Jackson Young Lawyers met at the Old Capitol Inn for the annual Evening Honoring the Judiciary. The event provides a unique opportunity for lawyers to socialize with judges from around the Jackson metropolitan area. The lawyers and judges in attendance were treated to a keynote speech by the Honorable Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Among the business of the EHTJ was the passing of the gavel from outgoing JYL President Corey Hinshaw to this year's president, Mary Clay Morgan, and the awarding of JYL's annual Service Award to Tiffany Groves and the Pro Bono Award to Ashley Wicks.

If you did not attend the event, you missed a wonderful time and should plan to attend next year's Evening Honoring the Judiciary!



Corey passes the gavel to Mary Clay.



Corey Hinshaw addresses the attendees at the EHTJ.



Above: CABA President Tom Alexander and Corey Hinshaw join keynote speaker Judge Carl E. Stewart.



Left: Mary Clay Morgan and Corey Hinshaw congratulate the 2009-2010 JYL Award winners, Tiffany Grove and Ashley Wicks.

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