

WINTER 2011

JYL Service Committee Supports Blues Marathon

For the fourth consecutive year, JYL volunteers greeted runners and handed out water, Gatorade, and GU Energy Gel at the Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half-Marathon. Stellar weather, great runners and enthusiastic volunteers made for a wonderful event. Over 2,000 competitors from 47 states and several other countries, including the District of Columbia, Australia, England, Germany, Kenya and Ethiopia, registered to participate in the Marathon and Half-Marathon. Money raised by the event will benefit the Mississippi Blues Commission, which supports Blues initiatives throughout the state. In addition to supporting the Mississippi Blues Commission, the race's economic benefits to the Jackson area are significant. The Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that the Blues Marathon contributed \$389,648 to the city of Jackson's economy in 2009, the most recent year for which data are available. With many more participants this year, the race likely brought a much greater economic punch. Not



only were JYL members able to help with the event, but it was a great way to celebrate the birthday of Mississippi native Elvis Presley and to celebrate the Mississippi Blues. Special thanks to JYL's team of willing and good spirited volunteers, which included Nakimuli Davis, Roslyn Griffin, Alicia Hall, Tiffany Paige, Brooke Tarleton, James Findley, and Tiffany Grove.

By Tiffany Piazza Grove
Ms. Grove is the Co-Chair of JYL's Community Ser-

vice Committee and an Associate at Williford, McAllister & Jacobus, LLP

OF NOTE

Please make plans to join us for our February social on Thursday, February 17, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Nick's.

Lace up your running shoes and get ready for the Legal Beagle, scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2011. A registration form is on the last page of this newsletter.

Our next membership meeting will be our annual CLE meeting, Friday, March 25, 2011, at noon at Hal & Mal's. Judge Kenny Griffis will discuss Legal Writing from a Judicial Perspective. 1 hour of free CLE credit will be given to all attendees.

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](#).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JYL started the new year off with a huge turnout at our January membership meeting. Thanks to the efforts of our Speakers Chair, Mason Lowe, we welcomed Curtis Wilkie, author of the book *Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*. Mr. Wilkie discussed his popular book on the Scruggs bribery scandal, and entertained with stories of his experiences in researching and writing the book. Many thanks to all who attended and made this such a great event.



As we inch toward spring, JYL has several other exciting events coming up. The annual Legal Beagle 5K walk/run is scheduled for Saturday, March 12. Please fill out the enclosed registration form, and urge your friends and co-workers to participate as well. This is always a great opportunity to see your fellow young lawyers, enjoy the (hopefully) beautiful spring weather, and get some exercise while raising money for a good cause. JYL donates all proceeds from this event to the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. I hope to see many of you there.

Also in March, we will have our annual CLE membership meeting. On March 25, Judge Kenny Griffis of the Mississippi Court of Appeals will give us his pointers on effective legal writing. Please make plans to join us for this meeting, to enjoy lunch with your fellow JYL members

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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.

2009-2010 JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Clay Morgan, President
mmorgan@babbc.com

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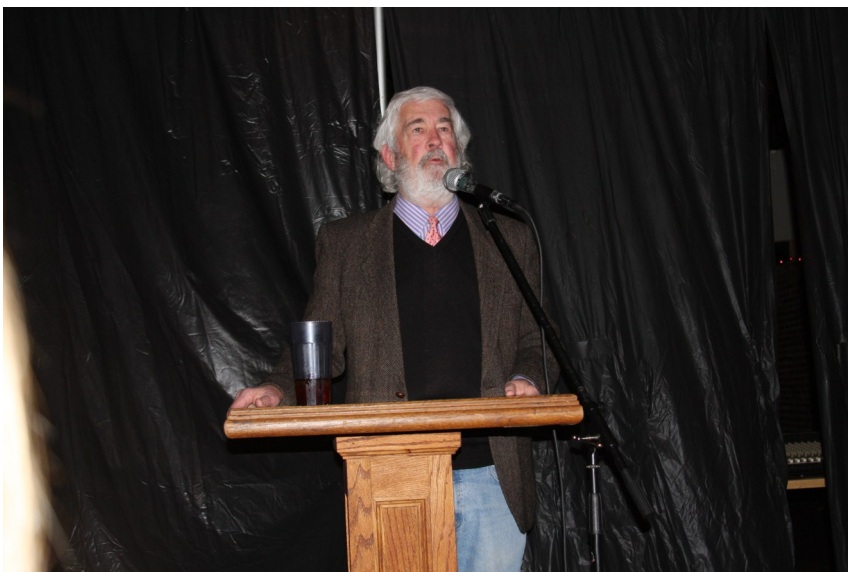
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Author Curtis Wilkie Discusses Book at JYL Luncheon

JYL was privileged to welcome Curtis Wilkie, author of *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer*, as the guest speaker at the January 7, 2011 meeting at Hal & Mal's. Mr. Wilkie, a Mississippi native, spoke in front of a packed room, providing insight into his most recent book about the history of politics in Mississippi, culminating in the Dick Scruggs bribery scandal.



Wilkie pointed out that Zeus provides information that the average follower of the scandal was not privy to as the events unfolded in 2008 and 2009. His book is the product of hours of interviews with the characters and, as he noted, is written more from Dick Scruggs's point of view than other authors' recounts of the events.

Wilkie described Zeus as a

political story about how politicians have been scratching each others' backs and "fixing" things in this state all of his life. The Scruggs story is one that is bigger and broader than one criminal case. Many of the main characters in Wilkie's book are personal friends of his and, as he admitted, some have become former friends since the book came out.

Wilkie attributes the great success of his book to four

things: his own honesty and attempt to eliminate any bias while telling the story, cooperation by the entire Scruggs family, cooperation of the prosecutors, and that virtually every character in the book agreed to speak with him.

If you were unable to attend the January JYL meeting, you still have an opportunity to hear Wilkie speak in Jackson. Along with Alan Lange and Tom Dawson, co-authors of *Kings of Tort*, he will be speaking on Tuesday, March 15th at Millsaps College about the status of traditional media and how new media, such as blogs, affect public perception.

*By Missy Rose
Ms. Rose is the President-Elect
of JYL and an associate at
Page Kruger & Holland , P.A.*



JYL and CABA Lawyers Socialize at Annual Holiday Party





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and earn some free CLE at the same time. The meeting will be at noon at Hal & Mal's, and you will earn one hour of free CLE credit.

Finally, I'm very excited that JYL will be awarding its first community grant this year. Spence Young, chair of the Outreach Committee, and Tiffany Graves, the board liaison to that committee, have been working hard to draft a grant application and a protocol for awarding the grant to a

worthy local charity. The grant application will be released soon, so please watch out for it, and forward it to any local nonprofits that you are involved with. After applications are received, JYL committee members will evaluate the applications and make site visits to the top applicants before choosing the recipient. If you would like to get involved in this process, please contact Spence Young at [sy-
oung@wellsmar.com](mailto:syoung@wellsmar.com). This grant will be a lasting and visible way for JYL to share its resources

with local charities and make a difference in our community.

As always, please contact me or any other board member if you'd like to get involved in a committee, or if you have any ideas about how JYL can better serve its members. I'd love to hear your input.

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

New Third Thursday Happy Hour for Young Lawyers

Beginning next month, on March 17, Hal & Mal's is offering Third Thursdays to Young Lawyers. This happy hour event will take place each month in the Brew Pub and Patio at Hal & Mal's from 5 – 7pm and will feature appetizer and drink specials.



For March, the drink specials will be \$3 draft beer, \$4 well drinks, and \$6 martinis. This is a great opportunity for young attorneys to socialize and network. We hope to see you there!

Where Are They Now?

With Former JYL President Wilson Montjoy

Wilson Montjoy practices law at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada. He is recommended as a preeminent authority in LNG and pipeline matters and is an expert in tax planning and litigation. Chambers and Partners – the leading publisher of guides and directories for the legal profession – applauds “his great experience, his knowledge and his excellent connections in the industry.” He is active in the community and has served the American Bar Association on the Board of Governors, House of Delegates, Nominating Committee, and as an officer of the Environment, Energy, and Resources Law Section and the Young Lawyers Division. Before then, he served as JYL President during the 1987-88 membership year.

JYL: As a former Jackson Young Lawyers President, what is your advice to young lawyers as they transition from law school to practice?

Wilson Montjoy: The law can be a great career, one which is very rewarding on many different levels. However, it can also be something less and there are too many lawyers, especially young lawyers, who are dissatisfied with the practice of law. While the factors that make the difference are many, one is passion. In the long term, your practice will be much more rewarding if you are doing something you truly enjoy. Certainly, in this economic climate, the initial objective may be to simply find and keep a job. However, as young lawyers mature in the practice of law, I encourage each to find out what excites and energizes them and to take steps to pursue their career in that area, even if it means a switch to another department in a large law firm or a move to a completely different practice setting. Chances are, you will become the finest lawyer you can be and will find the greatest rewards doing that which you most enjoy.

Additionally, keep in mind that lawyers are uniquely positioned to give back to their profession and to the public through pro bono work and other types of public service, such as active involvement in bar associations and civic involvement. I would encourage all young lawyers to expand their ambitions beyond merely earning a living to include working to make a difference.

JYL: What philosophy defines you and your practice as you have grown from first-year Associate to Partner?

Answer: It's hard to say what defines me, but I would like to think that I always strive for excellence, from providing the most effective representation of the client to serving our profession, our community and those who need our help but cannot afford it.

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

Answer: The challenges. Our clients place a great deal of trust and confidence in us to help them achieve their desired objectives.

We are also often given the unique opportunity to work at the highest corporate levels or to serve individuals at times when their needs are greatest. Sometimes the challenge is to think out of the box and craft a novel solution, while at others it may be to achieve a result against the odds. Whatever the setting, applying creativity, intelligence and hard work to provide a solution to a client's problems or need is what I enjoy most.

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

Answer: There has been a lot written about life/work balance, and justifiably so, because it is a major challenge for all lawyers. Good lawyers are in demand and one thing that makes them good is that they place a high priority on promptly serving client needs. Also, any system in which one makes a living by selling one's time is bound to create conflict between time spent billing hours and time devoted to personal life. We all struggle with it. Just remember that one seldom looks back over a long career and wishes that he or she had spent more nights and weekends at the office. While maintaining an appropriate life/work balance is difficult, particularly in the seductive environment when more hours billed typically means more income, it is an issue which one must constantly address and lawyers must constantly remind themselves of the value of quality time outside the practice.

JYL: What is your advice to the incoming or current JYL President?

Answer: In addition to being a former President of the JYL, I have had the honor to serve as an officer in young lawyer and senior bar groups within both the Mississippi and American Bar Associations. Many of those organizations, like JYL, are voluntary bars. As such, lawyers have to be persuaded that it is an appropriate place to give their time, dues money and effort. Particularly in this economy, where there is such an emphasis on simply finding a job and earning a living, it is a challenge to compete for the time and membership dollars of lawyers. Consequently, my advice is to provide something of value. Bar associations can provide many things of value to lawyers, such as opportunities for professional advancement, networking opportunities, and opportunities to provide service to the profession and the public. Indeed, I have found that young lawyer associations, on the local, state and national level, are the places where much of the bar's public service work occurs. The JYL has a long tradition of providing value to its members and I encourage its current and future officers to continue that tradition.

by Tray Hairston.

Mr. Hairston is an associate with Balch & Bingham, LLP and the Co-Chair of the JYL Newsletter Committee.



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 12, 2011

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

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

Refreshments by Beagle Bagell! **A MS Track Club GRAND PRIX Event!** Door Prizes by Fleet Feet Sports!

****Follow us on Facebook/Legal Beagle 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 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 5 year age groups from under 14 to over 70 (10 year age groups in the walk). There will be a trophy for the firm or business with the most overall participants. The popular long-sleeve 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. **Race day registration will be held in the parking lot of Regions Bank alongside the I-55 Kroger (between the post office and the old Krystal). Packet pickup for pre-registered participants will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Fleet Feet Sports on Hwy. 51 in Ridgeland on Friday, March 11, 2011.**

****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. Team registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on March 10. Team registration fee is \$55. Awards to top 3 teams in 5K run and walk.

****New this year: Stroller division!** Awards for overall male and female (5K run only)!

For more information contact Leigh Vernon at (601) 965-1872 or at lvernon@watkinseager.com

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 12, 2011) _____ Male: [] Female: []

T-shirt size: S [] M [] L [] XL [] 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): \$55
- Family (5 maximum): \$55
- 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: Mississippi Track Club, P.O. Box 1414, Ridgeland, MS 39157