

JYL Awards First Annual LSAT

Earlier this year, JYL launched its first Community Outreach Grant process. JYL sought applications from local non-profits that impact, in some way, the lives of the needy in the metropolitan Jackson area. Ultimately, JYL received 13 applications from deserving local charities, and a selection committee chaired by Spence Young reviewed the applications and selected the recipient.

At the May Membership Meeting, JYL proudly awarded the inaugural grant to the Bethlehem Center, a non-profit organization founded to provide wholesome activities for youth in the Farish Street Neighborhood. Since its founding in 1946, the Bethlehem Center has provided affordable childcare services and after school programs to lower income families in the Metro-Jackson area. The JYL Community Outreach Grant will be used by the Bethlehem Center to purchase a freezer for the Center's *Let's Get Healthy-Kitchen Renovation Project*. The goal of this initiative is to combat the ever-increasing obesity epidemic in Mississippi by providing healthier food options and nutrition education to the children for whom the Center cares. A commercial freezer will allow the Center to serve healthier meals and snacks to its clients than it is currently able to prepare in its outdated kitchen.



Community Outreach Committee Member Tiffany Graves, Committee Chair Spence Young, and JYL President Mary Clay Morgan present the first annual JYL Outreach Grant to Bethlehem Center Executive Director Thresa King.

Through exposure to quality nutritious foods, the Center and JYL hope the children will learn the importance of healthy eating and nutrition. Theresa King, Executive Director of the Bethlehem Center, is thrilled to have received JYL's Community Outreach Grant and is looking forward to the installation of the freezer.

Many thanks are owed to JYL members Tiffany Graves, Will Thomas, and Lane Staines for their service on the Community Outreach Committee. If you would like to serve on the committee this year and help select the next recipient of a JYL Grant, please contact Committee Chair [Spence Young](#).

*By J. Spencer Young, Jr.
Mr. Young is Corporate Counsel at Mississippi Health Care and is the Chair of JYL's Community Outreach Committee.*

OF NOTE

The JYL/CABA Golf Tournament is **tomorrow**, Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Lunch will be served at 12:00 with a shotgun start at 1:00. Hors d'oevres and cocktail party to follow with the closing of the silent auction. All proceeds from the event benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. Please see the flier at page 11 of this Newsletter for more details.

Please join us for our annual Crawfish Boil this Thursday, May 19, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Crawdad Hole on Lakeland Blvd.!

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

This is my last column as JYL President, before I hand the reins over to Missy Rose's able hands. It has been a pleasure to serve as president of this organization over the past year. In my view, JYL has two primary goals as an organization: to foster collegiality and civility among young lawyers, and to serve our community. I think our activities this year have done those goals justice.



We have seen a substantial increase in membership, thanks to the efforts of the Board and our Executive Director Danielle Ireland. We have enjoyed engaging and informative speakers at our membership meetings, thanks to our Speakers Chair Mason Lowe. We have had great success with our annual Legal Beagle and golf tournament fundraisers, thanks to the hard work of the Athletic Committee. Our socials continue to be the best in town, thanks to our social chairs Tianna Raby, Brad Reeves, and Missy Rose. (And don't miss the Crawfish Boil Social on Thursday, May 19!) Finally, we have created two new community outreach programs. Thanks to the leadership of Tiffany Graves and committee chair Spence Young, we awarded our first community grant of \$3,000 to the Bethlehem Center, and we have created an LSAT scholarship to assist two students at local colleges who are interested in pursuing a career in law.

As I depart, let me make a final pitch.

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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@babarc.com

Melissa Rose, President-Elect
mrose@pagekruger.com

Corey Hinshaw, Immediate Past-President
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Jennie Pitts, Secretary
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Lindsay Thomas, Treasurer
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Tiffany Graves, Director
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Brad Moody, Director
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Michael Bentley, Director
mbentley@babarc.com

Marlena Pickering, Director
mpickering@bakerdonelson.com

Pro Bono Spotlight: Sandra Brown Strong

Sandra Brown Strong of Phelps Dunbar LLP is this year's recipient of the Jackson Young Lawyers Pro Bono Award. Sandra, an associate in Phelps Dunbar's labor and employment group, spends most of her time assisting employers as they navigate federal and state laws or implement new personnel policies. And she defends employers when they are sued. This work is rewarding, she says, because she sees her advice manifested in a sound, compliant business or, if litigation cannot be avoided, a courtroom victory.

But Sandra is most proud of her pro bono work. In the past year, she has dedicated over 87 hours to assisting pro bono clients referred by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. Most of Sandra's pro bono cases find her in chancery court, where she encounters judges, attorneys, and a practice area that she does not see in her regular practice. "So many people don't take domestic pro bono cases," Sandra notes, "because it is not their practice area." But that's a benefit as she sees it: "I'm learning how to practice a new type of law while, at the same time, assisting a client who would not otherwise have access to the courts."

While the pro bono matters that Sandra handles may seem routine, they can be life changing for her clients. Sandra recalls a case in

which she helped a grandparent obtain permanent, legal custody of the grandchild that she had long cared for. Because of Sandra's efforts, the grandparent's status was transformed; she went from simply housing an abandoned child to acting as a true guardian in the eyes of the law. The grandparent could now enroll her grandchild in school, make medical decisions for her, and do all the other things that natural parents take for granted. This "routine" legal procedure removed countless barriers for the grandparent and grandchild. It gave them a more normal life.

Sandra's pro bono work does not often yield a momentous legal victory. As she explains it, the end result of her work is "putting people

in a position to help themselves, their children or their grandchildren." And that's what she likes about the cases, seeing the immediate benefit to society that comes from empowering someone to take care of themselves and their family. The ancillary benefit, no doubt, is that Sandra's pro bono clients see the legal system working for them, not against them.

Sandra credits Phelps Dunbar for encouraging her to take pro bono clients and supporting her work on their behalf. Without the firm standing behind her, Sandra says that she would not be able to make the pro bono contributions that she has made.

In a world of complex and costly litigation, Sandra's work reminds us that we have a duty to provide access to the legal system for so many Mississippians that cannot afford attorneys. And, in fulfilling that duty, the simplest cases can be the most rewarding. JYL is proud to recognize Sandra's pro bono work and honored to count her as a member.

*By Michael Bentley
Mr. Bentley is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, and is on the JYL Executive Committee.*

JYL Announces New LSAT Scholarship Program

JYL is pleased to announce the launch of the LSAT Scholarship program. The Outreach Projects Committee will oversee the program, which is open to students who attend a Greater Jackson Metro area college. The goal of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to college students in the Greater Jackson Metro area who wish to attend law school upon graduating from college. Students who attend Belhaven University, Jackson State University, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Tougaloo College and Tulane University's School of Continuing Studies (Madison campus) are eligible to apply.

The scholarship will cover the fee for one LSAT and the fee for the Law School Admissions Council's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). The scholarship amounts will be determined on an annual basis according to the fees charged by the Law School Admissions Council for the LSAT and CAS. This year, JYL will award two \$263 scholarships to applicants who have demonstrated interest in and preparedness for attending law school, strong academic achievement and extra-curricular and community service involvement. The scholarship recipients will also receive an LSAT prep book to assist in their preparation for the test. The

Outreach Projects Committee has distributed applications and flyers about the program to the six local colleges. The applications are due on May 15, 2011. JYL's LSAT Scholarship Selection Committee expects to announce the names of the scholarship recipients on or before July 15, 2011. Please contact Tiffany M. Graves at tgraves@cmslawyers.com with questions about the program or to request an application for student who might qualify for the scholarship.

By Tiffany Graves

Ms. Graves is an associate at Corlew Munford and Smith, PLLC and serves on the JYL Executive Committee.

Legal Beagle Raises Over \$8,000 for MVLP

On March 12, 2011, almost 600 runners and walkers gathered on a beautiful spring morning for the 12th annual JYL Legal Beagle 5K Run and Walk to help raise money for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The overall winners in the 5K Run men's and women's categories were William Kazery, with a time of 16:52, and Bridgett Jolly, with a time of 21:06. Twenty-one teams participated in the run, and team "Johnny Loves Running Mach 1" (Collin Johnson, Scott Stringer, Robert Ross, Bryan Lagg, Darren Owens) finished first with a time of 56:28. "Port City Striders" (Bill Seabergh, Tina Branan, Harold Lee, Charlie Montague, David Chaney) won the team walk division with a time of 1:40:18.



The Legal Beagle gives JYL an opportunity to join forces with the local community in raising money for the MVLP, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide legal services to needy citizens of Mississippi. Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors and race participants JYL will donate \$8,220.88 to the MVLP at the next membership meeting.

This year's event was organized by Jeremy Clay, Brad Moody and Leigh Vernon. When asked about this year's race, Jeremy Clay said "I was amazed by the turnout for the race, as we set a new record with 595 finishers. This was my first year to be involved with the Legal Beagle and I am thankful to be a part of such a worthwhile project."

JYL would like to thank the sponsors (listed on page 5 of this newsletter) and volunteers who helped to make the race such a success, the Mississippi Track Club, and all the individuals who participated in the event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

By Brad Moody

Mr. Moody is an associate at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, and serve on the JYL Executive Committee.

Thanks to our 2011 Legal Beagle Sponsors

Adams & Reese	Capitol Copy & Imaging	Mississippi CrossFit
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz	Carroll Warren & Parker	Mockbee Hall Drake & Hodge
Beagle Bagel Café	Daniel Coker Horton & Bell	Page Kruger & Holland
Bennett Lotterhos Sulser & Wilson	Diamond & Blalock	Regions Bank
Blair & Bondurant	Dream Cakes	The Koerber Company
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi	Fleet Feet Sports	Watkins & Eager
Bradley Arant Boulton Cum- mings	Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy	Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis
Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes	Heidelberg Harmon	Wells Moore Simmons & Hubbard
Butler Snow O'Mara Ste- vens & Cannada	Jones Funderburg Sessums Peterson & Lee	Wilkins Tipton
	Judge Bill Barnett	Wise Carter Child & Cara- way
	Kinetic Staffing	
	Merrill Legal Solutions	

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First, membership firms went out to law firms and individual lawyers last week. Please sign up! If you work in a firm, encourage your firm to sign up all eligible lawyers. JYL needs your dues and your participation to continue its good work. Second, I encourage you to get involved in a committee. Our committees offer something for everyone, and we always welcome new blood, new ideas, and new energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President over this past year. I have loved getting to know and having the opportunity to work with so many members of JYL. I especially want to thank everyone on the Executive Board, our committee chairs and committee members, and our Executive Director Danielle Ireland. Your hard work and commitment to this organization made my job

easy.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Crawfish Boil on Thursday, and at other upcoming events.

*by Mary Clay W. Morgan
Mrs. Morgan is a partner at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP
and the current President of JYL.*

Interesting Speakers and Charitable Giving at JYL's Spring Membership Meetings

On March 25, 2011, JYL hosted its annual CLE Membership Meeting and Luncheon at Hal & Mal's. Former JYL President and Presiding Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals Kenny Griffis discussed Legal Writing from a Judicial Perspective and provided witty and insightful tips to young lawyers on improving the quality of their legal briefs.

Also at that meeting, JYL President Mary Clay Morgan presented Executive Director of

the Boys and Girls Club Billy Redd with JYL's portion of the proceeds from last summer's JYL/CABA golf tournament. Mr. Redd noted his appreciation for JYL's longstanding support of the Boys and Girls Club.

At the May 13, 2011 Membership Meeting at Hal & Mal's, co-owner Malcolm White spoke about the history of the very building where we were eating lunch, as well as the past and future of the arts in Mississippi. Mr. White described his involve-

ment in the local initiative to bring art and creative teaching back to the classroom in Mississippi and shared his hope for the continued development of the arts in our area. He was an interesting and motivating speaker, challenging us to discover and implement ways to make our state and even better one for future generations.

By Missy Rose

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



Judge Griffis addressing the March Membership and CLE Meeting.



Mary Clay Morgan presenting Billy Redd with golf tournament proceeds.



Malcolm White speaking at JYL's May Membership Meeting.

JYL and CABA Members Join to Honor Members of the Judiciary

On May 12, 2011, JYL officially closed the 2010-2011 membership year at the annual Evening Honoring the Judiciary at the Mississippi Museum of Art. In addition to the traditional passing of the JYL gavel from President Mary Clay Morgan to President-Elect Missy Rose and the presentation of JYL's annual awards,

members were treated to a moving speech by Freedom Rider Henry "Hank" Thomas, who spoke about his time in Mississippi fifty years ago as well as his service in Vietnam and what it has been like to return to Mississippi on the anniversary of the Freedom Rides.



Mary Clay Morgan and Missy Rose are joined by Keynote Speaker Hank Thomas. Thomas spoke in front of an exhibition of mug shots of Freedom Riders who were arrested upon their arrival in Mississippi.



Mary Clay Morgan presented JYL's Pro Bono Award to Sandra B. Strong and its Outstanding Service Award to J. Spencer Young, Jr.



Mary Clay Morgan passes the JYL gavel to President-Elect Missy Rose. Missy thanked Mary Clay for her tremendous leadership this past year.

JYL Elects Board for 2011-2012 Membership Year

Congratulations to the newly-elected members of the 2011-2012 JYL Executive Board:

President-Elect: Tiffany Graves
Secretary: Tray Hairston
Treasurer: Brad Moody
Director: Brad Reeves
Director: Clarence Webster

The following persons will also remain on the Board for the next bar



year effective June 1, 2011:

President: Missy Rose
Past-President: Mary Clay Morgan
Director: Marlena Pickering
Director: Michael Bentley

The new Executive Board is looking forward to the upcoming year, and we would love to have your help! If you are interested in leading a committee, please contact Missy Rose at mrose@pagekruger.com. You can also sign up to serve on a committee by [clicking here](#).

JYL Members Enjoy Spring Social at Nick's, Third Thursday Happy Hour at Hal & Mal's.



Jacob Stutzman, Carter Burns, JYL Social Committee Co-Chair Brad Reeves, and Kyle White.



JYL Executive Committee member Tiffany Graves, JYL Secretary Jennie Pitts, Thresa Patterson and JYL Community Service Committee Co-Chair Eric Patterson.



JYL Pro Bono Committee Chair Ashley Nader and Sabrina Ruffin.



Matt Eichelberger, Todd Butler, and John Howell.



Mark Hosemann and PJ Lee.



JYL Social Committee Co-Chair Tianna Raby and Malcolm Raby.

May It Please The Court

With Judge Winston L. Kidd

Hinds County Circuit Court Judge Winston L. Kidd, a Newton County native, was appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove in 2001, and subsequently elected as Hinds County Circuit Court Judge in 2002. His docket currently includes both civil and criminal matters.

Judge Kidd is a 1991 Mississippi College School of Law graduate. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Kidd practiced civil litigation for ten years with the Walker and Walker law firm in Jackson.

Judge Kidd is an active member of the Magnolia Bar Association. He served as a past President, Parliamentarian, Central District Director, and chairperson of the mock trial committee. Judge Kidd received the Magnolia Bar Service Award and Past President's Award for his work on behalf of the association. Judge Kidd also serves his community by mentoring students at Lester Elementary School and Jackson High School.

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

Judge Kidd: The field of law can be extremely demanding. Do not let your job consume all of your time. You must set aside time for yourself – separate and apart from the law. Additionally, be aware that you are not required to know everything about the law. Many older lawyers will confess that they don't know everything about every legal issue. As a young lawyer, you should take advantage of the opportunity to learn from experienced lawyers. There is absolutely nothing wrong with going to Court and observing a trial from beginning to end. This can serve as an excellent way to acquire some good trial techniques. It also gives you the opportunity to see how the Judge conducts proceedings in his courtroom.

JYL: What should a lawyer never do?

Judge Kidd: It is important that you always put forth your greatest effort in representing your clients. You must never agree to take on a matter you are not prepared to handle. You must never ignore your client's request for information about their case. Although many of a lawyer's professional responsibilities are prescribed in the Rules of Professional Conduct, a lawyer should also be guided by personal conscience. That is, if something does not sound right, then you probably should not be doing it.

JYL: What is your advice to the young trial/appellate practitioner on how to focus on the most important components of a case?

Judge Kidd: You have heard over and over again that you must be prepared to handle your case. Again, I place much emphasis on being adequately prepared in order to focus on the most important components of a case. Although your entire case is important, you must not waste your time dealing with unimportant issues. In order to focus on the most important issues in your case, you must know your case. That means, you must know every aspect of your case ---- facts, legal issues, etc. Oftentimes, lawyers lose focus and tend to devote their attention to the favorable aspects of their case, overlooking the bad aspects. Again, if you are truly prepared, you must know every aspect of your case. This will allow you to address the good and, also, the bad, thereby giving you the ability to focus on the important issues.

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

Judge Kidd: First, try to create a written product that is not too lengthy. Next, keep it simple. Finally, make sure your written product conveys your entire argument to the court. Judges appreciate lawyers who can best capture their argument in a succinct, organized, and brief manner rather than a lengthy motion. Just remember that more is not always best.

Your written documents should include a brief recitation of the facts which are relevant to your motion. You should also include the basis for your motion along with the caselaw and/or rule which supports your motion.

JYL: What are your suggestions to counsel appearing before the Court? What mistakes should be avoided?

Judge Kidd: Oftentimes, lawyers get the urge to argue with each other in Court. This takes away from your ability to effectively represent your client. Don't bring those side issues to court. Don't let the opposing counsel do something to get you to act in an inappropriate manner. Always direct your remarks to the Court and allow the Court to deal with the other counsel's inappropriate behavior. Judges view tactics to sidestep the ethical rules with disfavor. On the other hand, Judges appreciate the lawyer who approaches litigation with a great deal of professional respect to opposing counsel and the Court. I would also offer the following practical advice:

Motion Hearings: Do not simply stand up and read your written motion to the Court at the hearing. Summarize your argument and provide the Court with the legal authority to support your argument. Remember, the motion hearing is your opportunity to convince the Court to rule in your favor. One thing you should al-

ways do is file your response to a motion in a timely manner. Do not file your response on the morning of the hearing and expect the Judge to read it.

Trial: Do not expect to get ready for trial at trial. Plan and organize your trial prior to trial. I have seen many occasions where lawyers were preparing for the trial after the trial had begun. Of course, many issues will come up during trial which will require additional preparation. However, the majority of your preparation and organization should be done well in advance of trial.

JYL: What is something that a lawyer in the 21st Century should never forget?

Judge Kidd: Law is still a noble profession. It is a profession that requires the highest degree of character and professionalism at all times. Regardless of who you represent, you are required to always put forth your greatest effort on behalf of your clients. Over the past decade, so much has been said in the media to taint and degrade our profession. Much of what has been said is definitely not true. However, some have chosen to accept findings by the media to label lawyers and our judicial system in a negative manner. It will be up to you, our new generation of lawyers, to restore decency, honor, and civility to our profession. You must uphold your oath and always remember that "To whom much is given, much is required."

By Ashley Nader

Ms. Nader is an Associate at Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens and Cannada, PLLC, and is the Chairman of JYL's Pro Bono Committee.

GOLF OUTING JUST FOR LAWYERS

19th Annual

CAPITAL AREA BAR ASSOCIATION/ JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Annandale Golf Club

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Tee Time: 1:00 P.M.

Hors d'oeuvres and Cocktail Party Following

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the

MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT & BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

4 Person Scramble*/Limit 128 (first come basis)

COST ONLY \$150 Per Player includes Lunch and Post-Tournament Cocktail Party

REGISTRATION FORM

May 13, 2011

DEADLINE:

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Your Handicap: _____

Team Members/Handicap _____

*Each competing "4" must have a combined handicap of at least 40 or more with only 1 member having a handicap of 10 or less.

Please email your registration to: Elizabeth.thomas@butlersnow.com and send registration fee along with a copy of your registration form to: Capital Area Bar Association, Attn: Elizabeth Thomas, 1020 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 1400, Ridgeland, MS 39157. All checks should be made out to the Capital Area Bar Association.

For more information, call Elizabeth Thomas at 601-985-4546.

Jackson 6157031v1