

JYL

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

JYL Celebrates National Pro Bono Month

Despite the economic mayhem that threatens access to justice for our most vulnerable residents, JYL teamed with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project to celebrate National Pro Bono Month by conducting a free Family Law and Expungements Clinic for income eligible persons in need of free legal aid. The clinic was held at the Jackson Campus of Hinds Community College. JYL attorneys assisted nearly 30 clients with various legal matters, including expungements, divorce, adoption, child custody, and other domestic relations issues. Prior to the clinic, Attorney Debra Giles of Giles Law Office, and Attorney Curt Crowley of The Crowley Law Firm, conducted a CLE that equipped pro bono attorneys with the training necessary to provide assistance to those in need. Participating volunteer attorneys received pro bono credit for the CLE hour and every hour they attended the clinic.

JYL's participation in this clinic demonstrated its commitment to serving the community and providing equal access to justice. Because over 670,000 Mississippians live below the federal poverty line, volunteerism in the legal profession is required if there is to be "justice for all". Thus, this public service responsibility lies at the very

core of what it means to be a lawyer, confirming our commitment to the administration of justice and equal accessibility to courts.

Many thanks to all participating attorneys who volunteered their professional time at the legal clinic. You helped make a positive difference in someone's life. Any JYL member seeking pro bono opportunities should contact Sandra Strong at strongs@phelps.com or Crystal Welch at cwelch@mc.edu.

by Crystal L. Welch.

Ms. Welch is the Adoption Legal Clinic Attorney at MC Law and the Co-Chair of JYL's Pro Bono Committee.



JYL member Christopher Espy with one of the Clinic's clients.



JYL member Michael Henry with a client.



Shondra Dotson, Chaz England, JYL member Crystal Welch, JYL President-Elect Tiffany Graves, JYL member Michael Henry, JYL member Denita Smith, and Dorene Harper.

FALL 2011 OF NOTE

We hope you'll attend the annual JYL/Capital Area Bar Association Holiday Party on Thursday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Capitol Inn. As always, we'll be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots to brighten the holidays of some boys and girls in need.

Our next membership meeting will be held **Friday, December 2**, at noon at Hal & Mal's. Judge Carlton Reeves will be our speaker, and we'll be collecting new or used sports equipment to be used at the Boys and Girls Club. [Click here](#) to RSVP if you plan to attend.

Mark your calendars and start your training: JYL's annual Legal Beagle 5k, benefiting the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2012.

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 has had a busy and successful fall, y'all! What's been going on around here, besides football and politics? Quite a bit, actually...

A huge thank you to Justin Peterson and his committee for the many hours of work and effort that went into planning and executing the JYL Barrister's Bowl on November 3rd. Since JYL had never before undertaken the task of putting on a bowling tournament, this committee had their work cut out for them... and they pulled it off beautifully. Along with the excitement of bowling at the newly opened Strike Lanes, there was some added competition and drama that came from bidding on some incredible silent auction items. Diandra Hosey and Kathryn White, who did a fantastic job orchestrating the auction side of the event, watched as JYLers not-so-silently battled to take home gift certificates, spa packages, shirts, and jewelry.

Not only did we have a blast bowling, eating great fried things, visiting with each other, and bidding on cool auction stuff, JYL raised \$5,000 to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. The success of the fundraiser, certainly the best part of the event, would not have been possible without the hard work of many. Thank you!

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2011-2012 JYL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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JYL Welcomes New Members to the Bar

On September 27, JYL Membership Committee Co-Chairs Alison O'Neal and Tiffany Grove (pictured at right with Lisa J. Gill, President of the Northwest Mississippi Young Lawyers), welcomed new members of the Mississippi Bar at the fall admissions ceremony.

If you are a new admittee to the bar and would like information about membership in JYL, please email Danielle at jacksonyounglawyers@comcast.net.



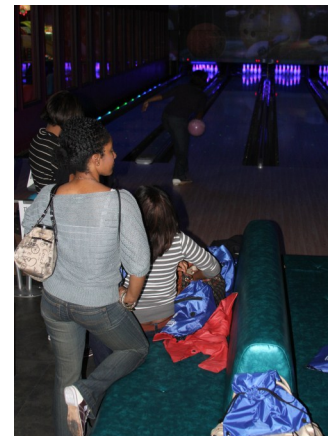
JYL's First Annual Barristers' Bowl A Tremendous Success

On Thursday, October 3, JYL members gathered at Strike Bowling in Jackson for JYL's inaugural Barristers' Bowl shoot-out benefitting the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. Forty-three JYL members and guests laced up their bowling shoes and participated in the competition, which involved two games of bowling per team.

Thanks to the generosity of the many sponsors and donors, JYL raised nearly \$5,000 for the Boys and Girls Club, exceeding its fundraising goal by nearly \$1,000. "It was exciting to see all of the great support for the Barristers' Bowl in its first year," JYL Bowling Committee Chair Justin Peterson said. "This support was made possible by the hard work of the event committee — Diandra Hosey, Kathryn White, Alex Martin, Lee Hill, and Missy Rose."

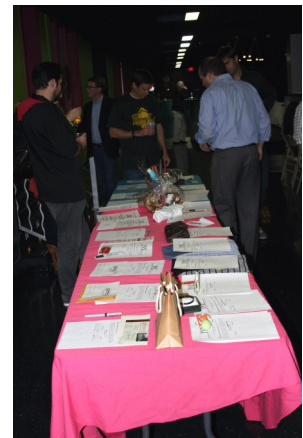
The event also served as JYL's fall social, with members enjoying food and drinks while perusing the silent auction items available for sale and enjoying the festive atmosphere at the newly-refurbished Strike Lanes, located in the old Larwil Lanes.

Bragging rights go to Jason Childress, David Lynch, and Mike Saltamaggio, whose team won the shoot-out. Second place was won by the team of Troy Odom, Eric Patterson, Matt Vitart, and Stephen Huwe, and



Left and above: JYL members attempted to avoid gutter-balls and shoot strikes at the shoot-out.

Below: The silent auction items were worth showing up for!



Kathleen O'Beirne, Stacey Moore, Ryan O'Beirne, and Kap Primos came in third place. Individual bowling awards went to Mason Lowe (first place) and Jason Childress (second place).

Thanks to the JYL Bowling Committee for their hard work in putting together such a great event for a great cause!

by Danielle Ireland

Ms. Ireland is the Executive Director of JYL.

Thanks to the Sponsors of the 2011 Barristers' Bowl

Academy Sports + Outdoors

Adams & Reese

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Baker, Donelson, Bearman,
Caldwell & Berkowitz

Balch & Bingham

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Daniel Coker Horton & Bell

Havana Smoke Shoppe

Jos. A Bank Clothiers

Mockbee Hall & Drake

Page, Kruger & Holland

Phelps Dunbar

Randy Watkins Golf Group

Strike Entertainment Group

Table 100

The Refuge

Watkins Ludlam Winter &
Stennis

Wilkins Tipton

Wise Carter Child & Caraway

City Court Mediation Committee Recognized by Jackson City Council

Since the start of the new membership year, the JYL City Court Mediation Committee has been busily working to have a stronger relationship with Jackson City Court officials, increase its caseload, and encourage the use of mediation. In July, members mediated three cases referred by the Jackson City Court and right away realized that the current referral system needed to be updated in order to make the best use of the time and expertise of the JYL attorneys volunteering for cases. Over the past months, the Committee has been busy drafting documents to be used by attorneys and clients in mediation that will better educate attorneys and non-attorneys about the process of mediation and help attorneys and the Jackson City Court document the outcome of future mediations. This project was led by committee member Catherine Bell, and as a result, the Committee now has a mediation packet to share with Jackson city court judges.

In addition to increasing its local presence, the Committee has been working to increase its national presence by working in conjunction with the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Dispute Resolution whenever possible. Recently, the



City Court Mediation Committee Chair Chanda Roby received a resolution recognizing JYL's work in promoting civil public discourse from City Councilman Charles Tillman.

ABA adopted the theme of "Civil Public Discourse" for National Mediation Week which was October 16-22, 2011. The focus was activities that increased public awareness and support of respectful public conversation, specifically among attorneys, government officials, political parties, media representatives, and other community, local, state, and federal leaders. The Committee submitted a resolution recognizing JYL's

efforts in promoting civil public discourse to the Jackson City Council, which was sponsored by Councilman Charles Tillman of Ward 5, resulting in the entire council adopting, signing, and presenting the resolution at their November 1, 2011 council meeting. After the resolution promoting civil public discourse and recognizing the efforts of the Committee were read aloud, I was given the floor to make a few comments about JYL, the Committee, and the ABA's efforts regarding civil public discourse. The Committee's efforts for National Mediation Week will also be highlighted by the ABA.

Although National Mediation Week is over, the Committee plans to continue to encourage the adoption and support of civil public discourse throughout the state, in addition to its efforts of promoting the use of mediation in Jackson City Courts, for the remainder of the year. If you'd like to get involved with the City Court Mediation Committee, please contact me at chanda_robby@yahoo.com.

by Chanda Roby

Ms. Roby is the City Court Mediation Committee Chair and is in private practice at The Law Office of Chanda L. Roby, PLLC.

Continued from Page 2: President's Corner

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, you will read about several other great things that JYL members have been up to- a morning of working with community members and the Habitat for Humanity folks to erect a shed at the newest Habitat site; a family law and expungement CLE and clinic during October, Pro Bono Month; hearing from Frank Farmer, pro bono counsel for the Mississippi Center for Justice at our September membership meeting; and collecting books to donate

to the Boys and Girls Club for their afterschool program.

With as much as we have behind us, there are still some great events to finish out the year. I hope to see as many of you as possible on the first two days of December. On the evening of December 1st, we will celebrate the holiday season at the annual CABA/JYL joint social at the Old Capital Inn. Don't forget to bring a toy with you to donate to Toys for Tots. Then on December 2nd, be sure to attend our bi-monthly JYL membership meeting at Hal &

Mal's. We are privileged to have Federal Court Judge Carlton Reeves, of the Southern District of Mississippi, as our speaker. Be sure to e-mail Danielle Ireland with your reservation for that meeting (jacksonyounglawyers@comcast.net). You won't want to miss it.

by Missy Rose

Ms. Rose is an associate at Page Kruger & Holland, P.A., and the current President of JYL.

JYL Members Participate in Annual Habitat Build

On Saturday morning, October 8, JYL members volunteered with Jackson's Habitat for Humanity. Partnering with other organizations in the metro area, members of JYL spent their Saturday helping to clean the build site, put siding on the walls of the Habitat house, and construct a tool shed in the backyard. "It was gratifying to work together and help build a house for a deserving family. It was such a departure from what I do day to day," said Seth Hall, Co-Chair of JYL's Community Service Committee.

In addition to allowing volunteers to give back to the community, working with Habitat for Humanity can teach volunteers new skill sets. "My wife really enjoyed using the power saw and nail gun, which was terrifying at first. Now I'm hopeful she'll build me a new tool shed soon.," said Hall.

If you'd like to get involved in future Community Service Projects, contact Seth (seth@simmonslawgroup.com) or Alicia (ahall@bakerdonelson.com) Hall.

by Kelly Hollingsworth

Ms. Hollingsworth is an associate with Maxey Wann, PLLC, and a member of the JYL Newsletter Committee.



JYL members Kyle White, Seth Hall, Nakimuli Davis, Missy Rose, Amanda Proctor, Alicia Hall, David Lynch, and Wesley Mockbee worked hard on the Habitat house's tool shed.



Nakimuli Davis, Alicia Hall, and Amanda Proctor hold a frame in place while Kyle White works the nail gun.



Alicia Hall perfects her power saw technique.

September Speaker Highlights Pro Bono Opportunities

JYL's September membership meeting was likely the first JYL meeting for a number of newly-admitted-to-the-bar attorneys. We thought that it would be appropriate to have someone speak to those new lawyers (and those who have been admitted for some time) about some of the wonderful pro bono opportunities available to all of us. To that end, Frank Farmer, Pro Bono Counsel for the Mississippi Center for Justice, gave an outstanding presentation on the work done by the Mississippi Center for Justice.

The Mississippi Center for Justice is a non-profit, public interest firm committed to advanc-

ing racial and economic justice. Mr. Farmer explained the great successes that the Mississippi Center for Justice has had with Katrina work, BP oil spill work, payday lending, and, most recently, the foreclosure crisis. Although Mr. Farmer highlighted much of the great work that the Mississippi Center for Justice has already completed, he also highlighted work that still needs to be done and the need for additional support by members of the bar.

You can get involved not only doing direct client representation, but also doing research or similar tasks. The Center's "pro bono" wish list can be found on its website

(<http://www.mscenterforjustice.org>) under the "get involved" and "pro bono" tab. As Mr. Farmer did at his presentation, JYL would also urge its members to put their law degrees to good use by providing pro bono legal services. And, as Mr. Farmer explained, the Mississippi Center for Justice provides a great opportunity do that.

by Mason Lowe
Mr. Lowe is the Co-Chair of JYL's Speakers Committee and an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP

May it Please the Court

With United States Magistrate Judge Linda R. Anderson

Magistrate Judge Linda R. Anderson, of the Southern District of Mississippi-Jackson Division, along with her law clerks and court staff, graciously agreed to impart some of their wisdom upon our group regarding how to become a more efficient, balanced young lawyer.

Judge Anderson, a Holmes County native, holds her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. After obtaining her master's degree, Judge Anderson worked as an elementary music teacher. During this time, she attended Mississippi College School of Law, where she obtained her Juris Doctorate in 1985.

Judge Anderson began her legal career as a law clerk for the Mississippi Supreme Court. Following her clerkship, she became an Assistant District Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Court District of Hinds County, where she served until 1999. In 1999, Judge Anderson rose to the rank of Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi. In 2006, she was appointed to her current position of Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi. Judge Anderson is the first African American female United States Magistrate Judge in the State of Mississippi.

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

Judge Anderson: Read and commit to the *LAWYER'S CREED* and *ASPIRATIONAL IDEALS FOR MISSISSIPPI*: Be courteous, civil and professional. Stay above the fray. Establish a relationship with a competent, reputable, experienced lawyer/mentor in your area of practice. Do not be afraid to ask for help and advice. (But do NOT call the court to ask questions that you can resolve yourself with a little research.) Know the rules that govern procedure in the court where you are appearing and adhere to them. Avoid procrastination. Have a work plan every day; complete tasks in order of urgency. Be timely on all projects. Return all phone calls within twenty-four hours.

JYL: What should a lawyer never do?

Judge Anderson: A lawyer should never be untruthful. A lawyer should never lie to the court, to opposing counsel, members of the firm, the client or any other involved party. That includes misrepresentations, omissions and wordplay. If you have made a mistake, admit it promptly – don't pass the blame. *MEA CULPA* is much more credible than finger pointing. Most mistakes can be corrected, especially if caught early. Furthermore, a lawyer should never engage in unprofessional behavior.

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

Judge Anderson: Determine the elements of proof required for your cause of action. Once those are defined, focus your evidence

and argument on those elements. For the appellate practitioner, always understand the standard of review that the appellate court should use in considering your case and tailor your arguments to that standard of review.

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

Judge Anderson: Address the issue in question and be concise. Avoid overly-dramatic descriptions, editorializing, personal attacks, and snide remarks. (Don't even consider writing "even a first-year law student should know..."). If a sentence is not factually or legally important to the case, delete it. Judges have tremendous amounts of reading to do and the direct route to the issue is much preferred over the distracting scenic route. Understand the relative importance of authorities. If citing a case from another jurisdiction, argue it for its comparative value, not as binding precedent. Be sure your discovery requests are succinct and relevant – avoid throwing in the kitchen sink. Proofread, proofread, proofread.

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

Judge Anderson: Be punctual and be prepared. File motions and responses in a timely matter. Be flexible and prepared to offer reasonable "alternative" plans for the relief that you request. Judges appreciate an attorney's willingness to compromise. Stay firm only on the points you truly want or believe you are entitled to under the law. Counsel should avoid dishonesty and shortcuts. They usually lead to places where you would rather not find yourself.

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

Judge Anderson: Your reputation is your most important asset. Once you lose it, or damage it, it is difficult to get it back! In this electronic age, there is no excuse for not keeping a client informed. Clients do not like *bad* news, but they tend to call the bar when they can get *no* news. The law is an ancient profession, and there are vestiges of that history in many of its aspects. Do not assume that the informality in speech, writing and appearance that are accepted in popular culture will be equally accepted in the courtroom.

by Ashley Nader

Ms. Nader is the co-chair of the JYL Newsletter Committee and an associate at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens, and Cannada, PLLC.

Where Are They Now?

With Former JYL President Alex Purvis

As one of the many MC Law students that can attribute their bar exam excellence and license to practice law to Professor Mary Purvis, I was very excited to interview her husband, Alex Purvis, who served as President of JYL from 2008-2009.

A 2002 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, Alex is now a partner in the Jackson office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP where his practice focuses on dispute resolution and litigation in the areas of complex insurance coverage, products liability, and construction.

Alex and Mary, who is a former JYL Board Member and Executive Director, currently live in Fondren with their two children, Cate and Jack, and their three rambunctious dogs.

JYL: As a former JYL president, what's your advice to young lawyers as their transition from law school to practice?

Purvis: Take it slowly. As a mentor once told me, your legal career is a marathon, not a sprint. Your first years should be spent storing the knowledge and experience you will rely upon for the rest of your career. I would also recommend doing your best to organize what can be an overwhelming amount of input as you get started. Take some time to establish a system before the demands of clients and practice take over. Current technology allows efficiency, and I expect clients will increasingly demand it of their lawyers. That friction between the increased expectation of immediate solutions and the reality that the law rarely provides the clear answer will be a key factor in shaping what our profession looks like in 20 years. If you can spend your first few years learning efficiency in your practice, you should be ahead of the curve.

JYL: What philosophy defines you and your practice?

Purvis: I try to find balance, because the lawyers I look up to have obtained it in many aspects of their lives and careers. My hope is that my clients and colleagues will someday view me in that light. Law practice creates a unique challenge in this area. We enjoy many freedoms that come with a successful professional practice, but they are easily abused. For example, obsession is a constant risk, whether it's obsession with money, a particular case, an argument or cause. Sometimes you just need to turn your attention elsewhere. As a second example, advocacy requires confidence, but it's critical to balance that requirement with an ability to step back. In litigation at least, the decision makers will be presented with both sides of the dispute. Your argument will be more persuasive if it recognizes that fact. Most importantly, I want to be remembered first as a father, husband, brother, friend, and contributing member of this community. I am proud to be a lawyer and appreciate the opportunities my profession provides, but I hope there will be more to discuss in my obituary than my legal career. My guess is that I will have a longer list of satisfied clients if I keep those other things at the top of my list of priorities.

JYL: What were some of the benefits you enjoyed from your early involvement with JYL?

Purvis: JYL is very simply the best way I know for a beginning lawyer to get involved in the Jackson and Mississippi legal community. My involvement, from the Athletic Committee to the Board of Directors, has provided too many benefits than I can identify in a short list. By way of a few examples, I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many lawyers that I would not have come across otherwise and the chance to serve Jackson and the Bar under the banner of JYL. If you want to get involved in JYL, the opportunities are there and you will not regret the effort. I should mention that I am lucky to work in a firm that supports JYL and similar organizations. I've been disappointed to hear rumors that some lawyers view JYL as a waste of time that could be spent otherwise developing business or billing time. I hope that is not the case, but if you are one of the few reading this and feel that your employers are not JYL supporters, please contact me or one of the other former JYL Presidents. We would like you to help convince any naysayers that they are wrong.

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

Purvis: I grew up in a medical family. To this day, patients of my grandfather thank me for the way that he touched their lives. My favorite moments in law practice are those where you know that your expertise has played a part in resolving a difficult problem or conflict for a client. Those moments in law practice can be tough to identify or define, but they are there. Of course, pro bono work through MVLP or a similar organization can be particularly rewarding.

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

Purvis: I guess I would echo what I said above as the things that have been most helpful to me. It's also very helpful to find at least one good mentor. I've been fortunate to have several. The best mentors in my view are those that are humble enough to admit that they have made mistakes and experienced enough to show how mistakes can be overcome.

Finally, I would do your best to maintain outside interests that helped you keep perspective during life before law practice. If you liked to run 5Ks during law school, keep it up by running in the JYL Legal Beagle 5K each year. Finally, do what you can to keep a good relationship with the people you work with, whether that's the court, the opposing lawyer, the supervising partner that just asked you to work through the weekend, or your office assistant. Seems to me that your stress level will have a direct correlation to the way others feel about practicing law with you.

by Greta Kemp

Ms. Kemp is an associate with McRae Law Firm and a member of the JYL Newsletter Committee.