

JYL

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

PRESIDENTS CORNER

As JYL embarks on its 76th year, I am pleased to serve as your President. I became a member of JYL five years ago, and it has been a pleasure to watch the organization grow. Before discussing my plans for the year, I want to acknowledge the service of my predecessor, Missy Heidelberg, and the 2011-2012 Executive Board. Among JYL's many accomplishments under Missy's leadership, the organization held its first ever Barrister's Bowl bowling tournament. JYL is constantly evolving, and our leadership is always thinking of ways to follow JYL's mission by giving back to the Greater Jackson community. I want to do everything I can to keep the momentum going. I have three goals this year:

- *Reach out to all segments of the Bar to encourage a diverse membership.*
- *Encourage pro bono involvement among JYL members.*
- *Formalize the organization to preserve its institutional memory.*

I'll discuss each goal in turn: *Reach out to all segments of the Bar to encourage a diverse membership.*

JYL is not just for defense attorneys. It is important to me and the rest of the Executive Board that attorneys from all practices participate. We are making strides to get the plaintiffs' bar and public sector attorneys more involved in the organization. To illustrate those efforts, we invited Plaintiff's Attorney Bobby Dallas to speak at our first membership meeting August 31. Mr. Dallas's remarks about the importance of civility between the

plaintiffs' and defense bars were timely and resonated with everyone who attended the meeting. Scott Jones and Ben Morgan are serving as the Co-Chairs of the Speakers' Committee this year. Scott and Ben are committed to ensuring that our speakers come from a variety of practice areas. Please contact them at Scott.Jones@arlaw.com or Ben.Morgan@arlaw.com.

Encourage pro bono involvement by JYL members.

My position with MVLP exposes me daily to the challenges of Mississippi's poor. As their needs grow, so does the need for competent and passionate advocates. JYL's Pro Bono Committee will work closely with legal services' organizations to help meet the need. Please answer the call when the Committee calls on JYL members to handle pro bono cases, staff legal clinics, answer calls on legal hotlines, etc.

Formalize the organization to preserve its institutional memory.

I have spent the first month or so of my term revisiting our organizational structure in an effort to bring more formality to the way we conduct ourselves as an organization. I want us to do a better job of memorializing our Board meetings, updating our web & social media sites, communicating JYL and non-JYL opportunities to our members and reminding members and non-members of the benefits of JYL membership, etc.

That's what we plan to do. Now, here's what we'll need from you. *Give Us Your Time.* JYL boasts ten very active Committees. While we have a ded-

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icated group of folks leading Committees, they would all very much appreciate some help.

Give us your ideas. Please feel free to share suggestions with Officers and Boards about Social events, fundraisers, speakers and Pro Bono opportunities.

Stay Informed. We are pleased to unveil a completely updated website (www.jacksonyounglawyers.com).

We are also happy to report that Dixie Pond, a 2L at Mississippi College School of Law, will provide updates to our Facebook (facebook.com/Jackson.Young.Lawyers) and Twitter (@JYLawyers) pages.

Thank you for being a JYL member. We have a big year ahead, and I'm looking forward to every minute of it!

by Tiffany Graves, Ms. Graves is General Counsel of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and the current President of JYL.



JYL members volunteer at the Capitol Street Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi.

On August 22 and 28, JYL members volunteered at the Capitol Street location of the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. JYL members Tim Anzenberger, Leah Kathryn Campbell, Alicia Hall, Seth Hall, Lori Johnson, and Kyle White helped kids of all ages with homework and participated in other after-school activities. We were able to help with reading, individual tutoring, and some group math drills. With the impending storm, we even covered disaster preparedness with some of the club members!

JYL members got a lot out of the experience, too. "I think it's especially important for lawyers to volunteer in their communities; however, it's not always easy to make time for it given our hectic schedules," said Lori Johnson. "That's why I was thrilled that JYL arranged an activity at the Boys and Girls Club that was convenient to attend and highly enjoyable. I look forward to the next volunteer opportunity." Kyle White added that he "really enjoyed volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club. It was the perfect opportunity to take time out of the day to give something back to the community."

JYL has a long-standing relationship with the Boys and Girls Club. We have organized golf and bowling tournaments to raise money for the club, and we collect various items for the club at our membership meetings, including school supplies, sports equipment, and summer reading books. Anyone is welcome to volunteer at the club anytime, after a quick background check form is completed. If you have any interest in volunteering, please let us know.

JYL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PLEASE let either Sherry Johnson (ssjohnson@mc.edu) or Tiffany Graves (tgraves@mymvlp.net) know if you are NOT receiving JYL emails. Membership info has been updated and everyone should be receiving monthly emails. (You might need to check your bulk or junk mail too) THANKS!!!

REMEMBER: The JYL September Social is scheduled for 9/27 from 5-7 pm at Juleps. Come out and enjoy networking and socializing with colleagues and friends.

REMINDER: The October JYL Membership meeting has been rescheduled for October 19th. The meeting will still be held at Hal and Mal's Red Room from 12-1 and there will be a guest speaker.



JYL MEMBERSHIP

If you are 37 or younger, or have practiced law for fewer than three years in the Jackson Metro area, you are eligible for JYL membership!!!!

September 2012 JYL
Outstanding Services Spotlight

By: Ashley H. Nader

This month we would like to recognize JYL members Chanda Roby, Justin Peterson, and Jason Bush. Chanda and Justin received Outstanding Service Awards and Jason received the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award at JYL's Evening Honoring the Judiciary on May 15, 2012. We thank them for their continued support of JYL through their involvement in committees and continued efforts to provide pro bono services to those less fortunate.

Chanda Roby:

Chanda is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law and currently operates her own firm, The Law Office of Chanda L. Roby, PLLC, where she focuses her practice on alternative dispute resolution. She was recently awarded with JYL's Outstanding Service Award for 2011-2012 in recognition of her outstanding service as the Co-Chair of JYL's City Court Mediation Committee.



As co-chair of this committee, Chanda serves as a liaison between Jackson City Court and the committee, and assigns mediation cases to JYL members. She also handles all details and logistics for mediating cases at the court. In her first year as co-chair, Chanda and her committee devoted themselves to restructuring the process by which mediation cases were assigned, in an effort to ensure that more cases would be resolved on a yearly basis. The committee was assigned a total of twenty cases before this restructuring process began. Chanda hopes that their hard work will result in the assignment of more cases in 2013.

In addition to her mediation responsibilities, Chanda also organizes a yearly service project for the committee. This past year, the committee celebrated and supported the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section's National Mediation Week theme of Civil Public Discourse by encouraging JYL members and the Jackson City Council to adopt a resolution supporting the theme.

The ABA's theme of Civil Public Discourse focused on encouraging more respect and dignity among community leaders when addressing each other. This theme was chosen because ABA members were disappointed with the way public figures, especially those with legal backgrounds, publically disagree in a way that is unprofessional and disrespectful. Chanda agreed with the ABA, commenting: "there were many attorneys and other community leaders in Mississippi who felt the same way and thought JYL and the Jackson City Council were good places to start with support because so many people around Mississippi look to each as setting a standard to follow." The committee ultimately submitted a resolution recognizing the importance of civil public discourse which JYL and the Jackson City Council adopted.

Justin Peterson:

Justin is a graduate of The University of Virginia School of Law and currently practices real estate and corporate law for The State Street Group in Jackson. This year Justin was recognized for his outstanding service to JYL as the Co-Chair of the Athletic Committee and organizer of the first ever JYL bowling tournament in 2011.



The inaugural Barristers' Bowl was a team bowling competition and silent auction to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. Jason was quick to give thanks to his "fantastic and hard-working committee: Alex Martin and Lee Hill, who worked on sponsorships and team prizes; and Diandra Hosey and Kathryn White, who spearheaded the silent auction."

Justin and his committee raised approximately \$10,000 for the Boys and Girls Club. Justin wanted to give special thanks to: "the many law firms and business that donated to the silent auction; and the generous cooperation of Strike Entertainment, which provided us with their facilities for the event." Justin further noted, "it was great to see every lane filled with JYL bowlers!"

Justin believes: "there are two huge benefits to JYL. First, it provides so many interesting ways to give back to and enrich the community, whether by raising money, giving time, or both. The Barrister's Bowl is a perfect example of this. Second, JYL provides a remarkable opportunity for newer lawyers to network with other lawyers in the same career stage. Many of my closest connections have come from JYL meetings and events."

Jason Bush:

Jason is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law and currently practices for Baker Donelson in Jackson. Jason currently focuses his practice on business litigation, intellectual property, and employment and construction litigation. Jason is being recognized by JYL for his continued support of the community by providing his pro bono services to the less fortunate.

Most of Jason's pro bono cases have been divorce cases assigned through the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyer Project. These cases have allowed Jason to work with numerous special clients. One case Jason recalled involved a wife and mother of four children. According to Jason, "the father wasn't willing to concede much, so we had to ask some uncomfortable questions in Court to show why only supervised visitation was appropriate and in the best interests of the children. Once we met the children, the case took on even more of a special purpose." Jason, with the assistance of Wesley Mockbee and Kenya Rachel, worked diligently to assist the client with resolving a situation that had caused her much stress and pain for no cost at all.



Jason has also provided pro bono services to a Christian music group by working with the United States Copyright Office and drafting a license agreement for the group. Jason provides these services because "it is the right things to do. Also, it can get you more court time and pro bono clients tend to be the most appreciative of what you have done for them."

JYL Members: Bringing Families Together Through Adoption

Members of Jackson Young Lawyers (JYL) recently volunteered at the Adoption Fair sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Adoption Legal Clinic of Mississippi College School of Law. Foster parents, social workers, and residents from across the state of Mississippi attended the fair which consisted of a series of workshops conducted by Madison County Chancery Court Judge Cynthia Brewer, various other local adoption professionals and child advocates from area agencies. They provided information on both foster care and adoption (domestic and international) in light of the new amendments to Mississippi's adoption statutes. While adoption professionals and foster parents attended training workshops, JYL members provided family-friendly activities such as air hockey, cookie decorating, puppetry, face painting, arts and crafts, and a special performance by internationally acclaimed magician Nathan Kepner. This event was a huge success thanks to the willingness of JYL members to donate their time, energy and talents to help children in foster care achieve the permanent homes they deserve. If you are searching for opportunities to volunteer, please contact JYL's pro bono committee chairpersons Sandra Brown Strong at strongsb@phelps.com or Crystal Welch at cwelch@mc.edu.

By Crystal L. Welch, Attorney & Adjunct Professor of Law of MC Law's Adoption Legal Clinic

MC Law/MDHS Adoption Clinic with JYL Volunteers) Face painting was one activity children really enjoyed



Dean Rosenblatt high fives one child after an air hockey win!!!

Another child enjoys a puppet show, and the puppet



The August 31, 2012 JYL Membership Meeting was a great success with Attorney Bobby Dallas speaking to over 50 JYL members present at the luncheon.



Local Attorney & Mediator Bobby Dallas of Sessums, Dallas and Morrison was the speaker for the August 31st membership meeting. Mr. Dallas spoke of the importance and need for civility, mutual respect and professionalism by and between plaintiff's counsel and defense attorneys during the entire scope of representation. He reminded us, that even as we zealously represent our clients, it is imperative to remain civil and professional at all times with opposing counsel.

Tiffany Graves, JYL President, presented the LSAT Scholarship award to Ms. Shaneka Body during the luncheon. The scholarship committee agreed that Shaneka's credentials were outstanding. Shaneka was awarded a check to cover her LSAT costs & fees and given an LSAT study guide. We wish her the very best.

Dixie Pond, 2L at MS College School of Law was appointed by the MC Law LSBA as the Student Liaison to assist JYL Executive Director & JYL President with JYL Activities. Welcome Dixie!

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS ENJOY THE AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT HAL & MALS RED ROOM



Pictured above left to right are:

Scott Jones, Co-Chair of the JYL Speakers Committee. Attorney and Mediator Bobby Dallas of Sessums, Dallas and Morrison, PLLC and JYL President, Tiffany Graves.



JYL DUES INVOICE

For the June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013 fiscal year

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List Your Primary Email address below:

List Your Secondary Email address: below:

List Your Current Address:

List Your Employer below:

List Your (Anticipated) Area of Practice below:

Membership

Membership to JYL includes bi-monthly lunches at Hal & Mal's Restaurant in Jackson, networking events at six social events throughout the Greater Jackson Metro Area, community service opportunities, and 1 hour of free CLE credit.

Membership Dues:

_____ **Regular Member: \$100** (a "Regular Member" is defined as one employed by a for-profit law firm)

_____ **Public Interest/Government Lawyer Member: \$50** (which includes attorneys working in non-legal positions within the government or with a public interest or legal services organization)

_____ **Member Currently Seeking Employment in Jackson area: \$25**

_____ **First year Public Interest/Government Lawyer Member: FREE**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please make checks payable to Jackson Young Lawyers and return this invoice with your payment to JYL at: Jackson Young Lawyers, P.O. Box 22842, Jackson, MS 39225-2842

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

(PLEASE CHOOSE A COMMITTEE AND SERVE. COMMITTEE SIGN UP FORM FOLLOWS)

ATHLETIC: The Athletic Committee coordinates the Legal Beagle 5K Race in March and is exploring the possibility of hosting a bowling tournament in the fall. These events are JYL's primary charitable fundraisers. All proceeds from the events go to local charities.

CITY COURT MEDIATION: Members of the JYL City Court Mediation Committee attend and conduct mediations at the Jackson Municipal Courthouse on a rotating basis. All volunteers are welcome; no special training or certification is required. This committee provides practical alternative dispute resolution experience and civic lessons for lawyers who may not otherwise see much of Municipal Court.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: The Community Service Committee works to benefit those in need in our community. Volunteers spend time with such organizations as Stewpot (serving meals, volunteering at legal clinic, painting houses in Bratton St. project), Operation Shoestring, Gateway Rescue Mission (painting and working on facility improvements, sorting donated clothing), Gleaners (picking up, delivering, and sorting food), and others. The committee is encouraged to initiate as many service projects as time and volunteers will support. Thanks to motivated committee chairs and members, JYL service projects have made an impact on the organizations they support and have occasionally evolved into impromptu social events for the participants.

DIVERSITY: The diversity committee is charged with advancing the diversity goals of the Jackson Young Lawyers. JYL's principal diversity goal is to grow into an organization that is truly representative of the diversity of the law practice in the Jackson metropolitan area. To achieve this goal, the diversity committee is responsible for increasing the participation of minority, public service and plaintiff attorneys in JYL activities. JYL is and should remain a relevant organization for ALL young lawyers in Greater Jackson, and the Diversity Committee is focused on achieving that end. This is a committee in which creative thinkers and well-connected young lawyers can make a difference.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership committee is in charge of recruiting new members, mainly at the two bar admissions ceremonies in the Fall and Spring. The committee is also responsible for making sure the Bar has the appropriate flyer/brochure to send out with the packets and attending the ceremonies.

NEWSLETTER: The Newsletter Committee is responsible for keeping members informed about JYL activities, functions, and service through the quarterly newsletter. Volunteers write and edit articles about meetings, guests, and events, in addition to conducting interviews with members of the Bench and Bar. Photographs and information about JYL activities are always welcome. Past newsletters are at: www.jacksonyounglawyers.com/newsletter.html.

OUTREACH PROJECTS: The Outreach Projects Committee administers JYL's Community Outreach Grant and LSAT Scholarship Programs.

PRO BONO: The pro bono committee of JYL seeks to promote and encourage pro bono involvement among young lawyers. The committee provides members of JYL information regarding pro bono opportunities from organizations and agencies providing legal counsel and representation to the poor and underserved. The committee also seeks to educate JYL members about the personal and professional importance of providing legal representation to those otherwise unable to afford an attorney. The committee hopes to continue to work with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation throughout the coming year to establish a legal clinic staffed by JYL members who provide legal assistance with guardianships, emancipations and/or birth certificate correction issues. This year's chair may decide to shift the committee's focus to providing a slate of JYL volunteers for the MVLP's Legal Lines project. Young lawyers with less control over their own schedules often find it easier to do pro bono work in predictable blocks of time and the Legal Lines project is a good way to do that.

SOCIAL: The Social Committee plans and organizes JYL's social events throughout the year.

SPEAKERS/CLE: The Speakers/CLE Committee recruits the speakers for our membership meetings and annual CLE meeting.

JYL Committee Membership Application

Committee you have selected to join _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Employer _____

Law School _____ Date of Graduation _____

Please complete & mail to: **Jackson Young Lawyers Association, P. O. Box 22842, Jackson, MS 39225-2842**



JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS LEADERSHIP 2012-2013

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