

JYL

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the 2011-12 Jackson Young Lawyers year comes to a close this month, I find it hard to believe it is already time to hand the gavel over to our new president, Tiffany Graves. I have had the privilege of working closely with Tiffany these past few years, and I can say without hesitation that we are in very capable hands as we move forward into an exciting new year.

Before riding off into the sunset, I would like to take the opportunity to thank this year's board members, committee chairs, and committee members for your tireless efforts and commitment to making a difference in the Mississippi Bar and in the Jackson community. JYL enjoys a long tradition of working hard to benefit others, and I have truly been honored to serve as president for such a wonderful organization this past year.

In the next few weeks, several JYL stalwarts will be rolling off the board. Past President Mary Clay Morgan, Secretary Tray Hairston, and Treasurer Brad Moody have each left their mark on JYL and leave some awfully big shoes to fill. We welcome newly elected board members for the 2012-13 year, Secretary Spence Young and Directors Alicia Hall and Lane Staines.

I would also like to tip my hat in thanks to Danielle Ireland, who recently stepped down after having been JYL's Executive Director for the past four years. A giant thank you to Danielle for her years of

dedication to JYL. The silver lining, of course, to bidding Danielle adieu is that I get to be the one to welcome Sherry Johnson, our new Executive Director, already an obvious asset to this organization.

I could fill this newsletter recounting the wonderful events and projects that made up our busy and productive 2011-12 year, and could list dozens of people who made each of those events possible. I invite you to read the articles in this edition and the articles in this year's past newsletters about the thousands of dollars you helped raise for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi, the Habitat House you helped build, the mediations you conducted, and the necessary supplies you provided to children in our community.

It's impressive the impact that a bunch of young lawyers can have on our community (while, of course, remembering to have some fun along the way). I encourage you to remain active in JYL and continue to make a difference. On behalf of the current and past JYL members, all of whom take great pride in being affiliated with this group,

I say thank you.

*By: Melissa "Missy" Rose,
Missy is an Attorney with Page Kruger*

SPRING 2012

2011-2012 JYL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Melissa Rose, President
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Tiffany Graves, President-Elect
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Mary Clay Morgan, Immediate
Past-President
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CITY COURT MEDIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Cinnamon rolls, gavels, and peaceful resolutions, oh, my! The JYL City Court Mediation Committee (Committee) met with Jackson City Court (Court) Judges and Staff at the Mississippi Bar Center on March 14, 2012 to discuss enhancing the current Jackson City Court Mediation Program. Committee members Attorneys Catherine Bell, Diandra Hosey, and Chanda Roby were present and led the judges and staff through a mini-continuing legal education (CLE) session on the general practice of mediation and the benefits of using it in Court proceedings.

The judges and staff were receptive to suggestions by Committee members on ways to improve the current program's process and very engaged in both discussing concerns of the Committee members and offering Committee members advice based on their experience. In the past, the Committee has received cases to mediate disputes that have long been resolved and that were not always appropriate for mediation. After the breakfast, the judges, staff, and Committee members agreed that these concerns could be avoided by making a few changes in the process, such as Committee members working with both the city prosecutor and court staff to review cases and refer them to mediation. Additionally, the Court wants to use the Committee's new mediation packet, developed by committee member Bell, going forward. The packet includes guides that can be used by both attorneys and parties to gain a better understanding of the basics and benefits of mediation. The packet also contains answers to frequently asked questions and forms for the Court to use.

By Chanda Roby, City Court
Mediation Chair, City Court Mediation
Committee

JYL MEMBERSHIP

If you are 37 or younger, or have practiced law for fewer than three years, you are eligible for JYL membership!!!!



**SPONSORS OF THE 2012
13th ANNUAL
LEGAL BEAGLE:**

- Adams & Reese
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**574 Runners and Walkers
gather at the 13th Annual
JYL Legal Beagle**

On March 10, 2012, 574 runners and walkers gathered on a picturesque spring morning for the 13th 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 Curt Knight, with a time of 16:33, and Chastity Magyar, with a time of 21:17. Thirty-one teams participated in the run, and team "Johnny Loves Running Mach 2" (Calvin Thigpen, Scott Stringer, John Rings, Guy Martin, and Johnnie Newsome) finished first with a time of 55:52. "Mississippi Walkers 1" (Larry Robinson, Jr., Jennifer Henderson, Rod Simmons, Tommy Brown, Jr., and Shannon Beacher) won the team walk division with a time of 1:40:42.

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 donated \$8,935.85 to the MVLP at the March membership meeting.

This year's event was organized by John Dollarhide, Brad Moody and Leigh Vernon. When asked about this year's race, John Dollarhide said "This year, we had one of the highest turn-outs and were able to make one of the largest donations to the MVLP in race history. It's amazing that this race continues to grow even after more than a decade." JYL would like to thank the sponsors listed below 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 next year.



**THANK YOU
SPONSORS**

JYL and CABA sponsor the annual Evening Honoring the Judiciary



Socializing at Evening Honoring the Judiciary (EHTJ)



Dean Rosenblatt/MC Law- MS Supreme Court Justice Randy Pierce



MC Law Professor Cecile Edwards & Distinguished Professor and Guest Speaker at EHTJ, Michael McAnn



JYL President, Missy Rose, presents the Outstanding Service Award to Chanda Roby, City Court Mediation Chair



Missy presents the Outstanding Service Award to Justin Peterson



President, Missy Rose passes the Gavel to newly elected JYL President, Tiffany Graves,

JYL representatives volunteering at the membership table included Tiffany Graves, Jennie Pitts, Tiffany Grove, and Marlena Pickering (not pictured)



JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Jackson Young Lawyers is open to any duly licensed member of the MS 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 MS 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.

To become a member of JYL, please visit the JYL website or complete the membership application included in this newsletter. Either email your application to SSJohnson@mc.edu or mail your application to JYL Membership, PO Box 22842, Jackson, MS 39225. Your name will be placed on the membership roster and you will receive notices informing you of upcoming JYL events.

JYL Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
Employer _____
Committees or Areas of Interest _____
Law School _____ Graduation Date _____

**Mail this application form with your dues to
Jackson Young Lawyers Association, P. O. Box 22842, Jackson, MS 39225-2842**

JYL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES

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.) If you are a new member and currently seeking employment in the Greater Jackson area, the fee is only \$25.00. The dues cover JYL luncheons, newsletters, projects, and social functions during the year.

JYL COMMITTEES

Athletic Committee

City Court Mediation

Community Services

Diversity

Membership

Newsletter

Outreach

Pro Bono

Social

Meeting/CLE Speakers

When you join Jackson Young Lawyers, Please think about volunteering for a Committee

THANKS!!!

From the Bench...With Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice Jess H. Dickinson.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT WITH PRESIDING JUSTICE JESS H. DICKINSON

This issue we are honored to have the benefit of receiving insight from Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice Jess H. Dickinson. Justice Dickinson is a native of Charleston, MS. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi State University in 1978. He graduated cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1982, where he served on the editorial board of the Mississippi Law Journal.

After practicing law for one year in Jackson, and 20 years in Gulfport, Justice Dickinson served as a Forrest County Circuit Court Judge, by special appointment of the Mississippi Supreme Court. His service on the Supreme Court began in January 2004. During his first year on the Court, Justice Dickinson was awarded the Chief Justice Award for his work in advancing the administration of justice. He again received the Chief Justice Award in 2010 for his work on improving access to justice for the poor in Mississippi. In 2009, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project awarded Justice Dickinson its Pro Bono Pioneer Award.

Justice Dickinson has served on the adjunct faculty of William Carey College and Mississippi College School of Law where, in 2009, he was elected by the law students as Adjunct Professor of the Year. He served two terms on both the Ethics Committee and the Professionalism Committee of the Mississippi Bar. He also serves as the Supreme Court's liaison to organizations providing legal services to the poor, and is a charter member of the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission.

JYL: What advice would you give a young lawyer?

Justice Dickinson:

You only get one chance to be an honest, truthful lawyer. The first time you take something that isn't yours, or tell a judge or counsel opposite something that isn't true, the description of your character changes forever. The public and the courts may never know, but you will.

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

Justice Dickinson:

There is no substitute for research and preparation. For trial preparation, prepare your jury instructions first. If you have a chancery case, pretend you will have a jury, and prepare jury instructions. They will tell you the things you have to prove or defend. Concentrate on those things.

JYL: So much of modern practice involves written advocacy. How can lawyers improve their writing?

Justice Dickinson:

An excellent question. I have three suggestions: (1) Read good writers. You will find them in large-circulation, national publications, such as Time, Life, Newsweek, The Weekly Standard, Forbes, ABA Journal, etc. As you read, concentrate on sentence and paragraph structure. See how good writers are concise, forceful, and get to the point. (2) Read good briefs and appellate decisions. They are available online. Emulate these lawyers and judges who are very good at writing. (3) Get a book or two from legal writing experts. Brian Garner has an excellent book on how to write persuasive briefs, and there are many others.

JYL: What are your suggestions to counsel who are appearing before the Supreme Court?

Justice Dickinson:

Never begin with a recitation of the facts, and never ask the justices if they would like you to do so. Assume the justices have read the briefs and are very familiar with the facts. The first minute of your argument is very important. It is the only time you have all the justices' full attention, and you are unlikely to be interrupted. Don't waste that minute on unimportant things. If you were allowed to say only one thing, that is what you should say in the first minute.

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

Justice Dickinson:

Despite all the changes in technology, science, and the practice of law, your clients are still just people. You have many cases, the client only has one. Use new technology to communicate with, educate, and better represent your clients. If you do that, you will develop a good reputation for caring about your clients, and your reputation, time, and advice, are all you have to sell.

The JYL Community Service Committee to Help Local Students with Summer Reading

Continuing our partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi, our next collection drive will be required summer reading books for club members. Many of these students can't afford to purchase their required summer reading, but they will spend most of their summer at the Club, with lots of time to read and learn.

We'd like to stock the club with several copies of summer reading books. The books below are required reading for grades 6-12, Jackson Public School District.

Bud, Not Buddy, Christopher Paul Curtis; Tears of a Tiger, Sharon M. Draper; Gifted Hands, Ben Carson; The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton ; The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd; I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou; Runaway Jury, John Grisham



Please help us help these boys and girls by doing any of the following:

- (1) Look for any of these books at your house to donate,
- (2) Purchase a few copies of these books, and/or
- (3) Purchase a gift card to amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, etc. (Amazon gift cards will go further).

Thank you so much for your continued commitment and generosity with these kids! For more information or to donate any of these books to the boys and girls please contact:

Alicia Hall at ahall@bakerdonelson.com or Seth Hall at seth@simminslawgroup.com

Seth & Alicia Hall



MVLP RECEIVES DONATION FROM JYL TO ASSIST IT WITH PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR

The JYL March Membership Meeting and CLE, held in the Red Room at Hals and Mals, was a complete success. JYL had over sixty-five people in attendance who received CLE credits for a wonderful and informative presentation by local Attorneys Phillip Thomas and Will Manuel. The topic of the CLE was about Social Networking and Social Media and how it can be utilized in building your Practice and preparing cases.

JYL also presented Shirley Williams, the Executive Director of MVLP, with an \$8,940.85 donation to assist MVLP in accomplishing its mission and goals providing free legal services to the indigent in the State of Mississippi.

Proceeds came from the always successful Legal Beagle Event this year. Thanks to all the Legal Beagle participants and those involved JYL raised the funds to donate to MVLP to continue its presence throughout the State.
