

# JYL

## JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

OCTOBER 2013

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The first purpose of any bar association is to help its members become better lawyers. When this purpose is ably pursued, our clients and communities benefit from a better prepared, more collegial, and more service-minded professional bar. So is the purpose and intended effect of the Jackson Young Lawyers, your bar association.

In the coming year, the JYL Executive Committee & Committee Chairs will focus on member service – enhancing the value of your membership so that, whatever your particular focus, JYL offers you the resources to build a better practice. Here is how we will do that:

#### **Improving our website, social media presence, and member communications:**

Today, the mark of a valued professional organization is the ability to communicate useful information to its members, and to communicate information about itself (and its members) to the community, in a way that is timely and relevant.

The best tools for accomplishing this are a dynamic website, an active social media presence, and targeted member communications. The Executive Committee will create a task force to review JYL's current use of these tools and recommend improvements. Please watch for our task force announcement, and volunteer to help if you can.

#### **Supporting solo and small firm Practitioners:**

More and more of our colleagues are electing to start their practice solo or as part of a small firm. According to the Mississippi Bar's most recent statistics, 65% of all Mississippi attorneys practice in firms of five attorneys or less;

37 % of those are sole practitioners. JYL will focus on supporting our solo and small firm members, and recruiting new members from these firms. To assist us, JYL has established a new Solo and Small Firm Committee, chaired by Baskin Jones and Chris Weldy. Please reach out to Baskin or Chris if you want to be involved in this effort.

#### **Updating our newsletter:**

Under the direction of our new Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs, Lauren Oaks (Brunini) and Kaytie Pickett (Jones Walker), we will improve the features and content of our JYL newsletter. As an example of our first new featured article, be sure and read *Advice for a Young Lawyer* by Judge Larry Primeaux, 12th Chancery Court District of MS. The article begins on page 7. In addition to social and community-service updates, expect substantive pieces that will aid your practice. If you have ideas for content or would like to contribute an article, please contact Lauren or Kaytie.

#### **Continuing JYL's commitment to community-service:**

Finally, we will continue our service to the greater-Jackson community through both our pro bono legal activities and our direct contributions to charitable causes.

Specifically, we will continue the excellent community service program that was begun last year by Tiffany Graves, and that collects donations for a different service organization at each membership meeting.

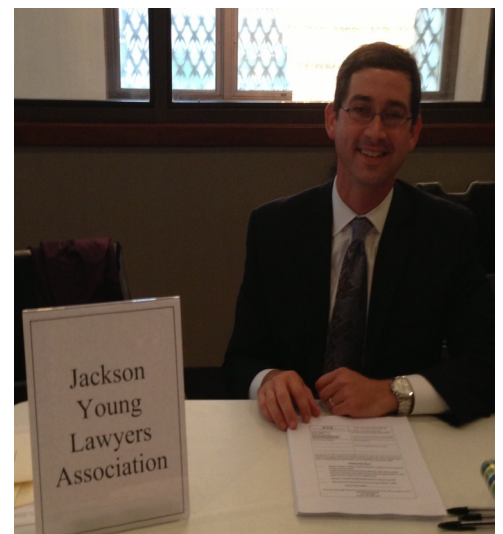
Please watch for announcements from Community Service Committee Co-

Chairs Nakimuli Davis and Charli Searcy contribute what you can to this effort. And please contact the Athletic Committee Co-Chairs if you can lend a hand with JYL's signature charitable fund raising events, the Bowling Tournament (Fall) and The Legal Beagle (Spring).

If you are a young lawyer practicing in the Jackson Community (Hinds, Madison and Rankin Counties), we want you to be an active part of JYL. More than that, we want you to enjoy the full benefits of membership in your local affiliate of the ABA Young Lawyers Division.

I look forward to serving as your president this year and, even more so, look forward to hearing your thoughts on how JYL can better serve you and our community.

*By: Michael Bentley,  
President, Jackson Young Lawyers*



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# A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Jackson Young Lawyers is committed to promoting inclusiveness within the organization. More often than not, the term diversity is associated with being racially inclusive. However, the mission of the Diversity Committee goes beyond that and seeks to increase participation so that JYL more closely resembles the legal landscape of the Jackson metro area. It is through diversity that we are better able to grow and serve the community. Having a diverse body also leads to increasing the creativity and goals of the organization overall. Diversity will increase our outreach and meet the growing needs of our community.

It is with these thoughts in mind that this year's programs will aim at achieving the goals of producing a more representative JYL. To begin our journey, we will be hosting a panel to discuss what diversity looks like and why it is important. Additionally, the committee seeks to increase its membership base by reaching out to local law students. As such, our first panel will be held at MC Law so that future members of the Jackson metro legal community will be aware of JYL and the important work it does in the community.

The committee seeks your participation and support to accomplish these very vital goals. Let's make great use of our expertise and get to work on a productive year.

By: Tiffany R. Paige, Diversity Committee Chair  
Director of Diversity and Outreach, MC Law

## **JYL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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BE SURE AND READ THE ARTICLE  
BEGINNING ON PAGE 7 OF THIS ISSUE

Of the Newsletter

by Judge Larry Primeaux, 12th Chancery Court  
District of Mississippi entitled:

*Advice for a Young Lawyer*

The October JYL Membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 25th. The meeting will still be held at Hal and Mal's Red Room from 12-1 and Ben Allen of Downtown Jackson Partners will be a guest speaker.

PLEASE let the Executive Director of JYL, Sherry Johnson (ssjohnson@mc.edu) 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 junk mail or ask your Firm Administrator if JYL is blocked by security features. THANKS!



## **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!*

**JYL DONATES TO THE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (P.I.E.) STORE**  
by: Nakimuli O. Davis

Although most students begin the school year with school supplies, teachers struggle to stock their rooms for the entire school year and ultimately invest their own money for office and school supplies. The Jackson Public Schools' Partners In Education (P.I.E.) Store was formed to alleviate this problem by helping new and returning teachers stock their classrooms.

The Partners in Education program is designed to connect the community with schools by providing a number of programs for volunteer opportunities. One such opportunity includes the P.I.E. Store. For the store, teachers are allocated a certain number of points each semester. They can use the points to "purchase" items they need for their classroom. The store is stocked by community volunteers and organizations. Thanks to the generosity of JYL Members, the Community Service Committee was able to collect \$153 and at least \$50 worth of school supply items at the September 6th membership meeting. The Committee purchased items such as hand sanitizer, paper towels, Kleenex, masking tape, staplers, staples, dry erase markers, rubber bands, colored pencils, index cards, glue, highlighters, incentive items for kids, construction paper, etc.

On September 17, 2013, the Community Service Committee dropped the items off at the P.I.E. Store, which is located at 662 South President Street. The director of the Partners in Education, Rebecca Starling, as well as her assistant, Sandra Showah were excited to receive JYL's donations and are very thankful for JYL's support and noteworthy community involvement. They took pictures of the donations as well as members and will recognize JYL's contribution on the district's newsletter and/or website. For more information on the P.I.E. Store and other volunteer opportunities, please visit the JPS website at <http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us/content.aspx?url=/page/353>. You can also contact the Community Service Committee Chairs, Charli Searcy at [ccs@alexanderandwatson.com](mailto:ccs@alexanderandwatson.com) or Nakimuli Davis at [ndavis@bakerdonelson.com](mailto:ndavis@bakerdonelson.com) for more information, to make any additional donations, or to join the committee. If you were not able to donate for this project, please be on the lookout for more Community Service opportunities.

Pictured Right: JYL contributes to Partners In Education (P.I.E.) Program.

**JYL Dresses Women for Success**  
by: Nakimuli O. Davis & Roslyn Griffin

In June, the Community Service Committee dropped off donations to the Metro Jackson Division of Dress for Success. Dress for Success is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of women in more than 120 cities across 13 countries. Specifically, Dress for Success is committed to professional development and employment retention with the ultimate goal of ensuring that women are self-sufficient and successful in their careers. Part of this program is to dress the women seeking employment from head-to-toe.

Thanks to the generosity of JYL Members, the Committee was able to purchase jewelry, makeup, and hosiery as well as donate shoes and suits to Dress for Success. The Program Coordinator, Vera Johnson, was VERY excited to receive the donations, especially the makeup and jewelry, which are items they run very low on. Ms. Johnson encouraged JYL to continue to provide support Dress for Success (<http://www.dressforsuccess.org/affiliate.aspx?sisid=83&pageid=1>) in its endeavors, including its workshops under the Going Places Network by Wal-Mart.

This is a 10-week program for ladies referred from agencies such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, Operation Shoe-string, and others. To take advantage of more volunteer opportunities, please join the Community Service Committee by contacting Charli Searcy at [ccs@alexanderandwatson.com](mailto:ccs@alexanderandwatson.com) or Nakimuli Davis at [ndavis@bakerdonelson.com](mailto:ndavis@bakerdonelson.com).



## Jackson Young Lawyers hold first Membership Luncheon of the 2013-14 year

On September 6, 2013, two attorneys from the Mississippi Insurance Department (“MID”) addressed JYL. Jay Eads, Special Assistant Attorney General for MID, provided an overview of all the functions performed by MID, such as regulating insurance companies and their various products and handling consumer issues through administrative proceedings. Additionally, Eads discussed MID’s role in fire prevention and safety due to the Mississippi Insurance Commissioner’s position as Mississippi’s Chief Fire Marshall. Phillips Strickland, Senior Attorney for MID, discussed various life and health insurance issues. Specifically, Strickland provided a status update on the MID’s involvement regarding implementation and enforcement of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioner Mike Chaney joined the group and greeted a number of JYL members.



## WHY YOUNG LAWYERS SHOULD ENGAGE IN *PRO BONO* SERVICE

The American Bar Association (ABA) has designated the third week in October as National "Celebrate *Pro Bono* Week". This year, Celebrate *Pro Bono* Week fell on October 20-26. Rather than limit the celebration to one week, many legal services organizations choose to celebrate *pro bono* throughout the month of October as a way to recognize the contributions of those who are already providing *pro bono* services and to encourage those who are not to become engaged in *pro bono* work.

The revised Lawyer's Creed adopted by the Board of Bar Commissioners of the Mississippi Bar, governing lawyers' actions in association with other lawyers, clients, courts and the public, contains the following tenet:

"TO THE PUBLIC AND OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, I WILL OFFER SERVICE. I WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE LAW AND OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, TO MAKE THE LAW AND OUR LEGAL SYSTEM TO ALL AVAILABLE TO ALL, AND TO SEEK THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF MY CLIENTS."

Among other provisions, the Lawyer's Creed asks attorneys to aspire to "provide the *pro bono* representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all" and to "support organizations that provide *pro bono* representation to indigent clients". The term "*pro bono*" comes from the Latin phrase *pro bono publico*, which means "for the public good". Since its early days, the legal profession has felt a responsibility to do something for the public good, which often takes the form of *pro bono* work, or providing legal services without a fee.

A lawyer's ethical obligations to provide *pro bono* public service are described in Rule 6.1 of the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct. That Rule explains that each member of the Mississippi Bar, who is not exempt, should render legal services to the poor and participate in other *pro bono* service activities relating to the poor's legal needs.

Beyond the personal rewards of providing *pro bono* work, for young lawyers especially, other justifications can be advanced, including, reputational benefits to the person providing the service and his/her employer; career development opportunities; professional development opportunities; technical training on legal skills, including drafting, interviewing and arguing skills; learning new areas of law; acquiring and honing leadership skills; developing and bettering interpersonal skills; and broadening personal contacts and networks. These justifications provide very powerful incentives for young lawyers to pursue *pro bono* work. The opportunities for young lawyers to actually get into court are fewer these days. *Pro bono* cases allow young lawyers to go to court and advocate a client's position, all while developing the practical legal skills that will serve them well throughout their legal careers.

Mississippi is our nation's poorest state with one-half million people living at or below the federal poverty line. According to 2011 US Census data, nearly three million people live in Mississippi. Of those, 21.2% live below the poverty level. That figure is over 7% higher than the national average of Americans living in poverty. Low-income Mississippians need legal services in a broad range of matters, including domestic violence, divorce and child custody, disability, food stamps, housing, Medicaid, foreclosure prevention, contractor fraud, and landlord-tenant. Fortunately, there are many opportunities for lawyers to volunteer to provide *pro bono* legal services, including: taking a litigated case or accepting a transaction for a *pro bono* client, providing advice and counseling through a legal hotline, volunteering at a legal clinic, providing legal research, or providing unbundled legal services.

For many lawyers, one obstacle to providing *pro bono* services in the past was the failure of courts to "unbundle" legal services in the context of *pro bono* work. Lawyers may have the appropriate skill set, training or time to provide a portion of the work required in a *pro bono* matter, but not the entire case. In response to this challenge, the Mississippi Supreme Court entered an order on January 28, 2011 creating Rule 6.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct to allow limited representation of clients. Now, attorneys may participate in non-profit legal services programs by providing limited advice or limited legal services conditioned upon the client's informed consent to the short-term or limited nature of the work.

The following organizations offer volunteer opportunities for attorneys in the Greater Jackson Metro Area: the **American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi** (601-355-6464), **Catholic Charities** (601-355-8634), **Mission First Legal Aid Office** (601-608-0056), the **Mississippi Center for Justice** (601-352-2269), the **Mississippi Center for Legal Services** (601-948-6752), the **Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project** (601-960-9577) and the **Southern Poverty Law Center** (601-948-8882). Please contact these organizations directly to volunteer your time to help those in need.

As you offer service to the public and our state, federal and local systems of justice, you will make choices. As a young lawyer, the choices you make now will in large part shape whether you are viewed by the community and your colleagues as someone who believes in helping those in need, or as someone who is too busy or too greedy to provide *pro bono* work. Providing legal services for free or at a reduced rate benefits both the participating *pro bono* lawyer and the client. Do your part to fulfill the Lawyer's Creed and its aspirational ideals concerning public service as an integral part of our system of justice.

*by Tiffany M. Graves*

*Ms. Graves is the Immediate Past President of JYL and the Executive Director and General Counsel of Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.*

## NEW MEMBERS SWORN INTO THE MISSISSIPPI BAR:

On September 26, Jackson Young Lawyers and the Capital Area Bar Association co-hosted a Fall Social, honoring the new Mississippi Bar admittees. Two days earlier, the Mississippi Bar swore in 205 new lawyers to practice in the State of Mississippi, and we invited each of these new lawyers to attend a celebratory event at Sal and Mookies in Jackson.

Well over 50 attorneys attended the event, with a great mix of CABA members, JYL members, and new admittees. The social was an excellent networking opportunity for lawyers of all ages and practice areas. JYL and CABA look forward to co-sponsoring the annual Christmas party in December. Look for an email with details on this festive holiday event.



## A Call for JYL's Participation in the Upcoming Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

By: Charli C. Searcy

On October 26, 2013, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, JYL members are asked to participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at the MS State Capitol, South Steps beginning at 9 a.m.

The Making Strides walk was created to raise money to save lives from breast cancer, which affects 1 in 8 women in the United States. In 2013, it is estimated that there will be 232,340 new cases of invasive breast cancer among women. Although less common, it is also estimated that this year there will be 2,240 new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in men. Clearly, the fight against breast cancer continues.



The JYL Community Service Committee encourages all JYL members to join the fight against breast cancer and participate in the Making Strides walk. To register for the walk, or for more information, please visit [www.makingstridesjackson.org](http://www.makingstridesjackson.org) or email either of the community service committee co-chairs noted below. **When registering for the walk, please join the “Jackson Young Lawyers” team.** In addition, the Community Service Committee has set a modest fundraising goal of \$250 to donate to the American Cancer Society. These proceeds will be used towards preventing, treating and curing breast cancer. Although you can register for the walk without making a donation,

### JYL Fall 2013 Social!

Don't miss the JYL Social for Fall 2013 – ***Bowling at Old Fannin Lanes on Tuesday, November 12, 2013!***

Bowling will begin around 6:00 p.m. Get in on the bowling fun yourself or come cheer on your fellow young lawyers while enjoying tasty appetizers and drinks. We will also have a silent auction, similar to last year, so come ready to bid on some great items! Stay tuned – more information to follow.



### SOLO-PRACTICIONER / SMALL FIRM COMMITTEE FORMED

JYL is pleased to announce a new committee for members who are solo-practitioners or working at smaller firms. This committee has been formed to assist lawyers in this type of practice share ideas on practice management, and share forms or other resources. If you are interested in getting involved with this new JYL committee or have ideas or suggestions, please contact the co-chairs

Chris Weldy  
([Chris@WeldyLawFirm.com](mailto:Chris@WeldyLawFirm.com))

or Baskin Jones  
([baskin@law-inc.com](mailto:baskin@law-inc.com)).



## Advice for a Young Lawyer,

**by: Judge Larry Primeaux, 12th Chancery Court District of Mississippi  
August, 2013**

Now that they have the bar exam behind them, we will soon welcome as colleagues the latest crop of young lawyers. Before they get swallowed up by the demands of their new profession, I thought I would offer some advice on how to be a lawyer and a happy person at the same time. One or two of you who have been in the gristmill for a while may find some of these ideas useful for yourself.

1. Focus on your own story. You are in the legal profession because you are competitive to some degree. So when you're struggling, it's hard to hear that a colleague just hit a million-dollar fee, or a former law school classmate landed a high-paying job. It's not mere envy you feel; it's something like the same feeling a runner gets seeing a competitor break the tape 10 yards ahead.

Yes, it's difficult not to focus on others' gains when they are the talk of the courthouse. The danger is that, when you focus on other people's stories, you tend to lose sight of your own.

Most of what happens in your life is a product of the choices you make. That means that you get to write your own story. You get to define the main character, and you decide the plot, the supporting cast, and the style of the story.

From time to time, stop to read back over your story. How is it going? Do you like the characters? Do you like the way the plot is developing? Should some characters be replaced? How about the tone; is it what you want? Do some parts need to be rewritten or the plot revised to move in a more satisfying direction? Take stock of your own accomplishments. Evaluate where you are in terms of your goals. Give yourself credit for how far you've come. Let the achievements of others inspire you to greater heights, but focus on your own goals and how to accomplish them.

Savor what you have, whether great or meager, and foster a spirit of thankfulness. Most of us, even in modest circumstances, enjoy far more than we will ever really need. And remember that the practice of law is not a zero-sum game. When one lawyer "wins," that does not mean that all other lawyers "lose."

2. Work for more than a paycheck. No matter what you read to the contrary, it's true that your work does define you. It can define you as a greedy, money-grubbing blood-sucker. Or it can define you as a person who makes a difference in the lives of those with whom you come into contact, in your profession, and in your community.

Early in your career you need to make shrewd choices about the work you will do that will define you. One of the advantages of the law is that you have great control over the kind of work that you will do that will define you.

You get to choose work that will fulfill you. Choose to do work that will add value to your clients and yourself. I am not talking about value in terms of dollars, although earning a living is important. I am talking about making sure that your work makes your clients' lives better and makes you a better person. I am talking about working for more than a paycheck.

When all you work for is a paycheck, the only thing in your work that you have to look forward to is payday.

The practice of law takes up a large percentage of your waking life (and sleeping life, for that matter). Do legal work that adds something more than income to your life. Consciously try to make a difference for the good, to leave things better than when you found them. You'll find yourself a happier, more productive and more complete person.



### **Advice for a Young Lawyer (cont.)**

3. Find balance. You may have to work 70 hours a week when you first start practicing, simply because, as you will find, law school merely introduced you to the law and taught you how to think like a lawyer. Only by actually practicing law, however, do you learn how to be a lawyer. That takes an investment of time. But as you grow into lawyerhood and become more efficient, you need to pare down the hours you work to make room in life for some living.

Balance out your law time with family, church, friends, exercise, and quiet time. Paint landscapes. Garden. Cook out. Read something trashy. Listen to music. Go fishing. Get out of town. Bake a cake. Go to a movie. Go out to eat. Hug your kids. Have a romantic evening. Sit under a shady oak tree and watch the clouds. Take a walk. Pray. Nap. Have a tall glass of sweet tea. Enjoy.

And when I say balance, I mean balance. It does no good to squeeze exercise into your life only for it to become an obsession. The same goes for any other endeavors you work into your picture.

4. Be positive; let loose your hatred and resentments. It's easy for lawyers to become cynical and distrustful, to question others' motives, and to harbor hatred and resentments. The more we let the darkness into our lives, the more the light is driven out. Try to focus on the positive. Take note of the negatives, the hurts, the slights and outrageous conduct of others, and learn from them. And then let them go. Let them go and free yourself from them. When you harbor hatred and resentment, you are held hostage by the very person or thing you hate or resent.

5. Keep your worries and fears in perspective. Mark Twain said, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them have never happened." Worries and fears can be paralyzing. Of course, kept in perspective they can be motivating. But too often we let them grow into specters that loom so large that they choke out our judgment and ability to act.

The fact is that most of our worries and fears never come to be. The sooner you take that to heart and live by it the sooner you will be free of their shackles. The sooner you shrink your worries and fears down to their proper size in your life the sooner you will lose the driving need to control everything and everyone in your life.

6. Difficulties are opportunities. Losing a case, disappointing a client, making a mistake, angering a judge; all are part and parcel of practicing law. Get over them, set them aright, and move on to the next thing. The difficulties and struggles of the practice of law are the forces that sculpt you into the kind of lawyer that you will grow to be. How you react to those forces will determine whether you become a polished work of art or a pile of dust.

Every lawyer has a bad day. Decide that you will not let it be any more than that. Adjust to it, set what is wrong aright, and move on to the next thing.

It's called the practice of law because it's a never-ending, ever-evolving process of daily lessons and new possibilities, no matter how long you've been in the profession. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to find a new way, to use your ingenuity and creativity, to offer a new solution.

7. Seek happiness that will endure. Material goods can make us happy. The delicious aroma of leather in a new BMW, the sleek grain of mahogany in your new office table, Ben & Jerry's Red Velvet Cake ice cream, and a new pair of Italian shoes, are all sensory pleasures that we can all appreciate.

The happiness that material goods bring us, however, is like cotton candy. Soon after the pleasurable flavor and sugar high dissipate, we are left with nothing of substance.

## **Advice for a Young Lawyer (cont.)**

You will find that the happiness that will endure comes from what enriches your mind and spirit. Money will not do it. Fame and material goods will not do it. You will have to discover for yourself what truly enriches your own mind and spirit. As you do, you will find a deep happiness that will sustain you through life's changes. The more you nurture that kind of happiness, the stronger and more substantive person you will become. Seek happiness that will endure. Seek richness in mind and spirit. There you will find contentment.

8. Grow where you're planted. Many law students I have spoken with say that they have chosen the legal profession because they want to make a difference in the world. It's a deceptively large ambition.

Most lawyers learn in a short time after law school that it's almost impossible to change much in the world, and, in fact, most of the changing is done to the young lawyer instead. That's okay. It's an important lesson to learn. Most of us will have very little impact on the world at large. That's due in large part to the simple fact that most of us move in small circles, small towns, a small state. So how can one make a real difference in such microscopic circumstances?

To make a real difference, start with your immediate environment. You can influence your family, clients, fellow lawyers, judges, clerks, church, community, and all with whom you come into contact, through your attitude, thoughtfulness, professionalism, good judgment, values, humor, humility, character, patience, faithfulness, kindness, and joy.

You will find that the ripples you send out as you make a splash in your little world will radiate out for good or ill. So make sure they are for good. Ambition is a professional hazard of lawyers. You will see that some lawyers are never satisfied with the small stage they are on, and the role they have to play. They are always anxious and fretful that they are missing out on the bigger show. If you can tailor your own ambitions to fit the scope of the life that you have chosen, you will free yourself of many needless anxieties that sap your energy and enthusiasm, and drain your happiness and joy. When you decide to grow where you are planted, you will find yourself content to make your little world a better, more fulfilling place. You will have made a difference. You will find happiness in that.

9. Avoid sharp objects. People who juggle sharp knives usually get cut.

People who associate with negative, demanding, hurtful, self-centered, boastful, spiteful, selfish, unfaithful, vengeful, dishonest, envious, greedy, abusive, conniving, bitter, crafty, controlling, self-entitled, passive-aggressive, manipulative, lazy, bigoted, crazy, cynical, gossipy, angry, narrow-minded, or shallow individuals are like people who juggle sharp knives.

Sure, you will encounter all of those kinds of people as clients, colleagues, judges, in church, and in your daily comings and goings, but that does not mean that they have to be involved in your life. Deal with them as you must, in due course, and then move on to something, and someone, else. Eschew those kinds of people like you would dangerous objects, because their friendship or involvement in your life is, indeed, fraught with danger. They will poison your attitude and your happiness, and they will kill your spirit if they can.

10. Appearances can be deceiving. You will find that there are lawyers who will look down on you because you don't wear the right suits or shoes, or don't drive the right car, or don't belong to the right firm, or don't handle the right kind of cases. Those poor people see only what is on the surface, when the real value is what is in your mind and soul.

Pay them no mind. Waste no time or effort trying to ingratiate yourself with them. You will never succeed because they need your perceived inferiority to maintain their perceived superiority.

Their values are empty. Reject them. Instead, concentrate on enriching yourself in all the things that do matter and generate enduring happiness. You will be a better person – and lawyer – for it.



# JYL DUES INVOICE

For the June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014 fiscal year

Jackson Young Lawyers  
P.O. Box 22842  
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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 – SEE FORM BELOW)

**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](http://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.

**SOLO-PRACTICIONER / SMALL FIRM COMMITTEE :** been formed to assist lawyers in this type of practice share ideas on practice management and share forms or other resources.

### **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**