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JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS NOVEMBER 2014

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JYL has had a busy and exciting fall! Congratulations go out to the entire newsletter team who won first place in our division for the newsletter at the American Bar Association conference in Boston earlier this year. We appreciate all of the hard work of Lauren Lawhorn, Kaytie Pickett, Lane Staines and Lindsey Watson in revamping the newsletter last year and carrying that work forward this year. We are delighted to see your efforts recognized on a national level.



Our fall speaker panel for the membership meetings has included people who are agents of change in Mississippi. In September, we had the pleasure of hearing from Rachel Canter, Executive Director of Mississippi First, who spoke on education policy and research. In October, we were honored to hear from Governor William Winter who gave an inspiring talk about race relations and his

experience working in public service in Mississippi. Both Ms. Canter and Gov. Winter engaged our membership in a thoughtful dialogue about important issues facing our state. Thanks go out to Alicia Hall and Lee Hill for their efforts with this year's Speaker Committee.

In October, we rolled out the first annual Costumes and

Cornhole Tournament at Fondren Public, which was organized by our Athletic Committee and raised money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi. A gracious thank you to Abram Orlanski, Sam Gregory and John Dollarhide for all of their hard work to get this event off the ground. And thanks to you, our members who donned their finest costumes and supported this event.

JYL has also made contributions to our community through the efforts of Community Service Committee, which has launched a new

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JYL President's Corner continued

ongoing initiative called "Boxtops4Education." Through this program, schools earn ten cents for every box top collected. When you see a product with the Boxtops4Education logo, please clip it, save it and bring it to the next JYL event. We appreciate the contributions to our community through the good work by the Community Service Committee chairs: Stacey Moore Buchanan and Roslyn Griffin.

JYL partnered with the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar for the Lawyers in the Library program at the Eudora Welty Library on October 23rd. This was the first of three events that involve lawyers meeting in fifteen minute, one-on-

one sessions to provide limited legal advice and information on pro bono resources available in Mississippi. The Jackson event served about 35 people seeking advice about expungements, family law, wills and estates, and unemployment/disability issues. Kudos to Simon Bailey and Hunter Aikens for their efforts to make this happen.

The Social Committee has also been hard at work. Earlier this fall, JYL and CABA co-hosted a social to celebrate the new bar admittees, which was a huge success. The two organizations are pairing up again to host the annual Christmas Social, which will be held at the Old Capital Inn on December 2nd. This

event will also serve as a toy drive for Toys for Tots, so remember to bring an unwrapped toy or donation along with you to this fun event. Thank you to Catoria Martin for all of your hard work planning our social events.

JYL has had a great Fall. Thanks to each of you for your contributions that made that happen, and for your continued support throughout the rest of the year and in the new year to come.

**From your 2014-2015 JYL President,
Lindsay Thomas Dowdle**

Costumes & Cornhole Event

Jackson Young Lawyers hosted its first annual Costumes and Cornhole competition at Fondren Public on October 28. Around fifty young attorneys gathered for a fun tournament in the popular tailgating game, and many arrived in spectacular costumes. Between sponsorships, signups, and the silent auction, the event netted over \$2,300 for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi. If you missed out this time, we hope you'll work on both your game and your costuming for the second annual competition next year!



More pictures on Page 8.

Feature

Interview with Dean Scott

Dean Wendy Scott has big goals for Mississippi College School of Law. Since taking over for predecessor Jim Rosenblatt in August of this year, Scott has developed specific aspirations for the law school. In an interview with JYL, Scott was kind enough to share her thoughts.

Noting that the law school has an advantageous location in the heart of downtown Jackson, Scott first hopes to improve the clinical offerings available to students. While emphasizing that nothing can quite duplicate the practice of law with experienced lawyers, Scott believes the law school can do more to make students more practice-ready upon graduation. In the same vein, Scott sees the need for additional courses in business or law office management as more graduates go into business for themselves. These changes, Scott notes, are consistent with the realities of lawyers graduating in this market.

Still, not all of Scott's goals involve experiential learning. She also hopes to grow the academic breadth of course offerings at the school. This can be accomplished in part, Scott says, by growing the faculty as the market allows. By doing this, Scott hopes to see some fresh courses in the future. In fact,

Scott may herself teach in one of her personal areas of expertise, Women in the Law.

Undoubtedly, Scott's background makes her an able candidate to achieve these goals, and more. Upon graduating from New York University School of Law, Scott entered law practice. While she spent some time in private practice, she devoted nine years to public interest law in New York City. Thereafter, she entered the academic world, teaching for seventeen years at Tulane Law School and serving as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. Sadly, Dean Scott, her husband Eddie, and son Christian lost their home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. As a result, Scott moved to North Carolina Central University School of Law, where she taught and served as Associate Dean through 2014.

It was in North Carolina that Dean Scott became aware that there was an opening for Dean at



Mississippi College School of Law. Scott was impressed by the commitment of the faculty and the energy of the students at MC, and was thrilled to accept the position as Dean. With their help, Scott hopes to grow the law school to provide the best possible educational experience to each and every student.

Event Recap

Swearing in Ceremony

JYL President Lindsay Dowdle and Membership Committee Chair Erin Saltaformaggio greeted new admittees at the Fall Bar Admissions Ceremony in September 2014. The ceremony was held at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson, Mississippi, and was officiated by judges from

all courts in our state. Lindsay and Erin invited local admittees to join JYL and discussed the benefits of membership—including our updated newsletter, free lunch programs and CLE offerings, and community-service opportunities.



Lawyers in the Library

JYL and the Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division hosted a Lawyers in the Library event at the Eudora Welty Library on October 23, 2014. The event was cosponsored by the Capital Area Bar Association, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission and was in partnership with the Jackson Hinds Library System. Volunteer attorneys met with participants in 20 minute, one on one sessions to provide limited legal advice and information on pro bono resources available in Mississippi. Advice topics will include Criminal Law & Expungements, Family Law & Child Custody, Wills & Estates, and Social Security & Disability Benefits. Much thanks to the Outreach Committee for planning this event and making it a success!

Event Recap

Membership Meetings

The Jackson Young Lawyers Speakers Committee is excited to present a Fall Speaker Series featuring “Agents of Change in Mississippi.” This series is inspiring our membership to learn more about the important issues facing our State and to be engaged in our community in meaningful ways.

September Membership Meeting: Rachel Cantor



Following an unexpected power outage in downtown Jackson, our first speaker graciously agreed to speak at a rescheduled lunch meeting on September 26. Rachel Cantor,

Executive Director of Mississippi First (<http://www.mississippifirst.org/>) presented,

and she was joined by the organization’s Deputy Director of Policy, Angela Bass. Mississippi First is a non-partisan, non-profit organization specializing in education policy research and advocacy. In 2013, Mississippi First was named Game Changer of the Year for the Policy Innovators in Education Network for their work. In 2014, Rachel and her co-founder, Sanford Johnson, were named finalists for the Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership, an award honoring Teach For America alumni who make transformational change.

- Mississippi First has passed two pieces of watershed education legislation – the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013, which established state-funded preK, and the Charter Schools Act of 2013, which allows charter schools to open. Mississippi First remains involved with implementation of these laws.
- Mississippi First also helped the school districts with the highest teen birth rates in the State to adopt evidence-based sex education programs.

- Rachel spoke with our group primarily about Common Core, debunking misconceptions and myths about the program. Mississippi First supports Common Core as the best method for promoting excellence in education in our State. While the program set benchmarks for grade-specific accomplishments, it gives schools the freedom to choose curriculum that works for each school. More information can be found at www.commoncorems.org.
- Finally, Rachel called on our membership to assist with several projects, including advice about the group’s tax exempt status, and research related to the Vegara v. California decision. These projects are excellent pro bono opportunities for our membership. Please contact Rachel Cantor (rachel@mississippifirst.org) if you are interested in using your legal skills to make a difference with this organization.

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October Membership Meeting: Governor William F. Winter

We were honored to have William F. Winter, Mississippi's 58th governor, speak with our membership at the October meeting. William Winter was and continues to be an agent of change in Mississippi, particularly with education reform and race reconciliation. During his governorship, the Mississippi Education Reform Act of 1982 ushered in mandatory statewide public kindergarten and compulsory school attendance, raised standards for teacher and student performance, and created a lay board of education. His administration also successfully rewrote the state public utilities law when the legislature passed the Public Utilities Reform Act. In 1998, Governor Winter received the Mississippi Bar's Lifetime Achievement Award. Winter was a member of President Clinton's National Advisory Board on Race in 1997-1998. He helped organize the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at UM in 1999 and in 2008 received the Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston. Governor Winter currently serves as special counsel with the Jones Walker law firm. He is married to the former Elise Varner, and they have three daughters, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

As always, Governor Winter was inspiring, earnest, and humorous. With his knack for



storytelling, he related valuable lessons.

- Governor Winter attended the University of Mississippi for undergraduate and law school, and he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives while still in law school. Mississippi was the last state to adopt a Worker's Compensation law in 1948, and Governor Winter worked with his colleagues in the House to help ensure passage of the bill. He joked that when he returned to law school the

next semester, he had to take a course in Mississippi worker's compensation law!

- Sometimes the smallest efforts make the biggest impact, on the recipient and the benefactor. During his final year in the Governor's office, Winter helped State Line, a small town in Mississippi, secure a much-needed well for clean water. He graciously agreed to fly down to "christen" the new water well, which he admitted was a new one for him! Taking the State helicopter south from Jackson, with railroad tracks as their best navigator, the Governor finally arrived at the water well ceremony and executed his official duties. The town Mayor mentioned that he had never been on a helicopter, and, of course, Governor Winter graciously agreed to take the Mayor up above his town. As they hovered above the crowd and the new water well, the Mayor commented that it was "the highest up he had ever been." Taking the moment in for all that it meant, the Governor commented that he "knew exactly what he meant."
- Finally, Governor Winter called on JYL membership to be leaders, pushing aside partisan politics and working toward results in our State. Expressing characteristic positivity, the Governor remarked that we will be a part of great progress in Mississippi's future.

Philanthropy

The Mississippi Blues Marathon Needs Our Help!

On January 10, 2015, for the eighth consecutive year, JYL Members are needed to greet runners and hand out water and Gatorade at the 2014 Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half-Marathon.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stacey Moore Buchanan at SRMooreEsq@gmail.com or Roslyn Griffin at griffinr@phelps.com as soon as possible. The first 15 volunteers get a t- shirt, so act quickly!

Sunnybrook Children's Home Project

Back-to-school time may be over, but the time to give is not. As we go into the season of giving thanks, let's use our resources to help give to those less fortunate. If you have not had a chance to donate to JYL's Sunnybrook Children's Home project, please take this opportunity to do so. If you don't have time to stop at the store and make a purchase, don't

worry! Monetary donations are accepted. If you have any questions or would like to donate, contact Stacey Moore Buchanan at SRMooreEsq@gmail.com or Roslyn Griffin at griffinr@phelps.com. We are only a few weeks away from Thanksgiving and know we can pull out a strong JYL showing and show these children that JYL cares!

Toys for Tots Christmas Social

JYL will host its annual Toys for Tots Christmas Social with CABA on December 2, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Old Capitol Inn. This is always an awesome event, with good food, drink, and conversation. More importantly, it is a wonderful opportunity to help Toys for Tots fulfill their mission that no child wakes up on Christmas morning without a gift, so be sure to bring a present to donate. We look forward to seeing you there!



[Click to learn more about Toys for Tots.](#)

Philanthropy

Boxtops for Education

As a new ongoing initiative, the JYL Community Service Committee will collect “Boxtops4Education.” Schools earn \$0.10 for every box top collected. Cost to you is nothing but a pair of scissors and a Ziploc bag to bring them in! Whenever you see a product with the “Boxtops4Education” logo, clip it, save it, and bring it to the next JYL meeting. You can also mail Boxtops to Stacey Moore Buchanan at Simpson Law Firm, P.A., P.O. Box 1410, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158 or Roslyn Griffin at Phelps Dunbar, LLP at 4270 I-55 North, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Let’s help support education in Mississippi!



[Click to learn more about Boxtops for Education.](#)

Costume & Cornhole Event photos continued

