
JYL

JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS

JANUARY 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! JYL closed out 2013 with a successful Barrister's Bowl, which was organized by our Athletic Committee and raised over \$2,000.00 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi, and made numerous other contributions to our community through the efforts of our Community Service Committee. We appreciate the good work of those committee chairs: Reed Nunnelee, Elliott Flaggs, Sabrina Ruffin, Nakimuli Davis, and Charli Searcy. And thanks to all of you, our members, for supporting their efforts.

We also ended our 2013 membership meetings on a high note with an address by U.S. District Judge Carlton W. Reeves, Jr. at our December luncheon. Judge Reeves spoke frankly about our duties of civility to one another and our responsibility to volunteer our time and expertise as attorneys, either through the Criminal Justice Act attorney-appointment program or another outlet for pro bono services. As Judge Reeves reminded us, our adversarial system does not function at its peak unless all parties in the justice system are adequately represented.

JYL is off to a great start in 2014 as well. Earlier this month, the Community Service Committee continued JYL's tradition of providing volunteers for a water-station along the Mississippi Blues Marathon route.

This year, we were stationed at Mile 22 of the marathon – the “hilly” part, according to more than a few grumbling runners. From my observations, the enthusiasm of the JYL volunteers was about the only thing that kept some runners going at that late stage of the race!

The Community Outreach Committee has released the JYL Community Outreach Grant application for 2014. The grant provides from \$500.00 to \$3,000.00 to support the mission of service-oriented organizations in our community.

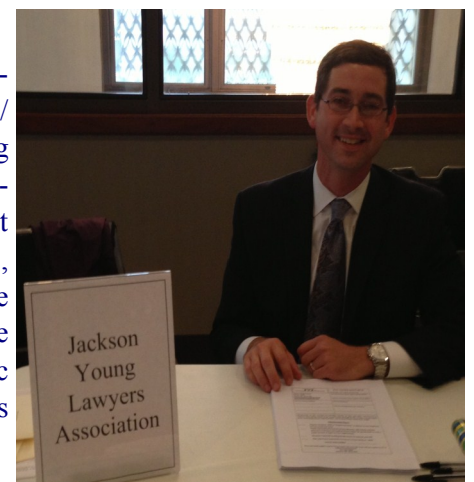
If you know of worthy organizations, please encourage them to apply; the grant application is posted on JYL's website. Thank you to committee chairs Hunter Aikens and Kristen Blanchard for their work on this grant.

The Athletic Committee has begun preparations for the Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk, JYL's signature event supporting the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. The race will be run (or walked, at the entrant's discretion) on March 8, 2014. You can support the Legal Beagle and MVLP by participating in the race or by volunteering to assist the Athletic Committee with pre-race preparations and event-day needs.

Finally, JYL is excited to have Judge Leslie H. Southwick of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit as our first guest speaker in 2014. Judge Southwick will join us at the January 31 membership meeting where he will discuss his newly-published book, *The Nominee*, which provides a rare behind-the-scenes look at the judicial confirmation process. I hope you can attend.

Thanks to each of you for your contributions to JYL in 2013 and for your continued support in this new year.

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



An Update on the Mississippi College School of Law from Dean Rosenblatt

General. Our students completed the fall semester in good order and are preparing for the spring semester. Our December graduates are in the midst of their bar review courses making ready for the February bar examination. Our students who are in our Mexico program are completing their intersession course.

Intersession. Additional intersession courses are taking place in the first two weeks of January. These are concentrated courses that require the students' full attention and provide an opportunity for focused study in a particular area like Trial Practice as well as additional credit hours.

Admissions. MC Law seeks applicants who are serious about the study of law. We value those who have a heart for service to others and who delight in finding solutions to problems. MC Law uses a "whole person" concept in admissions and considers factors such as leadership, service, commitment, work experience, military service, and community involvement as well as grades and LSAT score. There is no application fee if one applies on-line through the LSAC. Merit scholarships are available. New development--MC Law offers a two-year JD program for highly motivated and qualified students. Admissions questions can be directed to Admissions@mc.edu. We welcome visits by applicants, which can be scheduled by emailing BRCole@mc.edu.

Law Courses. The MC Law faculty has voted to allow practicing attorneys to take upper level courses at MC Law with the permission of the professor and on a space available basis. The MC Law academic catalog at www.law.mc.edu/academics/course-catalog will show the courses MC Law offers. The Director of Law School Records at Burnett@mc.edu can provide assistance to attorneys to register for courses.

International Program. MC Law continues to expand the horizons of its students through its overseas study program. Students will travel to Cuba over spring break and to China/Seoul, Korea; Berlin, Germany; and Lille, France in the summer. This summer we will also welcome a new cohort of international attorneys to our LLM program in American Legal Studies.

Career Services/Pro Bono. On-campus interviews for the 1L students will begin in February as well as the registration process for our public interest fellowships for the summer. Students are encouraged to volunteer at the Mission First Legal Aid Office or the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyer Project to gain experience in client interviewing and substantive legal issues.

Law Review. The spring MC Law Review Symposium will focus on Civil Rights. Additional publicity will be published in the Bar Newsletter. Save the date for March 21, 2014.

CLE. MC Law continues its active on-campus CLE program. The listing of offerings and registration information is available at www.law.mc.edu/cle.

Update from Dean Rosenblatt (continued)

Legal Publications. The publishing arm of MC Law is Mississippi Law Institute Press (MLI Press) offers a number of helpful Mississippi treatises and books at www.law.mc.edu/publicatons.

Moot Court. The MC Law moot court teams continue their preparation for regional and national competitions in the spring in areas including bankruptcy, appellate advocacy, and negotiations.

We are grateful to the many attorneys who coach our teams and work with them during the practice phase. The Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush Appellate Advocacy Competition concluded with an argument at the Mississippi Supreme Court. Over 200 Mississippi attorneys assisted by serving as judges in the preliminary rounds. We are grateful for this support and for Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush's sponsorship.

Alumni. We will honor the 19 MC Law graduates who serve in the Mississippi Legislature at our luncheon on February 5, 2014. Family Day will be held on February 14, 2014. Signups continue for our Memorial Day trip (May 27, 2014) to Washington, DC to be sworn into practice at the US Supreme Court. Our Alumni Reunion and Scholarship Auction will be held on April 12, 2014 at the King Edward/Hilton Garden Inn and will feature our classes with years ending in a 4 or 9 as well as the 25 year class of 1989. Contact Karen Flowers for more information at KFlowers@mc.edu. We are grateful to those who serve on our Alumni Board as well those who lead their classes.

Development. The classes of 2012 & 2013 continue to shine in their support of the Annual Fund. We are pleased with the ever-increasing participation in this event so important to MC Law.

Supreme Court Speaker Series. MC Law seeks speakers who have argued cases at the US Supreme Court. Suggestions may be offered to Professor Vicki Lowery at Lowery@mc.edu.

Legal Research. MC Law offers the legal community and the public free research tools. See the helpful Mississippi Legal Resources app at www.law.mc.edu/mlr; the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals brief bank and video archive at www.law.mc.edu/judicial; and the Mississippi Legislative History Project at www.law.mc.edu/legislature. We provide these resources as a service in return for the wonderful and generous support we receive from the legal community.

Amicus. The next issue of our alumni magazine will mail in January and features the involvement of our graduates in child advocacy and family issues.

Graduation. Our spring graduation will be at 10:00 am on Friday, May 16, 2014 at First Baptist Church in Jackson. Retired US Supreme Court Clerk Major General (Retired) William Suter will be the guest speaker. We will also honor US Magistrate Judges Mike Parker and Linda Anderson.

Closing. We are grateful for the support, assistance, and courtesies we receive from the Young Lawyers and from the Mississippi attorneys and judges.

An Update on the University of Mississippi School of Law from Dean Gershon

2013 was a great year for Ole Miss Law School.

In 2013, we implemented new programs that will increase opportunities for our students and will improve their marketability. The January Skills Session brings our students, practicing lawyers, and sitting judges together for two weeks of intensive instruction in the skills and professionalism they will need as they enter the practice of law. <http://law.olemiss.edu/law-school-announces-skill-session-teachers-for-2014/>

Our LL.M. program in Aviation and Space Law, which has received much favorable national press, builds on Ole Miss Law School's national reputation as a leader in Aviation and Space Law. <http://law.olemiss.edu/usa-today-new-university-programs-will-train-space-lawyers/>

In 2013, we initiated 3+3 programs with both the Honors College and the School of Engineering. The 3+3 programs reduce the cost of a student's education by allowing them to complete their undergraduate and law degrees in 6 years, rather than 7. <http://law.olemiss.edu/pre-law-emphasis-gives-engineering-majors-two-degrees-in-six-years/>

We were also proud to open our Business Law Institute, which has leveraged Ole Miss Law School's most valuable asset – an expert faculty committed to teaching – by placing the faculty's top business law experts in a shared office space with students. In conjunction with the Business Law Institute, we now offer a Business Law Certificate. <http://law.olemiss.edu/business-law-institute-sets-new-standard-for-business-law-education/>

As we look to 2014, we will be opening the MacArthur Justice Clinic with a grant from the Roderick MacArthur Foundation. The addition of this clinic will mean that Ole Miss Law School will offer 11 clinical experiences for our students. <http://law.olemiss.edu/academics-programs/clinics/>

Also in 2014, Ole Miss Law School will be hosting the CLEO Six Week Summer Institute for the third year in a row. <http://cleodivercitynetwork.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=569&parentID=673&nodeID=1>

Everyone at Ole Miss Law School wishes you a wonderful New Year!

All best wishes,

Richard

**Spread the Word...
2014 JYL Community
Outreach Grant**

The Jackson Young Lawyers Community Outreach Committee is currently accepting applications for the 2014 Community Outreach Grant. The Committee will award around \$3,000 in grant funds to tax-exempt charitable organizations in the Jackson Metro Area that assist people without financial means or with special needs. Grant applications are available on the JYL website at: <http://www.jacksonyounglawyers.com>. The deadline to apply is February 21, 2014. For further information, please contact Hunter Aikens at haike@ospd.ms.gov or (601)-576-4208. Please forward this information to any organization(s) in the area that you think would be interested.

Get the blues! The 2014 Blues Marathon was a Huge Success!

The 7th annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half Marathon was held on Saturday, January 11, 2013. The Blues Marathon is nationally-renowned for its hospitality, and this year's race only bolstered that reputation. Indeed, for the first time in the event's history, runners from all 50 states were represented. Runners began and ended their 26.2 mile (or 13.1) tour of the city at 7:00 a.m at the Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

The race course also took runners through parts of Downtown Jackson, Belhaven, Fondren, Eastover and Northeast Jackson. A big thanks to the JYL volunteers who had a part in making this year's race a success by handing out water and Gatorade at JYL's aid station.

JYL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your Calendars for the Legal Beagle! JYL will once again be sponsoring the annual Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. The event will take place on Saturday, March 8, 2014. More details about registration, times, course and awards coming soon. Please see the Registration Form attached to this Newsletter to register or go to the link on JYL's website listed below and register there at: http://www.jacksonyounglawyers.com/legal_beagle.html

Pro Bono Clinic Event: The Mission First Legal Aid Office and Jackson Young Lawyers will partner this Spring for a CLE and pro bono clinic event focused on guardianship. It will be a great opportunity to help meet a need for our metro area while also earning CLE credit. More details, including date and time, coming soon.

2013 JYL/CABA Christmas Party

The Capitol Area Bar Association and Jackson Young Lawyers hosted their joint annual Christmas Party at the Old Capitol Inn on Thursday evening, December 5, 2013. The party was once again a great success. Not only was fun and fellowship had by all who attended, but also three BIG boxes of toys were collected for Toys for Tots! Thanks to all who contributed.



LEGAL BEAGLE 5K Run/Walk

USATF CERTIFIED COURSE (MS13003MS)



Sponsored by: *THE JACKSON YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION*
to benefit *THE MS VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT*

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Registration: 7:00 a.m.

Run/Walk Start: 8:15 a.m.



Refreshments by Beagle Bagel!

A MS Track Club GRAND PRIX Event!

Door Prizes by Fleet Feet Sports!

Join Jackson Young Lawyers and other sponsors for this fun filled run/walk on the **OLD PHIDIPPIDES WATERMELON CLASSIC 5K (3.1 miles) COURSE**, a flat and fast USATF certified course through residential streets of Northeast Jackson. The run will start on Old Canton Road near the LeFleur Station Post Office and finish alongside the I-55 Kroger on Jacksonian Plaza. Run proceeds will benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Mississippi Bar Association, which places pro bono cases for underprivileged people with volunteer lawyers. There will be awards for M/F runners and walkers for overall, masters, grand masters, and senior masters and top three awards for the standard 5 year age groups from under 14 to over 70 (10 year age groups in the walk). There will be a trophy for the firm or business with the most overall participants. The popular long-sleeve Legal Beagle T-shirts are included in the race materials and are also available for sale without race entry. A one mile fun run will be held at 9:15 a.m. In the fun run, there will be awards for overall male and female, and top three awards in the following age groups: 5 & under, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, & 13-15. Race day registration will be held in the parking lot of Regions Bank alongside the I-55 Kroger (between the post office and the old Krystal). Packet pickup for pre-registered participants will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Fleet Feet Sports on Hwy. 51 in Ridgeland on Friday, March 7, 2014.

****Team competition (5K run and walk only):** Teams may have 3 to 5 members, but only the top 3 finishers for each team will be scored. Please submit entry forms for each team member, and send all entries and fees in a single envelope. Each team must provide a team name. Team registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Team registration fee is \$60. Awards to top 3 teams in 5K run and walk.

***** Stroller division:** Awards for overall male and female (5K run only)!

For more information contact Reed Nunnelee at 601-973-8788 or at rnunnelee@brunimi.com

REGISTRATION FORM

5K RUN:

5K WALK:

1 MILE FUN RUN: (children 15 and under)

Name: _____ Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: (as of March 8, 2014) _____ Male: Female:

T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL (\$2.00 extra)

Name of Participant's Firm or Business: _____ Name of Team (if applicable): _____

Cost: Pre-registered by cash/check (5K run and walk): \$20; fun run: \$15 online pre-registration via website: \$21 (\$16 for fun run)

Race Day (5K run and walk): \$25

Race Day (fun run): \$20

Team Pre-registration only (5K run and walk only): \$60

Family (5 maximum): \$60

T-shirt only: \$15

**Make checks payable to:
Jackson Young Lawyers Assoc.**

Release and Waiver

I, the undersigned, in consideration of acceptance of the entry and registration as participant in the Legal Beagle 5K, waive any and all claims which I and my heirs or assigns may now or hereafter have against Jackson Young Lawyers Association, its members, the Mississippi Track Club, Inc., Express Printing, Inc., Regions Bank, and all officials, volunteers and sponsors of the Legal Beagle 5K which may indirectly or directly result from my participation in the Legal Beagle 5K. I further warrant and represent that I am in proper physical condition to participate in the Legal Beagle 5K and am not participating in this event against physician's advice nor am I taking medications which would impair my health or ability to participate in the Legal Beagle 5K.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: (if participant is under 18): _____

**Mail Registration Forms to: Mississippi Track Club, P.O. Box 1414, Ridgeland, MS 39157
or visit www.jacksonyounglawyers.com to register online**

December 2013 JYL Luncheon

JYL was honored to have Judge Carlton Reeves as the Guest Speaker at December's Membership luncheon on December 5, 2013. Judge Reeves is a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. He graduated magna cum laude from Jackson State University with a BA degree, then earned his Juris Doctor from University of Virginia School of Law. On April 28, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Reeves to the court. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on December 19, 2010. He replaced Judge William Barbour.

Judge Reeves spoke to a packed house at Hal & Mal's about the realignment of the Southern District of Mississippi into four divisions (the Northern Division at Jackson, the Eastern Division at Hattiesburg, the Western Division at Natchez, and the Southern Division at Gulfport) and the practical implications of that realignment. Judge Reeves also spoke about the recent changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, effective December 1, 2013, again pointing out practical implications of those changes.



Volunteering Opportunities at Mission First

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Proverbs 31:8-9

Malcolm* and Linda* wanted to amend their six children’s birth certificates to add Malcolm as father and to change the children’s last name to his. Although the couple had been together for fifteen years, they had only recently married and were trying to get everything right.” Both Malcolm and Linda work full-time for a cleaning service, but their combined wages did not leave any extra money for hiring an attorney, paying the court fees and obtaining six corrected birth certificates. That’s when Mission First Legal Aid Office and Volunteer LeAnn Nealy stepped in to help. Every year our volunteers join our staff to make a difference in the lives of our low-income neighbors.

Mission First Legal Aid Office is a partnership between Mississippi College School of Law and Mission First, Inc., a multi-faceted ministry located in west Jackson. Established in 2006, the primary mission of the Legal Aid Office is to provide civil legal services to the working poor in Hinds, Madison and Rankin Counties.

Mission First stands in the gap to help persons whose household income is too high to qualify for help through other civil legal providers but too low to afford a private attorney.

We take a holistic approach to address the underlying problems faced by clients that may be causing or contributing to the immediate legal issue. While the staff and many of its volunteers are motivated to serve out of their personal faith, Mission First Legal Aid Office does not limit its services to any race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion or any other basis other than emphasizing service for low-income persons.

With a full-time staff of only three, Mission First Legal Aid relies on volunteer lawyers and law students to serve more than 1,200 clients every year. Volunteer opportunities for attorneys include conducting the initial client interview, giving advice and counsel, accepting a case, and/or mentoring a colleague with less experience in the practice area. Mission First offers CLE training and professional liability insurance coverage on all cases accepted through it.

Volunteers realize the satisfaction that comes from using their legal talents and expertise to help those who have nowhere else to turn. Lawyers who volunteer with the Mission First Legal Aid Office truly have the opportunity to change lives. If you would like to volunteer with the Mission First Legal Aid Office, please contact Director Patti Gandy at gandy@mc.edu or 601-608-0056.

- Names have been changed.

By: Patti Gandy, Director of Mission First Legal Aid Office

Wearing Two Hats: How One Jackson Young Lawyer Balances Two Disparate Careers

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty is a popular short story and movie for a reason: most people like to fantasize about escaping their humdrum jobs. This is no less true of lawyers, many of whom entered law school picturing something closer to *Law & Order* than reviewing documents. Faced with the reality of practicing law, many of us daydream about becoming chefs, professors, artists, activists, or writers.

The difference between Jackson lawyer Kimberly S. Sweeney and most lawyers is that she isn't content to sit back and daydream. Instead, she is building a practice as a solo practitioner while teaching pole fitness and opening her own pole dancing studio. Intrigued and impressed, I asked Kim questions about how she makes these two wildly different careers fit together.

What led you to become an attorney? What is your law practice like?

I became an attorney because I've always wanted to own my own business. I knew no matter what type of business I would own, I would have to interact with attorneys for contracts and negotiations. So I figured I would save money in the long run by becoming an attorney rather than paying one to handle my legal matters. I have been practicing law since April 2012. I started as an associate attorney at Goss and Williams PLLC, and on December 1, 2013, I hung my own shingle and formed The Law Office of Kimberly S. Sweeney, PLLC. I also serve of counsel for Jordan, Carter, Body, PLLC. My areas of practice are Bankruptcy, Family Law, Criminal Defense, and Personal Injury. I share a suite with Jordan, Carter, Body, PLLC, City of Jackson Municipal Judge June Hardwick, and Frank Jones

How did you get started in pole fitness?

I sort of became a pole instructor by mistake. I have always loved fitness in dance and movement form. I had begun preparing for the MS bar exam and decided to join a local pole studio to help with stress. I caught on very quickly and became a star student, achieving the highest level taught at the studio. After a year, I became an instructor at the studio and started teaching classes. I loved teaching women moves that they were initially so afraid they couldn't do. The look of accomplishment on their faces and how they started to relax and have fun after having a challenging day with work, kids or life period. It was an escape from the norm.

I have been a pole fitness instructor since early 2012. Certification is not required to become a pole fitness instructor, but when I purchased my own stand-alone portable pole, I went with my two co-instructors (Jacqueline Mitchell and Crystal Penegar) to Atlanta, GA for certification at Vertical Joe Fitness in August 2013. As a pole instructor, I am responsible for demonstrating and teaching proper pole movement technique and execution to women that are interested in alternative fitness for weight loss, strength training or as a self-confidence booster.

How do you combat misconceptions about pole fitness?

The most common misconception is the first image that comes to mind: strip club. Pole dancing IS NOT stripping, and I have to define the term "stripper" to many people on a daily basis. A stripper removes her/his clothing for compensation; a pole has nothing to do with the act of stripping. Pole Dance and Fitness has a history that derives from China and India; it is performed by both men and women.

Wearing Two Hats... (continued)

It's similar to being an attorney---when a potential fitness client contacts me, I consult with them to see what benefit they are seeking from pole fitness. Some clients want a temporary experience, such as a pole party or a quick routine; others want long term results such as weight loss, training, or a healthy lifestyle change.

There is an International Pole Dance Fitness Association (IPDFA) that is currently petitioning the International Olympic Committee to recognize pole fitness as a sport. Pole fitness may make its debut in the 2016 Olympics. There are international, national & regional competitions in pole fitness now and have been since 2005.

I combat the misconceptions through educating people about the true history and benefits of pole fitness and encouraging them to open their minds. I show people footage of various competitions on You Tube and video of myself and my pole co-instructor performing in the Galveston Bay Area Pole Competition in Houston, TX in July 2013. After all, this is a society that once did not allow women to become attorneys, that did not allow women to vote, that viewed black people as property, that did not allow African Americans to attend law school...because of the change of mindset first and laws later, I am now a citizen of the USA as African American female attorney.

How do you manage two careers?

Surprisingly, so far it has been easy managing the two. Since my pole business is mobile, I set the hours, days and schedules of pole parties, demos, or private lessons. I started out primarily on the weekends, and I stayed booked every Friday night, Saturday and some Sundays. Since opening my own firm, I have flexibility of

teaching afternoon classes when I do not have hearings or appointments.

I am flexible with my pole clients' schedules, and they are flexible with mine since practicing law is my primary obligation. But usually I stick to a strictly-after-6-on-weekdays or week-end-only schedule, which works out for me perfectly.

How do your careers intermesh? How do your clients react to learning you have a second job?

It is amazing how what seem to be two extremes perfectly harmonize. I was fortunate in that Goss & Williams embraced my active pole fitness lifestyle as a plus because the partners were equally engaged in fitness programs to maintain healthy lifestyles. I have often handled divorces and been hired to host divorce pole parties. I have been referred to friends of clients to host many parties for birthdays, bachelorette, and other celebratory events.

My legal clients have often told me that female attorneys have the worst attitudes, are not approachable, and come off as being judgmental. Clients are already stressed when they are seeking legal help and are often inclined not to reveal every aspect of their situation due to embarrassment and judgment. Poling keeps me grounded and approachable. All my clients love the fact that I am a professional that knows how to let her hair down and relax. The women legal clients enjoy the fact that they can engage with me aside from practicing law, therefore it doesn't feel like I am interrogating them or judging them. It creates a more open relationship. Even with my legal male clients, they feel less intimidated and often refer me to their significant others.

Wearing Two Hats... (continued)

When I tell a pole client that I am an attorney, they are very surprised and embrace the idea that I am a regular woman who has a life outside of the business suit and title. As a result, about 90% of the women I have met through teaching pole classes have called me first to handle a legal matter. I was turning away clients or referring them to other attorneys left and right because Goss & Williams did not handle any areas outside of Bankruptcy, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation and some Family Law. So opening my own firm became the perfect solution. Usually a business opens and targets markets for customers. My target market forced me to open a business.

Where do you see your careers going in the future?

In the immediate future (Spring 2014) I, along with my two co-instructors Jacqueline Mitchell and Crystal Penegar, are opening a pole dance and fitness studio called Taboo. It will be located literally less than a mile away from my law office downtown on South State Street. We will have a partnership with Tyrone Hargo Sports, LLC, owned by personal trainer Tyrone Hargo, to create a fitness facility that will offer a variety of fitness programs such as group fitness and dance, personal training, and both pole and fitness competition training for both men and women.

The Law Office of Kimberly S. Sweeney, PLLC will definitely grow in the areas of Bankruptcy, Family Law, Personal Injury and Criminal Defense. I am looking forward to working with MC Law externship program

by Fall 2014 to provide opportunities for law students to experience the practice of law. In addition, I have been selected to serve on the committee that will develop the Domestic Violence Court for the city of Jackson, which will definitely positively impact my practice in the Family Law and Criminal Defense areas.

What advice would you have for a fellow young lawyer who wants to build a second career?

A young lawyer developing a second career also needs a strong support system. For me, this means having business partners with the same vision, work ethic, and passion but with different personalities. I have two partners and co-instructors in pole fitness: Jacqueline Mitchell, the lead event coordinator of the City of Jackson Convention center, and Crystal Penegar, IT Specialist at University Medical Center.

We are all professional women that have a passion for pole fitness and practice at least 3 times a week, a minimum of 4 hours each practice. We all have strengths that we bring to our pole fitness program: Jacqueline is a choreographer of dance and step with a B.A. degree in Sports Medicine and an M.S. degree in Sports Management & Leadership; Crystal trains in strength and stamina; and I train in fluidity and flexibility.

My main piece of advice, however, is the same advice I would give for choosing your primary career: choose something that you have such a passion for that you would do it for free. Never go into a career solely for money. If you do something just for money, you will do anything for money, and that is a dangerous place to be for moral and ethical reasons.
