

JYL President's Corner — February 2016



Lane Williamson Staines
President,
Jackson Young Lawyers

Happy 2016! In some ways, New Year's Day seems a lifetime ago, and in others, it is hard to believe we are already nearly two full months into the year!

JYL began 2016 by continuing our tradition of

volunteering for the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon. A number of volunteers gathered at our water station near Smith Wills stadium and handed out thousands of cups of water and Gatorade (and maybe even a few donuts) to runners. Many thanks to Brent Cole and Andrew Harris, our Community Service Chairs, for their hard work on this service project!

In January, we also held our first membership meeting of 2016 and were pleased to have a great crowd attending and to have Marshall Ramsey as our speaker. We'll host our second membership meeting on Friday, Feb. 26th at Hal and Mal's. This meeting will be our annual CLE

meeting, so please arrive early so we can begin the one-hour CLE promptly at noon. Newly-appointed Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Dawn Beam will be our featured speaker.

As you may know, we are also currently accepting applications for our outreach grant program. Applications are available on our website, www.jacksonyounglawyers.com. Please encourage your contacts with local nonprofit organizations to apply for this \$2,000 grant. Did you know that JYL's grant program was recognized nationally with an award last year at the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Annual Meeting? We are so appreciative of the work of this year's chairs, Allyson Winter and Adrienne Aikens, and their dedicated committee who will review each application before recommending a winner for approval by the Executive Committee.

March 12th is shaping up to be a big day for JYL as well! We'll host our annual Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk, with race day registration being held at the Regions Bank at Jacksonian Plaza near the I-55 Kroger. Interested in pre-registering?

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JYL President's Corner continued

We've included a registration form on the last page of this newsletter! We also welcome you or your employer as a sponsor of this year's Legal Beagle! For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Sam Gregory, one of our JYL Athletic Committee Chairs and this year's Legal Beagle Chair, at sdgregory@bakerdonelson.com. Regardless of whether you'd like to participate, we'd love to see you at the race. Our racers could use a few cheerleaders!

Finally, on a more general note, our Executive Committee would like to hear from you! We are always eager to hear your ideas regarding community service projects, engaging new members, improving membership meeting attendance, etc. If you are a government attorney or law clerk, I would especially love to hear from you and how we can draw more government attorneys and law clerks into our membership! Please feel free to reach out to me at lstaines@brunini.com or to another Executive Committee member to share your ideas.

See you on Feb. 26th!

Your JYL President,

Lane Williamson Staines

Jackson Young Lawyers Association to Host Annual Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, March 12th

The Jackson Young Lawyers Association (JYL) will be sponsoring the annual Legal Beagle 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 12 on the Old Phidippides Watermelon Classic 5K (3.1 miles) Course, a flat and fast USATF certified course through residential streets of Northeast Jackson. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m. The Run/Walk will begin at 8:15 a.m. Beagle Bagel will provide refreshments for the event.

There will be awards for male and female 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. There will also be a trophy for the firm or business with the most overall participants. For teams who wish to compete, teams may have 3 to 5 members, but only the top 3 finishers for each team will be scored. Each team must provide a team name.

Complete the registration form on the last page of this newsletter, or register online at www.jacksonyounglawyers.com. For more information, contact Samuel Gregory at sdgregory@bakerdonelson.com.



Philanthropy

Volunteering at the Blues Marathon

For the ninth year in a row, the Jackson Young Lawyers Association volunteered for the Mississippi Blues Marathon, which is held annually in January in our capital city.

Volunteers arrived at 6:30 on race-day morning at mile-marker 8 for the half-marathon and mile-marker 22 for the marathon to prepare the aid station for the runners. The volunteers, who braved an early morning rain shower, mixed countless gallons of Gatorade for the runners and stacked and filled hundreds of cups in preparation for the rush of half-marathoners and marathoners.

The JYL volunteers also cheered and encouraged the runners as they made their way to the finish line (and some volunteers even handed out complimentary donuts). It is the positive attitude of volunteers along the race route that keeps participants coming back to Jackson year after year for the Mississippi Blues Marathon.

A few of the comments submitted by participants bear witness. For example, Roosevelt Giles of Atlanta wrote: “Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers, and volunteers . . . fantastic. They made the race. Wonderful group of people.” Another participant, Christy Russell, sent “Special thanks to the lady that let me use her bathroom around the last 3 miles between port a potty stops.”

And of course, special thanks are also in order for all of the JYL participants who came out and volunteered their time to help make this race a success.



Feature

Advice for Young Attorneys

Q: What is the best piece of advice you have for young attorneys?

KF: Whether you start your own firm or join a firm, try to keep your living expenses down so you have more freedom to choose your path moving forward. Seek opportunities to work on a variety of cases involving different types of law that may open opportunities for you that you may otherwise miss. Seek out interesting people (not just lawyers) who may provide great advice for you.

RP: Prepare to arrive early and stay late. Tasks that you think will take one hour will take four. Failing to put in the necessary time will almost always yield poor work product.

KP: This is a “do as I say, not as I do” piece of advice, but you have to forgive yourself when you make mistakes, because you will make plenty of them---everyone does. It’s important to care about getting it right, but don’t beat yourself up when you get it wrong. You’re human. Just learn from it and

About the Panel



Keith Foreman is a partner at McKay Lawler Franklin & Foreman. Keith specializes in litigation, personal injury, insurance law, and banking regulation.



Ryan Pratt is an attorney at Butler Snow. Ryan specializes in public finance, housing finance, and hospital and healthcare finance.



Kaytie Pickett is an associate at Jones Walker. Kaytie specializes in business and commercial litigation.

move on to the next challenge. Otherwise you will make yourself miserable.

Q: How can a new associate make himself or herself an invaluable member of the firm?

KF: Be honest, polite, professional,

diligent, social and determined in all tasks/ assignments that come your way. Get to know the folks in your firm, members of the bar and the courts. If you decide a certain area or expertise in the law is right for you, work to be the best in that area or expertise.

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Advice Panel, continued from page 4

RP: Exceed expectations. Do more than is asked of you, and treat every draft as a final draft.

KP: In my experience, partners want to work with someone who cares about the case and the client as a whole, rather than someone who approaches the work as a discrete task.

Q: What is the number one quality you look for when hiring a new candidate?

KF: Honesty/integrity.

RP: Work ethic.

KP: When I worked on our recruitment committee, I valued candidates who took obvious pride in their work.

Q: Do you have recommendations for young attorneys on how to network and make contacts?

KF: Be yourself and be honest. Don't try to be all things to all people because some folks are going to like you and some aren't so don't sweat it. As far as contacts, do your best to remember names and faces and something interesting about the people you meet.

RP: Belong to organizations that interest you so you will actually attend and participate. Show genuine interest in the work and lives of your new contacts.

KP: I think the best place to start is within your own firm. Invite lawyers to lunch who you don't work with, keep your door open, and make an effort to get to know your colleagues. You see these people every day; start with them.

Q: What advice do you have for a young attorney who is starting his or her own firm?

KF: Keep your debt down; ask advice from older more experienced attorneys; when appropriate, talk to judges and ask them for advice and direction; talk to court staffs and ask them for advice and direction. Work diligently on every case you have because you don't know which one will mean the most to you in the long run.

RP: Find a mentor you trust and who is willing and able to help you navigate ethical issues and answer questions.

KP: God bless you. You are much braver than I.

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Click above to visit

Event Recap

January Membership Meeting

Speaker: Marshall Ramsey

JYL hosted Mississippi cartoonist and author, Marshall Ramsey, at its membership meeting on January 29, 2016.

Mr. Ramsey's entertaining presentation highlighted his experience discovering his talent for drawing and writing and the path-altering effect it had on his life. He shared his unique and vibrant perspective on local government and politics, which have been highlighted and memorialized through his cartoons. He also discussed his short story collection, *Fried Chicken and Wine*, and his recently released, *Chainsaws and Casseroles*.



Event Recap

2015 CABA/JYL Christmas Social

JYL joined with the Capital Area Bar Association for the annual Christmas Social, and it was certainly a fun-filled evening!

The Toys for Tots drive was a huge success - thank you to everyone who donated.



Save the Date



Capital Area Bar Association
Jackson Young Lawyers
and MS Bar Litigation Section

Spring Social

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

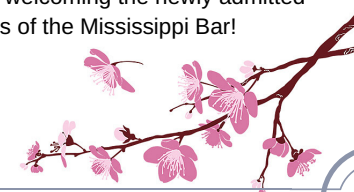
5:30 - 7:30

RIVER HILLS CLUB

3600 Ridgewood Rd, Jackson, MS

Capital Area Bar Association (CABA), Jackson Young Lawyers (JYL), and MS Bar Litigation Section would like to invite you to come celebrate, socialize and network with us during our Annual Spring Social

We will also be welcoming the newly admitted members of the Mississippi Bar!



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 12, 2016

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 11, 2016.**

****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 **Wednesday, March 9, 2016.** Team registration fee is \$65. 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 Sam Gregory at 601-969-4656 or at sdgregory@bakerdonelson.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 12, 2016) _____ Male:[] Female:[]

T-shirt size: YS[] 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: \$12; online pre-registration via website: \$21 (\$13 for fun run)

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

Race Day (fun run): \$15

Team (Pre-registration only) (5K run and walk only): \$65

Family (5 maximum): \$65

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. By signing below, I certify that I understand this Release and Waiver.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Mail Registration Forms to: Baker Donelson, c/o Sam Gregory, 4268 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39211-6391

or visit www.jacksonyounglawyers.com to register online beginning January 15, 2016