

JYL NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JACKSON YOUNG LAYWERS

President's Corner

by Stevie F. Rushing

Like so many people, I welcomed the new year by reflecting on the highs and lows of 2022 and considering how I hoped to improve in 2023. It's a valuable exercise. Change is inevitable; our values, concerns, and motivators shift with age and with new seasons of life. You might as well make a plan for it.

The same is true for organizations. It's critical for leaders in any setting to regularly consider whether adjustments are needed to meet the changing needs of their workforce, students, or members. JYL is no exception. Our membership makeup looks different now than it did 10 years ago—much less than in 1936, when JYL was founded. So when I assumed the role of JYL president, I decided that my year at the helm was going to be one of assessing and adjusting.

JYL has established a strong presence in the metro-Jackson area thanks to decades of hard, consistent work by my predecessors. We have a baseline calendar of annual events that support our local community and provide members with the chance to connect, learn, and serve. My goal is to ensure those annual events are reaching their highest and best potential, and that new efforts are added to meet the current needs of our members and community.



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**LEADERSHIP
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THE BASICS:
MULTIDISTRICT
LITIGATION**

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

SAVE THE DATES

**BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**

President's Corner (continued)

by Stevie F. Rushing

To accomplish that goal, the Executive Committee made a few easy adjustments early on. We decided to move our annual Legal Beagle 5K back to its pre-COVID month. Start training now so you're ready for March 25! We tasked our Speakers Chair, Gregory Alston, with recruiting a diverse group of speakers for our bi-monthly membership lunches, so that topics cover both substantive and practical considerations. So far, we've heard updates from local practitioners on two growing areas of substantive law (medical cannabis and name, image, likeness) and received practical guidance from Judge Cory T. Wilson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. We challenged our Recruitment Co-Chairs, Audrey Hurt and Sammy Brown, to focus on new ways to market JYL to both law students and new lawyers alike.

We've made more significant changes to our community service/pro bono strategy. We recognize that not all JYL members have the same skill sets or service concerns. And, although JYL has historically organized mediations in City Court, local groups have since developed extremely well-run, well-equipped outreach efforts. So the decision was made to forgo a separate City Court Mediation Committee this year so our chairs of the Community Service / Pro Bono Committee could focus on assessing existing service and pro bono opportunities.

So far, that committee has organized an online toy drive for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi and connected JYL with a pro bono legal clinic at the Madison County Chancery Court.

The committee has been in discussion with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi about getting members involved with the Mississippi Settlement Assistance Program, and with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi about organizing a career day or similar event at which members can share their path to the legal field.

Similarly, we're hoping to see increased involvement from our Solo/Small Firm Committee. JYL members work in a variety of settings, each with unique opportunities and challenges. With the support of our Social Chair, this committee hopes to offer a new event in 2023 that will allow our members who practice solo or at a small firm to network and connect.

I hope that, after reading this update, JYL members recognize that this Executive Committee does not shy away from change. But we don't know it all, and we absolutely can't do it all. So please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee with questions, concerns, or ideas. I look forward to working with you during what I expect to be an exciting, eventful year for JYL.

2022 - 2023 JYL Leadership Announcement

2022 - 2023 JYL Executive Board



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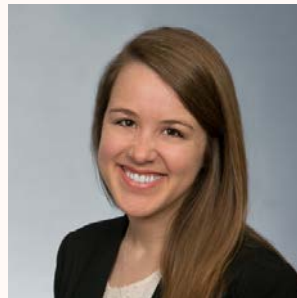
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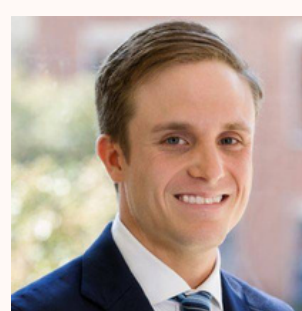
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2022 - 2023 JYL Leadership Announcement

2022 - 2023 JYL Committee Chairs



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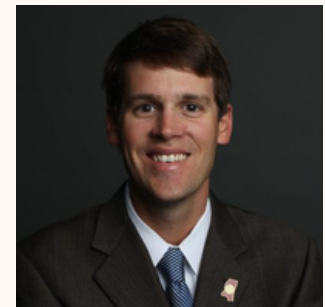
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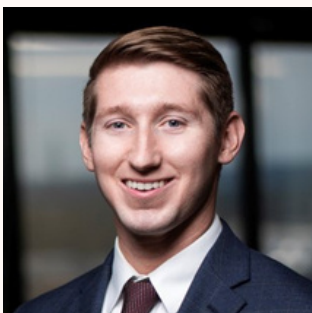
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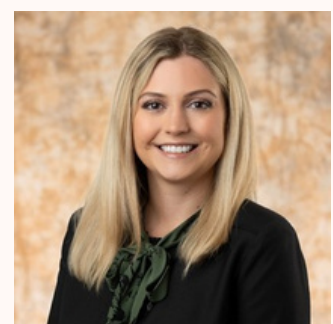
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2022 - 2023 JYL Leadership Announcement

2022 - 2023 JYL Committee Chairs



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The Basics: Multidistrict Litigation

by Madison Keyes

What is Multidistrict Litigation?

Legal proceedings related to consumer products often involve thousands of plaintiffs from all over the country. This can be overwhelming for the federal court system. To accommodate the number of lawsuits filed in this type of litigation, the legal system has developed a special procedure to simplify the litigation process and resolve common issues. This procedure is known as multidistrict litigation (“MDL”). MDLs involve cases in which a large number of plaintiffs file lawsuits against the same company over the same issue. According to the American Bar Association, half of all federal, civil lawsuits are in an MDL.

An MDL is not a single trial that resolves all of the cases in that litigation; instead, the litigation is consolidated under one federal judge who handles pretrial matters that are common to all of the defendants. The goal of an MDL is to conserve resources and promote consistent pretrial rulings across different lawsuits that involve similar legal issues. In doing so, MDLs may encourage settlement between the parties.

What is a Bellwether Trial?

A bellwether trial is an individual plaintiff’s trial within the first pool of cases tried in an MDL. These trials allow the parties to test their theories and arguments before a jury. The court chooses which cases will be included as part of this pool.

These cases proceed to court in the same jurisdiction as the MDL. Bellwether trials are used as an example of possible outcomes in future, similarly situated cases. The results of which may also influence settlement discussions. Most cases in an MDL are not tried. Instead, a majority of cases in the MDL are resolved before the case is litigated before a jury.

Class Action Lawsuits Versus Multidistrict Litigation

Class action lawsuits and multidistrict litigation are closely linked, but have critical differences. Both class actions and MDLs are case aggregation devices utilized in an effort to more efficiently resolve lawsuits. However, the means by which these devices operate are very different from one another.

Class action lawsuits combine individual plaintiffs into a single lawsuit with a single outcome. Class actions are designed for situations where multiple plaintiffs have suffered identical injuries due to the same cause. In contrast, MDLs function as a collection of individual cases that maintain their separate identity throughout the MDL process. The injuries of the plaintiffs in an MDL are similar, but not identical, although the legal questions in an MDL regarding the cause of the injuries must be the same. Importantly, the outcome of one case in an MDL, does not mean the same outcome applies to all cases in the MDL.

Event Spotlights:

Fall Membership Luncheon: Medical Cannabis in Mississippi September 23, 2022 at CHAR



Clare Millette (Cosmich Simmons & Brown) & Slates Veazey (Bradley) gave an overview of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act and the regulations adopted by the Department of Health and Department of Revenue that govern medical cannabis businesses.



Speakers Slates Veazey and Clare Millette pictured with JYL President Stevie Rushing

CABA Fall Reception September 29, 2022

at the Terrace at Belhaven Town Center



Mississippi Bar YLD President Jess Waltman with CABA Social Chairs Madison Keyes and Bud Sheppard



JYL Halloween Party

October 27, 2022 @ Fertile Ground



Save the Dates

Outreach Grant Application Opens

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Wills for Magnolia State First Responders

Pro Bono Clinic

Saturday, February 25, 2023

March Member Meeting

featuring Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann

Friday, March 17, 2023, 11:30am at CHAR

Legal Beagle 5K

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Want to get Published?

JYL welcomes submissions from its members in our newsletter. Our Newsletter Chair is looking for interesting articles on emerging legal issues, insightful reflections, and humorous commentary that Jackson's Young Lawyers will enjoy.

To be published in JYL News, contact Natalie McCarty at nmccarty@burr.com.



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Stay connected on Facebook

Benefits of Membership

JYL membership includes bi-monthly lunch meetings with diverse guest speakers offering free CLE credit, networking and social events, community service and pro bono opportunities, and an invitation to JYL's annual Legal Beagle 5K and corn hole tournament.

All duly-licensed members of the Mississippi Bar who are residents of the Jackson metropolitan area and who are 37 and younger or who have been members of the Mississippi Bar for less than three years are eligible for membership in JYL.