

# EQUAL JUSTICE

Newsletter of the Washington Bar Association  
Dedicated to the Principle "Equal Justice Under Law"



## President's Message

By Kevin D. Judd

Happy Spring! Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year. It is a time where trees are budding and flowers are blooming, and so is the Washington Bar Association. Our upcoming Law Day program is shaping into a special and unforgettable homecoming event for the Bar. The committee, led by Robert L. Bell, our Chairman of the Board, is truly developing this significant event into a great historical program.

On May 6th, the Bar will memorialize Charles Hamil-

ton Houston, by highlighting the work of two giants whose careers are fitting of our Law Day theme: "Houstonian Jurisprudence and the Civil Rights Movement: Saluting the Reconstruction Congress and the Reconstruction Amendments." We are pleased to honor Historian **Dr. John Hope Franklin** and **Congressman John R. Lewis**. Further, we are delighted to host Past Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion recipients, Professor Charles Ogletree and Attorney Jack

H. Olender, who will confer the medallions upon our honorees. For more information, see page 7.

I look forward to meeting members of our Bar Association, our friends and our colleagues at this unforgettable dinner, as we pay homage to the legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston and celebrate this year's medallion recipients. Until then, take time to observe and to enjoy the fruits of this season and may our work continue to produce fruits of justice for our communities and our country. ■

## WBA Judicial Council Update

By Judge Maurice A. Ross, D.C. Superior Court  
Chair, WBA Judicial Council



Greetings! As usual, I have much to report from the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council. First on March 21, 2006, the Judicial Council presented its Sixth Annual Spring Symposium in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. This year's program was entitled, "The Constitution: Alive or Dead," a critical analysis of the competing doctrines of Originalism and the living Constitution. The evening

began with remarks from the Chief Judge Eric Washington of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Associate Judge Harold L. Cushenberry, Jr., of the District of Columbia Superior Court, and Kevin Judd, Esquire, President of the Washington Bar Association. The imminent Supreme Court Practitioner John Payton of Wilmer Hale moderated a panel discussion among Dean Kurt L. Schmoke of Howard University School of Law;

Professor Sherrilyn Hill of the University of Maryland School of Law; Associate Deputy Attorney General Lee Liberman Otis of the United States Department of Justice, and Professor Peter "Bo" Rutledge of the Columbus School of Law. A lovely reception organized by Judge Denise Wilson-Taylor followed the panel discussion.

Second, on April 18, 2006, the Judicial Council held its last business meeting of this

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**April 2006**



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# CALENDAR of EVENTS

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## April 2006

### April 16—Happy Easter



**April 18, 5:30 p.m.,** WBA Judicial Council meeting, Judges' Dining Room, Superior Court

**April 21,** Thurgood Marshall Academy's Shining Star Gala, sponsored by WBALF, 2427 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE, Washington, D.C.

**April 26-30,** NBA Annual Mid-Year Conference and Gertrude E. Rush Award Dinner "Post-Katrina", Peabody Memphis Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee

## May 2006

**May 6, 6:30 p.m. ,** Law Day 2006, J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.



## June 2006

**June 3, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,** WBA Legal Clinic, Greater First Baptist Church, 2701 13th St., NW, Washington, DC

**June 15, 7:00 p.m.,** Hall of Fame and Induction of Officers Ceremony, 633 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC

## August 2006

**August 5-12, 2006,** NBA's 81st Annual Convention & Exhibits, Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, hosted by the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the Wolverine Bar Association

### **Judicial Council, Cont'd from page 1**

term at 5:30 p.m. in the Judges' Dining Room of the D.C. Superior Court. This meeting was hosted by Judges Rhonda Winston and Constance T. O'Bryant. The agenda included: nomination of new officers, overview of the summer internship program, formation of the committee for the 2007 Symposium, and a general discussion of professional mentoring of Judicial Council members. In addition, tickets for the Law Day Dinner were available for purchase.

Third, in June, the Judicial Council will begin the third year of its internship program. Judge Karen Howze is once again coordinating this effort. I hope that each judicial officer will consider hiring at least one intern for part of the summer.

Fourth, I want to remind the Judicial Council members to please try to attend the Law Day Dinner on May 6, 2006, and the Hall of Fame Ceremony on June 15, 2006, in lieu of our meetings during those months. Your support of the Judicial Council and the Washington Bar Association is invaluable. ■

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# National Bar Association Update

By Tonya L. Waller

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## 26th Annual Mid-Year Conference

The National Bar Association will host its 26th Annual Mid-Year Conference & Gertrude E. Rush Award Dinner entitled "Post-Katrina". The Conference will be held from April 26-30, 2006 at the Peabody Memphis Hotel, in Memphis, Tennessee. The 2006 Gertrude Rush Awardees include: Larry Brown, the Honorable Earnestine H. Dorse, the Honorable Benjamin L. Hooks, the Honorable H.T. Lokard, and Ruby Wharton, Esquire.

## 81st Annual Convention

The NBA's 81st Annual Convention & Exhibits will be held August 5-12, 2006 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. The convention will be hosted by the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the Wolverine Bar Association.

Just across the bay from Canada, Detroit is the home of automobile industrial revolution and the Motown music synergy. It is the home to Ford, GM, and other multi-national corporations that promise fun and enjoyment to conference attendees. The registration fee includes Continuing Legal Education Seminars (CLE, conference materials, the President's reception and the Annual Banquet.) Register Now!!

To register for the conferences and to obtain the preliminary agenda, registration, air and hotel information, please register online at <http://www.nationalbar.org>. For general information about the National Bar Association, please contact the National Bar Association at 202-842-3900.

## Job Opportunities!!!

To review job postings and opportunities, please visit the National Bar Association at: <http://www.nationalbar.org/career/index.shtml>. ■

# WBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006

The Washington Bar Association Nominations Committee composed of Past Presidents Ronald Crump, Donald Thigpen and Felicia Chambers, reports to the body the following Slate of Candidates to stand for election for bar year beginning June 2006 to June 2007:

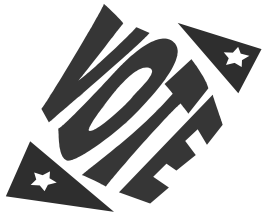
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<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>CHARLES G. BYRD, JR. – EXPIRES 5-09</b>
<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>KEIRSTON R. WOODS – EXPIRES 5-09</b>

**ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE SCHEDULED MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006.**

**THE RECORD SHOULD REFLECT THE TERMS OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

**DONALD TEMPLE - MAY 2004-2007**  
**TONYA L. WALLER – MAY 2004-2007**  
**JOSEPH H. HARISTON – MAY 2005-2008**  
**JAY A. STEWART – MAY 2005-2008**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**  
**RONALD C. CRUMP**  
**PAST PRESIDENT**  
**CHAIR, WBA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**



## WBA Members Seeking Election to Office in the D.C. Bar

The following WBA members have informed us that they are seeking election to office in the D.C. Bar.

Johnine P. Barnes  
Melvin White  
Keirston R. Woods  
Paul Smith

### Johnine P. Barnes is Running for DC Bar Board of Governors

Johnine P. Barnes, a partner at Baker & Hostetler LLP, has been selected by the District of Columbia Bar Nomination's Committee. as a candidate for the DC Bar Board of Governors in the upcoming elections. Ms. Barnes, who is a member of the Washington Bar Association, is just completing her term as Deputy General Counsel for the National Bar Association. Ms. Barnes received the National Bar Association's Presidential Award in 2005.

Ms. Barnes is also active in the DC Bar and her community. Among her activities, she is a faculty member of the Bar's Mandatory Course, Court Practice Section, has served as faculty chair of two DC Bar CLE seminars regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act, and has been a speaker at the GWAC Law Firm/Corporate Counsel's Committee's "What Happened to My Lift."

### Keirston R. Woods

Greetings! My name is **Keirston R. Woods**. I am an active member of the Washington Bar Association and I am **running for a position on the Steering Committee of the Corporation, Securities and Finance Law Section of the D.C. Bar**. I am a graduate of Duke University (A.B., 2000) and the George Washington University Law School (J.D., 2003). Currently, I am with the firm of Webster, Fredrickson & Brackshaw ([www.wfb-law.com](http://www.wfb-law.com)), where my practice includes bankruptcy and commercial law.

I am excited about the opportunity to be elected to the Steering Committee of the Corporation, Securities and Finance Law Section. I strongly believe that diversity in the leadership of the D.C. Bar is paramount to the future of our profession. Further, I am eager to infuse this section with the perspective, concerns and interests of young lawyers. My primary goals are to create a young lawyers' committee and to complement the current activities of this section with activities that allow a diverse group of lawyers to learn and network effectively. If you are a member of the Corporation, Securities & Finance Law Section and you are interested in helping to make the section reflective of the diversity in our practice areas, please, **vote for me!** Thank you.



### Melvin White is Running for DC Bar President

Melvin is a proven leader in the Bar, the profession and the community. He is a two-term member of the Bar's Board of Governors and a member of the Executive Committee. A trial partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP, focusing on complex commercial disputes, Melvin serves on McDermott's Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee, served on the Pro Bono Committee, chaired the Associate Development Committee and helped to establish McDermott University, the firm's training and mentoring program.

Melvin has handled numerous *pro bono* cases, including: civil rights class actions, housing, landlord-tenant, child custody and disability cases, and a high profile *habeas corpus* action, where he won parole for a man incarcerated in 1977 as a juvenile. Melvin was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Civil Rights by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, where he has served as a Director since 1991 and was recently elected Co-Chair.

An Air Force veteran, Melvin graduated from Morehouse College in 1984 and the University of Virginia School of Law in 1987. He clerked for Chief Judge G. Thomas Eisele, of the U.S. District Court for the E.D. Arkansas.

He is member of the American Bar Association, the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, the National Bar Association, the Washington Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, GAYLAW, and the Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court. He is a Director of the Dance Institute of Washington and served as national fundraising chair for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial.

Statement: As President, I would seek to enhance the provision of *pro bono* legal services through a more coordinated approach with other providers, achieve greater diversity throughout the Bar, and to enhance the Bar's efforts to run a fair and speedy disciplinary system. I would be honored to have your vote.

*Paul Smith's statement is on page 5*



## The WBA Legal Clinic Needs You!!!

The Washington Bar Association is continuing its tradition of hosting a Community Legal Clinic, as a part of its regular Bar Year Program. The goal is to reach out to members of our community and to educate them about some areas of law most likely to affect their lives.

The WBA Legal Clinic will be held on June 3, 2006, from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m., at the Greater First Baptist Church, 2701 13th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

We need volunteers to assist in a variety of ways—to set up, to help with registration and most importantly, to make presentations about various areas of the law, including Probate (guardianships of minors and adults, conservatorships, wills, trusts, advance directives); Small Claims; Landlord and Tenant; Social Security; Discrimination (employment and housing); Foreclosure Law; Special Education; and Juvenile Crime (If there is another area that you think would fit in with the goals of the program, we will gladly consider including it.) Volunteers are also needed to make referrals for persons with specific legal problems. This is a volunteer-driven activity, so we need practitioners with relevant experience to commit a couple of hours to this program.

Please consider signing up for this worthwhile event and help continue a WBA tradition. To volunteer, complete the following form and fax it to: Iris McCollum Green, 202-785-8108 at: 202-785-8108. For more information, contact Ms. Green at: 202-785-1171, or by e-mail to: [iriseagain@aol.com](mailto:iriseagain@aol.com), or [iriseagain@verizon.net](mailto:iriseagain@verizon.net). See the Attorney Participation Form. ■

### Paul Smith

I have practiced law and lived in DC for 25 years. I have been a litigation partner at Jenner & Block for the past 12 years. My bar involvement ranges from work with a voluntary bar (the Washington Council of Lawyers) and the Steering Committee of the DC Bar's Litigation Section to my current role as a two-term member of the Board of Governors. On the Board, I have had the chance to become unusually involved in the management of the Bar via membership on the Budget Committee and the Governance Integration Advisory Committee. I am running for President because I have the experience to do the job and I want to continue working to promote the values that make our legal community somewhat distinctive—values like equal access justice and diversity in all aspects of the profession. I have demonstrated a commitment to those values throughout my career. I have litigated numerous cases involving civil rights and civil liberties including the landmark gay rights case, *Lawrence v. Texas*, which I argued in the Supreme Court. And I have consistently worked to promote pro bono representation of those unable to afford counsel. I thank the Washington Bar for this opportunity to introduce myself. ■

## WBA LEGAL CLINIC June 2006

### ATTORNEY PARTICIPATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Last First Middle Initial*

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Street Address*

*City State Zip Code*

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Employer Name*

*Street Address*

*City State Zip Code*

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Practice Area (s):

I would like to participate in or provide:

- Set Up
- Registration
- Probate  Guardianships of minors
- Guardianships of adults  Conservatorships
- Wills  Trusts  Advance Directives
- Small Claims
- Landlord and Tenant
- Social Security
- Discrimination  Employment  Housing
- Special Education
- Juvenile Crime
- Tax
- Bankruptcy
- Other topic of your choice



## WBA/WBALF To Honor Congressman John R. Lewis and Dr. John Hope Franklin

By Robert L. Bell

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, the Washington Bar Association and the Washington Bar Association Legal Fund, Inc. will present their Annual Law Day Dinner and Conferment of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. The theme for this year's Law Day Dinner is "Houstonian Jurisprudence and the Civil Rights Movement Saluting the Reconstruction Congress and the Reconstruction Amendments."

The highlight of the WBA/WBALF Law Day Dinner is the awarding of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit. This award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of Charles Hamilton Houston, one of the founders of the Washington Bar Association and architect of the strategy of using litigation to effectuate constructive social change. This year's honorees are Congressman John R. Lewis and Dr. John Hope Franklin. Past Houston Medallion recipients, Charles Ogletree and Jack Olander will give tributes and confer the medallions on this year's honorees.

Congressman Lewis was recruited to the Civil Rights Movement by Dr. Martin Luther King and has dedicated his life and career to securing civil rights, protecting human rights and helping to construct "The Beloved Community" in America. He is often called "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced." Dr. Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, and a former Professor of Legal History at Duke University. He was recruited by Thurgood Marshall to serve as an expert witness in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* cases. Dr. Franklin is the author of numerous scholarly publications and books, including *Reconstruction: After the Civil War*. Perhaps, his best known book is *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, now in its eighth edition.

The Washington Bar Association and the Washington Bar Association Legal Fund, Inc invite you to join us for this event, which begins with an open bar reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. and the conferment of the Houston Medallion of Merit. WBA's famous dessert reception and dancing will follow the dinner. Underwriting and sponsorship tables are still available. For further information, please contact Robert L. Bell or Vivian Gatling at 202/842-4066 or Joseph Hairston at 202/723-1025. ■



*The Washington Bar Association and the  
Washington Bar Association Legal Fund, Inc.  
Cordially Invite You to*

## LAW DAY 2006

*"Houstonian Jurisprudence and  
the Civil Rights Movement:  
Saluting the Reconstruction Congress and  
the Reconstruction Amendments"*

*Honoring: The Honorable John R. Lewis  
(Congressman and Civil Rights Activist)  
and Dr. John Hope Franklin (Historian)*

*Saturday, May 6, 2006  
J.W. Marriott*

*1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,  
Washington, D.C.*

*Cocktail Reception: 6:30 p.m.*

*Dinner: 7:30 p.m.*

***New Millennium\****  
***\$3000***

*Full page ad in program  
Reserved seating for ten  
Champagne Toast  
Recognition in program*

***Platinum Table\****  
***\$2500***

*1/2 Page ad  
Reserved seating for ten  
Recognition in program*

***General Table***  
***\$1500***

*Reserved seating for ten  
Recognition in program*

*Recent Books by Congressman John R. Lewis,  
Dr. John Hope Franklin and Professor Charles Ogletree will be available for purchase.*

*(Underwriting opportunities are available at \$10,000, \$7,500 and \$5,000.)  
\*A portion of the purchase price for the sponsor tables will be tax-deductible.*

*Make checks payable to the Washington Bar Association Legal Fund, Inc. (WBALF).*

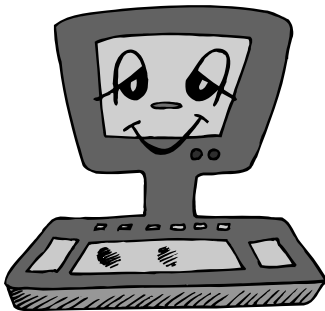


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***"Equal Justice Under Law"***

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**Ronald Jessamy, [RCJessamy@aol.com](mailto:RCJessamy@aol.com)**

## **Newsletter Item Submission Deadline**



**E-mail submissions by April 25 to:  
Ronald Jessamy, [RCJessamy@aol.com](mailto:RCJessamy@aol.com)**