

EQUAL JUSTICE

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



President's Message

By Kevin D. Judd

If you were not there on October 26, 2005, you missed a treat. On that day, Judge Emmet Sullivan received the Twenty-Seventh Ollie May Cooper Award in style and in the presence of a very well-attended audience of judges, lawyers, legal scholars, law students, family and friends. Not only did our honoree receive the Ollie May Cooper Award, the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council and Chief Judge King, each presented Judge Sullivan with a special gift in appreciation for his stellar work on the bench. Everyone agreed that Judge Sullivan was well-deserving and the perfect selection for this award.

The assembly was honored with a speech from William L. Taylor, Co-Founder and Director of the Citizens' Commission on Civil

Rights. His remarks on the history of civil rights, the fruits that arose from the efforts of our predecessors, and the challenges that we have as lawyers to protect our community, were insightful and engaging. Mr. Taylor's talk was in the best tradition of our Annual Founders' Lecture series. In addition to remembering the great work of Ollie May Cooper to the Washington Bar Association and the community, we also paid homage to the late Rosa Parks for her significant contribution to the Civil Rights, throughout the evening. I would like especially to thank Board member, Jamila Z. Hoard, Chair of the Ollie May Cooper program for all her hard work and efforts towards planning and executing a successful program which will long be remembered.

So far, the programs for this bar year have already exceeded the Board's expectations for this bar year. As some of you may recall, in September, we kicked off this bar year with a myriad of programs designed to enhance the bar membership and the community. These programs were sponsored by the Bar, consisting of the Board, the Young Lawyers Division and the Judicial Council. And, in some instances, we collaborated with other bar associations in order to have a greater impact on our targeted audience. Some of the topics discussed at the panel discussions and workshops were: Maximizing Opportunities for Successful Careers in Law and Government, Public Policy Panel on Diversity in the Law and Government: Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Con-

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WBA Judicial Council Update

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



The Washington Bar Association Judicial Council (WBAJC) met on November 15, 2005 in the Judges' Dining Room on the C-level of the District of Columbia Superior Court. At 5:30 p.m., a light meal was made available, courtesy of Judges S. Pamela Gray

and Karen Howze. Over dinner, members had an opportunity to socialize and mingle with their judicial colleagues across a broad spectrum of courts in a private setting. Members used this unique opportunity to catch-up with old colleagues, to make new

friends, and to just get to know and enjoy their colleagues.

The principal speaker at the November WBAJC meeting was Chief Judge Tyrone Butler of the District of Co-

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Nov./Dec. 2005



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CALENDAR

December 2005

December 8, 7:00 p.m.—Midnight or later. WBA Holiday Party, JW Marriott 1311 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Tickets will cost \$25 and will be available at the door or through any WBA or YLD Board member.

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sumer Protection Act of 2005; Diversity Issues and Domestic Market Share and Global Competition; and a Mock Interview Program for law students. In October, in addition to the above-mentioned Annual Ollie May Cooper program, we co-sponsored a Judicial Clerkship Conference and a fund-raising reception for Hurricane Katrina victims. All of these programs were a big success, as a result of the careful and well-executed planning and support of our members. You should look forward to many more events throughout this bar year.

On that note, for the end of 2005, we are saving the best for last. We are having our annual holiday party, which will be hosted by our Young Lawyers Division. There will be plenty of Holiday Cheer and Fellowship with our Membership, Family and Friends. This year's party will be at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Thursday, December 8, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. See notice on page 3 for more information. If I do not see you at the Holiday Party, on behalf of the Board, have a Safe and Happy Holiday. ■

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Chaikin & Sherman, P.C., an AV rated DC based law firm specializing in personal injury seeks litigation attorney with at least 2-3 years experience with either a Plaintiff or defense firm, with the desire and personality for extensive client contact. Must have excellent writing and organizational skills and a desire to undertake the responsibility of an existing case load. Must have MD and DC Bar. VA Bar a plus. Applications will be considered in STRICT confidence. Salary commensurate with experience. Great benefits, and excellent opportunity. E-mail resume and cover letter to Allan M. Siegel at siegel@dc-law.net or mail to Chaikin & Sherman, 1232 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

WBA Judicial Council, Cont'd from page 1

lumbia Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). The OAH is an independent administrative tribunal that hears administrative litigation involving over 25 different agencies, boards, and commissions of the District of Columbia. The OAH is designed to enhance the quality of life in the District of Columbia by providing residents with a fair, efficient, and effective system to manage and resolve administrative litigation arising under D.C. law. By developing innovative reforms for the District of Columbia's system of administrative justice, OAH hopes to foster public confidence in that system and promote higher levels of voluntary compliance that ensure greater health, safety, and well-being in our community.

Prior to becoming Chief Administrative Law Judge of the OAH, Judge Butler served as the Chief Administrative Law Judge and Director of the Bureau of Adjudication, Division of Legal Affairs, for the New York State Department of Health from 1991 to 2003. Over his career, Judge Butler has held appointments as: an Administrative Law Judge in the New York State Department of Health; Assistant District Attorney, Dutchess County, New York State; General Counsel, Connecticut Inspector General's Office; Inspector General, New York City Corrections Department; and retired with the rank of Lieutenant from the New York City Police Department. Judge Butler shared his observations on the relatively new office, its operations, and its impact on the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Following Judge Butler's remarks, we had a business meeting. The agenda included a discussion of: a formal mentoring program for judicial officers, preservation of the history and archives of the WBAJC and its members, and the Spring symposium. This was the last official meeting of 2005. ■

Ollie May Cooper Award Program and Founders' Day Lecture

The Washington Bar Association (WBA) held its twenty-seventh Ollie May Cooper Award Presentation Ceremony and twenty-fifth Founders' Day Lecture on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at the Howard University School of Law's Moot Courtroom.

The program was well attended and a wonderful tribute to a deserving recipient, the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The attendees received greetings from several of the Chief Judges and representatives of the local and federal D.C. Courts. Specifically, greetings were given to Judge David Sentelle of the D.C. Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Thomas Hogan of the D.C. District Court, Chief Judge Eric Washington of the D.C. Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Rufus King, III of the D.C. Superior Court and Judge Lynn Bush of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

The Founders' Lecture was presented by William L. Taylor, Co-Founder and Director of the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, who talked about excerpts from his recently published book, *The Passion of My Times: An Advocate's Fifty-Year Journey in the Civil Rights Movement*. Former Chief Judge Annice Wagner introduced Judge Sullivan, describing his many achievements and some little-known personal anecdotes about him. Judge Sullivan's heartfelt remarks about his close ties to Howard University and what the Ollie May Cooper Award meant to him, were one of the many highlights of the evening. The program was followed by a book-signing by Mr. Taylor, and a reception.

As chair of the program this year, I would like to thank everyone who attended the ceremony. Your presence made it a special evening. Also I would like to thank the committee members and participants who made this program possible. It was particularly wonderful to have members of the Epsilon Sigma Iota Sorority, Inc. of which Ollie May Cooper is a founder, serve as volunteers at this event. Finally, I want to acknowledge the sponsors for the program this year for their generous financial contributions:

PEPCO
Washington Gas
Law Firm of Kevin D. Judd
Law Office of Ronald C. Jessamy
Robert L. Bell, Esq.
Iris McCollum Green, Esq.
Jamila Z. Hoard, Esq.

For those who were unable to attend or unable to purchase a copy of *The Passions of My Times*, we have a few extra copies of Mr. Taylor's book. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the book, please contact me at jzhoard@yahoo.com or (202) 833-5007 or Ronald Jessamy at rjessamy@jessamylaw.com or (202) 434-8358.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamila Z. Hoard
2005 Chair, Ollie May Cooper
Award Program and Founders' Day
Lecture Series

Newsletter Item Submission Deadline

E-mail submissions by January 25, 2005 to
Ronald Jessamy at: RCJessamy@aol.com



CELEBRATE
WITH US

WBA
HOLIDAY
PARTY

DECEMBER 8

7:00 P.M. –
MIDNIGHT OR
LATER

JW Marriott
1331 Pennsylvania Ave.,
NW
Washington, DC

Tickets cost \$25
available at the door or through
any WBA or YLD
Board member

Bring an unwrapped toy to
be donated to the
WBA/YLD's toy drive for
underprivileged children



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"Equal Justice Under Law"

*Happy
Holidays*



YLD Update

Greetings Everyone,

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is off to a solid start, and on Thursday, December 8, 2005, YLD will sponsor the Washington Bar Association's (WBA) annual Holiday Party. The Holiday Party will take place at the JW Marriott Hotel, located at 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. from 7:00 p.m. until Midnight or later. Tickets will cost \$25, and will be made available at the door or through any WBA or YLD Board Member. For more information regarding tickets and the Holiday Party, please contact one of the Holiday Party Co-Chairs, Hasan Solomon (hsolomon@iamaw.org) or Johnisha Matthews (matthewsj@dsmo.com). As many of you already know, the WBA Christmas Party is a hot ticket, so I highly recommend that you purchase your tickets early, before the party is sold out. In addition, as the holidays are always a time for giving and sharing, WBA/YLD requests that guests bring an unwrapped toy that can be donated to the WBA/YLD drive for underprivileged children. Happy Holidays and I hope to see you at the party!

Sincerely,

Rodney C. Pratt, Chair of Young Lawyers Division

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