

# EQUAL JUSTICE

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



## President's Message

By Ronald C. Jessamy, Sr.

**Embracing the Legacy, Honoring the Commitment to Serve the Community.** This is the Washington Bar Association's theme for the current year. It is meant to serve as recognition of the significant contributions made by our founders and their successors. At the same time, it is a reminder to our current members that as one of the premier voluntary bar associations in Washington, D.C., we will continue to honor the organization's commitment of service to the community.

When the Washington Bar Association was founded in 1925, Black attorneys were denied admission to the vol-

untary white bar associations. As an organization, we have always been dedicated to the principle of *Equal Justice Under Law*. The WBA has always served as an advocate for African-American lawyers and for causes of interest to the African-American community. Over the years, our members have contributed significantly to the legal fabric and fiber of the Washington, D.C. community and to the diversification of the judiciary, academia, law firms, corporate organizations and government agencies.

The Washington Bar Asso-

ciation's embrace of the legacy left by our predecessors, includes annual events such as the Ollie May Cooper Award Program/Founders' Lecture Series (held in October) and the Law Day Banquet, at which the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit is awarded each year. The Washington Bar Association's commitment of service to the community this year is evident in the programs we sponsor, some of which were highlighted in this column last month. They include, but are not limited to, the WBA Book Club,

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## WBA Judicial Council Update



By Judge Lee F. Satterfield

Over the last several months there have been many exciting developments for members of the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council and the bar's general membership.

The Judicial Council congratulates Ron Jessamy, who is the new president of the WBA, and all of the other board members who are so dedicated to the mission of the organization. We look forward to working with the WBA on the excellent pro-

grams that the Council participates in, such as the Ollie May Cooper Award Ceremony, the annual Law Day Banquet, the second annual WBA conference and the other outreach activities.

Congratulations are also in order for Kim Keenan, longtime WBA leader, as she takes on the position of President-elect of the District of Columbia Bar and prepares to become the next President of the D.C. Bar.

On a personal note, I am

honored to serve as the chair of the Judicial Council and look forward to another year of success for the council in all of our activities. It was clear from the Judicial Council's first meeting on September 16, 2008 that our members are excited about continuing our traditional activities while brainstorming new ideas to support our membership, improve bench-bar relationships and serve the community.

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October 2008



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# Calendar of Events

## October 2008

### October 30—6:30 p.m.

Ollie May Cooper Award Program/  
Founders' Lecture Series

## December 2008

**December 4—7:00 p.m.** Holiday  
Party, J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania  
Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C.

## March 2009

**March 17**—Judicial Council's Spring  
Symposium

## President's Message, *Cont'd from Page 1*

which has a reading program in one of the District of Columbia's local elementary schools as one of its components; the annual Law Fair, at which WBA members with different legal expertise meet with members of the community to try to provide guidance with respect to a variety of legal issues; and the annual Career Fair, at which the WBA invites local law students and potential employers to, with the hope of finding positions for the students in the legal field.

I am pleased to note that just this past month, former presidents of the Washington Bar Association participated in the Eighth Biennial Conference of Just the Beginning Foundation's 2008 Trailblazers Panel that was held at Howard University School of Law. Past Presidents Robert L. Bell and Kim M. Keenan (President Elect of the District of Columbia Bar) served as co-chairs of the event and Past President Donald A. Thigpen was a committee member. In addition to being co-chair of the committee, Ms. Keenan served as the panel discussion leader and interviewed each of the three trailblazers who were present, *i.e.*, Honorable Damon J. Keith-Senior United States Circuit Judge, Six Circuit, Honorable Consuelo B. Marshall-Senior U.S. District Judge, Central District of California and Honorable Matthew J. Perry, Jr.-Senior U.S. District Judge, District of South Carolina. The trailblazer who was not present was Judge Robert L. Carter-Senior U.S. District Judge, Southern District of New York. However, a video highlighting some of his many accomplishments was presented.

The September 24, 2008 investiture of WBA Board Member and Chair of the

Judicial Council, Judge Lee R. Satterfield as the new Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia was a magnificent ceremony. Several speakers noted the overwhelming crowd. The outpouring of support was a genuine testament to his career as a lawyer and jurist. The WBA is pleased to join the chorus of those other persons and organizations who were present to wish him well in his new position. ■

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

Council members are gearing up for our key activities, including the Spring Symposium which will be held on March 17, 2009. Planning has begun in earnest under the direction of D.C. Superior Court Judge Anita Josey-Herring.

The Council also continues to focus on reaching all members of the judiciary, including local and federal administrative law judges, judges on the D.C. Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals, as well as our colleagues on the federal courts.

Of course, we look forward to yet another class of interns next summer. Our members are set to participate in the WBA programs that support undergraduate students interested in law and students currently in law schools in our area.

The next Judicial Council meeting is October 14, 2008 in the Judges' Dining Room, D.C. Superior Court, C-Street level. ■



## DUES DUE

The Washington Bar Association (“WBA”) current dues year runs from June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. Major WBA programs and activities run from late August through early June and now is the time of year when we incur significant expenses. As you know WBA dues are still low in comparison with many other organizations, and our ability to keep dues low, while providing many benefits and programs, depends on as many members as possible paying their dues and paying them as early as they can in the fiscal year.

The WBA’s annual membership dues structure is as follows: Regular—\$75, Sustaining—\$100, and Sponsor—over \$100. Life Membership is still only \$1000. The Young Lawyer Division (“YLD”) membership dues are now: YLD Regular—\$50; YLD Sustaining—\$65; YLD Sponsor—over \$65. Law student membership is \$35.

The lower YLD membership dues structure is available to members 35 years old or younger; or to members who have been admitted to their first

bar for less than five years. Thus, all WBA members who are not yet 36 qualify for the YLD and its membership rates, as well as anyone older who has been a member of the bar for less than five years.

We currently have 17 Life Members of the WBA: L. Harold Aikens, Jr.; Robert L. Bell; Steven E. Bullock; Joseph H. Hairston; Kevin D. Judd; Kim M. Keenan; Allie B. Latimer; Myles V. Lynk; Hon. Julia Cooper Mack; Hon. Lillian A. McEwen; Jack H. Olender; James J. Sandman; Kurt L. Schmoke; Roberta Willis Sims; Annice M. Wagner; Fletcher H. Wiley; and Charles E. Williams. We encourage those who are thinking about a Life Membership to consider that the payment of \$1000 could be less than the total of annual dues paid in future years based on probable longevity of membership and inevitable dues increases. Thus, it is a bargain.

Members whose dues are current should have received an ivory colored newsletter. We appreciate your support. Beginning last month, members who have not yet paid their dues for the WBA’s current bar year will receive

pink copies of the newsletter. Occasionally, someone whose dues are current may mistakenly receive a pink newsletter rather than one printed on ivory paper. If so, check the upper right corner of the label. If it has “5/09” or “L” (Life Member), then you have paid for the current WBA bar year and do not need to contact us. If you have paid and there is no “L” or “5/09”, call me at (H) 301-445-3787 or (W) 202-366-1373 so that I can correct the error. If you have not paid your dues, please pay them soon.

One additional benefit of being a paid member is, if you are interested, your E-mail address can be added to our E-mail list. This enables you to receive information regarding up and coming law-related or other relevant community activities, including networking, job notices, meetings, and, last but not least, receptions. If you are paid and not receiving E-mail, contact Jay Stewart at [jstewart@udc.edu](mailto:jstewart@udc.edu), so that he can add your address to the list. Please note that those who do not pay their dues are subject to removal of their names from the E-mail list. ■

*L. Harold Aikens, Jr., Treasurer*

## 30th Annual Ollie May Cooper Award Ceremony and 28th Founders’ Lecture Series

The Washington Bar Association is hosting its Annual Ollie May Cooper Award Presentation and Founders’ Lecture Series on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Moot Courtroom on the campus of Howard University School of Law. This year’s Ollie May Cooper honoree is **Beverly Perry, Esq.**, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Pepco Holdings Inc. and the Founders’ Lecture will be delivered by **Kurt Schmoke**, Dean and Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law.

Chief Judge Washington from the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Chief

Judge Lamberth of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Chief Judge Satterfield of the District of Columbia Superior Court, and Judge Bush of the United States Court of Federal Claims will provide greetings from the bench on behalf of their respective courts.

This promises to be a fabulous evening of social and intellectual consumption and it is an opportunity to learn from, recognize and network with some of the powerhouses in the District’s legal community.

The events of the evening will cul-

minate with a reception in the Law School’s Holy Cross Foyer. The Washington Bar Association invites all interested in participating to attend.

**For more information, please contact this year’s Ollie May Cooper Award Committee Chair, Nicole Isaac, Esq. at (202) 224-0514 or [nisaac@alumni.law.upenn.edu](mailto:nisaac@alumni.law.upenn.edu). ■**



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

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Submit newsletter articles by  
October 24, November 21, December 19  
to Natalie L. Smith at:  
[NSmith@WFCPLaw.com](mailto:NSmith@WFCPLaw.com)

**Did you receive a pink newsletter?  
Send in your dues**

**Annual WBA  
Membership Dues**

Young Lawyers Division Regular—\$50  
Young Lawyers Division Sustaining—\$65  
Young Lawyers Division Sponsor—over  
\$65

Regular Membership—\$75  
Sustaining Membership—\$100  
Sponsor Membership— over \$100  
Life Membership—\$1000  
Law Student—\$35

Send your membership dues to:

WBA  
P.O. Box 56551  
Washington DC 20040

## **CELEBRATE WITH US AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY**



**December 4th  
7:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.**

**J.W. Marriott  
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C.**