

EQUAL JUSTICE

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



President's Message

By Felicia L. Chambers, President

If I may say so myself, this year's Law Day Dinner may have been better than that of last year. First, I was able to fulfill my commitment to myself to ensure that Jack H. Olender received the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit. He truly deserved it for his outstanding philanthropic service, his service to the bar in general and his unparalleled support of the Washington Bar Association. Unfortunately, a tragedy struck our community, and the WBA also gave the Medallion posthumously (a rare event) to Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., whom Jack Olender described in his remarks as one of the greatest lawyers of our time. Janell Byrd-Chichester, my law school classmate, accepted the medallion on behalf of the Cochran family and the Cochran firm. If you were not there, you missed a

touching, moving video presentation by the Cochran Firm, of Johnnie's life and legacy. Patricia Rosier, as President of the WBA Legal Fund, Inc., conferred Charles Hamilton scholarships on Semaj Johnson, a Howard Law School student, and on Donald Temple's Charles Hamilton Houston Law Preparatory Institute. The Honorable Rodney Slater, the keynote speaker, provided the most comprehensive history of Charles Hamilton Houston that I have heard. It was truly befitting a celebration of the theme, "*Charles Hamilton Houston's Legacy to the Bar: Serving the Community Building a Future*" during the 80th Anniversary Year of the Washington Bar Association.

On May 21, 2005, the Washington Bar put on a *Pro Bono* Clinic at the Second Baptist Church (Rev. James Terrell, Pastor), the church of WBA

member, the Honorable Mary Terrell. I was so pleased at the large number of practitioners who came out to share their talents and skills with the community. This clinic will now be a regular part of the WBA's schedule, as it has historically been and as the word gets out among the community, we will see this program grow and grow. Our Young Lawyers Division had an event that same day. It makes me proud to know that the men of YLD participated in a Mentorship Program at Ballou High School, an inner-city school in Southeast Washington. The WBA is on the move.

This brings me to these thoughts. Since I have been on the Board, each successive President has added value to the WBA by enhancing its programs and activities. My

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Chief Judge Wagner & Calvin Brooks, Esq. to be Inducted into the WBA Hall of Fame

The Washington Bar Association will induct the Honorable Annice Wagner and Calvin Brooks, Esquire into its Hall of Fame on Thursday, June 16, 2005 at the National Council of Negro Women, 633 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. at 7:00 p.m., following the

Annual Meeting. Please come out to celebrate Chief Judge Wagner and Mr. Brooks with their Washington Bar Association family. ■



The Honorable Eric T. Washington is Named Chief Judge for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals

The Honorable Eric T. Washington has been named Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals by the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission. Judge Washington will assume his new duties on August 8, 2005. Please join the WBA in congratulating Judge Washington on his appointment. ■

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June 2005



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2005

June 16, 6:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Annual Meeting, NCNW, 633 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

June 16, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Hall of Fame Ceremony & Installation of Officers, NCNW, 633 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.



President's Message, *Cont'd from page 1.*

vision was to re-energize the members of the WBA by having *you* actively participate in serving the community we were formed to assist. It is no accident that this year's Law Day theme carried that message. I thank you for making that vision real. The WBA membership answered the call and came out in hugely impressive numbers to support the Career Fair for First-Year Law Students. You all volunteered diligently on the Election Protection Program and supported the Pro Bono Clinic.

I am proud of my two years as President and they have been tremendously enriching. It is gratifying to be able to support our members as they seek judicial office. Honoring someone like William Coleman during last year's Law Day was tremendous. Putting on the "*Brown at the Kennedy Center*," chaired by Vice President Robert Bell, was a unique event in our history; it was a fabulous intellectual, cultural and social experience. Honoring the Honorable Margaret Haywood with the Ollie May Cooper Award (Judge Haywood was Ms. Cooper's contemporary) only two months before Judge Haywood died confirmed that we were on the right track. Having Ted Shaw, John Payton and Sheryll Cashin lecture us on "the" legal issues of our time was in the WBA's tradition of being on the cutting edge. The Honorable Theodore Newman followed in Judge Haywood's footsteps and received the Cooper Award this bar year. His acceptance

July 2005

July 16, 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., WBA Board of Directors Retreat, Jo Jo's Restaurant, 15th & U Streets, N.W.

July/August 2005

July 31—August 6, National Bar Association Annual Convention, J.W. Marriott Orlando and the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Orlando, Florida.

remarks were stirring and important for the current generation of lawyers to hear. I could go on and on about the rewarding experiences during 2003-2005. I am proud of my Board members, who have worked hard to make all of these events happen, but I am most proud of you for answering the call and giving back. Thank you for letting me be your President. ■

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Bonner, Kiernan, Trebach & Crociata
www.bktc.net

We are a rapidly growing national firm with offices throughout the northeast. Our office in Washington, DC is looking for associates who are self-motivated, hard working, trial lawyers with excellent research and writing skills, 2 to 6 years of experience and licensed in Virginia and admitted or eligible for admission to the D.C. Bar.

We have a history of sustained growth and are searching for attorneys to work in the areas of general negligence, products, medical and employer's liability for national, corporate and insurance clients.

Few firms can offer the range of cases, the client contact and the extensive responsibility offered as well as competitive compensation, and the opportunity for professional growth.

Please send a resume and a list of references, in confidence to:

Michael M. Hicks, Esq.
Bonner, Kiernan, Trebach & Crociata
1250 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



WBA Elections



The Washington Bar Association Elections will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2005, at the National Council of Negro Women, 633 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Article VI, Sec. 2 of the WBA Bylaws provides that “[i]ndividuals who are eligible to vote shall be those active members who have paid their Association dues at or before the regular business meeting of the month preceding the annual meeting.” **Also, please note that because the Hall of Fame and Installation of Officers Program is being held immediately following the Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m., the Annual Meeting will be held as soon as we obtain a quorum. Accordingly, it is advisable that you get to the Annual Meeting no later than 6:30 p.m.**



VOTE

Robert L. Bell
Washington, District of Columbia

Chairman of the Board & Vice President, WBA (2005-06)
PROVEN LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO HOUSTONIAN JURISPRUDENCE

- Chairman, Board of Trustees, Paine College (Augusta, Georgia)
- Vice President, Washington Bar Association
- Chair, WBA's *Brown & Bolling* 50th Anniversary Memorial Celebration @ Kennedy Center
- Life Member, WBA
- Life Member, National Bar Association
- Vice Chair of WBA Law Day Committee 2004 & 2005
- Recommended current name for WBA's Newsletter *Equal Justice* (adopted by Board)
- Established one of the first Legacy Scholarships with WBA Legal Fund, Inc.
- Past Chair, WBA's Ollie May Cooper Program
- Past Grand Chief Justice, Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity, Inc.
- Past President, WIAC/UNCF
- Past Chair, WIAC/UNCF's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration
- Past Case Development Editor, Howard Law School



SLATE OF CANDIDATES

President: Kevin D. Judd

Vice President/Chairman of the Board*:
Robert L. Bell, Patricia Rosier

Vice Presidents:
Iris McCollum Green, Ronald C. Jessamy

Treasurer: L. Harold Aikens, Jr.

Secretary: Annamaria Steward

Board Members: Joseph H. Hairston, Jay A. Stewart

*The following two candidates have each been nominated both for Vice President/Chairman of the Board and Vice President.



Patricia Rosier

Candidate for Chairman of the Board and Vice President

Patricia Rosier is completing her fourth term as Vice President of the Washington Bar Association. She has been an active member of the WBA board for over twelve (12) years. Patricia has extensive experience and service with the Washington Bar including:

- Chair of Law Day (Served as Chair for two years)
- Chair of Installation Reception at the United States Supreme Court
- Co-Founder of the WBA Legal Fund, Inc. (which has allowed a savings to the WBA of over \$25,000.00, enabling scholarships to area high schools and law students)
- Co-Founder of the Charles Hamilton Houston Scholarships
- Chair of the Inaugural WBA Hall of Fame Reception and designer of the unique award given to inductees
- Recipient of Numerous Awards and Accolades
- Served in numerous other leadership roles on various committees for the WBA

In addition, Mrs. Rosier has the following extensive experience and service to the National Bar Association:

- Vice President-Sections and Divisions (4 Years)
- Board Member (15 years)
- Co-Founder and chair of the Small Firms/Solo Practitioners' Division
- Recipient of Numerous Awards and Accolades

As Chairman of the Board, Patricia's extensive experience will provide the necessary leadership skills for the WBA.

Mrs. Rosier is the owner of Preferred Title, and is a graduate of the University of Denver College of Law.



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“Equal Justice Under Law”



More than ever law is about electronic data. And electronic data is just numbers: your next big win could lie in the 1s and 0s of your client's emails. The EDD provider you choose to collect, extract, and process your data could be your ace in the hole – or a liability.

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Life Membership—\$1000

Send your membership dues to:

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