



EQUAL JUSTICE

Newsletter of the Washington Bar Association

Dedicated to the Principle "Equal Justice Under Law"

June 2010



President's Column by Ronald C. Jessamy, Sr.

Term limits are beneficial. For the Washington Bar Association, the limit of two, one-year terms for the president is dictated by our bylaws. In an organization such as ours, it is a good way to guarantee that the organization is infused with new and fresh ideas for addressing challenges and opportunities. It also provides us with the chance to look to new leadership for direction, guidance and inspiration. Term limits also open the door for different styles of leadership which can help prevent an organization from becoming staid.

It has been an honor, and a humbling experience, to have served as President of one of the premier local voluntary bar associations in the country for the past two years. The enormous support we received from so many individuals, firms and organizations during that time has helped to maintain the vibrancy, relevancy and stature of the organization as we continue the fight for equal justice in the Twenty-First Century.

The Washington Bar Association has no paid staff. We get our work done through the volunteer efforts of our officers, directors and members. We have no funding source other than the payment of dues by the membership. Although we sponsor a number of events throughout the year, just a few of them are supported by a charge for admission. Having an active and engaged Judicial Council Division has helped tremendously in boosting the stature and prestige of the organization over the past ten years. Year in and year out, the activities engaged in by members of our Young Lawyers Division help to make the organization relevant to early career attorneys and the community. I want to thank the officers, directors and members of the WBA and its divisions for the work you all have done to help make the past two years personally rewarding for me and successful for the Association. Now, we look forward to new leadership as we try to live up to the legacy left to us by our founders in 1925, and the many men and women who came after them, of being on the front lines in the endeavor to help ensure that our society provides "Equal Justice for All".

WBA Judicial Council Update

By Judge Anita Josey-Herring

What a pleasure it has been to serve as the Chair of the Washington Bar Association's Judicial Council. For the 2010 bar year, our members have been actively engaged in community service and educational programs. To give you a sense of what we have been doing, I would like to highlight a few activities that were extremely successful and rewarding. In February, Black History Month, the administration at Thomas Elementary School invited members of the Judicial Council to speak to an assembly of students about the role of the Courts and varied career opportunities within the legal profession. The judges were honored to participate in this event and received very positive feedback from both students and staff at Thompson.

This year, the Judicial Council also continued one of its most noted endeavors--the Summer Internship Program. Through this program, scores of law students receive internships and are paired with federal, local, administrative, trial and appellate judges throughout the District of Columbia. -- *Cont'd on page 2.*

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Calendar of Events

June

June 17, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.
Biennial Conference
Dorothy I. Height/NCNW Building,
633 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

June 17, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
**Annual Meeting and election of Officers/Board Members,
and the WBA Hall of Fame Ceremony,**
Dorothy I. Height/NCNW Building,
633 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

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- Johnnie D. Bond
- Robert Bell
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- Felicia L. Chambers
- Kim M. Keenan
- Donald A. Thigpen, Jr.

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- Felicia L. Chambers
- Kim M. Keenan
- Donald A. Thigpen, Jr.

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Editor:** Jeffrey Jones

Judicial Council Update -- (Continued from page 1)

The thrust of this program is to provide law students with an opportunity to hone their legal skills under the supervision of judge mentors who teach law students how to become great lawyers. This experience also exposes the interns to the Court process and litigation from the perspective of the bench.

In March, the Judicial Council celebrated its' 10th Anniversary and Symposium at the Historic Courthouse, formally the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The founders of the Judicial Council were celebrated at this event dubbed "Then and Now". The audience was full and engaged and they commented about how much they learned about the history of the local Courts from distinguished jurist who were panel members and enjoyed the event. The elevation to the bench of Administrative Law Judges from the 1970's forward was also discussed by the panel members. Also, to further enhance our ability to judge more effectively in the courtroom, Judicial Council members participated in cultural competence training lead by Tawara Goode, the Assistant Director of the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University.

This is just a glimpse of our activities for the 2010 Program Year. I think you will agree that participation of judges in these and other activities exemplify our commitment to positively impacting the profession through education and community service. As the Judicial Council forges ahead over the coming years, it will continue impacting justice by doing justice and creating opportunities for the profession to thrive.



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WBA to Hold Biennial Conference

The Washington Bar Association will hold its Biennial Conference on June 17, 2010 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The conference will take place at the Dorothy I Height/NCNW Building, 633 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. Chairing the conference committee is WBA past President Robert Bell. The theme of the conference is *Transgenerational Dialogue: The Pursuit of Equal Justice - Then and Now*. The conference will feature a WBA Book Club event followed by a panel/audience discussion. The Book Club, under the leadership of WBA past President Felicia Chambers, will present a discussion by Rawn James, Jr. Mr. James will discuss his recently published book "Root and Branch: Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, and the Struggle to End Segregation". Following the Book Club's presentation, a panel/audience discussion in keeping with the conference's theme will be moderated by Professor Charles J. Ogletree. Both Mr. James and Professor Ogletree will be available to sign their books during the conference. Professor Ogletree's most recent book is "**The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Race, Class and Crime in America.**"

The conference will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by the WBA's Annual Meeting, election of officers and directors, Hall of Fame Ceremony and reception.

There is no charge to attend the Conference or the Annual Meeting

Young Lawyers Division Elections

The WBA Young Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for the following offices:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The following positions are appointed by the nominations committee:

- Social Chair
- Professional Development Chair
- Community Service Chair
- Membership Chair

Nominations open June 1, 2010 and will close June 8, 2010. All interested candidates should email Nominations Chair, Allison Brown at wbyldmembership@gmail.com.

Elections will be held June 12, 2010. All votes should be emailed to the Nominations Chair no later than 6:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

The 2010 Hall of Fame Committee announces the names of the following individuals to be inducted into the Washington Bar Association's Hall of Fame at a ceremony during the organization's Annual meeting on June 17, 2010:

- **Ronald Crump**, Past President, Washington Bar Association; Past President, DC Chapter, Federal Bar Association.
- **Herbert B. Dixon, Jr.**, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
- **Elaine R. Jones**, Director Counsel/President, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (Retired).
- **Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.** Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, and Founding and Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.
- **Garland Pinkston, Jr.** Clerk, District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Retired).
- **William C. Pryor**, Senior Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals; former Chief Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Distinguished Professor of Law and Resident Scholar, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Hall of Fame Committee Members

- McCollum Green, Chair
- Hon. Anita Josey-Herring
- Yaida O. Ford
- Ronald C. Jessamy

Philip C. Baten Sworn In As New ALJ at FERC

Long-time Washington Bar Association/Judicial Council Division member Philip C. Baten was sworn in as a new Administrative Law Judge at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on May 25, 2010. Prior to his appointment at FERC, Judge Baten was an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Judge Baten practiced law in the courts of the District of Columbia over two decades prior to becoming an administrative law judge in 2005. In addition to his other affiliations, Judge Baten is a member of Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity.



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WASHINGTON BAR ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010

YLD Member Spotlight: Allison R. Brown

By Jason A. Grant

The Washington Bar Association Nominations Committee, composed of WBA past Presidents Felicia L. Chambers, Robert L. Bell and Kim M. Keenan, reports to the Body the following slate of candidates to stand for election for Bar Year 2010 to 2011 :

- **President:** Iris McCollum Green
- **1st Vice President:** Charles G. Byrd, Jr.
- **2nd Vice President:** William R. Martin
- **Treasurer:** Richard M. Wilson
- **Secretary:** Natalie S. Walker

The Committee nominates the following for board terms to expire in 2014:

- **Board Member:** William C. Robinson
- **Board Member:** Jay A. Stewart
- **Board Member:** Steve Vieux

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the National Council for Negro Women, 633 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20004 at 6:30 p.m.

The following are the terms of Board Members who are not standing for election:

- **Board Member:** Robie A. Beatty
(term expires 2012)
- **Board Member:** Johnnie D. Bond, Jr.
(term expires 2012)
- **Board Member:** Joseph H. Hairston
(term expires 2011)

Respectfully submitted,
Felicia L. Chambers
Past President
Chair, WBA Nominations Committee

In May of this year, Allison R. Brown, who serves as the Professional Development Chairperson for the Young Lawyers Division of the Washington Bar Association, was inducted into her high school hall of fame in her hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana. This honor is one of many accomplishments that Allison has achieved in her young and impressive legal career, and as seen by all that she has done, it is well-deserved recognition.

Allison is a 1998 graduate of Howard University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*, and in 2002, she graduated from Harvard Law School, where she was an articles editor for the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* and a student attorney for the Criminal Justice Institute. After graduating from law school, Allison returned to her hometown of Indianapolis and served two judicial clerkship terms. The first was for Justice Theodore R. Boehm of the Indiana Supreme Court. Her second clerkship was for the then-Chief Judge David F. Hamilton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, who was recently confirmed to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Her experiences as a judicial clerk influenced her decision to start Judicial Clerk, LLC, which assists law students and lawyers through the clerkship application process and educates minority law students about the value of clerkships.

Additionally, Allison works as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Civil Rights Division. This past March, Allison, along with other dedicated individuals in the DOJ Civil Rights Division, were successful in achieving a settlement agreement with the Monroe City School District of Louisiana to ensure that the district complies with Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In addition to all of her career responsibilities, Allison also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Mentors of Minorities in Education's Total Learning Cis-Tem (MOMIEs TLC), as a legal adviser for the National Council on Educating Black Children, and she and her husband are proud parents of two young children. As a young lawyer, Allison continues to do work that the founders of the Washington Bar Association dedicated themselves to do: advancement of jurisprudence and making this nation a more just society through the legal system. Allison R. Brown is indeed an example of the "social engineer" that Charles Hamilton Houston implored us to become.

MEMBERSHIP/DUES: For those of you who have not done so already, please go to www.washingtonbar.org to renew your membership and to pay your dues online.

WBA Member Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.'s Latest Book To be Published This Month

The Presumption of Guilt

The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Race, Class and Crime in America

By Charles Ogletree
Publication date: June 22, 2010

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, July 16, 2009, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., MacArthur Fellow and Harvard professor, was mistakenly arrested by Cambridge police sergeant James Crowley for disorderly conduct after Officer Crowley responded to a call about a suspected breaking and entering. The ensuing media firestorm ignited debate across the country. The Crowley-Gates incident was a clash of absolutes, underscoring the tension between black and white, police and civilians, and the privileged and less privileged in modern America. Charles Ogletree, one of the country's foremost experts on civil rights, uses this incident as a lens through which to explore issues of race, class, and crime, with the goal of creating a more just legal system for all.

Working from years of research and based on his own classes and experiences with law enforcement, the author illuminates the steps needed to embark on the long journey toward racial and legal equality for all Americans.

Advanced praise for THE PRESUMPTION OF GUILT:

"A great teacher is one who seizes on every great teaching moment to explain and educate. Charles Ogletree is such a teacher. He has seized on the very public arrest of Professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates to teach Americans important lessons about the Constitution, the continuing relevance of race in America and the ease with which an incident can escalate into a major event. Ogletree was there, knows all the participants and has written a brilliant book from which all Americans can learn." --Alan Dershowitz, author of *Trials of Zion*

"*The Presumption of Guilt*" is both informative and instructive. Informative because it provides a very accurate description of the events of that day and instructive because it identifies the critical areas which must be addressed in order to prevent racial profiling and other disparities in the criminal justice system." -- Ronald E. Hampton, Executive Director, National Black Police Association

"Charles Ogletree possesses one of the most brilliant legal minds in American culture and here he bridges the ivory tower academy and the messy world in a rare and unique manner. Don't miss this book." --Cornel West, Princeton University





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Garland Pinkston, Jr., Clerk, DCCA Retires



Machen Takes Oath of Office As United States Attorney



2010 Law Day Dinner



Social Sightings, Inc. (© 2010)

Garland Pinkston, Jr., recently retired as Clerk, District of Columbia Court of Appeals. WBA President Ronald C. Jessamy noted that "among the many accomplishments Garland will be remembered for in his 31 years of stellar service in various branches of the District of Columbia government and the federal government, is his leadership in the Court of Appeals' move from the main courthouse building to its current location, the Historic Courthouse at 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC."

On May 24, 2010, Washington Bar Association member Ronald C. Machen, Jr. was sworn in as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. The United States Attorney's office enforces the criminal laws of the United States and the District of Columbia. Machen, who once served as an assistant US Attorney in the District of Columbia, was most recently a partner in the Washington, DC law firm of WilmerHale.

(left to right) WBA President, Ronald C. Jessamy, Sr.; US Attorney General, Eric H. Holder, Jr.; WBA 1st VP/Law Day Committee Co-Chair, Iris M. Green; 2010 Recipient of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit, John Payton; Law Day Committee Co-Chair, William R. (Billy) Martin

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