



April 2010

PGCBA NEWSJOURNAL

Newsletter of the Prince George's County Bar Association, Inc.

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President's Message



Dear Colleagues:

I hope the long awaited spring is finally here to stay. The Bar Association sent a letter to the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia in opposition to mandatory Continuing Legal Education. One hundred forty-seven (147) members of our Association replied to the survey and voted at approximately 70% against the mandatory CLE. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Bar Association, therefore registered our opposition against the proposed change requiring mandatory CLE. I appreciate the quick responses as well as many of the well thought out suggestions to the proposed rule. Also, be aware that there will be a hearing on this at the Court of Appeals in the future. There will be some procedures to allow members or organizations to voice either opposition or approval of the proposed rules. Members should keep an eye out on the Maryland Court's website to keep abreast of this current proposal.

I want to once again thank the Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr., for the "Brown Bag" lunches training sessions. The schedule will be coming out in the Bar Newsletter as well as in the e-mails. If this new proposed rule passes effective January, 2011, the Bar Association will do everything in its power to provide meaningful and low cost CLEs for our members. Hopefully the "Brown Bag" lunches in the future might be included as a CLE credit.

I also want to thank the Honorable Michael R. Pearson, David Simpson, Esquire, and Richard Allen Moore II, Esquire, and all of the speakers for the Alan Goldstein seminar. It was a great CLE.

I would also like to call all members' attention to the article by William Brennan, Esquire, as the Board of Directors have voted on a proposed amendment change to our bylaws on how the Bar Association recommends judges. In short, this idea has been floated around for the past couple of years and this year the Board of Directors have acted upon it. There was a committee made up of William Brennan, Esquire, Betty Hewlett, Esquire, Jeffrey Harding, Esquire, Linda Gantt, Esquire,

Continued on page 3



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

and Jennifer Muskus, Esquire, who came up with the actual wording of this proposal. The Board of Directors voted to approve this amendment. Therefore, this proposal will be up for a vote and discussion at the June annual meeting. As per the bylaws, we need a quorum of the members present as well as a two-thirds vote in favor in order to change the amendment. I would ask all members to look at this proposed amendment. Additionally, depending upon when the Newsletter arrives at your offices, please keep in mind that the deadline for anyone who wishes to run for office of the Board of Directors or Secretary ends April 15th. If anyone is interested, please, as soon as you get this, file your application with Georgia Perry at the Bar Association.

I also want to thank all of the members who attended the Joint Meeting with J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association. It was another successful event. I would also like to join J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association in thanking our excellent speaker, Thomas Perez, Esquire, for his keen insight and information about the Department of Justice.

In closing, I will once again say to please feel free to tell either myself, members of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors Committee, or Section Chairs of any concerns, comments or ideas you may have regarding our Association.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Rattal
President

MARYLAND PANEL

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Alison Asti stands among Maryland's outstanding commercial lawyers and business leaders. She developed her extensive legal skills as a transactional lawyer at one of Baltimore's finest firms. She then served for seventeen years as the General Counsel and Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority. Throughout these legal and business experiences, she has become well known for her expertise in sophisticated financial, construction, corporate, and commercial matters. She has particular expertise in legal and business matters involving sports and entertainment. Ms. Asti has been an outstanding leader as a past President of the Maryland State Bar, the Baltimore City Bar, the Baltimore Women's Bar, and the Maryland Bar Foundation. While running her own sports and entertainment consulting firm, she now also joins The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, and other ADR needs of lawyers, businesses, and individuals throughout Maryland and beyond.



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Honoring CLS Long Standing Partnership with Prince George's County Police Department

This month we want to highlight our long standing partnership with the Prince George's County Police Department. We invited some very special guests to our March CLS Board of Directors meeting, and had the honor of their attendance: Prince George's County (PGPD) **Chief of Police Roberto L. Hylton, Major Daniel Dusseau, and Captain Cesar Pacheco** from PGPD District I. We wanted to express our gratitude for the many years they have provided space to CLS to operate our clinics to do outreach.

Back in 1999, we needed a space to operate a law clinic to reach out to the non-English speaking immigrant community of Prince George's County but at the time, we did not have the necessary funds to rent a space. We were already operating a law clinic in the courthouse in Upper Marlboro but this was not easily accessible to persons living in the northern region of the County who only had access to public transportation. I decided to approach the then PGPD District I Major, Commander James Hunt, and asked him if he would give us office space to operate a clinic to provide free legal advice to clients two days a week at their Community Oriented Policing satellite office in Langley Park. This satellite office is located in the heart of the immigrant community in Prince George's County, bordering Montgomery County immigrant community as well. He agreed! Since then, PGPD District I has been led by many Commanders and they have all been equally gracious, including the current commander, Major Daniel Dusseau, to continue allowing CLS to operate its clinics.

We now use office space at their site five (5) days a week, operating two (2) law clinics: CLS Family Law Clinic (Monday,

Wednesday and Friday), and Workers' Rights Clinic (Tuesday and Thursday). **In fiscal year 2009 we assisted a total of 6,522 persons at these clinics!** One of the special aspects of this story worth mentioning is that, though this is a Police Department site, different members of the community have felt free to come to the clinic to seek our services. Non-immigrants and immigrants (documented or not), English and non-English speakers from Montgomery, Prince George's counties, and Washington DC, are seeking our services, and everyone is welcomed to do so!



from left to right: Nora Eidelman, CLS V.P. Orlando Barnes, Esq., Chief of Police Roberto L. Hylton, CLS Pres. Paul B. Eason, Major Daniel Dusseau, Neal T. Conway, Captain Cesar Pacheco

comfortable everyone is

attendees. Additionally each attendee will be assigned one pro bono case from CLS or MVLS at the conclusion of the training. Mentors and malpractice insurance is provided to all the volunteers. Advanced registration is required. To register, request a registration form by emailing jocarol@mvlslaw.org or call 443-451-4061.



from left to right: Board member Edith Lawson Jackson, Esq., CLS Treasurer Rush H. Seale, Chief Hylton, CLS Pres. and V.P., Major Dusseau, board member Wanda I. Ramos, Captain Pacheco

COMING UP:

Family Law Nuts & Bolts Training

Sponsored by CLS and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS)

Speakers: **Honorable Julia B. Weatherly**, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, and **Barbara Jorgenson, Esq.**, from Joseph, Greenwald & Laake, P.A.

Maryland attorneys are invited to attend this free legal training on the nuts and bolts of family law. The training will cover the basics of how to handle a family law case. A CD with sample pleadings and other helpful documents will be given out to the

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Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Inc. is a non-profit organization established to provide quality civil legal services to low-income persons in Prince George's County. It does this through the generous contribution of legal advice and legal representation by members of the private Bar. Additionally, CLS operates free legal clinics in the County. They are located in the Circuit Court House and Langley Park. For more information about our services, please contact Nora C. Eidelman, at 301-864-4907, ext. 12.

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As Co-Chair of the Family Law Committee, I am honored to represent one of our Bar Association's committees. As many of you may know, the Family Law Committee has a very active and dedicated membership. Our e-mail listserv has expanded to over 100 members, and continues to grow each month. We hope for continued growth in the years to come, and are dependent on our membership for sustained development and expansion.

One reason for our growth has been the numerous benefits afforded by being a member of the Family Law Committee. Our members have the opportunity to attend our regular monthly meetings, which often serve as "mini-seminars." Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning at 4:45 p.m. in the Circuit Court Law Library, and generally end at 6:00 p.m. The meetings have grown in popularity and are regularly attended by over 20 Committee members. Each meeting features a speaker presenting on a topic relevant to the family law arena. Our speakers often include Judges, Masters, experienced family law practitioners, and professionals in fields impacting family law. Additionally, many of our speakers are attorneys in other fields of law, including bankruptcy, tax, immigration, and foreclosure. The topics covered have been vast. Some of the Committee's more popular and well-attended meetings include our annual nuts and bolts mini-seminars; our

annual case law and legislative update; our meetings on continuance requests and discovery policies in the Circuit Court; our "Master's Rants"; and our "best practices" segments presented by experienced practitioners, Judges and Masters. Our mini-seminars are designed for both the more seasoned family law attorney, as well as those newer to the practice of family law.

In addition to the educational component of our monthly Committee meetings, these meetings provide a great opportunity to interact with fellow practitioners and colleagues, and to discuss issues and policies. Oftentimes after discussion amongst the Committee, the Co-Chairs are able to address policy concerns and questions with the Bench, and the co-chairs are then able to provide feedback to the Committee. The Committee provides an open forum to voice concerns, issues, and to have roundtable discussions, and is an integral part of practicing family law in Prince George's County.

Another exciting event hosted by the Family Law Committee is our half-day Annual Seminar held on a Saturday in May each year. Attendance at the Annual Seminar has grown each year, with attendance exceeding 50 attorneys, Masters, and Judges. The Annual Seminar is held in the Circuit Court Jury Assembly Room. This year, our Annual Seminar will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010. The Seminar is in its final stages of planning and confirmation, and details will be forthcoming in the very near future, so please keep your calendars marked for this event. We are hoping for even larger attendance this year.

Your continued participation in the Family Law Committee is critical to its success. For further information on how to get involved, please contact Lindsey K. Erdmann, Esquire, Co-Chair, at 301-952-0100 or lerdmann@kmmnl-law.com, or Elveta Martin, Esquire, Co-Chair, at emmartin@co.pg.md.us

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**SO YOU
DON'T
THINK YOU
HAVE TIME
TO EAT
HEALTHY?**

Let's face it - eating healthy is not the easiest thing in the world to do. It takes forethought, planning, cooking, and often, packing up your food to carry along with you. And even if you've managed to accomplish all of these steps, there are still pitfalls to come between you and your healthy meal. Like leaving your meals on the kitchen table as you rush out of the door. I'm sure everyone has fallen victim to the "forgotten lunch" situation....you only remember that you've forgotten your food when you're halfway to work or court. Yes, there are pitfalls and you might inevitably think that it's so much easier to just drive through the McDonald's window...for breakfast, then lunch, then dinner. But wait. Do you really want to supersize yourself and have to deal with all the health problems that will come along with your new supersized self? I didn't think so. So don't give up just yet. There is an easier way.

Sure, a drive through window is about as easy as it gets to pick up a meal that can be ready with little or no effort on your part. Rolling down the window to yell your order into the speaker doesn't really count as effort. However, that is what we all want.... something that's so quick and so easy that it doesn't interfere with our schedules. We're all so busy with our jobs and our kids and meetings and other required "extra-curricular activities", that it really is hard to squeeze in some time to cook a decent, healthy meal. But there are some meals that require so very little effort and time, that they really won't impact your schedule to a degree that will make a difference.

This month I'm going to share some of my favorite quick and healthy recipes. They're pretty much staples for me, especially when I'm short on time, and they can be easily transported to work. Hopefully you'll try some of these recipes and make them a part of your gradual change from eating processed, greasy "on the go" foods to fueling your body with your own home cooked, waist-trimming delights.

HealthE Eggs: one of my favorite quick meals. I'll usually make these for breakfast but anytime you crave a meal that's satisfying with very few calories, this is an excellent choice. Total preparation and cooking time - 8 minutes. Approximately 105 calories.

What you'll need (per serving):

1 tablespoon of medium salsa (3 cal)

1 oz shredded 2% fat cheese

1/2 cup of "EggBeaters" or other egg white substitute (equals 2 whole eggs and total 60 cal)

Pinch of basil and pinch of parsley, pepper to taste

Pam non-stick spray.

This egg dish can be made as a scramble or as an omelet. Just spray your pan with Pam, pour in your egg substitute, then add the cheese and salsa just before your eggs are done. Sprinkle on your basil and parsley and pepper.

I love the HealthE Eggs recipe because it's so easy to make and where else can you find a satisfying meal for roughly 100 calories? I find this meal filling enough to keep me satisfied for a good 3 hours. But if you want to make it a little more substantial, I've got a "to go" version that's even more hearty. Add a "to go" wrap. I love the whole wheat tortillas by La Tortilla Factory. Just toss your eggs into the tortilla wrap and take it to go. The tortilla adds only 80 additional calories, but it also adds 8 grams of muscle-building protein and 14 grams

(half your daily requirement) of fiber! That's better than any fiber pill I know. Plus...it really tastes good! This gets my two thumbs up, number one award for best breakfast on the go.

"The Best Healthy Smoothie Ever": created by my daughter, an all around athlete, I think this one will be a big hit with the whole family. This recipe takes virtually no time and even a child can make it. The good thing is that it contains natural ingredients with no added sugar. It's a great breakfast, lunch or between meal snack. Total preparation time: 2 minutes. Calories: 201.

What you'll need:

4 oz Bolthouse Farms "C Boost" smoothy- roughly 76 cal.

1 cup of frozen blueberry/blackberry/raspberry (or you can substitute strawberries, etc)- 75 cal

8 oz Vitamin Water - (assortment of flavors)- approx 50 cal

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(I like the Energy flavor because of its B vitamins) and add the frozen fruit mixture. As the last step, simply turn on the blender and blend for approximately one minute.

This recipe makes a 12 oz drink (which is more than many drinks whose serving size is only 8 oz) with only approximately 200 calories. And it's great when you need energy but don't want to feel full. What's more, this healthy recipe has Echinacea and astragalus to support the immune system, B vitamins for energy and body fluid regulation, and more than 1200% of your daily vitamin c needs. To top it all off, you're getting an abundance of antioxidant rich, fiber-full nutrients from the berry mix which are known for numerous health benefits. And your super drink can be frozen at night and carried to work with you the next day.

Who doesn't have time for a smoothy?

Quick Wrap: the solution to a eating that same old sandwich you've been getting day after day. Move over subway....this one's got more meat, less calories.

I have absolutely fallen in love with wraps. They're so much better than eating a sandwich made of white or even wheat bread. The wrap is thin so it doesn't bulk up your stomach and you simply can't find this kind of fiber in bread.

Total preparation time 5 minutes.
Calories: 233

What you'll need:

I pack (2.5 oz) of sliced smoked chicken breast meat (I like Budding because its so thinly sliced it looks like you're getting a huge serving) - 110 cal.

1 oz shredded low-fat cheese - 40 cal.

I Tablespoon of medium salsa - 3 cal.

Low Carb Tortilla Wrap by La Tortilla Factory (available at Safeway) - 80 cal.

Again, this takes less than 5 minutes to make. You simply get out your wrap and place it on a plate. Layer your slices of meat in the wrap and sprinkle with cheese then spoon on your salsa. Roll the wrap up and stick it in the microwave for 1 minute. Voila! A moist, juicy sandwich (with the help of the salsa) that is oh so tasty! You can wrap it in foil and carry it to work or even eat it on the go. And its sooo much better for you than a cheeseburger.

So here's something to think about: I've just given you the recipe for three wonderfully healthy meals that you can make yourself in 5 minutes or less and take with you to work.

If you ate all of these three meals in one day, you'd be consuming under 540 calories. Of course, you'd want to get in at least two more meals, as it's best to eat several small meals throughout the day. But how hard is it to squeeze in during the balance of the day an apple, a leafy green salad (not lettuce, but leafy greens) with chicken breast or tuna, and a protein bar or drink? Not very difficult at all. And can you believe how few calories you'd be consuming with these filling and nutritious meals? This just goes to show you, it really is possible to get in all your meals while at the same time including the most nutrient dense, healthy foods - all without disrupting your busy schedule.

Who's too busy to prepare healthy, delicious meal? Not you.

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MARCH MEETING





PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S

Annual Meeting

Vote on elections/Bylaw changes

June 8, 2010



NEWTON WHITE MANSION

6:00 PM

\$50 per person/ \$55 after May 28, 2010

Dinner & Open Bar

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**CALL THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS, 301-952-1442**

Please RSVP by May 28, 2010

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____ Firm/Address: _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Please reserve _____ spot(s)

Return this form with check made payable to "PGCBA" and mail to
Prince George's County Bar Association, 14330 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE *by: William C. Brennan, Jr.*

Under the current by-laws, there is no official mechanism for the Prince George's County Bar Association to participate (as an entity) in the judicial selection process. The procedure currently in place (Article XI: Judicial Recommendations) allows the prospective judicial candidates to submit their names for an anonymous vote by the entire membership (the so-called "popularity contest"). The results of that secret ballot are then forwarded to the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Governor's Office. Beyond that confidential membership vote, the Prince George's County Bar Association makes no other endorsement concerning the fitness of prospective judicial candidates.

Other specialty bar associations such as, for example, the Woman's Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association or the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, typically have committees that interview prospective candidates and make recommendations to both the Commission and the Governor. The Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association is recommending to its membership that the by-laws be amended to allow for the results of both the secret membership vote and committee recommendations be forwarded to the Commission and the Governor. The proposal would retain the election process but add a standing committee (with staggered three year terms) appointed by the president that would interview prospective candidates and make recommendations. The board believes that such a two tiered process would allow the Prince George's County Bar Association to play a more meaningful role in the judicial selection process.

A majority of the Board of Directors believes that the secret membership vote could be viewed as nothing more than a popularity contest and may work to the disadvantage of worthy judicial candidates who may not be as well known to the majority of voting members. Adding a committee to interview prospective candidates would allow competent candidates who may not be as "popular" as others, to obtain an endorsement from the Prince George's County Bar Association. Thus, the endorsement of the Prince George's County Bar Association sent to the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Governor's Office would be based not only on popularity but also on having been interviewed by the Judicial Selections Committee.

The Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association (11 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions) is in favor of this amendment. The text of the amendment follows:

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT:

APPROVED: _____

It is resolved that Article VIII: Committees and Sections of the ByLaws of the Prince George's County Bar Association, Inc. shall be amended as follows:

The following additional language shall be inserted in the first paragraph and shall read as follows:

The President of the PGCBA shall appoint the Chair and Vice-chair and the members of the Judicial Selections Committee. Committee Members shall be appointed to serve a three (3) year term. After the first term, three (3) Committee Members, including the Chair of the Judicial Selections Committee, shall be appointed to serve an additional three (3) year term, three (3) Committee Members, including the Vice-chair of the Judicial Selections Committee, shall be appointed to serve an additional two (2) year term and three (3) Committee members shall be appointed to serve an additional one (1) year term. The members shall act until the next annual meeting of the members of the PGCBA or until successors are appointed. Nothing shall prevent any member from being re-appointed. Committee Members shall, at the commencement of their appointment onto the Committee, acknowledge in writing that they are not nor do they intend to become judicial applicants during their term on the Committee. The President of the PGCBA shall not make appointments onto the Judicial

Selections Committee if the President is a Judicial Applicant or anticipates being a Judicial Applicant within the term of their authority to appoint Committee Members. In that event, the Vice President, or the next highest Executive Officer, shall have the authority to make appointments onto the Judicial Selections Committee.

The following additional language shall be inserted in the second paragraph and shall read as follows:

The Executive Committee, upon a majority vote of those members present at an Executive Committee meeting shall upon Motion of the President or Chair of the Judicial Selections Committee have the authority to remove from the Judicial Selections Committee any member for cause including refusal or failure to assume or perform duties as a Committee Member and/or failure to maintain membership in the Bar in good standing.

The following additional language shall be inserted in the third paragraph and shall read as follows:

Designation of Standing Committees: The two (2) standing committees shall be designated as follows:

1. The Law Library Committee.
2. The Judicial Selections Committee. The Judicial Selections Committee shall have the authority and powers designated in Article XI.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT:

APPROVED: _____

It is resolved that Article XI: Judicial Recommendations of the ByLaws of the Prince George's County Bar Association, Inc. shall be amended as follows:

The following additional language shall be inserted as the first paragraph and shall read as follows:

Judicial Selections Committee: The Judicial Selections Committee shall be composed of no fewer than 9 members selected from the general membership. The Committee shall be empowered to interview candidates for judicial appointments. The Committee shall be empowered to make endorsements on behalf of the PGCBA. The Committee shall be empowered to present a plan to the Board of Directors for approval of proposed rules and regulations for training committee members, the form of interviews, questions to be asked in the interviews, confidentiality of the applications received from the Administrative Office of the Court, whether ratings shall be disclosed to the candidates, the rating system, the policy on Recusal and the form of the letter to the Judicial Nominating Commission or the Governor. No work shall be initiated or undertaken regarding the proposed rules and regulations without the approval of the Board of Directors. The Judicial Selections Committee shall consider the results of the secret written ballot recommendation for judicial appointments as made by the Active and Honorary members of the PGCGA in making its endorsement.

**Digital footprint –
What’s that?**

**Who Controls Your Digital
Footprint?**

Ten years ago, a large percentage of the legal profession—lawyers, judges, administrators and marketing experts were consumed by the privacy debates. The fear, in some cases paranoia, was that “bad people” would misuse personal data. Even public data in public files at the courthouse were thought to be protected in some sort of cloak of confidentiality. After all, real estate marketers were doing “bad things” with online court data; they were obtaining foreclosure records and marketing their services to the distressed homeowner, many of who were no doubt embarrassed by their financial plight. Never mind that those “bad things” were happening in newspaper ads and handmade signs on the community telephone poles.

Consider what has occurred over the past ten years; the amount of information about an individual which is accessible on the internet, without the specific permission of that individual, is astounding. Try googling your own name and see how much information you find about yourself; you will be shocked!

This is your “digital footprint”; information about an individual, law

firm or business which resides on the World Wide Web. This information can be used to your benefit, or it can be used in an unfavorable manner. It is collected from content on a website, and it is collected from your browsing history. Think of the various search engines you visited just today; Google, Yahoo, Bing. Check it for yourself and see how much information is revealed in a single month of history.

One company Executive put it this way; “They leave a data footprint. They tell me what they are interested in. They tell me what kinds of things they are searching on. They tell me what kinds of article they are reading. They tell me whether a user is interested in preparing for the tax season next year. They tell me.....” – the list goes on and on. Put several years together and it is possible to paint a very relevant picture.

**How to monitor your digital
footprint.**

Monitoring your digital footprint is really very easy.

1. Perform a google search of your name, your law firm or your business.
2. Schedule a monthly or quarterly google search.
3. Create a google alert on your name, your law firm or your business.

**How to manage your digital
footprint.**

There are three principles to managing your digital footprint: content, content, content. The best and surest way to manage a digital footprint is to create content on the World Wide Web. Rather than allowing others to create this content, take a proactive approach.

1. Create and manage a personal website.
2. Create a professional profile on a professional networking site such as LinkedIn or Plaxo.
3. Create a business/profession page on Facebook, LinkedIn, Avvo, and Lawyers.com.
4. Publish articles in your area of expertise for other professionals and the general public.

The more information that you put on the web about yourself, your practice and your law firm, the more the web will reflect what you say, not what others say for you.

**Rules of Professional Conduct
and Ethical Consideration**

What about the Rules of Professional Conduct and Ethics? Currently, the discussion traffic about ethics is heavy and the speed of response is “warped speed”. Blogs and Twitters on the subject abound. One side says you

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cannot do much; the State Bar Counsel and Ethics Panel says you are ethically responsible for what others might be saying about you on sites like Avvo, LinkedIn. The other side says all options are open. As usual, the truth and practice will lie somewhere in the middle – although the “middle” is still being defined.

When dealing with technology and the Internet, the tendency is to forget the occurrences and problems in the regular non-technology universe. For instance, social networking for a legal professional is as old as the profession. Lawyers are social by nature; they have neighbors, join country clubs, and belong to churches, service organizations, and community associations. Their friends and families are interconnected often by several generations. They call each other, meet with each other, and talk over the back fence or on the front porch. All of these activities must comport with ethical standards, yet are impossible to track or trace.

So what is different about this new and evolving technological Internet world? How is Facebook different from the community bulletin board and the local telephone tree? How is LinkedIn different than the Rotary Club, Kiwanis or Lions Club? How is Avvo different

than the yellow pages? A close look will lead to the conclusion of - not much. Yes, the speed and distance by which information and connections travel is multiplied and sometimes cubed. But at the same time, the tracks are easier to find and follow.

For the legal professional, the pathway seems pretty clear – get involved, use these new tools, learn about them, experiment with them, find out their strengths and weaknesses. While conducting activities, continue to guide them by basic ethics.

1. Don't give legal advice.
2. Don't solicit work.
3. Don't let people think you are representing them and creating a lawyer client relationship.
4. Make sure your words are not misleading.
5. Make sure you protect client confidences.
6. Watch out for conflicts of interest situations.

We should adapt our technology and internet use to the ethical standards that have always guided our conduct. We should not create a new set of rules in reaction to new technology.

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Quoted from Smith v. Continental Casualty Co., 289 F.SUPP.2D 706 (D. Md. 2003)

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Clayborne E. Chavers Joins Expanding Maryland Law Firm Joseph, Greenwald & Laake, PA

GREENBELT—Clayborne E. Chavers, Sr., a nationally known civil rights attorney, has joined Joseph, Greenwald & Laake. Chavers will head the Firm's Strategic Employment Group at the Firm's Greenbelt headquarters.

Chavers is the originating attorney in the landmark civil rights case against Eastman Kodak which resulted in a settlement of \$21.4 million dollars. He has represented employers and employees in civil rights cases for more than 25 years and has developed a corporate diversity plan designed to assist Fortune 1000 companies in taking a prospective approach to potential civil rights violations.

Chavers is also a pioneer in the fields of government contracts, business, and arts and entertainment law. Chavers, who began his career at the National Endowment for the Arts, was one of the first lawyers in the greater Washington, D.C., area to specialize in specialize in the Arts and Entertainment industry and is the founder and first chairman of the Entertainment, Sports, and Art Section of the National Bar Association. He has represented numerous local television and radio personalities.

"Clay has extensive insight and interest in the economic advantages cultural diversity can generate for industry," noted Burt M. Kahn, the Firm's managing director. "Clay's addition to the Firm expands the Firm's substantial employment practice, especially with Clay's reach into a client base that stretches around the country and the world," said Kahn.

Chavers' experience spans many fields from contract negotiations, commercial real estate development, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, economic development, corporate governance, to employee training and management relations. He has represented national and international clients, successfully closing complex business deals, managing litigation and negotiations at the administrative, trial, and appellate levels in state courts and federal courts.

Chavers has been a frequent speaker at professional and educational forums, including among others National Association of Broadcasters, Women in Film and Video, Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Congress, Public Broadcasting Service, Corporation for Public Broadcasting Georgetown University Law Center, District of Columbia Bar Association, Washington Lawyers for The Arts, The National Bar Association, National Association of Broadcasters, The College of William and Mary Law School Temple University School of Law, and The American University.

Joseph, Greenwald & Laake, PA, is a full service law firm with 33 lawyers, practicing in the areas of business, tax, criminal, personal injury, and medical malpractice. JGL serves local and national clients in Washington, D.C., and throughout Maryland. It has offices in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Calvert Counties.

Learn more about JGL at www.jglaw.com.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Bar

FROM: Albert Northrop, Circuit Court Judge

RE: SNOW CANCELLATIONS

DATE: April 1, 2010

It is no surprise that this winter has set records across the board. The inordinate number of snow day cancellations has caused a severe strain on the assignment office and the re-scheduling of cases. Accordingly, the court has implemented a procedure to attempt to alleviate this backlog, hopefully as a benefit not only to the court dockets but as a benefit to litigants as well.

If you have a case that was postponed due to weather related court closing at anytime between December 18, 2009 and February 20, 2010 and your case has NOT been rescheduled, the following procedure is mandatory.

You must call 1-877-SNO-LINE (1-877-760-5463) and have your case number ready. You will be directed to punch in your case number and you will then receive a date and time for mandatory arbitration of your case.

All arbitrations will be held at the Judicial Institute at 2011 Commerce Park Drive, Annapolis MD 21401. Each case will be charged at the rate of \$165 per party for the first two hours of the arbitration session. After two hours, each party will be charged an additional \$200.00 per hour. Any party who fails to pay the required fee will have his or her case dismissed, if the plaintiff, or a default taken if the defendant. Cases that are settled prior to the arbitration session must notify the SNO-LINE at least five (5) days prior to your session to avoid the minimum fee.

Once you have completed arbitration you must call 1-877-SNO-LINE within five (5) days, re-enter your case number followed by the pound sign and then push R(7) for resolved or U(8) for unresolved. If your case is resolved, you will have five (5) more days to file a Line and an Order confirming the arbitration award. If your case is unresolved, you will be given a trial date starting July 5, 6, or 7 in 2011.



**J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION AND
THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**



GOLF CLASSIC



To Benefit the J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund and Operation Homefront



TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start

1:00 p.m.

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*For questions, please contact Georgia Perry, 301-952-1442, gperry@pgcba.com
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Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____.

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Please reserve ____ spots for June 2, 2009 Tournament and ____ spots for the Golf Clinic. _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Foursome to Include: _____

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Clinic Participants: _____

Return this form with check made payable to "J. Franklyn Bourne Scholarship Fund, Inc." and mail to Prince George's County Bar Association, 14330 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. A portion of your donation may be tax deductible. Consult your financial advisor for details.

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<p><u>FREE</u> BROWN BAG LUNCH JUDGE MORRISSEY NOON LAWYERS LOUNGE</p> <p>APRIL 27, 2010</p>	<p><u>MAY 1, 2010</u></p> <p>FAMILY LAW SEMINAR COURTHOUSE</p>	<p><u>JUNE 1, 2010</u></p> <p>GOLF TOURNAMENT SUPPORT JFBB SCHOLARSHIP & OPERATION HOMEFRONT</p> <p>LAKE PRESIDENTIAL GOLF COURSE</p>

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
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