



March 2010

PGCBA NEWS JOURNAL

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

President's Message



What a wild winter! I am sitting in my chambers composing the President's Message for March. However, each of these messages is actually done about five to six weeks in advance. Sometimes it is hard to know what will be relevant or current by the time this message goes to press. As I sit here, the courthouse and the county is buried deep in snow. The recent snowstorm has caused a major disruption both for the legal system and the Bar Association. We were forced to postpone the joint meeting with the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association due to the weather and the fact that the federal courthouse was closed. I wish to express my personal thanks to Derron Parks, President of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, who has worked tirelessly with Georgia Perry, the Executive Director of our Bar Association, in trying to reschedule the joint meeting.

The Bar Association recently received a letter from the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia advising the Association of a proposed change regarding Continuing Legal Education. In short, there is a recommendation to require each member of the Bar Association to complete 10 hours of Continuing Legal Education, which must include two hours on professionalism. The Board of Directors of the Bar Association is going to discuss this proposal at our February meeting and take a position on this proposal. Any member of the Bar Association, who wishes to see a copy of the rules, can go online or you can contact me and I will gladly give you a copy.

I would also like to thank the Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr., who is working on revising the "Brown Bag" lunches starting in the very near future.

Please also be advised that if you are interested in running for office in the Bar Association, the deadline will be fast approaching by the time this article is distributed.

That is about it from snowy Upper Marlboro.

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

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ATTORNEYS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE *By William J. Parker, Jr.*

In over thirty years of practicing law I have found that attorneys can make a major impact

on the success or failure of a client and his or her family, not only in the legal advice and representation that the attorney gives the client, but by the attorney's willingness to significantly impact the client's present, but also the future.

When a juvenile comes into my office, not having a very structured home life and doing poorly in school, I try to give them a real incentive for actively changing both their attitude and their interest in completing their education. Hopefully by spending more time on school work, they have less time to do things that have a negative effect on their lives.

Often I will make a contract with a juvenile client that if they attend all their classes and pass all their courses, I will reduce my fee anywhere from 10-25%. This lets the juvenile reduce the financial impact on his family while also helping the client move ahead and make positive strides in life.

Not all of these incentives work, but I have found enough of them to be successful that I intend to continue this practice. I have also found that when it does work, it brings the youth and his or her parents closer since this is a mutual goal that is being accomplished.

When dealing with both juvenile and adult clients, the incentives offered by the attorney can impact the client and his or her family's future. If the client has an alcohol or drug problem or if the client has anger management issues, the attorney can give some monetary reduction in their fee if the client successfully completes whatever program is applicable to their individual needs.


Money may not be the answer to all things, but I believe by making these one on one contributions to the present and future success of a client, the attorney is saying to the client, the family and community that the attorney recognizes his or her responsibility to be a positive example in the community, and is willing to put their money where their mouth is.

Watching a client succeed in life, and knowing that you had at least some significant personal impact on this success, can be one of the most rewarding feelings an attorney can experience.


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MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR, FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE BAR!

Since 1988 Christmas in April*Prince George's County ("CinAPG") has renovated over 2,000 homes of the neediest residents in our County, always on the last Saturday in April. Did you know that members of our Bar Association have donated their sweat (and money!) to assist in the renovations almost since CinAPG's inception? Yes, Judge Wallace, Susan Bayly, Shondriette Kelley, Sharon Christmas-DeBerry, Abigale Bruce-Watson, Erik Nyce, Judge Rattal, Marva Jo Camp, William Snoddy, Bridgette Greer, Bill Brennan, Jay Creech, Russ Arlotta, John Frederickson, Tim Leahy, Debra Davis, Dennis Whitley, and countless others, have painted, hammered, washed and gardened on behalf of our less fortunate neighbors.

Well, guess what? It's that time of year again, and I am asking that members who've participated in the past and new members sign up to volunteer on this year's home. We have been asked to "spruce-up" one-story single-family dwelling owned by a 96-years-young resident of Upper Marlboro, Md. If you are interested in helping out with your time and brawn, please give me a call at 301-952-3644 or email to mewebb@co.pg.md.us. If you can't make it but would like to submit a small donation on behalf of yourself or the Prince George's County Bar Association, feel free to forward your donation to Mary Kucharski, Executive Director, Christmas in April*Prince George's County, 7915 Malcolm Road, Clinton, Md, 20735.

I thank you, in advance, for your unflinching service to a most worthy cause!

Submitted by Maurene Epps Webb

Joint Meeting of the Prince Georges Bar and Montgomery County Bar Workers Compensation Section

2nd Annual Lunch with the Commissioners

Tuesday March 23, 2010

12:30 lunch and speakers

Sir Walter Raleighs Restaurant

Please note you should rsvp for this event to guarantee a seat- last year sold out to Matt Tidball at tidballm@mcwilson.com or Patrick Mc Carthy at 240 553 1173

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The 25th Annual Alan J. Goldstein Memorial Criminal Practice Seminar

Sponsored by the Prince George's County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee



Saturday, March 27, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Jury Assembly Lounge, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro

TOPICS:

Nuts and Bolts of Maryland's Confession Laws

Speaker: Andrew Jezic, Esq.

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Speaker: Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr.
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Speaker: Hon. Paul Grimm
Chief Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the District of Maryland

Inmate's telephone conversations: "I can't believe he actually said that!"

Speaker: Aaron Myers
Assistant State's Attorney, Prince George's County

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\$45.00 for non-members by March 20, 2010, -\$55.00 After**

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MINUTES

MINUTES FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING COURTHOUSE, ROOM M0421 5:30 PM

January 12, 2010

PRESENT: The Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Acting President, Bryon S. Bereano, Secretary, William Brennan, Nakia Gray, Erin Hebert, Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Erik H. Nyce, the Honorable Michael R. Pearson, Ryan Richie, Timothy Smith, Alicia R. Lucero, Jennifer L. Muskus, William J. Parker, Jr., Joseph L. Wright, and Georgia Perry, and the Honorable Gerard F. Devlin.

ABSENT: Clayton A. Aarons, Debra Davis, Treasurer, Robin D. Bright, Janet Hart, Denise Bowman, Linda Gantt, Jeffrey Harding, Isaac H. Marks, C. Todd Steuart, Richard Allen Moore, II, and the Honorable Mark T. O'Brien.

The President's Report

Judge Rattal reported that the December Holiday Party was a great success. It is projected that the Bar Association will actually be in the black for this event due to sponsorship.

Jeanine Telfer – Mediation Coordinator for State's Attorney Office gave a presentation on the program in the State's Attorney

Office that offers mediation of certain criminal matters after they are charged.

A discussion was held regarding the new Judicial Selection proposal for the Bar Association. Mr. Brennan gave a report of the committee's changes and the need for the Association to formerly weigh in to the judicial selection process for Prince George's County. The proposal would combine the results of the committees' interviews with judicial candidates and the results of the membership wide vote. Mr. Nyce dissented to the proposal. Mr. Nyce mentioned the point that there is a problem with a dual system and that the bar vote will be diluted with the Governor. Mr. Parker spoke in favor of the proposal stating that he believed that the committee will help those candidates that are not well known.

The proposal was put to a vote of the Board:

Yes (11): Mr. Brennan, Mr. Parker, Ms. Muskus, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Gray, Mr. Pearson, Ms. Lucero, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Bereano, and Ms. Betty Hewlett

No (2): Ms. Hebert, Mr. Nyce

Abstain (2): Mr. Rattal, Mr. Devlin.

The proposal passed. The proposal, which in effect will change the By-Laws, will be presented to the Bar membership to be voted on at the June 2010 meeting. The proposal will need to pass by two-thirds vote of members present at the June meeting provided there is quorum present which is 5% of the general membership.

The Bar association will be presenting a Bankruptcy seminar put on by John Burns. Additionally, the Bar association's next general meeting will be the February 9, 2010 joint meeting with the J. Franklin Bourne Bar Association and the Montgomery County Bar Association. There will also be brown bag lunches hosted by Judges coming in March. The first to be hosted by Judge Green.

A discussion was held on the Fee Conciliation Committee Bylaws. Amendments were passed unanimously. Motion was made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Hewlett.

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Judge Salmon is retiring in February 2010. A proposal was made to honor him at the June 2010 meeting.

The Secretary's Report

The minutes from the October 27, 2009 Bar Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion was made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Ms. Hewlett. The Motion was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ms. Hewlett and seconded by Mr. Ritchie. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

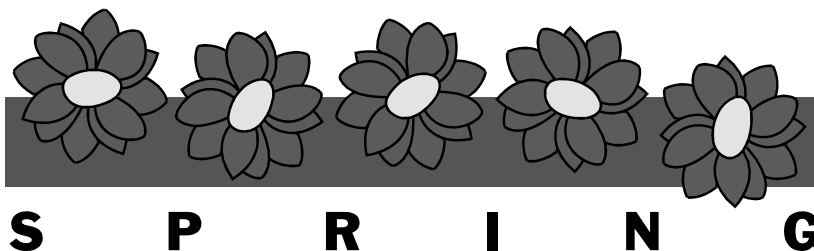
A Motion was proposed by Ms. Hewlett and seconded by Mr. Parker to accept new members. The Motion was approved unanimously. The new members are:

- Okie C. Whiteru
- OlaDipo A. Akin-Deko
- Joshua David Borean
- Joseph E. Hainline
- Matthew Youssef
- Joy A. Ceesay
- Caeb M. Colravy
- Rene Esteban Bliss Tywang
- Sloane Lisa Fish
- Gregory R. Singleton
- Kevin Butler Mattingly
- Michael A. Ostroff
- Kjrsten Marie Tendall
- Matthew H. Welsh
- Christina L. Caron
- Jennifer Lynn Cook

New Business:

Ms. Lucero discussed the Mock Trial competition and the need for volunteer judges and lawyer coaches for the student's teams. Additionally, information about the June 1, 2010 PGCBA/J. Franklin Bourne golf tournament was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.



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Updates



Foreclosure Prevention Project

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with servicers. In order to register to receive this training via webcast please download a registration form at: <http://www.probonomd.org/foreclosure.html>.

For more information about the Project, contact Alex DeLorme at CLS at (301) 864-8186 extension 13, or delorme@clspgc.org This training program is offered by **Civil Justice Inc.**, the **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland**, partners in Maryland's **Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project**.

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Thanking Prince George's County Council members and Other Contributors

We are pleased and grateful to announce that council members **Marilynn M. Bland** (Dist. 9), **Will Campos** (Dist. 2) and **Eric Olson** (Dist. 3) have made Special Appropriation Grant contributions to CLS for fiscal year 2010. Their contribution will help us to continue operating our programs and projects in the County. We are equally grateful to announce that CLS has received a \$25,000 grant from the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation for our Foreclosure Prevention Project. Additionally we have received a matching grant from the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 for our Worker's Rights Law Clinic thanks to the generous contributions of Prince George's Bar members who matched the grant.

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COMING UP

The next Self-Represented Litigant Orientation in Spanish is scheduled in March in Langley Park. The Orientation is in collaboration with the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County and other attorneys and representatives of the community. The Spanish Self-Represented Litigant Orientation Committee coordinates the Spanish version of the English language Self-Represented Litigant Orientation. The orientation explains to participants how they may obtain a divorce, custody, child support, or other family law relief. Please contact Karin Dalichow at 301-864-4907, ext. 14 or dalichow@clspgc.org for the exact date and location of the next Orientation.

CLS staff attorney, **Karin Dalichow** was present to testify on how the courts can better meet clients’ needs at the Maryland Access to Justice Commission’s “Critical Barriers Subcommittee” Listening Event on January 19 in Langley Park. **Chief Judge Bell** formed the Maryland Access to Justice Commission to improve the access to Maryland’s civil justice system. A series of “Listening Events” are organized to allow the public to testify about their experiences in the Maryland court system and how the court system can be



improved. Judges and elected government representatives generally serve as official listeners. **The next Listening Event is on March 23** at Our Daily Bread Employment Center in Baltimore City and on April 20 at the Court of Appeals Building in Annapolis. For more information and to register please visit www.mdcourts.gov/mdatjc or call 410-260-1258

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reduced fee cases) to provide legal representation for our low income clients from mid-December to mid-February: **Christal Edwards, Robert Carney, Courtney Boozer, Erika Lucas, Tim Hogan, Denese Dominguez, Shane'e Major, John Green, Jennifer Muskus, Latoria Knight, Hibret Girmai, Crystal Curry, Donya Zimmerman, Harold Boyd, Shanice Adams, Peter Spann, Janell Bell, Denise Bellany, Moges Abebe, Orlando Barnes and John Green.** If we mistakenly failed to mention your name, please report it to us so that we may give you proper credit in our next column.

Special Funding to Pay for Attorneys Fees

CLS continues to refer cases under our Judicare funding project made available by Maryland Legal Services Corporation. Attorneys receive \$80.00 per hour up to \$1,600.00 per case. Cases referred involve family law matters including guardianship. We also refer domestic violence cases, except we will reimburse the attorney for a maximum of five (5) hours only. Attorneys accepting cases under this program are required to participate in our **Pro Bono Program** as well. For more information please contact Darielys Pinto at 301-864-4907, ext. 11.

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 in Circuit Court House and Langley Park. For more information about our services, please contact Nora C. Eidelman, at 301-864-4907, ext. 12.

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMITTEE TO ELECT THE SITTING JUDGES

*cordially invites you to attend a
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for the election and retention of the four sitting
Circuit Court Judges in Prince George's County

HONORABLE LEO R. GREEN, JR.
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HONORABLE MICHAEL R. PEARSON
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**Thursday, March 25, 2010
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*“The PGCBA is glad to have you as
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Non-Bankruptcy Strategies For Advanced Debtor Protection Management; Asset Protection Planning, Workouts, Avoiding Recoverable Transfers and Exemption Planning

**April 21, 2010
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Room M0421**

**\$25 members, after 4/14 \$35
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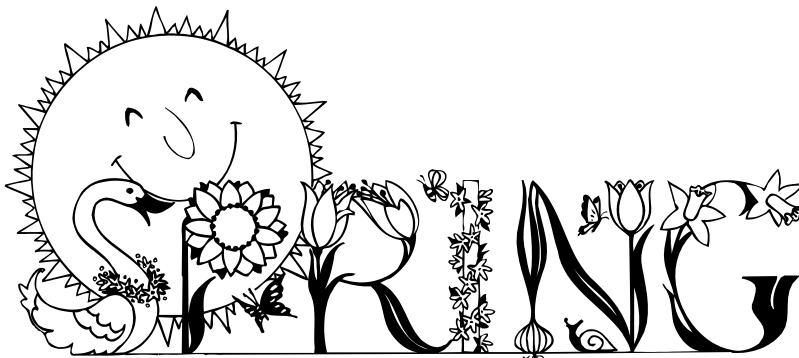
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<p><u>DEADLINE</u> <u>APRIL 16, 2010</u></p> <p>APPLICATIONS DUE FOR POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/SECRETARY - PGCBA</p>	<p><u>APRIL 21, 2010</u></p> <p>BANKRUPTCY COURTHOUSE, M0421 3-6 P.M. \$25 MEMBERS \$35 NON-MEMBERS</p>	<p><u>MAY 1, 2010</u></p> <p>FAMILY LAW SEMINAR JURY SELECTION ROOM COURTHOUSE</p>

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Number of Calls: 8,600

Number of Referrals: 5,437

Top 5 Areas of Law:

1. Family
2. Torts
3. Real Property
4. Employment
5. Criminal

