



The Weekly Email Newsletter Of The Mississippi Bar
August 27, 2007

Justice Court Task Force Schedules Public Hearings

Nine public hearings have been scheduled across the state in September and October to discuss Mississippi's Justice Court system. The Task Force studying the Justice Court system will use information gathered at the hearings when it makes a report to the Mississippi Legislature Dec. 1. Public hearing dates and locations are: Sept. 6, Tupelo; Sept. 10, Senatobia; Sept. 11, Kosciusko; Sept. 13, Natchez; Sept. 25, Jackson; Oct. 1, Gulfport; Oct. 2, Hattiesburg; Oct. 4, Indianola and Oct. 8, Meridian. Each hearing will be conducted at the Circuit Courthouse in that town. The time for public comment is 6 to 7 p.m. at each location. Each speaker will be allowed five minutes. The Sept. 25 hearing in Jackson will also include a separate time for representatives of public agencies and organizations to speak. Representatives of governmental entities and organizations may address the Task Force in Jackson between 1 and 4 p.m. at the Hinds County Courthouse. Representatives of agencies and organizations may speak for 10 minutes during the afternoon session. Agencies and organizations are also asked to provide written statements to the Task Force. The Task Force seeks public comments about specific areas of inquiry posed by the Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature's mandate to the Task Force is to study and assess: duties and services provided by Justice Court judges; training for Justice Court judges; salaries for Justice Court judges; jurisdictional limits for Justice Courts; Uniform Rules of Procedure for Justice Courts; whether jury trials should occur in Justice Courts; time and manner of Justice Court elections and the feasibility of non-partisan elections.

Important Rule 6.1 Reporting Resources

The Bar's membership department has been inundated with telephone calls about the annual pro bono reporting section of the Bar's 2007-2008 Enrollment Fees form. Before calling the Bar, please take a moment to read Rule 6.1 of the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct and the Comments to the Rule [here](#), and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Rule [here](#). These resources are located on the Bar's website [here](#). The Rule, the comments and the FAQ should answer most of the questions that have been directed to the Bar. Many of the calls to the Bar are from attorneys' support staff. Attorneys are strongly encouraged to read these sources and instruct their staff on how to properly fill out the form. If after reading these sources you still have a question, please contact the Bar at 601-948-4471.

MB Committee Day to Be Held Wednesday September 19 at Eagle Ridge Conference Center

The Bar's 2006-07 year will kick-off with Committee Day at Eagle Ridge Conference Center on Wednesday September 19. Thirteen of the Bar's Committee's will meet on Committee Day. Committees scheduled to meet are: Bench Bar Liaison, Delivery of Legal Services, Disciplinary Procedures Study, Ethics, Fee Dispute, Lawyers & Judges Assistance, Military Assistance, Paralegals, Professionalism, Public Information, Technology, Unauthorized Practice of Law and Women in the Profession. If you are a member of one of these committees please make plans to attend. The morning sessions begin at 10:30 am and the afternoon sessions begin at 1:00 pm. Participants for both morning and afternoon meetings are invited to a complimentary buffet lunch at Noon. Questions regarding Committee Day should be directed to Kellie Freeman at 601-353-1703 or kfreeman@msbar.org

Court Seeks Comments on Proposed Rules

On behalf of the Mississippi Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Rules Committee announces that two proposed rules amendments will be posted for public comment on the NEWS section of the Court's website. <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/> Pursuant to Rule 27(f) of the Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure, two proposals will be posted for a 30-day public comment period beginning August 7, 2007. They are proposed MRCP 26A - Discovery and Pretrial Practice in Actions Under \$50,000 and proposed amendment to MRCP 45 to provide a time frame within which to respond to subpoena to produce and permit inspection of documents.

MVLP to Celebrate 25 Year Anniversary - Senator Cochran to Speak on September 21

All members of The Mississippi Bar are invited to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project which will highlight the contributions of our volunteer attorneys and the accomplishments of the project over the past 25 years. Senator Thad Cochran will be the keynote speaker. The event is scheduled to take place on Friday, September 21, 2007 at the Hilton Jackson. A reception will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m., with a dinner following at 7:30 p.m. For more details regarding the event, please contact Aboye Jinkiri at ajinkiri@msbar.org or (601) 960-9577.

Harrison County Young Lawyers Association Tennis Tournament - September 14

Join the Harrison County Young Lawyers Association for an afternoon of tennis and support the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which enriches the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. The 2007 HCYLA Tennis Tournament will be held at the Bayou Bluff Tennis Club in Gulfport on Friday, September 14, 2007. Play begins at 1:00 PM. Teams of two should sign up for pro set men's doubles, women's doubles, or mixed doubles. Winners will be awarded fabulous prizes from local merchants. Teams are guaranteed to play two sets. The cost is \$50 per team, and all entry forms should be turned in by September 12. For an entry form, contact Jason Savarese at jsavarese@cableone.net.

Dates and Locations Set For Bar CLE on the Road Seminars for 2007-08

The Bar will once again host three (3) "CLE on the Road" seminars in 2007-08. The programs allow lawyers to obtain quality CLE at a reasonable price without having to travel to Jackson. The meetings also allow lawyers to get together on a regional basis. Dates and locations for 2007-08 "CLE on the Road" seminars are: Greenville November 16, Pascagoula, February 1 and McComb, April 11. Mark your calendars. Promotional materials will be mailed to lawyers within 90 miles of each location approximately one month in advance of each program.

Upcoming CLE Offerings

Three Part Series: Eminent Domain: Private Property, Takings for Public & Private Use, and Just Compensation - August 29, 30, 31

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following teleseminars. The program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. The power to take private property for public and private use is one of the most controversial powers of the government. For what purposes may the property be taken? Is urban redevelopment by private developers a constitutionally permissible use of the condemnation power? What is "just compensation"? These and other issues have become increasingly controversial as the U.S. Supreme has expanded governmental power and the state legislatures have sought to combat perceived excesses. Led by four of the nation's leading practitioners in this area, this three-part series will provide you with an understanding of both the fundamental principles of eminent domain and recent developments in this area of practice. This is essential learning for everyone interested in government seizure of property for public and private purposes. To download a brief description of each Part of the series, click [here](#). To download a registration form, please click [here](#). For more information on this teleseminar, please contact Ginger Blanchard at gblanchard@msbar.org.

2007 Sexual Harassment Update - Sept. 4

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following teleseminar in September. The seminar will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. This program will review recent developments effecting sexual harassment and discrimination claims, including recent US Supreme Court case law impacting the timeliness of filing claims and jurisdiction. The program will also analyze an important new Supreme Court ruling on retaliation claims which may have an impact on the real-world way in which sexual harassment and discrimination claims are often joined with retaliation claims. The program will also analyze emerging lower-court case law on actionable systemic discrimination. Finally, the program will provide guidance on effective preventive workplace policies. To download a registration form, please click [here](#). For more information on this teleseminar, please contact Ginger Blanchard at gblanchard@msbar.org.

Digital Evidence: New Rules & Recent Developments from the Courts, Parts I & II - Sept. 11-12

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following

teleseminar in September. The seminar will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. This program will provide a detailed examination of the new federal rules governing e-discovery and the practical impact of the new rules on civil litigation practice across many substantive areas of law. The program will also provide a non-technical examination of the technology that underlies the creation and discovery of electronic evidence. The challenge cannot be understated. The ubiquity of electronic communications technologies - e-mail, computer files, instant messaging, and more - have led to an explosion of electronic evidence. A veritable cottage industry has grown up around the retention and investigation of this evidence. Although the new rules are intended to reduce the cost of litigation over time, in the short-term they will likely increase costs. This program will be a practical guide through the new rules, recent case law interpreting them, and provide a practical layman's guide through the underlying technological challenges. For details on what will be covered each day, click [here](#). To download a registration form, please click [here](#). For more information on this teleseminar, please contact Ginger Blanchard at gblanchard@msbar.org.

Admiralty and Maritime Law Update CLE - September 14

The National Sea Grant Law Center and the University of Mississippi Center for Continuing Legal Education will host an Admiralty and Maritime Law CLE course in Oxford on September 14, 2007. The course offers six hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics. The event will be held at The Depot on the University of Mississippi campus. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the first session starts at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is provided. Cost is \$150 for attorneys, \$75 for non-attorneys. To receive a registration form, please email Terra Bowling at tmharget@olemiss.edu.

Unique Opportunity For Family Lawyers - October 10-13

The ABA Family Law Section is coming to Memphis on October 10-13, 2007. The conference will be held at the Peabody Hotel. This is a unique opportunity to have fellowship with lawyers from all over the country and Canada and to compare notes and practices. There will be three days of CLE with topics ranging from Hidden Assets in Military Divorce Cases, Electronic Evidence, Representing the Small Business Owner in Divorce, Handling Substance Abuse Issues, Interstate Child Custody, and a Financial and Stock Primer for Lawyers. The ABA last came this close several years ago in New Orleans and over 50 lawyers and judges from our state attended. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to improve your practice by exposing yourself to a National level of practice and CLE! For More Information contact the ABA Family Law Section at 312-988-5145 or Mark Chinn at mark@chinnandassociates.com. You may also register on line at www.abanet.org/family.