



The Weekly Email Newsletter Of The Mississippi Bar **September 4, 2007**

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

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.

Mississippi Innocence Project Formed - Inaugural Dinner on October 22

With the assistance of John Grisham and Scott Turow the Innocence Project of Mississippi has been formed. All Mississippi lawyers are invited the inaugural dinner for the Project in Jackson on October 22, 2007. The Mississippi Innocence Project is committed to providing the highest quality legal representation to its clients: state prisoners serving significant periods of incarceration who have cognizable claims of wrongful conviction. In addition, the Project seeks to identify systemic problems in the state's criminal justice system, develop initiatives designed to raise public and political awareness of the prevalence, causes and societal costs of wrongful convictions, and to promote meaningful criminal justice reform. The 2007 Inaugural Dinner is planned for Monday

evening, October 22, in Jackson. Grisham and Turow, who among their many other accomplishments, have been leaders in the areas of wrongful conviction and national criminal justice issues, will be there to discuss the importance of the movement generally, and this Project in particular. Tickets are \$125 per person and available by contacting Renee Van Slyke, at 662-915-6822 or reneevan@olemiss.edu. Individuals, firms and other organizations who would like to purchase tables for the evening or otherwise make a donation to the Project should contact Tucker Carrington, carringw@olemiss.edu, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS 38677, (662) 915-5207, or Tim Walsh, Associate Dean for Development, at (662) 915-7375 or tim@olemiss.edu. To request disability-related assistance call 662-915-6900.

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.

Senator Cochran to Speak at MVLP 25 Year Anniversary on September 21

Senator Thad Cochran will be the keynote speaker as the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project celebrates its 25th anniversary on Friday, September 21. The event, which will highlight the contributions of the volunteer attorneys who have assisted tens of thousands through the program, is scheduled to take place at the Hilton Jackson. A reception will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m., with dinner following at 7:30 p.m. A special room rate is available at the Hilton for those traveling from out of town. 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@cablone.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.

North Mississippi Lawyers' Support Group

If you are feeling stressed, depressed, burned out or could generally use some support, please join us at the North Mississippi Lawyers' Support Group the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM. This is a very open and welcoming group and we are always happy to see new faces. Confidentiality is a priority. We meet at the University Counseling Center on the Ole

Miss Campus, Corner of Poole and All American Drive. For more information, contact Linda at 662-816-3971 or e-mail slindylou@yahoo.com .

Upcoming CLE Offerings

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.

Developments in Daubert Evidence In the Courtroom, Parts I and II - Sept. 13-14

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following teleseminar. The program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. In *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, the U.S. Supreme Court worked a fundamental change on the admissibility of scientific expert testimony. *Daubert* has been extended by subsequent case law to reach non-scientific technical expert testimony. Federal and state case law in this area are in a state of continual flux. Led by Edward Imwinkelried, one of the nation's foremost authorities on expert testimony and whose work the Supreme Court cited in its decision in *Daubert*, this program will review the legal framework governing the admissibility of scientific and non-scientific expert testimony. The program will also provide real-world strategies for surviving *Daubert* challenges and preparing expert testimony. 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.

Commercial Leasing Part I (Office Space) & Part II (Retail and Manufacturing) - Sept. 18-19

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following teleseminar. The program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. Leases for office, retail and manufacturing space are increasingly complex documents that bind landlord and tenant for many years and involve the transfer of substantial sums of money. "Boilerplate" provisions in "form" agreements are of little use as the parties jockey for maximum flexibility over a lengthy term, with tenant flexibility often competing with landlord certainty. This program will be a real-world guide through the most important and highly negotiated provisions in office, retail and manufacturing space. Led by two experts with several decades of negotiating leases nationwide, this program will highlight the most important lease provisions that you should focus on when negotiating and drafting commercial leases for your clients. 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

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.