



The Weekly Email Newsletter Of The Mississippi Bar
October 1, 2007

Young Lawyers Division To Host Fall Bar Admissions Ceremony Wednesday, October 10th

The Mississippi Bar Fall Bar Admissions Ceremony sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division will take place on Wednesday, October 10th at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. 200 new admittees will be sworn in. There will be one ceremony at 3:00 p.m. with the court registration period from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friends, family and firms are invited to attend.

Bar To Hold Annual Memorial Service On Tuesday October 16

The Bar's annual Memorial Service will be held in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the State Capitol beginning at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, October 16. The annual service will be held before the Mississippi Supreme Court with Chief Justice James W. Smith, Jr. presiding. Bar President Bobby Bailess will present the Eulogy. Memorial Committee Chair, Sam Kelly of Jackson, will present a Resolution memorializing the members of the Bar that have died since October of 2006. Justice Ann H. Lamar will respond on behalf of the Court. Members of the Bar, as well as family and friends, are invited to attend. There will be a reception in the foyer immediately following the service

Bar Announces New Member Benefit - Legal Forms Online

The Bar now offers to all Mississippi attorneys' access to over 7,000 Mississippi legal forms. *The Mississippi Bar FormsPass(R) Legal Forms Library* is made possible by an agreement with US Legal, Inc., a Mississippi Company which provides state specific forms to attorneys in all states. *FormsPass* will allow users to access and use over 7,000 Mississippi legal forms at a highly reduced rate. To activate your subscription go [here](#) and complete the form and fax or mail to US Legal, Inc. In order for the Bar to continue offering this product, we need to obtain a sufficient number of subscriptions, so please act today. For more information visit the forms site at www.formspass.com/msbar/

Technology Tip - Open Office - Free Alternative to Word or WordPerfect

Word processing software is a mainstay in every law office. But purchasing and upgrading Word, WordPerfect, Excel, etc can be costly. Did you know that there is a free alternative available? Open Office is an open source office suite free to download, use, and distribute. It includes a word processor (OOWriter), a spreadsheet (OOCalc), a drawing program (OODraw), and an presentations program (OOImpress). If you are interested go to <http://www.openoffice.org/> .

Casemaker Advisory Sub-Committee Volunteers Solicited

The Bar's Technology Committee would like to form a Casemaker Advisory Sub-Committee serve as a resource to the Committee and the Bar on Casemaker improvements/enhancements and to share tips, ideas, etc with members of the Bar. If you are interested in participating by email and occasional in-person sessions, please email Larry Houchins at houchins@msbar.org.

NMRLS Offers Recruiting Challenge - 30 lawyers in 30 days

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLP), North Mississippi Rural Legal Services is asking attorneys in Lafayette and DeSoto counties to compete in a contest to recruit the most lawyers in 30 days. The goal is to recruit 30 lawyers from these counties to participate with MVLP in the next 30 days beginning October 1st and ending October 30th. Individuals who participate will be eligible for a drawing for an iPod nano. All participants, the participating county bar associations, and the winning county bar association will receive recognition in Mississippi Bar Briefs. Participating attorneys will receive the benefits of: attending CLE courses at a reduced rate; are covered by professional liability insurance on all MVLP cases; and MVLP will provide reasonable expenses for all MVLP cases. This is a great opportunity to fulfill your 20 hours of aspirational *pro bono* service for the poor. To participate you just have to fill out a one page form available at www.mvlp.net/volunteer-make-a-difference/.

Tri-County LSPA Hosts First Annual Court Observance Reception - October 25

Tri-County LSPA cordially invites all judges, attorneys, support staff, and students to attend the First Annual Court Observance Reception on October 25, 2007, from 7-9 p.m. at the Pearl Community Center in Pearl, Mississippi. The featured speaker will be Thomas Broome, County and Youth Court Judge for Rankin County. The cost of this event is \$15 per person and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. There will also be a 50/50 cash drawing and the first scholarship winner from the "The Courthouse, Our House" Essay Contest will be recognized. For tickets, please contact Reba Peden at rpeden@brunini.com or by phone at 601-948-3101 or see any TCLSPA member.

MCSOL Mission First Legal Aid Office

Attorneys continue to be generous in donating their time to support the pro bono legal aid work at Mississippi College School of Law's Mission First Legal Aid Office. The top volunteers in terms of hours contributed during August were Charles Homan (Homan Law Firm) with 11 hours; Dan Kitchens (Kitchens & Ellis) with 12 hours; and Laina Woodard Smith with 9 hours. The next volunteer training is scheduled for Friday, October 19, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mission First, 275 Roseneath Street, Jackson. Participants will qualify for four (4) pro bono legal service hours. The registration fee is \$100 (early registration is \$75). To register, visit <http://www.law.mc.edu/legalaid/cletraining.html>. For more information about legal aid training and volunteer opportunities contact Patti Gandy at 601-608-0058 or go the Legal Aid web site at <http://www.law.mc.edu/legalaid/index.html>.

What Can Law Schools Do Better?

Two independent, five-year studies on legal education published their findings in March 2007. While employing different methodologies, their recommendations were almost identical: Law schools over-emphasize teaching legal analysis and doctrinal knowledge and ignore teaching professional skills and values. The cover story of this issue features articles and interviews from six legal educators who are implementing or are planning exciting, innovative programs at schools. In many local editions of TCL, deans and professors offer their perspectives on the research findings of these and earlier studies. [Just click here to get to this issue of The Complete Lawyer.](#)

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.

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 reenevan@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.

Upcoming CLE Offerings

3rd Quarter 2007 Estate and Gift Planning Update - October 9

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following tele-seminar for the month of October. This program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. This third quarter 2007 estate, gift and trust planning update will provide you a detailed review of major developments important to your estate and trust practice. Among other developments, the program will review new regulations or proposed regulations related to Family Limited Partnerships, the deductibility of trust expenses and the Generation Skipping Transfer Tax. The program will also review proposed regulations related to the deduction of claims against an estate in arriving at the estate's taxable value. In addition, this teleseminar will also provide a review of major case law developments. 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.

Litigating the Automobile and Commercial Trucking Case - October 12

Ole Miss CLE will host a seminar entitled "Litigating the Automobile and Commercial Trucking Case" on Friday, October 12, 2007 at the Depot on the University of Mississippi campus. Highly relevant & practical topics include Pre-Trial and Trial Strategies, Understanding the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Accident Investigation, Plaintiffs' Considerations and more! Instructors are Robert F. Wilkins and Thomas S. ("Shea") Moore. 6 hours of general CLE credit, no ethics credit. Come early & stay late - it's the Alabama football game weekend!! For more information, visit www.outreach.olemiss.edu/cle or e-mail Renee Moore at moore@olemiss.edu

Asset Protection Planning In Bankruptcy & Estate Planning - October 16

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following tele-seminar for the month of October. This program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. This program will discuss planning techniques for preserving client assets in the bankruptcy and estate planning, with an emphasis on bankruptcy. The program will review techniques for planning for the effective use of bankruptcy exemptions and the use of trusts in shielding assets from creditor claims. The real world risk of asset protection planning will also be analyzed, including claims that a client fraudulently transferred assets. In addition, the risks of creditor objections to discharge of a debt and the complex role of property ownership issues will also be examined. Join our All-Star panel, including William Norton of Norton on Bankruptcy, when you will learn more about the risks and reward of certain asset protection planning techniques. To download a registration form, please click [here](#). For more information on this teleseminar, please contact Ginger Blanchard at gblanchard@msbar.org

2007 Fiduciary Litigation Update - October 23

The Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar will sponsor the following tele-seminar for the month of October. This program will be held from 12-1 p.m. and is accessible from your home or office phone. In trusts large and small, vast sums of money and assets are held in trust for the benefit of beneficiaries, whether they are family members of the trust's founder or favored charities or other groups. There is a perpetual tension between beneficiaries, who often want substantial returns and distributions, and trustees who are charged with acting independently to preserve and grow trust assets or pursue other goals. This program will examine major case law developments and trends in litigation occurring between trustees and beneficiaries, including litigation arising from trustee investment decisions and the removal of trustees. To download a registration form, please click [here](#). For more information on this teleseminar, please contact Ginger Blanchard at gblanchard@msbar.org