



Message from the President

Hey, what did you think of our speaker for September, Marc Christopher Porter, Esq., from Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis, P.A.? I was looking for a dry, boring thirty minutes of CLE when all of a sudden, here's this guy telling jokes and making STR (Spousal Tax Resources) interesting. I hope you guys enjoyed it as much as I did. Felicia Turner is doing a wonderful job with getting interesting speakers.

Kim Knox has initiated her fund raising efforts for the year by announcing the Bosses' Day Golf Scramble and the Chili in the Park events. Please get involved and ask your bosses to sponsor a golf team and you also need to get out your chili recipes. We'll need lots of full crock pots!

Everyone is doing a wonderful job of pulling together to work on JLPA business this year and I truly appreciate you all. Keep up the good work.

Reba Peden, Certified PP, PLS
JLPA President



KISMIF

Remember...

Keep It Simple - Make It Fun!



October Birthdays...

- 5 Bertrell Mingo
- 7 Nancy Turner
- 9 Robbi L. Ellis
- 10 Rose Jones
Kimberly J. Knox
Sandra Martin
- 14 Connie S. Knight
- 15 Bonnie F. Parkison
- 17 Pamela Turner
- 27 Elizabeth Behrens

Board Meeting...

The Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at the Mississippi Bar Center, 643 North State Street. Lunch will be provided by the members from the Forman Perry firm.

Monthly Meeting...

There is no monthly meeting luncheon scheduled for October (due to Court Observance). Please see the calendar of events (on last page) for items scheduled in October and November.



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller



Wedding Announcement...

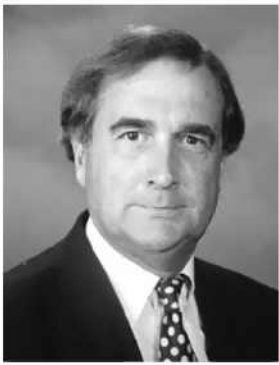
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Gibbs of Brandon announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, to Patrick Bradley Sharp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bruce Sharp, also of Brandon.

Sarah is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Gibbs of Hattiesburg and Mrs. V. P. "Dude" Johnson, Sr., of Corinth and the late Mr. Johnson. Brad is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Patrick Flanagan of Memphis and the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Irva Sharp, Jr., of Corinth.

Sarah is a graduate of Brandon High School and Mississippi University for Women and is a registered nurse at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital, University Medical Center, in Jackson. Brad is a graduate of Jackson Preparatory School and Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in communications and is employed by Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Jackson.

Vows will be exchanged at 2:00 p.m. on October 16, 2004, at Park Place Baptist Church in Pearl, Mississippi. Friends and family of the couple are cordially invited to attend.

Sarah's mother is JLPA member Lynn Gibbs who works at Butler Snow. ☺



Time well spent

An introduction to the new President of the Mississippi Bar, Charles J. Swayze, Jr.

Our ace reporter in the field (*let's call her "Blind Lady Justice"*) snagged an interview with a very important and busy man. Enjoy!

Blind Lady Justice: Tell our readers a little about yourself, where are you from, are you married, have any children?

Mr. Swayze: Well, I was born three score years ago in Greenwood, Mississippi and I live there today. I have a lovely wife, Jo Claire Swayze who presently serves on the Greenwood City Council. My wife and I have four children: Julie, Allison, Melissa and Charlie (*-ranging in ages from 23 to 34*).

Blind Lady Justice: Please tell us a little about your educational background.

Mr. Swayze: I graduated from Greenwood High School, I earned both my B.B.A. and J.D. from Ole Miss, and I earned my L.L.M. (labor law masters) from George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Blind Lady Justice: With a lot of excitement in the Presidential campaign being centered on military issues (and certainly the current conflict in Iraq), please tell us - have you ever served in the United States armed forces?

Mr. Swayze: Yes, I am glad you asked. I proudly served in the Army.

I reached the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (Legal Branch). That might sound familiar to your members as a popular TV show, JAG. From 1969 to 1971 I was assigned to the U.S. Army Engineer School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia (instructing criminal justice and related legal and paralegal subjects). From 1971 to 1973 I was assigned to the office of the Staff Judge Advocate Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, performing the duties of Military Counsel (criminal trials), Legal Assistance Officer and Post Labor Advisor. I received the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service for the above-mentioned duties.

Blind Lady Justice: I see from your resume that you are VERY active in various bar associations; I am sure your election as the President of the Mississippi Bar is based on that solid foundation. Congratulations! Please tell my readers about your time as a lawyer in Mississippi, what kind of cases do you work with or specialize in?

Mr. Swayze: I have experience as a lawyer in civil and criminal litigation; real estate, personal injury, and commercial transactions. I have taught Business Law at Mississippi Valley State University and Trial Advocacy at Ole Miss. I have also participated in numerous seminars on mediation and arbitration. I have served as a mediator and/or arbitrator on approximately 275 cases.

Blind Lady Justice: Is there anything that you would like my readers to know about any of the work of the committees of the Bar this year?

Mr. Swayze: Another excellent question. Yes, last year there was much emphasis placed on the Bench-Bar Committee and I intend for it to be my "flagship" committee. The Co-Chairs from last year agreed to stay on another year, which I believe

will provide necessary continuity in the work that has been and needs to be done. I will encourage the Committee to place special emphasis on drafting a standardized civil case management rule for trial courts' docket management. This is one area for which we received numerous requests for improvement from practicing lawyers in our state. We have fifteen active Sections and twenty-one active Committees. As you well know, the members' main involvement with the Bar (as with your association) is through work on a Committee. The Mississippi Bar (and JLPA, as well) is only as strong as its membership. In the past we have had a strong membership and a strong Bar. I look forward to carrying that tradition into the future.

Blind Lady Justice: I hear there are some exciting events planned in the coming year (with regard to the Bar); can you tell us a little about those?

Mr. Swayze: Well, this month the Mississippi Bar will host the annual meeting of the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. Over sixteen state associations will be represented. The Southern Conference consists of states from Virginia west to Kansas, then south to Texas, east back to Florida and then back up to Virginia. There will be approximately 250 Bar Presidents, President-Elects, Directors, staff and family members. It is a tremendous undertaking and we are very excited to be the host!

Also, next summer's annual bar convention will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mississippi Bar. In 1821 ours was the first state bar association in the United States. The modern Bar was founded in 1905.

Blind Lady Justice: On behalf of JLPA, I thank you for your time.

Mr. Swayze: I was happy to spend time with you. If your members have any questions or concerns, my assistant's name is Sally and my office number is 662-453-7325.



