



The Barrister

The Newsletter for the Membership of the Howard County Bar Association

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President's Message

by Hon. Pamela J. Brown



This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good."

Author Unknown

The month of February is the shortest month of the year and is known for many things. It is a time when we recognize President's Day, Black History Month and when we celebrate Valentines Day. It is with this backdrop that I will speak of celebration, passion, justice and love.

I think that we can all name a few lawyer U.S. Presidents starting with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Gerald Ford and now President Barack Obama. I was surprised to learn that 26 out of the 44 U.S. Presidents were lawyers or judges. We are particularly pleased when those in the legal profession ascend to the Presidency as they have a full understanding about the Rule of Law and its importance to our society. It is also a reminder to us that we must each be vigilant and insure that all our citizens continue to be educated in the importance of our justice system and the fundamentals of democracy.

As we reflect on our beloved profession during Black History month, we are reminded that diversity in the legal profession must grow, but it also must be expanded from pre-school to post-graduate education. This week the American Bar Association unveiled its report "Diversity in the Legal Profession: Next Steps." I commend

it to you and would note that in sustaining a democracy, in competing in the global and domestic business environments, and in societal leadership and our profession, demographics are critical.

Finally, I must take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to the Honorable Alice P. Clark who has served as my friend, colleague and District Court Judge for the past 13 years. She is a seasoned jurist who has been dedicated to running her courtroom with dignity and respect for all litigants and handling her decisions, no matter how difficult, with grace and fairness. In the month when we celebrate Love we extend our very good wishes to her. I hope that you will join us as we formally celebrate her retirement on March 25, at the Columbia Hilton.

Please remember to register your name and profile via the website at www.howardcountybar.org

Once you are registered you will then gain access to the Members Only page!!!!

Please contact Kim Wharton should you encounter any problems during the registration process.

Upcoming Events

- February 11**
HCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- February 12**
HCBA Family Law Section Meeting
- February 15**
President's Day - Courts Closed
- February 16**
HCCP Breakfast Meeting
- February 17**
Howard County Pro Bono Committee Meeting
- February 18**
HCBA/MSBA Military Law Committee Luncheon Meeting at King's Contrivance
- February 24**
HCWBA Luncheon Meeting
- February 25**
HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting

- March 9**
HCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- March 12**
HCBA Family Law Section Meeting
- March 17**
HCBA Luncheon Meeting
- March 25**
HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting

- Retirement Dinner in Honor of The Honorable Alice P. Clark

- April 13**
HCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- April 14**
Howard County Pro Bono Committee Meeting
- April 16**
HCBA Family Law Section Meeting
- April 27**
HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting

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2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2010

- Thursday, February 11, 7:30 a.m.** HCBA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, February 12, 12:00 p.m. HCBA Family Law Section Luncheon Meeting; Topic: Law Office Management and Technology; Guest Speaker: Pat Yevics, MSBA
Monday, February 15 **COURTS CLOSED - President's Day**
Tuesday, February 16 HCCP Committee Breakfast Meeting
Wednesday, February 17 Howard County Pro Bono Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 11:30 a.m. HCBA/MSBA Military Law Committee Luncheon Meeting at King's Contrivance; Guest Speaker: Colonel Will Gunn, General Counsel to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. HCWBA Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting; Guest Speaker: Phil Fish, CFP, VP of Sandy Spring Private Financial Services; Topic: Myths and Truths of Annuities"

MARCH 2010

- Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 a.m.** HCBA Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. Howard County Pro Bono Committee Meeting
Friday, March 12, 12:00 p.m. HCBA Family Law Section Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 11:30 a.m. Howard Luncheon Meeting @ Bare Bones Grill and Brewery
 Guest Speaker: Brian Dykstra
 Topic: Social Media
Thursday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting; Guest Speaker: Attorney Megan Wallace, who will discuss "estate planning for domestic partners"
Thursday, March 25, 6:00 p.m. Retirement Dinner in Honor of The Honorable Alice P. Clark
 Columbia Hilton; Cost is \$55.00 per person in advance; \$60.00 at the door

APRIL 2010

- Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 a.m.** HCBA Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 8:00 a.m. Howard County Pro Bono Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. HCBA Estates & Trust Section Meeting; Guest Speaker: Matthew A. Mace, Esq. of Ober, Kale, Grimes & Shriver; Topic: Proposed Legislation for 2010 and a review of bills which were introduced and approved this session

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 9-12, 2010** MSBA Annual Meeting, Ocean City, Maryland
July 24, 2010 MSBA Crab Feast - Details will be forthcoming