



July 5, 2009

Business Spotlights

Jackson lawyers honored for service

A number of Jackson lawyers were honored for their service to the legal profession and the community at the Tennessee Bar Association's annual meeting in Memphis last week.

Linda Warren Seely, a Jackson resident who works as a managing attorney with Memphis Area Legal Services, received the TBA President's Award for her service to the association and the legal community. Seely was recognized for her work on the 4/4 Pro Bono Public Service Day, which made free legal advice available to Tennesseans across the state on April 4. The 4/4 service day served more than 1,300 Tennesseans in need of legal counsel and involved more than 800 volunteers around the state. Seely was instrumental in planning the Memphis clinic, which served close to 150 residents and involved 100 volunteers. The award was presented by outgoing president and Memphis lawyer Buck Lewis of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz.

The TBA Young Lawyers Division president, Michelle Sellers - also a Jackson lawyer - presented her 2009 President's Award to attorney W. Paul Whitt with the law firm of Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell PLC. Whitt was recognized for the work he did as chair of the YLD1s Wills for Heroes Committee. The vice chair of the committee, Chris McCarty of Knoxville, also received the award. Throughout the past year, under the leadership of these two lawyers, the committee organized 13 free legal clinics and served 415 first responders. The program, which was offered for the first time this past year, provides free end-of-life documents for firefighters, police officers and other emergency personnel.

Sellers, an attorney with Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell PLC, completed her year of service as president of the Young Lawyers Division and passed the gavel to Nashville lawyer David Changas with Lewis, King, Krieg & Waldrop PC.

Finally this past weekend, Michael Russell with Gilbert & Russell and Craig Sanders with Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell PLC graduated from the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law Program, which equips Tennessee lawyers with the vision, knowledge and skills necessary to serve as leaders in their profession and communities. This year's class was comprised of 35 attorneys from across the state.

JSCC professor graduates academy

Jackson State Community College is proud to announce that Scott Woods, assistant professor of psychology, has graduated from the Academy for Leadership and Development. The academy is a program developed by the Maricopa Community College District in Mesa, Ariz., for the purpose of advancing organizational leadership and providing succession planning for leaders in post-secondary institutions.

Woods completed the yearlong program, which includes an initial week of on-site training; a practicum experience involving implementation of an individualized professional development plan focusing on the application of skills learned during training; a mentor and coaching program; and a final week of on-site training consisting of additional leadership issues. Participants in the program are selected and nominated by their individual colleges to attend. Woods holds a master's degree from Abilene Christian University and has taught at Jackson State for seven years.

Jackson doctor launches career

Dr. Jon G. McCowan, of Jackson, officially joined an esteemed group of nearly 8,000 St. George's University School of Medicine graduates in a ceremony held on June 12 at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln, New York City.

McCowan now embarks on a new chapter of his medical career, performing his residency in El Paso, Texas, at Texas Tech University Health and Science Center. He plans to specialize in general surgery.

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