

# The Brief

Volume XXIII, Issue 1

Winter 2011

## West Tennessee Legal Services

Providing Equal Access to Justice... for low income individuals in civil cases. Special areas of Services include:

- Benefit Program
- Community Counsel
- Community Education
- Consumer Clinic
- Domestic Violence Prevention Project
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach and Education
- Homelessness
- Housing Counseling, Information and Referral Project
- Juvenile Access To Justice
- Mediation Services
- Pro Bono Project
- Senior Citizens Law Projects
- Southwest Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Victims Assistance and Advocacy

## CELEBRATE PRO BONO

The American Bar Association has designated October as the month to celebrate pro bono and organize activities across the country to promote pro bono and access to justice. The Tennessee Bar Association has joined this effort and each year coordinates statewide activities. This year there were over 30 events across the state with 291 attorneys and 161 non-attorneys assisting 1,159 people.

The Ballard-Taylor Bar Association in partnership with WTLS held a free legal clinic on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Deliverance Cathedral of Prayer. The clinic was open for the public to come and meet with volunteer attorneys concerning their legal problems.

A second event was held in conjunction with the Heart Walk at Pringles Park. Volunteers from the Jackson Madison County Bar Association, the Young Lawyers Division and WTLS distributed over 100 free Advance Care Plans and were available to answer questions to those in attendance.



### Inside this issue:

Celebrate Pro Bono	1
Recent Bar Results	1
CLE Updates	2
Jingle Mingle Pictures	3
Clients' Thanks	4
Dream Center	4

## RECENT BAR RESULTS

### Congratulations Are Extended To:

- Daniel Palmer Bryant
- Matthew Robert Courtner
- Lt. Charles David Ladd
- Robert Hunter Mullikin
- Judith Angela Hedge Stepp
- Chad Hudson Tillman
- Thomas Wylly Whitworth
- William Parker Woods

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The annual legislative update was held at Baudo’s Restaurant where attorneys and their staff gathered for a lunch and learn CLE. Senator Lowe Finney, State Representatives Jimmy Eldridge and Johnny Shaw took time out of their busy schedules to come and share items of interest on Capital Hill and what is on the horizon for the state in the future. WTLS appreciates the commitment of these men to come and inform their constituents and keep the legal community current on issues that could impact them.



## ANNUAL FAMILY LAW

The Lawyer’s Association for Women and WTLS joined together to offer an all day event to local attorneys and their staff. The proceeds from this seminar are used to fund scholarships given each year to law students by the local LAW chapter.

Chancellor Jimmy Butler, Judge Steve Stafford, attorneys Jennifer King and Mary Jo Middlebrooks gave very informative presentations on trial court practice, appellate case law update, prenuptial and cohabitation agreements, and grandparent rights. Warren Jasper reported on child support cases and Krisann Hodges spoke on ethical issues.

A special thanks goes to Mary Jo Middlebrooks for the time she devotes to this seminar each year.



## FREE ANNUAL ETHICS UPDATE

As the temperatures begin to drop, local attorneys begin to think about their CLE hours. Each year attorneys Bruce Smith and Lewis Jenkins donate their time to travel to Jackson to do a three hour presentation for WTLS. This year they were joined by Krisann Hodges from the BPR. It may be hard to believe that ethics could be interesting but each year these presenters do a great job putting some “zing” into learning about ethics. This year even Junior Samples made his way into the power point. This year 106 attorneys took advantage of this free presentation!



## JACKSON MADISON COUNTY BAR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The second annual Jingle Mingle was held at the Flatiron Grille and was attended by over 80 bar members and their spouses. This “come as you are event” has been a welcomed change to the formal dinners of bygone years and offers a relaxed time for attorneys to socialize with each other. This year we did a suit drive for the Madison Haywood Development Services called “Suits from the Suits”. Each person attending was asked to bring a gently used suit to donate. If you did not have a suit to bring you were able to make a donation to the Dream Center located in Jackson. (See Jingle Mingle pictures on page 3)

# JMC Bar Association's "Jingle Mingle"



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Contributions to the Brief are appreciated. Please contact Kathryn M. Tucker with announcements or other information you would like to see in the Brief.

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**We are on the Web**  
[www.wtls.org](http://www.wtls.org)

**WTLS CLIENTS SAY THANK YOU...**

Jere Albright.....Thanks so much...I liked his help very much

Gayra Jones.....She was patient and compassionate—Thank you for finding someone to help me

Steve Conley.....He did an excellent job...He made me feel comfortable, confident and safe. I have no income and it is a comfort to know that somebody puts out a helping hand to domestic abuse victims. So many of us stay in the abusive relationship because we have nowhere to go and nobody to help us. I thank you so much for being there when I needed ya'll—Thank you for the work you do

Dareth Davis.....She was very prompt and professional at her job

Bruce Moss..... He did a great job for me

Wes Clayton/Hailey David....They cared about my problem and were understanding—They knew they were doing a Pro Bono case and still took their time and did a great job



**The Jackson Madison County Bar Association Presents A Check to The Dream Center**

Craig Sanders, Vice President of the Jackson Madison County Bar Association, and Kathryn Tucker, Managing Attorney for the Pro Bono Project at WTLS, presented a check to Gail Gustafson, Executive Director of the Dream Center.

**Address Service Requested**

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