

MBAA NEWS

Mississippi Bail Agents Association

"Professionals Working Together To Guarantee Victims of Crime Their Day in Court"

A letter from your MBAA Board President

Dear Fellow Agents;

Millions of Americans and people around the world are watching and praying as every news outlet covers the deadly crisis in Houston, TX and the surrounding area. Many Houstonians, who escaped the floods of Tropical Storm Harvey, are asked to recant every detail of their harrowing experience. Some of those being interviewed ask the camera (or rest of the world), "Why did this happen?" or "How can this happen here?". The answer to these questions are found in *John 16:33* "I have told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world, you will have troubles. But be brave! I have defeated the world!"

The question nagging most of us is, "How will the flood-ravaged people of Texas react to the devastation of Tropical Storm Harvey?". Scientists say the storm is likely to be the most devastating flood the Houston region has ever seen — even more so than Tropical Storm Allison in 2001, which was the worst rainstorm to ever befall an American city in modern history. The economic impact should be greater than any other flood event Texas has experienced, and it's going to take years for the residential communities to recover.

Not to minimize the overwhelming natural disaster in Houston, TX, and the economic concussion that will accompany Tropical Storm Harvey, the bail industry nationwide and the bail industry here in Mississippi are facing its own "troubles". The intensity to eliminate and replace our profession with R.O.R., federal bonds, or a minimal conditioned release has intensified to a fever pitch within the last two years. Three cities in our state have decided to eliminate misdemeanor bail bonds in their entirety agreed upon in a Settlement Agreement made in Federal Court. In the following months, many other municipalities have ensued. The MS Supreme Court's Criminal Court Procedure Rules have been implemented as of July 1, 2017. Many municipal and justice court judges interpret these rules to indicate bail bonds are only used as a last resort. The bail industry's adversaries have dishonestly criticized, demonized and politicized our profession. How will the battered bail agents of MS react?

The Bible verse above, *John 16:33*, advises us to be prepared for we will have troubles in this world. This verse also tells us how to react to these troubles. As directed we should have peace in Christ and be brave. In other words, he offers us the two very things we need when we're troubled: peace to deal with our present and courage to deal with our future. Our peace comes from prayer and acting in truth, honor, and praise. That peace which God gives is so great that we cannot understand it. That peace will make us bold. We are told to be brave and should realize courage is a duty.

We should pray for those caught in the path of Tropical Storm Harvey. We should pray they look beyond themselves and act with a burden of strength actualizing what is communicated in *John 16:33*. We should pray for our industry. We should pray for MBAA and our board of directors to act with peace and courage. Please pray we accomplish all duties and responsibilities with truth, honor, and praise. We take this opportunity to thank each of you for your prayerful support.

2017 SUMMER GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Mississippi Bail Agents Association's summer meeting was a great success. This year's meeting was held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi MS. We hosted several state senators and representatives along with over 130 bail agents across the state. Our welcome speaker was Senator Sean Tindell, other speakers were Brandon White with The Mississippi Insurance Department; Alex Price with Digital Recognition Network and MS. Attorney General Jim Hood. Our keynote speaker was Nina Salarno Besselman with Crime Victims of California. She held a captive audience discussing the importance of bail and how it is affecting crime in her state. Thank you for your attendance.



Senator Sean Tindell



**Nina S. Besselman,
Senator Sally Doty
& John Polk**

Dates to mark your calendar for:

Mississippi Bail Agents Association Fall General Assembly

October 4, 2017 - Oxford Conference Center Oxford, MS.

Mississippi Bail Agents Association Winter General Assembly

January 3, 2018 - Holiday Inn Trustmark Park Pearl, MS.



Alex Price



**Attorney General
Jim Hood**



**Brandon White
MID**



**Brandon Evans &
Gene Knight**



**Miles Smith &
Wayne Dowdle**

REGISTER NOW!!***Fall General Assembly Meeting***

The 2017 MBAA Fall General Assembly has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, at the Oxford Conference Center 102 Ed Perry Rd. Oxford, MS.

Registration begins at 9:30 and the General Assembly will begin at 10am. Lunch will be provided along with door prizes, and fantastic speakers. Registration is free but you must register on our website under the Event tab or call the association office if you have any questions.

We have block off a group of rooms at the Hampton Inn Oxford Conference Center 103 Ed Perry Rd., for a limited rate of \$116. These must be booked by September 15th. Book your room by calling 662-234-5565 with group code "mbaa".

Attending general assembly meeting for your continuing education credit

Please keep in mind if you attend all three (3) General Assembly Conferences or two (2) General Assemblies and two (2) board meetings each licensure year (Oct, Jan, & July), are a voting member of the Association and pay a yearly registration fee of \$50.00, your General Assembly attendance can be used for your continuing education.

EDUCATION UPDATE:

We are wrapping up 2017 education year. More than 700 agents received their required 8 hours of education through one of our 12 classes held throughout the state.

2018 class schedule will be provided early January 2018. Watch for our email with your list of dates and times.

Class schedules and registration can be found on our website at www.msbaail.org under the EVENT TAB.

Upcoming Pre-Licensing Classes

September 11-14, 2017

October 30-November 2, 2017

Mississippi Bail Agents Association Benefits

MBAA is a state association that represents **ALL** bail agents interest in legislation and other issues affecting the bail industry. Being involved in any association can be costly and time consuming. Our members think it's worth it and hope you will to.

- MBAA host 3 annual meetings with informative speakers and provide the opportunity for bail agents across the state to discuss and resolve common bail issues.
- MBAA provides required educational classes throughout the state.
- MBAA offers Scholarships for children or grandchildren of voting members.
- MBAA offers quarterly newsletters, which are full of bail related issues.
- MBAA is the most effective way for learning about your industries concerns.
- MBAA provides voting members the opportunity to vote on issues that affect their business at membership meetings.

MBAA ask that you take part in your state association by becoming a voting member or just by participating in the benefits offered by your association. For more information visit us online at www.msbaail.org or by call the association office, 601-899-8599.

MBAA Spotlight

The MBAA Board of Directors would like to recognize the latest students of our Pre-license Classes

<i>Jonathan Craddock</i>	<i>Reginald Crawford</i>	<i>Justin Cullors</i>
<i>Harold Dickerson</i>	<i>Hubert Fields</i>	<i>Leigh George</i>
<i>Estes Hayes</i>	<i>Deon Carmichael</i>	<i>Jamie Hopkins</i>
<i>Corey Jefferies</i>	<i>Katrina Johnson</i>	<i>Joshlyn Lacy</i>
<i>Kimberly Leflore</i>	<i>Shannon Neuman</i>	<i>Mary Phyfer</i>
<i>Yolanda Shelton</i>	<i>Mary Smith</i>	<i>Martha Thomas</i>
<i>Katory Walker</i>	<i>Rochelle Wilbanks</i>	<i>Ben Williams</i>



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RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED