

**KIDS' CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
AND THE MEDIATION PILOT PROJECT**

by: Honorable Deneise Lott, Administrative Judge, MWCC  
Tommy Dulin, Dulin and Dulin, Ltd.

Kids' Chance of Mississippi Scholarship Fund is a non-profit charitable scholarship fund created in 2000 by the Administrative Law and Workers' Compensation Section of the Mississippi Bar Association to provide financial support for the education of children of employees who either die or are permanently disabled as a result of a work-related accident covered under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Act. Eligibility requirements are (a) Mississippi residents (b) between the ages of 17 and 23 (c) who have had a parent killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident that is compensable under the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Act. The applicant must demonstrate substantial financial need. The majority of scholarships granted are tuition-only scholarships to vocational/technical schools or colleges. The Section is also delighted to grant one "Buddy Scholarship" each year, funded exclusively by the Mississippi Restaurant Association Self-Insured Fund in memory of Adam H. "Buddy" Mitchell, deceased. The "Buddy Scholarship" is a \$5,000 scholarship for tuition and other student needs. The scholarships awarded are good for one year, but the recipient may apply each year of school as long as he or she makes satisfactory academic progress.

Scholarship recipients are selected by the Kids' Chance of Mississippi Scholarship Committee, made up of representatives of the legal community, the medical profession, insurance companies, vocational rehabilitation professionals, self-insured groups and employers, and labor.

Over the past eighteen months, the Administrative Law and Workers' Compensation Section has raised over \$40,000.00, for the Kids' Chance of Mississippi Scholarship Fund. Proceeds have been garnered through the generous contributions of donors and sponsors, and events sponsored by the Administrative Law and Workers' Compensation Section, including the Kids' Chance Golf Tournament and Dance, the 2001 Combined Medical Legal Seminar, the HIPPA Seminar, and the 1395 (Y) Seminar. Donors and sponsors include: SUSTAINING (\$1,000 or more or a commitment to make an annual contribution): Schwartz & Associates, Jones & Funderburg, Mozingo Clark Starks & Spruill, MS Restaurant Association Self-Insurance Trust, Jackson Claims Managers' Association, and Colingo, Williams Hidelberg, Steinberger & McElhaney, P.A.; GOLD (\$500): AmFed Companies, Donald V. Burch, COMPTrust AGC, Dukes, Dukes, Keating & Faneca, P.A., Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A., Peavey Electronics, The Hamilton Law Firm, Gore, Kilpatrick, Purdie, Metz & Adcock, Peter L. Corson, Builders & Contractors Assn. of MS, Watkins, Stephens & Tipton, P.A. (*In memory of Robert Carpenter*), Tabor & Chhabra, P.A., Roger Doolittle, Gholson, Hicks & Nichols, Markow, Walker & Reeves, P.A., Charles E. Baglan, Jr. & Associates, and Quarles Properties, LLC; SILVER (\$250): Davis, Goss & Williams, PLLC, Edwards, Storey, Marshall & Helveston, Rozier Law Firm, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, The Taylor Group, Inc., Grenfell, Sledge & Stevens, Holcomb Dunbar Law Firm, F. L. Crane & Sons, Dale Hubbard, Robert A. McGuire, MD, Spruill Property Management, LLC, Electric Power Associations of Mississippi Workers' Compensation Group, Mississippi Association of Self-Insurers, The Honorable Jim Brantley, Mitchell, McNutt & Sams, P.A., Wood & Carlton, Sherry Hofmister (*In memory of Robert Carpenter*), Steele, Chadick & McDaniel, PLLC, Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush, John T. Ball, Richmond, Simon & Abston, PLLC, Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, Bryant, Clark, Dukes, Blakeslee, Ramsay & Hammond, PLLC, Ed Douglas d/b/a LD Consulting, Watkins & Eager, PLLC, J. Andrew Hughes, P.A., Gibbes, Graves, Mullins, Hortman, Harlow, Martindale & Jones, PLLC and Stewart Sneed Hewes, Gulfport; GOLF DONORS: Rehabilitation, Inc., Castlewoods Golf Club, Nevada Bob's, Glen Fortenberry; DANCE SILENT AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE DONORS: George Allen, *Art Supply*, Nick Apostle, *Nick's*, Barnette's, John Bean and Robin Fant, *Bulldog Deli*, *Peppers Deli*, *Harvey's*, *Cotton District Grill*, Mala Burns, General Harold Cross, John Dennerly, *Dennerly's*, Luis and Martha Ann Diaz, Fine Eyes, *Cleve Burnham*, *Proprietor*, Monty Fletcher, *CEF Enterprises*, Harrah's Casino, *Vicksburg*, Higginbotham Motors, LTD, *Thomas Townsend*, Juniker Jewelry Company, The Honorable Deneise Turner Lott, Administrative Judge, MWCC, Mangia Bene, *Bravo and Broad Street*, Sanders McNeal, Bill Minor, The Mississippi Bar, The

Honorable Virginia Wilson Mounger, Administrative Judge, MWCC, Park Place Entertainment, *Grand Casino, Gulfport*, Peavey Electronics, Gail Pittman, *artist and entrepreneur*, Glenda Proctor, Lydia Quarles, Commissioner, MWCC, RobDen Enterprises, *Denise Yates*, The Rogue, LTD, The Silver Star Casino, Phyllis M. Thornton, Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, George T. Thurmond, Miriam Weems, The Honorable Cindy Polk Wilson, Administrative Judge, MWC.

The Section has also undertaken a Mediation Pilot Project, all proceeds to go to the Kids' Chance of Mississippi Scholarship Fund. Co-Chairs of the project are the authors.

The Section Mediation Pilot Project became effective on March 1, 2002. This pilot project is intended to determine whether or not a mediation option can be effective in State workers' compensation cases. We encourage you to consider mediation in any workers' compensation cases in which you are involved.

Forty-two Mississippi attorneys have been trained and have agreed to donate their time to the Mediation Pilot Project. Information on the training process is available from Commissioner Quarles at Information is available on-line at The mediation fees go directly to the Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund, making the mediation fees charitable deductions. The fees are reasonable (\$50 per hour) and the mediators are experienced compensation lawyers who appreciate the intricacies and subjectivity of compensation cases and are equipped to assess the case and help you settle your claims. Rules, regulations, a fee schedule and forms are available on request.

The trained mediators who have agreed to donate their time to serve in the Mediation Pilot Project are listed below:

Honorable Marjorie O'Donnell  
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Honorable George Read  
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Wood & Carlton  
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Honorable Andy Shull  
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Honorable Al Chadick  
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Please contact a trained mediator in your geographic area to obtain information about mediation of your State workers' compensation case at a reasonable cost. Commissioner Quarles has visited with many adjusters and self-insureds about the mediation project, so if you raise the idea of mediation with your adjuster client, it is likely that he or she will be familiar with the project. Please note that our trained mediators are not those found on the Bar's ADR list. These are mediators trained in workers' compensation issues exclusively who have donated their time and talent to

benefit the Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund.

You are also invited to become a donor to the Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund. For more information, please contact H. Byron Carter, III, Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A., Post Office Box 1084, Jackson, MS 39215-1084. Checks can be made to The Mississippi Bar Foundation or Kids' Chance and mailed to Byron. Any donation to the Kids' Chance of Mississippi Scholarship Fund is tax deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Consider donating a sum to the fund in honor of your colleagues at Christmas time or follow the lead of Karl Steinburger, of Colingo Williams in Pascagoula, who has made a commitment to donate honorariums received as a result of speaking at continuing legal education seminars to the scholarship fund. There are many ways to donate that don't "hurt". We encourage your support.