The Constitution

By Edward M. Byrd
Member, Illinois Bar

The constitution of the United States, often called the most perfect document ever devised by man, has stood for more than one hundred and seventy five years as a fortress against the eroding forces of evil which chip constantly at our institutions of freedom and citadels of Christianity.

Whatever may be my religious beliefs or convictions the constitution protects me in the exercise thereof; whatever I may have to say, not in conflict with the public interest, the constitution grants me the right to voice that opinion, and if I choose to hold an assembly in the peace of the people the constitution forbids the man with the night stick and the badge to interpose his will.

If my government, the voice of a nation of two hundred million people, possessing the greatest power and the greatest prestige known in the annals of history, offends me, the constitution says that I may tell my government that it has imposed upon my rights and that I demand a redress.

With the constitution I lock my door and with the constitution I reinforce the lock with an iron bar so that my night's sleep may not be disturbed by the booted gestapo who takes upon himself to enforce his kind of law by his own methods.

I am not guilty of committing any crime until I have been found guilty by a fair and impartial trial conducted in accordance with the law of the land and in conformity with a Christian conscience. I cannot be indicted without evidence, I cannot be convicted without a trial because the constitution stands between me and those who would trample in the dust the rights and privileges of their fellowmen.

I am not a slave, not only because of the Emancipation Proclamation but also because the constitution says I cannot be. No man, however strong, can deprive me of my life nor my liberty nor interfere with my right to enjoy my existence because the constitution is my sword and shield by which I defend myself against every evil force of a complex society.

I have the right and the privilege, besides it is my American duty, to choose those who are charged with the administration of my government; the constitution says that an election official cannot see the color of my skin.

The men who met in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787 and handed to their posterity on Sept. 15 of that same year, the constitution of the United States, said to all the world, here is the constitution of a government built on the will of the people, one that will witness the rise and fall of tyrants, one that will see the eclipse of kingdoms, and preside over the collapse of monarchs, because it was framed under the will of God to protect the rights of men.

There's fishing. And then there's 5 hours with a Black Marlin.

There's whisky. And then there's V.O.

Only V.O. is V.O. The First Canadian

Women In The Media

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public and private life. She is a good friend to those who work with her. And she knows how to do her job as a seasoned professional.

Her thirteen-year love affair with the San Francisco Bay area is returned with roses. She lives in her favorite city with her husband William Moore, a news cameraman for station KTVU, and their two children, Steven and Darolyn.

Monica Jones Kaufman

"How To Prepare For A Career as a Broadcasting Super Star," might be the title of a book by Monica Jones Kaufman. She has worked hard to get to where she is and the only place for her to go is up.

At 29, Monica looks like a model, and indeed was chosen by a national fashion magazine for her brains and talent.

She recalls "My mother always said, 'I pay the cost to be the boss, and that's why I wanted to work. But I also work for the sheer enjoyment of seeing myself out at one level and move up and learn."

No clearer or more succinct explanation exists that explains Ms. Kaufman's well-earned success.

She lists her steps to success as the following: 1965-67 student at the University of Louisville, Kentucky; one year as a bank teller at $72 per week; one year as a newsroom receptionist in Louisville at $90 per week; the summer of '69 a member of the Columbia University Summer Journalism Program for Minority Groups; three years as a Louisville Times newspaper reporter, now $150 per week; one year as an assistant editor of a trade magazine at $230 per week; and two years as a news reporter and week-end anchor at station WHAS-TV in Louisville, $300 per week.

She continues in 1975, graduating with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Louisville and from 1975 to the present, as a news reporter and daily anchor for station WSB TV in Atlanta, Georgia at $400 per week.

As an Atlanta news personality, Monica aspires to work for a network news program. She has always been a self-starter who was not afraid to try the unknown.

In Louisville, where her career began, Ms. Kaufman invented most of her own story leads, including a six-part series on homosexuality, and one in which she wore a disguise to uncover the reason why illegal taxicabs operating in the black community were so prosperous.

She has covered everything from government corruption to how to prepare fried ice cream."

As a station co-anchor, she covers the prestigious City Hall beat.

Like so many young women in the media, Monica manages to find time for outside professional and community activities. She is a member of the Press Club, the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi; American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, American Women in Radio and Television, and the YMCA.

Making her far-ranging plans for a future in a major metropolitan area like New York City, Monica hopes to pursue a master's degree in business administration to further her knowledge in economics, business and labor.

Always thinking ahead, Monica has said that when she is too old to appear on camera, she wants to be able to go into television management.

A partial list of her honors includes: 1974 Louisville Defender Newspaper Honor Roll of Black Achievers; Kentucky NAACP Leadership Appreciation Award; Outstanding Communications Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Louisville; 1975 Honorary Co-Chairperson of the Big Brother-Big Sister Week in Louisville;

Kentucky State Reformatory JayCees Outstanding Young Woman; Merit Award for the show, "What's Going On?" from the Advertising and Public Relations Clubs in Louisville.

The Georgia House of Representatives passed a resolution commending Ms. Kaufman for her reporting on a tenant-landlord bill that became law, and also this year, Monica was named "Anchorwoman of the Year" by the Atlanta chapter of the National Association of Media Women.

ELLEN SWEETS DUNNING
St. Louis Post Dispatch

MONICA JONES KAUFMAN
WSB TV, Atlanta

As the first black and the first woman to hold the co-anchor position regularly in Atlanta, Monica Kaufman is one of the new breed of media women. She has set her sights on a high-level communications career and she will undoubtedly get it.

Ellen Sweets Dunning

Ellen Sweets Dunning is one of the most candid journalists ever to hit St. Louis. She didn't actually hit town, she was born into the media and managed to learn her skills correctly while growing up.

She has said that "a lot of our success can be attributed to being in the right place at the right time, but a lot also has to do with the fact that we are good. I have done free-lance writing for other publications for enjoyment as much as for the money."

At 35, Ellen is a divorcee and the mother of a five-year-old daughter. She is currently on the news staff of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and beginning seven years ago became the first black woman reporter hired there.

She hopes one day to take over the leadership of her father's newspaper, The St. Louis American.

Talking about her early life, Ellen reports, "My mother taught English until her marriage and she then took an active part on my father's paper. The St. Louis American, a black weekly, got the whole family's attention.

There was always a great deal of emphasis on reading and even more on grammar and spelling — Mother was death on wheels about syntax!"

Ms. Dunning attended Antioch College and Washington University and studied Greek art and French. After her marriage she lived in England for four years and found a job as an advertising agency

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