

Around

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION

No. 274, February 2013

the Bar

**Bar Luncheon:
Tuesday, Feb. 19**



Inside:

Fracking Alt. Wells

Attorney spotlight:

Laranda Moffett Walker

Interview with Family Court

Judge Charlene Charlet Day

**Lawyers in Love ...
with Lawyers**



BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION

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Dear Chief Judge and Judges of the 19th JDC,

It has come to my attention that our Court is about to approve a policy concerning the use of cellphones in our courthouse.

I am told that what is being considered is that only attorneys with bar cards and court personnel will be allowed to bring a cellphone into our courthouse.

On behalf of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, I request that we be allowed some input into this decision.

I understand that the incident that prompted this policy decision is a person using a cellphone to video record a proceeding in a courtroom. That conduct, of course, is unacceptable.

I would like to address with the Court options other than banning cellphones. I would suggest we use signs telling those in the courtroom that, if they wish to use their cellphone, they need to walk out into the hallway and that, if anyone is caught using a cellphone in the courtroom, the cellphone will be taken away and they will be held in contempt of court. The bailiff can announce this before the judge takes the bench.

Here is our concern: As you know, there are no payphones in the courthouse.

Scenario 1: One of our citizens comes to our courthouse as a witness in a trial or to come to the clerk's office for some reason. She has to park at the parking garage on Government Street and walk several blocks to the courthouse, in the rain and cold, only to find out that she can't bring in her cellphone. There's no place to store it, so she has to walk back several blocks in the rain and cold to put her cellphone in her car and then walk back the same several blocks in the rain and cold. If she is to be in court at a certain time, she is now late. (I am writing this letter on our fifth continuous day of rain.) I know we can include a notice on the juror summons, but that only alerts jurors of this policy. We have many other citizens coming into our courthouse.

Scenario 2: My courier comes to the courthouse to file something. The clerk's office has a problem with what he is filing. He has to talk to me. He must walk back to his car to get his cellphone to call my office to get the question answered and go back to the clerk's office, or get the clerk's office to let him use the phone to call me.

Scenario 3: Something happens during trial and one of the parties or witnesses has to get in touch with another person to find out where they are or when they will get to the courthouse – or to check to see whether the person who's supposed to take care of her child after school arrived at her house. There are no pay phones to use. They can use the lawyer's cellphone, but then, as you know, the lawyer's cellphone number is now recorded on their phone and thus is no longer private.

We know other courts prohibit cellphones, but this courthouse has about 24 working courtrooms. We process a LOT of people. It's not like Federal Court or the Courts of Appeal. They have very few of our citizens coming and going.

We would suggest that our Court should not ban all cellphones just because one person acted inappropriately. We ask that the Court use warning signs and announcements from our bailiffs to see how that works.

Most of our citizens are reasonable honorable people.

Michael S. Walsh
President,
Baton Rouge Bar Association



On the cover:

This month's cover photo features three couples of married attorneys – the Baiers, the Decuir and the Murrays – all members of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, in honor of Valentine's Day – Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013. All are definitely the picture of lawyers in love.

In photo (far left) – Dwayne M. and Lisa N. Murray work together at Murray & Murray, and have been married for 25 years. Lisa is a former law student of Professor Paul Baier.

In photo (far right) – Winston Decuir Jr. and his wife, Jennifer, are expecting their third child. While Winston works with his father at Decuir, Clark & Adams, LLP, Jennifer works for FMOL Health Systems. Professor Paul Baier and Winston's dad, Winston Decuir Sr., are long-time friends.

In photo (center) – Barbara and Paul Baier, both members of the BRBA, will celebrate their 17th wedding anniversary May 24. Barbara is a past president of the BRBA and Paul is a Professor of Law at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Special thanks to Fleur Du Jour, LLC, Baton Rouge's only downtown florist, and shop owner Lani Guilbeau for use of her shop and floral designs during the shooting of this photograph. Also, special thanks to Ginger Roy and The Bridal Shop (housed within Fleur Du Jour) for use of our selected background. Both shops are located at 447 Third Street, Suite B, Baton Rouge, La.

Cover photography by Pamela Labbe.



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contributors



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Published by the Baton Rouge Bar Association
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letter from the president

BY MICHAEL S. WALSH

Wisdom for the ages

Fresh out of the Army and an LSU undergraduate, in the late 1970s I stumbled into a summer job as a “summer library clerk” at the United States Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Though I’d grown up in New Orleans and had a pre-teen’s awareness of current events, I really had no idea before then of the Fifth Circuit’s leading role in the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and ’60s. My summer job remedied that. Through it I met the famous “Fifth Circuit Four”: Chief Judge Elbert

Tuttle and Judges John Minor Wisdom, Richard Rives and John Robert Brown. The short-term employment led me to know the judges as men first and only then as a group of civil rights pioneers who are mere names in the headings of opinions law students may no longer read as intently as they once did.

Of the four I spent more time with Judge Wisdom, for whom I worked most days. The judge assigned me to catalog mounds of hate mail he’d received in response to his opinions implementing school integration and enforcing civil rights. Judge Wisdom read each letter and then put it in a cardboard box, stacked later with dozens of similar boxes in a room adjoining the judge’s personal office. (I may be able to arrange access to the Tulane Law School’s archives for anyone still believing that anonymous discourse was more civil before the Internet.) I had to read the mail in order to sort it. Judge Wisdom often asked for my reaction to what I’d read, and patiently explained the Fifth Circuit ruling that prompted the letter. His explanations had a common theme: the Constitution compelled the court’s ruling, and lawyers for the parties were duty-bound to ensure that outcome.



Michael S. Walsh

My summer job put me in a position to meet other leading figures of the civil rights era, including justices Thurgood Marshall and Byron “Whizzer” White (a Rhodes Scholar, College Football Hall of Famer, former NFL Detroit Lions halfback and the NFL’s leading rusher in 1938 and 1940) and lawyer William Kunstler (who represented members of the Black Panther Party, Weather Underground, the Native American Indian Movement and the Attica Prison rioters). These titans usually would appear at Judge Wisdom’s chambers door unannounced and without an appointment (security was far different then) asking to see the judge, who would introduce the esteemed visitor to his law clerks and his other staff, including his summer employee. The callers – even Supreme Court Justices – all treated Judge Wisdom with a degree of respect and awe that I’d never seen before.

Judge Wisdom also introduced me to J. Skelly Wright, who as a New Orleans federal district judge in 1951 had ordered the integration of LSU Law School, my alma mater. Although these men came from the opposite end of the New Orleans social spectrum, they shared a commitment to equal justice under the law.

Baton Rouge was not without its own civil rights issues and cases. On your next visit to the federal courthouse in Baton Rouge I recommend that you visit the Clerk of Court’s office and review the original complaint in our country’s longest running school desegregation case. On Sept. 29, 1956, a few brave lawyers including Thurgood Marshall, Alex L. Pitcher Jr. and A. P. Tureaud Sr. sued to desegregate the East Baton Rouge Parish School. Judge John V. Parker presided over the lawsuit for some time and was subjected to public scorn for ordering busing to further integration of regional public schools. When Judge Parker took senior status, Judge James J. Brady took over the case and worked with the parties until they were able to settle.

In the 46 years between the EBR Schools lawsuit’s filing and its settlement, our society saw many changes, but at least one thing remained constant: the dedication of the lawyers and judges

Continued on page 6

GAIL'S GRAMMAR

Most lawyers and the media think that **jurist** means judge. Many non-lawyers think **jurist** and **juror** are synonymous. But **jurist** actually means one who is an expert in or a writer on the law; a legal scholar who has never presided over a case may be called a **jurist**. Because a jurist is a legal expert, it is redundant to refer to an "expert jurist."

Send suggestions for future Gail's Grammar columns to Gail Stephenson at GStephenson@sulc.edu, or call Gail at 225-771-4900 (ext. 216).

ERRATUM: The last example in the January *Gail's Grammar* should have read: "He **forbore** asking a question to which he did not know the answer."

Take a pro bono case.

Contact Robin at 225-214-5561
or Emily at 225-214-5558 to volunteer.

Continued from page 5

sworn to uphold the Constitution in pursuing the lawful resolution of the controversy.

Judge Wisdom and his colleagues in the federal judiciary went against the grain of their time, in some instances at great personal cost, to ensure that color did not govern Americans' access to the ballot, schools and public accommodations.

It is sobering to consider that it took nearly one hundred years to ensure the protections of the Constitution for all citizens. This month I'd ask you to follow the words that Judge Wisdom gave to me over 37 years ago – "become a lawyer and then go out and do some good for people." Volunteer for the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Thirst for Justice program, take a pro bono case or commit to get more involved with your community and show the community that you are proud to be a lawyer. ■

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february bar luncheon

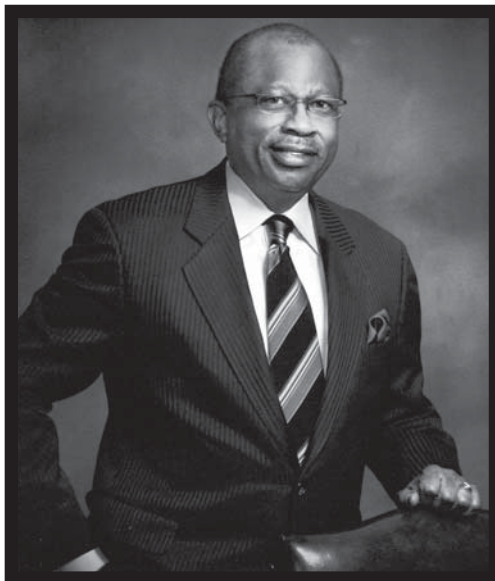
TUESDAY, FEB. 19, 2013

BRBA, BRAWA & Martinet Joint luncheon to be held; Walter C. Dumas to speak

The BRBA will hold its February Bar Luncheon jointly with the Baton Rouge Association of Women Attorneys (BRAWA) and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society at 11:45 a.m. **Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013**, at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third Street. Guest speaker Walter C. Dumas will discuss: "Then and Now – Being a Minority Lawyer in the Early Days and How Things Have Changed ... or Have They?"

Dumas, founder and senior attorney with Dumas & Associates Law Firm, LLC, received his law degree from Southern University Law Center in 1969. As a result of the actions led by Dumas, the Louisiana State Board of Education voted to change SULC's Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) to Juris Doctorate. His 1969 graduating class was the first to earn a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. Dumas earned his B.A. in political science from Southern University and A & M College in 1966.

His professional career has spanned more than 40 years, and his practice areas include personal injury, class actions, toxic torts, railroad law, environmental liability and products liability.



Walter C. Dumas

Dumas was the first African American appointed City Court Judge in East Baton Rouge Parish (1978) and the first African American in the U.S. to hold the position of Legal Counsel to the Democratic Party (1992-2000). In addition, he is a charter appointee to the Southern University and A&M College System Board of Supervisors.

In 2000, he was named a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, which is open to lawyers who acted as legal counsel in at least one case that netted a verdict award of at least \$1 million.

Cost for members of the BRBA, BRAWA or Martinet Society to attend the luncheon is \$20 per person; cost for non-members or guests is \$25 per

person. We accept payment in advance and at the door. VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover are accepted.

Please register online at www.BRBA.org or RSVP by sending in the form below to Meredith French by fax (225) 344-4805 or by email: meredith@brba.org by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. Checks are payable to the BRBA, P.O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

Please complete this form and fax this entire page to the Baton Rouge Bar Association at (225) 344-4805 by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

Bar Roll No. _____ Please check applicable boxes: ☐ BRBA member ☐ BRAWA member ☐ Martinet member ☐ non-member

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YES, register me for the **FEBRUARY BAR LUNCHEON** at De La Ronde Hall, which will take place **TUESDAY, FEB. 19, 2013**, at a cost of \$20 for members of the BRBA, BRAWA and Martinet Society, and at a cost of \$25 for non-members or guests. Reservations may be transferred, but not canceled, after 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. "No shows" will be billed.

**To register for this luncheon online
and pay by credit card,
go to www.BRBA.org,
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If paying by credit card, please include the following:

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tales from the bar side

BY VINCENT P. FORNIAS

The plight of law firm receptionists goes often unappreciated and is seldom documented. Their job description is a bottomless pit of occupations and skills, from air traffic controller to janitor to decorator to gate keeper to director of first impressions. Compare them to left tackles on a football field, indispensable in protecting your blind side. If you have a good one, you do your level best to keep her healthy, happy and solvent. At all costs.

Which brings us to one Dianna, the very definition of a professional receptionist, who has served heroically for nigh on two decades at a fairly conservative Baton Rouge law firm. One day not long ago, as the firm switchboard was lighting up like a Christmas tree, Dianna welcomed a client ("Paul"), who was there to see Jack Miller, one of the firm's labor lawyers. She dutifully asked him to have a seat as she contacted Miller about his corporate client. Then in walked another client ("Ray"), announcing he had a tree service and had an appointment with Connell L. Archey, one of the firm's casualty lawyers. Same drill for Dianna, followed by Ray politely asking to be directed to the men's room, then excusing himself.

And here commenced the makings of a classic French farce as it began unfolding before Dianna's eyes. Busy answering yet another phone call, she could only watch helplessly as Connell walked into the reception area, and in his best southern Mississippi drawl, looked at Paul, held out his hand, and asked, "Ray?" For some undisclosed reason Paul, looking a bit puzzled, answered in the affirmative (perhaps he interpreted Connell's dialect as "ready?") and dutifully followed Archey to one of the firm's conference rooms. Therein the polite small talk began with Archey

You can call me Ray

reportedly telling the besuited "Ray" that he "didn't have to dress up to come see me."

Meanwhile the *real* Ray remained indisposed in the men's room doing decency knows what. Shortly thereafter, Miller walked into the reception area and queried of Dianna what she had done with Paul. She responded that for some reason, while she was otherwise engaged, Paul followed Archey into a conference room, to which she directed Jack. By then, Ray had finished his business and was back in the reception area. Down the hall walked Miller, knocking on the conference room door and greeting Paul. Telling him he thought he had come to see him, Paul replied, "So did I."

Archey was then dutifully evicted from that conference room and left to find his tree service client, who most certainly had not dressed up to see him.

Another day at the office? Welcome to The Life of Di. ■

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attorney spotlight

BY ASHLEY SEALS

PHOTO BY RCL PORTRAIT DESIGN

Interview with YLS Chair-elect Laranda Moffett Walker

Laranda Moffett Walker's parents taught her at an early age to always work hard and take pride in anything she does in life, and that she has done.

Walker is an associate with Phelps Dunbar, LLP and practices in the area of commercial litigation. "I love the flexibility a law degree provides and the doors it can open," she said.

Walker, the 2013 chair-elect for the Young Lawyer Section, grew up in Bay Springs, Miss., a small town about an hour north of Hattiesburg. She attended Bay Springs High School where she was a cheerleader, a member of the band and a member of the show choir.

Walker majored in communications with a double emphasis in broadcasting and theatre at Mississippi State University and graduated in 2002. She received her J.D. from the LSU Law Center in 2007.

"I was looking for opportunities to serve and meet other young lawyers. I love the fact that the YLS works to address the needs of the bar as well as the non-legal community. Being involved in the YLS has allowed me to build relationships with other attorneys and become better acquainted with the local bench and other community leaders," Walker said.

While at MSU, she was actively involved in theatre, worked part-time as a fitness instructor and bank teller and interned for a local television station. Additionally, she participated in the Miss Mississippi Scholarship Pageant for four years and represented MSU one year.

"I believe my undergraduate experience was excellent preparation for the fast-paced and oftentimes crazy life I live as a lawyer. I can recall one semester taking 22 hours of classes while working part-time, preparing for a pageant and rehearsing for a theatre production."

After graduating from MSU, she was offered a



Laranda Moffett Walker

position as an anchor at WCBI in Columbus, Miss. In December 2003, Walker moved to Baton Rouge and worked as a reporter for WAFB. Once she started law school in August 2004, she continued as a part-time reporter for a year.

"Quite frankly, I hope to one day work in television news again – but as a legal analyst. I would love to combine the skills I've gained from both professions and provide a legal perspective on various topics," she said.

During law school she served on the Moot Court board and also as president of the Trial Advocacy Board. She clerked at Phelps Dunbar, Breazeale Sasche & Wilson and Kean Miller in Baton Rouge and for Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs in Louisville, Ky.

She met her husband of five years, Chris Walker, during her freshman year at MSU in chemistry class. They became close friends and began to date a few years later.

The two have a son named John Luke, who was born Aug. 17, 2011, and two dogs, Maxx and Miny. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling and watching *Law & Order*.

Walker is very active in the community. She is a part of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, the Defense Research Institute, the Louisiana State Bar Association Public Information Committee and Istrouma Baptist Church.

"I believe service is extremely important. Whether it's serving at a soup kitchen, mentoring a child or judging a moot court competition, volunteering makes a huge difference in people's lives. I have benefited so much from people giving of their time to me. I'm sure that many of the people who have impacted me don't even realize it. I pray that my husband and I are able to instill that same value into our children," Walker said. ■

bar news

BY PAMELA LABBE

RCL Portrait Design to return in early February

If you still need your photograph taken for the BRBA website, you can do so the week of Feb. 4, 2013, when RCL Portrait Design returns to the Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main Street. Please call 1-800-580-5562 to make your appointment with RCL Portrait Design.

Mock Trial Competition dates set for Feb. 22 - 23

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Mock Trial Committee has scheduled the 2013 Region III High School Mock Trial Competition to take place Friday, Feb. 22, and Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, at the 19th Judicial District Court, 300 North Blvd. The competition includes four rounds. Round 1 begins at 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22. Saturday's competition includes rounds 3 and 4, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 2 p.m.

Lauren Byrd Reed will chair the committee. Tavares Walker will serve as vice chair. Lynn Smith Haynes, staff liaison for the Mock Trial Committee, will coordinate the event. To volunteer with this year's Mock Trial Competition on either day, please contact Lynn at 225-214-5564 or lynn@brba.org.

Law Day to take place Wednesday, May 1

Mark your calendar to attend the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Law Day Celebration, scheduled Wednesday, May 1, 2013. Chairing the 2013 Law Day Committee is Elizabeth Spurgeon. Ryan Brown is the vice chair. The theme is "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

To join this committee or to volunteer in any way, please contact Donna Buuck, staff liaison to the Law Day Committee, at 225-214-5556 or donna@brba.org.



PHOTO BY MARITE ZIETZ

Vanessa Guidry-Whipple was sworn in as Chief Judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeal Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013. Photographed (L to R) are Keith Whipple (J. Whipple's husband), Christine Crow (Clerk of Court of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal), Chief Judge Guidry-Whipple, Theresa Robichaux (Clerk of Court of the 32nd Judicial District Court in Terrebonne Parish), and Perrine Whipple (J. Whipple's daughter-in-law), who is holding Juliette Whipple (J. Whipple's granddaughter).



PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

Nicole "Nikki" Robinson was sworn in during an afternoon ceremony held Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, at the 19th Judicial District Court as a Commissioner of the 19th Judicial District Court. Judge Chip Moore III (far right) officiated over the installation of Commissioner Robinson. Robinson's parents, Deborah and Robbie Robinson, served as witnesses to the ceremony.



PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

Gail S. Stephenson (2012 BRBA president) presented Commissioner Robinson with a robe during the Jan. 3, 2013, swearing in ceremony. Robinson is a former law clerk of Judge Moore. Photographed above are Stephenson, Judge Chip Moore III and Commissioner Nicole Robinson.



PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

Taken at the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012, during a reception held jointly by the BRBA and the Federal Bar Association (Baton Rouge chapter), the above photo includes (L to R) U.S. District Bankruptcy Court Judge Douglas Dodd, Chief U. S. District Court Judge Brian A. Jackson, BRBA President Michael S. Walsh, U. S. District Judge James S. Brady and Matthew B. Moreland of New Orleans attended the reception. Moreland is treasurer of the National Federal Bar Association.



PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

Federal Bar Association (BR chapter) President Erin Wilder-Doomes honored two scholarship recipients, Southern University Law Center graduate Christopher Dausau (left) and LSU Law Center graduate Randy Marse (right), during the Dec. 4, 2012, FBA meeting. Photographed are Dausau, Wilder-Doomes, Chief U. S. District Court Judge Brian A. Jackson and Marse.



Volunteers and BRBA staff members made the holidays brighter for needy children through the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation 21st annual Holiday Star Project. Gift distribution day took place Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012.

Holiday Star Project brightens children's holidays

The 21st annual Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Holiday Star Project distribution day took place Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012.

Attorney volunteers, the Holiday Star Committee and BRBA staff members loaded wrapped gifts onto a moving truck donated by Diesel Driving Academy. The gifts were delivered to a Baton Rouge agency.

While gifts were housed in the Middleton Bar Center for one agency only, a total of 11 agencies benefited from this year's Holiday

Star Project. The others were collected by the agencies prior to Dec. 11 or were delivered directly to those agencies.

Susan Kelley with the BRBA serves as the staff coordinator for the Holiday Star Committee, while Zelma Frederick of McGlinchey Stafford was the committee chair, Ryan Brown was vice chair, and Laranda Moffett Walker served as the YLS board liaison.


The Holiday Star Project delivered gifts to almost 1,000 underprivileged children. Volunteers who help load the gifts into the truck included Hunter Bertrand, Chris Billings, Mittie Bolton, Joe Cefalu, Rebecca Clement, Jean-Luc Cummins, Sallie Dupont, Jordan Faircloth, Jon Ann Giblin, Druit Gremillion, David Kelley, Erik Kjeldsen, Mackenzie Smith Ledet, Saul Newsome, Kristi Richard, John Sibley, Heidi Thompson, Alex Velazquez and Mac Womack.

In addition, special thanks to Diesel Driving Academy for donating the use of the 18-wheeler to move the gifts.

Donations of Easter eggs, candy requested by Easter Eggstravaganza Committee

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Easter Eggstravaganza Committee requests donations of plastic Easter eggs stuffed with pre-wrapped candy for use during the Easter Eggstravaganza Committee's annual Easter egg hunts. No baskets will be needed this year. The donations are to be dropped off at the Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main Street, March 1-14, 2013.

Several hunts will be held at various downtown elementary schools March 18-30, 2013. Volunteers to assist with the hunts are requested.

Erik Kjelsen and Jeanne Rougeau are the co-chairs of the committee. Anyone wishing to join the Easter Eggstravaganza Committee is welcome to contact Carole McGehee at 225-214-5557 or carole@brba.org. 



Members of the Volunteer Committee who assisted with this year's BRBF Holiday Star Project gift distribution day included (L to R) Carole McGehee (staff liaison), Sallie Dupont, Erik Kjeldsen (back), Mac Womack and Mittie Bolton.

PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE



Thanks to the many volunteers, hundreds of gifts and new bicycles were carried down the stairs (as the elevator broke on the first trip down) in less than a couple of hours. Special thanks to Diesel Driving Academy for donating the use of an 18-wheeler.

PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

Haynesville Shale: Those frackin' Alt. Wells!¹

BY ADAM R. CREDEUR

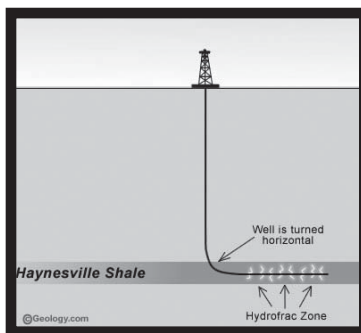
Introduction

The Haynesville Shale is a large natural gas formation that was discovered in 2008 and is primarily located in northwestern Louisiana, but also stretches into southwestern Arkansas and east Texas.² In just three years, the Haynesville Shale has become the most productive natural gas field in U.S. history. In doing so, it has created an economic boom for the state of Louisiana. Business owners, oil and gas companies, state coffers and landowners are just some of the beneficiaries of this natural gas gold rush.³ As a result of the economic boom that is the Haynesville Shale, many historical legal issues have re-emerged, and many new legal issues have surfaced. Whether it is environmental law issues with hydraulic fracturing, or mineral law issues with unitization and lease maintenance, the Haynesville Shale has kept, and will continue to keep, Louisiana lawyers busy for years to come.

Haynesville Shale history

The Haynesville Shale is located at a depth between 10,500 and 13,500 feet and is projected to contain more than 250 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas.⁴ To put it in perspective, that volume of natural gas is equivalent to over 18 years of current U.S. oil production.⁵ In early 2008, Chesapeake Energy, an exploration and production company based in Oklahoma City, publicly announced its discovery of the Haynesville Shale.⁶ Soon thereafter, natural gas companies began flocking to Shreveport and other areas of northwest Louisiana to begin leasing as many mineral acres as possible. Besides the possibility of enormous natural gas reserves located in the Haynesville Shale, companies were attracted to it because natural gas prices were as high as \$13.50/mcf in 2008.⁷ This, in turn, led to extremely high lease-bonus payments to landowners, some in excess of \$20,000 per acre.⁸ To date, more than 1,000 wells have been drilled in the Haynesville Shale, and it is projected that 10,000 wells will be drilled over the next 30 years.

In a time when the country is facing a major economic recession, the Haynesville Shale has provided an economic buffer for the state of Louisiana. Louisiana lost 38,500 jobs in 2009.¹⁰ Had it not been for the 57,637 jobs created by the Haynesville Shale, Louisiana would have instead lost more than 96,000 jobs.¹¹ In 2009 alone, the Haynesville Shale generated \$10.6 billion in new business sales in



Louisiana, and as a result, generated \$5.7 billion in household earnings.¹² On top of all this, state and local taxes increased by at least \$912.3 million in 2009.¹³ Clearly, the Haynesville Shale has meant a tremendous amount to Louisiana's economy.

Hydraulic fracturing

History of fracking – Without hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling techniques, the Haynesville Shale, and every other shale play across America, would likely not be economical to produce. In a formation as impermeable as shale, after a well is horizontally drilled, it must then be stimulated for production to occur.¹⁴ The process of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” as it is called in the industry, is a well-stimulation technique used in low-permeability underground reservoirs and formations, such as the Haynesville Shale.¹⁵ Fracking involves pumping special fluids (mixture of water, sand and chemicals)¹⁶ at high pressure into the formation, thus creating fractures in the shale that allow oil and natural gas to flow freely.¹⁷ Once the fractures are created, they are propped open by “proppants,” which usually consist of grains of sand found in the frac fluid.¹⁸ Once the fractures are propped open, the oil and natural gas is able to flow into the wellbore and be collected at the surface.¹⁹ Fracking is usually done in several stages, and requires an immense amount of water.²⁰

While fracking is now the primary well-stimulation technique used in every shale play across America,²¹ it is not a new concept. Although fracking has been around since 1947, it was not a very economical technique until about 11 years ago.²² This is due in large part to the emergence of sophisticated horizontal drilling techniques.²³

Environmental law issues with fracking – While hydraulic fracturing has immensely increased our domestic oil and natural gas production, it has not come without criticism. Environmental activists, as well as the federal government, have questioned the safety of the fracking chemicals being pumped into the ground. They claim that the fracking chemicals are seeping into our groundwater supply and thus contaminating our drinking water. This very serious claim not only affects landowners in the Haynesville Shale, but also in the newly emerging Louisiana oil play, the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale.²⁴ The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, which companies also frac into,

is a sedimentary rock formation that stretches across the middle parishes of Louisiana, such as St. Helena, Rapides, Vernon and the Felicianas.²⁵

The major environmental issue stems from the fact that the 2005 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) exempts oil and gas companies from disclosing chemicals used in fracking fluids, which essentially gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) no authority to regulate fracking and leaves regulation in the hands of the states. This exemption did not become a problem until the emergence of shale plays and the corresponding extensive use of fracking. Many states have taken a proactive approach and promulgated their own regulations that require companies to disclose the chemicals they use during the frac process. Louisiana, Colorado, Arkansas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming are just a few of the states that currently have regulations in place requiring disclosure of fracking chemicals.²⁶ Environmentalists argue that in many states, the disclosure requirements are inadequate because proprietary chemicals that are deemed “trade secrets” do not have to be disclosed. Louisiana, which is one of the states that has a “trade secret” exemption, requires companies to report the chemicals to either the Office of Conservation, or to www.FracFocus.org, which is a chemical-disclosure website currently used by eight states.²⁷ The state of New York, on the other hand, has no need for chemical disclosure regulations, as they currently have a moratorium on fracking in place.²⁸

Another important environmental issue involving fracking is its link to the increased seismic activity in the midsection of the U.S. over the past few years. Studies have shown that the increased activity is likely due to the injection wells used to dispose of the frac water after it is used, and not to the actual fracking process.²⁹ While injection wells have been around for decades, they have seen an increased use over the past few years by oil and natural gas companies disposing of the massive amounts of water used during fracking.³⁰ Although the seismic activity from these injection wells is typically very weak,³¹ the oil and gas industry will face real problems if a sizable earthquake is ever directly linked to fracking or the disposal of its water.

Although in 2004 the EPA conducted a study on fracking that deemed it a safe process, in 2010, at the request of Congress, the EPA announced they would be conducting yet another study on hydraulic fracturing, which is to be finalized in 2014.³² To date, there has not been a single proven case of groundwater contamination as a result of the hydraulic fracturing process.³³

The likely fear among industry officials is that the EPA will eventually take over the regulation of fracking, as well as the permitting process to drill and frac a well. This fear is not unwarranted, as it is no secret that once the federal

government is in charge of any process, the cost and time associated with the process substantially increases. This is evident by the new procedures and guidelines for permitting offshore oil wells that were implemented by the federal government in response to the blowout of BP’s Deepwater Horizon well in 2010. These new procedures could take oil and gas companies up to a year or more to complete. This is a major concern because if exploration and production companies (especially smaller independent companies) are not busy drilling and producing, they are losing substantial amounts of money. Also, when independent companies are not busy drilling and producing, less oil and natural gas is produced domestically, which in turn means that Americans pay more at the pump. Another fear among industry officials is a potential countrywide moratorium on fracking. Because hydraulic fracturing accounts for 43 percent of total U.S. oil production, and 67 percent of natural gas production, a moratorium would prove to be extremely detrimental to the industry, and to the U.S. economy.³⁴ Smaller independent companies, which account for the majority of drilling in the United States, would be seriously hurt by this. This means that hydraulic fracturing, the current lifeblood of the oil and gas industry, and independent operators, the proverbial backbone of the industry, are at risk because of speculative water contamination claims.

Conclusion

I believe the lack of factual and scientific evidence to support the link between hydraulic fracturing and groundwater contamination speaks for itself. I suggest taking a closer look at the regulations and testing procedures that are in place to evaluate the integrity of the casing and cement jobs that make up the wellbore. Because this is the most logical way for groundwater contamination to occur from oil and gas drilling and production, if these regulations and procedures can be made more stringent in any way, it should be done as long as they are reasonable.

The Haynesville Shale is vital to the oil and gas industry, and to the Louisiana economy. It is an unconventional gas play the likes of which this state has never seen. As with most other things, the emergence of a new economy boost comes with the emergence of new issues. How these issues are handled will determine whether the Haynesville Shale will sustain itself. ■

¹ “Alt. Well” is short for “alternate unit well,” which is a well approved by the Commissioner of Conservation when the original unit well is shown not to be actually economically and efficiently draining a unit. The “Alt. Well” reference in the title is in relation to the issue in *Gatti v. State*, which is discussed in the full version of this article, found at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2020825.

² Haynesville Shale, LOGA, <http://www.loga.la/haynesville-shale.html>.

³ Mark Schleifstein, *Haynesville Natural Gas Field is the Most Productive in the U.S.*, The Times-Picayune, Mar. 27, 2011, <http://www.nola.com/>

politics/index.ssf/2011/03/haynesville_natural_gas_field.html

⁴ Keith Mauck, What is the Haynesville Shale, Go Haynesville Shale (June 24, 2008, 2:14 PM), http://www.gohaynesvilleshale.com/notes/Haynesville_Shale.

⁵ Jodee Bruyninckx, *Haynesville Shale: Local Regulations and State Preemption*, 58th Mineral Law Institute, March 2011, at 1.

⁶ *Chesapeake reports Haynesville Shale Discovery*, Scandinavian Oil and Gas Magazine (Mar. 25, 2008).

⁷ Louise Durham, *No Recession for the Haynesville*, AAPG, <http://www.aapg.org/explorer/2009/07jul/haynesville0709.cfm>.

⁸ Patrick S. Ottinger, *A Coursebook on Louisiana Mineral Rights* 43 (rev. 12th rev. ed. supp. 2011).

⁹ *Supra* note 2.

¹⁰ Loren C. Scott & Assoc., *The Economic Impact of the Haynesville Shale on the Louisiana Economy in 2009 ii-iii* (2010), available at <http://www.loga.la/pdf/Economic%20Impact%20of%20HHS.pdf>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Production Techniques, Total, <http://www.total.com/en/special-reports/shale-gas/appropriate-production-techniques/horizontal-drilling-hydraulic-fracturing-201957>.

¹⁵ Oilfield Glossary: Hydraulic Fracturing, Schlumberger, <http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/Display.cfm?Term=hydraulic%20fracturing>.

¹⁶ Ian Urbina, *Regulation Lax as Gas Wells' Tainted Water Hits Rivers*, N.Y. Times, Feb. 28, 2011, at A1.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Hydraulic Fracturing, Halliburton, http://www.halliburton.com/public/projects/pubsdata/hydraulic_fracturing/fracturing_101.html.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Department of Energy – Hydraulic Fracturing White Paper, EPA

(June 2004), http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/uic/pdfs/cbmstudy_attach_uic_append_a_doe_whitepaper.pdf.

²³ *The Once and Future U.S. Shale Gas Revolution*, Knowledge at Wharton (Aug. 29, 2012), <http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=3068>.

²⁴ It's estimated that the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale contains reserves of about seven billion barrels of oil. Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Comparison of State Hydraulic Fracturing Chemical Disclosure Regulations, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (December 30, 2011), <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=h&pid=888>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Mary Esch, *New York Fracking Moratorium Unlikely to Be Lifted As Regulators Reopen Rulemaking Process*, Huffington Post (Oct. 1, 2012), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/01/new-york-fracking-moratorium_n_1928884.html.

²⁹ *Man-Made Earthquakes a Fracking Big Deal?* Discovery News (Apr. 13, 2012), <http://news.discovery.com/earth/man-made-earthquakes-multiply-in-the-us-midwest-120413.html>.

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Natural Gas Extraction – Hydraulic Fracturing*, EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracture/>.

³³ Mark Green, *EPA's Jackson: Still No Fracking, Contamination Link*, Energy Tomorrow (May 1, 2012), <http://energytomorrow.org/blog/epas-jackson-still-no-fracking-contamination-link/#/type/all>.

³⁴ John Kemp, *Fracking No More Risky than Other Oil, Gas Wells*, Reuters (Dec. 12, 2011, 9:23 a.m.), <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/12/column-fracking-risks-idUSL6E7NC2RL20111212>.

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board synopsis

BY JEANNE COMEAUX

BRBA & BRBF Board of Director meeting minutes: December

Dec. 11, 2012 – The Holiday Star Project results were announced: Gifts were delivered to approximately 1,000 area children Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. Congratulations to the Holiday Star Project Committee.

The Board approved the “concept” (TBA) and budget for the 75th Anniversary gift to the City of Baton Rouge, as proposed by the 75th Anniversary Gala Committee. It will be funded by the monies raised by the Committee at the 75th Anniversary Gala (street dance), held and dedicated specifically for this gift. More to come on this surprise. ■



Dunlap Fiore, L.L.C.,
in Baton Rouge
announces
that
Susan N. Eccles
has become a partner
in the firm.

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Interview with Family Court Judge Charlene Charlet Day

BY JENNIFER M. MOISANT

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Charlene “Tootie” Charlet Day

Age: 59

Title: Judge, The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish

Education: 1971, Silliman Institute; 1974, B.S. in Education, Louisiana State University; 1980, M.Ed. in Supervision and Administration, Louisiana State University;

1994, J.D., LSU Law Center

Married to: Archie T. “Scooter” Day Jr.

Children: Brooke and Michele

Grandchildren: One beautiful grandchild, Kristian; and another expected in February

ATB: Where are you from originally?

JCCD: I was born in Baton Rouge at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital approximately two weeks before Christmas. At a few days old, my parents moved the family to East Feliciana Parish, where they opened Charlet Funeral Home in the town of Clinton. My brother, Chuck Charlet, and I were raised in an apartment attached to the funeral home.

ATB: How did you get the nickname “Tootie”?

JCCD: I don’t know what to tell you except what my dad told me. He said that Charlene was too long for a little baby. The name stuck and everyone called me Tootie until my senior year of high school. One of my teachers, Ms. Lorraine Caulfield, refused to call me Tootie, and of course at LSU, they called me Charlene. I wasn’t used to responding to that name.

ATB: Tell me something about you that not everybody knows.

JCCD: I graduated from high school on a stretcher. On May 6, 1971, I skipped my afternoon classes with friends to shop for graduation dance dresses. As we were crossing the railroad tracks in Slaughter, La., our car was hit by a train. Fortunately, we all survived, but my pelvis was fractured and I was confined to bed for six weeks. Since my family owned the local funeral home, I was transported to my graduation ceremony in the rear of a hearse on an ambulance cot. I graduated on a stretcher in a pink dress instead of cap and gown. Needless to say, I did not attend the graduation dance.

ATB: So does that send a message to young people out there thinking of skipping school?

JCCD: It should.

ATB: What did you want to do for a living when you were younger?

JCCD: My mother always wanted me to become a teacher so that I could be home with my children during summers. When I looked at the hours of science required to get a degree in elementary education, I figured it would be an easy degree to earn. (Science was not my forte.) I was only 17 when I made that decision. I married my first husband after completing my first year of college, so I hurried through my undergraduate degree to get out and start working. I couldn’t wait to begin working. I took the maximum amount of hours every semester so I could graduate early, and I was expecting my oldest daughter when I graduated in December 1974.

ATB: You started teaching soon after?

JCCD: Yes, I started teaching fourth grade at Silliman, which is where I had graduated from high school. I taught there for three years. After that, I was divorced and moved to Baton Rouge, and for the next 13 years I taught at Northwestern Middle School in Zachary. During that time I was honored by being named Teacher of the Year at my school. I was also a finalist for East Baton Rouge Parish Teacher of the Year.

ATB: What made you decide to switch careers? Did you have an interest in the law?

JCCD: I did always have an interest in the law. I’m an avid reader, and I remember reading a book called *Rage of Angels* by Sidney Sheldon, one of my favorite authors. The main character was an attorney, and after reading it, I decided that I wanted to become a prosecutor. The main

character may have been a criminal defense attorney—I can't really remember anymore, but that's what sparked my interest in the law.

ATB: Where did you go to work out of law school?

JCCD: After law school, I clerked at the 20th Judicial District Court for Judges William F. Kline and Wilson R. Ramshur. I spent Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in East Feliciana and Thursday and Friday in West Feliciana. I was in court every single day of the week. My judges were very different in their styles, but I considered them both to be extremely knowledgeable on the law. I try to emulate the best qualities of both. Judge Ramshur is deceased now, but I see Judge Kline occasionally, and he never fails to tell me how proud he is of my accomplishments. Being a judicial law clerk was an invaluable experience that I would not trade.

ATB: How did you come to practice family law?

JCCD: Upon entering law school, I discovered that I was more interested in family law than criminal law. I realized I wanted to work with people, and help them out directly, rather than doing prosecutorial work. I felt I would be able to use my knowledge of the law to help families. You know, as a teacher, I observed many families going through the divorce process, and I saw firsthand the impact of divorce on the children. Also, Professor Lucy McGough influenced me. She had a help session for my section the semester I studied family law. She encouraged me to go into the family law arena.

ATB: Do you miss being a teacher?

JCCD: When I first started practicing law, I missed teaching during June and July, and around Christmas when I didn't have enough time to do all the cooking and shopping. But seriously, I did miss having contact with children once I became an attorney. As a family law attorney, I always tried to avoid involving the children in the court proceedings.

ATB: What made you decide to run for Judge Higginbotham's seat?

JCCD: That's easy! The seat became available. At the time Judge Higginbotham decided to run for the open seat on the First Circuit, I was very satisfied with my practice, and I liked the judges who were sitting on the Family Court. After clerking

for judges, though, I knew I wanted the opportunity to sit as a judge, but I didn't know if that opportunity would ever arise. I have always felt that I would never run against a sitting judge. Once the seat on the Family Court became available, I decided to run. I thought that I was qualified for the job because of my work history. Throughout my work life I worked with children and families. Running for this seat was the next step in my career. Also, Toni's district was the district I had lived and worked in for more than 32 years, 16 as a teacher and 16 as a family law attorney.

ATB: Has it been difficult to transition from attorney to judge?

JCCD: It certainly gives you a different perspective of cases. From an attorney's perspective, the job appeared to be much easier. It's not as simple as it seems. I thought it would be easier to make decisions. It's not! I also have to remind myself to get over the feeling that I should advise attorneys on how they should handle the case. I still think like an attorney. I'm adjusting to this new perspective. It's an awesome responsibility.

ATB: Do you have any advice for attorneys with little experience in your court?

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JCCD: Proofread your pleadings. As a former teacher, I'm always surprised at how many attorneys don't proofread the documents they submit. I would advise attorneys to make their arguments to the court, not to each other. It's a pet peeve of mine when attorneys start arguing with one another in the courtroom. I would also encourage attorneys to be better prepared for both status conferences and for court. Finally, I think that especially in family law, attorneys have a duty to counsel their clients to act in the best interest of the child. The best gift divorcing parents can give their child is to treat one another with respect. They should treat one another as they would like to be treated.

ATB: What do you consider your most important duty as a judge?

JCCD: Being available to resolve as many issues as possible. I consider myself a public servant, and my most important duty is to be available to help. I have to give credit to my fellow judges on the Family Court. They've been very helpful, and I find it very satisfying to work with other judges who have the same attitude about being public servants.

Our family court judges have such innovative ideas and solutions to problems. For example, Judge Woodruff-

White was the point person for starting our Self-Help Center to help self-represented litigants in filing the appropriate pleadings.

ATB: What do you like to do in your free time?

JCCD: I enjoy reading. I am constantly reading a book. I also like to cook when I have time. I like to watch movies. I like to visit and talk. My husband and I are huge NASCAR fans. We actually love anything involving racing, from boats to cars to motorcycles. We have gone to Talladega every year since 1990! I also love the beach. I wouldn't say I'm a world traveler, though. I'm still simply a country girl at heart.

ATB: Is there anywhere in particular you'd like to travel?

JCCD: The original Charlets were expelled from France and sent to Nova Scotia; they ended up in Louisiana. I would love to visit both Nova Scotia and France.

ATB: Tell me more about your family.

JCCD: My daughters are both school teachers, and they both teach at the school where I taught before I became an attorney. My oldest daughter was elected teacher of the

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Cottonport

Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited,"
"Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C,"
"Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner,"

"Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings."

225-922-4551

year. I'm so proud of both of them. It was nice to learn, while I was campaigning, that their students seem to love them too.

I have one granddaughter, Kristian, and we're expecting a second granddaughter in February. I have a granddog and a grandcat, too.

My husband is an avid outdoorsman who hunts and fishes every opportunity he gets. I always joke that is probably why we've been married for almost 32 years. We spend quality time apart as well as together.

ATB: He's your bedrock?

CCD: What?! I'm his. No, all kidding aside, he was the best "sign man" any candidate could ever want. He has certainly supported me every step along the way in my career.

ATB: Are you active in any organizations?

JCCD: Well, first and foremost, I am trying to be the best judge I can be. I'm involved with Capital City Republican Women, Zachary Rotary Club, Republican Women of Central, and I am a member of both the Zachary and Central Chambers of Commerce. I attend church and am a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

in Zachary, and its mission church, Our Lady of the Assumption in Clinton.

ATB: Which three people—historical, fictional, real or whatever—would like to have dinner with?

CCD: I would choose Atticus Finch (he was a good man); Andrew Jackson (my favorite president); and my paternal grandfather, who I never had a chance to meet (he died when my father was only 19).

ATB: Do you have any role models?

JCCD: Judge Kline and Judge Ramshur were certainly role models to follow as a judge. Lonny Myles, who first hired me as a family law attorney, also taught me a great deal about the work ethic necessary to practice law.

And of course, my parents were my greatest role models. My father was the kindest and most patient man I have ever known. I did not realize until I was quite old that not all fathers were loving and kind. My mother was an amazing woman whose footsteps I could never follow. She was a homemaker and very active in my childhood as my Brownie and Girl Scout leader. In high school, she was a chaperone for almost every activity in which I was involved. She was also a great seamstress who designed

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and sewed my clothes for school and my dresses for dances.

ATB: If you could make one change in the system, what would it be?

JCCD: One easy change is that I would like to see all litigants educated by their attorneys regarding the matters that are coming before the court so that they know what to expect. Some litigants are totally unprepared for their court appearance. I would also like to see them educated as to how they should act and dress in court.

A more difficult change would be to educate people about the long-lasting, detrimental effects of domestic violence on families. I've observed, at least since I've been on the bench, an increasing number of families affected by domestic violence.

I would also fix the fact that so many fathers are not active in the lives of their children. Many appear to feel it is not their obligation to support their children, financially or emotionally. And finally, the number of children attempting to raise children is a disturbing problem that has increased in recent years. I wish I knew a remedy for that situation. ■

WANTED:

Volunteers to hide eggs
at local schools, to wear an
Easter Bunny costume
and to assist the
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation
Easter Eggstravaganza Committee.



Interested?

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Baton Rouge Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section
and the Governor's Executive Counsel involving workers' compensation issues.

Brad Price is the attorney responsible for the content of this advertisement.

**Mark Your Calendar
for this BRBA CLE:**

**Obligations under
the Medicare
Secondary
Payer Act**

Middleton Bar Center,
544 Main Street

**Friday,
Feb. 22
7:30-8:45 a.m.**

For more information,
contact Meredith French
at 225-344-4803
or meredith@brba.org.

foundation footnotes

PRO BONO PROJECT & TEEN COURT REPORTS FOR DECEMBER

The Pro Bono Project is financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program of the Louisiana Bar Foundation; Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Family, District and City Court Filing Fees and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

PRO BONO PROJECT REPORT

We would like to thank all of our Pro Bono Project volunteers for their contributions during December.

The Thirst for Justice solo practitioner volunteers were Bryron Kantrow, Scott Gaspard, Glenn Marcel, Judge Melvin Shortess (Ret.) and Jimmy Zito. Thirst for Justice volunteers practicing with firms were C. Kevin Hayes, Adams and Reese; and Juli Keenan, Baker Donelson.

The Ask-A-Lawyer volunteer was Todd Gaudin, Kuehne, Foote & Gaudin.

The Self Help Resource Center attorney volunteers were Samantha Ackers; Roy Bergeron, Alex Velazquez, Phelps Dunbar; Ryan Brown, Roedel, Parsons; Victor Brubaker, Treadway Morris Lawyers; Jennifer Gauthreaux, deGravelles, Palmintier, Holthaus & Fruge; Judy Martin, Franciscan Legal Services; and Ashley Scott.

The student who volunteered with our outreach clinics was Chris Sidebottom, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

The following volunteers accepted pro bono cases during December: Samantha Ackers; Felicia Adebamiji, Dele Adebamiji & Associates; Rodolfo Aguilar, Richard Curry, William Davis, Michael Ferachi, Zelma Frederick, Christine Lipsey, McGlinchey Stafford; J. David Andress, Andress Law Firm; Ryan Brown, Roedel, Parsons; Christopher Cascio; Julie Distefano; George Downing; Michael Durham, Adams and Reese; Dean Esposito, The Law Firm of Ezim & Associates; Deborah Gibbs; Lexi Holinga, Bienvenu, Bonnecaze, Foco, Viator & Holinga; Joanna Hynes; Linda Law Clark, DeCuir, Clark & Adams; M. Levy Leatherman, Baker, Donelson; David Marquette; John McLindon, Rainer, Anding & McLindon; David Ogwyn, Ogwyn Law Firm; Leonor Prieto, Cassie Felder & Associates; James Raines, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson; Cynthia Reed, Southern University Law Center; Luke Thibodeaux, McKernan Law Firm; Richard Whitworth, Whitworth Law Firm; and James Zito. ■



TEEN COURT REPORT

Otha Curtis Nelson Jr., Amanda Darby, Raveen Hills, Paul Guidry and Savannah Steele conducted the training session for new teen volunteers Dec. 1, 2012. Hon. Darrell White performed the swearing-in ceremony.

Raveen Hills, Deanne Murrey and Matthew Nowlin served as judges for the Teen Court hearing Dec. 1, 2012. ■

Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge is funded by a grant from the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (formerly the Office of Youth Development), a grant from the Louisiana Bar Foundation's IOLTA program and from the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. This project is also supported in part by Grant No. 2009-JF-FX-0059 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**TEEN COURT OF
GREATER BATON ROUGE**
needs attorneys to volunteer
to assist with the program.

To find out more,
contact Donna Buuck
at 225-214-5556
or donna@brba.org
or R. Lynn Smith Haynes
at 225-214-5564
or lynn@brba.org.





For classified or display ad rates,
contact Pamela at (225) 214-5560
or email: pamela@BRBA.org

Duty Court Schedule

19TH JDC CIVIL COURT

Jan. 28-Feb. 8 Judge Clark
Feb. 11-Feb. 22 Judge Bates
Feb. 25-March 8 Judge Caldwell

19TH JDC CRIMINAL COURT***

Jan. 25-Feb. 1 Judge Moore
Feb. 1-Feb. 8 Judge Johnson
Feb. 8-Feb. 15 Judge White
Feb. 15-Feb. 22 Judge Marabella
Feb. 22-March 1 Judge Anderson

BATON ROUGE CITY COURT*

Jan. 28-Feb. 3 Judge Temple
Feb. 4-Feb. 10 Judge Wall
Feb. 11-Feb. 17 Judge Alexander
Feb. 18-Feb. 24 Judge Ponder
Feb. 25-March 3 Judge Davis

FAMILY COURT**

Jan. 28-Feb. 1 Judge Baker
Feb. 4-Feb. 8 Judge Woodruff-White
Feb. 11-Feb. 15 Judge Day
Feb. 18-Feb. 22 Judge Lassalle
Feb. 25-March 1 Judge Day

JUVENILE COURT

Feb. 1-Feb. 28 Judge Richey

NOTE: Duty Court changes at 5 p.m. each Friday unless otherwise specified.

*City Court's Duty Court schedule changes each Monday at 8 a.m.

**Family Court's Duty Court schedule changes at 4 p.m. each Friday

***19th JDC Criminal Court changes each Friday at noon

COURT HOLIDAYS

Monday, Feb. 11 Lundi Gras Day
Tuesday, Feb. 12 Mardi Gras Day
Monday, Feb. 18 Presidents Day

February 2013

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at the Baton Rouge Bar office.

Calendar of Events

Ongoing: Every Wednesday & Thursday, 3-5 p.m., Thirst for Justice takes place at St. Vincent de Paul.

Ongoing: Every Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Self Help Resource Center, 19th JDC

- 1 Corporate Law Section meeting, 12 p.m.
- 4 Teen Court Committee meeting, 12 p.m.;
Teen Court Hearing, EBR Parish Juvenile Court, 8333 Veterans Memorial Blvd., 5:30 p.m.;
RCL Portrait Design photographer onsite – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 5 YLS Council meeting, 12 p.m.;
RCL Portrait Design photographer onsite – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 6 Law Day Committee meeting, U.S. District Court for the MDLA, 12 p.m.;
RCL Portrait Design – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 7 RCL Portrait Design – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 8 RCL Portrait Design – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 12 BRBA Office Closed – Mardi Gras Day
- 13 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
- 18 CLE Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
- 19 February Bar Luncheon, 11:45 a.m.;
Teen Court Hearing, EBR Parish Juvenile Court, 8333 Veterans Memorial Blvd., 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Family Law Section meeting, Sullivan's Steakhouse
- 22 Junior Partners Academy presentations, Dalton Elementary, begins at 7:30 a.m.;
CLE Seminar: Obligations under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act, 7:30-8:45 a.m.;
Mock Trial Competition, 19th Judicial District Court, 1:15-6 p.m.
- 23 Mock Trial Competition, 19th Judicial District Court, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 26 Workers' Comp Section meeting
- 27 Publications Committee meeting, 8:30 am;
Bench Bar Conference Committee meeting, 12 p.m.;
Youth Ed Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
- 28 19th Judicial District Court Annual Evidence & Procedure Seminar

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BATON ROUGE OFFICE SPACE: Established firm; 201 Napoleon St., Downtown near 19th JDC and Federal courthouses, area for support staff, off-street parking, conference room, copier, phone, fax, internet, etc. Some over-flow work available. Call Scott Gegenheimer: 225-346-8722.

ASSOCIATE NEEDED: The Baton Rouge office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz seeks an associate with 1-3 years of litigation experience to join its civil litigation practice. Academically distinguished applicants who have excellent writing and analytical skills, and preferably deposition, discovery, and motion practice experience, are sought to assume responsibility in an active and diverse federal and state court civil litigation practice. We seek a bright, hard working person with good judgment and attention to detail. The associate will work closely with litigation shareholders who will provide active mentoring and immediate opportunities for challenging work. Interested candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and law school transcript to Helen Beasley, Recruiting Assistant, at hbeasley@bakerdonelson.com.

VOLUNTEER WRITERS NEEDED for *Around the Bar* magazine. BRBA members who wish to have substantive legal articles published in future issues of the magazine or have interest in joining the BRBA Publications Committee should contact Pamela Labbe at pamela@brba.org for more information.

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BRBA members can reserve conference rooms for \$50 per day (\$25 per half day) per room.

Non-members receive a rate of \$250 per day (\$125 per half day) per room.

To book and for more info., contact Meredith French at 225-344-4803 or meredith@BRBA.org.

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