



# Notes from the Law Library of Louisiana



Louisiana’s first Civil Code, published in 1825, reflected a mixture of French and Spanish civil law influences, a result of Louisiana’s heritage as a colony of both nations. Colonial laws that weren’t in accordance with the law of the United States were abolished shortly after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The remaining laws became codified in the 1825 Louisiana Civil Code. The drafters of the 1825 Civil Code, Louis Moreau-Lislet, Edward Livingston, and Pierre Derbigny, used the format and much of the wording of the French *Code Civil* of 1804 (a groundbreaking codification of Roman civil and French customary law concepts) to write the articles in Louisiana’s civil code.

Code Civil Français (also known as the “Napoleonic Code”), 1804. Provided by the Law Library of Louisiana.

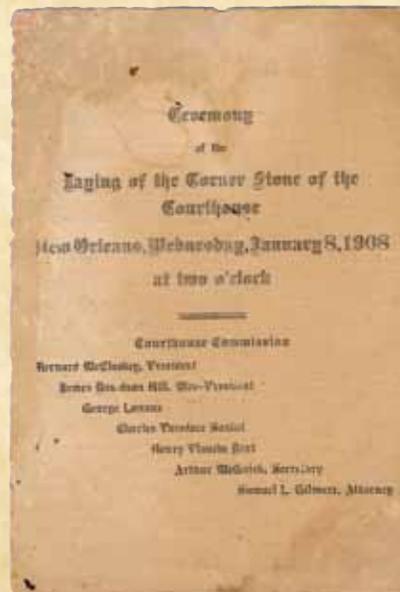
-Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana



Las Siete Partidas (The Seven Parts of the Law), 1767. Provided by the Law Library of Louisiana.



Cornerstone ceremony for the “New Courts Building,” 400 Royal Street, 1908. Provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Cornerstone ceremony program, 1908. Provided by the Law Library of Louisiana, gift of James Dart.



This image, originally printed on the back of the program for the Court’s 1913 centenary celebration, represents 100 years of the rule of law in Louisiana. Depicted are the seminal Martin’s Reports, old and new series.

Image courtesy of Dart & Dart Collection, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans.

## Supreme Court History Available Online

The Louisiana Supreme Court has created a website celebrating the Court’s bicentennial at [www.lasc.org/Bicentennial/home.aspx](http://www.lasc.org/Bicentennial/home.aspx).

Featured historical documents include digitized copies of François-Xavier Martin’s original 12-volume set of Superior Court of the Territory of Orleans and Louisiana Supreme Court opinions from 1809-1830 and the Louisiana Supreme Court Minute books from 1813-1823.