



DE NOVO

The Newsletter of
The Law Library of Louisiana

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IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Justice Calogero Wins Opperman Award</i>	3
<i>Loving v Virginia</i>	3
<i>Mary Duckert Chosen for Excellence Award</i>	4
<i>John A. Campbell</i>	4
<i>Joachim Bermudez</i>	6
<i>Carol Billings to Retire</i>	7

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New Louisiana Supreme Court Museum Opens on Law Day

That the grand opening on Law Day of the new Louisiana Supreme Court Museum was a rousing success was obvious to readers of the front page of the May 2 *Times-Picayune*. The star-studded guest list was headed by former Governor Mike Foster, who had advocated the establishment of the museum, and Mrs. Foster and justices of the Supreme Court. Attracting the attention of the press and other guests were descendants of the principals in the famous *Plessy v. Ferguson* case, which originated in New Orleans, and the family of Edward Bermudez, who served as chief justice from 1880 to 1892.

Chief Justice Calogero and Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society President David Bienvenu thanked society members for their support of the effort to restore and preserve the historic courthouse and to create the museum. The museum is now open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The opening exhibit features the portraits and biographies of

Louisiana's 23 chief justices. The restoration of the Supreme Court's historic portrait collection has been an ongoing project of the society for more than fifteen years. Both professional restorers engaged by the society and volunteer restorer James Boulware, a retired court administrator and skilled amateur craftsman, completed the refurbishing of dozens of nineteenth and early twentieth century portraits of judges and lawyers. A retired member of the staff of the Law Library of Louisiana, Janice

Shull had undertaken a major project to research and write the biographies of all of the state's Supreme Court justices. Earlier this year the library published Shull's book, *The Chief Justices of Louisiana: Life Sketches*, which contains full-color photographs of the portraits in the museum exhibit. Jason Kruppa, a current member of the library staff, is the designer and photographer for the book, which may be purchased at the library.

continued on page 2



l to r: Keith Plessy, Justice Bernette Johnson, Phoebe Ferguson, Paul Plessy, Keith Medley, Professor Paul Baier

Visiting Law Librarians Contribute Thousands of Books To New Orleans Public Schools

Local law librarians are grateful that their professional organization, the American Association of Law Libraries, has kept its commitment to hold its 100th Annual Meeting and Conference in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina caused a number of other conventions to desert

the city. From July 14 through 17 several thousand law librarians who work in law schools, courts, private firms and corporations in this country and abroad will attend dozens of educational programs and committee meetings at the Morial Convention Center. They will be joined by

scores of legal publishers and a wide variety of speakers and guests from the legal community. Various AALL groups and sponsors have scheduled receptions and dinners at venues throughout the city.

continued on page 2

A Little-Known Treasure in the Collection

Recently a New Orleans lawyer called the library seeking the text of a statute prior to 1976, when it had been amended before ultimately being repealed in 1980 to be replaced by a new statute bearing the same number. He was happily surprised to learn that we have saved all of the bound superseded volumes of the *Louisiana Statutes Annotated* beginning with the original 1951 edition. Additionally the library has bound and retained all of the *LSA* pocket parts issued since 1971 to update the bound volumes. This makes it possible for a researcher to trace all of the changes in a statute – even those that might have “fallen between the cracks.” After the satisfied lawyer had solved his problem with the superseded materials, he proclaimed, “You’ve got to let everyone know you have this.”

This valuable collection of superseded materials—rare, if not unique, in Louisiana law libraries, is shelved at the back of our periodicals stacks near the foreign law books. All editions of a particular bound volume are shelved together chronologically, with the year of publication marked on the spine. Each year’s pocket parts are also shelved chronologically.

New Museum Opens

continued from page 1

The middle of the museum is occupied by an historical timeline of Louisiana legal history and displays about the courthouse, the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case, and nineteenth century New Orleans Chief Justice Edward Bermudez. Research and writing for the entire exhibit were done by Library Director Carol Billings and Associate Director Georgia Chadwick. Jason Kruppa supplied design expertise for the timeline and biographical placards. Retired Deputy Court Administrator Paulette Holahan and James Boulware were also actively involved in preparing the museum for its opening.

Until the end of the year, a model of the 1915 French Quarter, donated by the government of France to the Historic New Orleans Collection for the public’s enjoyment, will be displayed in the museum. Built by a Parisian engineer and an architect who were aficionados of New Orleans jazz,

the model will soon be relocated to the new addition to the Collection’s Williams Research Center on Chartres Street.

Among the guests at the opening reception were a number of contributors to various exhibits. Mrs. Mildred del Corral, her daughter, Mrs. Stanley Ellington, and other family members who are descendants of Edward Bermudez had donated the chief justice’s gold-headed cane. Keith Weldon Medley, author of the book *We as Freeman: Plessy v. Ferguson*, had lent a number of items from his personal collection. He was accompanied by Phoebe Ferguson and brothers Keith and Paul Plessy, descendants of the parties in the famous Louisiana case decided by the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court and overturned by *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. Having met them during the course of his research for his book, Mr. Medley introduced Ms. Ferguson, who had recently moved to New Orleans, and the Plessy brothers, and they have become friends – a story that

caught the fancy of *Picayune* writer Susan Finch, thus leading to the front page coverage. Dr. Sharon Mader, Director of UNO’s Earl K. Long Library, and Dr. Florence Jumonville, head of the library’s Special Collections Department, were thanked for making available the original records of the *Plessy* case, which are part of the Louisiana Supreme Court Archives at UNO. Mr. James J. Coleman, Sr., founding president of the historical society, had lent an original architect’s rendering of the courthouse from the beginning of the twentieth century as well as a beautiful carved doorknob from the original building.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society welcomes all members of the judiciary, the bar, and the public to join the association. Membership forms may be obtained by calling 504-310-2400 or by e-mailing cbillings@lasc.org. δ

Law Librarians Contribute Books

continued from page 1

That AALL members, their law firms, and legal publishers are generous and public-spirited has been demonstrated by their early response to a book drive to restock the libraries of New Orleans public schools. The drive is the ninth annual service project conducted in cities hosting the AALL Meeting by the association’s Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section. Dubbed “ReCovering New Orleans: One Book at a Time,” the project will benefit the Recovery School District, which comprises 22 public elementary, middle, and high schools serving students K through 12.

Understanding the great need resulting from the wind and water damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, members by mid-June had already contributed hundreds of books as well as checks and book store gift cards totalling over \$1,000. Chapters, law firms, and companies have also joined in the effort. Drive co-chairs Alison Alifano, librarian at the Sullivan & Cromwell firm in New York City, and Carol Billings, Director of the Law Library of Louisiana, were delighted when a check for \$500 arrived from the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL), and the international legal publisher Wolters Kluwer committed \$2,300. They report that Evelyn

Campbell, librarian at the Hunton & Williams firm in Richmond, Virginia, conducted her own book drive at the firm and personally collected and packed up 688 books, which she mailed to the Recovery School District headquarters. One of the convention exhibitors, Wisconsin TechSearch, has brought 700 books to give away at their Exhibit Hall booth so that members can sign and donate them. For the duration of the Annual Meeting SR-SIS volunteers will be on hand at their table in the Exhibit Hall Activities Area to receive books, checks, and book store gift cards. δ

Justice Calogero Wins Opperman Award

by Miriam Childs

Chief Justice Pascal Calogero, Jr. has been selected to receive the fourth annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. Sitting state trial or appellate judges are eligible for the award, which is given to recognize outstanding judicial service. Justice Calogero was nominated for the award by James Coleman, Sr. of Coleman, Johnson, Artigues, & Jurisich; Hon. Eldon Fallon of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana; Harry Hardin of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrere, & Denegre; and Dr. Norman C. Francis, President of Xavier University. Justice Calogero will be presented

with the award later this year. Justice Calogero has been a leader of judicial reform during his 34 years on the Supreme Court.

One of the most far-reaching reforms, the creation of the Louisiana Indigent Defender Board, ushered in improvements to the administration of indigent defense. Justice Calogero championed reforming the state's juvenile justice system and instituted a lawyer disciplinary system based on the ABA's Model Code. In addition, Justice Calogero pressed for the adoption of a five-year strategic plan for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts. These are but a few examples of Justice Calogero's commitment to solving long-standing

problems in the Louisiana judicial system.

A three-member panel consisting of Judge Richard Cooch, Superior Court of Delaware; Judge Marc Amy, Louisiana Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; and Chief Justice Ronald George, California Supreme Court, selected Chief Justice Calogero as this year's award winner. Justice George recognized Justice Calogero's "leadership in bringing about numerous advances in the administration of justice." The Opperman Award is a high honor that reflects the quality of Chief Justice Calogero's multitude of accomplishments. δ



Miriam Childs

Loving v Virginia

by Jennifer Creevy

June 12 marked the 40th anniversary of an important but often overlooked Supreme Court case, *Loving v. Virginia*. This case established the legal right for an interracial heterosexual couple to marry in any state in the United States. Although the case is vital to privacy protections for citizens and may have further implications for same-sex marriages in the future, many people do not know the history of the case, which finally overturned miscegenation laws.

In 1958, a married couple, Richard and Mildred Loving, were arrested in their Virginia bedroom in the middle of the night. They were charged with violating Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924. They pled guilty so as to receive a suspended sentence of one year each in jail, provided that the Lovings leave Virginia for 25 years. After the 25 years, however, they were not permitted to live in Virginia as a married couple. The Lovings moved to Washington D.C. After four years of exile, they began to investigate contesting the charges. With the help of the ACLU, the case was appealed to

the Virginia Supreme Court, which upheld the guilty verdict. The case then moved up to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

The Supreme Court heard arguments from the state of Virginia, which was represented by the Attorney General's office, with the state of North Carolina as *amicus curiae*. The state's argument centered around the ability of the state to control marriage laws. Using the precedents of miscegenation cases from the past few decades, the state argued that its ability to regulate marriage was supported by the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution. The Lovings were represented by two lawyers from the ACLU, which had been interested in ending miscegenation laws since the 1940's but had not found the right case. With the Lovings' case, the lawyers felt that all of the elements were in place to end miscegenation across the country.

The ACLU argued that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections trumped the states rights claims from the Tenth Amendment. The due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment required that interracial marriages be legal in the United

States. The Lovings' convictions were reversed by the unanimous opinion handed down on June 12, 1967, by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The case had immediate ramifications for the rest of the seventeen states that still had miscegenation laws on their books. Although interracial couples still had trouble getting marriage licenses in different communities, they were able to use the Loving decision to force recalcitrant communities to recognize the legality of interracial marriage.

In 2004, Ken Tanabe, the son of a Belgian mother and a Japanese father, discovered the Loving case and wanted to publicize the importance of a case that had a direct impact on his life. He started a website, www.Lovingday.org and began celebrating "Loving Day" in cities around the country.

For more information on Loving Day visit the website and read *Tell the Court I Love My Wife: Race, Marriage and Law – an American History* by Peter Wallenstein (located in the Library's Popular Reading area). δ



Jennifer Creevy





Mary Duckert

Mary Duckert Chosen for Excellence Award

by Miriam Childs

Mary Duckert is this year's recipient of Chief Justice Pascal Calogero's Award of Excellence. Each year an employee of the Court receives the reward in recognition of his or her outstanding job performance. Mary, a paralegal in the Judicial Administrator's office, facilitates the assignments of judges *ad hoc* and judges *pro tempore* statewide. Mary handles assignments for all types of courts, from Justices of the Peace to the Supreme Court, and all assignments are approved by the Supreme Court. Judicial assignments must be formally requested.

If a judge needs to be away from his or her court for any reason (sick leave, conference

attendance, etc.), the court makes a *pro tempore* request. In the case of recusal, or if a judge needs a replacement due to conflict, the court makes an *ad hoc* request. Justices of the Peace who have been asked to officiate at marriage ceremonies outside of their jurisdiction must also make an *ad hoc* request.

The process is time-sensitive, and Mary usually turns requests around in three days or less. She has developed a streamlined process that can be very fast-paced. Mary says that she doesn't allow herself to become flustered, so that she can move as quickly as necessary. Mary drafts the judicial assignment orders, and the appropriate justice signs, depending on the jurisdiction.

Mary has established an excellent communication system with the justices, reaching them by email, BlackBerry, or cell phone as needed. Each year Mary gives a presentation at the Justices of the Peace conference, during which she explains the procedures for judicial assignments. What Mary loves most about her job is the interaction with judges, both active and retired, and their staffs. Much of her work is by phone, and she says she has built strong relationships with some wonderful people over the years.

Before Katrina, Mary had a number of hobbies, but since the hurricane her chief hobby is repairing her storm-damaged home. δ

The Times-Picayune – All the Way Back

Whether you want to look up Great-Aunt Bertha's obituary from 1892 or research the background of a 1938 Supreme Court case, *The Times-Picayune* is both a valuable and fascinating source of information. The library has just received the microfilm covering the last five years from 2002 to 2006 to complete our holdings from the inception of the newspaper in 1837 to the present. The 170 years worth of news is recorded on 3,313 reels of microfilm. Library patrons have access to a microfilm reader-printer for viewing and printing the material onto regular paper. The printing charge is 15 cents per page.

Deserving of a Prominent Place: John A. Campbell

by Carol Billings

Just who is that mysterious gentleman with the bushy white eyebrows and the stiff white collar whose portrait now hangs in the curve of the library's Federal Wing? The prominent spot had been occupied by Chief Justice Charles O'Niell until his portrait was moved to the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum for the exhibit featuring our chief justices. As the record-holder for the longest tenure as chief, O'Niell had been selected for that place of honor when many of the portraits in the court's collection were hung in the renovated courthouse back in 2004. The bare spot that remained demanded someone special who was not a chief justice.

James Boulware, the retired court administrator who now carries on many special projects for the court, has completed the restoration of several dozen additional portraits of Supreme Court justices and other prominent lawyers, and many of those have recently been hung throughout the courthouse. The library staff continues to conduct research into the life stories of the subjects. We were at first puzzled about the portrait bearing the name John A. Campbell. No such person ever sat on the Louisiana Supreme Court, and he appeared not to be a Louisianian. What was significant enough about this man to cause his portrait to be in the collection?

We were quite surprised and pleased when our research revealed that John Archibald Campbell not only sat on the United States Supreme Court from 1853 to 1861, but he eventually practiced law in New Orleans and was a primary figure in one of Louisiana's and this country's most important cases.

The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States, 2d ed., edited by Kermit L. Hall, James W. Ely, Jr., and Joel B. Grossman (Oxford, 2005), pp. 137-38, carries a good biographical sketch of Campbell.

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John A. Campbell

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Born in 1811 in Washington, Georgia, John Archibald Campbell was the son of a politically prominent Scots-Irish lawyer and landowner.

One of the most interesting revelations about the young Campbell was that he was a child prodigy who entered the University of Georgia at the age of eleven and graduated with top honors at fourteen. He was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1828 at the age of 17, having begun the study of law earlier that same year. He soon moved to Alabama and entered politics, representing Montgomery and then Mobile in the state legislature. Very successful in his law practice, Campbell's arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court were highly acclaimed.

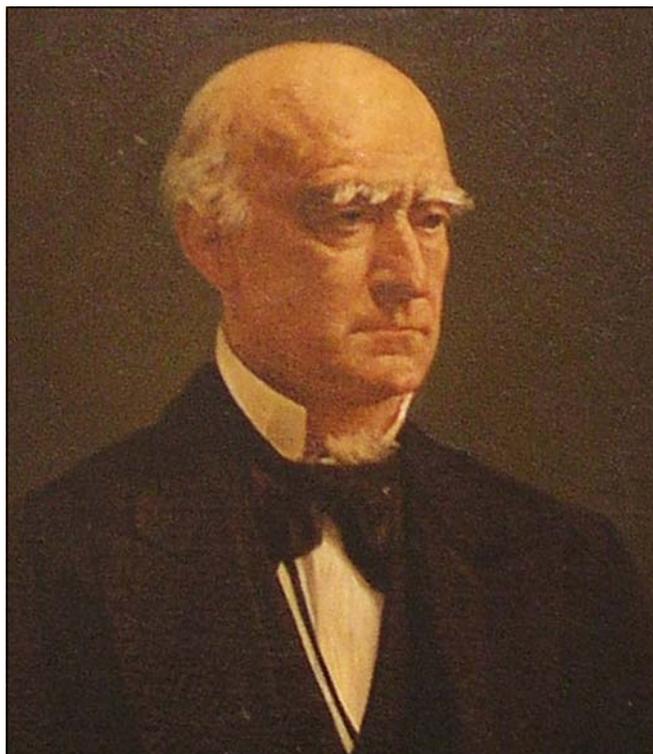
When the U.S. Senate refused to confirm three nominees to the Supreme Court sent up by lame-duck president Millard Fillmore, a seat remained unfilled until the inauguration of Franklin Pierce in 1853. The court itself requested that Pierce nominate John Campbell, and he received the Senate's unanimous confirmation. Moderate on the slavery issue, Campbell was a "states' rights Jacksonian Democrat" who earned the respect of the public for his "dedication, talent, and unswerving integrity." Believing that free labor would eventually replace slavery, he felt that secession was unwise. Nevertheless he found himself caught between irreconcilable factions. When the Civil War began and Alabama seceded, he remained loyal to his state and resigned from the Supreme Court in

April 1861. After serving the Confederacy as assistant secretary of war and being imprisoned by Union forces at Fort Pulaski in Georgia, he moved to New Orleans.

Campbell established a successful law practice that ironically caused him to argue frequently before the United States Supreme Court that he had left. Most notably, he represented the Butcher's Benevolent Association of New Orleans against the Crescent City Live Stock Landing and Slaughterhouse Company in the famous Slaughterhouse Cases. Representing the consolidation of over 300 suits and injunctions opposing the monopoly that required all slaughtering of animals to take place at the company's facility down-river from New Orleans where the butchers were charged rent, the case

went first to the Louisiana Supreme Court and then on to the United States Supreme Court.

Campbell made the novel argument that Act 118 of the 1869 Louisiana Legislature creating the slaughterhouse company monopoly violated the Fourteenth Amendment, which forbade states from enforcing "any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." Although Campbell lost the case in a controversial five to four decision, it represents the first important opportunity for the Supreme Court to interpret the Fourteenth Amendment. A future issue of *De Novo* will take up the Slaughterhouse Cases in greater detail. δ



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Joachim Bermudez: Early New Orleans Jurist

By Georgia Chadwick

Joachim Bermudez's name was mentioned in the *New York Times* recently by Matt Gross in his November 26, 2006, Frugal Traveler piece entitled "Back To New Orleans, Gently." Mr. Gross spent some time on a Sunday morning wandering through St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, the city's oldest existing cemetery, during his October 2006 visit to New Orleans. He happened upon the old above-ground tomb where Joachim Bermudez was interred in 1866 and noted that Joachim had an "interesting name."

Joachim Bermudez not only had an interesting name, but he was also an early member of the Louisiana bar and a well-respected city judge. During his life he saw New Orleans grow from a strategically-located city on the Mississippi River in the Spanish territory of Louisiana to become by 1840 the third largest city in the United States.

Joachim was born in New Orleans on May 29, 1796, the son of Juan Baptist Bermudez and Mary Emelia Soniat Dufossat. Juan Baptist was born in Spain and emigrated at the time of the Revolutionary War to Louisiana by way of Cuba to serve as a judicial functionary under the Spanish government in New Orleans. He married Mary Emelia Soniat Dufossat, a native of New Orleans and a member of one of the oldest and most respected families of French origin in the city. An 1805 city directory shows the Bermudez family living at Rue de Bourbon North, which is certainly not the Bourbon Street we know today. The 1805 directory also indicates that in the Bermudez family there were three children and eleven slaves.

Joachim was born during the Spanish rule of New Orleans but, while he was still a young

child, the Spanish regime was terminated under the Treaty of St. Ildefonso and Louisiana was ceded back to France. French rule lasted for only twenty days, starting on November 30, 1803. Pierre Clement de Laussat, who had been sent from France as Colonial Prefect to govern Louisiana, was disappointed when he learned that Louisiana had been sold to the United States. Seven year old Joachim must have been aware of the historic ceremony which took place on December 20, 1803, when William C. C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson took possession of the Louisiana territory for the United States according to the terms of the Louisiana Purchase. During the period when Louisiana was a territory of the United States, Governor Claiborne endeavored to create a workable government to prepare the unique inhabitants of Louisiana to become citizens of the United States. In April 1812, Congress passed an act admitting Louisiana into the Union as the eighteenth state.

Joachim very likely received his primary education at home as there were almost no schools at that time. The only institution of higher learning in New Orleans was Orleans College, which opened in 1811 and where Joachim enrolled as a student. The College closed in 1826 and not until 1834, when a group of local physicians founded the Medical College of Louisiana, was there another attempt at maintaining an institution of higher learning in the city.

Before receiving his diploma, Joachim left college to defend the city against the invading British during the War of 1812. He was among a group of students from the college who formed an independent company of sharpshooters, joining

the Louisiana Militia as a private. General Andrew Jackson led combined forces consisting of a few regular troops and a hastily mobilized force of bedraggled, untrained, and unorganized frontiersman, Creoles, pirates, Indians, and free men of color, to defeat the British on the fields of Chalmette Plantation on January, 8, 1815.

Joachim was almost sixteen when the first steamboat ever to be seen on the Mississippi River arrived in New Orleans from Pittsburgh. Before the invention of steamboats made transportation down and, more importantly, up the river possible, most goods were brought down the river on various types of flatboats. After the goods were sold, the owner of the boat would dismantle the boat and sell the lumber before returning by foot to the upper Mississippi Valley. A number of homes in New Orleans were built using these barge boards. Joachim lived to see the golden age of the steamboat, from 1830-1860, which transformed the port of New Orleans.

For three years after the Battle of New Orleans, Joachim tried to make a living as a merchant but, not finding success, he decided to become a lawyer. As was the custom at the time, he served an apprenticeship in the office of a local practitioner. Joachim "read law" with Mr. Dominique Seghers, who had become a member of the bar in 1813. Joachim was fluent in French, Spanish and English, which was absolutely necessary to any man who wished to become a member of the bar in the early days of Louisiana's statehood. Article VI of the Constitution of 1812 established English as the language of the government, although until 1868 Louisiana session laws were published in both English and in French. Legisla-

tion also allowed for interpreters to be used in some courts because some judges spoke only English, while the long-time inhabitants of New Orleans spoke only French and were reluctant to adapt to the official language of the state. However, the Louisiana Supreme Court was clear in its rule on the issue that lawyers seeking to pass the oral examination before the Court must do so in the legal language of the state. The other requirements were that gentlemen seeking admission to the bar must give the Court assurances that they had received a good classical education, whether or not they had received a degree, and that they had studied two years under an attorney who was admitted to practice in the state.

Joachim was appointed a Justice of the Peace in the First Ward of New Orleans while he was studying with Mr. Seghers. After successfully passing the oral examination before the justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Joachim was admitted to the bar on February 2, 1825, and was soon after made Assistant Judge of the City Court. When a vacancy occurred, he was chosen Presiding Judge of the City Court. Legislation passed in 1836 created a new judgeship, that of Judge of the Court of Probate, and Joachim was appointed to fill this post. The salary was \$3500 a year, and Joachim remained the only Probate judge until the position was abolished by the Constitution of 1845.

After his judgeship was abolished, Judge Bermudez settled down to practice law with his son Edouard, and they had a very successful commercial practice. Edouard Bermudez would later serve as Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court from 1880-1892.

Law Library Director Carol Billings to Retire

By Georgia Chadwick

Since May 2004 when the Law Library of Louisiana moved into the beautifully-restored Supreme Court Building, our regular patrons and first-time visitors alike have told us how much they enjoy using the library in its comfortable and attractive new surroundings. The library is about to undergo another notable change when the Director of the Law Library of Louisiana, Carol D. Billings, retires after thirty years at the library and twenty-six years as the director. Because of Carol's dedicated and creative leadership, the Law Library of Louisiana has earned a national reputation for excellence.

Although she cooks like a native New Orleanian, Carol is actually a native of Cumberland, Maryland, and earned her bachelor's degree at Gettysburg College, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received her MALS degree from Northern Illinois University. Carol and her husband Warren moved to New Orleans in 1968 when Warren accepted a position in the history department at what is now the University of New Orleans. She worked in the library of the University of New Orleans and then spent a few years at home raising their daughter. In 1976 the Law Library of Louisiana had an opening for a cataloger, and

Carol was hired. After three years she moved to the reference librarian's position. In 1981 Carol became the director. Since that time she has concentrated on making the library's fine collection of books and electronic services easily accessible and available to the state's judges, attorneys, and the public. She has been a tireless promoter of the library and under her guidance, the library began publication of *De Novo* to feature articles on both the old and new treasures in the library.

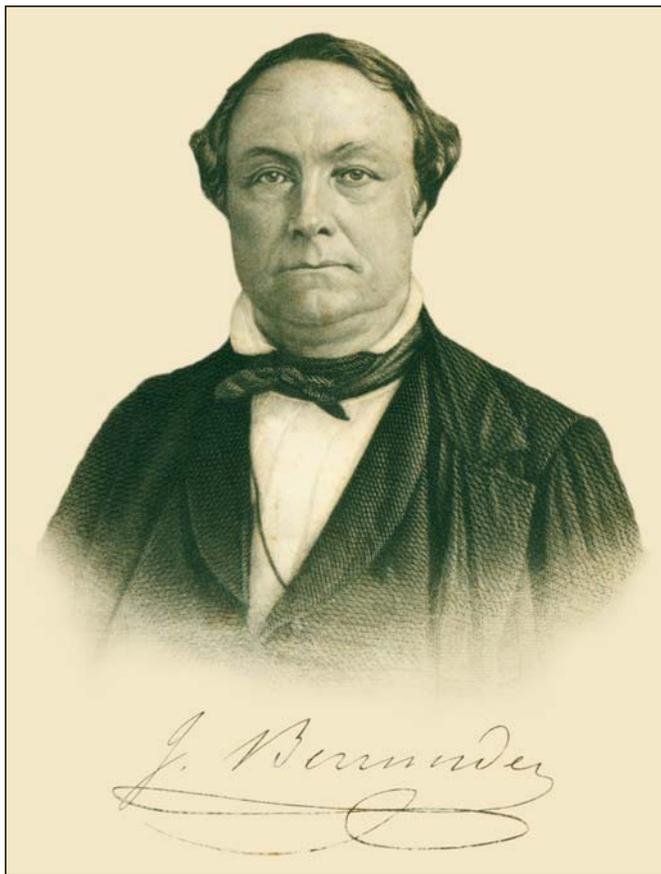
This year the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries will be held in New Orleans, and at this meeting

Carol will be awarded the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award. The Gallagher Award is given in recognition of outstanding, extended and sustained service to law librarianship and to AALL. Carol has served as president and has chaired key committees for AALL, the Southeastern Chapter of AALL, the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians, and the Louisiana Library Association. During her presidential year she strengthened AALL's ties with the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians, of which she and her husband are honorary life members, the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, and the International Association of Law Libraries.

Joachim Bermudez

The census of 1850 shows that Joachim Bermudez owned twenty-seven slaves ranging in age from fifty years to ten months old. Edouard Bermudez was elected a delegate to the convention which adopted the Ordinance of Secession on January 26, 1861. In April of 1862, the city of New Orleans surrendered to the Federal forces of Admiral David Farragut, and later the Constitution of 1864 abolished slavery in Louisiana. Not until the Constitution of 1868 were voting rights extended to black males.

Joachim Bermudez died on September 11, 1866, not living to see the state he had seen born into in 1812 readmitted to the Union in 1868. He saw great changes in Louisiana throughout his life and played an important part in the development of Louisiana as a state. He was highly regarded as a judge and a lawyer in a time of transition of the old New Orleans to the new. **δ**



Joachim Bermudez, from an engraving in Cohen's New Orleans Directory (1853), a volume in the Library's rare book collection.

As AALL president she conceived the idea to hold a National Conference on Legal Information Issues at the AALL meeting, and she received funding through a State Justice Institute grant to invite movers and shakers from legal-related organizations to attend. It was Carol's idea that the invited VIPs participate along with law librarians to explore legal information issues they had in common. The VIP program exists today, giving law librarians the opportunity to invite VIPs to attend the AALL annual meeting to learn the importance of law librarians to their organizations, and to learn about their work.

Many librarians across the nation call Carol mentor, as she stresses professional development for her staff and for anyone interested in becoming a law librarian. She recognizes ability and talent in new members of the profession and recommends them for committee work to allow them to make contributions to their field.

continued on back page

The Newsletter of
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Carol Billings to Retire *continued from previous page*

Carol enjoys writing and has not only written articles for DeNovo and a variety of newsletters but also has had articles published in *Law Library Journal*, *Louisiana Bar Journal*, *Louisiana Library Bulletin* and the *National Law Journal*. Her article in volume 93 of *Law Library Journal* entitled "Would I do it again? Absolutely!" reflects her enthusiasm for her work and how she made her work rewarding. Most recently Carol contributed the chapter entitled "A Bibliographic Survey of Sources for a Study of the Law of Colonial and Territorial Louisiana" for the book, *Prestatehood Legal Materials: a Fifty-State Research Guide*, edited by Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most. The book has been selected to receive the 2007 Joseph L. Andrews Biblio-

graphical Award at the AALL annual meeting in New Orleans. Carol will be recognized for her contribution along with the other authors and the book's editors. Her chapter is an outstanding resource for anyone interested in Louisiana historical research.

As a former board member of the Supreme Court Historical Society, Carol was elated to see the museum open this spring. She enjoyed the challenge of working with her staff to create the inaugural exhibit for the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum. Museum visitors have especially enjoyed the time line for which Carol wrote the text about important events in Louisiana and American history.

At the Supreme Court's Em-

ployee Recognition Ceremony in May, Chief Justice Pascal Calogero praised Carol for her outstanding career and presented her with a certificate, signed by all the justices, recognizing her 30 years of dedicated service to the Court.

It won't be hard for Carol to be busy in her retirement. She and Warren will continue to travel to their second home in Williamsburg, Virginia. Carol has always been a leading member of her Episcopal church, and she and Warren will have more time with their bright and active two-year old grandchild, Andrew. Carol will be greatly missed by all who know her, but she leaves the Law Library of Louisiana with our best wishes and fond memories of all she has done.δ