

# COURT COLUMN

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

## Judge Ernestine Gray Takes Helm as National CASA Board President

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a network of more than 50,000 volunteers that serve 225,000 abused and neglected children through 900+ local program offices nationwide, announces the election of the Honorable **Judge Ernestine Gray** as president of its Board of Trustees. Judge Gray, a noted juvenile court judge supervising cases of children in New Orleans' foster care system, also has served as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

"The National CASA Association is very proud to have Judge Gray play such an active role on the Board," said **Michael Piraino**, president of National CASA. "With her leadership and expertise, we feel more confident than ever that the needs of these children will remain at the forefront."

Judge Gray is widely respected as a community advocate whose tireless work to improve both the laws and courts that serve families and children has been recognized at the local, state and national levels. She holds a number of key positions with organizations and associations focused on the betterment of children and families. As the president of CASA's Board of Trustees, Judge Gray will preside over meetings of members, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Reflecting on her contributions to troubled children and youth nationwide, Judge Gray said, "I see it as my absolute obligation to do whatever I can to ensure that children in foster care have the best opportunity for a productive life. I am clear that the best way I can do that is to have high expectations for them, to



*Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine S. Gray was elected National CASA Board of Trustees President as recognition of her effort to improve court structures and help children and families navigate the court system quicker and more efficiently.*

tell them that they can be whatever they want to be, to ensure that they are connected to caring adults and to get an adequate education."

## Retired Judge Brouillette recognized by American Correctional Association as “Best in the Business”

Retired 12th JDC Judge Harold Brouillette was recently recognized by the American Correctional Association (ACA) as one of 2008’s Best in the Business in their June 2008 Edition of *Corrections Today* for his educational program taught to offenders prior to their release at Avoyelles and J. Levy Dabadie correctional facilities. The following is an excerpt from an article written by Lia Gormsen, assistant editor of *Corrections Today* and reprinted with permission from the American Correctional Association, Alexandria, Va. For the full article, visit [http://www.aca.org/fileupload/177/ahaidar/BIB\\_Brouillette.pdf](http://www.aca.org/fileupload/177/ahaidar/BIB_Brouillette.pdf).



“Before an inmate can pass through the exit doors of Avoyelles and J. Levy Dabadie correctional centers in Louisiana, he is subject to a “shot” from Judge Harold J. Brouillette. The retired judge teaches classes at each center as part of the facilities’ mandatory prerelease programs. The classes – which Brouillette summarizes as a “sort of shot in the arm” – are attended by all of the 20 to 30 inmates who are set to be released within the following weeks. The shot is painless; the medicine, however, is potent. Side effects can include a smooth reentry process and an eased family reunification.

Brouillette has been a volunteer at Avoyelles and Dabadie for about six years, teaching family law and substance abuse classes each month and counseling offenders one-on-one after each class. At 77, Brouillette also volunteers at a short-term residential substance abuse treatment center. There he takes on the dual role of pupil and teacher, offering his family law class to the center’s residents in return for lessons from counselors at the center. It’s a nice trade-off – Brouillette learns the basics about substance abuse and its connection to crime, which he incorporates into his substance abuse class.

In the family law class, the information Brouillette supplies is culled from 50 plus years of experience as an Army trial judge advocate officer; a defense attorney; and a trial judge in criminal, family and juvenile courts. The issues Brouillette touches on in the class are personal and have the potential to affect inmates’ quality of life upon release. He tells offenders about their rights under Louisiana’s custody and visitation laws. He provides details on child support payments, what will be expected of them as parolees and how to avoid a repeat appearance at the correctional facility. It is this sort of lack of knowledge that Brouillette tries to offset in his class. While a judge in Louisiana’s 12th Judicial District, ... (h)e also became intimately aware of the types of behavior that will land parolees back in prison – which he passes on to inmates in the hopes that they will avoid it.”

## NHTSA Presents Awards for Safety Achievements and Public Service to Judge Douglas Saloom, City Court of Lafayette, Louisiana

Lafayette City Court Judge Douglas J. Saloom was honored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with a 2008 NHTSA Public Service Award. The award was presented to Judge Saloom at the NHTSA Awards Luncheon held at the 26th Annual Lifesavers Conference in Portland, Oregon. Judge Saloom was recognized for his accomplishments in promoting traffic safety from a judicial perspective. He was one of 14 individuals and groups from across the nation and the only Judge to receive the award at this year’s conference. Judge Saloom was presented with a plaque by NHTSA Chief of Staff, David Kelly. Judge Saloom’s father, the **Honorable Kaliste J. Saloom, Jr. (ret.)**, received the same NHTSA Public Service Award in 1980 for his many achievements in traffic safety. Judge Saloom was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Mary Margaret (not shown) and many fellow Louisiana attendees.



## Courthouse Plays Host to a Variety of Guests

The 400 Royal Street building, a beautiful Beaux-Arts courthouse consuming a city-block in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter, houses the Louisiana Supreme Court, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, the Louisiana Law Library and the Louisiana Law Museum. It is no wonder it has become a popular attraction to visitors of all ages from across Louisiana and from other parts of the world as well! And this summer was no exception. Guests included: law firm summer interns, summer camps and enrichment programs, international law students, civics teachers, international legislators and the court also hosted some mock trials.

The courthouse doors are open for those interested in visiting the court and learning about the Louisiana state court system. For more information or to schedule a tour or visit, contact the Louisiana Supreme Court Community Relations Department at (504) 310.2588. Hope to see you real soon!



Law clerks from Krebs Farley law firm toured the Louisiana Supreme Court building and had the opportunity to meet Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. (second from right).



Louisiana Civics and Social Studies teachers, at the court for the Louisiana Center for Law & Civic Education's annual Summer Institute, receive educational information from law librarians.



Lawyers, all of whom are graduates of Austral University in Buenos Aires, Argentina, examine the Rare Books collection during a visit to the Law Library of Louisiana.



Members of the Louise S. McGehee Mock Trial championship team were recognized by Justice John L. Weimer (back center) and 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka Wicker (front far right).



Young visitors from Studio G Summer Enrichment Camp enjoy the telling of "Marshall The Courthouse Mouse."



Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court John T. Olivier meets a delegation from the Virginia legislature who were at the court building as part of a legislative exchange program with Louisiana.



Prior to the National Conference of State Legislatures holding a mock legislative session at the Supreme Court, Justice Bernette J. Johnson (center at microphone) and 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Edwin Lombard (standing far right) addressed the international delegations.



LL.M. students from LSU Law School's International Law program discussed the state's judicial system with Justice Chet D. Traylor (third from right).



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John L. Weimer (left) and 4th Circuit Judge Michael Kirby (second from right) congratulate students following the completion of the Project LEAD Mock Trials held in the 4th Circuit and Supreme Court courtrooms.



Summer law clerks from the Phelps Dunbar firm learn about the rare books collection in the Law Library of Louisiana.



Visitors from the Awesome Girls Mentoring Program view a model of the French Quarter, circa 1915, on display in the Louisiana Law Museum.



Kean Miller law clerks gather together in the courtroom following a tour of the building.



A second group of students, who took part in a Project LEAD mock trial, gather on the front steps of the Royal Street building beside a statue of Justice E.D. White.

## **TELL US ABOUT IT**

We would enjoy hearing about any special visitors or outreach programs held at your court for publication in a future issue of Court Column.

Please send any information and photographs to [rgunn@lajao.org](mailto:rgunn@lajao.org).

## Your Honors



**Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball** was appointed to serve on Louisiana's Children's Cabinet, a policy office in the Office of the Governor

which serves to facilitate and coordinate the policy, planning, and budgeting affecting programs and services for children and their families.



**9th JDC Judge Patricia Koch** was appointed to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, which serves to provide information and recommendations from the perspective

of advocacy groups, service providers, and parents to the Children's Cabinet.



**Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge David Bell** (left) and **Caddo Juvenile Court Judicial Administrator Ted Cox** were appointed to the Governor's Advisory

Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



**5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker** was a recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association's President's Award for her overall contributions to the LSBA.



## "Father Chief Justice" portrays life of Justice Edward Douglass White

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., retired Justice Harry T. Lemmon and state Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka "Ricky" Wicker were among those taking part in the play, "Father Chief Justice," which portrays moments in the life of former Louisiana Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court Justice Edward Douglass White.

The play, written and directed by Louisiana State University Law Center professor Paul R. Baier and sponsored by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society and the Louisiana Bar Foundation, was performed May 22, 2008 at the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Participants in "Father Chief Justice" included (l to r) U.S. District Court Judge Mary Ann Vial Lemmon, attorney Donald A. Hoffman, LSU Law Professor Paul R. Baier, Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka Wicker, attorney Harry S. Hardin, retired Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon and Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

## Stinson Tabbed as NACM President Elect

**26th JDC Court Administrator Suzanne H. Stinson** was elected President Elect for the National Association for Court Management (NACM) at their annual conference held in Anaheim, California and was appointed to the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts at their board of directors meeting in Anchorage, Alaska held in July.



## COURT COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

We would like to encourage judges, clerks of court and court administrators to submit any outreach activities, awards received, or other "good news" about your court to [rgunn@lajao.org](mailto:rgunn@lajao.org) for publication in future issues of Court Column.