

Justice Harry T. Lemmon Retires

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon has announced his retirement, effective May 16, 2001 following 21 years of service on the state's highest court.

Justice Lemmon graduated with honors from Loyola University School of Law and practiced law in St. Charles Parish. He was elected to the Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit in 1970, and to the Supreme Court in 1980, and reelected twice without opposition.

"I am grateful to all the people who supported and assisted me in my elections and in my judicial career," said Justice Lemmon. "I hope I have served them well. Retirement is a tough decision, especially for a judge who is very active and in excellent health. I reached my decision because I never again want to have to tell my wife, my children, and especially my grandchildren, 'No, I can't do what you asked because I have to work.'"

For over twenty years, Justice Lemmon has been the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana Judicial College, which provides continuing legal education for all Louisiana judges in seminars, bench books, newsletters and other publications. He served as an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School and has taught courses at Louisiana State University Law Center and Tulane School of Law. He has served on the Visiting Committee for Loyola Law School, and has been named to the L.S.U. Law Center Hall of Fame and an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He has delivered lectures to judges, lawyers and students in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Colorado, Michigan, Canada, France and Greece.

Co-author of the Louisiana Civil Law Treatise on Civil Procedure, Justice Lemmon has also served on the Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Community Property, and Conflict of Laws Committees of the Louisiana State Law Institute, an organization of law professors, judges and lawyers that makes recommendations to the Legislature on revisions of the laws. On the national level, Justice Lemmon is currently the Chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Education for Appellate Judges, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society and is on the Advisory Board of the National Center for Judicial Ethics.

"I may have more idle time, but I won't be idle. In addition to completing my term as Chair of the Appellate Judges Education Committee, I have of-



Justice Harry T. Lemmon, who announced his retirement from the Supreme Court effective May 16, 2001.

ferred to serve as a volunteer appointee on numerous judicial administration committees for the Supreme Court. I plan to keep working with the Louisiana State Law Institute in studying and recommending legislative revisions in the Civil and Criminal Codes. I also hope to publish a second volume of the Louisiana Civil Law Treatise on Civil Procedure with Professor Frank Maraist."

Justice Lemmon, a native of Morgan City, resides in St. Charles Parish with his wife, United States District Judge Mary Ann Vial Lemmon. Their six children include four lawyers, Andrew, Lauren, Roslyn and Jake; Dr. Carla Lemmon, a psychologist; and Patrick, a sociologist in Washington, D.C. They also have five grandchildren.

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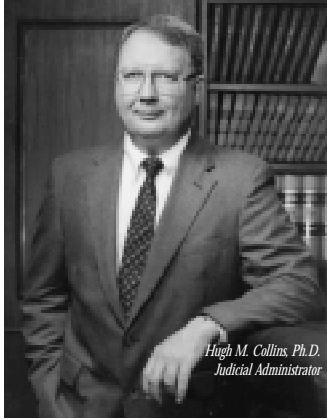
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C O R N E R

C O L L I N S



Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.
Judicial Administrator

The Judicial Administrator's Office is the managerial arm of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Similarly, many courts throughout the state are staffed with court administrators whose offices and staff perform the dual functions of managing court operations effectively and developing strategies to improve court performance.

In 1982 the Louisiana Court Administrators Association (LCAA) was established to provide an organized network of court administrators and to encourage sharing and exchanging information on all matters related to court management, court administration and the administration of justice. Currently, the LCAA is making significant contributions to court improvement in the areas of American Disabilities Act compliance, Adoption and Safe Families Act compliance and employment guidelines development. All of these initiatives will greatly benefit court users and conform to the objectives of the Court's Strategic Plans.

Regular membership in the LCAA is open to all court administrators of the Louisiana Supreme, Appellate, District, Juvenile, Family, City or Parish courts. At present, the organization is 57 members strong. Court administrators who are interested in joining the LCAA are encouraged to apply for membership by contacting Bea Tranchina-Parisi, LCAA Membership Chairperson, at (504) 736-8972.

Proposed Rules Update

By order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Proposed Rules for district courts drafted by the Court Rules Committee of the Judicial Council and the Court Rules Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association will be made available to the public for an official comment period of 90 days commencing March 1, 2001 and ending May 31, 2001.

The Proposed Rules provide substantive rules for proceedings in civil (non-family and non-juvenile) court and in criminal court. Uniform numbering systems are proposed for proceedings in family and juvenile courts. Flexibility is preserved by the liberal use of appendices for rules which by their nature must vary from district to district.

The Proposed Rules are available on the Louisiana Supreme Court web site at

www.lasc.org and the Louisiana State Bar Association web site at www.lsbba.org. Copies of the Proposed Rules may be acquired by contacting Judith Dugar at the Louisiana State Bar Association at (504) 566-1600.

After the 90-day official comment period, the Court Rules Committees will analyze the comments received and report back to the Supreme Court. Those individuals who have already provided comments to the Committees need not reurge their concerns.

Comments should be sent to the Court Rules Committee c/o the Louisiana State Bar Association, Attention Ms. Judith Dugar, 601 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. All comments received pertaining to the draft rules are public information and will be subject to inspection upon request.

Law Day Proclamation

THIS IS THE 44TH YEAR THAT AMERICANS HAVE CELEBRATED THE FIRST DAY OF MAY AS LAW DAY. LAW DAY IS A SPECIAL TIME TO REFLECT ON OUR LEGAL HERITAGE. EACH YEAR, LAW DAY ASKS US TO CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOM AS AMERICANS. THIS YEAR LAW DAY ASKS US, IN PARTICULAR, TO CONSIDER HOW THE LAW HELPS PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY—THE CHILDREN. FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, AMERICAN COURTS AND LEGISLATURES HAVE REQUIRED THAT LEGAL DECISIONS BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD. "PROTECTING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD" IS A LEGAL STANDARD USED BY COURTS IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES IN MANY CASES AND MANY OTHER CASES INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE. SO WHEN WE CELEBRATE FREEDOM, WE ARE NOT CELEBRATING FREEDOM ALONE, BUT A SYSTEM OF LAW THAT MAKES FREEDOM POSSIBLE FOR ALL OF US.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2001, AS LAW DAY. LET CITIZENS, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES AND MEDIA OF LOUISIANA USE THIS OCCASION TO CONSIDER ANEW THE ROLE OF LAW IN PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THE LAW HAS MADE TO OUR NATION.



New Criminal Court Drug Testing Lab Unveiled

Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Magistrate Judge Gerard J. Hansen recently unveiled the nation's first state of the art drug testing facility in the court building's former snack bar. The Orleans Criminal District Court Intervention Services couples the latest in computer drug testing technology with field case managers who provide accountability for the first or second time offenders who have no violent criminal history or charge. Since the drug court's inception in September, 1997, nearly 1200 offenders have entered the drug court treatment program, and there is an 87.9% success rate of those who have completed the program. The drug court intervention services provide a cost-effective way to reduce the prison population of Louisiana, which incarcerates more people than any other state in the nation.

"I spent 30 years putting people away," said L.J. Delsa, head of Court

Intervention Services and a retired New Orleans Police Officer, "but I know jail is not the answer for most people who are arrested. We're not dealing with violent criminals here. We're dealing with people who haven't been in jail for any length of time. This is not a soft approach. The authority of the court is powerful. These people need the authority in their lives. That's why they ended up here. Maybe they needed a father figure. The judge sort of becomes that. You need a special temperament."

"It's not run like a court, it's run like a family," said Magistrate Judge Hansen. "If we don't become social



Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Magistrate Judge Gerard J. Hansen is flanked by Drug Testing Technician Warren Richard (l) and Court Intervention Services Director L.J. Delsa (r).

workers as well as judges, we will fill every jail cell. There are ways to reduce the prison population without reducing public safety. There are alternatives that work."

Two Success Stories on the Value of Transmitting Protective Orders

While many states have centralized protective order registries, not all states elect to transmit their orders to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for inclusion in the FBI's national Protective Order File. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR), however, saw the importance of having our state's orders in this national database. Not only is it critical to the work of the National Instant Check System (NICS) of the FBI, which is responsible for researching the background of every applicant for firearms purchase through a registered gun dealer, but also to providing the necessary tool for other states to give Full Faith and Credit to Louisiana's protection orders.

During the twelve months of 2000, Registry staff responded to 82 requests from NICS examiners for verification of a Louisiana protective order contained in the national database, when the defendant of the order attempted to purchase a firearm. On the basis of these records, NICS was able to deny the application and prevent the gun purchase.

Recently, two examples of Full Faith and Credit were given to Louisiana orders of protection because these records had been transmitted to the NCIC database. In one case, a Louisiana woman was beaten and abducted by her estranged spouse. The woman was able to alert local persons to her plight when her abductor stopped in Mississippi. Police responded and arrested the man when they conducted an NCIC search and found that he was the subject of a protective order issued in Louisiana.

In the second case, an abused Louisiana woman fled with her child to relatives in Texas. She was tracked down there by her abuser, who again assaulted her and the child. After notification, police conducted a search of NCIC records, finding the offender was the subject of a protective order issued in Louisiana. After confirming the terms and conditions of the order with LPOR, police charged him with a Class A assault on protected persons as well as a violation of a protective order.

Continued cooperation from throughout the state ensures continued success for the program and the safety of Louisiana residents.

CYBER COURTS

Links to Resources Useful to Paralegals

www.la-paralegals.org/web.html

American Association of Law Libraries

www.aallnet.org/index.asp

The National Law Journal

www.ljextra.com/nlj

Internet Law & Policy Forum

www.ilpf.org

The American Law Institute

www.ali.org

United Nations Site on International Law

www.un.org/law



Excerpts from the 2001 Address to the Louisiana House and Senate

This is my fourth State of the Judiciary address. I look forward to speaking to you every two years. My regularly-scheduled remarks represent a relatively new tradition, although prior to 1996, Chief Justices have occasionally addressed this august body. I believe our presence here serves a dual purpose of updating you on the performance of the state judiciary while serving as a reminder of the functions and nature of our respective branches of government. My own experience and that of the other Justices is an appreciation and deep respect of your role in our state government. This bicameral legislature is inferior only to the Constitution of Louisiana as adopted by the people of our state.

As legislators, you pass the laws for our state. Under the state Constitution, we are required to respect, interpret, and apply those laws, and on occasion, to determine whether that legislation comports with our state and federal constitutions.

Yesterday marked my 11th year as your Chief Justice, and I thank each of you for your courtesy and your friendship. I also would like to thank all of you and Governor Foster for your assistance and cooperation during the past two years.

I especially commend you for providing the funds to complete the renovation of 400 Royal Street. I promise that this precious landmark will become one of the great jewels in this state's rich treasury of historic buildings, and a fitting symbol for justice in Louisiana.

I also thank the legislature, especially the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, for working with the Supreme Court and the judiciary to develop the Judicial Budget and Performance Accountability Act of 1999. Because of this Act, the judiciary is now using strategic planning, performance auditing, and other tools to direct its future and to encourage continuous improvement.

I also wish to thank the legislature in advance for its consideration at this session of the need for higher levels of judicial pay. Judges' advocacy of a judicial pay raise may sound to some as rather self-serving. However, do remember that if the people of this state want a fair, impartial, and independent judiciary, adequate judicial pay is certainly a necessary component of the overall effort to achieve these objectives.

As you know, as Chief Justice I have strived to improve communications between our two branches of government. I think we've been successful in this regard, more recently with the Justices' biannual visit to this Chamber, distribution of our quarterly *Court Column* newsletter, and our district court Judicial Ride-Alongs in which I know many of you have participated. Last fall, we expanded this program to include a Supreme Court Ride-Along for state legislators. We were delighted that about 50 of you came to the Supreme Court, visited with us for a morning of informational presentations, took a tour to see firsthand the progress of the renovations of the Courthouse at 400 Royal Street, and sat in on our regularly-scheduled afternoon oral arguments. Thank you to everyone who made the trip to our Court and participated in the Ride-Along. We received some excellent feedback on this program, and we hope to present it again at a future date to give new legislators (and new Justices) the opportunity to participate.



Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

I hope you also continue to find useful the input of our Judicial Council into relevant legislation, such as bills to create new judgeships. As you know, each year the Judicial Council's Committee to Evaluate Requests for New Judgeships sends to each legislator and each court a list of criteria for creating new judgeships. The Judicial Council only approves and recommends to you the creation of a new judgeship after a team, composed of judges and staff, visits the judicial district, analyzes case-loads and other factors, and concludes that a new judgeship is warranted, based on the requisite criteria. Recommendations of the Judicial Council are supportable with statistics and are not made lightly. Thank you for respecting the recommendations of the Judicial Council and for upholding the integrity of the process.

Over the past two years, I believe Louisiana's judiciary has accomplished many positive things, as you will see in the publications that have been placed at your desks. These reports show that the judiciary has worked diligently to improve its performance in many different areas. One of the longstanding goals of the Supreme Court has been to reduce the number of attorney disciplinary infractions. Through the Court's "Committee to Study Permanent Disbarment", co-chaired by Justice Kitty Kimball and Justice Jeannette T. Knoll, the Court's "Committee to Prevent Lawyer Misconduct", chaired by Justice Chet D. Traylor, and the Court's "Ad Hoc Committee to Study Potential Changes in the Admission and Practice of Law", chaired by Justice Kitty Kimball, we are pursuing a variety of avenues to improve the quality of the legal profession.

In my opinion, a potentially far-reaching reform initiative recently undertaken by the Supreme Court for our elected judiciary was the formation of a "Committee to Study the Creation of a Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee." This Study Committee was charged with studying and making recommendations to the Court on the benefits and feasibility of establishing a permanent Oversight Committee, which would serve, for the judicial candidate, as a resource and as a deterrent. The Oversight Committee would act as a resource by educating the judicial candidates on such matters as the Code of Judicial Conduct, answering ethical questions which arise during an election on an expedited basis, and reviewing actual or proposed campaign conduct and advertisements. The Oversight Committee would also hopefully deter unethical conduct by soliciting from each candidate a pledge of ethical campaign conduct, and also by reviewing complaints and taking action where appropriate. It is our hope that this Oversight Committee might help in restoring and maintaining ethical conduct in judicial campaigns.

I'd like to personally thank Senator Jay Dardenne and Representative Arthur Morrell for serving on the Study Committee, which completed its work this past Friday. I am pleased to report that the Study Committee will soon recommend to the Court the creation of a permanent Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee. The Study Committee made several other distinct recommendations, and its report will be subject to consideration by the Supreme Court conference in the very near future.

While I appreciate the chance to recount some of our accomplishments, my primary purpose in addressing you today is to ask your assistance on a very important issue - the need to re-envision,

restructure, and reform the juvenile justice system of this state. Improved education and more effective juvenile justice are two keys for ensuring the future of this state. I commend the Governor and the Legislature for their initiatives to improve the state's educational system, especially the recent effort to provide higher pay for teachers. Now I think it is time for all three branches to examine the issue of the current state of our juvenile justice system and to take bold steps to improve it.

In addressing this issue, I will not elaborate on the many problems affecting juvenile courts – for example, the low level of operating and capital funding, the unavailability of effective secured detention, the lack of alternative sanctions, and the lack of treatment services for children and families. Let me begin instead by sharing with you my vision of what I believe is not only possible, but imperative as well.

I envision a revitalized juvenile justice system to be built upon a resolute, over-arching commitment by Louisiana's leaders and its people to truly put children first above other priorities, especially those children who are at risk of abuse and neglect, educational failure, societal maladjustment, and chronic criminal activity.

I envision a juvenile justice system that emphasizes prevention, assessment, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, and the proper development of civic values, learning competencies, and life-coping skills in children, rather than simply punishment, and, where punishment is an appropriate and necessary remedy, a system that ensures swift and effective justice.

I envision a new juvenile justice system built upon the comprehensive strategy advocated by the federal government that provides a framework for assessing and treating all children who come under its jurisdiction, including those who are abused and neglected, those who are status offenders, and those who are serious, violent, and chronic delinquent offenders.

The new system should recognize the link between child abuse and neglect and the potential for later social maladjustment and possible criminal activity. It should address the needs of abused and neglected children in a comprehensive manner from the moment they enter the system until the time they are firmly re-united with their birth families, or securely placed with their adoptive families, or reasonably adjusted to be on their own after they "age-out" of the system.

For those children who are status offenders, traffic offenders, and delinquent offenders, the new system should provide a continuum of high-quality, integrated services and graduated sanctions, including prevention, assessment, early intervention, secured detention, alternative sanctions, long-term services for treating substance abuse, mental disorders, and other disorders affecting children and their families. The system should link traditional juvenile justice elements



“Now I think it is time for all three branches to examine the issue of the current state of our juvenile justice system and to take bold steps to improve it.”

with elements from the health, mental health, substance abuse, educational, child welfare, and community-based systems. The system should also insist and ensure that there is meaningful communication, collaboration, and data sharing among all juvenile justice agencies.

This new juvenile justice system should ensure that juvenile courts are adequately housed and funded to fulfill their rehabilitative mission.

This ideal juvenile justice system should consistently operate from a knowledge base that incorporates the best tools for planning and managing the implementation of the comprehensive

strategy. The system should provide accurate, up-to-date information on the quality, timeliness, and effectiveness of all juvenile justice processes and results, including the effectiveness of each strategy in the continuum of services, including the range of progressive sanctions. The system should not act blindly in the vague hope of positive results but should use the best science to ensure that good things will result so that success can be institutionalized and failure eliminated. The system should, therefore, be totally accountable to the public and to you, the guardians of the public's purse.

Through such a comprehensive approach, I envision a reformed juvenile justice system that is not blind but knowledgeable in its application of services and sanctions, a system that is tough but not mindless, and a system whose cost-effectiveness can be measured accurately and whose expectations are firmly and unrelentingly in favor of the rehabilitation of children.

If you agree with at least part of my vision, the question I wish to pose to you today is: how do we — the three branches of state government - along with local government, and our society as a whole — come together to develop and implement a common vision? Many judges in this state, including myself, believe that increased state funding for our financially-strapped juvenile courts should be a major part of the reform and restructuring of the juvenile justice system. However, I realize the legislature's difficulty in jumping into that issue without carefully analyzing the costs and benefits and also without looking at the entire system.

And so, let me suggest the following approach as a starting point. I request that, at this session, you establish a joint legislative study committee or a commission to envision practical ways to reform and restructure the juvenile justice system of our state. It is time that we all examine the mission and financing of our juvenile courts as well as the availability of effective secured detention facilities and services, the availability of effective alternative sanctions, and the availability of treatment services. In this endeavor, I stand ready to commit the judiciary to participate meaningfully in this process. I offer the benefits of our staff, the wisdom of our judges, and access to the best judicial think tanks and resources in the nation.

An improved juvenile justice system is, in my opinion, the state's best strategy for preventing and reducing serious crime. We all know, intuitively and from research, that the abuse and neglect of children is a major contributing factor in the development of delinquency and that delinquency is a major contributor to adult crime. For these reasons alone, we need to look carefully at this issue and to act. So let us begin.

Once again, I thank you for opening your chamber to us today, for your attention to my remarks, and for your unfailing devotion to the people of Louisiana.



Pillar of the Community: Judge C. Hunter King

Often times in judicial races, candidates for the bench will tout themselves as the person most qualified to serve the public in that capacity. It was in the midst of a judicial race five years ago that Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge C. Hunter King found himself uniquely qualified for something entirely different.

Judge King's brother, Reginald, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia that required a perfect match of bone marrow be infused to ensure Reginald any chance of survival. Among Reginald's four brothers, only Judge C. Hunter King was a perfect match. A brief procedure performed on Judge King by physicians produced the quart of marrow necessary to allow his brother's body to begin regenerating a fresh blood supply.

"He was able to have a better quality of life," said Judge King of his brother, post-transplant. "That's the thing I was proudest of."

While his brother eventually succumbed to the ravages of leukemia 1½ years later, Judge King relished the opportunity to help someone in need. He became a volunteer for the local donor registry and in November, Judge King was chosen to join the board of the National Marrow Donor Program.

Following his election to Orleans Parish Civil District Court in 1999, Judge King has made it a point to help others also improve their quality of life.

Judge King has spoken to a number of area youth groups and high schools, along with area radio stations, on the court system and the judicial process as it relates to families. Judge King, speaking to kids from the Methodist Home for Children told them, "It doesn't matter where you come from, it's where you're going. Your number one priority should be to work to break the cycle of being a part of the judicial process; that as you become adults, you must work to make sure you don't find yourself and your children in the same situation you're in today."

During Orleans Parish Civil District Court's Community Court Day Program, students from two Orleans-area high schools, Lawless and St. Augustine High School, were treated to a special presentation by Judge King on the different facets



Dr. Jeffrey Chell, head of the National Marrow Donor Program and Orleans CDC Judge C. Hunter King.



Judge King speaks to students from Lawless and St. Augustine High Schools as part of a special Community Court Day Program. The students also sat in on a case in Judge King's court.

of domestic court and were able to sit in on a case over which Judge King presided, giving them background information they might not have otherwise had on the court system and a first-hand look at an actual court proceeding.

Judge King also took time to speak to the New Orleans community as part of a local radio station's Sunday Journal program. King, along with CDC Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson, spoke with the host about the role of Orleans Parish Civil District Court within the court system and as it relates to the community, and answered callers' questions about court procedures.



Judge King speaks to students at the Xavier University Youth Motivational Task Force Program, an initiative to bring together minority professionals and students to increase student awareness on the world of work.

Photos by Walt Pierce



Mock Trials Put Huey Long's Assassin on the Stand

2nd Parish Court Judges Roy M. Cascio and Lee Faulkner recently hosted a mock trial practice competition in their courtrooms in Gretna to help prepare area high schools for the regional and state mock trial competitions. Teams from John Ehret, Archbishop Rummel, Destrehan and New Iberia Catholic high schools argued a case based on facts stemming from the 1935 assassination of Huey P. Long, however, for the purposes of the mock trial, Long's assassin, Dr. Carl Weiss, lived to testify in the competition.

5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Susan Chehardy and 23 local attorneys presided as judges and scorers during the day. 16th JDC Judge Paul deMahy, who is an advisor for Catholic High School of New Iberia and 29th JDC Judge Emile St. Pierre, who is an advisor for Destrehan High School and coached Destrehan to a first and second place finish, were present to assist in their school's competition.

"It's rewarding for these young people to do this," said Judge St. Pierre. "It's amazing the grasp of the rules of evidence that they are able to obtain in the short period of time. We do find a couple of natural lawyers in the group. It's a great program and it allows you to see these kids mature and their confidence level rise as they try these cases."

At the Lafayette Parish Courthouse, four teams from the Acadiana region competed in the Region III High School Mock Trial Tournament. Teams from St. Thomas More, Eunice High, Vermilion Catholic and Catholic High of New Iberia all debated the events surrounding the 1935 assassination of Huey P. Long and were able to question the man believed to have murdered Long, Dr. Carl Weiss.

15th JDC Judges Durwood Conque and Phyllis Keaty along with 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Sylvia Cooks and Marc Amy presided over the mock trial competition, one of eight regionals in the state. The winners of each of the regionals advanced to the state competition. Vermilion Catholic captured the Region III title. All regional winners competed in the Judge Richard N. Ware IV Memorial Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition.

The jury was made up of six members of the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association, who sponsored the competition. A grant from the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division partially funded the event.

"They were good," said Dona Renegar, state coordinator of the high school mock trials. "They all should be attorneys."

Judges in the Classroom Program Creates Local Partnerships

Fourth Judicial District Court Judge Benjamin Jones, President of the Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA), kicked off 2001 with the announcement that district judges would dedicate the year to creating partnerships with their local elementary, middle and high schools to promote better understanding of the law and the judiciary through the recently adopted "Judges in the Classroom" program. The statewide program involves regular participation by district judges in classroom discussions as well as opens courthouse doors for class visits, mock trial and courtroom presentations.

"At our annual fall conference, there was overwhelming support among district judges for implementing the 'Judges in the Classroom' program. We have since developed a curriculum to assist judge/teacher partners in designing their own lesson plans to fit class levels, topics of interest and learning objectives," Judge Jones said.

An Implementation Committee has been charged with getting the LDJA's "Judges in the Classroom" program off the ground. The

Implementation Committee members include the 2000-2001 LDJA officers: President - Judge Benjamin Jones, 4th Judicial District Court; First Vice-President - Judge Durwood Conque, 15th Judicial District Court; Second Vice-President - Judge Patricia Minaldi, 14th Judicial District Court; Secretary - Judge Michael G. Bagneris, Orleans Parish Civil District Court; and Treasurer - Judge Jerome J. Barbera, III, 17th Judicial District Court; along with Judge Mary Hotard Becnel, 40th Judicial District Court and Judge W. Ross Foote, 9th Judicial District Court.

According to Judge Jones, "The current challenge is to reach and connect with teachers across the state interested in bringing a judge into the classroom. There are 367 district judges across the state so we have the potential to reach a lot of schools and students from 4th through 12th grade."

Any principal or teacher interested in integrating the Judges in the Classroom program into the 2001/2002 school year curriculum, contact LaKoshia Roberts at (318) 361-2259.

OBJECTIVES OF THE JUDGES IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Judges in the Classroom was initiated and implemented to:

- 1) Increase young people's understanding of the legal profession and the court system;
- 2) Clarify misconceptions about, and develop trust and respect for, the justice system;
- 3) Present an opportunity to explore careers in the justice system;
- 4) Help students grasp how the court system fits into the three-branch system of government;
- 5) Help students understand rules, authority and nonviolent dispute settlement;
- 6) Explain to students the purposes of laws and why they are important;
- 7) Facilitate students' understanding of the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government;
- 8) Allow students an opportunity to develop extended knowledge of key players in the early history of government;
- 9) Explain the structure of the American electoral system;
- 10) Supply students with the distinction between the various systems of justice;
- 11) Strengthen students' ability to make judgements and decisions;
- 12) Present opportunities for weighing arguments and for forming opinions;
- 13) Enhance students' abilities to ask effective questions;
- 14) Train students to recognize exceptions; and
- 15) Develop and/or further students' ability to appreciate both sides of arguments.



IPSO FACTO... Court Stop Isn't Only for Appeals

The Louisiana Supreme Court Building on Loyola Avenue in New Orleans is often times described as the "court of last resort" meaning it is the last stop for cases on appeal in Louisiana. Little known, however, is its significance on a different kind of stop - one for geologists. The court building is featured in "A Tour Guide to the Building Stones of New Orleans," published by the New Orleans Geological Society, which describes in detail the stones used in construction of the court building, and is part of a geology tour for high school students.



IT'S A FACT:

Stones used in constructing The Louisiana Supreme Court Building's marble and granite floors, walls and steps are native to England, Italy and France.

YOUR HONORS



■ **Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson** was recently honored with an honorary doctorate by Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Justice Johnson earned her undergraduate degree from Spelman prior to her admittance to law school.

Recently elected to the YWCA of New Orleans Board of Directors were **Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine Gray** (President-Elect), **Orleans Criminal District Court Judge Camille Buras** and **Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson**.

■ **2nd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Harmon Drew** recently spoke at three CLE seminars, in Alexandria for the Central Louisiana Pro Bono CLE Seminar (Criminal Code and Search & Seizure), on Toledo Bend Lake for the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (Search & Seizure) and at the Parish Forensic Facility in Harvey for the Jefferson Parish D.A.'s Domestic Violence and Professionalism Seminar.

■ **16th JDC Judge John E. Conery** was recognized by The Inn on the Teche with its "Founder's Award" for his service as Founder and First President of The Inn, a professional organization of attorneys and judges in the 16th JDC.



■ **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson** was recently honored with the Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award by the Association for Women Attorneys. The award is named

after the late Federal Magistrate Michaelle Pitard Wynne in honor of her accomplishments and the examples she set in the New Orleans legal community.



■ **14th JDC Judge Patricia Minaldi** was recently selected as Chairman of the Post-Conviction DNA Testing Advisory Commission formed by Louisiana Governor Mike Foster. The purpose of this commission is to enact and/or amend legislation to provide for DNA testing of convicted felons through the filing of post-conviction relief applications.

■ **Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Camille Buras** was recently elected a fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

■ The Pro Bono Project elected **24th JDC Judge Fredericka Wicker** and **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Michael G. Bagneris** (Ex-officio to the board) as directors.

■ The newly elected officers of the Fifth Circuit Judges Association are **29th JDC Judge Emile St. Pierre** (President), **Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court Judge Andrea Price Janzen** (Vice-President), **Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Edward Dufresne, Jr.** (Treasurer) and **Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court Jon Gegenheimer** (Secretary).

■ **Retired Lafayette City Court Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr.** was recently honored by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Alumni Association for his legacy of service to the university and local community.

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