

## *Supreme Court Sits at Nicholls State*

In September the Louisiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments on five pending cases at Nicholls State University (NSU) in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The seven justices held proceedings at Nicholls as part of an ongoing effort by the Court to educate and inform students and the general public about the work of the Court.

“For over 15 years, holding court in venues other than the Supreme Court courthouse has been a tradition of the Court. The goal is to provide area citizens with a snapshot of the volume, variety and complexity of the Court’s caseload by bringing the Louisiana Supreme Court to them,” said Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

Prior to oral arguments, Justice John L. Weimer, a 1976 Nicholls graduate and a former professor of Business Law at NSU, welcomed the high school and the university students in attendance in NSU’s Talbot Theater. Justice Weimer was elected last year and recently re-elected to the Sixth Supreme Court District which includes Thibodaux.

According to Justice Weimer, “High school students from 13 parishes travelled from across Louisiana to attend the court proceedings which were also open to the public and all members of the NSU community.”



*The justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court sit for oral arguments at Talbot Theater on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana.*



*The proceedings were broadcast throughout campus on the university’s cable channel (above).*

*Many students watched the proceedings in the overflow area just outside Talbot Theater via closed-circuit television (right).*





## C O R N E R

C O L L I N S



*Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.  
Judicial Administrator*

The Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office is pleased to announce a major funding award for **The Court Improvement Program (CIP)**, an innovative pilot program aimed at reducing the amount of time abused and neglected children remain in foster care.

Baptist Community Ministries in New Orleans has committed \$700,000 to funding the program. The pilot is a three-year endeavor with an estimated budget of nearly \$1 million. The Children's Justice Act Task Force has also awarded \$25,000 to the project. The initiative will explore the use of mediation as an alternative to litigation in Child in Need of Care cases. The pilot sites are New Orleans Parish Juvenile Court and Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court. CIP staff will develop "best practices" models that can be replicated in other courts throughout Louisiana. It is hoped that mediation will allow abused and neglected children to achieve permanency in a safe, healthy home environment more quickly.

For more information on the CIP pilot program, contact Mark Harris, Court Improvement Program Coordinator, at (504) 568-7324.

## *Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee Conducts Statewide Educational Seminars*

The Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee conducted a series of educational seminars throughout the state to educate judges and judicial candidates about ethical campaign conduct. Judges and judicial candidates were invited to attend the seminars, all of which were open to the public.

The seminars, conducted by Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee members and staff, focused on Canon 7 of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct. Locations included Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Shreveport, Alexandria, Gretna, and Lake Charles.

### Educational Seminar Locations

- Baton Rouge, LA - August 27, 2002 (First Circuit Court of Appeal)
- New Orleans, LA - August 28, 2002 (Louisiana Supreme Court)
- Shreveport, LA - August 29, 2002 (Pike Hall, Jr. Courthouse)
- Alexandria, LA - September 4, 2002 (Rapides Parish Courthouse)
- Gretna, LA - September 5, 2002 (Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, Lawrence A. Chehardy Courthouse)
- Lake Charles, LA - September 6, 2002 (Third Circuit Court of Appeal)

## *Law Students Get Lesson in Professionalism*

First year law students at Louisiana's four law schools — Louisiana State University (LSU), Loyola Law School, Southern University, and Tulane University— got a lesson in professionalism and ethics from the justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) as part of an annual orientation program sponsored by the LSBA Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee.

**Justices Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball and Jeannette Theriot Knoll** kicked off the orientation program on August 15 speaking to students at Southern University Law Center and Loyola Law School, respectively. **Justice Chet D. Traylor** participated in the program at LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and **Justice Bernette J. Johnson** addressed the incoming class of 2005 at Tulane University Law School.



*On hand to welcome entering law students at the Southern University Law Center 2002-03 session were (from left) Interim Vice Chancellor Roederick White, Louisiana State Bar Association president Larry Feldman, Jr., Justice Catherine D. Kimball of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Attorney James George of the LSBA Committee on Professionalism and Quality of Life, and Interim Chancellor Arthur E. Stallworth.*





## *Plaquemine City Court Pilots Voice Recognition Monitoring Program*

The Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections Department has chosen the Plaquemine City Court as a pilot court for an electronic monitoring program which would be available only for juveniles in non-violent cases. The goal of the program is to keep juveniles out of detention and to reduce the costs involved in incarceration.

According to **Plaquemine City Court Judge William Dupont**, "The current cost of secure state custody averages approximately \$115 per day per juvenile. Secure home detention with monitoring could be accomplished for approximately \$100 per month per juvenile."

Noting that the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Louisiana Juvenile and Family Court Judges have encouraged juvenile courts to explore alternatives to secure incarceration for non-violent juvenile offenders, Judge Dupont pointed out that two years ago he instituted a house-arrest program for select non-violent offenders using bracelets for electronic monitoring.

"We have recently upgraded our detention program using the **ShadowTrack Technology** system — state-of-the-art voice recognition technology." The ShadowTrack Technology will provide immediate notification by using a voice print from the offender and placing random telephone calls day and night to assure compliance.

The state corrections department decided to fund a pilot program for \$10,000 to cover the cost of 10 monitoring units to determine if the system is suitable for statewide use.

## *Jefferson Parish Breaks Ground on Juvenile Center*

On May 3, 2002, Chief Judge Nancy Amato Konrad, Judge Ann Murry Keller and Judge Andrea Price Janzen participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jefferson Parish's enhanced Juvenile Justice Center.

The 36,000 square foot addition to the Center will house the parish's Department of Juvenile Services, the Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Division of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the Jefferson Parish Truancy Assessment and Services Center and the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Assessment Center.

The improvements are scheduled for completion in the fall of 2003.



*Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court Chief Judge Nancy Amato Konrad, Judge Ann Murry Keller and Judge Andrea Price Janzen gather at the site of the groundbreaking on the parish's enhanced Juvenile Justice Center.*

INNOVATIONS

### CYBER COURTS

**Juvenile Justice Commission**

<http://jjc.legis.state.la.us>

**United States  
Copyright Office**

[www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright)

**The Association  
of American Law Schools**

[www.aals.org](http://www.aals.org)

**National Women's  
Law Center**

[www.nwlc.org](http://www.nwlc.org)

**The National Association for  
Law Placement**

[www.nalp.org](http://www.nalp.org)





## 2002 Opening of Court Ceremonies

Louisiana judges gather annually in New Orleans for the Fall Judges Conference. Sponsored by the Louisiana Judicial College, the Fall Conference is always scheduled to include the first Monday in October, the traditional date for opening of court ceremonies of the United States Supreme Court. In addition to attending continuing education sessions and business meetings over the three day period, judges, joined by attorneys, participate in solemn ceremonies deeply rooted in tradition.

### *Red Mass*

The annual Red Mass service was held in New Orleans on Monday, October 7, 2002 at St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square.

Traditionally held at the beginning of the judicial year, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and officials of all faiths for guidance in the administration of justice. Special guests at this year's Red Mass were Chief Justice Michel Robert of Quebec's highest court, the Quebec Court of Appeal, and Justice Jean Lemelin of the Superior Court of Quebec.

The tradition of the Red Mass goes back many centuries in Rome, Paris and London. Stateside, the Red Mass has been celebrated annually in California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Georgia, the District of Columbia, and Louisiana, where the first Red Mass was offered in St. Louis Cathedral on October 5, 1953.



*(above) Chief Justice Michel Robert of the Quebec Court of Appeal and Justice Jean Lemelin of the Superior Court of Quebec with Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson*



*Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. (left) with Chief Justice Michel Robert of the Quebec Court of Appeal, Quebec's highest court, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball, Justice Jean Lemelin of the Superior Court of Quebec, and Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Chet D. Traylor.*

### *9th JDC Holds 2002 Opening of Court Ceremony*

In the September 2002 Opening of Court Ceremony at the **9th JDC in Rapides Parish**, judges and lawyers alike celebrated and honored those who have worked to advance the public's understanding of the law and the judicial process.

As this year's guest speaker at the annual ceremony, **15th JDC Judge Durwood Conque**, who served as president of the Louisiana District Judge's Association in 2001-2002, explained his philosophy and mindset of the practice of law and shared advice with the lawyers in attendance.

The Alexandria Bar Association, who sponsors the ceremony, presented its Causidicus Award to retired **3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge William A. Culpepper**, who served 22 years on the circuit court after one term on the bench at the 9th JDC.

Culpepper also was presented with an award by the United Way in recognition for his volunteer achievements with that organization. Culpepper became the first chairman of the central Louisiana chapter of the United Fund, which later became the United Way, in 1954.



## 2002-2003 Officers Named

Fifteen new officers were elected during the Louisiana Fall Judges Conference in New Orleans, October 6-8. The officers, which were elected by their peers at the same levels of court, will hold one-year terms.

The conference, which was held in conjunction with the Louisiana Judicial College Seminar and Annual Joint Meeting of the Louisiana Judiciary and the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, also was host to the Louisiana Court Administrators Association meeting. Nearly 150 judges attended the seminar, which featured workshops and panel discussions of recent litigation and developments in jurisprudence, both civil and criminal. The new officers for 2002-2003 are:

### Conference of Court of Appeal Judges



*Judge Henry Brown*

Chairman

**Judge Henry Brown, Jr.**  
Second Circuit Court of Appeal

Vice-Chairman

**Judge Ned Doucet**  
Third Circuit Court of Appeal

Secretary-Treasurer

**Judge Felicia Toney Williams**  
Second Circuit Court of Appeal

### Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges



*Judge Randy P. Angelle*

President

**Judge Randy P. Angelle**  
Breaux Bridge City Court

Vice-President

**Judge Andrea Price Janzen**  
Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court

Secretary

**Judge J. P. Mauffray**  
28<sup>th</sup> JDC

Treasurer (appointed by President)

**Judge Nancy Amato Konrad**  
Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court

### District Judges' Association



*Judge Patricia H. Minaldi*

President

**Judge Patricia H. Minaldi**  
14<sup>th</sup> JDC

First Vice-President

**Judge Michael G. Bagneris**  
Orleans CDC

Second Vice-President

**Judge Jerome J. Barbera, III**  
17<sup>th</sup> JDC

Secretary

**Judge W. Ross Foote**  
9<sup>th</sup> JDC

Treasurer

**Judge Fredericka Wicker**  
24<sup>th</sup> JDC

### City Court Judges Association



*Judge Paul Bonin*

President

**Judge Paul Bonin**  
New Orleans Traffic Court

Vice-President

**Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway**  
City Court of Hammond

Secretary

**Judge Scott Leehy**  
Monroe City Court

Treasurer

**Judge Marilyn Lambert**  
Ascension Parish Court

### Louisiana Retired Judges Association



Newly-elected president of the Louisiana Retired Judges Association **H. Charles Gaudin**, center, presented plaques of appreciation to **Thomas C. Wicker, Jr.**, left and to **A.J. Planchard**, right.

Also elected at the Association's fall meeting at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans were **Thomas W. Tanner**, vice-president and **A.J. Kling Jr.**, secretary-treasurer.



## *Calcasieu Teen Court Helps Young People in Trouble*

14th JDC Judge Lilynn Cutrer is providing area teenagers with a way to avoid juvenile court. Teen Court, begun in Calcasieu Parish in mid-September, will allow teenagers charged with misdemeanors to be sentenced by a jury of their peers.

In the Teen Court process, transgressors must plead guilty and waive their right to confidentiality in order to avoid juvenile court. Although they are not before a judge in juvenile court does not mean their punishment and sentencing is any less severe.

"Teen Court has given us a way to hold first-time misdemeanor offenders accountable for their actions, while instilling in youth their responsibility

to our community and legal system," said Judge Cutrer. "We quickly learned that the peers acting as Teen Court Officials are very dedicated and responsible, and are often harder when sentencing a teen than the Court."

Currently Teen Court, normally hearing four cases each night, is expected to be held once a month through the beginning of 2003.



*14th JDC Judge Lilynn Cutrer*

## *CASA Begins Volunteer Efforts In 18th JDC*

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) recently established a program in the 18th Judicial District (Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes), making it the 25th judicial district out of 41 judicial districts in Louisiana where CASA volunteers are at work on behalf of children.

CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children and represent them in court. The volunteers must initially complete a 30-hour CASA training and after they are assigned a case, they must also attend in-service training.

The goal of CASA's volunteer and training efforts is to find safe, permanent homes for children in need as quickly as possible. With the assistance of CASA volunteers, the time many children spend in foster care is significantly reduced.

"I cannot even imagine the limbo these children must go through," said Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball, who attended the CASA kick-off event. "We are so grateful to everyone who will speak for these children."

## *Visiting Judges Take in The Louisiana Judicial System*

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. spoke to a group of visitors from Morelos, Mexico on the Louisiana judicial system on Thursday, October 31. Included in the visiting group were three State Supreme Court Justices, a Counselor representing the Executive Branch, and seven District Court Judges from Morelos. Two representatives from Loyola Law School were also among those in attendance. The group also spoke with Clerk of Court John T. Olivier on the structure of the court system in Louisiana.







## *Justice Johnson Swears In New Martinet Society Officers*

The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society installed new officers for 2002-2003 in a ceremony at the Louisiana Supreme Court on October 17, 2002.

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson swore in the following officers: James M. Williams, President; Winston G. DeCuir, Vice-President; Kim Russell, Secretary; Phoebe A. Roaf, Corresponding Secretary; Judge Ernestine Gray, Treasurer; and Jason Cantrell, President-Elect. A reception followed honoring all attorneys newly admitted to the Louisiana State Bar.

The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society is the local bar association for African-American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students which has six hundred (600) members. The Society was formed to encourage the interchange of ideas, promote legal scholarship, advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, uphold the order and ethics of the courts and the profession of law and promote the welfare of the legal profession in Louisiana.

For more information on the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society contact Attorney James Williams at (504) 522-2304.

## *Judge Thibodeaux Hosts CARC Group*



*Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux*

During the normal course of court sessions, Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux would not expect a member of his own family to be in attendance at court. But during a recent session in his courtroom, Judge Thibodeaux played host to a group that included his brother, Lucien.

The CARC (Calcasieu Association for Retarded Citizens) Self-Advocacy group were guests of Judge Thibodeaux during a session at the Third Circuit. The group came to court to learn about and witness the judicial process.

“I think it’s absolutely necessary that all segments of our society be aware of what our court system is about, what it’s functions are, and have access to it,” said Judge Thibodeaux. “I think the visit by CARC was well-received and an eye-opener for that group and they accepted the educational experience enthusiastically. We like to open our court to school groups and groups who have traditionally been underexposed to the judicial process and this was another outreach effort by our court in that direction.”

Judge Thibodeaux’s brother, Lucien, was part of the Self-Advocacy group representing CARC and was able to observe his brother on the bench for the first time.

## *26th JDC Judges “Hold Court”*



*Members of the Webster Parish Bar Association scrimmaged the Glenbrook High School varsity team to help benefit the March of Dimes. 26th JDC Judge Ford Stinson (left) and 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Harmon Drew (right) refereed the matchup which also saw involvement by 26th JDC Judges John M. Robinson, Cecil P. Campbell II, and Bruce Bolin as well as Minden City Court Judge John C. Campbell.*

## *Judge Gray Recognized with National Award*



Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Chief Judge Ernestine S. Gray received the 2002 Albert Elias Award for advancement of compassionate care of troubled youth from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Additionally, Judge Gray was elected to the Executive Committee of the Conference of Specialized Court Judges as the District 7 representative, encompassing Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Judge Gray also continued as Co-Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Law Section of the American Bar Association. This is her fourth year serving as co-chair of the committee.



## IPSO FACTO... Francis T. Nicholls



Photo courtesy of Nicholls State University

Francis T. Nicholls, born August 20, 1834 in Donaldsonville, Louisiana was a West Point graduate and a lawyer who rose to the rank of Confederate General during the Civil War. During his military service, his battlefield wounds included the loss of his left arm and leg. After the war he resumed his former law practice and in 1876 was elected Governor by the Democrats in an effort to end the carpetbagging rule in Louisiana. In 1881, Nicholls retired to private life for a while but was elected as Governor for a second term 1888-1892 as a foe of the corrupt Louisiana Lottery.

### IT'S A FACT:

Nicholls State University, located in Thibodaux, Louisiana and formerly known as Francis T. Nicholls Junior College of Louisiana State University, opened its doors on September 23, 1948. It is a co-educational college named after the former Louisiana governor who in the twilight of his public life served as a Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court (1892-1911)-which included 12 years as Chief Justice. Nicholls died in Thibodaux in 1912.

# YOUR HONORS

■ Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon was selected as a Trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation, a national legal association comprised of over 24,000 federal, state and local judges, lawyers, law professors and law students dedicated to promoting ethics, civility, and professionalism through mentoring and educational programs at the local level. Lemmon will serve a four-year term.



■ Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court John T. Olivier was selected to receive the 2003 National Center for State Courts Distinguished Service Award. The NCSC

annually recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the administration of justice nationally and to the work of the NCSC with the award.



■ 16th JDC Judge John E. Conery was awarded the prestigious certificate in Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills by the National Judicial College.

Judge Conery earned more than twenty credits in general jurisdiction trial courses and is presently working on a Master's Degree in Judicial Studies. Judge Conery is one of only four judges in the State of Louisiana to receive this certificate.



■ Hammond City Court Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway was honored with the Crystal Gavel Award by the Louisiana State Bar Association, which recognizes outstanding lawyers and judges for

their community involvement and services out of a sense of duty, responsibility, and professionalism, and who have made a difference in their local communities, in local organizations, or even in the life of one person.

■ Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll, 24th JDC Judge Joan Bengé, 2nd Parish Court of Jefferson Judge Roy Cascio, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Magistrate Judge Gerard Hansen, Orleans Ju-

venile Court Judge Lawrence Lagarde Jr., 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Wally Rothschild and Retired 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Phillip Ciaccio were honored by Victims and Citizens Against Crime for "outstanding service to the citizens of our state."

■ The late 16th JDC Judge Carl Williams was remembered in a ceremony recently as the park he played in as a child in Breaux Bridge was renamed in his honor. Parc Dominique was renamed Judge Carl Williams Memorial Parc.

■ 1st Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Robert D. Downing and Lafayette City Court Judge Frances Moran Bouillion were elected fellows of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

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