

State Supreme Court Sits at University of Louisiana at Monroe

The Louisiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments on four pending cases on April 7 at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). Six justices held proceedings at ULM as part of an ongoing effort by the Court to educate and to 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 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 Chet D. Traylor, a 1969 graduate of Northeast Louisiana State University, now known as ULM, welcomed the high school and university students in attendance in ULM's Brown Auditorium. Justice Traylor was elected in 1996 to the Fourth Supreme Court District which includes Monroe.

According to Justice Traylor, "The Supreme Court's decision to hold court at ULM is an historic and momentous event for the people of northeast Louisiana. The last time the Supreme Court sat in Monroe was June 1894. The people of Louisiana need to know that this is their Supreme Court. This is a rare opportunity to see the Supreme Court in action and the decision-making process which affects all of our lives."

"It is an honor to have had state law decided on our campus. The Supreme Court's coming to Monroe is beneficial to the education of the students at ULM and throughout Northeast Louisiana," said ULM President, Dr. James Cofer.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Chet D. Traylor, a ULM alumnus and a native of nearby Columbia, La., announces the Court's sitting at ULM.

Photo courtesy of ULM



The justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court during the sessions at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.



C O R N E R

C O L L I N S



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

Not too many years ago, the courts at all levels in our state—and our nation—simply dealt with the law. But with the advent of the 21st Century, their roles have expanded to encompass society's most difficult issues. Louisiana's courts are emerging as national leaders as they successfully employ innovative strategies to address those issues.

Our drug treatment courts, for example, are widely recognized as national models. The evidence is indisputable—they yield impressive savings for taxpayers, reduce recidivism rates and result in higher employment levels among their graduates.

The **Court Improvement Program** has focused on achieving permanency for children, serving the more than 4000 youngsters who are in the foster care system on any given day. The **Families in Need of Services** program reaches out to families in a kind of pre-delinquency intervention, and other Court-sponsored initiatives fight truancy, give hope to those who experience domestic violence, and support the best interests of children while they are in the court system.

We have also looked at "best practices" models for reducing delay in the court system and dealing with *pro se* litigants, those who appear in court without the assistance of an attorney.

Ultimately, we rely on strategic planning, performance auditing and other tools to direct the future of the judiciary in the state, to focus attention and effort on the most effective ways to address appropriate social issues, and to encourage continuous improvement in all areas.

Thank You Events

As recognition for their tireless efforts, hard work and dedication, members of the Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Committee on Bar Admissions were honored at "Thank You" events across the state of Louisiana. Over 500 members of these two organizations were recognized.

(clockwise from right) Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., Justice Bernette J. Johnson, and Dan Webb; (lower right) Thank You event coordinator Skip Philips and Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball; (below) Justice Chet D. Traylor and Tulane University Law School Dean Lawrence Ponoroff.



Commission Members Recognized for Service

Outgoing members of the state's Judiciary Commission were recognized at a meeting recently and were presented plaques in appreciation for their service from Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.



Receiving plaques from Chief Justice Calogero are (top l) 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge D. Milton Moore, III and (top r) 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Marc Amy, (bottom l) Robert N. Davidson and (bottom r) Gary N. Boutwell, II.



U.S. Drug Czar Visits Orleans Parish Criminal Court

John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, visited New Orleans to spread an anti-drug message and witness drug court innovations taking place in the Crescent City.

Walters visited local schools to meet with students and administrators to hear about techniques used in testing for drug use before completing his visit with a trip to Orleans Parish Criminal Court. At Criminal Court, Walters met with Judge Camille Buras and her staff before viewing the afternoon's drug court session. Following the session, Walters led a round table discussion with area drug court experts including Criminal Court Judge Charles Elloie and Magistrate Judge Gerard Hansen, and Dr. Cary Heck, Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Office Program Director.



John P. Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (r) meets with officials from Orleans Parish Criminal District Court including (from right to left) Judge Charles L. Elloie; Magistrate Judge Gerard J. Hansen; Andree Mattix, Case Manager Supervisor; Dr. Janie Beers, Administrator of Program Services, Criminal Court Treatment Program; Dr. Cary Heck, Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Office Program Director; Lou Furman, Associate Director, Turning Point Partners; James Gray, Rep. of D.A. Eddie Jordan; Michael Duff, Acting Secretary, Office of Addictive Disorders; Patricia Glorioso, Drug Court Counselor.



Orleans Parish Criminal Court Judge Camille Buras (l) and her staff meets with U.S. drug czar John Walters in her chambers prior to drug court proceedings. With Buras are (clockwise from left) Charles Collins, Case Manager Section H; Andree Mattix, Case Manager Supervisor; Walters; and Patricia Glorioso, Drug Court Counselor.

21st JDC Launches Juvenile Courts

Judges in the 21st JDC have begun to serve in a volunteer rotation in the court's two newly-created juvenile divisions under a plan created by the judges of the court. The juvenile divisions were created to help expedite cases involving children, according to 21st JDC Chief Judge Bob Morrison.

The juvenile proceedings are held once a week in each of the parishes encompassed in the 21st JDC, which includes Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes. Federal guidelines involving the timeliness of children's cases, especially those which involve termination of parental rights leading to adoption proceedings, were the driving force behind the juvenile court's establishment.

"We could not have met these deadlines unless we had done something like this," said Judge Zorraine "Zoey" Waguespack.

CYBER COURTS

**The Louisiana Supreme Court
Committee on Bar Admissions**

www.lascba.org

Law Day 2003 Information

www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/

**American Intellectual Property
Law Association**

www.aipla.org

**National Mock Trial
Championship**

www.nationalmocktrial.org

**Online Guide to Louisiana
Legal Information**

www.lawhelp.org/la



New Judges' Orientation

In the Fall of 2002, 25 new district court judges were elected to serve as members of the bench. With this shift in the make-up of the state judiciary, the Louisiana Judicial College conducted a mandatory three-day judicial education program to ready the new judges for the professional challenge that lies ahead.

The cornerstone of the new judges' training is the **Judicial Mentoring Project**—a collaboration of the Louisiana Judicial College and the Louisiana District Judges Association. "By pairing new judges with experienced judges, the Judicial Mentoring Project is designed to transcend the mere 'how to's' of courtroom procedure by creating a statewide judicial network for sharing ideas and pro-

viding emotional support," said **9th Judicial District Court Judge W. Ross Foote**, Chairman of the Judicial Mentoring Committee of the District Court Judges Association.

The mentor judges participate in the mentoring program on a voluntary basis. They agree to receive specialized mentoring skills training and to be available at any time to answer calls from the new judge. The mentor and the new judge also agree to visit each other's court while in session and to regularly complete follow-up reports which track the development of the relationship.

The common sentiment shared by the freshman judges and their mentors is that the Judicial Mentoring Project is a big success. As a result it has been held up as a model for the nation by Maureen Conner, president of a Michigan company that specializes in mentoring programs.



New Judges (from left) 13th JDC Judge J. Larry Vidrine and Sulphur City Court Judge Charles Schrumpf, and mentor 15th JDC Judge John D. Trahan enjoy the speakers during session.



New 18th JDC Judge Alvin Batiste



Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Piper Griffin



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John L. Weimer addresses the newly-elected judges at the New Judges' Orientation held February 25-27 in New Orleans.



Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D., opens the session for new judges on the functions of the Judicial Administrator's Office.

Photos courtesy of 9th JDC Judge W. Ross Foote



New Judges' Orientation



Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families Kären Hallstrom speaks on the Court Improvement Program, Families In Need of Services Assistance Program (FINSAP) and the Judge Advocate Network.



Retired Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Steven R. Plotkin gave the introduction and objective for the sessions and spoke on the Role of the Judge, Transition from Bar to Bench and How to Avoid Reversal.



Deputy Judicial Administrator for Trial Court Services Darryl Schultz (l) and 14th JDC Judge Patricia Minaldi, who is currently serving as president of the Louisiana District Court Judges' Association (r), share ideas during a break in the sessions. Schultz spoke on Trial Court Services, Judicial Ride-A-Long, and Legislative Services.

2003 New Judges' Orientation Schedule of Courses

Areas of focus during the 2003 New Judges' Seminar included:

- transition from bar to bench
- role of the judge
- role of the mentor
- court management techniques
- what makes a good judge
- Judiciary Commission
- judicial ethics (Canons 1-7)
- professionalism and civility
- defeating delay
- court collegiality
- recognition and awareness of bias
- perspective on your future as a judge



Judges listen intently during the February 25-27 sessions of the New Judges' Seminar.



Deputy Judicial Administrator Nancy Rix addressed the judges on the Judiciary Commission and its procedures.



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

- A Voice for Louisiana's Children

The Louisiana Supreme Court, now in its second year as manager of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds for Louisiana CASA Assistance Program, helps ensure the continued success and direct the future growth of CASA programs across the state of Louisiana.



The mission of Louisiana CASA Association is to ensure that every abused and neglected child in Louisiana has a competent, caring volunteer advocate in all judicial proceedings.

The Court, which assumed fiscal and programmatic accountability and responsibility for distribution of TANF funds in 2000, has seen a dramatic increase in vital CASA statistics from 2001 through 2002.

These numbers are important, according to John Manard, President, CASA New Orleans Board of Directors, and he also says that one must not lose sight of what they actually reflect.

"CASA must set some aggressive milestones and then beat them," Manard said. "For in reality those 'milestones' are individual children. This opportunity for an important helping hand from us will only come once in each of their lives. They are in need because the adult world has already failed them once.

We will either be there for them when they need us or not. We will talk, as we must, about numbers. But they are not really numbers, they are little children who need us. This is about those children."



In 2002, a number of significant areas showed a marked increase:

- The number of active advocates (977)
- a 36% increase
- The number of children served (2,179)
- a 31% increase
- The number of new children served (1,118)
- a 96% increase
- The number of children closed (722)
- a 25% increase.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a trained community volunteer. Each volunteer is an ordinary person who does extraordinary work for children. They are independent advocates appointed by a juvenile judge to speak for an abused or neglected child's best interests. They come from all walks of life.

What does a CASA volunteer do?

Article 424 of the Louisiana Children's code spells out that each advocate shall research the case and provide independent factual information, monitor compliance with the court's orders and assist the child's attorney in representing the juvenile's best interests. The volunteer will talk to everyone involved in the case and review all files to get a complete picture of the case.

What kind of training do CASA volunteers have?

Training must include roles and responsibilities of the CASA volunteer, the juvenile court process, child abuse and neglect, Louisiana and federal law, confidentiality and record keeping, child development, permanency planning, community agencies and resources, communication and information gathering, advocacy, and cultural competence. Volunteers receive at least 30 hours of training initially and at least 10 hours per year after that.

How do I get a CASA volunteer involved with one of my cases?

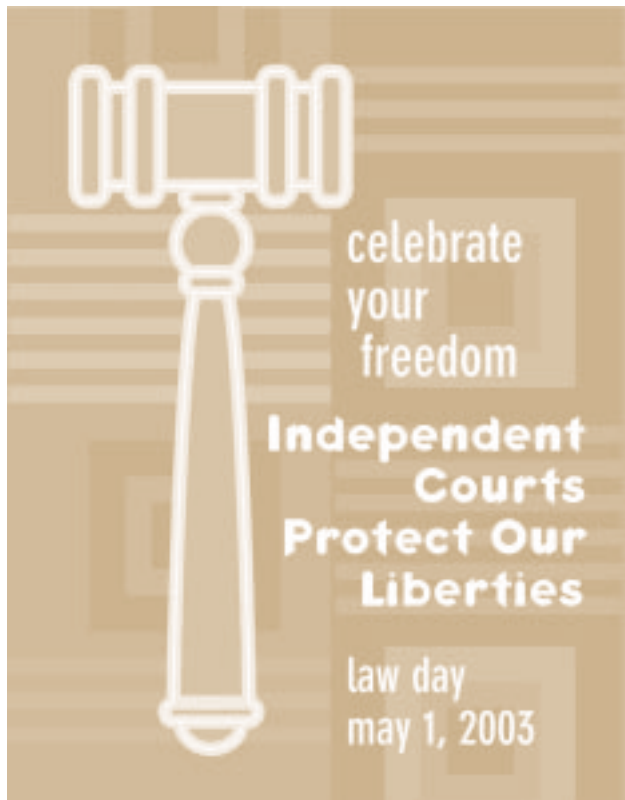
Ask for one! Talk to the CASA volunteer supervisor and also ask the judge to appoint a volunteer. If there is a volunteer available you may be able to get one!

How do I volunteer or start a CASA program in my area?

Call 1-888-567-2272 or visit www.LouisianaCASA.org or e-mail info@lacasanet.org



Law Day 2003 - Independent Courts Protect Out Liberties



Law Day - May 1, 2003

Law Day is a time for American citizens to focus on how our freedoms depend on our great system of law. It can be a single day to reflect on our legal heritage or it can encompass a week or more of activities for kids and adults. Ultimately, it is a time for the coming together of bar associations, courts and legal groups with schools and community groups in all aspects of planning a successful Law Day celebration. This year's Law Day theme of "*Celebrate Your Freedom: Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties*" enables courts to be key players in building community awareness of this year's celebration.

In keeping with the Law Day theme, the Louisiana District Court Judges' Association passed a resolution at the 2002 Spring Judges' Conference supporting district court judges engaging in law related education in the form of opening their courtrooms to students or going into classrooms to teach. Therefore, during the month of May 2003 Louisiana state court judges will be dedicated to reaching out to schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of a judge and the court system firsthand from members of the judiciary.

Judge White Program To Educate Students on Prison Life

Baton Rouge City Court Judge Trudy M. White, in cooperation with the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) at St. Gabriel, has begun an educational program for area students.

The program, called the **2003 Lifers Tour with Judge Trudy M. White**, brings a number of the 168 women serving life sentences at LCIW at St. Gabriel to Baton Rouge area schools including Catholic High, Southern Lab, St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge Magnet, St. Francis Xavier Catholic, Capitol High, McKinley High, Baton Rouge Community College, and Southern Law School.

The women prisoners discuss prison life, social justice, capital punishment, the criminal justice system, education, rehabilitation and transitioning into society, and peer pressure.

"It's a program designed not only to inform the students about prison life but more importantly to help deter them from ever considering an act which would necessitate a prison sentence," said Judge White. "We hope the women's stories on what brought them to prison will send a message of awareness to the students they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Justice Johnson Serves as Guest Speaker

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson served as the guest speaker at the annual joint meeting of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Louis A. Martinet Society. Pictured (from left) Louis A. Martinet Society President Jarvis Antwine, Jay Augustine, Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson and BRBA President Mathile W. Abramson.

Photo by The Baton Rouge Bar Association





IPSO FACTO... Community Involvement Family Affair for Rubin

"The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree" is an expression that definitely applies in 15th Judicial District Judge Edward Rubin's family, especially when it comes to community service. First elected to the bench in 1992 and reelected in 1996 and 2002 without opposition, Judge Rubin has been a role model for students and kids in the Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion parishes he has served for many years. A former business law instructor and board member of Boys Club of America, the father of three—LaShon, a teacher and day care provider, Chanda, and Edward II, a recent microbiology graduate of LSU who plans to go to law school—has also been known to roll up his sleeves and serve lunch as a "Chef for A Day" in the St. Genevieve Elementary School cafeteria.



Photo courtesy of the Rubin family

IT'S A FACT:

Daughter Chanda has matched her father's excellence both on the court and in the community. She is currently ranked at #13 on the World Tennis Association Tour and has been ranked as high as sixth in 1996. Additionally, Chanda has received numerous awards for her commitment to community involvement and her work with programs that benefit children, including: the 1997 Arthur Ashe Leadership Award, recognition in 1997 by USA Weekend magazine as one of four "Most Caring Athletes," 1996 Louisiana Special Olympics "Outstanding Celebrity" Award, and a two-time finalist for the Family Circle magazine "Player Who Makes a Difference" award, just to name a few.

YOUR HONORS

■ Retired Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Steven Plotkin was elected president of The Louisiana Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

■ 14th JDC Judge Patricia A. Minaldi was nominated by President George W. Bush to fill a vacancy as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. Her nomination will go before the U.S. Senate for confirmation proceedings.

■ Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux was elected vice chairman of the Louisiana Judicial Compensation Commission.



■ Retired First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Freddie Pitcher, Jr. was named the new chancellor of the Southern University Law Center by a recent unanimous vote of the Southern

University Board of Supervisors. He assumed his new position on January 1, 2003.

■ Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Billie C. Woodard and Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Commissioner Joseph Giarrusso Jr. were elected fellows of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

■ 24th JDC Judge Martha Sassone was named Judge of the Year by the Jefferson Parish chapter of the Alliance for Good Government.

■ Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court Jon Gegenheimer was elected President of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association at the group's annual meeting.

■ Retired Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Revius Ortique, Jr., Retired First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Freddie Pitcher and deceased *pro temp* Supreme Court Justice Jesse N. Stone were inducted into the Southern University Law School Hall of Fame.

Justice Johnson Leads Swearing In Ceremony



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson swore in the judges of Orleans Parish Civil District Court during ceremonies at the court.

Photo by The Times-Picayune

Community Relations Department
Judicial Administrator's Office
State of Louisiana
1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1540
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-3701

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