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Law Day 2010 Activities Take Place Across Louisiana

In recognition of Law Day 2010, **Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson** presided over a mock trial at the Louisiana Supreme Court presented by 90 students from Thomas Jefferson High School, Gretna, Louisiana. The mock trial was the culmination of weeks of preparation by the students. It was based on a Street Law, Inc. mock trial script that focused on the issue of hazing on a university campus.

Law Day, May 1, was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1957 in an effort to celebrate the American legal system and to strengthen understanding of the American heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. Additional 2010 Law Day inspired Supreme Court activities include:

- A 2010 Resolution issued by the Louisiana Supreme Court urging all Louisiana judges to dedicate the month of May 2010 to reaching out to students and schools to provide an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of a judge, and the court system firsthand from members of the judiciary;
- Two mock trials were presented by Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment And Decision-making) in the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal courtrooms with **Court of Appeal Judges Paul Bonin and Michael Kirby** presiding, respectively. Project L.E.A.D. is a 12-week course, sponsored by the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office, which provides several Assistant Dis-

trict Attorneys to teach the L.E.A.D. classes;

- Lafourche Parish Student Government Day where students took over the parish government after spending a day shadowing the public officials **Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John Weimer**, the judges of the 17th Judicial District Court, and the Thibodaux City Court Judge participated.

Law Day 2010 Activities

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Supreme Court of Louisiana

RESOLUTION

To urge and request judges of the State of Louisiana to dedicate the month of May 2010 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 from members of the judiciary.

WHEREAS, May 1st is annually recognized as Law Day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the judiciary and legal community across the nation traditionally mark the occasion by initiating and participating in educational programs designed to help elementary, middle and high school students understand our system of law; and

WHEREAS, the theme of Law Day 2010 is “Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges;” and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana District Judges Association has produced a handbook for judges entitled Judges in the Classroom, to provide a guide to assist judges in leading classroom discussions with middle and high school students; and


WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court Community Relations Department stands ready to provide judges with program support for outreach efforts to students and schools of all levels; and

WHEREAS, all judges have a unique ability to educate young people about our legal system and respect for the law;

WHEREAS, that the Louisiana Supreme Court hereby urges and requests judges of the State of Louisiana to dedicate the month of May 2010 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.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 5th day of April, 2010.

FOR THE COURT:


Bernette J. Johnson, Justice

City Court of Hammond Celebrates Law Day

The City Court of Hammond celebrated Law Day on May 3, 2010. Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway and her staff were hosts to local elementary school children who participated in a mock trial entitled “Yakety Yak, Don’t Talk Back.” An art contest was also conducted at the schools in anticipation of Law Day.



Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway (center) and the children who participated in the mock trial.

Judge Lemmon Addresses Diverse Groups about Judicial System

In observance of Law Day 2010, 29th JDC Judge **Lauren Lemmon** met with 100 second grade students from Luling Elementary School for a question and answer session about the judicial system in the 29th JDC courtroom.

Additionally for Lakewood Elementary School “Career Day,” Judge Lemmon met with 6th grade students at the school to talk about careers in the law and in the judicial system.

Last, she spoke to the Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish about her role as a judge, the state and federal judicial systems, and she provided the members with pocket-sized editions of the U.S. Constitution and a copy of the Louisiana Supreme Court 2009 Annual Report.

“I love letting the public know about our great system,” said Judge Lemmon. “What I mean is that the public’s perception about the system, judges and attorneys is not always positive, and I feel we should spend time explaining how different aspects of the system operate, the reasoning behind decisions and policies, and answering questions.”



Project L.E.A.D. holds mock trials during Law Week

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Michael Kirby and Paul Bonin presided over mock trials held by students from South Plaquemines and Phoenix Jr. High Schools as part of the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office Project L.E.A.D. program. The mock trials were held in the courtrooms of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment And Decision-making) is designed to help students recognize and analyze potential consequences of the difficult decisions they face during adolescence and beyond. By focusing on peer pressure, responsibility, self-respect, self-control and self-esteem, Project L.E.A.D. gives students the tools necessary to avoid many of the pitfalls and traps that often lead to delinquent conduct and criminal activity. Using a

law-related education model, the 12 L.E.A.D. classes are taught by assistant district attorneys and other district attorney personnel and give students the intellectual tools to recognize the legal and social consequences of drugs and alcohol abuse, violence, bullying, and hate crimes. This law-related course of study focuses on the operation of the criminal justice system, culminating in a full-scale mock trial experience for the students, a tour of the parish prison, and a local government tour where the students meet local elected officials.



(above) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Paul Bonin presides over the mock trial involving students from South Plaquemine Jr. High.

(right) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Michael Kirby with students from Phoenix Jr. High School taking part in the Project L.E.A.D. program.



Thomas Jefferson High holds mock trial at Supreme Court

On May 6, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson welcomed over 90 students and faculty from Thomas Jefferson High School to the Louisiana Supreme Court for the student's participation in a mock trial as part of Law Day 2010.

In preparation for the mock trial, the students worked for over a month much as real attorneys would, preparing for arguments before the judge, cross-examination of witnesses, as well as for other roles such as jurors, witnesses, bailiff, court reporter and presiding judge.

According to Justice Johnson, "Using this law-related education model, these students learn first-hand that the rule of law protects our freedoms in a democracy and that legal cases are decided by applying the law to the facts, not by the passions of public opinion. This mock trial program is a shining example of what Law Day is about."



(above) Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson addresses students from Thomas Jefferson High School on the work of the Supreme Court and careers in the legal field.



(below) Over 90 students from Thomas Jefferson High School took part in the mock trial held in the courtroom of the Louisiana Supreme Court as part of Law Day 2010.

Supreme Court Justice Weimer leads Lafourche Government Day

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John Weimer along with Judges Barbera, LeBlanc, Simpson, Lanier, and Larose of the 17th JDC and Thibodaux City Court Judge Mark Chiasson took part in the sixteenth annual Lafourche Parish Student Government Day Program which involved nearly 50 high school students “shadowing” and ceremonially serving as Lafourche Parish and City of Thibodaux officials. Positions the students assumed included city court judge and district court judge, mayor, parish president, sheriff, clerk of court, and other public officials.

“The program provides an educational opportunity for both the students and the numerous public officials who so generously contribute their time,” said Justice Weimer. “Hopefully, the students will be inspired to participate in our system of democracy as public servants.”



The annual Lafourche Parish Student Government Day is held in conjunction with the Thibodaux Mayor for a Day Program, which dates back to the 1940s. Both programs involve high school students ceremonially assuming the offices of public officials.

(left) Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John Weimer with students participating in the annual student government day program.

(right) 17th JDC Judge F. Hugh “Buddy” Larose reads the oath of office to participating students.

Photo credit: Abby Tabor
The Daily Comet/Houma Courier

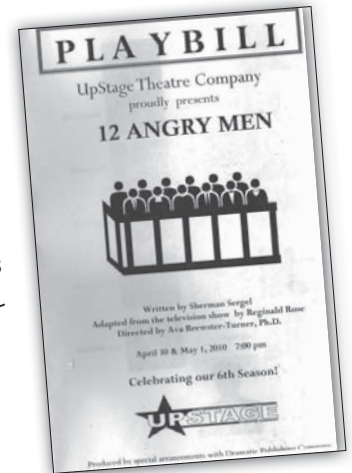


Judge Trudy White uses Stage Time as Teaching Tool



19th JDC Judge Trudy White recently took the stage as part of the cast of a local production of “12 Angry Men,” an adaptation of the television show by Reginald Rose. Following completion of the performance, Judge White moderated a discussion with the audience about the jury process.

“In light of the recent resolution by the Supreme Court encouraging members of the judiciary to participate in educational programs about our system of law,” said Judge White, “I saw this as a unique opportunity to entertain and educate members of our community about Louisiana’s legal branch.”



14th Judicial District Judges host Korean delegation

The judges of the 14th Judicial District Court hosted a delegation of 4 judges, 2 assistant court officers and 2 clerks of court representing Suwon District Court Seoul Western District Court and Seoul Central District Court all located in South Korea. This visit was part of the International Visitors Education Program of the National Center for State Courts.

Korea has recently adopted a jury system and the main objective for this visit was to learn and observe how the American jury system works.

In addition to learning how the jury system works in Calcasieu Parish, from the start when jurors are ran-

domly selected and summoned to appear to the actual selection of jurors for either civil or criminal jury trials, the delegation was given a tour of the Judicial Center where the judges’ offices and courtrooms are housed and were able to observe a second degree murder trial in progress. They spent time in both the civil and criminal courtrooms, as well in family & juvenile court. They also were given a tour of the District At-



The delegation from Korea with Chief Judge Robert Wyatt, Judge Mike Canaday and Judge David Ritchie. The photo was taken in Calcasieu Parish’s historic courtroom, “Courtroom A” located in the old courthouse.

torney’s offices

On the final day in Lake Charles, Mayor Randy Roach met with the delegation and presented them all with keys to the city.

Court Tours

Justice Guidry with students touring court



Supreme Court Justice Greg Guidry answers questions from students who attend Holy Name of Jesus School, located in New Orleans, La.

Schoolkids gather following tour



Students from Ascension of Our Lord Catholic School, located in La Place, La. pose outside the 400 Royal Street building after their tour concluded.

Students learn about rare books



Head of Technical Services Miriam Childs details the history behind the Law Library of Louisiana's collection of rare books for students who attend Our Lady of the Lake School, located in Mandeville, La.

Riverdale HS tours court



Katie Nachod, Reference & Electronic Resources Librarian, describes the services and resources available to students from Riverdale High School, located in Jefferson, La.

Justice Clark, Judge Jones Receive Award from City of Monroe



Justice Clark

During the City of Monroe's 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Salute, **Supreme Court Justice Marcus R. Clark** and **4th JDC Judge Benjamin Jones** were recognized as recipients of the James R. Sharp, Jr. Justice Award, given to individuals who display an overwhelming commitment to helping people receive justice and equal rights.



Judge Jones

The award is named after a local attorney who was a trailblazer for civil rights in Monroe. James Sharp, Jr. began practicing law in northeast Louisiana in the early 1950's. He (now deceased) is the father of two sitting 4th Judicial District judges (Judge Carl Sharp and Judge Alvin Sharp).

9th JDC Judge Thomas Yeager receives NHTSA Award

9th JDC Judge Thomas Yeager was selected to receive a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Award for Public Service for "dedication to reducing deaths and injuries and keeping families safe on our roadways," according to David L. Strickland, NHTSA Administrator. The award was presented on Monday, April 12, 2010 at Lifesavers 2010, the 28th annual Lifesavers conference. Lifesavers is an independent group dedicated to reducing transportation related deaths.

Judge Yeager specifically was recognized for his "many innovative approaches to deterring driving while intoxicated in Louisiana."



9th JDC Judge Thomas Yeager and NHTSA Administrator David Strickland at the Lifesavers 2010 Conference.

Your Honors



4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Max N. Tobias, Jr. was elected as the new President and Moderator of The National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

for a two-year term that began on May 1, 2010. Previously, Judge Tobias served as President and Moderator of the National Consortium from 2004-2006. He has been involved with the National Consortium since 1992 and in issues relating to the fair and impartial treatment of minorities and women for many years.



Crowley City Judge Marie B. "M'elise" Trahan was awarded the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award at the 30th Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice

which was held in New Orleans March 3-5, 2010. The Governor's Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board honored Judge Trahan with the prestigious award for her "Extraordinary contribution to Juvenile Justice and delinquency prevention."



1st Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Page McClendon has been named a fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

Judge Jude Thaddeus Fanguy, presiding Judge at City Court of Houma, announced that Brenda Ellender Johnson, Social Service Director for City Court of Houma has received a Master of Justice Management degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. Brenda has been employed at City Court of Houma since 1997.