

COURT COLUMN

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Judicial Administrators Office: A Change in Leadership

Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D., Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court, announced that he will retire after 36 years of service to the state judiciary, effective January 3, 2011.



Timothy F. Averill has

been selected to serve as Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court, filling the position after 20 years of experience as a Deputy Judicial Administrator-General Counsel for the Court.

The Judicial Administrator's Office is the managerial arm of the Louisiana Supreme Court which is the staffing and fiscal agent for several court departments and programs, the Judicial Council, and court-appointed task forces and committees.

Under Collins' stewardship, the Office of the Judicial Administrator has grown to include oversight of a number of award-winning, good-government initiatives and departments such as: the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Program, the Children and Families Department, the Community Relations Department, the Court Management Information Systems Department



and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

Averill received his B.A. degree in English from James Madison University in 1979 and received his M.P.A. degree from the University of Alabama in 1980.

He received his law degree from Loyola University Law School in 1985. He was a law clerk for Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. in 1986 before becoming General Counsel in 1989. In 2008 he was selected to participate in the Supreme Court of the United States Fellows Program in Washington D.C. where, for two years, he was assigned to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Also Inside:

-Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute



The Louisiana Supreme Court Announces Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute Program

Chief Justice Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball announced that the Louisiana Supreme Court has kicked off a new program, the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute (LJLI), and has selected the inaugural class of 36 judges who will participate in the year-long program. Co-Chairs and also participants of the Institute will be Chief Justice Kimball and Justice Greg G. Guidry.

According to Chief Justice Kimball, “The purpose of the LJLI, as envisioned by the Louisiana Supreme Court, is to serve as an organizational enrichment tool to assist in developing leadership skills, to increase awareness of leadership and management issues and challenges, and to provide a network of court leaders across the state who are actively involved in improving leadership skills and court operations.”

All full-time Louisiana appellate and district court judges were invited to apply to participate in the inaugural 2011 class. The Institute will consist of five sessions from March to November, 2011, and will take place in cities across the state, including New Orleans, Alexandria, Lake Charles, and Baton Rouge.

According to Justice Guidry, “The response to the Institute was overwhelming and we received numerous, qualified applications. We could not accept all the interested applicants because small classes are essential to the Institute experience. We anticipate that the LJLI will be an annual program and we look forward to many more judges participating in an Institute class over the coming years.”

Harold Suire, President of Baton Rouge-based Education, Research and Information Services, Inc., has been selected to direct the LJLI. He has founded and facilitated leadership programs throughout Louisiana and the United States, and has presented in Asia and Europe.

The Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute Class of 2011 includes: 22nd Judicial District Court (JDC) Judge Dawn Amacker; 32nd JDC Judge Randy Bethancourt; 15th JDC Judge Marilyn Castle; 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Susan Chehardy; 16th JDC Judge John Conery; 26th JDC Judge Jeff Cox; 22nd JDC Judge William Crain; 1st JDC Judge Scott Crichton; 14th JDC Judge Lilynn Cutrer; Orleans Juvenile Court Judge Mark Doherty; 18th JDC Judge William Dupont; 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Marion Edwards; 4th JDC Judge Daniel Ellender; Orleans Juvenile Court Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier; Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Greg Guidry; 9th JDC Judge Donald T. Johnson; Chief Justice Catherine Kimball; Orleans Civil District Court Judge Madeleine Landrieu; 17th JDC Judge Walter Lanier, III; 29th JDC Judge Lauren Lemmon; 24th JDC Judge Hans Liljeberg; 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Terri Love; 4th JDC Judge C. Wendell Manning; 19th JDC Judge Anthony Marabella, Jr.; 24th JDC Judge John Molaison, Jr.; 28th JDC Judge J. Christopher Peters; 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Jimmie Peters; 21st JDC Judge Brenda Bedsole Ricks; 14th JDC Judge David Ritchie; 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux; 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Max Tobias, Jr.; 1st Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Jewel Welch, Jr.; Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Laurie White; 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka Wicker; 3rd JDC Judge Cynthia Woodard; and East Baton Rouge Family Court Judge Lisa Woodruff-White.



Northeast Joint Juvenile Justice Summit

Judges, district attorneys, probation officers and others from across the state gathered at the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Wednesday, September 29th for the Northeast Joint Juvenile Justice Summit. The summit, hosted by the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the 4th Judicial District Court and the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, focused on issues within the state juvenile justice system and effective measures different entities are taking to improve outcomes for court-involved youth.

Among the main topics of discussion surrounded the 4th Judicial District's progress toward creating a model juvenile drug court. **Fourth Judicial District Judge Sharon Marchman**, who presides over the district's juvenile and drug courts, said the summit allows for an exchange of ideas.

Judge Marchman stated, "We're able to take what we're learning and share information so we can be better". Marchman also explained that it takes several people and components to make up a successful judicial system and that through others' sharing their experiences the systems throughout the state are at an advantage to strengthen and learn.

In addition to Dr. Debra DePrato's presentation regarding the latest research on adolescent brain development and its implications for the juvenile justice system and Dr. Stephen Phillippi's session addressing how providers can better engage court-involved youth, attendees to the summit heard Pete Adams and other members of LDAA lead a discussion of the Association's proposed juvenile diversion guidelines.

Judges in attendance included: **Judge Terry Doughty, 5th JDC; Judge Larry Jefferson, Monroe City Court; Judge Patricia Koch, 9th JDC; Judge Sharon Marchman, 4th JDC; Judge Melise Trahan, Crowley City Court; Anastasia Wiley, Winnfield City Court.**



Standing: Monroe City Court Judge Larry Jefferson
Sitting L-R: Winnfield City Court Judge Anastasia Wiley, Crowley City Court Judge Melise Trahan, and 4th JDC Judge Sharon Marchman

3rd JDC Holds Opening of Court ceremonies



3rd JDC Judges R. Wayne Smith, Cynthia T. Woodard and Jay B. McCallum were joined by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Marcus R. Clark for the opening of court ceremonies in Ruston for the 3rd JDC.

(l to r): 3rd JDC Judge R. Wayne Smith, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Marcus Clark, 3rd JDC Judge Cynthia T. Woodard and 3rd JDC Judge Jay B. McCallum.

Justice Clark Presents Grant Check to East Carroll Parish Clerk for Improved Case Management System

Justice Marcus Clark was in East Carroll Parish recently, on behalf of the Louisiana Supreme Court to present a grant check in the amount of \$34,595 to East Carroll Parish Clerk of Court Beatrice Carter for the acquisition of a new and improved case management system. The new system provides a technological solution for East Carroll Parish where heretofore criminal and traffic case management was paper-driven, done manually, and not able to be shared in an automated fashion.

“With these funds the Clerk of Court for East Carroll Parish takes a giant step into the 21st century and it is a win-win for everyone. The parish citizens and the legal community benefit from the convenience of the automated case management services provided by the Clerk’s Office on a day-to-day basis.

The criminal justice system as a whole benefits from the criminal, traffic and statistical data which can now be integrated with other criminal justice agencies’ information systems,” said Justice Clark.

According to Carter, the newly acquired system enables state-of-the-art scanning, indexing and preserving of criminal and traffic records on par with most of the Clerk of Court Offices in the state. The collected data can now be reported to the Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) division of the Louisiana Supreme Court and passed on to other criminal justice agencies such as the Louisiana State Police Criminal Repository and the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. The \$34,595 grant for East Carroll’s modernized case management system is federally funded through the Crime Information Technology Act of 1998, and additionally funded through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration which is administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. The Louisiana Supreme Court’s CMIS division serves as a conduit for these federal funds to the state district courts.

For more information contact Beatrice Carter at 318.559.2399.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Marcus Clark (l) presents a grant check to East Carroll Parish Clerk of Court Beatrice Carter.

Judge Bolin recognized with classroom wing named in his honor



26th JDC Judge Bruce Bolin was recently honored by Plantation Park Elementary School with the dedication of the Judge Bolin wing during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The funding for the new classrooms resulted from funds left from a case settlement which included the school in the litigation’s parameter.

Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Hold Court at Jena High

In October, judges of the **Third Circuit Court of Appeal** held hearings far from their Lake Charles home courtroom when the Jena High School auditorium played host to cases presented to two separate three-judge panels.

The first day's panel, consisting of **Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux** of Lake Charles, **Judge Sylvia R. Cooks** of Lafayette, and **Judge Elizabeth A. Pickett** of Many, gave way to the second day's panel of **Judge Oswald A. Decuir** of New Iberia, **Judge J. David Painter** of Lake Charles, and **Judge Shannon J. Gremillion** of Alexandria. Additionally, **Judge James T. Genovese** of Opelousas traveled to LaSalle Parish to assist in the proceedings and to meet with the local bar association.

The conversion from auditorium to courtroom was not by accident. In the mid-1990's the Third Circuit decided to depart from the Lake Charles courthouse and "travel the circuit" once or twice each year. While the Court has many goals in traveling across its representative areas, their primary objective is to give the general public, but especially the students, the opportunity to come away with a better understanding of the judicial system.

"This decision came about because of our concern as judges that the general public, and particularly our high school students, did not understand the role of the courts of appeal in the judicial process," said **Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Jimmie C. Peters**. "We decided the best way to address this problem was to bring the court to our communities for a hands-on experience."

Initially, the judges simply traveled to one of the local courthouses within the twenty-one parishes and held hearings. However, it was quickly realized that if the court was to get its message across, its efforts needed to be more expansive. Now, whenever possible, the Third Circuit holds court in local schools. Prior to the hearings, judges and court personnel travel to the involved schools to explain to the students what they should expect when the hearings begin.

When visiting with the students at Jena High, LaSalle High, and Jena Junior High the week before the hearings, **28th JDC Judge Chris Peters** also joined in when his court schedule would allow. Each class visited was enthusiastic and attentive. In fact, the teachers had already prepared their classes for the visit, and this made the educational task much easier, according to Court of Appeal Judge Peters.



(l to r) Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judges J. David Painter, Oswald A. Decuir and Shannon J. Gremillion.



Third Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Jimmie C. Peters of Jena welcomes the first panel of judges to Jena High School as the Court's hearings begin. On the first panel were (l to r) Third Circuit Judges Sylvia R. Cooks, Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux and Elizabeth A. Pickett.

When court began each of the two mornings, lawyers from all over Louisiana were waiting for their cases to be called. There was one major difference, however - this "courtroom" was packed with approximately five hundred students and other spectators.

Over those two days, students from both high schools; eighth grade students from Jena Junior High School, Fellowship Elementary School, and Nebo Elementary School; and fifth grade students from Goodpine Middle School were able to attend hearings.

Court Tours

SULC Marshall Brennan Project



Students from Southern University Law Center's Marshall Brennan Project pose on the front steps of the Supreme Court building following their tour.

Chinese Legal Scholars visit LASC



Legal scholars from China toured the Louisiana Supreme Court building during their visit to the New Orleans area, one of several stops across the United States designed to provide insight into judicial and legal practices in the U.S.

Students from Washington State Tour Court, Meet with Justice



A group of students and instructors from Washington State met with Justice Bernette J. Johnson during their tour of the Supreme Court building.

Court Tours

Administrative Law Judges Conference Visits Court



Our Lady of Perpetual Help



8th-grade students from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School view portraits of former Chief Justices in the Louisiana Law Museum.

During their annual conference held this year in New Orleans, a group of administrative law judges from across the United States toured the Louisiana Supreme Court. Pictured here, Director of the Law Library Georgia Chadwick and Head of Technical Services Miriam Childs discuss items in the Library's collection.

Training the Trainers Judicial Education Session Held in New Orleans

The Louisiana Supreme Court, in conjunction with the National and Louisiana Judicial Colleges, hosted the first "Training the Trainers" judicial education session designed to assist those judges who take part in presenting judicial education programs across the state. Taking part in the program were Orleans Civil District Court Judge Michael Bagneris, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Roland Belsome, 29th JDC Judge Robert Chaisson, 15th JDC Judge Durwood Conque, 1st JDC Judge Scott Crichton, 14th JDC Judge Lilynn Cutrer, 15th JDC Judge Jules Edwards, Orleans Civil District Court Judge Piper Griffin, 23rd JDC Judge Guy Holdridge, 9th JDC Judge Patricia Koch, Orleans Civil District Court Judge Madeleine Landrieu, 4th JDC Judge Wendell Manning, 19th JDC Judge Tony Marabella, 16th JDC Judge James McClelland, 1st JDC Judge Michael A. Pittman, New Orleans Municipal Court Judge Paul Sens, 4th JDC Judge Wilson Rambo, and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Ricky Wicker.



Red Mass Celebrated in New Orleans

Judges from across the state took part in the annual Red Mass ceremony in New Orleans during the Fall Judges Conference. Red Mass traditionally celebrates the opening of the judicial year.

Judge Welch accepts Award on behalf of Inns of Court

Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Jewel E. "Duke" Welch, president of The Dean Henry George McMahon American Inns of Court, accepts the Platinum Level Achieving Excellence Award on behalf of the Inn at the 2009-2010 Achieving Excellence program. The Achieving Excellence program recognizes an Inn's progress toward mastering five core competencies of Inn management. The Dean Henry George McMahon American Inns was one of 15 recipients nationwide. Shown with Judge Welch is United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.



Chief Justice Kimball announces newly established Committee to Study Plain Civil Jury Instructions

Chief Justice Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball announced that the Louisiana Supreme Court has appointed 5 members who will sit on the newly established Committee to Study Plain Civil Jury Instructions.

According to the Chief Justice, “Instructions that are given to juries in civil trial should be in language that is plain and easy to comprehend so that juries are not confused by complicated legal language. We know that this is a matter the members of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) are also interested in, and with the assistance of the LSBA leadership, the Louisiana Supreme Court has established this Committee of distinguished and experienced members of the bench and bar to make recommendations on plain civil jury instructions for Supreme Court consideration.”

H. Alston Johnson, III, a Baton Rouge attorney with the Phelps Dunbar law firm, will serve as the Chairman of the Committee to Study Plain Civil Jury Instructions. Also serving on the committee are: **Judge James E. Stewart, Second Circuit Court of Appeal; Judge Rosemary Ledet, Orleans Parish Civil District Court; Judge Guy Holdridge, 23rd Judicial District Court;** and, attorney Julie J. Baxter, Rhorer Law Firm.

For more information on the Committee to Study Plain Civil Jury Instructions contact Tereze Matta in the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator’s Office at 504.310.2620.

Slidell City Court GED program for Juvenile Drug Court participants attracts interest from state technical college *By Ann Barks, APR*

This summer, **Slidell City Court Judge James “Jim” Lamz** found an imaginative way to assure the Court’s Juvenile Drug Court participants could continue to receive free GED preparatory classes after the school board’s state funding ended the classes locally. By early fall, the Court’s program caught the eye of a local state technical college seeking a cost-effective way to offer the same services to other juveniles and adults in the community.

Impressed with the program, which was made possible when the Court arranged for donated materials, volunteer tutors and classrooms at a local church, officials with the Northshore Technical College in Bogalusa are calling it more than a success story. It’s also a solution they decided to emulate. Recently, they have negotiated to take it over, expand it to serve more local residents and fund a teaching staff.

“It’s a win-win for the community. The technical college needs a place for daytime classes for local juveniles preparing for their GED. They came in, looked at what we were doing with the help of the volunteer tutors and the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Slidell. They liked it so much, it’s led to this agreement,” said Lamz. “It matches our determination to find a way to keep this service for the people we serve.”

Although Northshore Technical College is expanding the program, the agreement with the Court and the church facility assures there will always be enough spots for Juvenile Court participants, Lamz said.

Many participants in Slidell City Court’s highly-effective Juvenile Drug Court are several years behind their contemporaries in high school. But since completion of high school is a vital key to turning these teens into adults who choose to build more productive lives, Lamz insists Drug Court participants must work toward their diploma or a GED certificate to stay in the program.

Your Honors



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball was a 2011 inductee into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson was appointed as a member of the American Bar Association Commission on IOLTA for the 2010-2011 bar year.

Justice Johnson was also among those honored by Family Services of Greater New Orleans as the group recognized 10 New Orleanians for their civic, volunteer and charitable contributions at its "Ten Outstanding Persons Gala."



committee.

First Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge Burrell J. Carter has been reappointed to the American Bar Association Judicial Division's Ethics and Professionalism Committee.



"dedication to providing children nurturing, permanent homes."

Orleans Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine Gray was recognized as one of the "Angels in Adoption" by the U.S. Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute for

2010-2011 Organizational Officers Elected during 2010 Fall Judges' Conference

CONFERENCE OF COURT OF APPEAL JUDGES

Chairman - Judge Marion Edwards, Jr., 5th Circuit Court of Appeal
Vice-Chairman - Judge Burrell Carter, 1st Circuit Court of Appeal
Secretary/Treasurer - Judge Paul Bonin, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal

LOUISIANA DISTRICT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

President - Judge Sharon Ingram Marchman, 4th JDC
First Vice-President - Judge Scott Crichton, 1st JDC
Second Vice-President - Judge Harry Randow, 9th JDC
Secretary - Judge Raymond S. Childress, 22nd JDC
Treasurer - Judge Jules D. Edwards, III, 15th JDC

LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

President - Judge Patricia Koch, 9th JDC
Vice-President -
Secretary - Judge Robert Segura, New Iberia City Court
**Treasurer - Judge Ernestine Gray, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
**Treasurer appointed (not elected) by President pursuant to ByLaws Amendment adopted 10/4/93.

LOUISIANA CITY COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

President - Judge Laura Prosser Davis, Baton Rouge City Court
Vice-President - Judge James M. Cunningham, III, Rayne City Court
Secretary - Judge Roy Cascio, Jefferson Parish Second Parish Court
Treasurer - Judge Thomas Wilson, Bossier City Court



9th JDC Judge Mary Lauve Doggett received the 2010 Reader's Choice Award for Best Judge from Cenla-Focus Magazine.



Retired 10th JDC Judge W. Peyton Cunningham was selected as an inductee into the Long Purple Line, Northwestern State University's Alumni Hall of Distinction.



community.

Orleans Parish Criminal Court Judge Robin Pittman was honored by Total Community Action, Inc. as a Total Community Action hero for her work with youth in the commu-

Chief Justice Kimball announces Supreme Court to consider changes to Louisiana Bar Exam

Chief Justice Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball announced that the Louisiana Supreme Court is considering changes proposed by the Committee on Bar Admissions that would result in a comprehensive and complete overhaul of the Louisiana Bar Examination. Before further consideration of the proposed changes to the bar examination, the Supreme Court is interested in receiving comments from members of the Bar and the public.

The Call for Comments is posted on the Louisiana Supreme Court web site at www.lasc.org along with the proposed changes to Supreme Court Rule XVII, Admission to the Bar of the State of Louisiana; an Executive Summary of the proposals for change; and a PowerPoint presentation entitled Louisiana Bar Examination: Proposals for Change. The Call for Comments will be open from January 15, 2011 - March 15, 2011 and comments should be directed to Lauren McHugh Rocha at the Louisiana Supreme Court by mail or email to lmchugh@lajao.org.

COURT COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

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