

COURT COLUMN

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Chief Justice Kimball addresses Louisiana Legislature in 2011 State of the Judiciary Address

Speech Highlights

It has been two years since my last visit to this chamber. Over these last years, there have been many challenges, both professional and personal. For a short time there, I wasn't so sure I'd make it back to talk to you again. However, I am happy to report that I have been back at the helm of the state judiciary for over a year now. I was touched by the outpouring of support that I received from across the state during my recovery from the stroke. Thank you all for your support, words of encouragement, and prayers.

Please indulge me for just a moment longer on this subject. It's true what they say, if you have your health, you have everything. I never dreamed I would have a stroke, and I'm sure you don't imagine having one either. I have talked to our state judges, and will do so again in a few weeks, about the importance of wellness and the warning signs of a stroke. I urge you to educate yourself on this issue, but more importantly, to pay attention to your personal health needs. As elected officials, we owe as much to the people of our great state whom we serve, as well as to our own families.

Many of you have had the opportunity to visit our Courthouse in New Orleans since it reopened in 2004. This year marks the 100th birthday of the historic building, and if you have not been to the Courthouse lately, I invite you to come visit. Thank you again for



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball delivers her State of the Judiciary Address to the Louisiana Legislature.

providing the funds necessary to put this building back into commerce. In addition to the funding of our courthouse, thank you for the respect, courtesy and cooperation that you show us every year, upon presentation of the judicial branch budget requests.

I believe that the respect you show us is indicative of the mutual understanding and recognition that our two branches - the Legislature and the Judiciary - are separate, co-equal, and independent branches of our government, as designed by our founding fathers. Independence of the judiciary is essential in a democracy.

Continued on Page 2

Even though the state judiciary's budget is only ½ of 1 percent of the total state budget, adequate funding of our branch of government guarantees an independent judiciary by enabling us to discharge our constitutionally mandated duties and responsibilities of resolving disputes and adjudicating cases. In addition, adequate funding makes it possible for us to partner with you, the Legislature, as well as the Executive Branch, in executing programs that not only benefit our citizens, but which save our state money in the long run.

I believe we have been good stewards of the taxpayer monies allocated to the state judiciary. Regarding our adjudicative responsibilities, in 2010, a total of approximately 844,460 cases were filed at all levels of court combined - district, appellate and Supreme. Of this number, 2,875 cases made their way to the Supreme Court, which was an increase of about 100 cases since 2009. Over the last two years, in addition to issuing hundreds of orders, the Supreme Court rendered 129 opinions. In the last two years, we considered the recommendations of the Judiciary Commission and we disciplined six state judges, including two interim disqualifications where the judge ultimately resigned, and one removal from the bench. Since 2009, the Supreme Court has considered and acted on approximately 200 disciplinary proceedings involving attorneys. We also reached an unfortunate milestone of sorts last week when the Court permanently disbarred its 100th attorney.

At the suggestion of the National Center for State Courts, who performed a review of our case management operations, we have begun to utilize video conferencing to reduce the travel expenses of some of our Justices, and to enable Justices to participate in conferences when they are unable to travel to New Orleans for some reason. And we have also continued the pilot testing of e-filing with the Orleans and Jefferson Parish District Attorneys and Public Defenders' offices. We hope to have our e-filing operations completed this year.

We have also been good stewards of the public fisc when it comes to the internal operations of our Court. We implemented a hiring freeze last year, filling only the most crucial positions. We estimate that the freez-

ing of these positions, while inconvenient and not popular, may result in significant savings over time. Upon the recommendation of our Law Librarian, we reduced the number of hours the Louisiana Law Library is open to the public, cutting back on weekend and evening hours. We placed restrictions on employee travel, and we invited two national organizations to review our internal case management system and our information technology systems and to make recommendations on how we might improve. We have already enacted many of the recommendations, including eliminating one department and combining two other departments.

We have also spent many hours and resources designing, developing and implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning system which will result in an integrated computer-based system to manage financial resources, materials, payroll, and human resources. This ERP will revolutionize the way we conduct our internal business at the court, and will result in substantial savings and increased efficiencies for years to come. After months of hard work, we are halfway through our ERP rollout, and we expect to be completely online in just a few months.

We have been busy at the Court these last two years, and our judicial reform initiatives are too many to mention. However, I would like to give you a snapshot of some of the most interesting new initiatives we have undertaken in our ongoing quest for judicial reform and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

In January, we created the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute, designed to serve as an organizational enrichment tool to assist in developing a judge's 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.

Both Louisiana and nationally, we have seen an increase in the number of pro-se or self-represented litigants using the court system, as a result of a weakening economy and rising litigation costs. We joined with the Louisiana State Bar Association to form a committee

2011 State of the Judiciary Address

Continued from Page 2

COURT
COLUMN

Page 3



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball delivers her State of the Judiciary Address to the Louisiana Legislature.

to explore methods of assisting those self-represented litigants in navigating the legal system.

Justice Jeannette Knoll chaired the Supreme Court Committee to Study Post-Conviction Procedures, whose purpose was to conduct a comprehensive review and study of the laws, processes and procedures relevant to Louisiana post-conviction proceedings, in a collaborative method to determine the cause, if any, of delays or practices unfair to the either party. We will be acting on the Committee's recommendations in the near future.

A specially appointed Task Force looked at how to improve courthouse security in Louisiana, and yet another committee was appointed to study standard jury instructions with the goal of translating them into plain and understandable language. Giving jurors the clearest instructions about the law that applies in each case is vital to helping them do justice, therefore benefitting not only the citizens who serve on juries, but ultimately the judiciary as a whole.

Over the last few years, you, the Legislature, has asked the Supreme Court to take on several programs. We did so enthusiastically, and we believe, effectively. We also did so economically.

For example, in 2001, you asked us to oversee the establishment of a Drug Court program in Louisiana. Now, only ten years later, we currently have in operation 29 adult drug courts, 17 juvenile drug courts, and one family dependency court. The operation of these

drug courts results in savings of both money and lives.

Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the country; 40,000 or 1 out of 55 adults are in jail or prison. 80% of these offenders abuse drugs or alcohol; almost 50% of inmates are clinically addicted; and approximately 60% of arrestees test positive for drugs at arrest. Now, consider this: in Louisiana, where recidivism is rampant, 77.4% of drug court graduates remain arrest-free two years after leaving the program. For every \$1 invested in drug courts, taxpayers save as much as \$2.21 in direct benefits to the criminal justice system – a 221% return on the investment. Considering other factors such as foster care placements, healthcare service utilization and reduced victimization, savings can be \$2 to \$27 for every \$1 invested; and the result is a net benefit to local communities from approximately \$3,000 to \$13,000 per drug court participant.

Since the first drug court opened in Louisiana, over 8,300 arrestees have graduated from the program. A total of 438 drug-free babies were born, for an estimated total cost saving of \$109-1/2 million dollars (\$109,500,000), based on a total of estimated costs of medical and related expenses for a drug-addicted baby in the first year of life. Further, 94% of adult 2009 drug court graduates were employed at graduation, as compared to a 51% employment rate at admission. Substance abusing mothers who have had their children removed by the state can regain custody if they remain drug free, reuniting mothers with their children and taking the children out of the foster care system. In short, while saving the state money in terms of incarceration, medical, welfare, unemployment and other expenses, as well as reducing crime, drug courts give hope and support to people previously considered as hopeless. The dollars you allocate to funding our drug courts are certainly a wise investment with an excellent return.

Another example of where funds allocated to the

Continued on Page 4

Supreme Court for use in programs result in savings is CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates. This year, 18 CASA programs provided services in 34 judicial districts to over 2,700 children, utilizing the services of 1,450 volunteers. These volunteers are “extraordinary” ordinary citizens who assist abused and neglected children who find themselves, through no fault of their own, embroiled in the legal system. Funds provided to CASA programs are leveraged by serving foster children with specially trained volunteers supervised by paid staff, thereby making it possible to serve more than 70 children per year for each paid staff person. By providing an average of \$3.5 million dollars worth of donated time per year, CASA advocates save the State of Louisiana these additional dollars. Each year, over 1,000 Louisiana children with CASAs are permanently placed out of the foster care system, saving the State approximately \$10,000 per year for each child.

Let me turn for a minute to this current legislative session. In accordance with current law, the Supreme Court regularly presents you with several annual reports, including the Annual Operational Plan; the report of action by the Judicial Council in response to requests for new judgeships as well as information on the distribution of judges around the state and the process used to assess the need for judgeships; the Judicial Council report on requests for increases in court costs; and our annual Performance Audit of a judicial program, as required by statute. At any point, if you have questions about any of these reports, please feel free to contact me. And as always, we look forward to meeting with you to present our annual judiciary budget.

Many of you know of my interest and involvement in the improvement of our juvenile justice system. And I’m sure many of you know as well that I could not pass up an opportunity like talking to you today without asking for your continued support and assistance for our children.

We have come a long way in our juvenile justice system - from 2001’s ranking by the New York Times as one of the worst systems in the country, to today’s reality of international foundations such as MacArthur, Casey and others investing millions of dollars in our state because they see the potential and willingness for

reform. While we have made dramatic improvements in how we treat the juvenile offender, we should also be concerned with the juvenile victim. Our legislature has traditionally concerned itself with victims’ rights, and even enacted an amendment to our state constitution, acknowledging the right of a victim to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect. We need also to be concerned with our state’s youngest victims, those who are abused and neglected, sometimes even by their own parents and relatives.

We recently participated actively in the Child and Family Services Review, which is a federal review of all aspects of the state’s child welfare system, including the legal system. The judiciary has continued to participate in the subsequent child welfare program improvement plan and is currently working with the Department of Children and Family Services on strengthening family engagement through child-focused, family-centered practices to facilitate timely and permanent placement of children in the foster care system.

This last year, under the chairmanship of your colleague, Rep. John Schroder, we also successfully implemented a new statewide system of representation for children and indigent parents in child protection cases, working with all three branches of government and the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

We have also been working collaboratively with multiple stakeholders toward creation of a “Louisiana Center of Excellence for Children and Families.” The goal of the Center is to establish formalized, collaborative relationships among key stakeholders across the three branches of government. The Center would promote programs, practices and services for at-risk children that have been proven effective, and provide cross-systems training and technical assistance.

Thank you again for the invitation to be with you today. Thank you for your attention to my remarks, and on behalf of the state judiciary, thank you for your respect and your courtesies. And most importantly, thank you for your undying efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of our state.

For the full text of Chief Justice Kimball’s 2011 State of the Judiciary Address, please visit the link on the Supreme Court’s web site at www.lasc.org.



The City Court of Hammond kicked off Law Day with an Art Contest for local high school students following the theme “The Legacy of John Adams – from Boston to Guantanamo.” **Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway** is shown with the winning entries during the ceremony held on May 2nd. Entries were received from students who attend Hammond High, Ponchatoula High and St. Thomas Aquinas High Schools.

Chief Justice Kimball announces significant enhancements to the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Case Management System (DCCM)

Chief Justice Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball announced today that significant enhancements have been made to the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Case Management System (DCCM) making it a state-of-the-art means of tracking drug court clients through the drug court process. The Louisiana Supreme Court, through the Supreme Court Drug Court Office (SCDCO), is the fiscal agent for funds allocated to local drug court programs throughout the state.

According to Chief Justice Kimball, “The web-based system allows for multi-user entry and access to critical offender data in a real-time format. Drug court staff will be able to benefit from enhanced reporting capabilities, speedier and more user-friendly applications, and new features that better facilitate data entry.” Currently there are 47 operational drug court programs in Louisiana. Each program is comprised of a drug court team which is led by a drug court judge and includes a drug court coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor(s), public defender(s), law enforcement, case manager(s), and others who work together to ensure that the program operates according to all applicable standards and policies.

Enhancements to the DCCM enable drug court staff to track a more complete drug court client history. They are now better able to document the activity and progress of a client while in the drug court system, including detailed treatment plans, counseling sessions, and the results of all drug screen tests.

The system improvements were completed through a partnership of the SCDCO, the Louisiana Supreme Court Information Technology Department, and Geocent, LLC, a Metairie based information technology firm.

Project L.E.A.D. Mock Trials take place with Fourth Circuit judges presiding

On May 6, 2011, students from Phoenix Elementary School and Our Lady of Perpetual Help took part in Project L.E.A.D. mock trials at the Louisiana Supreme Court building with **Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Michael Kirby and Paul Bonin** presiding.

According to the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office web site, 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. By using a law-related education model, the students are exposed to the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that are necessary to function effectively in a democratic, pluralistic society.

The 12 L.E.A.D. classes taught by assistant district attorneys and other district attorney personnel 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.



Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Paul Bonin with students from Phoenix Elementary School taking part in the Project LEAD Mock Trial through the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office.



Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Michael Kirby with students from Our Lady of Perpetual Help taking part in the Project LEAD Mock Trial through the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office.

New Orleans area students “Suit Up for the Future” with Legal Internships

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) partnered with the Just the Beginning Foundation to present the inaugural “Suit Up for the Future” High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program. Seventeen New Orleans area high school juniors and seniors were selected for the inaugural group and participated in the five-week program, (June 20-July 25), which included lectures, field trips to New Orleans area courts and law schools, shadowing attorneys in area law firms, and mock trial competitions.

“We are truly excited about the Suit Up Program because it will give the students positive educational exposure to the law and the legal profession that is not otherwise available,” said LSBA Diversity Committee Co-Chair Wayne J. Lee. “This is a chance to both enhance the image of the profession and inspire students to become the future lawyers and judges who will advance the profession.”

Following a welcome address from LSBA President Michael A. Patterson, the program included a series of lectures and discussion at the Louisiana Bar Center presented by area judges, lawyers and law school professors who spoke on Torts, Legal Research and Writing, Contracts and Criminal Law. Additionally, students discussed ethics and took field trips to area courts including **Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Orleans Parish Municipal Court, the Louisiana Supreme Court** and the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, field trips to law schools, and several Law Firm Internship Days.

The Supreme Court visit took place on July 15 and involved a full day of educational activities including a tour, scavenger hunt/library research competition and a Q&A with **Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson** and **4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Max Tobias** and **Clerk of Court Danielle Schott**.

Participating 11th and 12th graders attend the following schools: Academy of the Sacred Heart, Martin Luther King High School, St. Mary’s Academy, Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies, Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology, Slidell High School, Northshore High School, McDonogh 35 College Preparatory, Warren Easton Charter, St. Paul’s School, Benjamin Franklin High School and Academy of Our Lady High School.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson talks with students taking part in the “Suit Up for the Future” program following their tour of the building.



Students also met with 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Clerk of Court Danielle Schott and Judge Max Tobias as well as participated in a legal research exercise at the Law Library of Louisiana.

Former President of the Supreme Court of Denmark visits Court



Former President of the Supreme Court of Denmark Torben Melchior (r) looks over the collection housed in the Rare Book Room of the Law Library of Louisiana. Also pictured are (l to r): Georgia Chadwick, Director of the Law Library of Louisiana; Miriam Childs, Head of Technical Services/Documents; and Loyola Law School Professor Ray Rabalais.

32nd JDC Judge Bethancourt sees one class' journey through



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball and Justice John L. Weimer are introduced to a 7th grade student from St. Francis de Sales School by 32nd JDC Judge Randy Bethancourt. Judge Bethancourt has involved these students in court-related activities since they began kindergarten in 2003, making the St. Francis de Sales students the first class to have taken part in his judicial-related activities each year from kindergarten through seventh grade. The students are among the more than 12,000 students to whom Judge Bethancourt has explained the workings of the court system since he took office in January of 2003.

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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.

Visitors from across the world travel to Louisiana Supreme Court

Four South African visitors studying Skills and Youth Development visited the Louisiana Supreme Court and met with **Supreme Court Justice Greg G. Guidry**. The group's visit to the court provided them with an opportunity to learn about ethics in the American judiciary. Prior to the meeting, the visitors toured the court and viewed the historic documents on display.

Justice Guidry was familiar with the workings of their government because during law school he was awarded a Rotary Foundation Scholarship for International Understanding where, during the scholarship year, Justice Guidry studied classical civilizations and Roman law at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Prior to his serving as a judge, he also served as a legal advisor and trial advocacy instructor to the governments of the United States Virgin Islands and the Republic of South Africa.

The day before the South Africans' visit, seven visitors from West Africa studying transparency and good governance visited the Louisiana Supreme Court. Since these tours, the Supreme Court has also played host to several other groups learning about systems of government and related other items all arranged through the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council.



Justice Greg G. Guidry meets with officials from South Africa who were taking part in an international exchange program.

CLE presentation focuses on “A.P. Tureaud – A More Noble Cause”

The professionalism, courage, diligence, and excellence exemplified by the life and legal career of Alexander Pierre Tureaud was examined in a CLE presentation entitled “A.P. Tureaud – A More Noble Cause.” In the four decades A.P. Tureaud practiced law in Louisiana, his lawsuits paved the way for equality in voting, housing, education, public transportation, and wages. A.P. Tureaud handled difficult, emotional issues with characteristic calm and steady focus— not allowing anything to distract him from the goal of creating a foundation for a better society. The featured speakers were Dr. Rachel Emanuel and A.P. Tureaud, Jr., authors of *A More Noble Cause – A.P. Tureaud and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana*, who were introduced by **Justice Bernette J. Johnson**. The CLE, worth one hour of professionalism credit, was followed by a reception and book signing in the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum.



Posing with a portrait of A.P. Tureaud is (l to r): Barry W. Ashe, Federal Bar Association – New Orleans Chapter; Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court, A.P. Tureaud, Jr.; Dr. Rachel Emanuel, Donna D. Fraiche, Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society; and 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Mark Amy.

Court Tours

St. Cletus School



St. Cletus School students toured the 400 Royal Street Building and visited with Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Paul Bonin, where they learned about different aspects of the law.

New Orleans Jewish Day School



New Orleans Jewish Day School students, shown here in the Louisiana Law Museum, met Supreme Court Justice Greg Guidry after touring the building.

Riverdale High School



Students from Riverdale High School's Honors Civics class take part in a tour of the Supreme Court Building.

Entergy Summer Law Clerks



Summer Law Clerks from Entergy, shown here with Director of the Law Library of Louisiana Georgia Chadwick, toured the 400 Royal Street Building.

Jefferson Youth Foundation Gators



Kids taking part in the Jefferson Youth Foundation Gators Summer Camp toured the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Court Tours

Rachal receives high honor from Rotary for community service

By Ann Barks, APR

Slidell City Court Drug Court Director Will Rachal was recently honored by the Rotary Club of Slidell for its highest honor given to a non-Rotarian for service to the greater Slidell area.

At its annual installation and awards banquet, Rachal was presented the “Bill Lowry Service Above Self Paul Harris Community Leadership Award.” It is a new award initiated by the club this year. It will be given annually to recognize the efforts of non-Rotarians who provide visionary leadership and service to the greater Slidell community.

In addition to the tremendous initiative he has shown as Drug Court Director in involving the community to support the program and its participants, Rachal was cited for helping to develop the annual Veterans Celebrate Freedom parade honoring veterans living among us. His work with the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany, Rainbow Child Care Center and the mayor’s Commission for Economic Development were also noted by Rotary Club of Slidell President Terry King in the presentation.

Rachal thanked the group, which annually supports the Drug Court program’s incentive program for teens who make successful progress each week. “This is truly an honor coming from you. I want to give as much as I have gotten, and I have gotten a lot,” he told the Rotarians.

Slidell City Court Judge James “Jim” Lamz said the honor is well-deserved. “Will is an incredible person and he has shown extraordinary dedication to the young people involved in Drug Court. He truly cares about each of them and about their families. It isn’t unusual at all for Will to show up at a child’s school the instant he hears a troubling report to help work with the school in getting the child back on the right track. Recently, he heard about a parent who was in the hospital and he went to visit her. These are things he does because he values people.”



(l to r): Slidell City Court Judge James “Jim” Lamz, Drug Court Director Will Rachal and Staff Attorney Brandi Dohre gather to show off the impressive community leadership and service award Rachal was recently given by the Rotary Club of Slidell.

Orleans Parish Civil District Court creates Self Help Resource Center

The high number of people who represent themselves in court has spurred the creation of a Self Help Resource Center at Orleans Parish Civil District Court. The recently opened center is a partnership between the Court, **Orleans Civil Court Division “A” Judge Tiffany Chase, Clerk of Court Dale Atkins**, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and several other local legal service agencies.

The Self Help Resource Center (SHRC), located on the fourth floor of the New Orleans Civil Courts building, is a legal information and self-help desk designed to serve as a starting point for people who must navigate an unfamiliar and complex court system to resolve legal problems on their own. Volunteers support the self-help component of the program by facilitating the use of online and other legal resources for visitors to the desk. It’s important to note that SHRC volunteers do not give legal advice, but assist visitors by providing them with access to legal information and referrals.

Self help desk volunteers, primarily law students from both Tulane and Loyola law schools and pro bono lawyers, assists self represented litigants with a variety of informational and referral services free-of-charge. Walk-in litigants to the SHRC have access to basic legal information, online resources, referrals to additional services, brochures, court forms and documents, and courthouse information. The volunteers help litigants understand and complete court forms when those forms are available and provide access to legal information online and print materials. When forms are not available, or when the legal issues are complex, volunteers refer visitors to outside legal services such as Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, The Pro Bono Project and Catholic Charities Project SAVE.

LSBA President Michael A. Patterson says the self help desk assists pro se litigants in all civil matters but adds, “The most common issues for which help is sought are domestic issues, including protective orders, domestic violence, custody, visitation, child support and spousal support.” He goes on to say, “The number of self-represented litigants in Louisiana creates significant challenges for courts in administering justice and for litigants in their access to justice.”

The SHRC is modeled after similar help desks that have been implemented in courts across the country and is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am-12 pm and 1 pm-3 pm. The SHRC is closed on Friday.

First Circuit holds hearings at Southern University Law Center

Attorneys representing clients with appeals pending before the First Circuit Court of Appeal presented oral arguments before a three-judge panel consisting of **Judges Randolph H. Parro, John Michael Guidry, and Jefferson D. Hughes, III** during hearings at Southern University Law Center’s A A. Lenoir Hall.

The First Circuit is one of five Louisiana intermediate appellate courts. The First Circuit’s jurisdiction extends over 16 parishes in the southeastern part of Louisiana. The court is domiciled in Baton Rouge and normally holds hearings at its courthouse located at 1600 North Third Street. On occasion, as part of its educational outreach program, the First Circuit travels to various locations within its jurisdiction, such as Southern University, to hold court. **First Circuit Chief Judge Burrell J. Carter** invited the public to attend the hearings, with a special invitation extended to law, government, criminal justice, and civics classes.



(l to r): First Circuit Court of Appeal Judges John Michael Guidry, Randolph H. Parro, and Jefferson D. Hughes, III holding hearings at Southern University Law Center. (Photo courtesy of Southern University Law Center)

Gothard receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Retired Bossier City Court Judge Billy Robinson was named as a 2011 inductee into The Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame.



4th JDC Judge Wendell Manning was appointed chairman of the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Editorial Committee.



5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Fredericka "Ricky" Wicker was recognized as the 2010 Distinguished Jurist by the Louisiana Bar Foundation during its 25th Anniversary Fellows Gala.



Orleans Civil District Court Judge Robin Giarrusso is second vice chairman of the Pro Bono Project.



Baton Rouge City Court Judge Kelli Terrell Temple was named a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.



With his family (l to r) Ben Gothard, Andrew Gothard, Eddie Gothard, and Jackie Gothard, retired 5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Sol Gothard receives the Sol Gothard Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization of Forensic Social Work, presented by NOFSW President Suzanne Dowling. Gothard, who has been an active participant in NOFSW meetings and activities for 25 years, was the first recipient of the award, which was named after him. (Photo courtesy of National Organization of Forensic Social Work)



1st Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Toni Higginbotham (Class of '85) and 18th JDC Judge Robin Free (Class of '89) were inducted into the Southern University Law Center 2011 Hall of Fame.

TELL US ABOUT IT

We would enjoy hearing about any special visitors or outreach programs held at your court for publication in a future issue of Court Column.

Please send any information and photographs to:
rgunn@lajao.org.

Griffith sworn in as member of NACM Board

Louisiana Supreme Court Deputy Judicial Administrator Scott Griffith was sworn in as a member of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) Board of Directors at its recent Annual Business Meeting.

