

Weimer Elected to Supreme Court

On December 17, 2001, Judge John L. Weimer was sworn-in as Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Sixth District, at an induction ceremony at Nicholls State University, Talbot Auditorium, in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The oath of office was administered by Daniel A. Cavell, his brother-in-law and an attorney from Thibodaux. Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. and Retired Sixth District Justice Harry T. Lemmon, Justice Weimer's predecessor, provided remarks welcoming Weimer to the Supreme Court bench.

Justice Weimer, 47, was born in Thibodaux and graduated from Thibodaux High School. He received a B.S. degree in 1976 from Nicholls State University, graduating with academic honors, and his Juris Doctor degree from Louisiana State University in 1980. Prior to his election to the Supreme Court, Justice Weimer served as Judge of the 17th Judicial District Court 1995-1998, and Judge of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal, District 1, Division B from 1998 to the present.

For fifteen years, 1980-1995, Justice Weimer was an attorney in the private practice of law. He was also both an Adjunct Professor of Law and a Professor of Law at Nicholls State University during the years from 1982-1997.

Justice Weimer is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Lafourche Parish Bar Association, the Rotary Club, the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, the Nicholls State University Alumni Federation, the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, and the Assumption Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a Delegate to the Louisiana State Bar Association, as the 1997 Regional Co-Chairman of the Citizens' Summit of Justice Reform, and he established and was the Coordinator of the Lafourche Parish Student Government Day Program.

Justice Weimer has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including: Victims and Citizens Against Crime Outstanding Jurist Award; the Crimefighter's Outstanding Jurist Award; the Nicholls State Univer-



Justice John L. Weimer

sity 50th Anniversary Golden Graduate Award; Who's Who Among American Teachers, and the Nicholls State University Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2000 Justice Weimer was recognized for the significant assistance he provided in establishing the Lafourche Parish Drug Treatment Court.

Justice Weimer is completing the unexpired term due to the early retirement of Justice Lemmon. The term expires at the end of 2002.

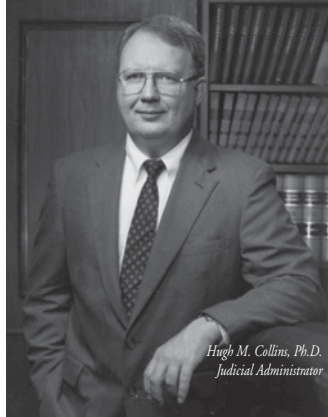


Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court (seated) Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball, Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., Bernette J. Johnson; (standing) Jeannette T. Knoll, Jeffrey P. Victory, Chet D. Traylor. Retired Judge Robert Lobrano (back right) served as Justice Pro Tempore, Sixth Supreme Court District following Justice Harry T. Lemmon's retirement.



C O R N E R

C O L L I N S



Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.
Judicial Administrator

Although deeply saddened and profoundly touched by the events of September 11th, the wheels of government continued to turn at the Louisiana Supreme Court during the fall of 2001. Following the advice of our nation's leaders and in an effort to maintain a sense of normalcy, we proceeded with our business as usual.

In October, the Judicial Administrator's Office hosted the Conference of State Court Administrators-Southern Region (COSCA). Judicial Administrators from Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Texas, Virginia and representatives from the National Center for State Courts visited our Supreme Court to get an overview of how the Louisiana Supreme Court operates and to exchange information and insights on judicial administration. The highlight of the program was a panel discussion on *Creating and Maintaining Good Relations Between the Legislature and the Judiciary*. **Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball** led the discussion among a prestigious group of panelists including: the President of the Louisiana Senate, Senator John Hainkel, Jr.; the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Representative Charles DeWitt; Assistant Senate Secretary Glenn Koepf; House Budget Analyst Jodi Mauroner; and, Louisiana Supreme Court Deputy Judicial Administrator-Trial Court Services Darryl Schultz.

This Fall a new Justice was elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court to fill the vacancy when **Justice Harry T. Lemmon** retired after 21 years of dedicated service. I would like to take this occasion to personally welcome **Justice John L. Weimer** and to extend the services of the Judicial Administrator's Office to him and his staff.

26th JDC Opens First Adult Gambling/Drug Treatment Court

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey P. Victory took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Bossier Civic Center to mark the opening of Louisiana's first Adult Gambling/Drug Treatment Court at the 26th JDC. Justice Victory was joined by 26th JDC Judge Ford Stinson, who will serve as judge of the new court, Bossier City Mayor George Dement, Secretary of State Fox McKeithen, Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, District Attorney Jim Bullers and Assistant District Attorney Bobby Stromile, and Bar Association Presidents from Shreveport and Bossier City.

"Pathological gambling is a present and growing problem in Louisiana," said Justice Victory. "Some are classified as dual addicts, that is, addicted to gambling and drugs, alcohol, or other substances. The problem is reaching epidemic proportions according to an article in the journal of the Louisiana Medical Society. In Louisiana, we embrace this responsibility and are pleased to have the opportunity to be part of a program where all three branches of our state government work together to solve a common problem."

The 26th JDC Adult Gambling/Drug Treatment Court was established to intervene with non-violent offenders whose crimes were committed under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, offenses relating to alcohol/other drugs such as possession, or offenses associated with pathological gambling. The offender must plead guilty before receiving the opportunity to transfer to the Adult Gambling/Drug Treatment Court and to enroll in the long-term treatment program designed to help them live their lives drug and gambling-free.

For more information on the Adult Gambling/Drug Treatment Court, contact 26th JDC Court Administrator Suzanne Stinson at (318) 965-2217.

Judges' Association Officers 2001-2002

During the 2001 Fall Judges' Conference, held September 30 - October 2, in New Orleans, officers for the four state judges' associations were elected. The officers are responsible for managing the business of each association, increasing public outreach efforts, and ensuring strategic plan implementation and compliance by their membership.

Conference of Court of Appeal Judges

Chairman

Judge Burrell Carter

First Circuit Court of Appeal

Vice-Chairman

Judge William Norris III

Second Circuit Court of Appeal

Secretary-Treasurer

Judge Kenneth J. Fogg

First Circuit Court of Appeal

District Judges' Association

President

Judge Durwood Conque

15th JDC

First Vice-President

Judge Patricia H. Minaldi

14th JDC

Second Vice-President

Judge Michael G. Bagneris

Orleans CDC

Secretary

Judge Jerome J. Barbera III

17th JDC

Treasurer

Judge W. Ross Foote

9th JDC

Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

President

Judge Donald M. Fendlason

22nd JDC

Vice-President

Judge Randy P. Angelle

Breaux Bridge City Court

Secretary

Judge Andrea Price Janzen

Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court

Treasurer (appointed by President)

Judge Nancy Amato Konrad

Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court

City Court Judges Association

President

Judge Douglas J. Saloom

City Court of Lafayette

Vice-President

Judge Paul Bonin

New Orleans Traffic Court

Secretary

Judge James Garland Smith

Monroe City Court

Treasurer

Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway

City Court of Hammond

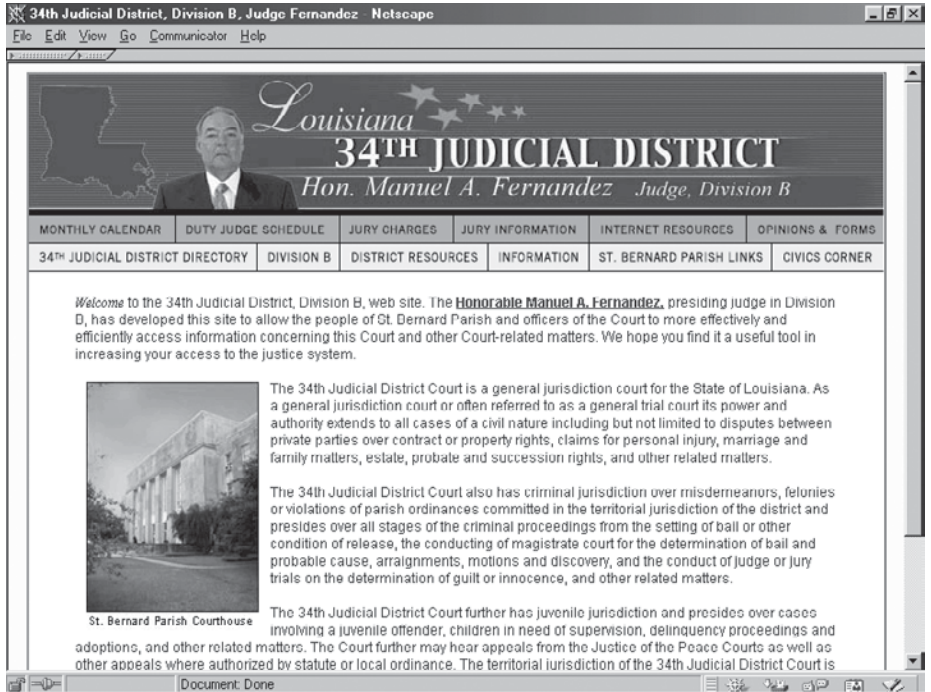


Fernandez Launches 34th JDC Division B Web Site

34th JDC, Division B Judge Manny Fernandez launched his own web site, www.judgefernandez.com to offer information for litigants and jurors who would be interested in information on Division B of the 34th JDC.

"The courts should be a player on the web," said Fernandez. "It's too important. People think the courts are a mystery. There's so much information out there, but there isn't a great deal that is publicly disseminated. For the litigant or witness or juror, this shows how the system works. For the general public, this is accessibility to the system it didn't really have before."

In addition to general information on Division B, the site provides a directory for the 34th JDC, jury instructions, civil court fees, opinions and forms, a monthly calendar, and an educational section titled, "Civics Corner" which lists information on The Louisiana District Judges Association **Judges in the Classroom** program.



INNOVATIONS

9th JDC Implements Criminal Justice System Connection

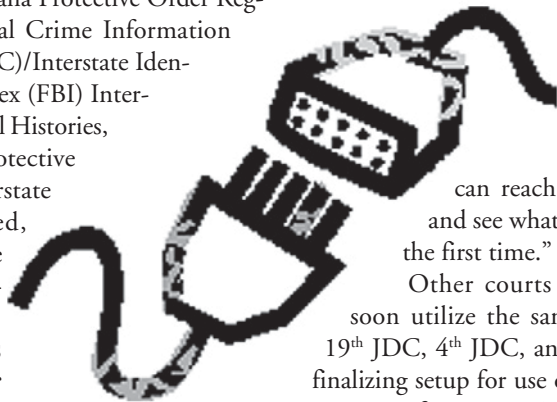
The 9th JDC recently became the first court to be digitally connected and to begin use of the **Court Management Information Systems (CMIS) Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)**. The CJIS allows judges access to databases for the Department of Motor Vehicles, Louisiana Protective Order Registry, National Crime Information Center (NCIC)/Interstate Identification Index (FBI) Interstate Criminal Histories, Interstate Protective Orders, Interstate Most Wanted, and State Criminal History Records.

Judges B. Dexter Ryland, Harry F. Randow and W. Ross Foote use laptops on the bench to access the system during trials. **Judge Thomas M. Yeager** will access the system from his office while a law clerk will use the system for docket review.

"With our network I can have access to criminal records on the bench, in a pretrial, in chambers, anywhere

I can walk within range of our network," said Judge Foote. "On my one laptop screen I can simultaneously keep a window open for all criminal records, five years of my trial notes, current notes I am taking and Westlaw. Having the trial notes is really helpful in custody cases when parties are seeking changes and everyone has new lawyers. I can reach back six years and see what the issues were the first time."

Other courts statewide will soon utilize the same system: the 19th JDC, 4th JDC, and 24th JDC are finalizing setup for use of the Criminal Justice Information System. Several other courts are also in the early stages of discussion for use. For more information on CJIS, contact Chris Andrieu, CMIS Director at (504) 568-5747.



CYBER COURTS

Legal Ethics
www.legalethics.com

Legal Research Tools
www.lawguru.com

Law For All
www.nolo.com

Law Library Resource Xchange
www.llrx.com

Legal Minds
www.legalminds.org

The National Association of Legal Assistants
www.nala.org



Orleans Parish Civil District Court - A Pillar of the Community

The 14 judges of Orleans Parish Civil District Court (CDC) are an extremely active and community-minded lot who see reaching out to the citizens of Orleans Parish as an essential part of what they do. According to Chief Judge Michael G. Bagneris, "In an urban community such as New Orleans, where so many come through the courthouse doors daily and over 20,000 cases are handled annually, we must be in touch with the community we serve."

In recent months, the judges of CDC:

- Hosted a Community Court Day Program for two area high schools where students were able to meet the judges and learn about Civil Court, the Clerk of Court's Office and the Civil Sheriff's Office, as well as to get a better understanding of the importance of jury service.

- Participated in "Helping Hands Day" at Ozanam Inn, a shelter for homeless men. On "Helping Hands Day" several CDC judges exchanged their gavels for a soup ladle and served food at a lunchtime meal.

- Hosted "Approach the Bench," an informal one-hour program sponsored by the New Orleans Bar Association designed to give lawyers an opportunity to meet the local judges and to discuss topics of general interest.

- Expanded the number of judges assigned to the domestic court docket from two to three to better accommodate the growing number of domestic cases.

- Participated in mock trials with area school students.

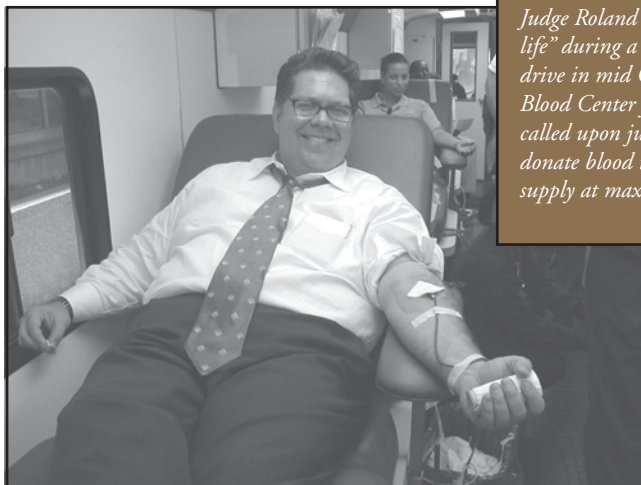
- Participated in "Celebrity Reading Day," an initiative of the Orleans Parish Public School System, which paired "celebrity" judges with public school classes to read to the students.



Orleans CDC Judge Nadine Ramsey and her staff share a special Thanksgiving meal with the children at the St. Phillip Community Center Kids Cafe where neighborhood children get job skills training and lessons in table manners.



Orleans Civil District Court Judge Ethel Simms Julien reads to some young students at Albert Wicker Elementary School in New Orleans as part of the school's "All American Lunch by the Book" program.



Judge Roland Belsome gives the "gift of life" during a CDC organized blood drive in mid October. Officials at the Blood Center for Southeast Louisiana called upon judges and staff of CDC to donate blood to keep the blood bank supply at maximum capacity.

- Judges Carolyn Gill-Jefferson, Kern Reese and Piper Griffin participated in the American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Walk in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

- In the wake of September 11th, judges and employees of Orleans Parish CDC raised \$3300 for The American Red Cross relief effort and organized a National Day of Mourning program for courthouse employees and citizens on the CDC courthouse steps on Friday, September 14, 2001.



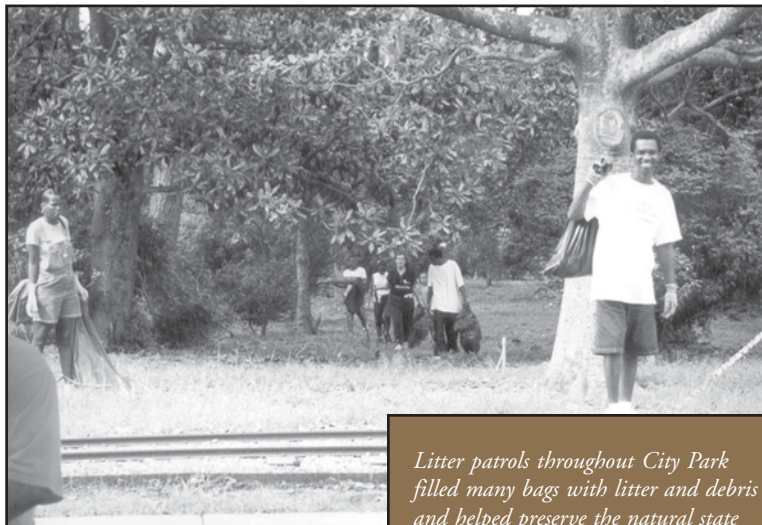
Orleans Parish Criminal District Court - A Leader in Alternatives to Incarceration

The judges of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court realized years ago that traditional corrections measures (i.e. incarceration and probation) were not having the desired impact in preventing recidivism. Today, the 13 judges and 4 commissioners of Orleans Parish Criminal Court oversee the Criminal Intervention Services programs as an alternative to putting non-violent, first and second-time criminal offenders in jail.

According to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Gerard J. Hansen, "Programs are valuable when they are designed to assist people in making long-term changes. Our Criminal Intervention Services programs allow defendants to learn other life skills while under the jurisdiction of the court. The benefit of reducing lifetimes of crime is immeasurable for both the individual and for society."

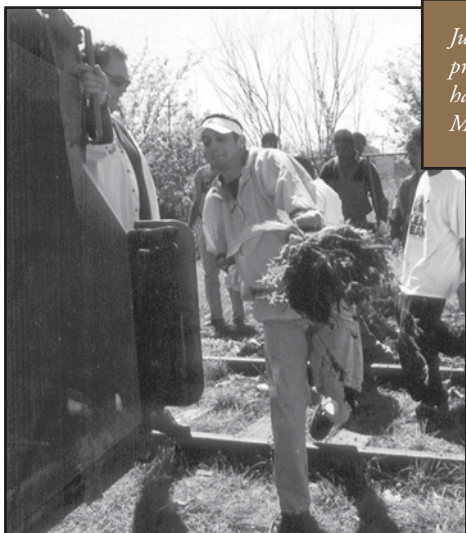
The Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Drug Treatment Court, established in 1997, has become one of the Court's great success stories. Non-violent drug offenders participate in the Drug Treatment Court for at least one year and must stay clean and sober for four consecutive months in order to graduate. Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Intervention Services couples the latest in computer drug testing technology with field case managers which provide accountability to help keep the offenders on track. They must also be employed or in school and must be living in a stable environment.

Offenders must make a sincere effort to give back to society through community service in an effort to enhance public trust and to build a sense of purpose and self-worth. Most recently, to underscore the importance of giving back to the community, the judges of Orleans Parish Criminal Court and the Court Intervention Service probationers worked together, side-by-side, broom-to-broom in a massive effort to clean up City Park in New Orleans.



Litter patrols throughout City Park filled many bags with litter and debris and helped preserve the natural state of one of New Orleans' treasures.

Prior to the City Park cleanup efforts, drug court probationers were required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Judges, community leaders and probationers pitched in to lend a hand in the cleanup efforts across Mid-City.

With approximately 600 active "clients" in the program currently, Judge Hansen boasts that the 12.1% recidivism rate among program graduates is the lowest in the country.

Orleans Parish Criminal District Court also has established a Domestic Violence Monitoring Court. While the primary mission of this court program is not one of rehabilitation of the offender, but rather the safety of the victim and the victim's family the judge and the case manager do work to change the behavior of the offender. Judge Gerard Hansen and Commissioner Joe Giarrusso, Jr. drew from the drug treatment court model to monitor domestic violence offenders requiring: frequent status hearing, intensive supervision and referrals to community resources for service to alleviate factors contributing to domestic violence.



Lafayette City Court Judge Saloom Teaches Merit of Law to Scouts

Lafayette City Court Judge Douglas J. Saloom, joined by attorneys Tom Frederick and Kenny Oliver, recently taught the "Law" merit badge to 30 Boy Scouts attending the 2001 Winter Camp at Edgewood Boy Scout Camp in Dequincy, Louisiana. Saloom, who has been active in Scouts for nearly 30 years, and an Eagle Scout himself, also presided over a mock trial held by the scouts as part of the merit badge.

"Boy Scouts instills in the young scouts the confidence to act as leaders both spiritually and morally. Those scouts that really get involved learn social skills, outdoor skills and how to lead others into successfully completing tasks. You've had presidents, senators, judges, prominent lawyers and doctors, astronauts, movie directors - countless numbers of people who've gotten their start as scouts."



The "Law" merit badge is one of 120 badges a Boy Scout can earn.

Saloom helped reorganize the Lafayette chapter of the National Eagle Scout Association. Annually the chapter hosts a banquet to recognize the previous year's Eagle Scouts and to hear from guest speakers who have included former FBI director Judge William Sessions, former CIA director Robert Gates, and the Boy Scouts national director.

2002 Law Day Planning Schedule

Law Day, May 1, is an opportunity for all to celebrate and enjoy our freedoms. The 2002 Law Day theme is "Assuring Equal Justice for All." In preparation for Law Day events, the American Bar Association Division for Public Education has prepared a planning schedule.

★ **Images of Freedom** - The 6th Annual National Photography Contest for students ages 12-18. Winner of this prestigious contest receives the award in Washington, D.C., as part of Law Day 2002.

Oct.-Dec. 2001 - Guidelines available from ABA

Feb. 15, 2002 - Postmark deadline for entries

★ **Law Day 2002 Planning Guide and Resource Catalog**

Oct. 2001 - April 2002 - Law Day 2002 Planning Guide and Resource Catalog distributed and available online (www.lawday.org).

★ **Law Day 2002 Celebration Awards**

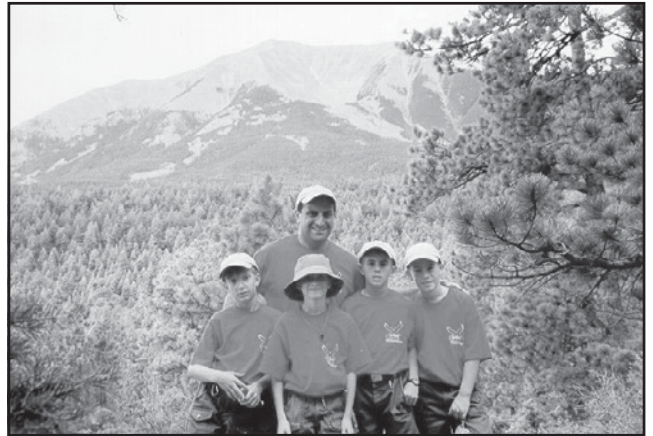
The Division for Public Education recognizes celebrations with the Law Day Activity Awards and the Judge Finch Speech Contest.

Oct. 2002 - April 2002 - Entry forms and guidelines distributed as part of Law Day planning guide.

June 11, 2002 - Postmark deadline for both awards.

★ **Law Day 2002 - May 1**

This year, national events will begin on or around April 29 and extend throughout the week.



Lafayette City Court Judge Douglas Saloom with a group at Summer Camp in Spanish Peaks, Colorado.



Judge Saloom instructs a group hoping to earn merit badges during the Summer retreat to Colorado.

Justice Weimer Addresses Honors Students



Justice John L. Weimer speaks with a class of Constitutional Law Honors students from New Iberia Senior High following a session of oral arguments at the Louisiana Supreme Court. The students visited the Court as part of their Honors class studies.



16th JDC Family Court Opens To Provide Service to Community

Just over a year ago, 16th JDC Judge Ed Leonard and the other seven judges of the 16th JDC established a Family Court with a Hearing Officer on staff to improve the turnaround time of family cases in their district.

The Family Court/Hearing Officer Program is similar to a program established in Lafayette, but has been modified to fit the specific needs of the 16th JDC community.

“There is no cohesive agency to take family matters and see it through,” said Judge Leonard. “The goal of this program is to develop that. Right now, one hearing officer is handling the pre-trials. We’ve got a second hearing officer coming on January 1. Once we’ve got the two officers, we’re going to look for other services to provide, such as education and counseling.”

Paul Landry, the hearing officer hired, closed his private law practice in Lafayette to become the Family Court Program Director and the first Hearing Officer for the 16th JDC. He also serves as the Family Court Program Director. Among his first assignments were to develop policies and procedures to implement a Hearing Officer system for family law cases, draft proposal forms for use in the Hearing Officer system, prepare outlines for Continuing Legal Education seminars to introduce the new program to local attorneys and their support staff, and create form disks for local attorneys to use as part of the new system.

Since the system has been in place, cases have been mediated by the Hearing Officer. A six-month study and a year study will be conducted to determine effectiveness, need and efficiency of the proceedings. If the early case numbers are any indication, the Hearing Officers have been effective in speeding up the process.

“We are confident the Hearing Officer Program will soon achieve its goals of speeding up the resolution of family law issues,” said Leonard, “and will do so in a less combative and less antagonistic manner than has previously been available.”

4th JDC Judges Visit Children

Fourth Judicial District Court Judges Bob Kostelka, Sharon Marchman, Carl Sharp, Marcus Clark and Jimmy Dimos helped children at the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home bring in holiday joy.

In addition to Christmas goodies, the judges also brought “Santa Claus” with them as a treat to the kids.

“This is what it’s all about,” said Judge Kostelka. “Just look at the smiles on their faces.”

The visit to the Children’s Home was another example of outreach to the community by the judges of the 4th JDC. Initially, judges Kostelka, Clark and Dimos began the court’s efforts a few months ago with a visit to the veterans at the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home. Since that time, Judges Marchman and Sharp asked to be included.

“It really is fun for us,” said Judge Clark. “We see so many negative things as judges. We are in such a sterile environment and it seems to get more and more sterile each day. We decided we wanted to get out.”

Especially important is the impact the judges make on lives of the area’s children. Responses following the judges’ visit to the Children’s Home show that communication with tomorrow’s leaders pays off.

“It was actually kind of scary,” said one 13-year-old. “Some of my friends have had to go before a judge before. But these guys weren’t too bad.”

“People this important don’t normally come here,” said a 14-year-old.

“Some judges might have thought they were too high for us,” said another 13-year-old. “It means a lot that they decided to come here and visit with us.”



Standing left to right: Scott Angelle, President of St. Martin Parish; Retired Judge Anne Lennan Simon; Judge William D. Hunter; Judge Ed Leonard; Allen J. Blanchard, Clerk of Court for St. Martin Parish; and Chris Andrieu, CMIS Director, Louisiana Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Calogero Honors Families

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., recently took part in the “Celebration of Adoptions 2001” honoring all those involved in creating permanent adoptive families for children within the Office of Community Services. The ceremony, which took place at the Governor’s Mansion, celebrated 316 Louisiana families who adopted children during the past year. A total of 465 children were placed in permanent homes during the 12-month period.

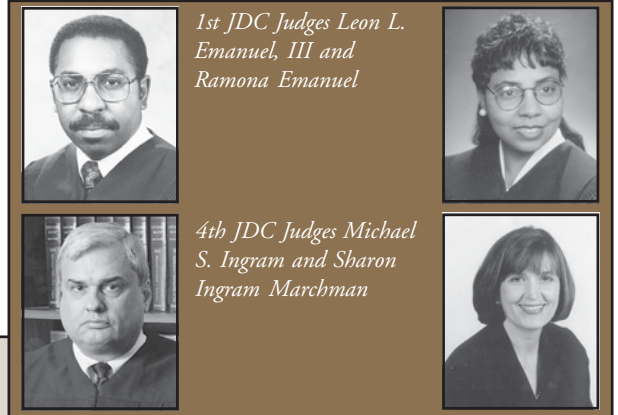


Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. with Opal Walters (right) who adopted two sibling groups, one of four children and one of two children (all pictured), thereby keeping both sibling groups together.



IPSO FACTO... Family Court?

The 1st JDC is located in Northwest Louisiana in Shreveport. The 4th JDC is located in Northeastern Louisiana with courthouses in both Monroe and Bastrop. While these courts are on distinctly opposite sides of the state, they are similar in many ways. Both courts manage quite large civil and criminal caseloads with approximately 20,000 and 28,000 cases filed in 2000, respectively. The 1st JDC has 11 judges to do the work and the 4th JDC has 10 judges. Each court has one female judge.



1st JDC Judges Leon L. Emanuel, III and Ramona Emanuel

4th JDC Judges Michael S. Ingram and Sharon Ingram Marchman

IT'S A FACT:

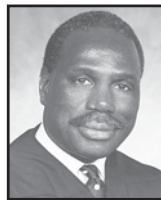
The 1st JDC and the 4th JDC also share some common family ties. Brother and sister Judges Leon L. Emanuel, III and Ramona Emanuel serve together on the bench of the 1st JDC and father and daughter Judges Michael S. Ingram and Sharon Ingram Marchman serve together on the bench of the 4th JDC.



■ **Retired Justice Revius Ortique Jr.** received the first President's Award for Distinguished International Service presented by the World Trade Center.

■ **Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon** is heading the Committee to Reduce Prison Populations & Reduce Penalties for Non-Violent Crimes. Also serving with Lemmon as representatives of the judiciary are retired Judges Anne Lennan Simon and Graydon Kitchens.

■ **Retired Justice Harry T. Lemmon** was inducted into Morgan City High School Hall of Fame.



■ **19th JDC Judge Curtis Calloway** has been appointed to the executive committees of the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and the Louisiana District Judges Association. The National Bar Association's Judicial Council Executive Committee represents more than 1,800 primarily African-American judges, justices, administrative law judges and other judicial officers nationwide and determines policy and action for the Judicial Council.

■ **5th Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Susan Chehardy and Walter Rothschild, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Terri F. Love, 24th JDC Judge Greg G. Guidry,**

Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Rosemary Ledet, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judges Gerard J. Hansen and Arthur Hunter, and Second City Court of New Orleans Judge Mary K. "KK" Norman were named fellows of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

■ **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Piper D. Griffin** was named a board member of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

■ **2nd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge J. Jay Caraway and East Baton Rouge Family Court Judge Luke A. LaVergne** was reappointed to the Louisiana Judicial College Board of Governors.

■ **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge C. Hunter King** was honored with a Community Service Award by the Positive Men and

Women of New Orleans.

■ **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Yada T. Magee** was the recipient of fifth annual Torchbearer Award, presented by the New Orleans chapter of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women. **Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson and Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine S. Gray** were also honored by the group.



■ **2nd Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Harmon Drew, Jr.** recently participated in the Central Louisiana Pro Bono Seminar, the Shreveport Bar Association Seminar and the Shreveport Bar Association CLE By the Hour Seminar.

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