September Events

Law Expo & Bar Luncheon: Sept. 12
Belly Up with the Bar: Sept. 28

Inside:
Stand-your-ground law comparisons
Judicial interview: Judge Robert Morrison III
Interview with LSU Law Chancellor Jack M. Weiss
Attorney spotlight: Michael Platte
The Go-Gos!
SEPTEMBER 21
FOR TICKETS: MANSHPTHEATRE.ORG 225-344-0334

MANSHP THEATRE 2012-2013 SEASON

Aaron Neville
DECEMBER 4

Buddy Guy
MARCH 16

Garrison Keillor
APRIL 15
On the cover:
The cover photo features members of the 2012 Belly Up with the Bar Committee. Standing are (L to R) Marcus Plaisance, Charles Davoli, Alan Posner, Brad Bourgeois, Jennifer Racca (vice chair), Brandon DeCuir (chair), Amanda Collura, Loren Shanklin and Blake Leger. Seated (L to R) are Andrea Knouse, Ben Anderson and Victor Suane Jr. (far right).

The cover photograph was taken at the Live Oak Arabian Stables, 6300 Jefferson Hwy. in Baton Rouge, La — the new site of Belly Up with the Bar, which will take place Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Cover photography by Pamela Labbe.
contributors

Cherrie Braud, the Baton Rouge Bar Association summer public relations intern, is a contributing writer.

Robert “Bubby” Burns Jr., a partner with Perry, Atkinson, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, LLC, is a contributing writer.

Vincent P. Fornias, an assistant editor of Around the Bar, is a solo practitioner whose practice focus is alternative dispute resolution.

Shenequa L. Grey, an associate professor at Southern University Law Center who teaches criminal procedure, evidence and trial advocacy, is a contributing writer. She is a former Caddo Parish Assistant District Attorney.

Pamela Labbe is the communications coordinator of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Christopher K. Odinet, an associate with Phelps Dunbar, is a member of the Publications Committee.

Gail S. Stephenson, an assistant editor of Around the Bar and the 2012 BRBA president, is the director of legal analysis and writing and an associate professor of law at Southern University Law Center.

Rebecca Wisbar, a partner with Akers & Wisbar, LLC, is a contributing writer.
Throw your hat in the ring

Fall is election time, and every casual chat turns to politics. Conversations center around who will be the next President, congressman or Louisiana Supreme Court justice. But there are upcoming elections that you probably haven’t considered — elections for leadership positions with the Baton Rouge Bar Association. If you look toward the back of this magazine, you’ll find self-nomination forms for the BRBA board of directors, secretary, treasurer and president-elect; the Young Lawyers Section council members, chair-elect and secretary/treasurer; the Family Law Section secretary; and the Public Law Practice Section council members, chair-elect and secretary.

Perhaps you’ve considered running for a leadership position but have been held back by some common misconceptions. One comment I hear frequently is that only members of big firms can get elected to bar offices. The facts disprove that myth, however. The majority of the 11 members currently serving on the BRBA board of directors are not in big firms. Many of our board members belong to small firms. Our 2010 president, Fred T. Crifasi, is a sole practitioner. And I am a state employee. I was working for the First Circuit Court of Appeal when I first ran for the board of directors, and now I teach at Southern University Law Center.

Of course, the support of a big firm helps pay the expenses associated with bar leadership. Contrary to popular belief, board members don’t get free meals at expensive restaurants for board meetings, free bar luncheons or free registration to bar events; they pay their own way. Having someone to fill in for you at the office when there’s bar business to attend to is helpful, too, but those difficulties can be overcome.

Another misconception is that bar leadership positions are so time-consuming that no one with a busy practice has time for them. I’m not saying that being bar president isn’t time-consuming; there have been times during the past nine months that I’ve felt stretched pretty thin. But no one starts as bar president, and many bar positions are currently open. If you are interested in a position, but are concerned about the time commitment, call the person currently holding the office. I’m sure the current officeholder will be happy to discuss it with you.

Finally, don’t worry that you are too young or too old, are the wrong gender or ethnicity or practice in the wrong area. The BRBA was recently recognized by the Louisiana State Bar Association for our commitment to diversity. We have sections that can accommodate all areas of practice. Younger members of the bar or those with fewer than five years of practice can run for office in the Young Lawyers Section. Those who practice family law can get involved in the vibrant Family Law Section. And our newest section, Public Law Practice, needs leaders from all areas of public practice — private attorneys, attorneys general and attorneys who work for local government and all three branches of state government.

So now you’re out of excuses. Throw your hat in the ring by filling out the self-nomination form and delivering it to the BRBA office prior to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 28. The BRBA needs you!

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, the BRBA will honor a man who threw his hat in the ring to run for judge 45 years ago. Melvin Shortess decided to run for Baton Rouge City Court judge after he challenged a parking ticket and failed to receive due process. He won and spent the next 33 years dispensing due process in Baton Rouge City Court, the 19th JDC and the First Circuit Court of Appeal. He retired in 2000, but didn’t slow down; he immediately began Thirst for Justice, a BRBF program that dispenses free legal advice to the poor two days a week. After 11-and-a-half years of weekly service at Thirst, he’s finally slowing down. We will present the BRBA David A. Hamilton Pro Bono Award to him at the September Bar Luncheon & Law Expo. We hope you’ll join us at the River Center.
The 27th annual BRBA Law Expo & September Bar Luncheon will feature guest speaker H. Alston Johnson III Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012, at the Baton Rouge River Center. The first of three CLE seminars (ethics) will begin at 8 a.m. The luncheon will begin at 12:30 p.m. H. Alston Johnson III of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and Phelps Dunbar will provide his annual legislative update.

Cost for the luncheon is $35 per BRBA member, and $40 per non-member or guest. We accept payment in advance and at the door. All major credit cards are accepted. There is no cost associated with walking through the Law Expo exhibition area.

Three CLE seminars are available, including ethics and professionalism. The CLE seminars are free for BRBA members who pre-register and agree to visit with 15 or more Law Expo sponsors/booths. Otherwise, the seminar cost is $35 per credit hour for BRBA members and $70 each for non-BRBA members.

There are three ways to pre-register: (1) Logon to www.BRBA.org, go under “events,” select the September Bar Luncheon and and pay via credit card; (2) fill out and fax this form to 225-344-4805 before 12 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, 2012; or (3) mail this form in with your check payable to the BRBA, P.O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

If paying by credit card, please include the following:
Name on credit card_________________________________
Type of card: (circle one):  MC     VISA      AmExp     Discover
Card Number:______________________________________
Exp. Date: ___________________ Security code: _________

Please check all appropriate options below and fax this entire page to the BRBA, (225) 344-4805, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, 2012.

Bar Roll No.__________________________ Please check applicable box:  BRBA member   Martinet member   BRAWA member   guest
Name_________________________________________ Firm __________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________________________________
City ________________________________________________________ State ____________  Zip _______________________
Phone ___________________________________________________ Fax ___________________________________________
Email ___________________________________ Date of Birth ___________________________________

LUNCH — YES, register me for the SEPTEMBER BAR LUNCHEON at the BATON ROUGE RIVER CENTER taking place WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12, 2012, at a cost of $35 per BRBA member, or $40 per nonmember. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Reservations may be transferred, but not canceled, after 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, 2012. “No shows” will be billed.

ETHICS CLE — YES, register me for ETHICS at the BATON ROUGE RIVER CENTER taking place WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12, 2012 – 8 to 9 a.m. Cost is FREE for BRBA members who pre-register by Sept. 7, and who agree to visit with a minimum of 15 booth vendors. Otherwise, the seminar will be invoiced at $35 per BRBA member, or $70 per nonmember. Speakers: HARRY J. “SKIP” PHILIPS, Taylor Porter & CHARLES “CHUCK” PLATTSMEIER, La. Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

“WHEN YOU SHOULDN’T TRUST THE METADATA” — YES, register me for this seminar taught by JOE MULENEX, Regional Technical Director with Avansic at the BATON ROUGE RIVER CENTER taking place WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12, 2012 – 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Cost is FREE for BRBA members who pre-register by Sept. 7, and who agree to visit with a minimum of 15 booth vendors. Otherwise, the seminar will be invoiced at $35 per BRBA member, or $70 per nonmember.

PROFESSIONALISM CLE — YES, register me for PROFESSIONALISM, taught by MICHAEL H. RUBIN of McGlinchey Staffeld, at the BATON ROUGE RIVER CENTER taking place WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12, 2012 – 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Cost is FREE for BRBA members who pre-register by Sept. 7, and who agree to visit with a minimum of 15 booth vendors. Otherwise, the seminar will be invoiced at a cost of $35 per BRBA member, or $70 per nonmember.

SPONSORED RECEPTION — YES, register me for a FREE RECEPTION at the MANSHIP THEATRE GALLERY taking place WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12, 2012, from 5 to 7 p.m. All BRBA members and Law Expo sponsors are invited. The John Gray Jazz Trio is scheduled to play. Enjoy food and drinks!

To register for the luncheon, seminars and reception online (paying by credit card), go to www.BRBA.org, select the EVENTS tab, then click on LIST and choose the appropriate event.
27th ANNUAL LAW EXPO
& SEPTEMBER BAR LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 • BR RIVER CENTER • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
3.0 HOURS OF CLE AVAILABLE • LUNCHEON BEGINS AT 12:30 p.m.
USE GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE TO RIVER CENTER
PARKING AVAILABLE IN RIVER CENTER PARKING GARAGE
PLENTY OF DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE TO WIN
LUNCHEON SPEAKER: H. ALSTON JOHNSON III

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CLE SEMINARS
8-9 a.m.: ETHICS – Speakers: Harry J. “Skip” Philips & Charles “Chuck” Plattsmier
9:45-10:45 a.m.: METADATA – Speaker: Joe Mulenex
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: PROFESSIONALISM – Speaker: Michael H. Rubin

BEVERAGE SPONSOR – Lake Quick Care

ATTN BRBA MEMBERS:
Pre-register by Sept. 7 and visit with at least 15 booths to receive up to THREE hours of FREE CLE Seminars!

Visit exhibitors & sponsors to receive product info., great deals and giveaway items!

All bar luncheon & reception attendees can qualify to win awesome door prizes!

After the Expo, plan to attend the SPONSORED RECEPTION at the MANSHIP THEATRE GALLERY • 5 - 7 p.m.
John Gray Jazz Trio to perform

All BRBA members and Law Expo sponsors are invited to attend the SPONSORED RECEPTION WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 AT THE MANSHIP THEATRE GALLERY 5-7 p.m.
Enjoy cool jazz music and delicious refreshments.

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Massage Emporium
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Peregrine Promotionals
Salon Eden
Varsity Sports

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BEVERAGE SPONSOR – Lake Quick Care
I recently received an interesting manifesto from a grizzled member of our local bar, meaning 42 years worth of grizzle. It was titled “Rocks and Hard Places,” written on the eve of the qualifying deadline for Justice “Kitty” Kimball’s unexpired Supreme Court term. The memo, worthy of the immortal Jethro Bodine’s sixth grade math calculations, expressed in graphic terms the financial predicament caused by appellate judges with collective stars in their eyes.

The author calculated that, at press time, at least five judges in the First Circuit were considering the race, amounting to fully 42 percent of the members of that august body – 45 percent if one excluded soon-to-be-retired Judge Gaidry. The poor local practitioner considering ignoring the various committee fundraisers thus faces a high percentage of aggravating someone sitting on any First Circuit three-judge panel. His only guarantee from such wrath is by making a maximum contribution of $2,500 to each candidate’s committee, which times five equals the hefty sum of $12,500, after taxes.

The author’s solution, suggested by her friend, is ingenious in its simplicity. Our local bar association numbers approximately 2,500 members. If only an equal percentage (42 percent) of this body were to qualify for the Supremes (at a stated cost of $675 per), this would create both an individual and collective win-win situation. Individually, for the relatively modest sum of $675, each qualifying member would be purchasing his own get-out-of-jail-free card, sparing being hounded for up to $12,500 in contributions by the appellate judge committees (not counting various and sundry district court candidates signing up for the race), a potential net savings of $11,825 in after-tax dollars. Collectively, 42 percent of the Baton Rouge Bar amounts to 1,050 lawyers at $675 per, a boon of some $708,750 to the strained coffers of our Secretary of State, who would have to share only $236,250 ($225
per qualifier) of this amount with the respective political parties.

It is indeed a sad and necessary fact that we might destroy entire rainforests in Whiskey Bay and beyond to print up the resulting electoral ballot, but this is an environmental predicament that we lay at the collective feet of appellate judges that cannot seem to get along.

“Pictures are hung; people are hanged” is a rule your high-school English teacher may have taught you. Originally, hung and hanged were used interchangeably. Current American usage, however, is that hanged is used only to refer to a person’s death by hanging (just as electrocution refers only to death by electricity). It’s technically not incorrect to use hung in that situation, but you’ll avoid annoying the grammarians if you use hanged when referring to an execution or suicide.

Thanks to Bonny McDonald for suggesting this topic.
Send suggestions for future Gail’s Grammar columns to Gail Stephenson at GStephenson@slc.edu, or call Gail at 225-771-4900 (ext. 216).
The 14th Annual “Belly Up with the Bar” is a cook-off, brewfest and outdoor party with live music—sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Proceeds from this event will benefit the BRBF’s Youth Education Program. Team and individual entries are welcome. Judges will select winners in a variety of categories. Advance general admission tickets are $25 per adult, $20 per law student, $10 per child ages 12 to 17, and FREE admittance to children ages 11 and under. Prices at the door are $30 per adult or law student, and $10 per child, so buy ‘em now!

The new location is Live Oak Arabian Stables, 6300 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 in the sheltered pavilion. The date is Friday, Sept. 28, 2012, 5 p.m. - until mark your calendars NOW!

WHO CAN ENTER:
Anyone who’s willing to cook and serve enough to feed/water our local bar

The entry fee, which is $125 per team (up to 5 members per team), gets you:
(1) in the door to try all the fabulous food and drinks
(2) all the beer you care to drink, and
(3) the chance to show off your culinary talents

THINGS YOU’LL NEED TO BRING:
  Enough food to serve roughly 300 “sample size” portions
  Any cooking/heating/brewing equipment necessary to serve your entry
  A team of no more than 5 members
  A sign to indicate what you’re making and who’s on your team
  Serving bowls (serving size), cups or plates

THINGS WE’LL PROVIDE:
Forks and spoons; beer, live music . . . and fabulous prizes

ENTRY FORM — PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND FAX IT TO: (225) 344-4805 OR MAIL IT ASAP

(CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO “BRBF - BELLY UP WITH THE BAR.” CREDIT CARD INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED BELOW.) Booths are assigned as forms and payment are received, so submit your form early!

TEAM NAME: __________________________________________

WHAT YOU’LL BE COOKING: __________________________________________

TEAM MEMBERS:  CAPTAIN
(1) ___________________________________________________________________
CAPTAIN’S CONTACT NUMBER & EMAIL:
(2) ___________________________________________________________________
(3) ___________________________________________________________________
(4) ___________________________________________________________________
(5) ___________________________________________________________________

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Ticket #__________
Ticket #__________
Ticket #__________
Ticket #__________
Ticket #__________

FOR “BELLY UP WITH THE BAR” TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE BRBA AT (225) 344-4803.
*If you are unable to participate or attend, but you wish to make a donation for the BRBF’s award-winning Youth Education Program, please make your check payable to the BRBF.

Credit Card Information: Type of card: (circle one)  MC  VISA  AmExp  Discover
Name on card: ____________________________________________
Exp. Date: _________________________  Security code: ______________________
Credit card number: __________________________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
As a child, Michael Platte’s love of the Mississippi River steered him toward a dream of becoming a river boat pilot, but his professional direction took a different course.

His first job was at Party Time Ice in Baton Rouge the summer after his freshman year of high school. He stacked, prepped and shipped pallets of ice Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. “All my friends thought I had it made because I worked for an ice plant in the middle of the summer, but that could not have been further from the truth. It was hard work,” Platte said.

In 2005, Platte received his B.A. in general studies, focusing on business administration, political science and communication studies, from Louisiana State University. “I have always been intrigued with how our legal system worked and wanted to learn more about it,” Platte said. In 2008, he received his J.D. from Southern University Law Center. “I also felt that having a law degree would put me in the position to help others in a time of need whether it be family, friend or client,” Platte said.

His first job out of law school was with Myles, Cook & Day in Zachary, La. He focused on real estate law and civil litigation, and he also represented the Zachary School Board, which he said he really enjoyed. “I learned the practice of law is what you make of it. If you want to be successful, you have to work for it,” Platte said.

While practicing real estate law in Zachary, construction law often overlapped with his work, and he found construction law to be very interesting. His next job was with James S. Holliday, where the majority of his practice was devoted to corporate and construction law.

Currently, he is an associate with Dunlap Fioré, LLC, and still concentrates in the areas of construction law, corporate law and general civil litigation.

“Being a young attorney, every day is a learning experience,” Platte said. “It helps to know that I can walk across the hall and tap into years of experience from either one of my bosses at any time.”

As chair of the Law Expo for a second consecutive year, Platte’s duties consist of helping assemble the committee, contacting potential sponsors and, most importantly, promoting the event. This year he plans to bring in new and exciting vendors that can really benefit attorneys and their practice, no matter what area of law they are in.

“My first boss, Lonny Myles, stressed the importance of getting involved with the BRBA and other organizations throughout the community,” Platte said. Since becoming a member of the BRBA, his involvement has put him in contact with a lot of great attorneys in the area, some of whom became his really good friends. “It has also shown me that the members of the BRBA are like family and really do care about each other,” Platte said. He is also a member of the BRBA Volunteer and Technology Committees in addition to a third-year member of the Law Expo Committee.

Platte is happily married to his wife, Anne, a hair stylist, whom he met while vacationing in Orange Beach. They have a three-year-old Jack Russell Terrier/Beagle mix named Shockey and will be celebrating their first wedding anniversary this October.
BRBA interns gain vital work experience while giving back to the local community

BY CHERRIE BRAUD

The Baton Rouge Bar Association and Baton Rouge Bar Foundation summer interns were a diverse group ranging from law students to paralegal students to undergraduates. These interns gained vital work experience while giving back to the Baton Rouge community.

This past summer I served as the public relations intern under the supervision of Communications Coordinator Pamela Labbe. My duties included writing press releases and articles for the website, and conducting interviews and writing for the Around the Bar magazine. I am currently a senior at LSU studying mass communication with a concentration in public relations and will graduate in December 2012. I was given the opportunity to learn about the other internships the BRBA and BRBF provides to students by interviewing each of the 2012 summer interns and writing this article.

Samantha Mallet

Lake Charles native Samantha Mallet interned with the BRBF Pro Bono Project under the supervision of Robin Kay and Emily Chambers. Her duties ranged from confirming information from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services to data entry. Mallet is a second-year student at Southern University Law Center and expects to graduate May 11, 2013. Mallet plans to practice corporate law and her internship concluded at the end of the summer.

Robert Mattamal

New Orleans native Robert Mattamal interned with the BRBF Pro Bono Project under the supervision of Emily Chambers. His duties included assisting with filling out forms and providing information related to family court matters.

“Emily has greatly assisted me in learning the proper procedures and helped with interviewing and handling litigants,” Mattamal said. He assisted litigants who are self-representing by distributing and assisting in completing the proper forms, along with referring others to the proper organizations.

Currently, he studies intellectual property and tax law at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. His internship concluded Aug. 2, 2012.

Ben McDonald

Ben McDonald, an intern with the BRBF Pro Bono Project, is originally from Slidell. His supervisors were Robin Kay and Emily Chambers.

“Working with Robin and Emily has been extremely helpful because they are willing to explain the reasoning behind what they do, as opposed to just telling me how to do something.

McDonald’s duties consisted of conducting intake interviews and inputting data from Thirst for Justice, Ask-A-Lawyer and the Self Help Desk into the Prime Computer System. His internship ended July 10, 2012, and he will attend law school at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in the fall.

Steffi Obilisundar

Steffi Obilisundar interned with the BRBF Pro Bono Project, specifically with the Self Help Resource Center, under the supervision of Emily Chambers. Her duties included assisting with filling out forms and providing information related to family court matters.

“Emily and the supervising attorneys have given me a lot of good tips about practicing and what I have to look forward to in the coming years,” Obilisundar said.

Obilisundar is a second-year law student at Southern University Law Center and expects to graduate spring 2014. Obilisundar is from Garden City, N.Y., and received her B.A. from LSU in 2010. Her internship with the BRBF was from June to August 2012.

Chris Ruckstuhl

Baton Rouge native Chris Ruckstuhl interned with the BRBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) under the supervision of Carole McGehee. He answered the phone and listened to the problems of people seeking legal help then referred them to an attorney.

Currently, Ruckstuhl attends Baton Rouge Community College, where he is studying to become a paralegal. His internship with the LRIS began April 4, 2012, and wrapped up in June.
Upcoming BRBA Fall CLE Seminars

AUG. 30: Technology for Bankruptcy Attorneys – U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana

SEPT. 12: Ethics, Metadata & Professionalism CLE Seminars (3.0 hours of CLE) – Baton Rouge River Center • Seminars begin at 8 a.m. • Law Expo exhibition area available • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SEPT. 13: Family Law Section CLE / What Would Atticus Do? – Juban’s (3739 Perkins Rd.) • 12 - 2 p.m.

SEPT. 18: Construction Law Section Lunch & Learn – Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main Street • 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

OCT. 5: Practical Pointers in Issuing Subpoenas – Middleton Bar Center

OCT. 12: 21st Century Attorney CLE (concentrating on Technology-related issues) – U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana

OCT. 18: Pro Bono CLE Palooza – LSU Law Center

NOV. 2: Family Law Section CLE – 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

NOV. 7: Appellate Section Professionalism CLE – Speaker: Judge Burrell J. Carter • Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main Street • 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOV. 12: Practice Tips for the 23rd Judicial District Court – Location: TBA (in Ascension Parish)

NOV. 13: Construction Law Section Lunch & Learn – Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main Street • 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOV. 13: Workers’ Comp Section CLE – Location: TBA • 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NOV. 16: SUPERWOMEN: Female Attorneys Mastering the Game and the Strategies that Rule – Hilton Capitol Center

DEC. 4: Practicing Law in Baton Rouge: Ethics, Professionalism & Law Office Management – U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana

DEC. 6, 7, 13, 14, 27 & 28: CLE by the Hour 2012 Seminars – Crowne Plaza Hotel • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day, except Dec. 6 (classes are 8 a.m - 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6)

Contact Ann K. Gregorie at ann@brba.org or 225-214-5563 for more information. Logon www.brba.org to register and for a comprehensive seminar schedule.

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ERECTED BY THE LIVINGSTON PARISH POLICE
Interview with 21st Judicial District Court Chief Judge Robert “Bob” H. Morrison III  BY REBECCA WISBAR

VITAL STATISTICS
Full Name: Robert “Bob” H. Morrison III  
Age: 66  
Position: 21st Judicial District Court Judge, Section C  
Born & Raised: in Kingsport, Tenn.  
Education: Rhodes College and LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Family: Married; two children

ATB: Where did you grow up?

JRBM: It was in a small town up in East Tennessee. Kingsport was the name of the town. I grew up there, finished high school, went to undergraduate school at Southwestern in Memphis. (It's changed now to Rhodes.) Then, came to LSU for law school and married a girl from Louisiana. That’s how I got down here and been here ever since. I love being here. The thing that I miss is that we had four distinct seasons; it always snowed during the winter; the leaves always turned in the fall; the flowers always came out in the spring; and it wasn’t quite as hot and humid during the summer, so it was a nice place from that standpoint for sure.

ATB: Tell us about your early practice.

JRBM: I graduated from LSU in 1970 and went to work with a firm in Denham Springs. After going out on my own for a couple years, I got into a partnership with Calvin Fayard and Jimmy Kuhn and we stayed together for quite some time. Then my predecessor had health problems, said he needed to retire, and it was a good time to transition for me. I was intrigued by that prospect of being a judge, so decided I'd make a run for it. I've been on the bench since 1988, going on 24 years now.

ATB: You are the Chief Judge of the 21st JDC, correct? What does that involve?

JRBM: I am Chief Judge and I don’t take that as an accolade, I take that as being kind of by default. They tease me and say I lost the coin toss back years ago. It’s primarily administrative; I just try to keep all the wheels turning in the same direction. I always joked and said my metaphor for it really is like an old runaway stagecoach in a western movie with the hero jumping on the horses’ backs to stop it (except in my case the horses aren’t tethered together and they go off in eight different directions), so it’s trying to keep everybody on the same page. We all have a pretty good relationship, and most the judges out here have differences of opinion, but not really serious problems with any of that. We’re into a lot of things now that take a lot of time.

We’re excited about building a new courthouse. We’re just trying to make it as functional and as safe as we can. I think we’re on track hopefully for September 2014 to have our building. It’s going to be between the present courthouse and the interstate. There’s a tract of property that all of our agencies had enough foresight years ago to pool some money and buy a 22-acre site down there. The parish government has pretty much moved down there already, so it’s those newer buildings that you see when you come off the interstate. The courthouse will be down at the end of what will be a boulevard going down to it. The courthouse will be on the west end of the property at the rear.

ATB: How large will it be?

JRBM: Somewhere in the vicinity of 81,000 to 82,000 square feet and a three-story building. We went visit the courthouse in Baton Rouge as well as the one in Covington, which was a newer courthouse in the vicinity, so we certainly have heard some of the problems with the elevators. We’re trying to keep the main offices that the public would use, like the Sheriff’s office to go pay taxes and clients and everything like that, on our first floor. The main courtroom will be on the first floor, so you won’t even have to go upstairs for that, and hopefully that will alleviate problems. The building will only be three stories, so the elevators won’t have as far to go, so they should serve people quickly. We have contracted with a consultant from the National Center for State Courts to help us with some security issues. It’s fascinating when you get into it. There is such a high degree of planning for courtroom layouts, the sight runs, acoustics and equipment.
ATB: With Livingston Parish’s growth, are there thoughts of future expansion of the courthouse?

JRB: We’ve got as much expansion as we can, and the way we’re designing it, we anticipate the event—at some time there is going to be that future growth. The courthouse is designed where you can add on to the side of the building. It’ll be down a courtroom wing, so if we can find money down the road, we’ll be able to expand it. We have plenty of room, that’s one good thing we’ve got, let’s say with 22 acres.

ATB: What are the plans for the current courthouse?

JRB: Well, they’re a little uncertain. As far as most of it, I think they’re probably just going to bulldoze it because it has inefficient insulation, air-conditioning and heating units. But the old part of the courthouse, which was actually a WPA building from back in the 1940s, they have gotten some grant money to do some renovations and keep that portion of the building and still have some public offices in it.

ATB: What do you find is different for you between being a judge and practicing law?

JRB: Well, it’s such a different perspective really. As a judge, you’re kind of sitting back while everything unfolds in front of you; instead of being the one who is the proactive one, you’re the one who is the auditor, so it’s more of a balancing routine for sure than being an advocate.

ATB: What would you advise attorneys practicing before your court?

JRB: There are several things that I’d say. Number one: I sometimes feel there’s a real lack of communication between opposing attorneys pretrial. While you may not necessarily settle something, you at least clarify issues and reduce the amount of time you have to spend in the courtroom. The other one is just be prepared. First of all read the law, see what you’ve got to prove and then see how you’re going to prove it. You know what witnesses are going to supply, so just be prepared. I know it’s hectic practicing law, I remember that, and it’s not always easy to do, but when something is going to trial, judges really appreciate that. Don’t beat up on other attorneys. That doesn’t get you anywhere, but under a judge’s skin as well as under the skin of your opposing counsel. Just play it straight and it’s much more effective.

ATB: What was the best advice you’ve received either about
being an attorney or being a judge and who provided that advice to you?

JRBM: The best advice I got about being a judge was the less you say, the better.

ATB: Any other thoughts you have about practicing law?

JRBM: Well, I think that something that is really important. I have for years admired the Baton Rouge Bar Association for the outreach involvement and all of the things that this association does in our profession that’s so important. Here’s something else somebody gave me as far as advice when I was a new judge. We went to a training down in New Orleans and Judge Plotkin, who’s now retired, said something like, do your job first and do it well, but the stuff that’s really going to fulfill you are the extra things that you do. I think that that’s really been something that I found out for a long time and probably took his advice to heart because I’m sitting here thinking about all the things that I just can’t say no to like continuing to be a liaison to the legislature from the district judges. I’m chair in a committee of the Law Institute and all other things. The Law Institute Committee is on criminal law procedure and what we’re taking up Friday is kind of an aftermath of the decision that the Supreme Court made about non-homicide cases with juveniles and that life without parole is a violation of the 8th Amendment. So we’re sitting here grappling with it. It’s fascinating to do stuff like that though and just being more involved with how the law shapes and gets developed and the same kind of thing with the legislature. We established a relationship with them and at least weigh in on some of the stuff that was coming up that would affect us. And so I’ve been doing that for a long time.

ATB: Do you all make recommendations for shaping the law based on what you’re seeing every day?

JRBM: Exactly. We’ve been proactive.

ATB: So, one of the best pieces of advice that you received then is to become involved in the community in addition to being involved in the courtroom?

JRBM: I think that you end up being so much more fulfilled and so much less getting burned out with your profession if you’re doing stuff that you think is really kind of making a profession better respected and doing stuff to make it better.
A comparison of Florida and Louisiana stand-your-ground laws in light of Trayvon Martin

BY SHENEQUA L. GREY

Over the last several months since the tragic death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African-American teenager who was shot by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain in Sanford, Fla., the country has become divided and outraged over the fact that Zimmerman was not initially arrested and charged with the murder of Martin. As the media reported on the issues, and activists spoke out, Florida’s “stand-your-ground” statute became the center of a national controversy, being cited as the reason Zimmerman, who claimed self-defense for the Feb. 26, 2012, shooting under the statute, had not been arrested. Critics argued that the right to use deadly force under the statute is too liberal, and results in unnecessary deaths in situations that would have possibly been diffused if the right didn’t exist. As a result, many have called for the repeal of stand-your-ground laws.

Much of this, however, stems from a misunderstanding about what Florida’s stand-your-ground statute actually provides, and more specifically, about Florida’s prosecutorial-immunity provision that applies when a person reasonably claims self-defense under the statute. The fact is, more than 20 states, including Louisiana,1 have stand-your-ground laws very similar to Florida’s, but some states like Louisiana, do not include the prosecutorial-immunity provision that Florida’s law contains.2 This results in a significant difference in the effect the law has on the prosecution of such cases. This article explains the applicable stand-your-ground law in the Martin/Zimmerman case and distinguishes it from Louisiana’s stand-your-ground law.

Stand your ground as it relates to self defense

In many respects, Florida’s self-defense statute is much like most states, including Louisiana. It basically divides the use of force in self-defense cases into two main categories—one in which the victim dies as a result of the force used,3 and the other, when no death results.4 As it relates to when a death occurs, the statute allows the use of deadly force in three situations—if the person using the force reasonably believes the force used is necessary to prevent either: 1) imminent death; 2) great bodily harm; or 3) commission of a forcible felony.5 These situations justify the use of deadly force whether the person claiming self-defense is protecting themselves or others.6

Furthermore, like Louisiana, Florida has specific self-defense provisions that apply to situations in which a person claiming self-defense is inside his home, other dwelling or a vehicle at the time of the incident.7 Stand-your-ground laws, however, also give a person certain rights to use deadly force in “other place[s] where he or she has a right to be”—in the park, walking down the street or as in the Martin/Zimmerman case, in the common area of a neighborhood subdivision. Specifically, Florida’s law provides:

A person who is not engaged in unlawful activity and who is attacked in any other place where he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and meet force with force, including deadly force if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.9

This protection only exists, however, if the person using deadly force to protect himself is not engaged in “unlawful activity,” such as drug transactions, gang fights or other illegal activity. So basically, this provision has three main requirements to allow a person to use deadly force in areas outside of the home. That person must: 1) be where he has a right to be; 2) not be engaged in unlawful activity; and 3) reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death, great bodily harm or a forcible felony.10 When all the requirements are met, a person is “justified” in using deadly force to prevent such actions.

It is only at this point that the stand-your-ground law comes into play. At this point the law provides that the person using such force does not have a “duty to retreat”11 prior to using such force and may “stand his or her ground and meet force with force.”12 In other words, a person who is where he has a right to be and is not doing anything illegal would not have to attempt to run away, hide or otherwise attempt to escape from the would-be attacker, prior to using deadly force to protect himself from death,
great bodily harm or a forcible felony against himself or another. Under these circumstances that person has a right to “stand his or her ground” and meet force with force. Supporters argue that the statute is necessary to save the lives of innocent people who would be in even greater danger from a potential attacker if required to attempt to escape or retreat prior to defending themselves.13

Although the statute may have good intentions, many question its application in the Martin/Zimmerman case. The facts of this case raise questions as to whether a reasonable person would have believed that it was necessary to kill Martin to prevent his own death, great bodily harm or a forcible felony as Martin was unarmed and at least initially pursued by Zimmerman.

But assuming arguendo that Martin did attack Zimmerman as he claimed, this raises an additional issue. Florida’s law, like Louisiana, does not allow the aggressor in an altercation to claim self-defense just because he’s losing a fight he started. However, two exceptions to this rule will allow an aggressor to claim self-defense: 1) when the aggressor has in good faith withdrawn from the altercation in such a way that the other person knows he wishes to withdraw and terminate the encounter or 2) if the person used excessive force to defend himself during the altercation.14

The facts in this case show that Zimmerman initially pursued Martin.17 Martin would then be justified in using reasonable force to protect himself from Zimmerman. Provided the force Martin used was in fact reasonable, Zimmerman can’t then claim he had to protect himself from Martin. As a result, Zimmerman can claim self-defense only if he’s able to show that either: 1) prior to the shooting, he had in good faith withdrawn from the altercation in such a way that Martin knew he wished to withdraw, and Martin then approached him, becoming the aggressor; or 2) if during the altercation, Martin used excessive force (in this case deadly force), thereby giving Zimmerman the right to meet force with force.19

Zimmerman claims both of these circumstances existed prior to shooting Martin, although police question whether this was in fact the case.20

In these respects, there’s no considerable distinction between Florida and Louisiana’s stand-your-ground laws.22 The difference in the laws, however, is in the effect that a reasonable claim of self-defense has on the case as it moves through arrest and subsequent prosecution and trial.

Florida’s prosecutorial immunity statute

What Louisiana does not have in its self-defense statute that Florida’s statute contains is the provision that immunizes a person from criminal prosecution and civil action when acting under the above statute.23 In other words, if a person kills someone in Florida and is able to make a reasonable claim of self-defense as outlined above, he cannot be prosecuted for the crime, and prosecution is broadly defined to include arresting, detaining in custody and charging. Florida’s prosecutorial immunity statute is F.S.A. § 776.032, which provides in pertinent part as follows:

1) A person who uses force as permitted in § 776.012, § 776.013, or § 776.031 is justified in using such force and is immune from criminal prosecution and civil action for the use of such force.24 As used in this subsection, the term “criminal prosecution” includes arresting, detaining in custody, and charging or prosecuting the defendant.

2) A law enforcement agency may use standard procedures for investigating the use of force as described in subsection (1), but the agency may not arrest the person for using force unless it determines that there is probable cause that the force that was used was unlawful.

This provision explains why Zimmerman was not initially arrested for killing Martin—he was able to make a reasonable claim of self-defense and was, therefore, immune from prosecution under the statute.

In Louisiana, however, a claim of self-defense does not result in immunity from prosecution, but instead, is an affirmative defense to a charge of murder.25 This means that if there’s probable cause that a person killed someone, the police can arrest him and he’ll be prosecuted for the crime. That person can then present his claim of self-defense at the trial to a jury, who will decide whether the homicide was in fact justifiable.26 This approach allows a neutral trier of fact to consider conflicting stories, facts and circumstances to determine the truth using the oath, evidentiary rules and sound evidence, rather than basing the conclusions on media speculation or on one person’s self-serving version of what happened.27

Under Florida’s immunity statute, however, even though the police may have probable cause that a crime has been committed, rather than arresting that person so that the case can ultimately be decided by a jury, a “law enforcement agency” must determine whether the force used was justifiable under the circumstances using “standard procedures for investigating,” rather than at a trial. If the police find that the force used was justifiable, that person is immune from prosecution under the statute. This is what initially occurred in the Martin/Zimmerman case, based perhaps primarily on Zimmerman’s statements
alone.\(^3\) This effect has been one of the major criticisms of the statute because, not only does it make prosecuting homicides more difficult, but in some cases it serves as a complete bar to prosecution altogether.\(^3\)

However, Florida’s prosecutorial-immunity provision contains an exception that allows such cases to move forward in certain circumstances. The statute provides that even if a person claims self-defense, that person can be prosecuted if, during the investigation, the police find that there was probable cause that the force used was not justified as outlined above.

This exception justifies Zimmerman’s subsequent arrest for killing Trayvon Martin. Based on the facts that have been reported, probable cause\(^3\) exists to support the fact that Zimmerman’s conduct was unlawful.\(^3\) The facts suggest that Zimmerman initially pursued Martin armed with a handgun as an unarmed Martin tried to run away from him. The fact that there is contradicting evidence is the very reason the case should go to a jury to make these factual determinations, rather than taking no action against Zimmerman at all.

Procedurally handling claims of prosecutorial immunity

Although Florida’s prosecutorial-immunity provision appears to solely vest within the police the determination of whether the deadly force used in a given case was justified; Florida courts have developed a more objective process for handling such cases, as set out in Peterson v. State.\(^3\)\(^5\) Under Peterson, a defendant is “entitled to a pretrial evidentiary hearing on the issue of immunity from prosecution under Stand Your Ground law,”\(^3\)\(^6\) giving the trial court the right to “decide the factual question of applicability of the statutory immunity.”\(^3\)\(^7\) The court must “adjudicate disputed fact issues”\(^3\)\(^8\) and “not deny a motion simply because factual disputes exist.”\(^3\)\(^9\) The defendant has the burden of proof and must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the immunity attaches.\(^3\)\(^0\) “A motion to dismiss would be a second step, appropriate if the state continued prosecution of a defendant after he earned immunity under the statute.”\(^3\)\(^1\) If the motion is denied, “the defendant may still assert it to the jury as an affirmative defense.”\(^3\)\(^2\)

Applying this law, Florida officials acted properly in arresting Zimmerman and charging him with murder as probable cause exists to believe that a murder occurred and probable cause exists, even if not conclusive evidence,\(^3\)\(^3\) that it was unlawful. Zimmerman will have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that his actions were justified when he killed Martin. If the trial court finds that he’s entitled to immunity, the case will be dismissed. Otherwise, Zimmerman can still present his claim of self-defense to the jury as an affirmative defense.

Conclusion

In conclusion, stand-your-ground law has been misunderstood as giving individuals the right to use unjustified deadly force. But, in actuality, these statutes provide only that when a person is justified in using deadly force, he is not required to retreat or otherwise attempt to escape the altercation prior to doing so and may stand his ground and meet force with force. Stand-your-ground statutes come into play only if a person is “justified” in using the deadly force in the first place. This is the law in Florida as well as Louisiana and several other states.

The difference, however, lies in Florida’s immunity provision that protects a person from prosecution for his conduct if he can make a reasonable claim of self-defense under the statute, unless of course, probable cause exists that he was not acting in self-defense. This immunity provision is quite different from the law in Louisiana and other states where a claim of self-defense is only an affirmative defense that must be presented to the jury at the trial. This approach allows a neutral trier of fact to make difficult factual determinations.
Based on police reports and highly publicized 911 tape recordings, 16

Zimmerman stated in his handwritten statement given to Sanford Police Department on Feb. 26, 2012, “As I headed back to my vehicle, the suspect emerged from the darkness…” He goes on to explain that he was then threatened by Martin and physically assaulted by him prior to the shooting.

In the Sanford Police Department Capias Request dated March 13, 2012, the officer states, “Investigative finding show that the physical injuries displayed by George Michael Zimmerman are marginally consistent with a life-threatening violent episode as described by him, during which neither a deadly weapon nor deadly force was deployed by Trayvon Martin.”

18 FLS. 9:2800.19, where Louisiana provides for immunity from civil action for the reasonable and apparently necessary or deadly force or violence used in accordance with La. R.S. 14:19 or 14:20.

20 Fl. Stat. § 776.032.

21 Zimmerman stated in his handwritten statement given to Sanford Police Department on Feb. 26, 2012, “As I headed back to my vehicle, the suspect emerged from the darkness…” He goes on to explain that he was then threatened by Martin and physically assaulted by him prior to the shooting.

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25 However, in a homicide prosecution when a defendant claims self-defense, the burden is on the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense. See State v. King, 11-0767 (La.App. 5 Cir. 2/28/12) ___ So.3d ___.

26 Weaver, supra note 13, at 419–20 (addressing many of the difficulties with applying stand-your-ground law).

27 See Fl. Stat. § 776.032.

28 See Fl. Stat. § 776.032 (2).

29 However, in a homicide prosecution when a defendant claims self-defense, the burden is on the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense. See State v. King, 11-0767 (La.App. 5 Cir. 2/28/12) ___ So.3d ___.

30 Weaver, supra note 13, at 419–20 (addressing many of the difficulties with applying stand-your-ground law).

31 See id. at 406–07 (discussing the “actual effects” of “Stand your Ground Law”).

32 See Fl. Stat. § 776.032 (2).


35 Peterson v. State, 983 So.2d 27 (Fl. App. 2 Dist. 2008).

36 Wonder v. State, 69 So.3d 371 (Fl. App. 4 Dist. 2011).


38 Peterson, 983 So.2d at 29.

39 Id.; see also McDaniel v. State, 24 So.3d 654, 656 (Fla. App. 2 Dist. 2009).

40 Id.

41 Horn v. State, 17 So.3d 836, 839 (Fla. App. 2 Dist. 2009).

42 McDaniel, 24 So.3d at 656.

New commissioner installed during ceremony

A swearing-in ceremony was held for 19th Judicial District Court Commissioner Quintillis Lawrence Monday, July 2, 2012. Judge Michael R. Erwin presided over the ceremony.

BRBA President Gail S. Stephenson presented Commissioner Lawrence with a robe. Michael L. Tyler, president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society presented Lawrence with a gavel. Judge Erwin thanked former Commissioner John Smart for his many years of service with the court.

Lawrence, a 2001 graduate of Southern University Law Center, most recently served as assistant public defender with the 19th Judicial District Public Defender’s Office, and is a trial counsel for the U.S. Army, 377th TSC.

New date, new venue set for Belly Up with the Bar

The BRBF Belly Up with the Bar annual event has a new location, the Live Oak Arabian Stables, 6300 Jefferson Hwy. The event, which is Friday, Sept. 28, at 5 p.m., will be held in the arena, a sheltered and well-lit area.

The Live Oak Arabian Stables is a historical sight with aesthetics of Louisiana’s finest surroundings. Guests will enter through the gate where they will be let in to park within the pastures. There will be ample parking space.

At the event, teams of lawyers will make evident their culinary skills in a cook-off competition that features celebrity judges. This outdoor party offers live music and fun activities for kids. Guests will sample food and beverages. Brandon DeCuir is this year’s chair of Belly Up with the Bar.

To register, contact Donna Buuck at (225) 214-5556 or donna@BRBA.org. Or fill out the team registration form on page 10 of this issue.

BRBA Law Expo 2012 & September Bar Luncheon to take place Wednesday, Sept. 12

The BRBA will host its 27th annual Law Expo, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Baton Rouge River Center. Three CLE seminars, including an ethics and a professionalism, will be available at no cost to BRBA members who pre-register and visit with at least 15 booth representatives.

The luncheon will begin at 12:30 p.m. Luncheon speaker H. Alston Johnson III will provide a legislative update. Drawings for door prizes will be held during much of the event, including during the sponsored reception, which will follow the Law Expo from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Manship Theatre. All BRBA members and Law Expo sponsors are invited. The John Gray Jazz Trio will entertain reception guests. Adult beverages, soft drinks and hors d’oeuvres will be available.

Michael Platte is the Law Expo chair and Bryan Jeansonne is the vice chair. BRBA Communications
Luncheon Committee Chair Marlene Krousel Allgood, Speaker John Maginnis, Young Lawyers Section Chair Jamie Hurst Watts and BRBA President Gail S. Stephenson were photographed after the June Bar Luncheon Thursday, June 14, 2012, at De La Ronde Hall.

Coordinator Pamela Labbe will coordinate the Law Expo Committee.

For more information about how to register for the September Bar Luncheon, call 225-344-4803, see the registration form on page 6 of this issue or go to www.BRBA.org (under the events tab) to register online.

Self Help Resource Center proves to be a useful resource for those needing limited legal help

The Self Help Resource Center was first established in January 2012. It is a walk-in help desk in the East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court where volunteer law students under the supervision of an attorney provide information and forms for self-represented litigants seeking help in divorce, custody, visitation and modification of child support.

The Self Help Resource Center, located on the fourth floor of the 19th Judicial District Court building, 300 North Blvd., is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is a joint initiative of BRBF Pro Bono Project, East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court, Louisiana State Bar Association, BRBA and partners with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Southern University Law Center, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society.

To volunteer, contact Emily Chambers at 225-214-5558 or emily@brba.org.

Judge Melvin Shortess (Ret.) to be honored with BRBA David A. Hamilton Pro Bono Award at next luncheon

The BRBA David A. Hamilton Pro Bono Award will be presented to Judge Melvin Shortess (Ret.) for his hard work and dedication for pro bono. Shortess created the Thirst for Justice legal clinic in 2001. He has volunteered tirelessly with this program ever since.

Judge Shortess served as a judge for 33 years, serving on the Baton Rouge City Court, 19th Judicial District Court and First Circuit Court of Appeal.
Womack to receive LSBA 2012 Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award Sept. 12 at next bar luncheon

BRBA member T. MacDougall “Mac” Womack was honored with the Louisiana State Bar Association’s 2012 Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism this summer in Sandestin, Fla. However, a formal presentation will be made of this award locally to Womack by the BRBA Wednesday, Sept. 12, at the September Bar Luncheon.

The LSBA Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism is the premier award of the State Bar’s Crystal Gavel Awards program. The award is named in honor of the late Leah Hipple McKay, who was a member of the LSBA and a deeply committed volunteer. The award is presented to a Louisiana lawyer or judge who has made significant long-term volunteer contributions.

LSU graduate counseling class held in BRBA building this summer benefited at-risk teens

Analysis of the Individual, a summer graduate course at Louisiana State University, provided college students with an opportunity to learn how to counsel teens. The class, which was held at the BRBA’s Middleton Bar Center Wednesday evenings, was led by Mary D. Feduccia Ph.D., an Associate Dean of Career Services. Following her lecture, students met with teens in groups and discussed topics ranging from anger management to peer pressure. Teens attended the class as part of their mandatory sentencing from the Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge program.

For more information on Teen Court, contact Assistant Teen Court Coordinator Lynn Haynes at (225) 214-5564 or lynn@BRBA.org.

Summer Sizzlin’ CLE held July 13

The Young Lawyers Section of the BRBA held its annual Summer Sizzlin’ CLE Seminar Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Middleton Bar Center. The seminar was attended by 34 members of the BRBA.

YLS Council member Loren Shanklin organized the four-hour seminar. Susan Kelley is the staff liaison of the section, and chairing this year’s Young Lawyers Section Council is Jamie Hurst Watts.

Speakers at this year’s Summer Sizzlin’ included Charles Plattsmer, Buddy Stockwell III, Robert Woosley, John Woosley and Judge Guy Holdridge.

BRBA dues invoices will be mailed in September

BRBA 2013 dues invoices are being mailed in September, so be on the lookout for yours. You can pay your invoice by credit card online through our website (www.BRBA.org).

In addition, only those who are current with their dues may run for an elected position or may vote in the upcoming BRBA elections.
Consider joining the BRBA LRIS for client referrals

BRBA members should consider joining the Lawyer Referral & Information Service to receive referrals and to expand their client base. Contact LRIS Coordinator Carole McGehee for more information at 225-214-5557 or carole@brba.org.

Admission to Federal Courts Ceremony to be held Dec. 4 at the Russell B. Long Federal Courthouse

The Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will host once again the Admission to the Federal Courts Ceremony. All attendees have the opportunity to be admitted to the United States Middle, Eastern and Western District Courts and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, plus be introduced to the Court and meet the judges of the Middle District of Louisiana.

Chief Judge Brian A. Jackson will preside over the Swearing In Ceremony, which will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012, at 5 p.m. in Courtroom 1 at the MDLA, Russell B. Long Federal Courthouse in Baton Rouge.

For additional information, contact Ann K. Gregorie at ann@brba.org or 225-214-5563.

Buddy Stockwell III provided an informative talk during the BRBA Young Lawyers Section Summer Sizzlin’ CLE, held Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Middleton Bar Center. Stockwell is the executive director of the Louisiana Lawyers’ Assistance Programs.

PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

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Nomination Form

2013 Board of Directors

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office at P. O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2013 Board of Directors election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and my 2013 dues assessment must be paid by Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. I understand that, if elected, I am expected to make a good faith effort to attend board meetings, monthly luncheons, special events and meetings of the committees to which I am assigned as liaison. Further, I understand that I will bear my pro-rated expense for board meetings, whether I am present or not. I understand that this is a working body and that I will be expected to accept and fulfill designated responsibilities. The Baton Rouge Bar Association Board of Directors also serves as the Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

I wish to run for the position of: Director at Large (6) Secretary Treasurer President-Elect

Name ____________________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________ Date __________________________

The November issue of Around the Bar will include a listing of all candidates for office. Please complete the following for use in the listing. Use no more than the space allotted. Please submit your photo (as a high resolution .jpg) and this form as a .pdf and email it to: ann@brba.org. You are also welcome to fax your form to 225-344-4805, or mail it to the BRBA office. Your photograph will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of ATB and on the ballot.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Position for which you are running _______________________________________

Firm _____________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________

Year admitted to practice ________________ Law School ________________________

Email ________________________________ Date of Birth _________________________

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Other professional information _____________________________________________

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Nomination Form
2013 YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office at P. O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2013 Young Lawyers Section Council election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and my 2013 dues assessment must be paid by Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. Further, I understand that I must be eligible for membership in the Baton Rouge Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Eligibility is limited to all lawyers under the age of 39, or who have been admitted to the first bar less than five years who pay any dues as set and assessed by the Board of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Membership in this section terminates automatically at the end of the calendar year within which a member attains 39 years of age or five years after admission to his or her first bar, whichever last shall occur. I understand that this is a working body and that any officer or council member failing to attend three successive meetings of the council shall be asked to vacate his or her position. I also understand that I will bear my pro-rated expense for all YLS meetings.

I wish to run for the position of: Chairman-Elect____ Council Member (5)____ Secretary / Treasurer ____

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________________________________________ Date ______________________________

The November issue of Around the Bar will include a listing of all candidates for office. Please complete the following for use in the listing. Use no more than the space allotted. Please submit your photo (as a high resolution .jpg) and this form as a .pdf and email it to: ann@brba.org. You are also welcome to fax your form to 225-344-4805, or mail it to the BRBA office. Your photograph will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of ATB and on the ballot.

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Position for which you are running ______________________________________________________________________

Firm __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________ City/State/Zip ______________________________

Year admitted to practice _____________  Law School _______________________________

Email ______________________________

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association ______________________________________________________________

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Other professional information____________________________________________________________________________

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Nomination Form

2013 Public Law Practice Section

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office at P. O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2013 Public Law Practice Section. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and my 2013 dues assessment must be paid by Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. Further, I must be a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association’s Public Law Practice Section.

I wish to run for the position of:

___ Chair-elect (1)
___ Secretary (1)
___ Council Member (1) — Local government representative
___ Council Member (1) — Attorney General representative
___ Council Member (1) — Private attorney representative
___ Council Member (1) — At Large representative
___ Council Member (1) — Judicial representative
___ Council Member (1) — Executive Branch representative
___ Council Member (1) — Legislative Branch representative

Position for which you are running _________________________________________________________________

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________ Date ______________________________

Please complete the following for use as a bio to provide to section members. Use no more than the space allotted. Please submit your photo (as a high resolution .jpg) and this form as a .pdf and email it to: ann@brba.org. You are also welcome to fax your form to 225-344-4805, or mail it to the BRBA office. Your photograph will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of ATB and on the ballot.

Name

Firm/Agency _____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________  City/State/Zip _________________________________

Year admitted to practice ________________________________  Law School ______________________________

Email _________________________________________________

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association __________________________________________________________

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Other professional information ____________________________________________________________

The mission of the Public Law Practice Section is to address the needs of attorneys practicing before, representing or employed by governmental, regulatory, administrative or other public law entities and to promote professionalism and community outreach.
Nomination Form

2013 FAMILY LAW SECTION SECRETARY

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office at P.O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, 2012.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2013 Family Law Section Executive Committee election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and a member of the Family Law Section, and my 2013 dues assessment must be paid by Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. I understand that this is a working body and that any officer or council member failing to attend three successive meetings of the Committee shall be asked to vacate his or her position.

I wish to run for the position of: Secretary __

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________________________________________ Date ______________________________

Please complete the following for use as a bio to provide to section members. Use no more than the space allotted. Please submit your photo (as a high resolution .jpg) and this form as a .pdf and email it to: ann@brba.org. You are also welcome to fax your form to 225-344-4805, or mail it to the BRBA office. Your photograph will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of ATB and on the ballot.

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Firm __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________ City/State/Zip _________________________________

Year admitted to practice ________________________________ Law School ___________________________________

Email _________________________________________________

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association ______________________________________________________________

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Other professional information____________________________________________________________________________

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An Interview with
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center
Chancellor Jack M. Weiss

ATB: Coming from private practice, how would you describe your transition to academia? How long would you say it took you to learn the ropes and feel comfortable in your new role?

JW: In retrospect, I would say the transition was smooth. The academic culture and the law firm culture both are heavily dependent upon consultation, mutual respect of fellow professionals, and the need for seeking and building consensus when possible. Both enterprises are engaged in challenging intellectual inquiry. I’ve found the transition to be comfortable.

ATB: Looking back over the past four and a half years of your tenure as chancellor of the Law Center, of what accomplishments are you most proud?

JW: Well, in no particular order, here’s a “non-exclusive” list: (i) Building and reinvigorating the clinical education program, including the creation of a variety of externships whereby hundreds of law students have been placed in government, public interest, judicial etc. positions; (ii) Reform of the law school’s curriculum to provide additional flexibility for students in their senior year; (iii) Recalibration of the grading system to better align us with law schools and leave behind a system where our student’s grades were artificially lowered; (iv) Recruitment of very talented and committed young faculty members to replace the giants of the school who have retired or passed; (v) Recruitment of increasing numbers of highly credentialed Louisiana and non-resident students; (vi) Overseeing a material increase in the diversity of the student body and attendant changes in the school’s culture, including the hiring of African American faculty, admissions staff, providing financial support for a new LGBT student organization on the same basis as other student organizations, and the devotion of financial resources to recruiting high-achieving minority students; (vii) Identification and inauguration of the new energy-law initiative which includes the Nesser Family’s gift of an endowed chair in energy law. This important gift will be used to help create a first-rate program that will connect with the main campus’s energy and natural-resources-related programs.

I would emphasize that, although these things have been accomplished on my “watch,” they are all the result of faculty, administration, students and, in many cases, alumni working together for the good of the school.

ATB: The creation of the law clinic was a big change at LSU, but there are few to no true full-time clinical faculty aside from the clinic’s director. What is the status and how will you continue to champion clinical legal education at the Law Center?

JW: When I arrived I knew we had to expand the clinic. We had a faculty committee that produced a plan for a model law clinic at the time. An experienced consultant was hired to help in forming the early program. Robert Lancaster was hired from Indiana to be the first director and has done an excellent job. However, for two consecutive years we sought to hire tenure-track clinical faculty but were unsuccessful. We made a serious effort, but because we were not successful, we had to find ways to enlarge the program through alternative means. We hired Ken Mayeaux from Catholic Charities to manage the immigration law clinic and then brought Hector Linares on board to help with the Juvenile Clinic. Jeffrey Brooks was brought on to run the externship program and the moot court program. While it is true that only Professor Lancaster has a tenure-like status, we are in the process of reviewing the status of clinical faculty this spring. Of course, a major issue with the clinic is money. It takes money to hire more clinicians and to offer more clinics. We’ve been cut and cut and are limited in what we can do. Our state appropriation was about $10 million when I arrived and now we’re at under $6.5 million after our latest mid-year budget cuts. Now we’re about 75 percent tuition-supported and that, combined with a decreasing state budget forecast, makes it a great challenge to enhance our legal-education program while keeping tuition at a reasonable level and maintaining our #6 “Best Value” law school status.

ATB: LSU is known as a bastion of the civil law, but some say this focus has sometimes been to the law school’s detriment, as well as to its advantage. What do you say?

JW: We’re a mixed jurisdiction in Louisiana. A large portion of Louisiana’s law is civilian, and LSU’s faculty has always played a major role in helping shape the civil law in this state and for that matter, worldwide. As long as we have the civil law, we will teach that at LSU. We’ve hired two outstanding civil law faculty members since I’ve arrived here. I’ve been the champion of offering constructive critiques for the new bar examination
revisions because I believe the bar exam must continue to ensure that Louisiana lawyers are competent in the laws of our state, particularly the civil law. A separate question is the extent we at LSU Law should require our students to take civil law courses, as distinguished from offering them, but leaving it up to their informed judgment, to sign-up for these courses as they wish. This question has taken on added importance because we are now fortunate enough to have a substantial number of students from other states who “vote with their feet” to get an LSU Law education. We’ve liberalized the so-called “basket” requirements, but we still require a significant upper class course load. I’m of the opinion that our highly qualified LSU students should be able to make most of their own decisions on what classes to take. Our faculty, students, and alumni no doubt will continue to discuss this issue in the months and years to come.

ATB: What is the most challenging part about your job?

JW: Defending the Law Center’s core values in a very competitive and political environment. For example, hardly a week goes by when I don’t have to make some judgment as to whether a proposal, requirement, or outside influence affects the Law Center’s interests in a way that requires me to take some action. That is the most challenging and in some ways the most important part of the job. Articulating and defending the interests of the Law Center’s students and its other constituencies statewide is one of the Chancellor’s main jobs, and it’s a heavy responsibility. You realize that you are only a temporary holder of a great trust. You want to leave the campsite better than you found it, so to speak.

ATB: What other thoughts do you have to share with the Baton Rouge Bar Association?

JW: The largest number of our graduates is here in Baton Rouge. We’ve always had a special relationship with the Baton Rouge Bar Association for that very reason. Strength, support and counsel from the local bar are and have been invaluable to me. My message to the Baton Rouge bar is that this is a challenging time for law school. The legal environment is changing along with our economy and the state’s fiscal picture impacts the law school’s future in a substantial way. I urge our alums who are not already involved at the Law Center to become more involved and pay close attention to the initiatives and proposals that affect the LSU Law Center and its students, present and future, and to assist me in my responsibility to preserve, protect, and defend it and them. We cannot do it without the help of our alums.
## West's Jury Verdicts - Baton Rouge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue/Case Type</th>
<th>Major Injury</th>
<th>Trial Type</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Baton Rouge Parish</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Jury</td>
<td>Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Malpractice</td>
<td>Septicemia; organ damage</td>
<td>Jury</td>
<td>$685,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligence</td>
<td>Neck, back, surgery</td>
<td>Jury</td>
<td>$1,100,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premises Liability</td>
<td>Spine, surgery</td>
<td>Jury</td>
<td>$640,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Negligence</td>
<td>Back, knee; headaches</td>
<td>Bench</td>
<td>$70,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Negligence</td>
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### West’s Case of the Month

**Motorist Receives $71K For Left Turn, Intersection Collision in Baton Rouge**

*Ridgley v. Norman*

**Type of Case:**
- Vehicle Negligence • Motor Vehicle v. Motor Vehicle
- Vehicle Negligence • Intersection
- Vehicle Negligence • Left Turn

**Specific Liability:** Motorist’s vehicle was struck at intersection when another vehicle entered its lane of travel when it attempted to execute a left turn, injuring the occupants.

**General Injury:** Back and knee injuries; headaches; cervical, thoracic and lumbar sprain/strain; lumbar radiculitis; medical expenses; lost earnings

**Court:** District Court of Louisiana, Nineteenth Judicial District, Parish of East Baton Rouge

**Docket/File Number:** 581,233

**Judgment:** Plaintiff, Jerry Ridgley, $70,985.00

**Judgment Date:** Dec. 20, 2011

**Judge:** William A. Morvant

**Attorneys:**
- **Plaintiff:** David M. Lefeve, James H. Peltier Jr., Ashley M. Darville and Stephanie Legros, Dudley DeBosier Injury Lawyers, Baton Rouge
- **Defendants:** J. Ryan Brehm, Law Offices of Harold Toscano, Baton Rouge

**Trial Type:** Bench

**Breakdown of Award:**
- $31,500.00 to plaintiff Jerry Ridgley from Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co. for past pain and suffering
- $18,000.00 to plaintiff Jerry Ridgley from Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co. for past mental anguish
- $18,000.00 to plaintiff Jerry Ridgley from Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co. for loss of life enjoyment
- $3,485.00 to plaintiff Jerry Ridgley from Allstate Property and Casualty Ins. Co. for past medical expenses

**Summary of Facts:**
Jerry Ridgley said he was operating his 2007 Chrysler 300 automobile north on Jefferson Highway, near its intersection with Goodwood Avenue in East Baton Rouge Parish, La., March 27, 2009, with Thelma Ridgley as his passenger.

The Ridgleys said a 2001 Dodge Ram operated by Brian Norman exited the Goodwood Shopping Center near the intersection with Goodwood Avenue, and attempted to execute a left turn on northbound Jefferson Highway.

The Ridgleys said while trying to turn left, Norman entered their lane of travel and violently struck their vehicle.

Both Jerry and Thelma said they sustained personal injuries in the collision. Specifically, Jerry suffered back and knee injuries, while Thelma suffered headaches, cervical, thoracic and lumbar sprain/strain, as well as lumbar radiculitis.

Jerry and Thelma Ridgley filed a petition against Norman and his reported automobile insurance provider, Allstate Insurance Company, in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court for the Parish of East Baton Rouge. The plaintiffs argued Norman’s alleged negligence had caused the accident in question and their resulting injuries and damages.

Specifically, the plaintiffs claimed Norman had failed to maintain a proper lookout, drove carelessly and recklessly and failed to yield the lawful right-of-way.

The Ridgleys sought damages for their personal injuries, medical expenses and lost earnings.

The defendants generally denied the plaintiffs’ allegations and denied Norman was negligent in causing the collision. The defendants further asserted if in fact Norman was found to be negligent, Jerry Ridgley was also guilty of contributory and/or comparative negligence.

The defendants also contested the nature, extent and causation of the Ridgleys’ alleged injuries and damages, and asserted both Jerry and Thelma had suffered from pre-existing cervical and lumbar disc disorders that were not caused by the collision.

The matter proceeded to trial before Judge William A. Morvant in August 2011. In a judgment signed Dec. 20, 2011, Judge Morvant entered judgment in Jerry Ridgley’s favor against Allstate, awarding him $31,500 for past pain and suffering, $18,000 for past mental anguish, $18,000 for loss of life enjoyment and $3,485 for past medical expenses.

**Case Cite:** West’s J.V. La. Rep., Vol. 7, Iss. 10, p. 9 (2012); 2011 WL 7432096
We would like to thank all of our Pro Bono Project volunteers for their contributions during April. The Thirst for Justice solo practitioner volunteers were Terry L. Bonnie, Miranda Y. Conner, Scott Gaspard, Byron Kantrow, Allen Posey, Jessica Thornhill and Hany Zhody. The Thirst for Justice volunteer practicing with a firm was Robert Wooley, Adams and Reese.

The April Ask-A-Lawyer volunteers were Jim Austin, Adams and Reese; Barbara Baier, Jennifer Dietz, Preiss Gordon, APLC; Kara Kantrow, Kyle Marionneaux, Law Office of Kyle Marionneaux, LLC; and Emily Ziober.

Students volunteering with Thirst for Justice and Ask-A-Lawyer were Sarah Aycock, Kathryn Dufrene, Cyromia Hughes-Love and Christopher Thagard, LSU Law Center; Shannyn T. Collins, Pamela Levatino and Crii Spears-De Leo, Southern University Law Center.

The Self Help Resource Center attorney volunteers were Roy Bergeron, Alex J. Velazquez, Phelps Dunbar; Talya J. Bergeron, Brandon Hudson, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Ryan Brown, Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blanche, Balhoff & McCollister; Victor Brubaker, Treadway Morris Lawyers; Jennifer Gauthreaux, Anthony, Prescott & Gauthreaux; Ken Mayeaux, LSU Law Center; Wendra Moran; Tracy Morganti, Adams and Reese; Sandra Ribes, EBR District Attorney’s Office; and Anita White.

Students volunteering with the Self Help Resource Center were Amber Amore, Denise Farrior, LSU Law Center; Shandell C. George, Chiquita Hall, Hillary Nixon, Elisa Stephens and Briana Westry, Southern University Law Center.

The following volunteers accepted a pro bono case in the month of April: Victor Brubaker, Treadway Morris Lawyers; Rufus Craig; and Cynthia Reed, Southern University Law Center.

The Pro Bono Project is financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program of the Louisiana Bar Foundation; Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Family, District and City Court Filing Fees and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

Amanda Darby and Raveen Hills served as judges for the April 2012 Teen Court hearing.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Donna Buuck at 225-214-5556 or donna@brba.org. 

Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge is funded by a grant from the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (formerly the Office of Youth Development), a grant from the Louisiana Bar Foundation’s IOLTA program and from the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. This project is also supported in part by Grant No. 2009-JF-FX-0059 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

To find out more, contact Donna Buuck at 225-214-5556 or donna@brba.org or R. Lynn Smith Haynes at 225-214-5564 or lynn@brba.org.
Classifieds

OFFICE SUITE FOR LEASE:
Prime location – 1500 Lobdell Ave. near Towne Center and Corporate Boulevard. Quality construction with four offices, reception area and copy/supply room, security system, lots of built in storage, cathedral ceilings, tile flooring. Call Kristina for more information: 225-928-4193.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE
The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge for the Middle District of Louisiana at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The current annual salary of the position is $160,080. The term of office is eight years.

A full public notice for the magistrate judge position is posted in the office of the clerk of the district court at 777 Florida Street, Suite 139, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70801 and on the court’s website at www.lamd.uscourts.gov.

Interested persons may contact the clerk of the district court for additional information and application forms. Applications must be received by 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2012.

IDEAL FOR LAW OFFICE:
Office conveniently located off South Sherwood Forest near I-12. 2500 square feet. Elevated conference room. Seven individual offices. Includes water, lawn and trash pickup. Newly painted. Call Greg at (225) 266-4130 to see.

HOUSE FOR RENT DOWNTOWN:
Located in the heart of Downtown Baton Rouge, two bedroom house just off the interstate and within walking distance of all the downtown action. Safe neighborhood, central air and heat. Offstreet parking. Washer/dryer included. Minutes from LSU. No pets please. Call Greg for details: (225) 266-4130.

SMALL PROFESSIONAL LAW FIRM
on Wrenwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, renting one or two offices and space for secretary, with amenities, including telephone system, fax, receptionist area, copy machine and Internet access. Use of kitchen facilities, foyer and conference room. Quiet. Perfect for a solo professional or satellite office. $750 month. Includes util., plenty of free parking. Call 225-931-8492 or lawyersharedofficesbatonrouge@gmail.com.

BRBOA Office Closed — Labor Day
YLS Council meeting, 12 p.m.
Holiday Star Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
Operations and Finance Committee meeting, 3:30 p.m.;
Executive Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
Law Expo & September Bar Luncheon, River Center, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.;
Sponsored Expo reception, Manship Theatre Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
Family Law Section CLE Seminar, 12 p.m.;
Volunteer Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
CLE Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
Construction Law Section CLE & Meeting, 11:45 a.m.;
Board of Directors, 5:30 p.m.
Ask-A-Lawyer workshop, Catholic Charities, 9-11:30 a.m.
Youth Education Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
Construction Law Section CLE & Meeting, 11:45 a.m.;
YLS Council meeting, 12 p.m.
LRIS Committee meeting, 12 p.m.
Belly Up with the Bar event, 5 p.m., Live Oak Arabian Stables, 6300 Jefferson Hwy.
“IT HELPS ME ADDRESS MY CLIENTS’ ISSUES ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.”

TIM JOHNSON
HOUSTON-BASED ATTORNEY

Are you using the efficiencies of mobile technology to differentiate your client service and value? Tim Johnson is – by using the WestlawNext iPad app. “Serving my clients is not a 9-to-5 job. Ideas come around the clock,” Tim says. “The WestlawNext app automatically syncs with the research I’ve already done on the WestlawNext website, giving me access to my key resources when I leave the office.”

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