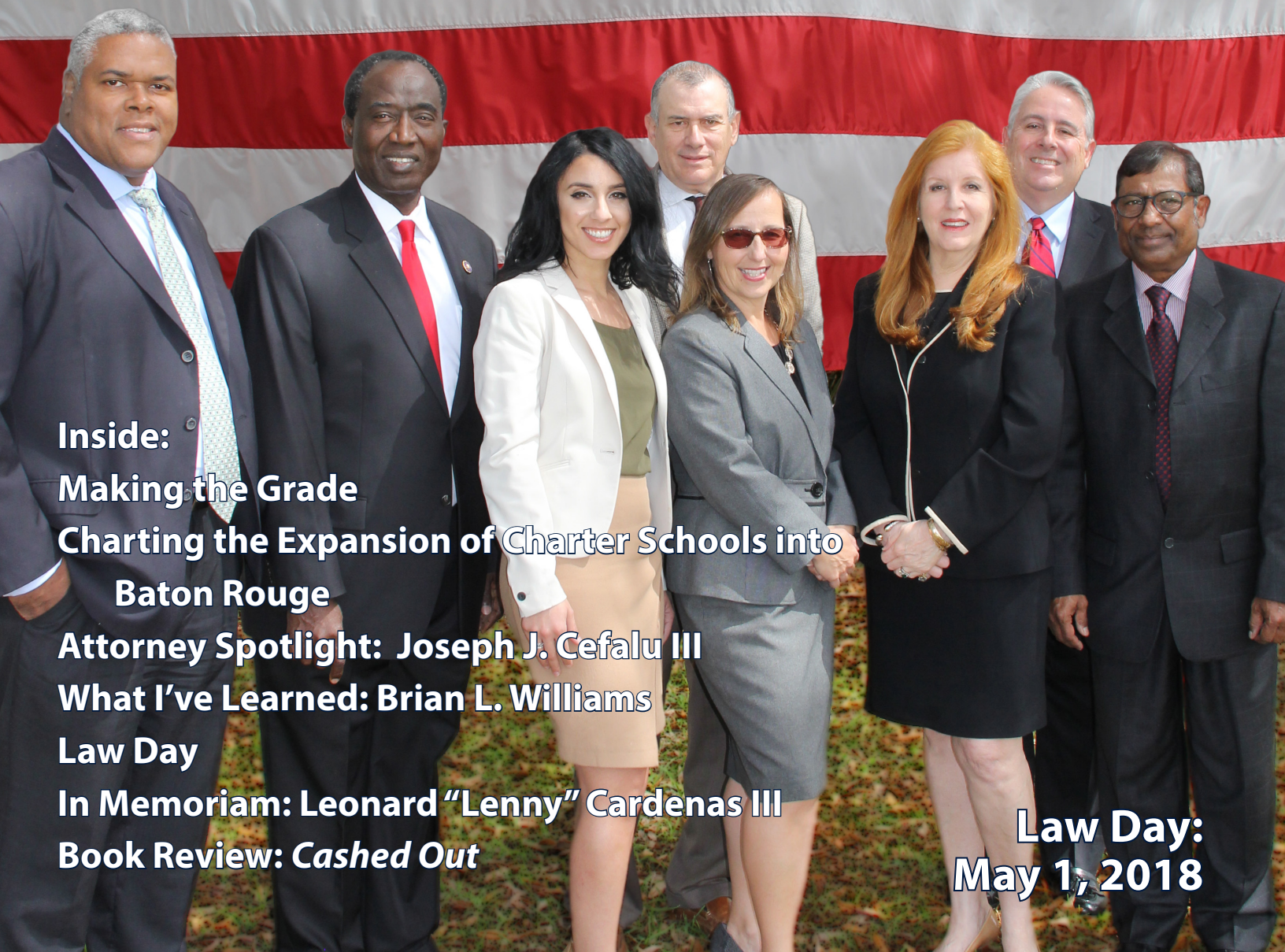




VOL. 1, ISSUE 3  
APRIL/MAY 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION

# THE BATON ROUGE LAWYER



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**Law Day:**  
**May 1, 2018**



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## On the cover:

This month's cover features naturalized citizen attorneys in Baton Rouge. This year's naturalization ceremony will take place at Law Day on May 1, 2018, at the Baton Rouge River Center from 9 AM - 1 PM.

Thank you to Charles "Chick" Moore for letting us take this month's cover photo at Moore & Hebert Law Corporation.

### Pictured:

Richard Bromfield, Tunde M. Animashaun, Farah Gheith, Vincent Fornias, Stephanie Le Grange, Bertha Iturralde Taylor, Jack K. Whitehead Jr. and Musa Rahman.

Cover photography by Landon T. Hester

### Not pictured:

Ana Sardi



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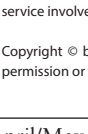
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# Letter from the President

BY LINDA LAW CLARK

## Traditions

In *Fiddler on the Roof* the tradition of knowing who you are, what you are and what you are meant to do gives comfort but isn't easy. Tevye leaves his comfort zone as his daughters, in the midst of civil strife and conflict, choose different paths. It is important to hold onto traditions, but having the strength to step out of your comfort zone, though challenging, can be rewarding.



Linda Law Clark

By now, I hope you've "considered yourself one of us" and joined, and/or renewed, your membership. Perhaps you've attended an event or CLE or have been "getting to know" others within our association. If not, there are many CLEs, volunteer activities and bar events to choose from that are part of your traditional track or a new venture outside your comfort zone that will provide an opportunity to engage in civil discourse with others.

As attorneys, civil discourse is a component part of our working lives. It is okay to agree to disagree. How civilly we do this is often the backbone of the professionalism and ethics CLEs given annually. As attorneys, we can find a common ground for sharing diverse views in our Baton Rouge area by listening and providing opportunities to work together toward common goals.

As a voluntary bar association, the BRBA avoids political stances but seeks ways to improve the quality of life within our community. *The Baton Rouge Lawyer* provides updates of activities and opportunities for your involvement. The BRBA Pro Bono service has short- and long-term volunteer needs. The Volunteer Committee always welcomes more helpers. Teen Court trains youth peer groups to tackle the problems facing our youth head on. In May, Law Day celebrates our legal traditions and welcomes new citizens to join our community. If there is something you believe could enhance your membership opportunities, improve our professional life and/or the lives of our community, please tell us.

Broadway shows often tackle different views and lifestyles, challenge past traditions and step us away from our comfort zones. When civil discourse results from these encounters, there is usually a happy ending. When there is a refusal to listen and a lack of acceptance of something nontraditional, problems arise. That's Broadway. It also happens in our everyday life as we face the nontraditional, try to get to know people outside our comfort zone and find opportunity to work together on common goals.

In *Kinky Boots*, the characters are from traditional and non-traditional lifestyles and are challenged to work together for a common goal — running a successful business. In the finale, *Just Be* provides six steps to success: pursuing truth, learning something new, accepting yourself and accepting others too, letting love shine, letting pride be your guide and knowing that change will happen when you can change your mind. I am, I admit, at times a Pollyanna. I have many traditions I steadfastly hold onto, especially during the holidays. I optimistically hope the *Kinky Boots* moral "you can be who you want to be, not be who you ought to be and can do so with dignity" can be achieved. I embrace what BRBA could be and ask you to join us in maintaining our traditions but opening doors outside of our comfort zone to offer opportunities of civil discourse and action, improving our profession, our association and our community so all can exist with dignity. Just Be! ■

# Letter to the Editor

When stern federal judges and tough-minded attorneys find unexpected tears on their collars, you know something big has happened. Such were the facts Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, at Judge Jim Brady's memorial service.

Whenever you go to the federal courthouse and receive a greeting from court security, find secretaries and law clerks who want to assist you, and a courtroom that is user-friendly, stop and look at the portrait of Judge Brady.

By the power of a personality that projected happiness, Judge Brady showed he was glad to be there, and he wanted everyone to feel welcomed. He knew the courthouse is democracy's church, and by his consistent goodwill, he changed the culture of the courthouse.

Lawyers sometimes talk of their unpleasant experiences in court. As humans, the best judges can have an off day. But never did you hear such a story about Jim. Whatever the outcome, everyone felt they received the best justice a good man could administer.

To learn and apply the hard part of law demands intellect and diligence. To get the heart part requires the gift of goodness and wisdom. That was Judge Brady.

In the future, there will be law clerks who worked for the judge who themselves may be selected for public service or the bench. That they trained under Judge James Brady is the only thing they need on their résumé.

-Lewis O. Unglesby, *Unglesby Law Firm*

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# Making the Grade

In 1960, when I was only seven years old, my family did not “emigrate” from Cuba. We had no intention of staying in America. We were exiles, and the Castro regime would soon appropriate my parents’ dream home on a Caribbean bay and nationalize my father’s second-generation grain-import business (I was anointed to be the third generation). My parents assumed our sojourn would last perhaps months or at most a year or two. They thought it would last just enough time for America to reinforce the Monroe Doctrine and drive Castro and his Russian backers out of our homeland. Then, the Bay of Pigs fiasco happened, followed by hidden assurances made on the settlement of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Almost overnight, my parents came to the sad and sobering realization that we just might be here for the duration. So, they rallied on behalf of their family.

They were quite efficient in their road map to attaining U.S. citizenship. At first blush, such an expedited course of action would seem contradictory to my parents’ deep-rooted emotional connection to all they had left behind in the land of our birth. I came to see this strategy as perfectly consistent with their overriding mission - to see to it that their children were given every chance to succeed in America, as Americans, among Americans. In essence, it was far more of an economic decision than a particularly patriotic one.

And so barely a year-and-a-half after our arrival, my parents spent much more money than they could afford to fly my two older sisters and me, barely nine years old, all the way to Toronto, Canada, to apply at an embassy there for the paperwork required in those days for legal U.S. residency status. At the time, this was an essential bridge before the clock could start to apply for U.S. citizenship. As I understood it, this expensive enterprise to another country was necessitated by the breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. That mid-winter trip was highlighted by my first encounter with both magical wonders and slippery realities of sleet and snow. To save on costs, my parents accepted the much needed and highly appreciated offer of a locally residing brother of one of our fellow members of the New Orleans exile community to stay in his house while there. We all shared a single bedroom and were lucky to do so for the duration of our stay. Residency papers in hand, my parents returned us post-haste to start our five-year countdown to citizenship.

That finish line approached in the summer of 1967. By

then, my older sister Maria was a newlywed and out of the household, and my other sister Milly was in her late teens and of legal age. I had just finished my grammar school years at St. Matthias Catholic School in New Orleans and was preparing for high school. Those summer nights, our household was feverish with civics drills and history quizzes as my parents and Milly rallied to prepare for what they had heard would be a formidable written admission test. As a minor, I would be granted automatic citizenship if my parents qualified. My parents did their best, given their somewhat limited English, to understand the Bill of Rights and the other Constitutional amendments, learned the names of the past Presidents and obtained an adequate working knowledge of American government and its history. My mother, who had incredible gifts but was never an academic star, was particularly anxious as the long anticipated day of their examination loomed.

We were told that when she walked anxiously into the examining room, the bureaucrat who would administer the test asked her to sit down. Then, instead of passing out a test paper,



he asked my mother two questions orally. The first one was to give the names of the two U.S. senators from Louisiana. In shaky broken English, my mother, almost relieved, quickly answered correctly that their names were Long and Ellender. Then he asked a second question that she thought was even easier - what was the name of her home parish? Without missing a beat, my mother proudly replied, "St. Matthias." In her moment of stress, she had confused her church parish with her legal domicile of Orleans Parish. Apparently her immediate embarrassed blushing disarmed the hopelessly charmed tester, because then and there he pronounced that she had passed the test. Come to find out, so had my father and Milly. Eventually, Maria followed the same path.

At home that night, amidst the celebratory relief of reaching this important milestone, my parents couldn't help almost resenting that the test had not been harder to allow

them the chance to display their newfound knowledge of America. In subsequent years there was rarely a local or national election in which both of them did not cast their vote as conscientious and dutiful naturalized citizens.

As a naturalized American for nigh on fifty years, not a day has passed that I have not appreciated the sacrifices endured by my parents to grant me this greatest of privileges - the right to live in a land where my own initiative, hard work and determination are the only limits to my ultimate success. And as a fellow lawyer, this is a blessing that I will forever cherish, protect and uphold. 🇺🇸



WRITTEN BY VINCENT FORNIAS

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**NATURALIZATION**  
**ORIGINAL**

No. 9079818

Petition No. 19281

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Date of birth January 25th, 1923 sex female  
 complexion medium color of eyes brown color of hair brown height 5 feet 4 inches  
 weight 135 pounds visible distinctive marks none  
 Marital status married Country of former nationality Cuba

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

*Martha Carmen Fornias*  
 (Complete and true signature of holder)

U. S. DISTRICT COURT,  
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Be it known, that at a term of the United States District Court of Eastern District of Louisiana NEW ORLEANS DIVISION held pursuant to law at NEW ORLEANS, LA. on July 14th, 1967 the Court having found that MARTHA CARMEN FORNIAS then residing at 4317 WALMSLEY AVE., NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA intends to reside permanently in the United States (when so required by the Naturalization Laws of the United States), had in all other respects complied with the applicable provisions of such naturalization laws, and was entitled to be admitted to citizenship, thereupon ordered that such person be and she was admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 14th day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty seven.

A. DALLAM O'BRIEN, JR.  
 Clerk of the United States District Court.  
 By *Charles J. [Signature]* Deputy Clerk.

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE U. S. CODE (AND PUNISHABLE AS SUCH) TO COPY, PRINT, PHOTOGRAPH, OR OTHERWISE ILLEGALLY USE THIS CERTIFICATE.

Marta Carmen P. Fornias recieved her Naturalization Certificate from the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans on July 14, 1967.

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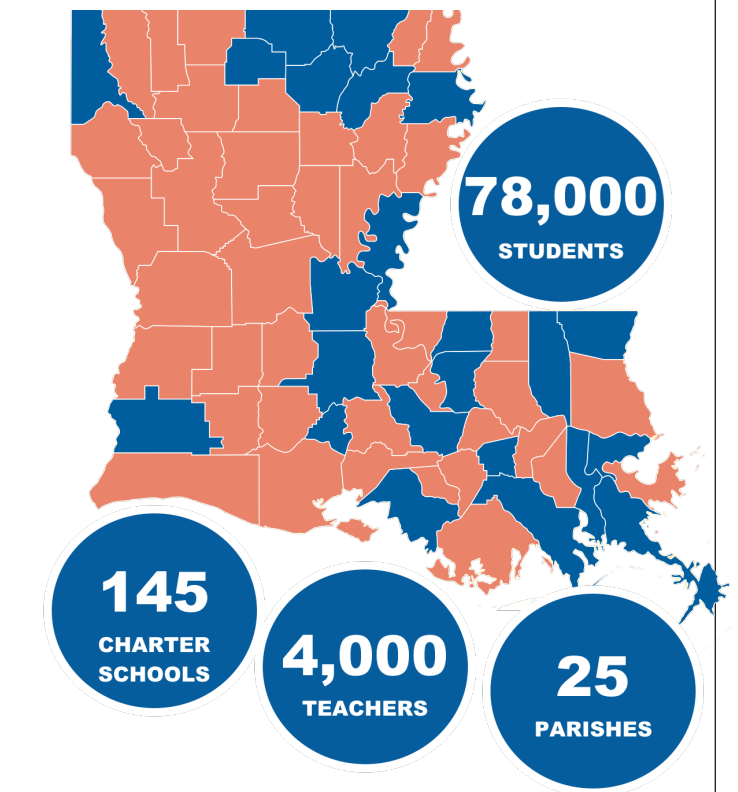
# Charting the Expansion of Charter Schools into Baton Rouge

In 1996, Jefferson Community School was established as the first charter school in Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> A 2016 study revealed that since Hurricane Katrina dramatically changed the landscape of the New Orleans public school system, approximately 92 percent of the students who attend public schools in New Orleans attend charter schools, which is by far the largest percentage of charter school students per public school system in the nation.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, an increasing number of private organizations have begun to apply, either with the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board or the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE), to operate a charter school in Baton Rouge. In fact, in 2017, 11,722 students attended charter schools in Baton Rouge, and four new charter schools will open in Baton Rouge in August 2018.<sup>3</sup> The ongoing public debate regarding the issues pertaining to charter schools, from the sources of their funding to the standards of accountability to which they are held, continues to prove newsworthy. However, many are unfamiliar with the concept of charter schools, the different manners in which they are approved for operation and the laws that govern these relatively new yet ever-expanding schools.<sup>4</sup>

## What are charter schools?

Charter schools are public schools, meaning the students who attend them do not pay tuition, but they are independently run by a nonprofit board. This board, which represents a Louisiana non-profit corporation or some other entity, enters into a contract (a charter) with either a local school board or BESE to operate a charter school within a specified district. Charter schools are publicly funded, and thus, they must meet certain criteria established by the legislature before they are authorized for operation.

According to the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, charter schools are different from traditional public schools in three primary ways. First, the parents of a charter school student choose the school their child attends instead of being required to send their child to an assigned school based on the district in which the child lives. Second, in order to meet the specific needs of their particular body of students, charter schools have the autonomy to make decisions about staffing, curriculum development and the structuring of the school day. Finally, charter schools are held to certain academic, financial and organizational standards, and the ability of a charter school to meet those standards determines whether the school remains open. For example, charter schools are required



to administer the same state assessments taken by students in traditional public schools, to meet certain student performance growth standards and to operate within approved budgets. Thus, charter schools are held accountable to meet specific expectations, and they are closed if performance is consistently low.<sup>5</sup>

The Louisiana legislature recognizes six types of charter schools – Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, Type 3B, Type 4 and Type 5. A Type 1 charter school is a newly formed charter school that is authorized by the school board in which the school is located, while a Type 2 charter school is a BESE-authorized newly formed charter school or a charter school converted from a traditional public school. A Type 3 charter school is a charter school authorized by a local school board that has been converted from a traditional public school, while a Type 3B charter school is a former Type 5 charter school that has been transferred from the Recovery School District back to the local school system. A Type 4 charter school is newly formed charter school or charter school converted from a traditional public school that is authorized pursuant to a charter between BESE and a local school board. Finally, a Type 5 charter school is a formerly failing school that is chartered by BESE and

# “Considering the evolving educational landscape of the Baton Rouge community, it is important for the attorneys in our bar to become involved and even consider joining a charter school board.”

supervised by the Recovery School District.<sup>6</sup>

In the 2017-2018 school year, 146 charter schools were in operation in Louisiana, serving 78,000 students. Fifty-seven of the charter schools are authorized by local school boards and are made up of the following: 30 Type 1 charter schools, 13 Type 2 charter schools and 14 Type 3B charter schools. On the other hand, 89 of the charter schools are authorized by BESE, and they are composed of the following: 42 Type 2 charter schools, 1 Type 4 school and 46 Type 5 schools.<sup>7</sup>

## The historical development of charter schools in Louisiana

Louisiana first authorized the operation of charter schools in 1995 when it implemented a pilot program allowing up to eight school districts to volunteer to either grant charters to eligible groups or apply to BESE to operate a charter school themselves.<sup>8</sup>

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In 1997, the law was revised to allow all school districts to participate in the charter school program. However, the legislature capped the number of charter schools that could operate at 42. The revisions also allowed an “appeals-type” procedure under which an eligible group could apply to BESE for approval to operate a charter school if the local school board failed to approve the application or if the group was not satisfied with the conditions the local school board placed on the approval of the charter.<sup>9</sup>

The laws governing charter schools were

significantly changed in 2003 through the passage of a constitutional amendment and four legislative bills. The constitutional amendment provided BESE with the authority to take over failing public schools or to allow others to do so. It also granted BESE the authority to receive, control and spend the state and local per pupil share of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) for those schools. In addition, companion legislation passed that year delineated the procedure BESE must follow to implement the constitutional amendment; created the Type 5 category of charter schools as an option BESE may implement in providing for the operation of a failing public school it takes over; and set forth special provisions for the creation and operation of Type 5 charter schools.<sup>10</sup> Thereafter, in 2009, the legislature removed the cap on the number of charter schools that can be operated in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## Laws governing charter schools

Because charter schools are public schools, they are subject to the same statutory guidelines that govern traditional public schools. Specifically, charter schools (1) must accept all students per federal and state laws; (2) cannot charge tuition; (3) cannot be affiliated with any religion; (4) must abide by federal desegregation orders; (5) must conduct student-assessment tests; (6) must participate in school and district accountability systems; (7) are required to close if academic standards are not met within a specified timeframe; and (8) must spend 70% of MFP funding on instructional expenses. They also must comply with (1) the Louisiana Open Meetings Law; (2) the Louisiana Code of Ethics; (3) the Louisiana Budgetary Act; (4) the Louisiana Public Records Act; and (5) the Public Bid Law for public works projects. In addition, unlike traditional public schools, charter schools are required to enroll a certain percentage of economically disadvantaged and special education students.<sup>12</sup>

## Conclusion

Since the establishment of the first charter school in Louisiana 22 years ago, charter schools have expanded across the state at an astonishing rate. This phenomenon is especially true in New Orleans, where the vast majority of public school students attend a charter school. Baton Rouge is also experiencing an influx of organizations seeking to operate charter schools in this city. Considering the evolving educational landscape of the Baton Rouge community, it is important for the attorneys in our bar

to become involved and even consider joining a charter school board. Importantly, charter school boards must seek guidance and assistance from attorneys experienced in charter school matters. In addition, as more and more of these schools are established, it will be crucial for attorneys who practice education law or who represent clients seeking to open charter schools in Baton Rouge to monitor the legal issues that continue to develop in the relatively uncharted territory of charter school law. ■



WRITTEN BY GRANT GUILLOT

<sup>1</sup> Paul Dauphin. "20 Years of Charter Schools in Louisiana," American Federation for Children. (Sept. 9, 2015). (<https://www.federationforchildren.org/20-years-charter-schools-louisiana/>).

<sup>2</sup> "A Growing Movement: America's Largest Charter Public School Communications and Their Impact and Student Outcomes," National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (Nov. 2016). (<http://www.publiccharters.org/sites/default/files/migrated/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/enrollment-share-web1128.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, <https://lacharterschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/LAP17-Charter-Info-Booklet-TO-PRESS.pdf> (last visited on Feb. 4, 2018); (here in after, LAPCS) "Is a Charter School Right for my Child?", Baton Rouge Parents (Jan. 29, 2018). (<http://www.brparents.com/article/is-a-charter-school-right-for-my-child.html>) (here in after, Parent).

<sup>4</sup> "What is the Difference Between Charter and Magnet Schools?," Baton Rouge Parents (Feb. 1, 2018). (<http://www.brparents.com/article/what-is-the-difference-between-charter-and-magnet-schools.html>).

<sup>5</sup> Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, <https://lacharterschools.org/about-charter-schools/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2018); (here in after, LAPCS #2), *supra* note 3.

<sup>6</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/schools/charter-schools> (last visited Feb. 4, 2018).

<sup>7</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/schools/charter-oversight-and-support> (last visited Feb. 4, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> Dauphin, *supra* note 1.

<sup>9</sup> LAPCS #2, *supra* note 4.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, <http://appleseednetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Louisiana-Charter-School-Board-Legal-Handbook-2014.pdf>; Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, <https://lacharterschools.org/about-charter-schools/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> LAPCS, *supra* note 3.

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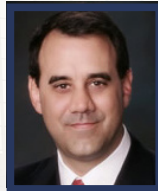
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Vincent P.  
Fornias



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# Attorney Spotlight: Joseph J. Cefalu III

BY GRANT GUILLOT

*TBRL: Tell us about your education.*

**JJC:** I graduated with an accounting degree from LSU in 2009 and then went straight to law school at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

*TBRL: Where are you from?*

**JJC:** Born and raised in Baton Rouge.

*TBRL: Where and what type of law do you practice?*

**JJC:** I work at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson in the casualty litigation section. I primarily practice insurance defense and workers' compensation law. I also handle miscellaneous issues such as contract/lease disputes, evictions and judicial commitments.

*TBRL: Why did you want to become an attorney?*

**JJC:** I could not stand the sight of a broken bone, so being a doctor was out. Honestly, I wanted to help analyze and solve other peoples' issues. I had a knack for talking myself through and out of problems growing up, but mainly when I was in trouble with my parents or principals.

*TBRL: If you were not practicing law, what would be your alternate profession?*

**JJC:** I would likely be an accountant or managing a business, assuming "world traveler" would not pay the bills.

*TBRL: Congratulations on being named partner. So far, how is it different from being an associate?*

**JJC:** Thank you. It has only been a couple months, so mainly just the partner meetings and receiving more information about the operations of the firm. No one is running to get my coffee . . . yet.

*TBRL: Are you involved with the BRBA?*

**JJC:** Yes, I am an Assistant Editor of this publication and also just got elected to the Young Lawyers Section Council.

*TBRL: What motivated you to become*

*involved with the BRBA?*

**JJC:** I like taking on leadership roles and giving back. We have a lot of great attorneys in our association, so it was easy to get involved.

*TBRL: What is your favorite BRBA activity or event?*



**JJC:** That's tough. My top three would be: Belly-up, Bench Bar and the Softball Tournament (although I cannot say I contributed much to BSW's multiple championships).

**TBRL:** *Are you involved with any other organizations or causes?*

**JJC:** Yes. In 2014, I co-founded a young professionals organization named Club Blue, which is affiliated with the Boys & Girls Club. We put on networking events for young professionals in the Baton Rouge area and also set up activities with the Boys & Girls Club kids. I am also involved with the Louisiana Art & Science Museum Gala.

**TBRL:** *What is the best piece of advice you have received?*

**JJC:** Take care of other people's things better than your own.

**TBRL:** *What are your leisure activities?*

**JJC:** Hunting, beach volleyball, traveling and going to my camp.

**TBRL:** *What is your favorite movie or television show?*

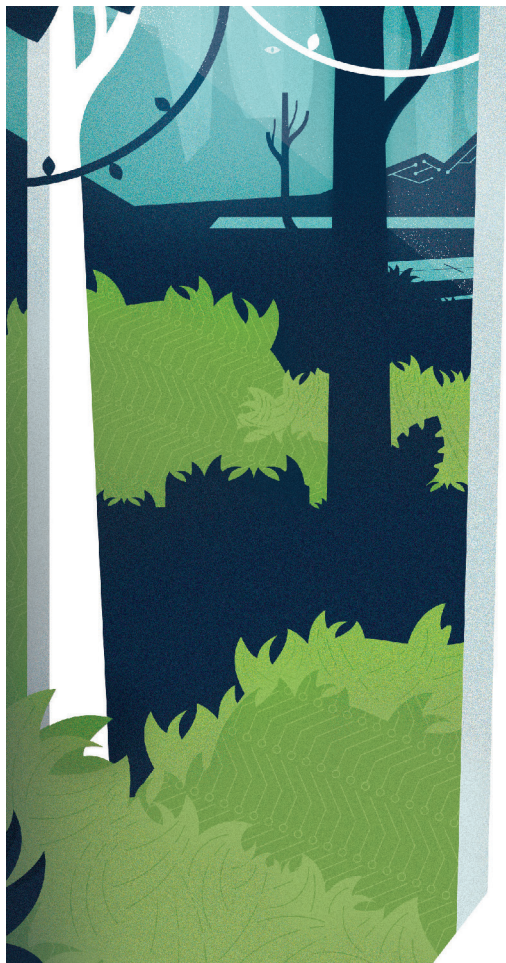
**JJC:** *Game of Thrones.*

**TBRL:** *What is the last book you read?*

**JJC:** *13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi.* I recommend the book and the movie adaptation. Both were great. ■



WRITTEN BY GRANT GUILLOT



*A Clearer Path*

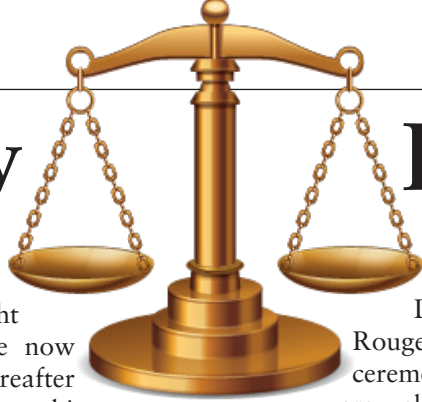


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# Law Day



At the behest of his longtime friend and attorney Charles Rhyne, President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the holiday we now celebrate as Law Day in 1958. Shortly thereafter in 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution making Law Day a nationally recognized holiday. Ever since, Law Day has been held annually on May 1st as a day designated for Americans to celebrate the rule of law.

While many Louisiana attorneys may be familiar with the modern version of Law Day, some do not know that lawyers in Louisiana, and particularly Baton Rouge lawyers, were celebrating Law Day annually almost a decade before it became a national event. As early as 1950, Dean Paul Hebert of the LSU Law School, presented an annual address on Law Day, usually held late in the spring semester at LSU Law. This event was generally held as a luncheon or dinner to which Dean Hebert invited faculty, students and administrators from various disciplines. These special guests gathered at the law school each year to celebrate the rule of law and to discuss the role of lawyers in society. His remarks from these occasions, including handwritten notes and revisions, are available today as part of the LSU Law Digital Commons materials. In one of his addresses, he described what he had already coined “law day” as “an opportunity for lawyers and law students to meet together for consideration of matters pertaining to the legal profession.” To this day, the American Bar Association maintains the same goals in its annual celebration of Law Day: to celebrate the role of law in society and strive to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession among all citizens.

Following in the footsteps of Dean Hebert, the Baton Rouge Bar Association has a rich history when it comes to celebrating Law Day. Judge Frank Polozola was instrumental in developing the program that the Baton Rouge Bar Association uses today as a teaching tool for students in the Baton Rouge area. In fact, Judge Polozola decided to change Law Day into an educational event. He called local schools to garner interest in the program and even set up buses for the students to attend the event in its early years. Since the earliest days of Dean Hebert discussing legal education with law students and Judge Polozola introducing the principles of the law to students throughout the Baton Rouge area, the Law Day celebration has grown and evolved, but it has maintained a constant presence in Baton Rouge.

Today the Baton Rouge Bar Association’s Law Day program begins at the Baton Rouge Raising Cane’s River Center with a ceremony during which new United States citizens are welcomed by the judges of the Middle District of Louisiana. This naturalization ceremony includes an address by a keynote speaker. This year’s speaker is Lucia Rawls Schoelwer, a former U.S. State Department employee who will provide a unique perspective on the rule of law to the new U.S. citizens and the local students who will attend the ceremony. Students in grades 6-12 from schools across Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes will have a chance to witness the newest U.S. citizens take their oath and attend a session of federal court. After the naturalization ceremony, the students will make their way to the 19th JDC and Baton Rouge City Court to see how the rule of law is applied in the courtroom.



This year’s keynote speaker is Lucia Rawls Schoelwer from the US State Department.

Each year the American Bar Association creates a theme for all local bar associations to use in their Law Day events. The theme of Law Day 2018 is “Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom.” Students from East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, Livingston, St. Tammany, West Feliciana and St. Helena Parishes will create posters, essays and videos

on the topic and submit them to the Baton Rouge Bar Association to be judged by local attorneys. The winners of the competitions will be announced during the Opening Ceremony for Law Day. Members of the Law Day Committee also prepare a mock trial for the students who attend the festivities. Local lawyers volunteer as moderators, judges and attorneys, each partnering with students who play these roles in a fictional trial. The students also act as a jury and render a verdict, which demonstrates how the rule of law is applied in a real-life scenario. After the verdict is read in court, the students enjoy lunch generously donated by the BRBF and participate in a mock election to show another aspect of the American system of government.

The program described in the preceding paragraphs is not your average Law Day experience. For decades, local schools have embraced this unique opportunity created by the Bar Association that allows their students to learn about the law through “hands on” demonstrations. The Baton Rouge Bar Association has received awards from the American Bar Association for its local programs as far back as 1991, and it has continued to garner national


attention and various awards for its efforts. In what can only be described as a testament to the quality of our local Law Day programs, the Baton Rouge Bar Association was essentially banned from entering the competitions among local bar associations for a number of years due to its dominance among its peers across the country. In recent years the Baton Rouge Bar Association has received awards for its annual Law Day program in 2014 and 2016.

The Baton Rouge Bar Association is not the only local group that celebrates Law Day. BRAWA, the Bar Rouge Association for Women Attorneys, celebrates Law Day with an annual luncheon that recognizes local law enforcement for their contributions to Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. The luncheons have been held annually since 2009, with similar activities in previous years dating back to 1993. Last year, BRAWA raised \$10,000 in conjunction with the annual luncheon, which was used to purchase protective vests for local law enforcement. Law enforcement officials are honored each year for their community service with awards as part of this unique Law Day event that celebrates an integral aspect of the rule of law in our community.



Clerk of Court at the US District Court Michael L. McConnell and judges at Law Day 2017.

If you are interested in participating in the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Law Day activities, please contact Donna Buuck at (225) 214-5556 or [donna@brba.org](mailto:donna@brba.org). Volunteers are encouraged to participate in all or part of the activities to be held in downtown Baton Rouge on May 1, 2018.

If you are interested in participating in BRAWA's Law Day luncheon recognizing local law enforcement, please contact Jan Reeves at (225) 235-6167 or [jreeves2@travelers.com](mailto:jreeves2@travelers.com). You are welcome to attend the annual luncheon supporting local law enforcement that will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge on May 4, 2018, beginning at noon. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Law Day at LSU Law School hosted by Dean Paul Hebert, please visit the LSU Law Digital Commons materials at [https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=hebert\\_speeches](https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=hebert_speeches). 



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# Law Day 2018



## Courtroom Session Volunteers Needed

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation will celebrate LAW DAY on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Following the opening ceremony, middle and high school students will converge on City Court, Family Court and the 19th Judicial District Court. The interactive sessions last from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This is where  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Volunteers will be given a scenario to review with the students. Moderators will lead the sessions from approximately 10:30 a.m. to noon. Your participation will help students develop a deeper understanding of our legal system.

To volunteer, please complete the information below and fax this form to 225-344-4805 or call Donna at 225-214-5556 or e-mail to: [donna@brba.org](mailto:donna@brba.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

# HIPAA and Business Associate Agreements: Slippery Slopes for Attorneys

Compliance with the requirements of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules<sup>1</sup> is generally not a sizzling topic of conversation around the office. However, attorneys and law firms should take note of the aggressive HIPAA enforcement by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), as well as avoiding being the first law firm to be subject to a HIPAA enforcement action.

The HIPAA Rules apply directly to both covered entities (e.g., health-care providers and health plans) and their business associates. Attorneys who receive protected health information (PHI) under the HIPAA rules to provide legal services to their clients who are “covered entities” are considered to be HIPAA “business associates,” and are subject to several requirements in the HIPAA rules. As a result, many practice areas have been impacted by the business associate classification, including general health care, litigation and risk management, False Claims Act litigation, medical staff and peer review, personal injury and professional liability.

## *Who is a HIPAA Business Associate?*

Three types of individuals and business entities are subject to HIPAA: covered entities,<sup>2</sup> “organized health care arrangements,”<sup>3</sup> and business associates.<sup>4</sup> Generally, business associates are individuals and business entities that meet two criteria: (1) they provide services to or on behalf of a covered entity or another business associate, and (2) these services involve creating, receiving, maintaining or transmitting PHI for or on behalf of the covered entity or other business associate. Legal services are identified as one type of service that may render an individual or business entity a business associate. PHI is interpreted broadly and includes any information about health status, provision of health care or payment for health care that can be linked to a specific individual. It includes any part of a patient’s medical record or payment history.<sup>5</sup>

The following are examples of engagements that likely create a business associate relationship between the attorney/firm and a client:

- Defending a health-care provider in a health-care fraud investigation and, as part of the representation, receiving copies of medical records of the services under investigation.
- Providing legal services to a physician’s medical practice and receiving information about patients in the course of providing legal services.
- Providing collection services for hospitals or other health-care providers and, as part of that engagement,

the attorney or firm obtains patients’ billing information.

- Being engaged to be co-counsel by a law firm that is a business associate of its covered entity client and being given PHI to perform legal services as part of the engagement.

The following are examples of engagements which are unlikely to create a business associate relationship:

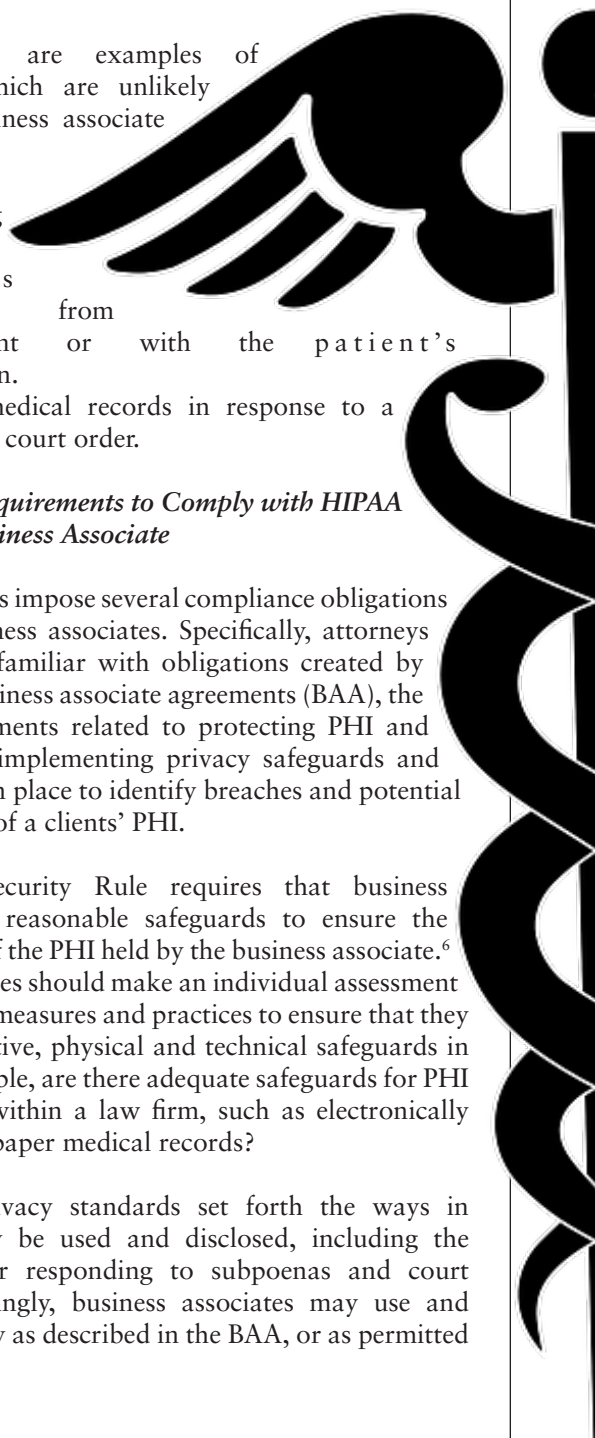
- Receiving medical records directly from the patient or with the patient’s authorization.
- Receiving medical records in response to a subpoena or court order.

## *What are the Requirements to Comply with HIPAA If You Are a Business Associate*

The HIPAA Rules impose several compliance obligations on HIPAA business associates. Specifically, attorneys should become familiar with obligations created by entering into business associate agreements (BAA), the security requirements related to protecting PHI and electronic PHI, implementing privacy safeguards and having policies in place to identify breaches and potential gaps in security of a clients’ PHI.

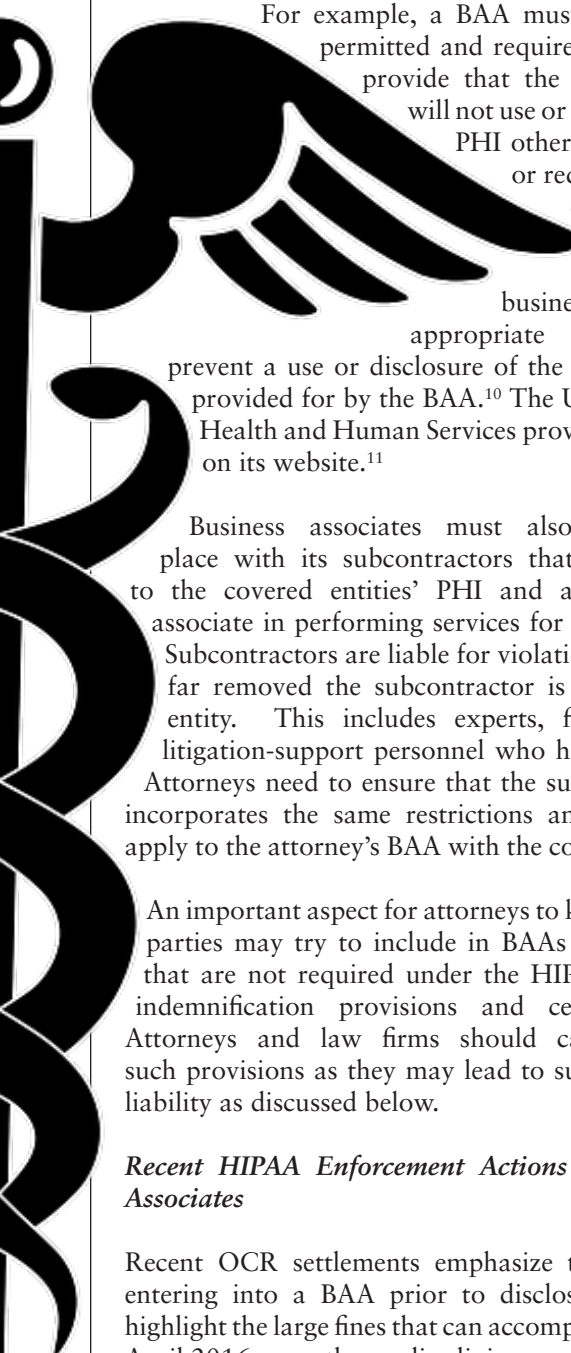
The HIPAA Security Rule requires that business associates have reasonable safeguards to ensure the confidentiality of the PHI held by the business associate.<sup>6</sup> Business associates should make an individual assessment of their security measures and practices to ensure that they have administrative, physical and technical safeguards in place. For example, are there adequate safeguards for PHI that is located within a law firm, such as electronically stored PHI and paper medical records?

The HIPAA privacy standards set forth the ways in which PHI may be used and disclosed, including the requirements for responding to subpoenas and court orders.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, business associates may use and disclose PHI only as described in the BAA, or as permitted by law.



## BAA Obligations

A covered entity, such as a health-care provider, must ensure that it obtains and documents satisfactory assurances from its business associates, and business associates must do the same with regard to subcontractors. In layman's terms, a covered entity must have a BAA in place with each business associate prior to disclosing PHI to the business associate.<sup>8</sup> A BAA between a covered entity and a business associate (i.e., attorney) must contain certain provisions that are specified in the HIPAA Rules.<sup>9</sup>



For example, a BAA must: (1) describe the permitted and required uses of PHI; (2) provide that the business associate will not use or further disclose the PHI other than as permitted or required by the BAA, or as permitted by law; and (3) require the business associate to use appropriate safeguards to prevent a use or disclosure of the PHI other than as provided for by the BAA.<sup>10</sup> The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides a sample BAA on its website.<sup>11</sup>

Business associates must also have BAAs in place with its subcontractors that will have access to the covered entities' PHI and assist the business associate in performing services for the covered entity. Subcontractors are liable for violations no matter how far removed the subcontractor is from the covered entity. This includes experts, file managers and litigation-support personnel who have access to PHI. Attorneys need to ensure that the subcontractor's BAA incorporates the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the attorney's BAA with the covered entity client.

An important aspect for attorneys to keep in mind is that parties may try to include in BAAs certain provisions that are not required under the HIPAA rules, such as indemnification provisions and certain restrictions. Attorneys and law firms should carefully scrutinize such provisions as they may lead to substantial financial liability as discussed below.

### *Recent HIPAA Enforcement Actions Against Business Associates*

Recent OCR settlements emphasize the importance of entering into a BAA prior to disclosing any PHI and highlight the large fines that can accompany a violation. In April 2016, an orthopaedic clinic agreed to pay \$750,000 to settle allegations that the clinic violated HIPAA by handing over PHI for approximately 17,300 patients to a potential business partner without first executing a BAA.<sup>12</sup>

In June 2016, the OCR agreed to settle with a non-profit organization that provided management and information technology services to six nursing homes as a business associate.<sup>13</sup> In this case, the OCR alleged that the organization violated the HIPAA Security Rule when an employee's smartphone containing nursing home residents' PHI was stolen. The smartphone was neither password protected nor encrypted and contained information on over 400 nursing-home residents. The organization allegedly did not have policies in place that address the removal of mobile devices that contained PHI and had not performed a risk analysis of its safeguards. As a result, the organization agreed to pay \$650,000 and entered into a two-year corrective-action plan.

A suggestion for law firms is to implement a similar process that the OCR has required business associates to establish through a corrective-action plan related to alleged violations of the HIPAA business associate requirements. These requirements include: (1) designating an individual responsible for ensuring that BAAs are entered into with a law firm's covered entity clients prior to receiving any PHI from the covered entity client; (2) creating a process for accessing the law firm's business relationships to determine whether the law firm is a business associate under the HIPAA rules; (3) creating a standard template BAA; (4) creating a process for maintaining documentation of a BAA for at least six years beyond the date that a law firm's business associate relationship is terminated with a covered entity client; and (5) limiting disclosures of PHI to the minimum necessary amount of PHI that is reasonably necessary for the law firm to perform its duties.

### *To Agree or Not Agree to Indemnification in a BAA*

In January 2018, a federal district court declined to dismiss a HIPAA data-breach case that arose from a business associate disclosing PHI. In *CVS Pharmacy, Inc. v. Press America, Inc.*,<sup>14</sup> CVS sought reimbursement from its business associate, Press America, following a data breach. In this case, CVS was responsible for providing beneficiaries of IBM's health plan with certain mail-order pharmacy services. CVS subcontracted with Press America to mail this information to the participants. Press America misaddressed mail to certain participants and improperly disclosed PHI of 41 individuals. This error by Press America triggered a performance standard under CVS' contract with the health plan, resulting in a payment of almost \$2,000,000 by CVS to the plan. CVS then sought indemnification from Press America under its BAA, and Press America moved to dismiss the case. The motion was denied.

CVS and Press America entered into a BAA whereby Press America "agreed not to use or disclose PHI except as specifically permitted by contract." The BAA also contained indemnification language providing that CVS

would be held harmless and indemnified for damages “arising out of or in connection with . . . any Breach of Private Information under the control of [Press America] or its agents or subcontractors that requires notification under the HIPAA Rules.” In denying Press America’s motion, the court concluded that the contract language was broad enough to encompass CVS’ payment to IBM. While this case is still in its early stages, it underscores the importance of understanding the indemnification obligations that can be created through a BAA.

As the CVS case highlights, indemnification provisions in BAAs can result in significant financial liability for attorneys and law firms. For example, if a business associate is responsible for an improper disclosure of PHI, an indemnification provision may result in a business associate being responsible for the cost of providing written notice to individuals when there was a breach of their PHI, and in some cases, pay for credit-monitoring services for up to a year for each affected individual.

Attorneys and law firms that provide legal services to HIPAA covered entities and business associates and receive PHI from such clients need to keep in mind their compliance obligations under the HIPAA rules, or they might be the subject of the next article on HIPAA compliance. ■

WRITTEN BY CLAY COUNTRYMAN &  
CATHERINE MOORE



<sup>1</sup> 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 & 164, Subparts A, C & E.

<sup>2</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 160.102(a). Covered Entities consist of health plans, health-care clearinghouses, and health-care providers who transmit billing or coverage information electronically. 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

<sup>3</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.506(c)(5).

<sup>4</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.102(b).

<sup>5</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

<sup>6</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.306.

<sup>7</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.500 -164.534.

<sup>8</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(e)(2)(i).

<sup>9</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e).

<sup>10</sup> 45 C.F.R. § 164.504.

<sup>11</sup> HHS, Business Associate Contracts (Jan. 25, 2013), <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/covered-entities/sample-business-associate-agreement-provisions/index.html>

<sup>12</sup> HHS, \$750,000 Settlement Highlights the Need for HIPAA Business Associate Agreements (Apr. 19, 2016), <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/agreements/raleigh-orthopaedic-clinic-bulletin/index.html>

<sup>13</sup> HHS, Business Associate’s Failure to Safeguard Nursing Home Residents’ PHI Leads to \$650,000 Settlement (June 29, 2016), <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/agreements/catholic-health-care-services/index.html>.

<sup>14</sup> 2018 WL 318479 (S.D.N.Y. 2018).

## GAIL’S GRAMMAR

Just as *woulda* bleeds over into our writing as *would of*, the colloquial *gotta* also negatively impacts our writing. Although *gotta* is never acceptable English, *got to* is acceptable in spoken informal English when preceded by *have* (I have got to finish this column), particularly when emphasizing *got* so that *have got to* means *must*. But there’s no need for *got* in formal written English when just plain *have* will do.

**Incorrect grammar:** You gotta get a lawyer.

**Informal spoken English:** You have got to get a lawyer.

**Formal English:** You have to get a lawyer OR You must get a lawyer.

Thanks to Jeanne Comeaux for suggesting this topic. Send suggestions for future Gail’s Grammar columns to Gail Stephenson at [GStephenson@sulc.edu](mailto:GStephenson@sulc.edu), or call Gail at 225.771-4900 x 216.

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# Book Review: *Cashed Out*

As retired Chief Judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeal and having just been recognized for my sixty years of membership in the Louisiana State Bar Association, I have done a lot of reading, mostly legal documents, but some fictional works. When I received a copy of *Cashed Out*, jointly written by Mike Rubin and his wife Ayan, although published under Mike's name, I knew it was going to be a tremendous novel and deserving all of the accolades that it will receive. However, it was my first intention to read several chapters and go back to legal documents and then read more chapters later. This didn't happen. When I read the first few chapters, I couldn't put the book down. My wife said she had never seen me read an entire book in one sitting.

*Cashed Out* is about a down-and-out lawyer who has no clients, no money and a multitude of debts, and then four million dollars is dropped on him. A brief overview of this masterpiece is from the author's synopsis:

Holding \$4 million in cash, given to you by your murdered client, makes you everyone's target.

One failed marriage. Two jobs lost. Three maxed out credit cards. "Schex" Schexnaydre was a failure as a lawyer. Until three weeks ago, he had no clients and no cash. Well, no clients except for infamous toxic waste entrepreneur G. G. Guidry, who's just been murdered. And no cash, except for the \$4,452,737 Guidry had stashed with him for safekeeping.

Schex careens from the swamps and marshes of Louisiana's chemical corridor to the deepwater oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, from the river industries that pollute minority neighborhoods to the privileged playgrounds of New Orleans' crime syndicate bosses, and from a notorious alligator processing plant to the halls of political power, all in an attempt to clear his name and claim Guidry's cash for himself.



I will add that there are a multitude of other events in the book including the kidnapping of Schex, escapes, murders, the pursuit of the \$4,452,737 and where it finally ends up. Schex is visited by a crony of G. G. Guidry named Spider, who is found murdered, and the local sheriff suspects Schex of being involved. In addition to being kidnapped, Schex is tortured and almost killed by two hoods named Ribeye and Frankie.

He also has to deal with a mean and vindictive ex-wife who at times is trying to do him harm and at other times trying to blackmail him into representing her in the pending charge of murdering G. G. Guidry. Various individuals in the book have differing agendas – but all are after the four million dollars or any part thereof.

This novel will keep your intense interest until the very last page.

Finally, I have known Mike Rubin for most if not all of his legal career, and his father, Alvin Rubin, and I were friends. Mike has been at the very top in his law practice and all the other many fields of endeavor that he has chosen.

Mike's outstanding accomplishments in so many activities are so numerous and outstanding it would be impossible to set them out in one writing. A short article about him follows Chapter 83 of *Cashed Out*. His writings are, in my opinion, of an equal caliber to John Grisham's best works and will keep you reading one page after the other until the very end. This book will certainly make the best-seller list for fiction and will one day be the basis of a movie. I am very proud and honored that Mike has been my friend over these many years. ■



WRITTEN BY JUDGE BURRELL J. CARTER, RETIRED



# What I've Learned: Brian L. Williams

## Vital Statistics

Age: 71

**Born and Raised:** Born in New Orleans and raised in Norco, Louisiana

**Parents' Occupation(s):** Welder & safety inspector/homemaker

**Name of Spouse:** Sharon Hoffmann

**High School:** Destrehan High School (1964)

**College:** Louisiana State University (1968)

**Law School:** LSU Law School (1972)

**Synopsis of Legal Career:** I worked approximately five months for Senator George Oubre out of Norco, La and was in partnership with Todd Gremillion for about two years following that. I was a sole practitioner for next four decades or so. Fortunately, I had numerous excellent law clerks and some talented associates. Presently, I have a part-time practice out of my home office in Port Hudson, La.

### *Where did you grow up?*

I grew up in Norco, La. For those who don't know, Norco is a relatively small, industrial town about 25 miles upriver from New Orleans. Norco is bordered on the west by the Bonnet Carre Spillway, so I spent a lot of time hunting, fishing and just exploring that area.

### *When did you first decide that you wanted to be a lawyer?*

It was in the back of my mind in high school, but we were in the midst of the Cold War and the space race, so all the guidance counselors were steering everyone they could into engineering and/or related fields. It was near the end of my sophomore year at LSU when I decided that my talents, limited as they are, might be better utilized elsewhere.

### *Why did you want to become a lawyer?*

The short answer is because I liked helping out folks, and my only skill, if you can call it that, was communicating. Also, there were only two or three lawyers in our small community, and they appeared to be good and respected people who seemed to help people solve problems. This appealed to me. I come from a blue collar family that was probably lower middle class (although I never realized that at the time), and I saw how hard it could be for working folks, so I felt that anything I could do to help would be a positive thing.

### *What was your first legal job?*

I went to work for a state legislator in my home town. My boss, being a good-hearted person and politician that represented four river parishes, was often called upon by constituents to help them with their legal issues. So, he would take these often questionable cases and then not have time to work them, so they would languish in the file cabinet for months, or years. So, here I come, a totally ignorant greenhorn, never having clerked for anyone, and I am handed these stale, unworked and mostly bad cases.

My boss didn't have the time nor inclination to involve himself, so I was alone in the wilderness. This was not fun and was extremely stressful. That only lasted four or five months. I decided it would be less stressful to starve on my own, so I "hung out my shingle" and hoped for the best.

### *Do you recall your first court appearance and how it went?*

One of the legislator's file cabinet cases was a drug case that needed immediate attention. I floundered around and filed what motions I could come up with. My arguments were almost non-existent, and the results were very embarrassing.

### *What was your first trial, most memorable, or disastrous trial?*

A young couple came in seeking legal custody of their oldest child. It turns out that some years earlier, the mother had become pregnant when she was underage. The father, now husband, was a major when the mother became pregnant. The mother's mother (grandmother) was married to a fellow who was receiving some sort of disability benefits. The couple told me that the grandmother threatened to rat out the child's father to the police for doing the dirty deed with her underage daughter, and refuse to let them marry, unless the grandmother and her disabled husband were allowed to adopt the child. Apparently, the addition of a minor child to her (granny's) family helped out with the amount of disability benefits. The adoption went forward. Physical custody always remained with the natural parents. Granny was only interested in the money. Legal custody became an important issue for the natural parents. I don't recall exactly why — perhaps placing the child in school. The court took the position that the young couple had surrendered their parental rights at the time of the adoption, so they had no right to now seek legal custody. We took the position that anyone could seek legal custody as long as they showed that it was in the best interest of the child. We ended up going

back to court and took the position that since the natural mother's mother (the grandmother) had adopted the child, the natural mother was now the child's adoptive sister. So, the natural mother went in seeking custody of her now adoptive sibling. The appellate court found our position interesting. The matter went forward and since the facts were patently in our favor, we ultimately prevailed.

*Did you have any mentors early in your career?*

Oh God yes! As I stated earlier, I was totally inexperienced and ignorant. I had a long list of kind folks that I would very regularly call upon. I wish I could recall their names. I know one was Jack Bennett (Andrew Jack Bennett, Jr.). But there were many. It was pretty embarrassing a lot of the time because my questions were often very basic. I called people that I did not know at all. Thank goodness they were kind and patient. I hope that as I became a seasoned (think old coot) lawyer, the young lawyerlings found me as accessible and helpful as the gentlemen and ladies who mentored me. I did get a lot of calls and was always happy to try to help.

*What is/was the main focus of your career?*

Not being from Baton Rouge, I knew very few people here and had no business connections, so whatever came in the door. I did a lot of domestic work because that's what I got. It was a very general practice that I often had to put in many uncompensated hours just learning the basics. I, like many, ended up graduating to limited criminal work, successions and personal injury.

*Were you ever in partnership with anyone else? If so, how did you end up as a solo?*

As stated above, I was briefly in partnership with Todd Gremillion. Todd is a brilliant fellow who had no business dealing with the type of stuff we were getting. He soon realized that and went to Houston, where he had an outstanding career in business and international law doing lots of stuff in Russia and its former satellite countries. I didn't want to be in a big firm and they wouldn't have wanted me. I had my own pace and I guess a sort of stubborn, independent attitude. Being a sole practitioner is a hard and expensive way to make a living, but I enjoyed the independence (once I got past the starving thing).

*What advice would you give to young lawyers about conducting themselves in court or about the practice of law in general?*

First, and this is by no means original, be absolutely as prepared as possible. Put in the extra hours. Know more about the case than your opposition, if possible. Also, however one can, be it in a campaign, a social setting, bar activities, or otherwise, somehow get to know the judges. For instance, The Baton Rouge Bar Association,

with its Bench Bar Conference and multiple social events where it involves the judiciary, is a great way to do this. I believe that one is likely to be much more comfortable in a courtroom where you have at least some level of rapport with the woman or man on the bench.

*What is the focus of your practice these days, or have you retired?*

I am very "semi-retired." The cases I do have nowadays are wills, successions, and personal injury.

*In your experience, how has the practice of law changed over the years?*

I don't know if this is the practice of law per se, but for me, the most disturbing change is that I have gone from people automatically taking my word for something specifically because I was a lawyer and they assumed (correctly) my word was my bond - to now, many folks assuming that I should not be trusted simply because I am a lawyer. I personally attribute that to the advent of lawyer advertising. The first bunch of advertisers were about like sideshow hucksters. For the most part, it's a lot better and somewhat more professional now, but there are still a few who act like they are standing outside a bar on Bourbon Street trying to entice folks in for a drink or to meet a lady.

*If you hadn't become a lawyer, what would you be? What do you do when you aren't working?*

Not sure but probably a biologist. Perhaps a marine biologist. I really enjoy nature and getting out in it. I'm fortunate to live on a couple of dozen acres, most of which is a hardwood forest. It backs up to a creek. I find it very peaceful and enjoy all the plants and animals. For a while, I tinkered with some antique trucks. I could work on the old stuff a little bit. I'm mostly out of that nowadays. I enjoy vegetable gardening but everything has to be securely fenced so I'm not just producing deer food. And fishing. But I have not been able to fish nearly enough. And travel when I can. I particularly like exploring the canyon areas out west.

*What are you most proud of achieving or accomplishing in your career or what has been the most fulfilling aspect of your career?*

Both my parents came out of poverty, or near poverty, in rural Mississippi. My father, who was orphaned at the age of six, was fortunate to get a job at the Shell refinery in Norco. Because of that background, I feel more like a blue collar guy. My point is that I really enjoyed it when I could help out a salt of the earth guy or gal get at least a little bit of justice, often against a big organization. ■



INTERVIEWED BY MARY ROPER

# Bar News

BY LANDON T. HESTER

## Thanks to everyone who joined us at the BRBA's February Bar Luncheon

The BRBA held its February Bar Luncheon on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at Ruffino's at De La Ronde Hall. February's luncheon was a joint meeting of the BRBA, the Baton Rouge Association of Women Attorneys, the Federal Bar Association (Baton Rouge chapter) and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. We would like to thank State Representative Ted James for joining us as the event's keynote speaker.



Judge Hunter V. Greene, Judge Yvette M. Alexander, Linda Law Clark, Rep. Ted James, Judge Lisa Woodruff-White, Judge Judy Moore Vendetto and Quintillis K. Lawrence at February's Bar Luncheon.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



Attorneys from Taylor Porter at the BRBA's February Bar Luncheon on February 6, 2018.



Allison J. Sabine Jr., Judge Traval Smith, Judge Yvette M. Alexander and Susan E. Nelson enjoying food provided by Ruffino's at De La Ronde Hall.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

## Recap of the Region III High School Mock Trial Competition

The Region III High School Mock Trial Competition was held February 23-24, 2018, at the 19th JDC.

Thank you to the following schools for participating in this year's event: Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Catholic High School, Episcopal High School, Franklinton High, Loranger High School, Scotlandville Magnet High School, West Feliciana High School, White Castle High School and Zachary High School. We would also like to thank the Clerk of Court's office for providing seafood, chicken and sausage gumbo for all of the participating teams and volunteers.

Congratulations to the students from Episcopal High School and West Feliciana High School for advancing to the final round of the competition. Both schools went on to represent Region III at the 2018 State High School Mock Trial Competition at the 24th JDC on March 10, 2018.



Episcopal High School's team placed second at the Region III High School Mock Trial Competition on February 23-24, 2018.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



The team from West Feliciana High School won this year's Region III High School Mock Trial Competition.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



The final two teams of the Region III High School Mock Trial Competition, West Feliciana High School and Episcopal High School, represented Region III at the 2018 State High School Mock Trial Competition at the 24th JDC on March 10, 2018.



Baton Rouge Bar Association President Linda Law Clark gave the opening remarks at the Investiture of the Honorable Judy Moore Vendetto.

## Presentation of commission and investiture of the Honorable Judy Moore Vendetto

The presentation of commission and investiture of the Honorable Judy Moore Vendetto as Judge of the Baton Rouge City Court was held on March 7, 2018, at the Baton Rouge City Court. The Honorable Tarvald Anthony Smith presided over the ceremony, and the Honorable Michael Erwin administered the the oath of office.

## The BRBA Easter Eggtravaganza

Thank you to all of our members who donated plastic Easter eggs and candy for our annual Easter Eggtravaganza event. With these donations, the BRBA was able to hold egg hunts and provide sweet treats to the children at St. Francis Xavier, Bernard Terrace and University Terrace elementary schools. Also, thank you to all of our members who took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at these events. 🍫



The Honorable Michael Erwin administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Judy Moore Vendetto while her aunt, Sara Wegener, held the Bible.



East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar Moore III presented his sister, the Honorable Judy Moore Vendetto, to the Court.



Bridget Denicola and Eric Kjeldsen are the chairs of this year's Easter Eggtravaganza which took place on March 27-29, 2018.

# WE OUR MEMBERS

## Member Appreciation Month

Our members are the backbone of our association. To say thank you, we have set aside the month of May to show our appreciation!

**May 1**

BRBA Day of Service: Law Day

**May 4**

Coffee and doughnuts with the BRBA

The BRBA will offer two free CLE seminars in May.  
Check our website and e-newsletter for more details.

The BRBA will offer free headshots throughout the month of May  
Email [landon@brba.org](mailto:landon@brba.org) to reserve a spot.

The BRBA will spotlight a new member on our social media pages each day  
throughout the month of May.

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS



Are you a painter? Designer? Writer? Photographer? Singer? Poet? Sculptor? ...  
You get the idea!

If you are a artist of any kind, we want to hear from you!

Contact Donna Buuck at  
[Donna@brba.org](mailto:Donna@brba.org) or 225.214.5556  
for more information!



# In Memoriam

BY JOHN FENNER

## Remembering Leonard “Lenny” Cardenas III

Leonard “Lenny” Cardenas III was born on December 26, 1962, in El Paso, Tex., and died unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, in Baton Rouge, La. Lenny came to Baton Rouge at a very young age when his father, Dr. Leonard Cardenas II, was hired from Texas as a professor of political sciences. His mother was from La Paz, Bolivia, so he was of course fluent in Spanish and always enjoyed his unique heritage. The Cardenas family soon became very close to the Vilas and Aguilar families as the fathers all had Ph.D.’s, were professors at LSU and all were from Spanish-speaking backgrounds. Their spouses became best friends, and this became Lenny’s extended family.

Danny Atkinson first met Lenny at St. Aloysius. Being a year older, Danny was in 7th grade, and Lenny in 6th. “I remember a small, somewhat shy kid with thick glasses who I would get to know better when we both attended Catholic High School,” says Danny.

At Catholic High, Lenny developed into a ferocious wrestler with city, district and state titles to his name. “He blossomed during these formative years,” says James Vilas, “and became a strapping and confident young man as he entered LSU. LSU’s nationally renowned wrestling coach Larry Sciacchetano asked that Lenny walk on and become part of the team, which he did.”

Danny’s friendship with Lenny intensified after both landed in the same section of the 1984 LSU freshman law class. “Lenny was very focused and ready to work hard toward fulfilling his dream of becoming an attorney,” says Danny. “We would routinely go to my parents’ camp on the Tickfaw River to prepare for exams, and ultimately to study for the bar exam.”

Lenny and Danny were offered associate positions with the Mathews, Atkinson firm. According to Danny, “Lenny was placed under my father’s mentorship, where he quickly progressed as an excellent litigator and was well liked by his clients.”



Leonard “Lenny” Cardenas III  
(December 26, 1962 - June 28, 2017)

While still a young associate, Lenny travelled with James to Spain to visit some of James’ family and enjoy a well-deserved adventure. There, he acquired a taste for fine wine and fabulous cigars. According to James, “Once he was back in Baton Rouge, he could be found at Churchills with his own stocked cigar locker, and everyone was always invited. He always enjoyed a good time and having friends around. And if there were no ‘known’ friends, he would easily meet new ones with his infectious personality.”

After a few years, the Mathews, Atkinson firm split, and Lenny moved to the other side of the spectrum, joining the plaintiffs’ bar. He founded the Cardenas Law Firm, where he practiced for over 30 years. An immensely gifted litigator, Lenny routinely connected with jurors in advocating for his clients. He

became certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. After a few years renting office space, Lenny built a law office at 6525 Perkins Road. He took on a partner, Henri Saunders, and, according to James, “the celebratory opening of this building has never been topped.”

Lenny was also an avid deep-sea fisherman and an accomplished diver. Like everything else he enjoyed in life, he tackled these adventures with vim and vigor.

Lenny was the beloved father of Cole, Camille, Cade, Cavan, Catelynn and Caryse. He was also in love with his long-time partner Vickie Rhorer (her children Mary and Andrew whom he treated as his own); brother to Johnny Cardenas (wife Nancy) and Eliana Armistead; uncle to Allie, Clay, Kristina, Nick and Grace; and friend to many too numerous to mention.

“Lenny loved his children and family more than anything in the world,” says Danny. “And I think he cherished that we both shared that priority in our lives. He always began a conversation asking how my wife and children were doing. Lenny’s best traits were his thoughtfulness and love of life. He never dwelt on set-backs and looked



Lenny enjoyed traveling and spending time with his long-time partner Vickie Rhorer and their children Cole, Camille, Cade, Cavan, Catelynn, Caryse, Mary and Andrew.

for the positive in every situation. He loved to laugh and would always greet you with that big smile and a hug (and usually a kiss). His positive attitude was uplifting, and you couldn't help but feel comfortable and engaged when you were in his presence. Brother Gordian, who is an institution at Catholic High, beloved by all who ever crossed his path, used to tell us as students not to think with our hearts, but with our heads. Lenny never took full stock of this advice. Lenny proved he could think with his head as evidenced by his numerous triumphs in life. But his heart was so big, his spirit of generosity so great, he unfortunately was never able to reconcile the two. His gentle spirit will be missed."

James echoes those thoughts, and adds that, "he was a unique person in that he did not judge anyone for their flaws and objected to anyone that did. He had a huge heart with compassion, where he would assist anyone that needed guidance, some money or help in dealing with others. He took it upon himself to make sure that person had a better chance to find that for which they were searching. It is this for which Lenny will be most missed - his compassion, his spirit of love and of non-judgment. He embodied a fine lawyer, a good-hearted person and a better parent. He will be missed - especially since he had so much more to offer us all - his encouragement, his friendship and his acceptance. Anyone that knew Lenny will not forget him. And if you knew him, you had a great story about him as well. Every man dies, but not every man really lives. Lenny lived life to the fullest."

New Orleans attorney (and LSU 1986 Law School Alum) Jeff Tillery also enjoyed a special bond with Lenny. "I met Lenny my freshman year at LSU as he lived next door. We went to law school together and remained close for 37 years. One thing I will never forget is when every member of my family lost their homes in Katrina. My brother, Scott, lost not only his home but his entire law practice in Chalmette. Without any questions and within a week

of the storm, Lenny had set Scott up in his law office to rebuild his practice with full support staff, conference room and use of everything - and all at Lenny's own expense. He did the same for John Theriot, our other friend who was rebuilding his accounting practice."

All of us who write this tribute - indeed, all who knew and loved Lenny - are deeply saddened by the circumstances of his departure from this world. His sudden and unexpected passing has invoked a broad range of emotions, not the least of which is deep sadness, and a longing to understand. In the end, his family has lost a father, a life-long companion, a brother and an uncle. His colleagues have lost a friend.

But we will always have our memories. 

WRITTEN BY JOHN FENNER & JAMES VILAS WITH  
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DANNY ATKINSON &  
JEFF TILLERY



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# Judicial Interview: Workers' Compensation Judge Pamela A. Moses-Laramore

## Vital Statistics

**Profession:** Workers' Compensation Judge since January 1991

**Born and Raised:** DeRidder, Louisiana

**Name of Spouse:** Gary Laramore

**Children:** Samantha and Landon

**Education:** Paul M. Hebert Law Center, LSU, J.D.

University of Southwest Louisiana (USL)

**Staff:** Denise Lee (Mediator) Shameeka Kaufman; (Dispute resolution officer/head of clerical staff); Jerrena Broan (Appeals & Settlement Clerk); Le'Tonya Brown (Secretary)

**Interesting facts:** Judge Laramore is the former "Miss Beauregard Parish," two years in a row, former "Miss DeRidder High School" and the former Beauregard Parish "Cattlemen's Queen."

*TBRL: What influenced you to become a lawyer?*

JL: Perry Mason! I always wanted to be a lawyer. My mom was a legal secretary for William Hall of Hall & Coltharp in DeRidder. Will Hall became a City Court judge and my mom remained his secretary. Mr. Coltharp became Judge Coltharp in the 36th JDC there. I would always hang around my mom's office after I got out of school and wait until she went home and I would see all the lawyers coming and going from the office. In the sixth grade I had to interview someone and write it up so I interviewed Judge Hall. I was fascinated by the legal community. Judge Hall and Judge Coltharp - those men were such wonderful gentlemen and they were always helping people. I was greatly impressed by that.

*TBRL: How did you get your start?*

JL: I took all my extra credit hours at the Law Center in oil and gas. I was going to work for an oil and gas leasing company. In my senior year I had it all lined up. I was a December graduate in 1981 and about then the bottom fell out of the oil and gas business. I got a call the week before finals saying I no longer had a job. I had missed all of the interviewing time because I already had a job.

*TBRL: So how did you go from law school to working as a lawyer?*

JL: I was free-lance law clerking in law school for Lewis Unglesby, Pat Wilson, Jr., G. Allen Walsh, Dennis Whalen - none of them could afford a full-time law clerk. I got a real well-rounded experience. I couldn't afford to take the bar review. I was looking for work in Dennis Whalen's office two weeks before the bar exam and Dennis Whalen asked what I was doing. I told him I needed to work to pay my rent and utilities. Dennis asked, "How much do you need?" He gave me \$200 and said, "Go study for the bar!" A friend let me stay with his parents for

two weeks. I just got up, studied all day for the exam. Each day during the bar, Dennis would quiz me about the exam, and his reaction was always bad. Dennis had me convinced that if I were lucky, I might "condition" (pass only part of the bar exam). When I got my letter saying I had passed, I took it back to Dennis and told him how lucky he was he had "grandfathered in," and didn't have to pass a bar exam! He had me so scared. Now I was loose with a law license and didn't have a clue. I had an undergraduate degree in political science - I didn't have any "business sense."

*TBRL: So you started out on your own?*

JL: I started out with Fred A. Blanche III. (Supreme Court Justice Blanche's son.) His office was the closest to my house. I went in my best (only) suit. His secretary told him there was a Pam Moses there, law graduate, looking for a job and he hired me.

*TBRL: How long were you there?*

JL: Just for a while. I then went to work at Dennis Whalen's office Dennis had some room in the back. After that, Stuart Thompson asked me to work with him.

*TBRL: How did you become an Administrative Law Judge?*

JL: I was in Family Court, Judge Luse's office. I was turning in a judgment and standing in front of the judge's secretary, when she got a call from the Department of Labor, who was looking for someone to fill an ALJ job for about six weeks. I called Oliver, an attorney with the Department of Labor, and he asked for my resume. I had only done one workers' comp case with Bob Hoover on the other side. But the interviewer liked my résumé because I had a lot of court experience. When we first started, we had to run our own court-reporting equipment. We had to make

our own record. I interviewed on a Thursday, and was in Alexandria hearing cases on Monday. I loved it.

*TBRL: What were conditions like back then and when were you sworn in?*

JL: We were hearing cases in the Job Services offices. This was before we had Workers' Comp courts set up - it was the inception of it. I was hearing cases in Alexandria. I never had a ceremony, just started working. It is civil service, not the judiciary. I started cases on that Monday in January 1991. The judge who had been in Alexandria was quitting, going on maternity leave in two weeks, but left early when she went into labor. I was offered a permanent position in Alexandria but didn't want to move. I loved the area but wanted to stay in Baton Rouge. I set up offices all over the state. I set up the Alexandria office, then went to Monroe. I went to New Orleans, to Harvey. I would be in the Job Services office in New Orleans, the grand jury room in Houma. Then they would hire somebody local for the permanent position. Norbert Rayford was the Baton Rouge judge. He had been a 19th JDC magistrate. So a division was set up for me hearing some of the Baton Rouge cases and some of the Alexandria cases, and some cases in St. Helena and Opelousas.

When Judge Rayford retired, I got his job, and another judge took over the division job. There were other divisions in Lake Charles-Lafayette, Shreveport-Monroe, because the districts were so big. Now there are two divisions in Lafayette, post Katrina.

I got the Baton Rouge District in 1995-96. In January I will be doing it 27 years.

*TBRL: What is your favorite thing about the job?*

JL: My bar. I call them "my bar." I have the most professional, nice attorneys that practice. I have the best of the best. Defense, plaintiff all of the attorneys get along wonderfully. After the cases are over, we visit or go have a drink. There is a lot of camaraderie. We created the Workers' Comp section of the Baton Rouge Bar. Chuck Davoli and Alan Jordan came to me, back when the Workers' Comp was in the Fairfax building. 1996-1997. We started as the Workers' Comp committee. It was still new for it to be carved out of the Judicial District Court and not every person doing Workers' Comp as part of their practice. When we started the committee, we didn't even have dues. Now, we have more than 100 members. Ann (our Executive Director) then said it was time to become a section. We try to get a defense and plaintiff attorney to chair. I'm the court liaison.

They do swear in the judges now.

*TBRL: Besides the Workers' Comp Section, you are also involved in other Baton Rouge Bar activities. Can you tell*

*me about that?*

JL: Well, out of our W.C. section, we created the "Queens of Comp," which consists of me, Michelle Sorrells, Robin Krumholdt, Debra Parker, Kristy Smiley and Terri Collins. Our group participated in the Belly Up for the Bar fundraiser for years. Out of seven years we won five trophies!

*TBRL: You are very involved with the Bench Bar Conference. How long have you been doing that?*

JL: I have been going to the Bench Bar Conference as long as I have been a member. I have missed only a few times, perhaps when I was pregnant. I remember going to the Bench Bar Conference in St. Francisville and in Natchez, way back when we were going there.

*TBRL: Now you're on the Bench Bar Committee?*

JL: I've been doing that at least ten years or so, maybe more. Ann would know.

*TBRL: What's going on this year?*

JL: The theme is "Bench Bar Goes to Broadway." Our current Bar President, Linda Law Clark, is a Broadway fan and it sounded fun. We have secured both Inns of Court to make presentations, with the Dean Henry George McMahon Inn to present Professionalism and the Wex Malone Inn to present Ethics. We are working on a special class-action attorney speaker and have some other surprises we are working on. The Bench Bar Conference will be the last weekend in July this year at Point Clear, Alabama.

*TBRL: Why do you like it? Why would you encourage others to go?*

JL: I have always enjoyed it so much; that's why I wanted to be a part of putting it together. You get to see co-workers in a totally different atmosphere. Some people have told me, "I don't want to vacation with a bunch of lawyers." I always say, "Sure you do." These are people you see every day, but they want to do the same things you do on vacation - relax, have fun, socialize. Having a drink or dinner with folks you work with all the time only makes all of it better.

*TBRL: Thanks for your time.*

JL: Of course, sweetie. ■



INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY JEFF WITTENBRINK

# Upcoming CLEs

## April 19, 2018

Judges' Panel: Best Practices for Family Law CLE  
Speakers: Family Court Judges from surrounding  
parishes  
City Club (355 North Blvd.)  
2.0 hours  
12 PM - 2 PM

## April 25, 2018

BRBA Trust Accounting CLE  
Speaker: Richard P. Lemmler, LSBA Ethics Counsel  
Middleton Bar Center (544 Main St.)  
2.0 hours - includes ethics & LPM  
9 AM - 11:30 AM

## April 26, 2018

Young Lawyers Health & Wellness Fair  
Speakers: TBD  
Middleton Bar Center (544 Main St.)  
2.0 hours - includes ethics and professionalism  
2:00 PM - 4:10 PM  
There will be a complimentary yoga class at 5:00 PM  
following the CLE at Yoga Rouge on Nicholson Drive.

## April 27, 2018

Young Lawyers Angola Road Trip CLE  
Speaker: Mark White  
Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola  
1.0 hour  
8:30 AM - 3 PM

## May 17, 2018

Social Security, Mental Health, Professionalism & Ethics  
in Family Law CLE  
Speakers: Robert Woosley, Alyson McCain, Buddy  
Stockwell & Mike Walsh  
Juban's Restaurant  
4.0 hours  
8 AM: Registration & breakfast

## June 15, 2018

Law Office Management CLE  
Speaker: Chad Dudley  
Middleton Bar Center (544 Main St.)  
1.0 hour  
7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

## July 26-28, 2018

Bench Bar Conference  
Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa  
Point Clear, AL  
12.5 hours - includes ethics and professionalism

## August 16, 2018

Legislative Update  
Speaker: Jessica Braun  
Juban's Restaurant  
1.0 hour  
12 PM - 2 PM

## September 20, 2018

Rx, Booze & Divorce  
Speaker: Dr. Michelle Cosse  
Beausoleil  
1.0 hour  
12 PM - 2 PM

## October 18, 2018

Parental Conflicts  
Speaker: Renee McCarthy  
Bistro Byronz  
1.0 hour  
12 PM - 2 PM

## November 15, 2018

The Cuffs Are Too Tight  
Speaker: Shannon Fay  
Manasseh, Gill, Knipe & Belanger PLC  
1.0 hour  
12 PM - 2 PM

## December 6, 7, 13, 14, 27 & 28, 2018

CLE by the Hour  
7 hours offered each day - includes ethics and  
professionalism  
8 AM - 5 PM

For additional information on upcoming  
CLEs, visit [www.brba.org](http://www.brba.org) or email  
Kelsie Bourgeois at [kelsie@brba.org](mailto:kelsie@brba.org).

# foundation footnotes

PRO BONO & TEEN COURT REPORTS — 2018

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; Franciscan Ministry Fund; Family, District and City Court Filing Fees; W. K. Kellogg Foundation; Baton Rouge Area Foundation; and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge is funded by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program for the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, LANO Change Fund and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation thanks those who volunteered in January & February.

## TEEN COURT -

Jamie Flowers from the U.S. Attorney's Office and Brittany Tassin, from the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response Office (STAR) served as judges for the February Teen Court hearing.

## REGION III HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION JUDGES -

Janeane Abbott, Joseph Ballard, Alan Berteau, Taylor Boudreaux, Clayton Breland, George Bursavich, Judge Jeffrey Cashe, Jaclyn Christie Chapman, Linda Law Clark, Rebecca Cunard, Peter Ellis, Judge Joycelyn Elmore, Kelly Englert, Judge Elizabeth Engolio, John Fenner, Candace Ford, Robert Glueck, Jaquay Gray, Jermaine Guillory, Jason Hessick, Melanie Jones, Paul Jones, Aimee Kaloyares, Rachel Kovach, Deborah Lamb, Quintillis Lawrence, Ross Leblanc, Amanda Messa, Gregory Moroux, Lauren Nero, Scott Nettles, Amy Newsom, Jennifer Prescott, Lindsay Rabalais, Marcus Roots, Joshua Roy, Valerie Schexnayder, Michael Schillage, Sarah-Margaret Smith, Gregory Stevens, A. Hays Town, April Williams and William Wilson. Law students served as timekeepers: Jumoke Dara, Hayley Franklin, Sean King, Eli Medina, Karina Shareen and Briana Spivey.

## ACCEPTING PRO BONO CASES -

David Mooney, *Attorney at Law*, and Brett Sandifer, *Law Offices of Keith S. Giardina*.

## SELF HELP RESOURCE CENTER VOLUNTEERS -

Janeane G. Abbott, *Joubert Law Firm*; Steven E. Adams, *Adams Law Office APLC*; Joseph Ballard, *Entergy*



*Services, Inc.*; Ryan Brown, *Roedel Parsons*; Marcia Burden, *Southern University Law Center*; Sharon Florence, *Law Office of Sharon Y. Florence, LLC*; David Handelman, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; Tammara J. Hills, *The Hills Law Firm*; Gregory Hughes, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; John Obebe, *EBR Office of Public Defender*; Jennifer Prescott, *Attorney at Law*; Cynthia Reed, *Southern University Law Center*; and Mary H. Thompson, *Attorney at Law*.

## ASK A LAWYER VOLUNTEERS -

James R. "Jim" Austin, *Butler Snow*; Rodney Hastings, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; DeVonna Ponthieu, *Law Office of Michael Thiel*; and Emily P. Ziober, *Attorney at Law*.

## THIRST FOR JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS -

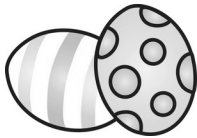
Caroline T. Bond, *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*; Terry L. Bonnie, *Attorney at Law*; John Conine, Jr., *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*; George Downing, Jr., *Attorney at Law*; Scott P. Gaspard, *Attorney at Law*; Allen M. Posey, Jr., *Attorney at Law*; and Mary E. Roper, *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*.

## LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEERS -

*Southern University Law Center*: Derek Bisig, Courtney Carter, Samuel French, Jessica Hawkins and Jerod McGriff  
*LSU Law Center*: Allena McCain

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# April 2018

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



\*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will  
be held at the Baton Rouge Bar office.

## Duty Court Schedule

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JDC CIVIL COURT

April 2 - April 13	Judge Clark
April 16 - April 27	Judge Caldwell
April 30 - May 11	Judge Kelley
May 14 - May 25	Judge Morvant
May 28 - June 8	Judge Johnson

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JDC CRIMINAL COURT\*\*\*

March 30 - April 6	Judge Anderson
April 6 - April 13	Judge Erwin
April 13 - April 20	Judge Jackson
April 20 - April 27	Judge Daniel
April 27 - May 4	Judge Moore
May 4 - May 11	Judge Higginbotham
May 11 - May 18	Judge White
May 18 - May 25	Judge Marabella
May 25 - June 1	Judge Anderson

### BATON ROUGE CITY COURT\*

March 26 - April 1	Judge Moore Vendetto
April 2 - April 8	Judge Prosser
April 9 - April 15	Judge Temple
April 16 - April 22	Judge Smith
April 23 - April 29	Judge Alexander
April 30 - May 6	Judge Moore Vendetto
May 6 - May 13	Judge Prosser
May 14 - May 20	Judge Temple
May 21 - May 27	Judge Smith
May 23 - June 3	Judge Alexander

### FAMILY COURT\*\*

April 2	Judge Baker
April 3	Judge Woodruff-White
April 4	Judge Day
April 5	Judge Greene
April 6	Judge Woodruff-White
April 9	Judge Baker
April 10	Judge Woodruff-White
April 11	Judge Day
April 12	Judge Greene
April 13	Judge Day
April 16	Judge Baker
April 17	Judge Woodruff-White
April 18	Judge Day
April 19 & 20	Judge Greene
April 23	Judge Baker
April 24	Judge Woodruff-White
April 25	Judge Day
April 26	Judge Greene
April 27 & 30	Judge Baker
May 1	Judge Woodruff-White
May 2	Judge Day

May 3	Judge Greene
May 4	Judge Woodruff-White
May 7	Judge Baker
May 8	Judge Woodruff-White
May 9	Judge Day
May 10	Judge Greene
May 11	Judge Day
May 14	Judge Baker
May 15	Judge Woodruff-White
May 16	Judge Day
May 17 & 18	Judge Greene
May 21	Judge Baker
May 22	Judge Woodruff-White
May 23	Judge Day
May 24	Judge Greene
May 25	Judge Baker
May 29	Judge Woodruff-White
May 30	Judge Day
May 31	Judge Greene

### JUVENILE COURT

April 2 - April 30	Judge Haney
May 1 - May 31	Judge Taylor-Johnson

NOTE: Duty Court changes at 5 p.m. each Friday unless otherwise specified. \*City Court's Duty Court schedule changes each Monday at 8 a.m. \*\*Family Court's Duty Court schedule is completely different each day, rotating on Fridays

\*\*\*19th JDC Criminal Court changes each Friday at noon.

### COURT HOLIDAYS

Monday, May 28	Memorial Day
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## Classified Ads

**FSBO**—Business ready. Walk to court house. Beauregard Town, 727 Spain St/ 3 off-street parking spaces, 4 custom furnished offices, 2 half baths, kitchen/ 1,117 sq ft/ central AC, telephone & security systems, computer network wired/ \$174,900/ 225-772-3493.

**NEED CLE? WE CAN HELP!**  
The BRBA is now offering online CLE courses in various areas of practice including ethics and professionalism. Be sure to register today! [www.BRBA.org](http://www.BRBA.org)

**JOIN THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE.**  
Contact Carole McGehee at 225-214-5557 or [carole@BRBA.org](mailto:carole@BRBA.org).

## April

**Ongoing:** Every Wednesday & Thursday, 3-5 p.m., Thirst for Justice takes place at St. Vincent de Paul;

**Ongoing:** Every Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Self Help Resource Center, 19th JDC;

- 5** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 -11:30 a.m. - Charles R. Kelly Community Center
- 7** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Jones Creek Regional Library
- 11** Finance Committee Meeting - Conference call
- Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - West Baton Rouge Parish Library
- 12** Exec Meeting, 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - DeCuir Clark & Adams, LLP
- 16** Teen Court Hearing, 5:30 - 8 p.m. - EBRP Juvenile Court
- 18** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities
- Board of Directors Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m. - TBD
- 19** Family Law Section Meeting & CLE, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. - City Club
- 25** BRBA Trust Accounting Workshop & CLE, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Middleton Bar Center
- 26** YLS Angola Trip
- 27** 19th JDC Closed - Professional Development Day

## May

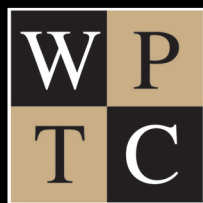
- 1** Law Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - River Center
- 9** Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. - Conference call
- 10** Exec Meeting, 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - DeCuir Clark & Adams, LLP
- 16** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities
- Board of Directors Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m. - TBD
- 17** Family Law Section Meeting & CLE, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Juban's Restaurant
- 19** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Greenwell Springs Library
- 22** Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Gonzales Branch Library
- 28** Memorial Day - BRBA office & 19th JDC closed

Baton Rouge Bar Association  
P.O. Box 2241  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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