



VOL. 1, ISSUE 4  
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION

# THE BATON ROUGE LAWYER



BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2018

ON

**BROADWAY**

JULY 26-29

THE GRAND MARRIOTT  
POINT CLEAR, AL

Inside

Judicial Interview: Family Court Judge Hunter Greene

Much Ado About Patents

What I've Learned: Mary Olive Pierson

Loony Louisiana Laws

Member Spotlight: Aaron Chaisson

Meet Your BRBA Staff



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BAR ASSOCIATION

July 26-29, 2018

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ON  
**BROADWAY**

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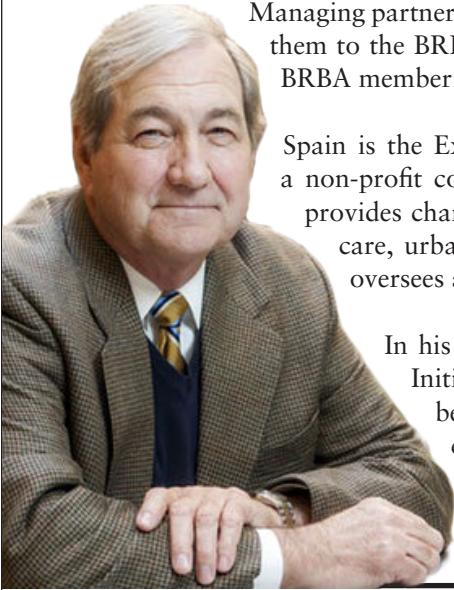
Registration forms available at [www.brba.org](http://www.brba.org).

# June Bar Luncheon & Meeting

## Baton Rouge Area Foundation Executive Vice President John Spain to speak June 13

Baton Rouge Area Foundation Executive Vice President, John Spain, will be the guest speaker at the June Bar Luncheon and Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

The luncheon and meeting, organized by the BRBA Young Lawyers Section, will be held at Ruffino's Catering at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third St., beginning at 11:45 a.m. The Aggravated Batters (the DA's Office) will be recognized as the winners of the 2018 BRBA Softball Tournament along with the 2018 Region III Mock Trial Competition winners West Feliciana High School and Episcopal High School.



Managing partners from local law firms are encouraged to invite their summer law clerks and introduce them to the BRBA membership during the June Bar Luncheon. Summer law clerks can receive the BRBA member rate for this luncheon.

Spain is the Executive Vice President of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit community foundation with assets of over \$600 million dollars. The Foundation provides charitable gifts to organizations and is involved in civic projects in the areas of health care, urban renewal, education, and the arts. In his role as Executive Vice President, Spain oversees all of the foundation's community projects.

In his current role at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Spain manages multiple Civic Initiative projects. These initiatives are major, multi-year projects that require funding beyond the Foundation, community engagement, and frequently, the promotion of a change in public policy. Please join us on June 13, 2018, for this great event.

Cancellations must be made by noon Friday, June 8, 2018. Fax this completed form to 225-344-4805 or email it to [kelsie@brba.org](mailto:kelsie@brba.org).

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND FAX THIS ENTIRE PAGE TO THE BRBA AT (225) 344-4805 BY NOON FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018.

Bar Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_ Please check applicable affiliation: ☐ BRBA member ☐ Summer law clerk ☐ Guest

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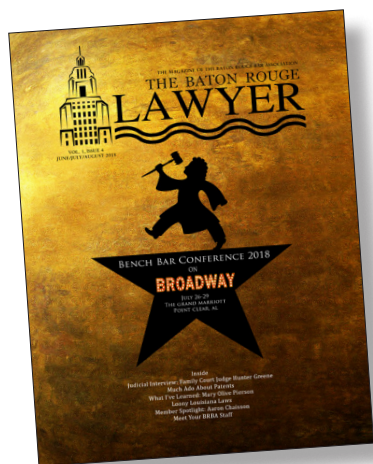
Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **LUNCHEON** — **YES**, register me for the **JUNE BAR LUNCHEON** at Ruffino's Catering at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third St., which will take place WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018, at 11:45 a.m. at \$30 per BRBA member. Summer law clerks can receive the BRBA member rate. Guests who are non-members may attend for \$40 per person. SPACE IS LIMITED. **Please reserve your seat by sending in this form to Kelsie Bourgeois at the BRBA by noon Friday, June 8, 2018. Fax to 225-344-4805 or email to [kelsie@brba.org](mailto:kelsie@brba.org).** Cancellations must be made by noon Friday, June 8, 2018. "No shows" will be invoiced. Online registration is also available at [www.BRBA.org](http://www.BRBA.org).

**To register for this luncheon  
and pay by credit card,  
go to [www.tinyurl.com/y7chw6px](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7chw6px).**

*If paying by credit card, please include the following:*

Name on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of card: (circle one): MC VISA AmExpress Discover  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## On the cover:

The BRBA Bench Bar Conference takes place July 26-29, 2018, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear, Alabama.

This year's conference has a Broadway theme, and the BRBA will raffle season tickets to Saenger Theatre in New Orleans, which will include tickets to see *Hamilton*. Register today to attend BRBA Bench Bar Conference 2018! Online registration is available.



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# contributors



Joseph J. Cefalu III is a partner with Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP and an assistant editor of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*.

Linda Law Clark is a partner at DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP and the 2018 president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.



Richard J. Dodson is a partner at Dodson & Hooks, APLC and a contributing writer.

Kathryn Dufrene is a Staff Attorney at the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit and a member of the Publications Committee.



Nancy Sue Gregorie is a board certified Family Law Specialist certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization and a contributing writer.

Landon T. Hester is the communications coordinator at the Baton Rouge Bar Association.



Mary Roper is an attorney at Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP and a member of the Publications Committee.

Lauren Rucinski is an associate at Kean Miller, LLP and a contributing writer.



Gail S. Stephenson, an assistant editor of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*, is the director of legal analysis and writing and the Louisiana Outside Counsel A.A. Lenoir Endowed Professor at Southern University Law Center.

Ed Walters is a partner at Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC and the editor of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*.



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P.O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Phone (225) 344-4803 • Fax (225) 344-4805 • www.brba.org

The Baton Rouge Bar Association will be the beacon for the full spectrum of the legal profession by fostering professional courtesy; increasing the diversity of the bar and the participation of under-represented groups; maintaining a sound financial base; enhancing and developing member services and community outreach; and promoting and improving the image of the profession.

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## BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION STAFF

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R. Lynn S. Haynes, Asst. Teen Court Coordinator ..... 214-5564  
Landon T. Hester, Communications Coordinator ..... 214-5560  
Robin Kay, Pro Bono Coordinator ..... 214-5561  
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Julie Ourso, Bookkeeper ..... 214-5572  
Valerie Schexnayder, Access to Justice Fellow ..... 344-4803

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor: Ed Walters — 236-3636

Asst. Eds.: Joseph J. Cefalu III — 381-3176  
Grant J. Guillot — 378-3226  
Gail S. Stephenson — 771-4900, ext. 216  
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# Letter from the President

BY LINDA LAW CLARK

## What's the Buzz? Tell Me What's Happening!

The crowds sang this out during the live television debut of Jesus Chris Superstar this past April. If you want to know how to find out what is “the buzz,” how to find a cutting-edge BRBA CLE, how to locate the next exciting Bar event or check the key duty court schedules, *The Baton Rouge Lawyer* is your source. In between editions, Ann Gregorie and her staff shoot out email blasts to keep you connected.



Linda Law Clark

During the first three months of my term, I explored our membership to find out what's the buzz, “Getting to Know” more of you! I met with each BRBA event committee and reached out to our many section chairs to see what each are doing and how our Bar can assist. As an active long-term bar member, I thought I knew our BRBA family well, but I have been constantly amazed how very diverse the BRBA is and how widespread our interests stretch.

One annual event which will give you the best opportunity to reach past your traditional circle, “Getting to Know” more of our diverse membership, is the Bench Bar Conference in Point Clear, Ala. in July. Have you marked your calendars? Are you registered? Will you “Escape to Margaritaville,” a/k/a the Grand, with us? Why not “Belly Up with the Bar” at the pool cabana and “Relax-Try Not to Be Worried” while you get to know your professional colleagues and their families? “We are Family” – Learn how diverse we can be!

There will be many opportunities to hone your legal skills in exciting CLEs, relax and unwind to find that quality of life we all search for in balancing our daily schedules, visit with the judiciary outside the courtroom and so much more! The Alabama hills will be “Alive with the Sound of Music.” They say, “There's Always Magic in the Air on Broadway” and the Bench Bar is going to Broadway for this year's event. Thursday at Bubbles and Suds there will be an opportunity to celebrate “The Night They Invented Champagne,” sample chocolate that would make “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” swoon as well as recognize all Past Presidents and attending judges. As “Life is a Cabaret,” you will be entertained with a Broadway -quality performance and afterwards please enter our friendly karaoke contest and show off your skills! It will be a “Grand Night for Singing!”

Friday will be the annual dinner dance with “Food, Glorious Food” and your BRBA President singing along with *Sessions*, a gathering of phenomenal musical talents from within our ranks. New this year will be a Saturday evening event at the Fairhope Brewery. There will be local beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages as well as games and camaraderie for the whole family with food trucks to whet appetites. Tours of the Brewery will be available as well, with transportation to and from the Brewery starting at 6 p.m.

Register your family, “Put on a Happy Face” and join me, the “Cock-eyed Optimist,” at the 2018 Bench Bar Conference. Please don't forget to enter our Saenger Broadway Raffle for a chance at two balcony seats on Friday nights for the entire 2018-19 eight-show Broadway season. Don't “Give up your Shot” at seeing “Hamilton” at the Saenger! 🍷



# The Future of Case Management at a Glance: What to Expect from the Clerk of Court's New System

Clerk of Court Doug Welborn and his staff have been making the rounds to let customers know about the office's new case-management system. At a recent meeting at the Bar Association office with several members of their project team, the mood was excited and optimistic about the project.

"We hope that our customers are going to find their experiences with our office better than ever with our new system," Welborn said. "The first phase of our activation will be the Civil and Family side and the Criminal side will follow later in the summer."

Through an intensive process in which vendors submitted proposals to the Clerk's technology steering committee, a system was selected that will offer flexibility and durability to build upon in the future. The capability for electronic recording and filing is a high priority for the coming months.

Other goals include continuing a high level of data and evidence sharing with law enforcement agencies and streamlining the procedures between the Clerk and Court offices to assist in expedited communication and correspondence to customers. The ability for filing parties to determine the estimated cost of a filing prior to submitting it will be available through a feature to be included on the Clerk's website in the near future.

Among the updates to expect during the initial phases and in the near future are:

- Credit/debit cards will be accepted for in-person transactions.
- All civil/probate and family court pleadings will be imaged and filed simultaneously upon receipt by the Clerk's office. Current procedures will be revised with the implementation of the new Case Management program. This will allow for the timely transmittal of all filings to the court electronically, significantly reducing the probability of missing documents.
- Because these matters will now be on an electronic platform, access by the

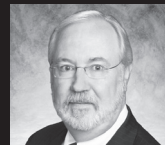
court will be greatly enhanced. The court will be able to access pleadings and files that are electronically imaged, allowing reviewing and decision making at its discretion. Documents will be transferred electronically to the judges' offices, and judges will be able to electronically sign documents.

- As these imaged filings become available to the public via the Clerk Connect program, attorneys will be able to directly determine answers to their questions

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by viewing the appropriate image in that program, including who/what/when filed, service return information, etc.

- E-Filing is scheduled for fall 2018. An e-filing portal will be provided with payments made by credit/debit cards.
- CourtConnect will become ClerkConnect upon completion of the transition. Research done through online access will be improved with the ability to sort according to document types among its enhancements.
- Documents will be issued in a more efficient method. Multiple documents may be issued at one time as opposed to the Clerk's office having to issue them individually.
- Conformed copies will be printed at the front counter. Requests for certified/conformed copies will be generated at the cost of \$1.00 per page, \$5.00 per certification, \$3.00 per conformed copy. If attorneys provide a copy for conformed copies or certified copies, the Clerk will print the first page of the documents (with the file stamp) and attach it to the provided copies at no cost.
- Actual costs will be collected at the time of filing to greatly reduce the need for billing on the back end.
- Customers will be provided a printed receipt for every filed transaction on each case.
- In the criminal area, affidavits of probable cause and

bonds will be electronically filed.

- Some requests of customers to accompany the enhancements of the new system:
  1. Each case will need an individual check.
  2. Documents are requested to be fastened with binder clips rather than stapled.
  3. An email address is asked to be included on all pleadings.
- The system will search, per bar roll number, for any pending faxed submissions at the time of filing. This will assist in the elimination of duplicate filings.
- Stamped copies will be printed at the front counter showing the electronic file stamp.
- Detailed receipts will be given at the time of filing.
- During the transition period, both CourtConnect and ClerkConnect will remain online. After the civil/family/probate activation, those official and updated records will be available only in ClerkConnect, though still appearing in CourtConnect. Upon completion of the criminal activation phase, ClerkConnect will become the official resource for all updated court-related online research.

All groups that the Clerk's office conducts business with regularly – attorneys, court staff, numerous other agencies – have had input into the process. As the first phase activation on the civil and family side continues, feedback

Joubert Law Firm is proud  
to announce the hiring  
of  
**Kevin P. Kleinpeter**  
*Criminal Defense and  
Personal Injury Attorney*

Joubert Law Firm, APLC, is pleased to announce that Kevin P. Kleinpeter has joined the firm and will practice personal injury law and handle criminal defense matters. At Joubert Law Firm, Mr. Kleinpeter will counsel clients in complex personal injury cases, including automobile wrecks and wrongful death matters. He will also advise clients in criminal defense matters issues, including DWIs, bench warrants, misdemeanors, select felonies and expungements.



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continues to be encouraged on how the system can best serve its customers.

“Please continue to let us know what you would like to see as we continue our progress with this project,” Welborn said. “Our attorneys are the most frequent customers of our office, and whatever we can do to make their jobs easier is always going to be a major goal whenever we plan updates and advancements.” ■

WRITTEN BY TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AT THE 19TH JDC

**Volunteer writers needed to submit substantive legal articles for publication in future issues of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*.**

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# Upcoming CLEs

June 14, 2018

Ethics and Professionalism CLE

Speakers: Eric R. Miller and Rebecca K. Wisbar

Middleton Bar Center

2.0 hours

8 – 10 AM

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

June 20, 2018

Construction Law Section CLE

Speaker: Gray Sexton

Middleton Bar Center

1.0 hour of CLE credit

12 – 1 PM

June 22, 2018

Criminal Law Section CLE

Speaker: Jarrett Ambeau

Middleton Bar Center

1.0 hour of CLE credit

12 – 1 PM

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

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8 AM - 5 PM



# LOONY LOUISIANA LAWS

Everyone knows that states have some strange laws that are still technically enforceable. Some of them are clearly rooted in history and somehow avoided being repealed, while others are completely inexplicable. Perhaps the most common example in Louisiana is the plethora of theft statutes Louisiana once boasted, including theft of crawfish and theft of alligator. Theft of livestock; theft of timber; theft of utility service; theft of petroleum products; theft of oilfield geological survey, seismograph, and production maps; theft of oil and gas equipment; theft of goods; theft of a business record; theft of assets of a person who is aged or a person with a disability; theft of utility product; theft of copper or other materials; and theft of animals all were just recently repealed. Louisiana Senate Bill 220 of the 2017 Legislative Session sought to eliminate these, as they are duplicative of other theft statutes. This bill was passed and took effect on August 1, 2017. There are still many other “specialty” crimes that are on the books. For example, certain people garner special protection from battery, including police officers (La. R.S. 14:34.2); school teachers (La. R.S. 14:34.3); correctional facility employees; bus drivers (La. R.S. 14:34.5.1); ER, EMS, or other healthcare personnel (La. R.S. 14:34.8); child welfare or adult protective service workers (La. R.S. 14:35.1); persons with infirmities (La. R.S. 14:35.2); and school or recreation referees and umpires (La. R.S. 14:34.4).

One of the more academic topics includes Louisiana’s definition of a “dangerous weapon.” As most (if not all) lawyers know, a crime may be classified differently depending on whether it was committed while the perpetrator was using a dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon is defined as “any gas, liquid or other substance or instrumentality, which, in the manner used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm.” La. R.S. 14:2(3). The most obvious includes guns and knives. Courts of this state have found many ordinary items to be dangerous weapons because of the manner in which they were used. The Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal found a two-foot long stick that was one inch in diameter to be a dangerous weapon. *State v. Bell*, 94-0742 (La. App. 3d Cir. 12/7/94), 647 So.2d 498. In *Bell*, the defendant hit his son with the stick, which left multiple bruises and abrasions. *Id.* at 500. Though the defendant claimed reasonable discipline as a defense, the Third Circuit found that a rational trier of fact could have found the stick described to cause serious harm since it was used

around the head and therefore was sufficient to find that the defendant used a “dangerous weapon.” *Id.* Other items that Louisiana courts have found to be dangerous weapons include an ink pen,<sup>1</sup> a high-heeled boot<sup>2</sup> and even rubber-soled tennis shoes.<sup>3</sup> Dane Ciolino, a Loyola University New Orleans College of Law criminal law professor and Barbri instructor, tells his students preparing for the bar exam that even a slice of cake can constitute a dangerous weapon, although it is not inherently dangerous. If the cake is shoved up your nostrils in such a way that you are unable to breathe, it is arguably “calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm” and therefore a dangerous weapon.

On a lighter note, many things can constitute criminal mischief as defined by the Louisiana Criminal Code, but two specific ones are worth noting. The pruning of trees within the right-of-way of a state highway without first getting permission from the Department of Transportation and Development is criminally sanctionable as is throwing rocks in the middle of a street or alley. La. R.S. 14:59(4) & (6).

Though theft of animals was removed from the Criminal Code, there are many other unexpected animal-related offenses. Perhaps the most bizarre is outlined in La. R.S. 14:102.10, which outlaws bear wrestling. Anyone guilty of bear wrestling must pay a fine of not more than \$500 or be imprisoned for up to six months. And be careful where you decide to sell your dog’s puppies. La. R.S. 14:102.27 prohibits the sale of dogs or cats on “any highway, right-of-way, flea market, public park, public playground, public swimming pool, any other public recreational area, or adjacent property to such locations.” The first offense carries a \$250 fine, and a second or any other subsequent offense can carry up to a \$1,000 fine. Louisiana also strongly frowns on cheating in a hunting or fishing contest, though perhaps this is not very surprising as Louisiana is the Sportman’s Paradise, after all. Anyone who “knowingly makes a false representation in an effort to win any prize awarded in any fishing or hunting contest” with the intent to defraud is in violation of La. R.S. 14:214. The penalty for violation of this statute varies depending on how much the most valuable prize in the contest is worth.

While all of these provisions are somewhat understandable, some are just plain unusual. For example, La. R.S. 32:195

## “Perhaps the most bizarre is outlined in La. R.S. 14:102.10, which outlaws bear wrestling. Anyone guilty of bear wrestling must pay a fine of not more than \$500 or be imprisoned for up to six months.”

makes it illegal to ride someone else on the handlebars of your bicycle. Who among us was not guilty of this offense as a child? And speaking of your childhood, the classic order-a-pizza-for-someone-who-didn't-actually-order-it prank could land you in jail for up to six months or stuck with a fine of up to \$500. *See* La. R.S. 14:68.6. Finally, La. R.S. 14:312 makes it illegal to jump from a state bridge as a publicity stunt. If you are looking for some free publicity though and are not afraid of heights, the fine is only \$25.

Baton Rouge itself also has some zany ordinances. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge criminalizes profanity (using “indecent, vile, profane, or blasphemous language which tends to foreseeably cause a breach of the peace on or near the streets, alleys, sidewalks or other places of public resort”) in Sec. 13:106.1; skinny dipping (“It shall be unlawful to bathe in any public pool, pond, lake, river or other body of water in a state of nudity.”) in Sec. 13:1008;

and spitting in public places (making it illegal to “expectorate or spit upon any sidewalk or on any hall, stairway or floor of any public building or conveyance”) in Sec. 13:1012. Each of the foregoing crimes may be punished by a fine of up to \$500 and imprisonment for up to six months in the parish jail.

The City-Parish also takes a hard stance on public health. “It shall be the duty of every person knowing of any individual in the city-parish sick of any contagious, infectious or pestilential disease . . . to at once report such fact to the health officer, and no person shall interfere with or obstruct the entrance,

inspection and examination by any representative of the board of health in any dwelling where there has been reported an infectious, contagious or pestilential disease.” Sec. 6:105. So, if you know of anyone that has a contagious infection (e.g., pink-eye, a cold, or the flu), you must immediately report it to the “health officer,” and the afflicted must allow a visit by the board of health. We may need to build another jail if the City-Parish starts enforcing these provisions.

This same idea is further reflected in Sec. 6:109 and 6:110. Sec. 6:110 prohibits children from attending school if they suffer from a “contagious, infectious or pestilential disease.” If a child does attend school and presents symptoms of any contagious, infectious or pestilential disease, he or she shall be sent home with instructions to their parents to be examined by a family physician. Sec. 6:109. Any child sent home pursuant to this ordinance may not return to school until a licensed physician provides a certificate stating that the child does not in fact suffer from any contagious, infectious or pestilential disease. *Id.* All of these offenses carry a fine up to \$100 or up to 30 days of imprisonment. Parents and school administrators beware.

Finally, Baton Rouge considers burning any substance in such a manner as to be offensive to the smell a nuisance (Sec. 12:400). It also criminalizes charivariing as a nuisance (Sec. 12:403). We had to look this one up. Encyclopedia.com offers the following explanation:

Charivari was a ritual used by medieval and early modern Europeans to chastise community members who failed to conform to social expectations, especially sexual ones. Examples included a widow who remarried, a wife who beat her husband, or a couple who failed to have children. In France, where this term originated, teenage boys and young unmarried men usually led such rituals. The youths would parade through the streets, making rough music by banging pots and pans, shouting mocking insults, and sometimes threatening violence. If the victim of the charivari handled the situation effectively by paying off the youths with wine or money, the ritual usually ended peacefully and the matter was laid to rest.

Apparently, this was a problem in Baton Rouge in 1951, which is when this provision was adopted, but it is still on the books today. If you engage in such a ritual within the

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city limits of Baton Rouge, you are subject to a fine of up to \$20 or 20 days of imprisonment.

Many of these laws appear to be knee-jerk provisions, adopted in the midst of public furor over an isolated problem, which are then seldom revisited and often forgotten. Nevertheless, until repealed, they are available to law enforcement officers to utilize at their discretion. An officer with a little time on his hands may stumble across one of these provisions and use it. *En garde.* ■

WRITTEN BY KATHRYN DUFRENE &  
MARY ROPER



<sup>1</sup> *State v. Johnson*, 598 So.2d 1152, 1158 (La. App. 1st Cir.1992), *writ denied*, 600 So.2d 676 (La. 1992).

<sup>2</sup> *State v. Black*, 09-1664 (La. App. 4th Cir. 6/17/10), 41 So.3d 1243, *writ denied*, 56 So.3d 966 (La. 1/28/11).

<sup>3</sup> *State v. Munoz*, 575 So.2d 848 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1991), *writ denied*, 577 So.2d 1009 (La. 1991).

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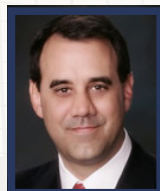
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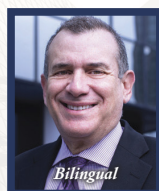
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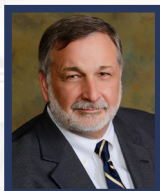
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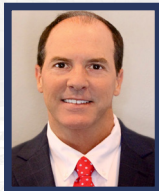
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# Attorney Spotlight: Aaron Chaisson

BY JOSEPH J. CEFALU



TBRL: Tell us about your education.

AC: I graduated from Holy Cross High School in New Orleans. I received my B.A. in Political Science from LSU, and my J.D. from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU.

TBRL: Where are you from?

AC: Chalmette, La.

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

AC: Craig D. Gremillion and Associates (formerly known as Terry J. Butcher and Associates), employees of the Corporate Law Department for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. I defend State Farm insureds and the company in lawsuits involving auto accidents, premises liability, dog bites and other general liability claims made against State Farm insureds and the company. I also defend State Farm on coverage issues.

TBRL: Why did you want to become an attorney?

AC: When I was in high school everyone said I should be an attorney. I was stubborn and decided to major in engineering. One day at LSU I was sitting in a multidimensional calculus and differential equations class and realized I did not want to do that for the rest of my life. I was taking a political science as an elective, which I really enjoyed. I realized that if I changed my major to political science, I could still graduate in 4 years and then go to law school.

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

AC: I think I would have enjoyed being a political speech writer, or possibly a lobbyist.

TBRL: What is one thing you wish you had known before you went to law school?

AC: To take advantage of the opportunities offered by external moot court teams. I did Flory and Tullis while at LSU, but did not participate on any external teams.

TBRL: Are you involved with the BRBA?

AC: I am a member of the Bench Bar Conference Committee. I have also presented CLE at CLE by the Hour and at the Baton Rouge Bar Law Expo.



TBRL: What motivated you to become involved with the BRBA?

AC: I really enjoy working with the members of the Bench Bar Committee. They do a great job of choosing CLE topics and speakers that are interesting and relevant.

TBRL: What is your favorite BRBA activity or event?

AC: The BRBA has many great events, but my favorite is the Bench Bar Conference. I strongly encourage any local attorney to give it a try. Go once, and you will want to go every year.

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

AC: I am on the Board of Directors for the Bayou Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Society. I serve as a member of the Ascension Parish Planning and Zoning Commission. I am involved with Team Hanna for the Epilepsy Foundation of Louisiana's Seize the Day event, a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, and I spent eight years coaching recreational, academy and competitive soccer for the Gonzales Soccer Club.

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

AC: The Baton Rouge legal community is small and what goes around, comes around. So treat others like you want to be treated.

TBRL: What are your leisure activities?

AC: Attending my children's band functions (football games, marching festivals, concerts etc.), tailgating at LSU football games, RVing and grilling/smoking/cooking for family and friends. I also enjoy fishing, although I don't get to do that nearly as often as I would like.

TBRL: What is the last book that you read?

AC: *Ready Player One*

TBRL: Tell us something interesting about yourself.

AC: My wife and I met when we were both members of LSU's "The Golden Band from Tigerland." 🐯



INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY JOSEPH J. CEFALU III

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# Same-Sex Marriage

## *A brief history leading up to Obergefell v. Hodges*

“The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1776, the founding fathers of the United States declared life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to be unalienable rights which were bestowed upon all men by their Creator and which the government was designed to protect.<sup>2</sup> Getting married is one of the most universally celebrated occasions throughout the world. It is the “happily ever after” ending of fairy tales, as well as the dream of many from a young age. Yet, despite the long ago recognition that the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” were God-given rights, until recently, not everyone in the United States was allowed to partake in this cherished rite of passage.

Although evidence suggests that marriage has been in practice for approximately 4,350 years, with the first record of a marriage ceremony being found in Mesopotamia in 2350 B.C., same-sex marriage has only rarely been documented.<sup>3</sup> It is reported that during his rule from A.D. 54 to 68, Roman Emperor Nero twice married men in formal wedding ceremonies.<sup>4</sup>

In late medieval France, the practice of entering a legal contract of “enbrotherment” (affrèment) was a pledge of brothers to live together sharing ‘un pain, un vin, et une bourse’ – one bread, one wine, and one purse.<sup>5</sup> Although this began as a mechanism for brothers to share jointly inherited resources, research indicates that this legal category may represent one of the earliest forms of sanctioned same-sex unions for unrelated male partners.<sup>6</sup>

Accounts of same sex-marriage in early America are chronicled in research conducted by Rachael Hope Cleves, an associate professor of history at the University of Victoria.<sup>7</sup> Professor Cleves details a lengthy same-sex relationship between two women prior to the Civil War in her book *Charity and Sylvia*. The account of their 44 year union, which was commonly regarded as a marriage of sorts, is based on diaries, letters and poetry, as well as other original documents.

The efforts of mixed-race couples in America to legalize their unions provided important precedents for same-sex couples. In 1883, the United States Supreme Court upheld the state of Alabama’s ban on marriages between interracial couples in *Pace v. Alabama*, 1 S.Ct. 637, (1883). This ruling would stand for the next 84 years, until the United States Supreme Court decided *Loving v. Virginia*, 375 U.S. 1, 87 S. Ct. 1817; (1967), wherein the Court denounced all

race-based restrictions on the right to marry and declared marriage to be a civil right. The *Loving* decision set the stage for same-sex couples to likewise assert their right to marry.

In October 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily declined to consider *Baker v. Nelson*, 191 N.W.2d 185 (Minn. 1971), wherein the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had no constitutional right to marry, “for want of a substantial federal question.” *Baker* set federal precedent that blocked federal courts from ruling on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage for decades. The next year, the National Coalition of Gay Organizations called for the repeal of all statutes limiting marriage to different-sex couples and for extending the legal benefits of marriage to all cohabiting couples.<sup>8</sup>

In 1984, the city of Berkeley, Calif., passed the United States’ first domestic partnership law. Shortly thereafter, in *Baehr v. Lewin*, No. 91-1394, 1996 WL 694235, at \*1 (Haw. Cir. Ct. Dec. 3 1996), the Supreme Court of Hawaii held that rules that ban same-sex marriage violated the equal protection clause of Hawaii’s constitution. However, the impact of this case was short-lived. In 1998 the Hawaiian citizens voted to amend their state constitution to allow the state’s legislature to restrict marriage to only men and women.<sup>9</sup>

Meanwhile, in 1996, the federal government passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which supported the formation of families with two heterosexual parents. This was followed by the enactment of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which described marriage under federal law as singularly heterosexual and asserted that states in the U.S. were not required by law to recognize same-sex marriages performed in a different state. In opposing the right of same-sex couples to marry, opponents borrowed heavily from the arguments that had been put forth by the opponents of bi-racial marriage.<sup>10</sup>

In 2000, Vermont passed a law that created a civil union for same-sex couples, giving same-sex couples all the benefits and rights of a marriage but not an actual marriage license.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, the Supreme Court in New Jersey declared that same-sex couples were entitled to the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples, and the legislature decided to legalize civil unions.<sup>12</sup> A few years later, in 2004, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage and allowed the first legal same-sex marriages to be performed.<sup>13</sup> That same year, some local governments around the country



**“The U.S. Supreme Court held that the Fourteenth Amendment required a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed in another state.”**

began granting marriage licenses for same-sex couples before being stopped by the courts.<sup>14</sup> Around the same time, voters in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Kansas and Texas reacted to the rulings by passing constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the backlash by voters, courts across the country continued to recognize the equal civil rights of same-sex couples. In 2008, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to get married.<sup>16</sup> Likewise, the California Supreme Court overruled the state’s ban on same-sex marriage<sup>17</sup> (although the voters responded by putting forward and approving a constitutional amendment to end same-sex marriage).<sup>18</sup> In 2009, Vermont, Washington D.C., and New Hampshire legalized same-sex marriage, and the Iowa Supreme Court overturned the state’s ban on same-sex marriage.<sup>19</sup> In 2011, the New York Legislature approved same-sex marriage.<sup>20</sup> In 2012, the states of Maryland, Washington and Maine become the first states in the U.S. where the public voted to legalize same-sex marriage.<sup>21</sup>

On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5–4 decision in *United States v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), ruling Section 3 of DOMA (which defined “marriage” and “spouse” to apply only to opposite-sex unions) to be unconstitutional as a deprivation of the “liberty of the person” under the Fifth Amendment. This ruling was significant for the future success of legal challenges against same-sex marriage bans. Shortly after the ruling, New Jersey and several counties in New Mexico began issuing same-sex marriage licenses, and Rhode Island, Delaware, Minnesota, Hawaii and Illinois enacted legislation allowing same-sex marriage. Salt Lake County, Utah, as well as other Utah counties began issuing same-sex marriage licenses after Utah’s same-sex marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional on December 20, 2013, until the state obtained a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court on January 6, 2014.<sup>22</sup>

In May 2014, same-sex favorable rulings were handed down in Oregon and Pennsylvania.<sup>23</sup> With few exceptions, most other U.S. district courts and courts of appeal rapidly followed, finding same-sex bans to be unconstitutional, as did many state courts. The outliers were a state court in Tennessee, U.S. district courts in Louisiana<sup>24</sup> and Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.<sup>25</sup>

On October 6, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take action on all five cases it had been asked to consider from appellate courts in the Fourth, Seventh and Tenth Circuits, allowing the circuit court decisions striking down marriage bans to stand.<sup>26</sup>

On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, legalized it in all 50 states, and required states to honor out-of-state same-sex marriage licenses in the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*.<sup>27</sup> In *Obergefell*, the petitioners were 14 same-sex couples and two men whose same-sex partners were deceased. They each filed lawsuits in federal district courts in their home states of Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee, claiming that officials had violated the Fourteenth Amendment by denying them the right to marry or to have marriages lawfully performed in another state to be given full recognition. Each of the district courts had ruled in the petitioners’ favor, but the Sixth Circuit had consolidated the cases and had reversed. The U.S. Supreme Court held that the Fourteenth Amendment required a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed in another state. ■



WRITTEN BY MARY ROPER

<sup>1</sup> Marriage is one of the “basic civil rights of man,” fundamental to our very existence and survival. *Skinner v. Oklahoma*, 62 S. Ct. 1110, 1113 (1942). See also *Maynard v. Hill*, 125 U.S. 190 (1888).

<sup>2</sup> The Declaration of Independence, 1776.

<sup>3</sup> *The Week*, January 1, 2007; Champlin, Edward (2005). *Nero*. Harvard University Press. p. 346.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Allan Tulchin, “Same-Sex Couples Creating Households in Old Regime France: The Uses of the Affrèment.” *J. of Mod. Hist.* (2007).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Cleves, Rachel Hope, “What, Another Female Husband?”; *The Prehistory of Same-Sex Marriage in America*, 101 *J. of Am. Hist.*, 1055-81 (2013); see also “The improbable, 200-year-old story of one of America’s first same-sex ‘marriages’”, *Washington Post*, March 20, 2015; <https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2014/06/13/uncommon-household-the-history-early-american-same-sex-marriage/oGJ3H6xZtlUQUhvdJnR94M/story.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Eskridge Jr., William N. (2002), *Equality Practice: Civil Unions and the Future of Gay Rights*.

<sup>9</sup> Niese, Mark (February 22, 2009). “Hawaii is latest civil unions battleground”. Associated Press.

<sup>10</sup> [http://content.law.virginia.edu/news/2004\\_fall/forde.htm](http://content.law.virginia.edu/news/2004_fall/forde.htm); [http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2014/06/12/loving\\_v\\_virginia\\_compared\\_to\\_gay\\_marriage\\_arguments.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2014/06/12/loving_v_virginia_compared_to_gay_marriage_arguments.html).

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_same-sex\\_marriage\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_States)

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Goodridge v. Dep't. of Pub. Health*, 798 N.E.2d 941 (Mass. 2003).

<sup>14</sup> Murphy, Dean E. (March 12, 2004). "San Francisco Forced to Halt Gay Marriages". *New York Times*; Pinello, Daniel R. (226). *America's Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 1–17 and 19.

<sup>15</sup> Roberts, Joel (November 2, 2004). "11 States Ban Same-Sex Marriage". CBS News. Associated Press; "Kansas Voters Approve Gay Nups Ban". Fox News. April 6, 2005; "Texas marriage amendment passes but debate continues over impact". Associated Baptist Press. November 8, 2005.

<sup>16</sup> McFadden, Robert (October 10, 2008). "Gay Marriage Is Ruled Legal in Connecticut". *The New York Times*.

<sup>17</sup> Mintz, Howard (May 15, 2008). "California Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage". *Mercury News*.

<sup>18</sup> McKinley, Jesse; Goodstein, Laurie (November 5, 2008). "Bans in 3 States on Gay Marriage". *New York Times*.

<sup>19</sup> Eckhoff, Jeff; Schulte, Grant (April 3, 2009). "Unanimous ruling: Iowa marriage no longer limited to one man, one woman." *Des Moines Register*; "D.C. same-sex marriage law takes effect." *The Washington Post*. March 3, 2010.

<sup>20</sup> Confessore, Nicholas; Barbaro, Michael (June 24, 2011). "New York Allows Same-Sex Marriage, Becoming Largest State to Pass Law". *New York Times*.

<sup>21</sup> "Governor Signs LD 1020, An Act to End Discrimination in Civil Marriage and Affirm Religious Freedom" (Press release). Maine.gov.

<sup>22</sup> Williams, Pete; Connor, Tracy (January 6, 2014). "U.S. Supreme Court puts gay marriage in Utah on hold".

<sup>23</sup> KGW Staff (May 19, 2014). "Gay couples getting married after Oregon ban overturned"; BuzzFeed (May 20, 2014). "Federal Judge Strikes Down Pennsylvania Same-Sex Marriage Ban."

<sup>24</sup> On September 3, District Judge Martin Feldman ruled against the plaintiff same-sex couples in *Robicheaux v. Caldwell*, upholding Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriage. It was the first decision of a federal court since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Windsor* in June 2013 to uphold the constitutionality of a state ban on same-sex marriage.

<sup>25</sup> On November 6, 2014, the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in a 2-1 decision, upheld the same-sex marriage bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee.

<sup>26</sup> "US Supreme Court declines to intervene in gay marriage cases". *cnn.com*. October 6, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015).

## GAIL'S GRAMMAR

Apostrophes show possession, but experts don't agree about how to show the possessive of a single proper noun ending in "s." Is it Jones' case or Jones's case? Even the U.S. Supreme Court can't agree. In *Marsh v. Kansas*, 126 S.Ct. 2516 (2006), Justice Thomas, in the majority opinion, formed the possessive of Kansas by adding only an apostrophe (Kansas' law), while Justice Souter, in his dissent, added apostrophe s (Kansas's statute).

The majority of grammarians now recommend following the lead of Justice Souter. If you're writing for a newspaper or *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*, however, you'd just add an apostrophe. That's the AP Stylebook rule, dating back to when type was set by hand with lead slugs and newspapers went for rules that used the fewest pieces of type. If you are writing a brief or a letter, the most important rule to follow is to be consistent.

Thanks to Chip Marionneaux 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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# Much Ado About Patents

What do President Trump, China, Blockchain, Congress and Tinder all have in common? Simple: patents. Major corporations are willing to spend millions on patent litigation. Congress has deemed patent rights worthy of heightened legislative protection, and the President has deemed it necessary to sanction foreign countries over them. But why? And, more importantly, should you care?

- In March of this year, President Trump unveiled a plan for trade restrictions against China. The Trump administration cited theft of U.S. company intellectual property rights, such as patents, as reason for the \$50 billion worth of annual tariffs and penalties.<sup>1</sup>
- Blockchain is the algorithm technology behind crypto currencies like Bitcoin. Literally thousands of patents have been filed on different aspects of crypto currencies incorporating Blockchain. The race to control this potentially game-changing technology is peaking, but some are pushing back. The Blockchain patent naysayers feel that allowing monopolies over the technology only limits innovation.<sup>2</sup>
- H.R. 5340 entitled “To strengthen the position of the United States as the world’s leading innovator by amending title 35, United States Code, to protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the country’s economy” was introduced on March 20th.<sup>3</sup> The bill would make it more difficult to invalidate a patent after it has been issued and would allow patent owners the ability to obtain injunctions easier.<sup>4</sup>
- Match Group (the parent company of Tinder) filed a complaint in Texas federal court against Bumble for patent infringement on its “swipe left” technology user interface.<sup>5</sup> Match Group’s patent, U.S. No. 9733811, covers Tinder’s process of creating profiles, viewing the profiles, determining potential matches and presenting the potential match to a second user. Match Group is claiming “willful infringement,” which carries treble damages on the normal “reasonable royalty” standard.<sup>6</sup>

Each of these made headlines in March 2018. So in one month, giant corporations went to war over patents, Congress introduced a bill on patents, and the President stated his intent to sanction China billions of dollars over patents. Clearly, there is much ado about patents and, as an attorney, you need to know why.

Whether you represent corporations or individuals, intellectual property issues will inevitably make their way into your practice. Patents in particular are an incredibly powerful tool for protecting certain intellectual property

rights.

Patents are distinct from trademarks, copyright and trade secrets. Each type of intellectual property right is nuanced. Discussions of their scope fill pages and pages of treatises and case law. For our purposes here, they can be summed up as follows: trademark/trademark protects a brand, copyright keeps others from plagiarizing art work, writings, music, etc., trade secrets protect inventions that are kept secret (e.g., Coca-Cola’s formula), and patents protect non-secret inventions.

Patents protect any “new,” “useful,” and “nonobvious” invention. Once a patent issues, the inventor is granted the right to exclude all others from making, using or selling the invention for a period of up to 20 years. That is, a patent does not offer any affirmative rights, only negative rights. But these negative rights are vast. By obtaining a patent, the inventor is allowed to sue for infringement in federal court anyone that makes her invention, sells her invention or even merely uses her invention for a two-decade period. This exclusivity gives patents the ability to launch billion dollar enterprises: Google<sup>7</sup>, Apple<sup>8</sup>, Dropbox<sup>9</sup>, Square<sup>10</sup>, GoPro<sup>11</sup> . . . to name a few.

But with great power comes great responsibility. In exchange for obtaining the exclusivity rights, the inventor publishes every detail of her invention to the public domain. Published patents are instruction manuals for someone skilled in that particular field. In this way, patents avoid stifling technological advances while still allowing an inventor credit and monetary value for her invention.

So your client comes to you with the next great invention. What do you tell him or her? First, the process for obtaining a patent is exceedingly complex and involves communications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.<sup>12</sup> Second, patent application costs are non-trivial,



# “The exclusivity of patent rights also offers a powerful bargaining chip. A patent is an asset that increases the value of your client’s company.”

and the entire process can take years. In fact, only a registered patent agent or patent attorney can file a patent application, which often reads like a foreign language. And the inventor has a little better than a 50/50 shot at obtaining a patent based on the rates at which they are granted by the Patent and Trademark Office.

So what’s the point? Why spend all of this effort and time to (maybe) obtain a negative right? Because the reward is great.

Patents offer a stronger market position. When Apple patented the face-identification function on its iPhone, it obtained the ability to prevent Samsung, Google or any other cell phone maker from selling phones with that technology for the next 20 years. (By that point, our phones will likely be linked to our brains, negating the need for face recognition.) The same is true for your client that has come up with a novel product it plans to bring to market.

The exclusivity of patent rights also offers a powerful bargaining chip. A patent is an asset that increases the value of your client’s company. And your client can enter into licensing agreements of the patented technology. Simply put, patent

rights can be exchanged between your client and another party. So, for example, if your manufacturing client comes to you with a new method for making its widget, the first thing you should think about is whether the method is a patentable asset.

Investors, shareholders and the community at large will perceive a patent portfolio as evidence of success. Patents demonstrate a level of expertise or capability in the field. This type of reputational asset is just as effective as a strong brand.

The patent process may seem like an uphill battle, but it’s a battle worth fighting. No matter what area of law you practice, at some point your client will have a “bright

idea.” So attorneys need a working knowledge of the benefits of a patent and the patent process to provide effective counsel.

Turns out, there is much ado about patents. ■



WRITTEN BY LAUREN RUCINSKI

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., “Trump Plans Stiff Trade Tariffs and Other Penalties on China,” available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/21/us/politics/trump-china-tariff-trade.html> (last accessed April 2, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., “There Is a Bitcoin Patent War Going On, but This Initiative Could End It,” Aaron van Wirdum, Andrew Nelson, available at <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/there-bitcoin-patent-war-going-initiative-could-end-it/> (discussion of the measures taken by some companies to discouraging patenting of Blockchain and cryptocurrency patents).

<sup>3</sup> Introduced by Steve Stivers (R-Ohio).

<sup>4</sup> Text available at [https://stivers.house.gov/uploadedfiles/stronger\\_patents\\_act.pdf](https://stivers.house.gov/uploadedfiles/stronger_patents_act.pdf). To track the bill, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5340>.

<sup>5</sup> *MATCH GROUP, LLC, v. BUMBLE TRADING INC.*, No. 6:18-cv-00080, 2018 WL 1371453 (W.D. Tex., Mar. 16, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> See 34 U.S.C. § 284 (“[T]he court shall award . . . damages adequate to compensate for the infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by the infringer. . . . [T]he court may increase the damages up to three times the amount found or assessed.”).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Patent No. 6285999B1, Method for node ranking in a linked database (1997). Also, Google has a database of patents. Just search for “Patent No. #####” and you can review the actual patent online.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Patent No. 4136359A, Microcomputer for use with video display (1977).

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Patent No. 8825597B1, Network folder synchronization (2009).

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Patent No. 8231055B2, Systems and methods for decoding card swipe signals (2009).

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Patent No. US6955484B2, Harness system for attaching camera to user (2003).

<sup>12</sup> If you want more information on the process itself, see “What to Expect When You’re Expecting a Patent” at <https://www.louisianalawblog.com/intellectual-property/what-to-expect-when-youre-expecting-a-patent/>.

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more information!







# What I've Learned: Mary Olive Pierson

## Vital Statistics

Age: 74

Born and Raised: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Parents: Clint L. Pierson and Mary Olive Delacroix Pierson (Deceased)

Parents' Occupation(s): Attorney/homemaker

Siblings: Barbara Pierson Gauthier, Clint L. Pierson Jr. & George M. Pierson

Name of Spouse: Still waiting for the announcement . . . "And the winner is\_\_\_\_\_."

High School: St. Joseph's Academy

College: Louisiana State University

Law School: LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center

**Synopsis of Legal Career:** Solo practice now, but for the last 47 years I have had multiple, notorious and some infamous partners and associates. For example, (and you can't match this diverse conglomerate): Ossie Brown, who was brave enough to give me my first real lawyer job; Jerry McKernan, Walter Monsour, Shelly Beychok, Pat Screen, Wick Cooper, Jim Thompson and last, but not least, James Carville, who did not like law work, so he did all of our notary work, "back in the day." His notary fee before lunch was \$20. After lunch it was \$2.

*TBRL: Growing up I always wanted to be:*

MOP: Did not have a clue. Actually, in those ancient days, I did not know that kids had to actually know what they wanted to be and should be getting ready for college. I think for a while I wanted to be Dale Evans. Or, maybe a sheep herder—I raised Southdowns lambs in the 4-H club. I just lived for the current day and did whatever I needed to do or was expected to do and went wherever I needed to be on that day. Life was really simple and had lots of boundaries that kept me on the reservation, and was fine with me. No decisions to make, just be a kid.

*TBRL: The best advice I ever got was:*

MOP: The Law of Holes: Once you are in one, quit digging.

*TBRL: The best advice I ever gave was:*

MOP: Pay attention and always look out your side mirrors. Don't ever have to say: "I didn't see that coming."

*TBRL: The best lesson I ever learned was:*

MOP: The people you meet on the way up the ladder, you will meet again when you come tumbling down.

*TBRL: I was always taught:*

MOP: If you want to learn something, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. Plus, as my Mother would say, if you tell people everything you know, they will be as smart as you.

*TBRL: Going to law school allowed me to:*

MOP: Turn down a boring accounting job at Gulf Oil pushing a pencil on columns of numbers (no computers

then). It was all that was being offered to "girls" at that time, circa 1966. So, after college graduation, I did an about face (my degree was in accounting), took the LSAT and went to law school in September 1966, joining seven other girls (class of about 200) and lots of young men avoiding the draft and Vietnam. A target-rich environment if marriage was on your mind. Obviously, I missed all the targets -- not so for my roommates Carole Ann and Dottie.

*TBRL: I always looked up to:*

MOP: Camille Gravel. He was the finest trial lawyer, diplomat and politician I ever knew. Also, Jack Avant because he reminded me of my father and was always a straight shooter.

*TBRL: One of the jobs I had as a kid was:*

MOP: In the summer, I pulled my wagon full of old, used magazines around University Acres and tried to sell them. To my surprise (I was easily amused back then), the neighbors would actually pay me to take their used magazines. With some forward thinking, I could have started BFI or Waste Management.

*TBRL: If you really want to get me angry:*

MOP: You do not have to try very hard. Just disagree with me. Or, criticize one of my clients. Currently, just mention Donald Trump or the NRA and teenagers with machine guns. I get really hostile.

*TBRL: My parents taught me:*

MOP: That I had to do well in school and I would always have to work hard. In hindsight, these teachings could have been prophetic because I did not have a lot of dates in high school or college and the prospects of me getting a

rich (or even poor) husband looked pretty dim. The prospects have not improved. Thank God I can still work!

*TBRL: If I could, I would:*

MOP: NOT open another MOP's Great Louisiana Meat Pie Kitchen or accept a small fractional interest in the N.O. Jazz (NBA) over an interest in the Pepsi Cola franchise in New Orleans. However, the Jazz thing did get me free season tickets (46 games a year at home), a seat behind the players' bench and, to top it off, a suit against me by Ticketmaster and D.H. Holmes for over \$100 million when the Jazz were abruptly moved to Utah by one of the owners who was a Mormon. Jazz in Utah? Are you kidding? Who would have thunk it? My attorney bill for that defense was around \$30k, which I did not even have 5% of. But, the Mormon needed my signature to close on the move to Utah. I said, "Fine, I will sign when you pay my lawyer." Case closed.

*TBRL: The truth is:*

MOP: That there is no substitute for the truth. It always works.

*TBRL: The turning point in my professional life was when:*

MOP: My Natchitoches cousin came to my office in his beat up ranch truck, loaded with boxes of files with a shotgun and a half gallon of Jack Daniels sticking out of the top of one of the boxes. It was January 1987. I was more broken than the Ten Commandments and just coming off two years in the Mayor's office and a failed campaign for judge. I had no clients, and I just knew this was going to be a pro-bono case for a relative. Not so fast. He told me the most amazing story of misconduct and negligence by a banker as I had ever heard. Lender liability was just catching on, and I figured this one as a winner. Needless to say, it was. It completely changed the trajectory of my practice. It took eleven years to complete the litigation (Three trials and appeals in state and federal court) against a flock of insurance companies. The chairman of the board of the bank owned an insurance agency, so the bank had every coverage you could imagine and plenty of it. In the process, my practice turned to business litigation, banking cases, complex cases and white-collar crime – which is only business litigation with the added stress of having your client's freedom at stake.



*TBRL: I think more people should:*

MOP: Put their electronic devices away during meals and meetings.

*TBRL: The best lawyers I tried cases with (besides partners) were:*

MOP: Camille Gravel, Jack

Avant, Ron Specter (California), Charles McCowan, Tim and Steve Scandurro, Jean Paul Layrisson, Michael Rhea, Jim Boren, Carl Cleveland, Karl Koch, J. R. Whaley, Brett Furr, Shelby McKenzie, David Rubin, Pat Fanning, Jonathan Moore, and Ashley Meredith. The best appellate lawyer I ever worked with is Paul Mogin at Williams and Connelly in Washington, D.C.

*TBRL: The best judges:*

MOP: Are you kidding? I am not looking for a homicide in my near future.

*TBRL: If I was in charge:*

MOP: Who said I am not?

*TBRL: The older I get:*

MOP: The more plastic surgery I want.

*TBRL: The most important person I've ever met:*

MOP: Mother Teresa when she visited Baton Rouge.

*TBRL: I wish:*

MOP: That the current fad of cutting shoulders out of women's tops would come to a screeching halt.

*TBRL: I miss:*

MOP: The days before billable hours and advertising, which was also when being a lawyer was a profession and not a business. It is time for the pendulum to go back the other way when the client's interest is more important than how much money you can put on the firm's books.

*TBRL: I've never been able to:*

MOP: Accept my opponent's view or opinion of a case.



*TBRL: I'd like to be 26 again because:*

MOP: Actually, I like where I am and don't want to do anything over again. But, if I did, I would do the same things, hopefully a little better. I would, however, like for my bones and joints to be less noticeable, especially when I wake up.

*TBRL: I would like to have dinner with (three non-family members dead or alive) and why:*

MOP: Oprah Winfrey, Martin Luther King and Pope Francis. All for obvious reasons. MLK lived and Oprah and Pope Francis still live outside of themselves for the good and benefit of others. A conversation with them would be exhilarating.

*TBRL: If I hadn't been a lawyer, I would have been:*

MOP: An actress. I think I am a born ham and I just love it. My role model is Bette Midler. My mother used to say that I exaggerated too much. I told her I was a story teller, not a historian.

*TBRL: I have the most fun:*

MOP: Fishing and being at my camp in Fourchon and having champagne and fried chicken every Saturday at 1:00 with my Fourchon neighbors and friends.

*TBRL: The last book I listened to was:*

MOP: *Testimony* by Scott Turow.

*TBRL: The best movie ever produced was:*

MOP: *My Cousin Vinny*, which I have re-watched about 30 times. It is better than any CLE I ever attended. Other favorites are *The Man* and *The Other Guys*. My favorite comedian of all time was Richard Pryor.

*TBRL: What people don't know about me:*

MOP: Very little. You will always know where I am coming from and usually where I am going. The only secrets I keep are the ones that belong to my clients. People will say: "She will say anything." That may be true, but what they don't know is what I have not said.

*TBRL: On my iPad I listen to:*

MOP: I don't have an iPad. And, if you want to hide something from me, put it on

Facebook. I will never see it.

*TBRL: I like:*

MOP: Pinot Noir and Champagne because they taste really good.

*TBRL: Anything else you feel is fun, interesting, funny or poignant:*

MOP: I gave a party in 2010, on the 40th anniversary of my swearing in and invited about 35 lawyer friends. I called it the Survivors' Party. The guests, all lawyer colleagues, did not know what they had survived until they got there and it was announced. They survived 40 years of putting up with me and my undying, passionate, sometimes loud and honest belief that all of my clients are always right, no matter what. I think most folks will agree that I have a mercurial personality and the temperature is always running hot if we are arguing about a case. So, I threw this party at Galatoire's, and everybody came just to find out what they had survived. It was fun and lasted all afternoon. I think that if I am allowed to leave your readers with a thought, it is this: If you are going to spend more than half of your life in a job or a profession, make sure you like it. I love being a lawyer and it was not easy getting here. But, I would not change one day of my career. I have taken many chances, and they all seemed to work out well. In fact, every time I ran for judge and lost (three times – count them), I turned around and had more success. It was like God was protecting me from public life and also protecting the public. ■



INTERVIEWED BY ED WALTERS

## Divorce & Family Issues Mediation

Alternative Dispute Resolution

### Clayton Perkins

Mediator - qualified pursuant to LRS 9:334

11682 Silo Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

225-572-8718  
clayton@perkinsanddupre.com

# Bar News

BY LANDON T. HESTER

## BRBA Softball Tournament



The winners of the 2018 BRBA Softball Tournament from the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, the Aggravated Batters.

## Easter Eggstravaganza



Thank you to all of the BRBA volunteers who helped hide eggs at Bernard Terrace Elementary School on March 28, 2018.

## BRBA Recognized for Work on "Flood Proof Project"



The Baton Rouge Bar Association was recognized by East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Councilwoman Erika Green and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome for its collaboration and work with the "Flood Proof Project." Through the Flood Proof Project, the BRBA was able to help over 334 disaster impacted homeowners over the past year.

## YLS Bus Trip CLE to Angola



On April 27, 2018, the Baton Rouge Bar Association Young Lawyers Section partnered with the Baton Rouge Bar Association Criminal Law Section to host a bus trip to tour the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. The trip included a one-hour CLE titled "Life After Incarceration" given by Mark K. White, Chair of the BRBA Criminal Law Section and an extensive, six-hour tour of the over 18,000-acre prison property.

## LSU Law School Scholarship Donor Reception



Ann Gregorie and Linda Law Clark with LSU Law Student Sara G. Sirera recipient of this year's Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Scholarship.

## YLS Sidebar Luncheon with Justice Hughes



The BRBA YLS held its Sidebar Luncheon with Justice Jeff Hughes on April 19, 2018, at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP.



PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

### Investiture of Judge Fred T. Crifasi



Honorable Anthony J. Marabella Jr. administered the oath of office to Judge Fred T. Crifasi while his wife Lorraine D. Crifasi held the Bible.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



Judge Fred T. Crifasi with his wife, Lorraine D. Crifasi, and children, Celia M. Crifasi, Daniel J. Crifasi & Anna S. Crifasi, following his investiture on April 13, 2018.

### Investiture of Commissioner Kina Kimble



Honorable William A. Morvant administered the oath of office to Commissioner Kina Kimble on May 11, 2018.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



Commissioner Kina Kimble surrounded by her family following her investiture on May 11, 2018.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

## Law Day 2018

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome was in attendance to give the Law Day Proclamation.



Magistrate Richard L. Bourgeois, Jr., Magistrate Erin Wilder-Doomes, Judge Douglas Dodd & Chief Judge Brian A. Jackson greeted our newest citizens following the opening ceremony.

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER



The Glen Oaks High School AJROTC Color Guard presented the colors while Hanna Thomas sang the National Anthem at the opening ceremony of Law Day on May 1, 2018.



# In Memoriam

BY RICHARD J. DODSON

## Remembering A.N. “Thanassi” Yiannopoulos

Much has been written and spoken about Professor A. N. Yiannopoulos, both during his almost-89-year lifespan as well as since his passing on February 01, 2017. Certainly others have provided more eloquent tributes than mine, although there are few who have had as lengthy a history with the distinguished Professor Yiannopoulos.

There are many recollections that come to mind when one is asked to write an article such as this. Though I have many years of memories of my friend, Thanassi (as his friends called him), I was, at first, one of his many former students, as he taught me Civil Law Property during my LSU Law school days. Never having traveled outside of the United States, I recall my surprise that this strange man with a foreign accent I did not readily recognize had the ability to convey convoluted legal principles to a room full of “wanna-be” attorneys.

As my law school career progressed, I came to recognize this man had an absolute mastery of the civil law, interwoven with a palpable joy for teaching. Always delighted when his students grasped the subject matter and had questions for him, he was certainly first and foremost a scholar and a teacher. During this time (1963-1966) of my law school years, Professor Yiannopoulos was not only teaching but he was revising the Louisiana Civil Code. The first Louisiana legal treatise was published by West in 1966, *Civil Law Property*. Professor Yiannopoulos had been at LSU since 1958, having accepted what he first thought was a “temporary” Associate Professorship. It has intrigued me, and no doubt others, how this child of Greek parents came to be such a prodigy of Louisiana law.

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, Thanassi he was 12 years old when Italy declared war against Greece; he endured hardships through the years of German occupation there. In 1946 he enrolled in the University of Thessaloniki Law School and excelled. He did, however, spend the next



A.N. “Thanassi” Yiannopoulos  
(March 13, 1928 - February 1, 2017)

several years in his country’s army, as a result, Thanassi would recount, because he was the leader of a national student organization that protested tuition hikes. While he was in his government’s army, Thanassi applied for a Fulbright Scholarship. He knew he wanted to go to America.

Discharged from the army in 1953, Thanassi was on a boat to America when notified he had won the Fulbright. While I did not know him during these years, it was apparent Thanassi was diligent and was an excellent student. Within a few years he had earned his Master of Comparative Law from the University of Chicago Law School as well as an L.L.M. from U.C. Berkeley. His doctoral thesis was “Wills of Movables in International Conflicts of Law,” published as an entire

issue of the *California Law Review*. U.C. Berkeley had a Faculty/Student Exchange Program with the University of Cologne in Germany. Courtesy of that program, Thanassi ended up at LSU because Dean William Prosser was at U.C. Berkeley while Thanassi was in Germany, and it was Prosser who recommended Thanassi for an LSU Law School position, which he accepted in 1958. And the rest, as they say, is history.

To hear Thanassi tell it, however, he initially never thought he would be at LSU for any length of time, nor probably even in Louisiana for very long, as he always wanted to return to his native Greece. He arrived in Louisiana in 1958 actually under the mistaken impression LSU’s main campus and the LSU Law School were located “not far” from New Orleans. While the 80 or so miles is really not “that far,” it certainly was not an easy commute in the late 1950s. Other than a short, disappointing return to his beloved University of Thessaloniki where he had been elected to a chair and given an office, but not a class to teach, Louisiana became Thanassi’s home, and he came to enjoy almost all aspects of Louisiana with enthusiasm.

In 1969, Thanassi was teaching at LSU and again working on the Louisiana Civil Code, which he continued to do, through the end of his life, as his *Civil Law Commentary* was actually published after his death. 1974 found Thanassi becoming "Of Counsel" to my new law firm, which became Dué, Dodson, deGravelles and Robinson. It was at this time we began to travel the world together on various maritime cases.

By 1979, Thanassi was on the faculty of Tulane's Law School, where he taught through 2007, and continued working and teaching as an emeritus professor for many more years. The man who initially thought LSU was "not far" from New Orleans ironically came to have two homes: one in Baton Rouge near LSU's main campus and another in New Orleans, not far from Tulane University. Louisiana was not the only beneficiary of Professor A. N. Yiannopoulos' civil law expertise as he worked on the Estonian Civil Code and served as an advisor through Harvard for the Russian Civil Code's codification.

A man of immense legal talent, A. N. Yiannopoulos had also an immense enjoyment for life – he very famously liked to share his love of all things Greek with his students and faculty friends who attended and taught during the many Greek Summer School Programs which he started in 1980 and which continue to date. These programs are part of the Tulane Summer School Programs in Greece, and they attract students from throughout the world. Thanassi never tired of introducing newcomers to the foods and sights of Spetses, or Rhodos or some other locale in Greece. I had the good fortune of becoming a part of this faculty for the Tulane Summer School Programs in 1987 and continued to spend a month each summer with Thanassi and other faculty members every year for the following 30 years. My former law partner and dear friend John W. deGravelles joined the Tulane Summer School faculty in 1993, and he continues to serve to this day.

Never any sort of sports fan, Thanassi was nonetheless equally at home in any venue where he could enjoy classical music, which he would find in almost any city where he traveled, time permitting. He was very fond of people and almost never knew a stranger as he had many life long friends wherever he went. Aside from his many legal works and varied awards, Thanassi most cherished his family. Throughout his life, he maintained his ties to his relatives in Greece. He most cherished, however, his immediate family, his three sons and his daughter. While

Thanassi did find his true calling in the law, saying "the civil law is beautiful," he always knew his true legacy: his own family, which he loved and continued to care for in his inimitable Greek fashion.

A man with many and varied friends worldwide, a career upon which he has left a lasting imprint, and a loving family, this son of Greece, A. N. Yiannopoulos, was a most remarkable person. I, and others in Louisiana, were pleased to call him our friend. He will not be forgotten, but he is missed. ■



INTERVIEWED BY RICHARD J. DODSON

**Carl E. Babin and  
Susannah M. DeNicola  
are pleased to announce the  
opening of their law office at:**

**BABIN and DeNICOLA  
A Professional Law Corporation**

138 Maximillian Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Phone: (225) 344-4500

Facsimile: (225) 344-4509

Email: [carlbabin@babinlaw.brcoxmail.com](mailto:carlbabin@babinlaw.brcoxmail.com)

Email: [smd@babindenicola.com](mailto:smd@babindenicola.com)







# Judicial Interview: Family Court Judge Hunter Greene

## Vital Statistics

**Age:** 51

**Profession:** Family Court Judge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Division “D”

**Born and Raised:** Shreveport, Louisiana

**Name of Spouse:** Emily Aaron Greene

**Children:** Ashley, Lauren and Matthew

**Education:** Southwood High School (1984)

Louisiana State University, where I majored in Accounting

Southern Law School (1994)

**Favorite Movie:** *The Godfather*

**Favorite Book:** *The Last Hayride* by John Maginnis

**Hobbies:** Tennis, golf, fishing and playing cards

*TBRL: What is the best part of your day?*

HG: Besides seeing my wife, it’s when I am able to make a decision in court and to see that the parties are actually relieved that I listen. There are a lot of moving parts in family law and a lot of emotional issues, so when you can have that face-to-face contact, and the parties know that you are actually engaging and asking questions and want to know more about their situation

*TBRL: What is your favorite music?*

HG: Classic rock, some classic country; and also anything from The Beastie Boys to Led Zeppelin to Mozart. There’s hardly a music genre that I don’t like.

*TBRL: What was your favorite vacation?*

HG: Besides my honeymoon with my wife in Jamaica, the surprise trip to New York City with my wife and children on Christmas Day.

*TBRL: If there was a movie about you, who would play your part?*

HG: Sean Connery . . . the young Sean Connery.

*TBRL: If you were not on the bench, where would you be?*

HG: Tennis court.

*TBRL: What do you like most about being a judge? Least?*

HG: Being able to help parents during a tough time in their lives. What I least like is seeing parents fight for the wrong reasons.

*TBRL: You were in the state legislature before becoming a judge. How long did you serve?*

HG: 10 years.

*TBRL: What made you leave the legislative branch and run for judge?*

HG: I felt like it was something that I was called to do. It’s kind of a cliché, but I feel like my time serving in the legislature trained me to listen to both sides and make a decision. The committee room at the Capitol and the courtroom are very similar.

*TBRL: While there you helped get laws passed that were beneficial to the area of family law. Was there any legislation that you were unable to get passed that you would still like to be implemented?*

HG: Yes, several years ago I worked on a bill to allow attorneys in family law cases to get the prescription records through the prescription-management network that the state has. It is very expensive to subpoena all the records from all of the separate pharmacies, and sometimes those parties will not give you the list of all the pharmacies. The state maintains a registry for doctors and pharmacists, so if attorneys could get those records from the network it would be cheaper and more efficient. However, the lobbying effort against the bill was particularly strong.

*TBRL: Now that you are enforcing the laws that you helped create, is there anything that you wish you had done differently?*

HG: Not really. As a legislator, I was always a big advocate for leaving a lot of discretion to the trial court because I believe that the trial court is in the best position to weigh all of the evidence. It’s easier when you are a legislator to give that discretion to the trial court, but when you’re the actual trier of fact and you’re given that discretion, it certainly is a heavy responsibility.

*TBRL: What is your advice to lawyers who appear before*

you?

HG: Knowing basic information about your client is crucial. If there are children, knowing their age is helpful. Courteousness to the staff is important; if you are courteous you get that returned to you a lot easier. Be honest with the judges and the opposing attorney.

TBRL: *Are there things that lawyers do that make you crazy?*

HG: The lack of courtroom civility and courtroom etiquette has been somewhat alarming to me.

TBRL: *If you were not a judge (or a lawyer), what would you be?*

HG: I always wanted to be an architect.

TBRL: *What will you do when you retire?*

HG: When I retire I guess I would want to be a fishing guide or a professional golfer or tennis player. I know I have some grey hairs, but I'm only 51! I can't even fathom retirement yet.

TBRL: *What most surprised you about the job?*

HG: How much of a responsibility it is when making the decisions on custody, child support and contempt – if I sentence someone to jail time. I guess the only other thing that surprised me was how funny my jokes became after I got elected.

TBRL: *What is the most challenging part of your job?*

HG: Having to tell an attorney that I believe the other attorney's position is the right one.

TBRL: *Most rewarding?*

HG: When I make a ruling from the bench and I go through my reasons for judgment and to see the parties realize that I take my job very seriously.

TBRL: *Who had the most influence on you as a high school student? What was that influence and why?*

HG: As a high school student, probably my mom. In college it was more my dad. I made several major life decisions while sitting at a card table with my dad and his group of buddies. I made the decision to change my major to accounting and my decision to go to law school at those card games.

TBRL: *Who had the most influence on you as a law student? What was that influence and why?*

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The WHITEHEAD LAW FIRM of Baton Rouge seeks mid-level office assistant(s) with solid academic credentials who have the ability to learn and retain general office procedures in a professional environment. The firm has an "av" rating from Martindale Hubbell. The ideal candidate must be a self starter with excellent people and writing skills. The firm's law practice involves extensive travel throughout the United States on behalf of its' clients as well as legal work in South Louisiana. The ideal office assistant will work closely with paralegals and other professionals throughout the business day and report to the senior partner.. A solid knowledge of Quick Books, Time Slips, Excel, PowerPoint along with analytical skills are a prerequisite. This may become a job sharing position depending upon the qualified applicants or ability to work flex time. Compensation Package includes incentives, retirement, and health coverage. Reply with complete vitae (held in the strictest confidence) to [srpartnerwhiteheadlawfirm@gmail.com](mailto:srpartnerwhiteheadlawfirm@gmail.com).

HG: Professor Cynthia Picou was one of the professors that challenged me as well as Professor Alfreda Diamond. I didn't excel in Professor Diamond's class as much as I did Professor Picou's classes. They taught me to ask questions in an intimidating environment, but they also showed me that law school is not just about reading cases. Also, Southern Law School Chancellor John Pierre.

TBRL: *Who have been your role models and mentors?*

HG: My dad was definitely my role model. There were a number of mentors when I was in law school, then at the law firm and the CPA firm that I worked for while I was in law school. They helped me develop my work ethic. It would be hard to pick out one particular attorney or CPA as my mentor. ■

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY NANCY  
SUE GREGORIE



# Meet Your BRBA Staff



**Ann K. Gregorie, *Executive Director***  
225-214-5563

I've been with the bar for a number of years, starting as our first Pro Bono Coordinator before transitioning to executive director of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and Baton Rouge Bar Foundation in May 1991. As your executive director, I implement policies established by the board of directors, represent our association on a local, state and national level, and oversee a talented and dedicated staff of bar professionals, who strive to improve the BRBA and your membership experience. Each staff member has been asked to share his or her job duties and personal experiences, please take a minute to learn about them.

I subscribe to the firm belief learning is a life-long pursuit, with reading being the primary way to move along this continuum. Consequently, I am an avid reader and can usually be found with my head buried reading the latest novel on my NOOK, iPad or phone! My happy place is working in my yard or digging my toes in the sand at the beach. Family is my lodestar. My three daughters, Florence, Laura and Anna Beth, now well established in their own lives, have literally grown up with the BRBA, and 18 months ago, I welcomed a son-in-law, Kevin, into the family. My extended family includes my dad, Mack Gregorie, Sr. and my siblings, Nancy Sue Gregorie, Mack Gregorie, Jr., Prentiss Gregorie, Nita Louise Lux and their families.

**Kelsie Bourgeois, *Executive Assistant***  
225-344-4803

August will mark three years of me working at BRBA...where the heck does time go!? Working closely with Ann, my position touches on a little bit of everything around here. I am responsible for processing new members' applications. Additionally, I am staff liaison for the CLE and Bench Bar Conference committees, along with several of the BRBA sections, such as Workers' Comp, Construction Law, Corporate Law, In-House Counsel and Criminal Law. I work with Ann and other staff members to plan some of our annual meetings and events. But most importantly, I process CLE hours and keep our members happy!



My favorite movie is *The Parent Trap* (for obvious reasons as I am a twin). Also, *The Martian* is a good one, and who doesn't love *Elf*? It's my Christmas favorite. I enjoy going out with my girls, all LSU games and playing tennis.



**Donna Buuck, *Youth and Juvenile Justice Coordinator***  
225-214-5556

I have been employed with the BRBA/BRBF for 27 years, almost half of my life! Two years before my permanent employment, I completed a paralegal internship with the BRBA. I have held several different positions including Pro Bono Coordinator, Lawyer Referral and Information Service Coordinator, and Education Coordinator. For the past 11 years, I have held my favorite position as a coordinator with the Teen Court program. After graduating from SLU, I worked at a group home for abused and neglected adolescents for five years (working with Teen Court

utilizes my experience at the group home). In addition, I also serve as a staff liaison for the Belly Up with the Bar and

*continued on the next page*



Arts Judicata fundraising committees. I also organize BRBA's Law Day Program and our educational outreach with local schools.

I enjoy reading and spending time with my husband and two daughters. We all enjoy hanging out at our camp nicknamed "Poor Man's Paradise" in Waveland, Miss. We can walk to the beach, go crabbing, fishing, biking and dining in Bay St. Louis, all less than two miles away!

**Regina Lynn Smith Haynes, *Pro Bono & Youth Education Coordinator***

225-214-5564

This year will be my 20th year anniversary of working at the Baton Rouge Bar Association. I started working as a pro bono coordinator before moving to Mock Trial and Teen Court. I have a background working with teens in need of help, so this area of youth education and working with teens is a very good fit. Currently I am working with the Pro Bono Project and recruit volunteers to accept pro bono cases and to provide counsel and advice at Thirst for Justice and Ask-a-Lawyer outreach activities. I also serve on the Mock Trial, Teen Court, Law Day, Youth Education, Belly-Up and Pro Bono Committees.



After graduating from West Monroe High School, I then matriculated at the University of Arizona, where I majored in political science and minored in history. I received a J.D. from Southern University Law Center. My favorite movie and book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I love Turner Classic Movies.



**Landon Hester, *Communications Coordinator***

225-214-5560

I started working for the Baton Rouge Bar Association in October 2017. As the Communications Coordinator, I do a little bit of everything. I prepare, design, edit, coordinate advertising and take photos for the BRBA's publication, *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*. In addition to producing our publication, I develop and design communication materials for all events, committees and sections. Further, I am in charge of running the association's website and social media pages. I serve as the staff liaison for the Publications Committee, Young Lawyers Section, Family Law Section and

Membership Committee. I am also a member of the Bench Bar, Belly Up with the Bar, Arts Judicata, Mock Trial and Teen Court Committees.

I moved to Baton Rouge in 2009 to attend LSU, and I have been here ever since. Before coming to work for the bar, I worked in corporate and non-profit communication before going back to earn a Master's Degree in Strategic Communications in December 2017. Some fun facts about me . . . I am married to a lawyer, a lover of all animals (especially my two pups Gus and Lola) and love a good murder mystery.

**Robin Kay, *Pro Bono Coordinator***

225-214-5561

I've been with the Bar since August 2007. For the Pro Bono Project, I recruit volunteers; oversee outreach activities; recruit and supervise law student interns; refer pro bono cases to volunteer attorneys and monitor case status; develop annual grant proposals and reports; prepare monthly and quarterly program reports. Also, I am the staff liaison for the Pro Bono Committee and the Bankruptcy Section. I am the administrator for the Self Help Resource Center at the Family Court of East Baton Rouge.



*continued on the next page*

I'm a heart-broken Gladiator (die-hard *Scandal* fans know what I mean...) and Marvel fan. I also love design and interior decorating, and I have a rescue fur-baby named Lucy. I was finally able to move back into my home after the 2016 flood on April 22! YAAAAAY!!!!



**Carole McGehee, Lawyer Referral Coordinator**  
225-214-5557

I have been with the bar for 18 years. My first and only internship began when our building was located on North Blvd. In January 2000 there was a position in the Lawyer Referral program that came open, and I was hired. I worked with Mona Collins, who ran the program and taught me so much. The Lawyer Referral program provides members of the community who require legal consultations and possible representation with qualified attorneys in the Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. The referral program is an excellent way to build a client base. I also work with the

Volunteer and Easter Eggstravaganza Committees. This year our newest event, Trunk or Treat, won the LSBA Young Lawyers Section Service to the Public award.

Floyd and I have been married over 40 years and have three daughters and three grandchildren who live in Coeur d Alene, Idaho; Dallas, Texas and Baton Rouge.

**Julie Ourso, Bookkeeper**  
225-214-5572

I started working for the BRBA in May 2001. I came out of “mommy” retirement to help educate my children and help my husband start his own business. I attend BRBA events, assisting with registrations and money collections. I work directly with the Treasurer of the board, prepare final reports and hold a monthly finance meeting. I assist Ann on various tasks and take care of maintenance issues for our beautiful building.



I am enjoying being an empty nester with my husband Richard. We have two boys, Kyle (31) and Mark (25), who are both here in Baton Rouge. I love to read all sorts of books, I do Yoglates 5 days a week and I LOVE my beach trips taken with friends and family all during the year. Most recently Richard and I are working on our bucket list and have ventured out in our travels these past few years, which I love. I have recently started a hobby business with a dear friend painting oyster shells and putting them on canvas, Half Shell Art. But my favorite time is at my beautiful home with my family and friends, cooking and enjoying good company.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Belly Up with the Bar – Oct. 26, 2018**

Parker Coliseum  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Contact Donna Buuck for sponsorship information:

225-214-5556 or [donna@BRBA.org](mailto:donna@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 March & April.

## TEEN COURT -

Jonathan Blake, *Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice*; Jamie Flowers, *U.S. Attorney's Office*; Farah Gheith, *Spencer Calahan LLC*; Raveen Hills, *Attorney at Law*; Brittany Tassin, *Sexual Trauma and Response Office (STAR)*; and Monica Vela-Vick, *Phelps Dunbar* served as judges and jury monitors for the March and April Teen Court hearings.



Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., *EBR District Attorney's Office*; Jonathan Blake, *Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice*; Yolanda Cezar, *Attorney at Law*; and Ariel Dixon, *La Dept. of Justice* conducted a training session for 18 teens on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The Hon. Joycelyn Yvette Elmore, *Division of Administrative Law*, presided over the Teen Court swearing-in ceremony.

## ACCEPTING PRO BONO CASES -

Rodney Erdey, *Rodney N. Erdey, ALC.*; Dean Esposito, *Ezim Law Firm*; J. Keith Friley, *Attorney at Law*; David Gunn, *Gunn & York*; Rena Hester, *Hester Law Firm, LLC*; Melanie Newkome Jones, *Attorney at Law*; Derrick McCorey, *Attorney at Law*; Cynthia Reed, *Southern University Law Center*; 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*; Gregory Hughes, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; Jennifer Prescott, *Attorney at Law*; Cynthia Reed, *Southern University Law Center*; Valerie Schexnayder, *Attorney at Law*; Mary H. Thompson, *Attorney at Law*; Lykisha Vaughan, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; Mary White, *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*; and Kathleen Wilson, *Wilson Law Firm*.

## ASK A LAWYER VOLUNTEERS -

Thomas Acosta, *Attorney at Law*; James R. "Jim" Austin, *Butler Snow*; Peter Dudley, *Pierce & Shows*; Emily P. Ziober, *Attorney at Law*; James Word II, *Public Defender's Office*; and Sherman Kohn, *Lafayette Bar Foundation*.

## THIRST FOR JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS -

Terry L. Bonnie, *Attorney at Law*; John Conine, Jr., *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*; Scott P. Gaspard, *Attorney at Law*; Cherita McNeal, *Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response Center*; Allen M. Posey, Jr., *Attorney at Law*; Mary E. Roper, *Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP*; Willie Stephens, *The Stephens Firm LLC*; and David Handelman, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*.

## LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEERS -

*LSU Law Center*: Malerie Bulot, Kathryn Calmes, Allena McCain, Laura Potvain

Help the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation every time you purchase something through Amazon.com with the AmazonSmile program.

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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

For classified or display ad rates,  
contact Landon at (225) 214-5560  
or email: [landon@BRBA.org](mailto:landon@BRBA.org)

## Duty Court Schedule

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

May 28 - June 8	Judge Johnson
June 11 - June 22	Judge Hernandez
June 25 - July 6	Judge Fields
July 9 - July 20	Judge Clark
July 23 - August 3	Judge Caldwell
August 6 - August 17	Judge Kelley
August 20 - August 31	Judge Morvant

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

June 1 - June 8	Judge Erwin
June 8 - June 15	Judge Jackson
June 15 - June 22	Judge Daniel
June 22 - June 29	Judge Moore
June 29 - July 6	Judge Higginbotham
July 6 - July 13	Judge White
July 13 - July 20	Judge Marabella
July 20 - July 27	Judge Anderson
July 27 - August 3	Judge Erwin
August 3 - August 10	Judge Jackson
August 10 - August 17	Judge Daniel
August 17 - August 24	Judge Moore
August 24 - August 31	Judge Higginbotham

### BATON ROUGE CITY COURT\*

May 23 - June 3	Judge Alexander
June 6 - June 10	Judge Moore Vendetto
June 11 - June 17	Judge Prosser
June 18 - June 24	Judge Temple
June 25 - July 1	Judge Smith
July 2 - July 8	Judge Alexander
July 9 - July 15	Judge Moore Vendetto
July 16 - July 22	Judge Prosser
July 23 - July 29	Judge Temple
July 30 - August 5	Judge Smith
August 6 - August 12	Judge Alexander
August 13 - August 19	Judge Moore Vendetto
August 20 - August 26	Judge Prosser
August 27 - September 2	Judge Temple

### FAMILY COURT\*\*

June 1 & 4	Judge Woodruff-White
June 5	Judge Day
June 6	Judge Baker
June 7	Judge Greene
June 8	Judge Woodruff-White
June 11	Judge Baker
June 12	Judge Woodruff-White
June 13	Judge Day
June 14	Judge Greene
June 15	Judge Day
June 18	Judge Baker

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	31				

June 19	Judge Woodruff-White
June 20	Judge Day
June 21 & 22	Judge Greene
June 25	Judge Baker
June 26	Judge Woodruff-White
June 27	Judge Day
June 28	Judge Greene
June 29 & July 2	Judge Baker
July 3	Judge Woodruff-White
July 5	Judge Greene
July 6	Judge Woodruff-White
July 9	Judge Baker
July 10	Judge Woodruff-White
July 11	Judge Day
July 12	Judge Greene
July 13	Judge Day
July 16	Judge Baker
July 17	Judge Woodruff-White
July 18	Judge Day
July 19 & 20	Judge Greene
July 23	Judge Baker
July 24	Judge Woodruff-White
July 25	Judge Day
July 26	Judge Greene
July 27 & 30	Judge Baker
July 31	Judge Woodruff-White
August 1	Judge Day
August 2	Judge Greene
August 3	Judge Woodruff-White
August 6	Judge Baker
August 7	Judge Woodruff-White
August 8	Judge Day
August 9	Judge Greene
August 10	Judge Day
August 13	Judge Baker
August 14	Judge Woodruff-White
August 15	Judge Day
August 16 & 17	Judge Greene
August 20	Judge Baker
August 21	Judge Woodruff-White
August 22	Judge Day
August 23	Judge Greene
August 24 & 27	Judge Baker
August 28	Judge Woodruff-White
August 29	Judge Day
August 30	Judge Greene
August 31	Judge Woodruff-White

### JUVENILE COURT

June 1 - June 30	Judge Haney
July 1 - July 31	Judge Taylor-Johnson
August 1 - August 31	Judge Haney

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

Wednesday, July 4	Independence Day
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August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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	31	

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

## Important Dates

**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;

### JUNE

7	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Charles R. Kelly Community Center
9	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Fairwood Branch Library
13	Bar Luncheon & Member Meeting - Ruffino's at De La Ronde Hall
20	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities

### JULY

4	Bar office closed in observation of Independence Day
10	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Denham Springs-Walker Library
18	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities
21	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Scotlandville Branch Library
26-29	Bench Bar Conference

### AUGUST

2	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Charles R. Kelly Community Center
15	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 - 11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities
18	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Delmont Gardens Branch Library
21	Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Livingston Council on Aging

## Classified Ads

A downtown law firm is seeking a part-time legal secretary to work approximately 10 hours per week with an extremely flexible schedule. Contact Camille at 225-241-7579 or send your resume to [camille.r.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:camille.r.lindsey@gmail.com).

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secretary at a Baton Rouge firm located downtown. Candidates should possess strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills, and strong computer and case management software skills are a must. Knowledge in MS Office Suite and Adobe preferred. Email resume to [lisab@scwllp.com](mailto:lisab@scwllp.com). Benefits offered.

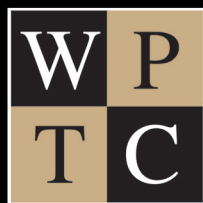


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