

# THE BAR REVIEW

PUBLICATION OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION Volume XXVI, Number 10 • December 2019



## Members Made 2019 a Great Year!



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## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

12/10 & 11	December CLE by the Hour seminar at Petroleum Club
12/15	SBA / Area Law Student Christmas Party - 3:00-5:00 p.m. - Silver Star Grille
1/22	SBA Membership Luncheon - 12:00 p.m. - Petroleum Club
1/31	Krewe of Justinian Bal at Horseshoe Casino Rivedome



**Best Wishes from Your Shreveport Bar Association and Foundation Staff, SBA Executive Council and SBF Board Members for a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year!**

Tom Arceneaux	Elizabeth Gibson	Rebecca Radford
Brittany Arvie	Sarah Giglio	Dana Southern
Jake Bailey	Patrick Harrington	Judge Karelia Stewart
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# From The President

by Curtis R. Joseph Jr., President, [curtis@wjlawfirm.net](mailto:curtis@wjlawfirm.net)

## LONGER DAYS AHEAD

At first blush, the concept of a longer day might seem to evoke a negative connotation. If someone were to ask how your day went, and you responded that you had had a long day, the individual would take your response to mean that you'd experienced a tough go of it ... at least for that particular day. However, if you think back to when we were children, a long day was like manna from the heavens. Remember grabbing a quick snack first thing on a summer morning and hitting the back door, only to return before the streetlights came on. The longer the day, the better. If you think back even further, to say ... ancient times, the concept of a long day was the stuff from which holidays and festivals were born.

Very simply put, there is something special about this time of year. And, history shows that there has *always* been something unique about the winter solstice, that point in the year when we transition from the shortest day and each successive day grows longer. Today, many celebrate Christmas during this time of year. As some of you know, I practice Judaism. When I began the practice, this time of year was difficult for me. Beyond the fact that I was becoming familiar with the practice of a new religion, I had to adjust to the reality that my family and friends would, of course, continue to celebrate Christmas, irrespective of what I was doing. The issue encompassed more than simply the change in religion. There was also a change in tradition. Consequently, I had to recalibrate. I needed to understand.

For many, receiving gifts is a big deal. However, I've personally found that the act of giving is equally, if not more, satisfying. So, I decided that I'd continue giving gifts during this time of year. Basically, it just made me feel good. Then, I did a little digging. As is usually the case, there is a bit more to the story. As it turns out, celebrations of the winter solstice are as numerous and varied as there are cultures across the globe. For example, the ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a solstice festival offered to Saturn, the god of agriculture and time, by dedicating a weeklong party that stretched from December 17-24. During this, the most festive and popular of Roman festivals, social norms were cast aside, and the citizens indulged in gambling, drinking, feasting and, most notably, the giving of gifts. The merriment didn't end with the citizens. It was even extended to Roman slaves, who saw a cessation in work and, in some instances, their masters actually served them during this period.

Today, when we think of the word Juul, we associate it with the electronic tobacco vaporizers. However, in days long ago, the Scandinavians celebrated the Feast of Juul during the December solstice and, in so doing, lit fires to symbolize the heat, light and life-giving properties of the returning sun. During the feast, a Yule or Juul log was lit inside the hearth in honor of the Scandinavian god Thor, Marvel's hammer-wielding Avenger and Thursday's eponym. For the sake of continuity, a piece of the log was kept as both a token of good luck and as kindling for the following year's log. In fact, the present-day custom of lighting a Yule log at Christmas is believed to have originated in the bonfires associated with the feast of Juul.

Similarly, solstice festivals exist in England, Germany, France and other European countries, as well as Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and South America. This list is meant to be illustrative and is, by no means, exhaustive. When consideration is given to the commonality of purpose as it relates to winter solstice festivals, the obvious question is posed ... why? Why are all manner of people, in some of the most remote nooks and crannies of the earth, celebrating the winter solstice? And, why is the concept of giving, in its various forms, so integral to this time of the year?

Psychological research shows that, by and large, we actually gain more satisfaction from giving gifts than we do from receiving them. This principle only becomes more exaggerated over time. Moreover, giving gifts is good for our overall health, it promotes cooperation and social connection, it evokes gratitude, and it proves to be contagious. Consequently, the maxim "the more you give, the more you receive" actually holds true. Research also shows that there is a phenomenon called the "helper's high," which is used to describe the feeling that we experience

*continued on page 4*

### 2019 Shreveport Bar Association Officers & Executive Council

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after we've done a good deed or a kind act. In that regard, volunteering has been shown to have a positive psychological and emotional impact on us, which, in turn, is manifested into positive physical benefits. In essence, it's a win-win situation if ever there were one.

To that end, it has been said that charity begins at home. In that regard, I am reminded of the theme incorporated by Booker T. Washington in his 1895 speech to those assembled at the Cotton States and International Exposition, which was then held in Atlanta, Georgia. Washington was charged with convincing the Northern visitors to the exposition that racial progress had been made in the South. To accomplish his task, Washington took resort to Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, and he recounted a story wherein a lost ship in the Atlantic sent out a distress signal for help. Those on the ship were dying of thirst and pleaded for drinkable water. A neighboring vessel signaled back, "Cast down your bucket where you are." The crew received the signal and concluded that they'd been misunderstood. Surely, they couldn't cast their buckets into the Atlantic Ocean and retrieve fresh, drinkable water. Again, they signaled their need for drinkable water. And, again, the reply was for them to cast down their bucket where they were. This went on for a period of time until, ultimately, the crew of the lost ship cast down its bucket, which returned filled with fresh water flowing from the Amazon River into the Atlantic. Whereupon, the crew delighted in its good fortune.

Washington offered the story as a suggestion that those on both sides of the proverbial aisle should cast down their buckets among one another in a way that would ultimately benefit all involved. I offer the story for a similar, albeit somewhat nuanced purpose. I encourage you to cast down your bucket here in Shreveport, with our bar association. I further encourage you to give freely of your love, your time and your talents to our bar association and our larger community as a whole. For it has been said that a joy shared is a joy doubled. For my part, I gave a few hours of my time to our bar, and it returned a bounty unto me.

As I leave this post, I'd like to thank Dana Southern. What an absolute treasure she is for our Bar and its members! I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Chelsea Withers, Lucy Espree and the rest of our bar staff for all the unnoticed things they do to keep our programs and the day-to-day operation of our association on track. I'd also like to thank Hal Odom and Chris Slatten, who have each done a yeoman's job of ensuring that our *Bar Review* reflects an end product that is worthy of our members.

Lastly, I'd also like to reiterate my thanks to each and every committee chair who agreed to serve, as well as each committee member who spent time in the trenches with them to make this year a success for our members. Our bar is in a great place and, with the incoming Executive Committee, supported by our fabulous staff, we are well positioned to move onward and upward. I sincerely thank you for allowing me to serve and may all of our days be long ones.

My kindest regards, and I'd like to extend to you and yours a safe, joyous holiday season that is filled with the all-important blessing of peace.

My kindest regards,

Curtis

# Welcome TO THE SBA

**Avery E. Bond**

**Law Office of Gia Kosmitis**

**Russell R. Dickson**

**Wiener, Weiss & Madison**

**Jimmie C. Herring Jr.**

**Attorney at Law**

**William Stroud**

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**Christopher Warren**

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# December CLE By The Hour December 10 & 11, 2019

Petroleum Club, 15th Floor  
416 Travis Street, Shreveport

**13 Louisiana CLE Credits (including Ethics & Professionalism) Texas CLE Credit Approved (including Ethics)**  
**Presented by SBA CLE Co-Chairs Judge Frances J. Pitman and Judge Michael A. Pitman**  
**(Please Circle All Classes Attending)**

### Tuesday, December 10, 2019

- 8:00 A.M. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 A.M. First Judicial District Court Amended and Unified Scheduling Orders and Other Interesting Topics  
60 Minutes Judge Michael Pitman – First Judicial District Court
- 9:30 A.M. Appellate Practice  
60 Minutes Kenneth P. Haines – Weems, Schimpf, Haines, Shemwell & Moore
- 10:30 A.M. Sponsor Break
- 10:45 A.M. Federal Procedure  
60 Minutes Magistrate Judge Mark Hornsby - United States District Court, Western District
- 11:45 A.M. Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$25)
- 1:00 P.M. Helpful Hints from A to Z from Fannin Street  
75 Minutes Judge Jeanette Garrett - Second Circuit Court of Appeal
- 2:15 P.M. Sponsor Break
- 2:30 P.M. Successions  
60 Minutes Ben Politz - Booth, Lockard, Politz & LeSage
- 3:30 P.M. The Boys Are Back in Town: Meet the New Second Circuit Court of Appeal Judges  
60 Minutes Judge Jay McCallum, Judge James “Jimbo” Stephens, and Judge Jeff Thompson (Moderated by Judge Frances Pitman)

### Wednesday, December 11, 2019

- 8:00 A.M. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 A.M. Employment Law (Current Issues)  
60 Minutes Pamela Jones – Downer, Jones, Marino & Wilhite
- 9:30 A.M. Technology in the Courts: 2019 Update  
60 Minutes Melissa Allen - United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- 10:30 A.M. Sponsor Break
- 10:45 A.M. United States Supreme Court Update 2018-2019 Term  
90 Minutes Judge Carl E. Stewart - United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- 12:15 P.M. Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$25)
- 1:00 P.M. Ethics  
60 Minutes Jeffrey Little– Office of Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board
- 2:00 P.M. Professionalism: Adapting to the Changes in the Practice of Law  
75 Minutes Donald Hathaway Jr.– Sockrider, Bolin, Anglin, Batte & Hathaway, Zelda Tucker-Attorney at Law, Patricia Miramon-Attorney at Law, Frank Spruiell-Wiener, Weiss & Madison, Herschel Richard-Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway, and Curtis Joseph Jr.– Winchell & Joseph (Moderated by Judge Frances Pitman and Judge Mike Pitman)
- 3:15 P.M. Sponsor Break
- 3:30 P.M. Gambling Addiction: What Attorneys Need to Know  
60 Minutes Charles Picou, Asst. Attorney General and Suzanne Bourgeois, Asst. Attorney General – Louisiana Dept. of Justice

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!** Our Recent Developments seminar presenters were such a **HUGE** success, that by popular demand we are bringing some of them back for our **December CLE by the Hour seminar!** Some of the comments we received, “Great speakers, very knowledgeable and entertaining!” “The information presented was universal and interesting.” “The presenters were excellent!”

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**Registration Fees:** Complete this form or register online at [shreveportbar.com](http://shreveportbar.com)

Session Rate	Non-Members - \$75 per session
	SBA Members - \$65 per session
Tuesday (6.25 hrs)	Non-Members - \$400
	SBA Members - \$300
Wednesday (6.75 hrs)	Non-Members - \$425
	SBA Members - \$325
Both Days (13 hrs)	Non-Members - \$600
	SBA Members - \$500

**Materials:** Please circle your materials preference below:

Electronic - **FREE** Flash Drive - **\$25**

Full registration refund until November 15, 2019, less a \$25 administrative fee  
After November 15, full credit less a \$25 administrative fee may be applied to future SBA sponsored CLE for up to one year.

**Materials:** The registration fee includes course materials provided electronically. Materials on flash drive are available at an additional cost upon request.

**Important Note:** A link to the seminar materials will be sent to you via email prior to the seminar. Because neither internet access nor electrical outlets are guaranteed, we suggest that you either print or save the PDF materials to your laptop, and fully charge your batteries if you wish to review the materials at the seminar.

**Walk-In Registration:** Must receive materials electronically by default.

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# Spotlight on Professionalism

by James C. McMichael, Jr., [jmcmichael@mmw-law.com](mailto:jmcmichael@mmw-law.com)

At its midyear meeting on January 20, 2018, the Louisiana State Bar Association approved a resolution from the Committee on the Profession to revise the LSBA Code of Professionalism. These amendments – the first to the professionalism code since 1992 – include the addition of a new preface noting that the legal profession “is a learned calling,” and, as a result, lawyers “should act with honesty and integrity and be mindful” of their responsibilities to the judicial system, the public, each other, and the rule of law. The amendments also include “I-will” pledges encouraging lawyers to do various things, including the following:

To act with “fairness” and to refrain from engaging in “any demeaning or derogatory actions or commentary toward others.”

To “cooperate with other counsel in all respects.”

To work “to protect and improve” the image of the profession, and the system of justice.

To use “technology, including social media, responsibly.”

To speak and act in a manner reflecting “the professionalism expected of me as a lawyer.”

To seek to serve the bench, the bar and the indigent.

To support new members in the profession.

To keep up to date about “changes in the law, communication, and technology which affect the practice of law.”

The Code sets out aspirational goals that urge us to be competent, courteous, cooperative and honest. They do not function as a ceiling to the exercise of professionalism, but, rather, merely represent a baseline of acceptable conduct. Ethics is that which is required of us as attorneys, and professionalism is what is expected.

These aspirational goals aren’t new – actually, they’re based on what we all learned growing up:

Be nice. Be considerate and courteous. Tell the truth.

Do unto others.... Don’t be a smart ass. Play hard but play fair.

Be a good sport. Don’t be a sore loser.

Basic stuff that we should try to live by in all aspects of our lives – not just professionally.

So – the question is whether these professional goals of

courtesy and cooperation are at odds with our ethical obligations to zealously represent our clients? Can we be zealous – and civil at the same time? I believe the practice of civility is not irreconcilable with zealous advocacy. There is no inconsistency between civility and zealous, effective advocacy. In fact, quite the contrary, in most instances, advocacy which is both civil and professional is by far the most effective.

Attorneys can be civil while still being aggressive and intimidating – even upset and angry.

The practice of overzealous advocacy not only interferes with the system’s truth-seeking mission, but also impairs the speedy and inexpensive determination of claims. Overzealous attorneys often manipulate the discovery and litigation processes, inundating the legal system with unnecessary motions, memoranda and arguments. They often play expensive and unnecessary discovery games and take advantage of the legal process. In the end, incivility and the abuse of professionalism forces clients to pay additional and unnecessary fees for their lawyers’ uncivil conduct. Additionally, an attorney’s overzealous representation may harm a client’s interests by eroding or destroying the lawyer’s credibility and judgment with the judge and jury.

We all need to continue to embrace civility’s positive aspects. Civility allows us to understand each other’s points of view. It allows us to understand the consequences of our actions. It permits us to seek alternatives in the resolution of our problems. It prevents us from giving in to our emotions. These positive consequences of civility will help us solve our clients’ problems more fairly, inexpensively, swiftly and harmoniously.

Good lawyers are always mindful of the moral and social aspects of their power and position as an officer of the court. We are required to represent clients zealously, but nothing justifies advocacy so zealous that it exceeds the bounds of the law. Greater civility enhances the effectiveness of our justice system, improves the public’s perception of it and increases our professional satisfaction.

Without civility, therefore, the legal process is not able to serve its purpose or achieve its objective.

We should all attempt to be the sort of legal adversaries that Shakespeare described in “The Taming of The Shrew,” Act 1, scene 2 – legal adversaries who “strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.”



# Do Good Work: Pro Bono Project

by Lucy Espree, Pro Bono Coordinator, [lespree@shreveportbar.com](mailto:lespree@shreveportbar.com)



## “Do Good Work” - Hon. Henry A. Politz

Ben Politz wrote in his January 2015 President’s Message about his father, Judge Henry A. Politz, who served as chief judge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit from 1992 to 1999. He was the first native-born Louisianan to hold that distinction. He would often say, “Do good work.” What he meant by “do good work” was certainly be proficient in the lawyering tasks for clients but also perform pro bono work. Suffice it to say, the unmet civil legal needs in our country are staggering. The Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project is designed to address a need. Please consider joining the effort to “do good work,” as Judge Politz would say.

Get involved. Being involved in Pro Bono is a rewarding experience as you give back to the community but also gain experience in the courtroom and earn CLE credit. Contact me at my email address [lespree@shreveportbar.com](mailto:lespree@shreveportbar.com) or by calling me at 318-221-8107.

On Monday, January 20, we hold our annual MLK National Day of Service at the MLK Community Center, located at 1341 Russell Road from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. We are looking for volunteer attorneys who can assist with Medical Powers of Attorney and Living Wills. All forms will be provided. Please contact me if you are available to assist with this event.

I would like to thank the following attorneys who have accepted one or more Pro Bono cases and have volunteered at our monthly Ask A Lawyer clinic in 2019. Without our volunteer attorneys, we could not provide services to our clients who cannot afford legal assistance:

Lauren Anderson  
Attorney at Law

Jack Bailey III  
Bailey Law Firm

Laura Butler  
Butler Law Office

F. Michael Carmody  
Attorney at Law

Valerie DeLatta  
Attorney at Law

Sarah Giglio  
Gilmer & Giglio

Cody Grosshart  
Perkins & Associates

Molly Gunnels  
Attorney at Law

Elizabeth Hancock  
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David Harvey  
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# VETERANS PROGRAM LUNCHEON





# MEMORIAL & RECOGNITION CEREMONY



Attorneys, judges, family members and members of state and local government paid tribute to three deceased members of the legal profession at the First Judicial District Court and Shreveport Bar Association-sponsored Memorial and Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

Honorable Robert P. Waddell, Chief Judge, presided over the ceremony, and SBA Memorial and Recognition Chair Julie Payne Johnson served as Master of Ceremonies for the program. Julie worked with Judge Roy Brun, Sharon Porter and Gailyn Dennis from the First Judicial District Court to plan a great memorial program.

Deceased members honored and their presenters were **Ben E. Coleman** presented by Lawrence W. Pettiette Jr.; **Twain T.K. Giddens Jr.** presented by Judge Jeanette Garrett; and **Arlen Jack Williams** presented by Audie Jones.

Following the memorial ceremony, Valerie DeLatte, president of the Young Lawyers Section of the SBA, introduced 14 new attorneys to the Court: **Avery Bond, Jordan P. Caruso, Chelsey T. Colontonio, Stephen Edward Downer, Christopher Forester, John Charles Dalton Griffin, Jimmie C. Herring Jr., Brandon G. Pang, Audrius M. Reed, Melissa Joy Kilgo Reger, Mary Grace Richardson, Morgan S. Sanders, Julia Miramon Todd, and Gemma Zuniga.**



## Young Lawyers' Section

by: Valerie DeLatte, President  
[vdelatte@getgordon.com](mailto:vdelatte@getgordon.com)

On October 29 the SBA welcomed several new attorneys into our legal community. Attorneys admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana within the last year were invited to attend a special CLE sponsored by the SBA Young Lawyers Section. Topics included professionalism, ethics, an introduction to our local courts, and tips for your first day in court.

A BIG thank you to our presenters, Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Scott Crichton; Judges Frances and Michael Pitman; Elizabeth Wong; Tom Arceneaux; Jim McMichael; Caddo Clerk of Court Mike Spence; and Twenty-sixth Judicial District Court Administrator Melissa Fox.

Following the CLE, the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony was held at the Caddo Courthouse. Newly admitted attorneys were invited to cross the bar and stand before the First Judicial District Court.



# M. Thomas Arceneaux Will Lead the SBA in 2020



**M. Thomas Arceneaux** begins his term as president of the Shreveport Bar Association on January 1, succeeding Curtis R. Joseph Jr. to the one-year post. Tom is a shareholder, director and officer with the law firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts. His practice at Blanchard Walker is primarily commercial law, with emphasis on commercial transactions and commercial litigation, but he also has a substantial practice in state and local government law, with clients that include the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry and the Town of Blanchard. Tom is married to Elizabeth Arceneaux and they have three children and six grandchildren.

Serving with **Tom Arceneaux** on the 2020 SBA Executive Council are **Donna Y. Frazier**, president-elect; **Curtis R. Joseph Jr.**, immediate past president; **Donald Armand Jr.**, vice-president; **Nancy Cooper**, secretary-treasurer; **Natalie R. Howell**, member-at-large; **Emily Settle Merckle**, member-at-large; **Heidi Kemple Martin**, member-at-large; **Anna Brown Priestley**, member-at-large; **Judge Karelia R. Stewart**, judicial liaison; **L. Gordon Mosley II**, Young Lawyers' Section president; **Elizabeth Wong**, Women's Section President; and **Rebecca Edwards**, Krewe of Justinian Captain.



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Elizabeth Wong  
Women's Section  
President



Rebecca Edwards  
Captain, Krewe of  
Justinian



# Captain Speaks

by Lucy Espree, Pro Bono Coordinator, [lespree@shreveportbar.com](mailto:lespree@shreveportbar.com)

GOTHAM CITY – On January 31, 2020, the billionaire industrialist Bruce Wayne is hosting the first ever “Gotham City Mardi Gras Gala.” Invitations are going out to the movers and shakers of our fair city. The glitterati of Gotham will all be there. But what about Batman? Will our Dark Knight and his right hand, Robin, make an appearance? Will the gala fall victim to villainy? In Gotham City, anything can happen!

\*\*\*\*\*

As we come to the end of 2019, the Justinian League is gearing up for an action-packed start to the year and will be full speed ahead until Mardi Gras day. I, along with King Jeff Cox, Queen Helen Herzog, Duchesses Elizabeth Hancock and Anne Wilkes, Dukes Sam Crichton and Kyle Robinson, Princess Ellie Marcotte and Prince Michael Schimpf, invite you to join us at the Grand Bal XXVI “Gotham City Mardi Gras Gala” at the Horseshoe Riverdome on January 31, 2020. This is a spectacular night for the Krewe of Justinian and our legal community to come together in celebrating Mardi Gras. The pageantry and excitement of the royalty presentation will be followed by music from Limelight. Tickets are \$100 (free for Krewe members) and tables can be reserved for \$125. Contact [cwithers@shreveportbar.com](mailto:cwithers@shreveportbar.com) to RSVP or go to [www.kreweofjustinian.com](http://www.kreweofjustinian.com).

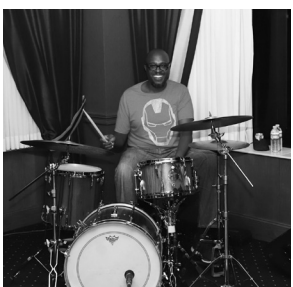
Grand Bal sponsorships are available, including very special VIP “Bat Caves” for ten with private bar service and a \$200 tab. Sponsorships and money made at the silent auction will enable the Krewe to generate funds for donation at the end of the Mardi Gras season to the Shreveport Bar Foundation. The Captain thanks you in advance for your generous support in helping us achieve this goal!

Many thanks as well to everyone who worked to make our Midway to Mardi Gras and Run for the Beads a success. Holland Miciotto, Rachal DeLouche and Liza Beth Grozinger took charge of Midway to Mardi Gras and put on a super fun party. There were some great costumes! Easy Money with SBA President (and Krewe member) Curtis Joseph and attorney Sarah Smith were a hit! Amy Bokenfohr made the fifth annual Run for the Beads a success with a new run organizer (RunWild) and a new venue (Red River Brewing). Thanks to all our sponsors and to Specialists Hospital Shreveport for being our top sponsor this year!

Lastly, I wish you all a happy and joyous holiday season!

Rebecca Edwards

Captain XXVI





# Legal Hist

by Arthur R. Carmody Jr., ACarmody@wcglawfirm.com

This paper will be about one of the most interesting persons I have met in the practice of law; namely,

## DUDLEY J. LeBLANC, THE HADACOL MAN

The beginning of this story starts with the summer of 1951, when I had finished my second year of law school at LSU and was working as a “runner/clerk” at Wilkinson, Lewis & Wilkinson on the 15th floor of the Slattery Building. My duties consisted of wearing a white shirt and tie to work every day, picking up the mail twice a day, putting up in the library the law books and publications which arrived almost daily, filing whatever needed to be filed with the state and federal clerks, delivering papers to the other downtown law firms, and generally being helpful around the office. The salary was \$25 per week.

My office, such as it was, was in the library, where I sat at the end of a long table with a view out of the single window in the building. This opened up on Milam Street and afforded a view of the roof of the Ricou-Brewster building, where Mr. Ricou Sr. maintained a chicken coop on the top of the building where its residents often entertained with loud cackles and the like. There was no counterpart on any other building except the Johnson Building, where a handful of secretaries often engaged in sunbaths during the summer.

On this particular day, I have no recollection of secretaries or of chickens, but my boss, W. Scott Wilkinson, brought into the library a charming and dapper middle-aged man with a gift of speaking in two languages, one Cajun French and the other a version of English. Mr. Wilkinson introduced him as Dudley J. LeBlanc, a former member of the Public Service Commission, and then a longtime state senator from Vermilion Parish who had served with Mr. Wilkinson in the AEF (American Expeditionary Force) in World War I and also served with him in the legislature in Baton Rouge. He said that Senator LeBlanc would be “in and out” of the office, and that I should assist him in any way I could. I agreed to do my part.

That afternoon, two attractive young women showed up



Dudley J. LeBlanc

briefly at the law office library. They were dressed in outfits similar to that of the ever-faithful Evangeline waiting under the oaks for the arrival of her lover Gabriel (habits and veils). I later learned that they were part of LeBlanc’s Hadacol team that was to make an appearance in Shreveport that evening. They soon disappeared and I never saw them again.

Hadacol was a patent medicine “elixir” that LeBlanc had invented in his garage. He actually took the name from his corporation’s Happy Day Company, plus an “L” for LeBlanc, but when asked why he named it “Hadacol” he said, in a Cajun drawl, that he “had to call” it something.

Thereafter, I learned from Mr. LeBlanc that he had conceived the idea of Hadacol because of a persistent pain in his foot and found a physician in New Orleans who gave him a Vitamin B shot which seemed to cure the problem. Once he found out what the medication was, he returned to his office where he made a few changes in the medication, adding what was later found to be 12% alcohol, listed as a “preservative” which made it quite popular in many parishes and counties in the Southern states.



That night, LeBlanc held a rally (actually a promotion for Hadacol) at the Municipal Auditorium featuring a dance band, cheerleaders and plenty of Hadacol. The crowd was very lively and receptive. LeBlanc touted Hadacol as a cure for arthritis, cancer and beriberi. An 8-ounce bottle cost \$1.25, and the 24-ounce went for \$3.50. LeBlanc was the first to have what we now call a “road tour,” which was an updated version of the traveling medicine show. He put

together convoys of cars, trucks and buses packed with celebrities like Bob Hope, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Groucho Marx and more, and traveled across the South. The price of admission was two Hadacol boxtops for adults and one for children. By all reports, it was an enormous success. However, I did not attend, and I never “tried” Hadacol. It was not a popular beverage in

most circles.

LeBlanc was neither a medical doctor nor a registered pharmacist, but had a strong talent for self-promotion. *Time Magazine* described him as “a stem-winding salesman who knows every razzle-dazzle switch in the pitchman’s trade.”

Another thing that Mr. LeBlanc did that impressed me was that he instructed one of his associates to go to the bank and get him some “walking around money.” The associate did this and counted it out on the library table in front of Mr. LeBlanc and me to the sum of \$4,100, and thus I learned what “walking around money” was.<sup>1</sup>

Huey Long had been dead for nearly 17 years at the time of my meeting Mr. LeBlanc. His brother Earl was then the governor, and the Long regime was still a political factor in Louisiana. A lobbyist once asked Earl what he had to do to get next to LeBlanc. Uncle Earl’s reply was, “Hell, you can’t buy LeBlanc. You can only rent him.”

Hadacol was universally popular with underage drinkers and led to a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office investigation. The investigation uncovered the fact that gross sales were running between two and three million dollars a year. A 1952 Federal Trade Commission investigation established that the corporation was indeed bankrupt and never recovered. No formal charges were filed regarding the USPTO investigation.

LeBlanc served in the La. House of Representatives from 1924 to 1926, when he was elected to the Public Service Commission, where he served from 1926-1932. He served in the La. Senate from 1940-1944, 1948-1952 and 1964-1971. During his time in the Senate, he initiated benefits for veterans of the Civil War and the two World Wars and became known as “the Father of the Old Age Pension.”

In 1952, LeBlanc resigned from the senate and ran for governor for a third time, but did not make it past the primary. He then retired to his comfortable home on Bayou Teche and began to push for French culture both in Louisiana as well as in Canada. These efforts met with some success and became part of his legacy. He suffered a fatal stroke in 1971 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery along the bayou. He, together with the Long brothers, were the first inductees into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 1993.

Steven Longstreet, novelist and biographer, compared LeBlanc with Huey Long, while LeBlanc was still living: “He’s as good a speaker and as quick a thinker as Long was, but I don’t think he has Long’s streak of cruelty, and he has the quality that Long never had – the ability to laugh at himself.”

In retrospect, Dudley J. LeBlanc should be remembered as a successful promoter, businessman and politician whose integrity survived the horrors of the Louisiana scandals.

<sup>1</sup> The Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator converts this to \$40,600 in today’s (2019) money!

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# Judge Carl E. Stewart Receives the Nation's Highest Judicial Honor Award

Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit received the 35th Annual Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award at a ceremony held at the Supreme Court of the United States on October 17, 2019. The prestigious award is sponsored by the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation and is given to an Article III federal judge who has made significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a federal judge and has been described as the Nobel Prize for the Federal Judiciary.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. presided over the ceremony, and speakers included Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Chief Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn of the United States Northern District of Texas, Judge James E. Graves Jr. of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, James C. Duff, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and Danielle R. Holley-Walker, Dean of Howard University School of Law and former law clerk to Judge Stewart.

Along with Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Kennedy, attending the award presentation were Associate Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito Jr. (Circuit Justice for the Fifth Circuit), Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Brett M. Kavanaugh. Following the presentation, a reception was held in the East Conference Room and a dinner in the West Conference Room. Also in attendance were many invited guests and family members of Judge Stewart.

In announcing the award this summer, the Foundation stated: "This year's recipient, Chief Judge Stewart, has throughout his career demonstrated his commitment to decency, civility, fairness, and justice." When notified that he would be this year's recipient, Judge Stewart said: "I am deeply honored and humbled to accept this year's Devitt Award. I am very grateful to have been nominated and supported for this very special award in this my 25th year on the federal bench."

Judge Stewart was nominated for the award by Chief Judge Barbara Lynn of the Northern District of Texas. The nomination included more than 60 letters of support from fellow jurists, community leaders, university officials, former law clerks, professors and practitioners. Dallas attorney Kim Askew wrote in her nomination letter: "Chief Judge Stewart represents the highest of excellence in Article III judges and is an exemplar of leadership and service to the bar and community. He is a wise judge, role model, mentor and beacon of hope for lawyers and is unquestionably one of the most influential jurists in our nation. His distinguished legal career and outstanding service to the profession and community are equaled by few, and his humanity, temperament and often unassuming leadership all combine to make him such a truly exceptional man and jurist." Judge Elizabeth Foote of the United States Western District of Louisiana wrote: "Underlying his lifelong career in public and community service is Chief Judge Stewart's ability as a uniter who is able to incite the best qualities in others and to bring together diverse individuals to achieve a common goal."

Julie C. Opperman, Foundation Chairman and widow of Dwight D. Opperman, presented the award to Judge Stewart at the October ceremony. In an earlier statement she noted: "I congratulate Chief Judge Stewart as he joins an esteemed group of colleagues over the

decades who are recipients of the Devitt Award, our nation's highest judicial honor."

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy chaired this year's selection committee, which included Judge Raymond Kethledge of the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Lucy Koh of the United States Northern District Court of California. The award was established in 1982 and is named for the late Judge Edward J. Devitt of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Judge Stewart, a Shreveport native, was appointed to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President William J. Clinton on May 9, 1994, and served as Chief Judge of the Circuit from October 1, 2012, until September 30, 2019.



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