

# THE BAR REVIEW

PUBLICATION OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

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## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

4/29	SBA Law Day Luncheon – 12:00 p.m. - Petroleum Club
5/1	Red Mass- Holy Trinity Catholic Church
5/3	SBA Member/Family Day-East Ridge Country Club
5/5	Give for Good- Rhino Coffee Downtown
5/15	North Louisiana Appellate Conference – Second Circuit Court of Appeal



## From The President

by Tom Arceneaux, President, [tarceneaux@bwor.com](mailto:tarceneaux@bwor.com)

### A REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT

“What a revoltin’ development this is!”

Most of you are too young to remember this recurring line from *The Life of Riley*. The sitcom started on radio in 1944 and ran until 1951, with William Bendix starring as the title character, Chester A. Riley, a wing riveter at a fictional aircraft plant in California. Bendix also starred in a television version of the show from 1953-1958.

I was too young for the radio show, but I loved the television show, which I watched with my parents. Riley was a good-natured, somewhat awkward fellow with a big heart. He seemed easily frustrated, and when he got frustrated, he exclaimed, “What a revoltin’ development this is!” It happened at least once a show, and it became somewhat of a catch phrase in the national lingo.

We are all being affected by novel Coronavirus 19. If we don’t have COVID-19, and I hope none of you does, we are affected by the inconvenience and economic strain that is accompanying the measures to “flatten the curve” of the spread of the virus. Our children and grandchildren are affected, if not physically, then financially. Our clients are affected. Their cashflow is slowing or stopped.

One of the risks of choosing a timely topic for the President’s Message is that it will be “old news” at the time of publication. I’ll take that risk in this instance. As I write, we had to cancel our March meeting, most courts have essentially closed or locked down except for bare essential matters, the schools are closed, and all bars (the kind that serve cocktails), movie theaters and casinos are closed. Restaurants are limited to delivery or pickup service, and gatherings involving more than 50 people are prohibited. New guidelines issued today suggest that we not gather in groups larger than ten.

As I write this, on March 16, I am looking at a calendar for the week that contains no appointments, no evening events, no lunches. I cannot recall the last time, if ever, that I had a calendar like that as an adult. While I’ll catch up on some projects, weeks like this are not sustainable for long. If the measures we are taking are successful, COVID-19 will be more an economic blow than a physical one for most people.

The crisis presents opportunities that we would never take advantage of, however. It is a time to catch up, to spend quality time with family, to learn new recipes, to sit around a dinner table together, to encourage one another. It is a time to pray, to share sacrifice, to look out for others. To be a member of the bar, that great institution, in a real sense, not just by paying dues.

*continued on page 3*

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Give for Good



The Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project will be hosting an event at the downtown Rhino Coffee location on Tuesday, May 5. The SBF Pro Bono staff will be there to take donations from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Stop by, make your donations and get some amazing coffee!

# DONATE MAY 5

When you donate to Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project via [www.giveforgoodnla.com](http://www.giveforgoodnla.com) on May 5 your donation will support the Pro Bono Project assist the indigent with obtaining legal help for civil matters and the LRVDV program who help victims of domestic violence with obtaining Protective Orders

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## Give for Good

# 2 EASY STEPS

**AMAZONSMILE**  
THEY DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP!



Most of us became lawyers to help people. This is a time to exercise that calling, and to be aware. There will be colleagues and fellow professionals, friends, family, and clients, and even favorite waitstaff and restaurateurs who will suffer substantial economic blows. Many of them may try to hide their struggles, so don't be afraid to check on them. Don't take the first answer as gospel. It is time to be helpful and anonymous if possible.

We are part of a privileged class of people, both from professional standing and in most cases financially. It is time to help those who do not share the privilege, and even some who do. Little, person-to-person contacts will be fulfilling and uplifting.

In a speech in 1966, Robert F. Kennedy quoted a supposed Chinese curse, "May he live in interesting times." While apparently no one has located the Chinese source of the curse, these certainly are interesting times. Whether they are ultimately a blessing or a curse may well depend on how each of us responds to them.

Respond with kindness and generosity.

# Mark Your Calendar



## **APRIL 29**

**Law Day Luncheon**

**12:00 Noon at the Petroleum Club (15th Floor)**

## **MAY 1**

**Red Mass**

**9:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

## **MAY 3**

**SBA Member/Family Day**

**4-7 p.m. at East Ridge Country Club**

## **MAY 5**

**Give for Good Campaign**

**Rhino Coffee Downtown**

## **MAY 15**

**3rd Annual North Louisiana Appellate Conference**

**2nd Circuit Court of Appeal**

## **JUNE 8**

**Annual SBA Golf Tournament**

**12:30 p.m. at Southern Trace Country Club**

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Due to Covid-19,  
all scheduled SBA  
activities are  
subject to change,  
rescheduling or  
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## Legal Hist

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

### THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF NEW ORLEANS AND LOUISIANA UNDER UNION OCCUPATION MAY 1862 – MAY 1865

Readers may recall that we had at one time examined the government of Louisiana, headquartered in Shreveport, at a time when it was a member of the Confederate States of America from 1861 until May 1865. It is now appropriate to consider what happened to the legal system in New Orleans and surrounding parishes which came early under Union occupation, particularly since New Orleans was the largest city in the South and a possessor of a storied legal tradition.

On May 1, 1862, Reconstruction began in New Orleans under Major General Benjamin Butler who arrived with 18,000 troops and Admiral David Farragut's fleet, which had successfully bridged the downriver defenses and Forts Jackson and St. Philip. His assignment included the creation of a loyal city government, a process that would stretch over three years, and included his successors, General Nathaniel Banks and General George Shepley, the other military governors of Louisiana.

Before the war, New Orleans was the center of practically all significant legal activities within the state. Located there was the United States Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the six district courts for the Parish of Orleans and the courts known as recorder courts. The district courts were divided into felony, probate and civil sections. The recorder courts heard only misdemeanor criminal cases.

General Butler found the court system largely disintegrated – almost nonexistent. Food was scarce, city services were lacking, the great port was shut down and the citizenry violently opposed to a future of life under Union military rule. Butler was not a professional soldier, but rather a noted Massachusetts politician and successful lawyer. He was named the first military governor of Louisiana by President Lincoln to “re-establish the authority of the federal government in the state . . . until the loyal inhabitants of that state shall be able to establish a civil government.” These



Gen. Beast Butler v. Women of New Orleans

were the most general of instructions. This was due to the fact that under the Lincoln administration, New Orleans was simply a military objective, and once it was captured there was no plan for its civil administration or its court system. The Washington administration showed no real interest and gave no direction to its representatives in New Orleans. It responded on a reactive basis to only the most critical issues.

Butler appointed Brigadier General George Shepley, his friend and the former Attorney General of Maine, as his first assistant. Butler immediately put the city under martial law, but in the same proclamation, directed that the courts remain as they were, only excepting those crimes involving occupying forces which would be tried in military courts.<sup>1</sup>

The practical problem was that the courts were closed. The powers of the military courts were unlimited and included the death penalty. He also established two military tribunals: one to try felonies and the other misdemeanors. Butler soon found that most New Orleanians remained just as loyal to the Confederate cause as he was to the Union.

When Butler arrived in New Orleans, he found that the national flag, prematurely raised at the mint, had been hauled down. He ordered the suspect arrested, conducted a drum-head court, found the defendant guilty, sentenced him to death and immediately had the sentence carried out by hanging the victim from a window in the building where the offense occurred. This subdued most of the males, but the females of New Orleans were another story. They expressed their disdain by refusing to move off the sidewalks for approaching Union soldiers, and other acts expressing their aversion. Butler retaliated with a general order directing that “when any female shall, by word, gesture or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the

<sup>1</sup> By this time use of the military courts to try civilians was an established part of American martial law. Precedents were established in the Mexican War and also used earlier when Union forces occupied Confederate territory.



United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation.”<sup>2</sup> This order was unprecedented in the American experience and caused an uproar at home and abroad. General Beauregard responded from Virginia that the women of New Orleans were now being treated as “common harlots.” Many pro-Union men and women were offended by Butler’s zeal, but the Massachusetts general remained in command.

He met the city’s protest of the order by arresting both the mayor and chief of police and had them imprisoned at Fort Jackson. Next, he appointed his assistant Shepley to be mayor and named another officer as the chief of police.

The Louisiana Supreme Court adjourned February 24, 1862, and never officially reconvened throughout the war. Four of its five justices left the New Orleans area. The United States District Court closed even earlier, on January 26, 1861. Five of the six state district court justices simply locked their doors and left. Only one, Rufus K. Howell, a staunch Unionist, remained but only a few cases ever appeared on his docket. His salary was paid with federal funds.

The recorder courts shut down, and by May 20, the military courts had assumed all criminal jurisdiction in the city. For the remainder of 1862, the Union army officers who conducted these courts were the sole rule of law in New Orleans. Martial law prevailed and traditional standards disappeared. In criminal trials, for example, evidence could be offered as to whether the defendant “had been a loyal citizen . . . and that criteria used in imposing sentence.” In addition, a defendant could be questioned “against his or her will.” For those found guilty, punishment could be harsh. One defendant who threatened a landlord for leasing space to Union officers was sent to Fort Jackson for life, with a condition that a ball of “not less than twelve pounds of weight” be attached to his left leg. Those were hard days indeed!

Major Joseph Bell, also a successful Massachusetts lawyer, and close friend of Butler, was chief judge of the provost court, dealing with over 100 cases a day. The court allowed brief oral arguments, but kept no written records. There were no jury trials, and his verdicts and sentences were delivered on the spot. When complicated civil disputes were brought to his bench, he usually declared he had no jurisdiction. The only appeal of his decisions was to the commanding general,

and there is no record of any decision having been reversed.

Late in 1862, both Butler and Shepley recognized that the lack of a civil court system was causing severe problems. It was difficult to find and appoint suitable judges who had to be staunch Unionists. Two individuals were found who qualified, and together, with the still present Judge Howell, three reconstruction courts would be opened. They were charged with handling all civil cases except those involving military personnel or issues.



*The U.S. Mint in New Orleans, 1861*

Late in the year, Lincoln replaced Butler, allegedly because of his treatment of New Orleans foreign residents and their consulates.<sup>3</sup> He was replaced by General Nathaniel Banks, who relieved Butler of command in December. At this point, both Bell and Butler returned to Massachusetts and Shepley remained as military governor. Banks, like Butler, was a lawyer and obtained high military rank

through being a governor of Massachusetts and Speaker of the House of Representatives. While Butler was combative and abrasive, Banks was looked on as indecisive and passive. These traits would soon bring about his defeat at the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in April of 1864, and would result in one of the first Congressional investigations of a failed military campaign.

The lack of a real and serious legal presence in New Orleans was recognized, and Lincoln, using his presidential war powers, created a new judicial body called “The United States Provisional Court for the State of Louisiana.” One Charles Peabody, a politician from New York, was its judge. He was given plenary power to hear and try all civil and criminal cases that were free of military implications. New Orleans lawyers were quick to note the court’s power exceeded the constitution, as it was given jurisdiction over state laws, a power no federal court possessed. Peabody was never confirmed by the Senate. Both he and his staff were paid by the War Department and his tenure was at the pleasure of the President. The court was exempt from any appeal process and presumably only President Lincoln, and not any other court, could overrule its decisions. It was replete with shortcomings.

Scholars now recognize that the provisional court was established, not as an instrument to help establish a regular court system, but rather to provide a forum to the large

<sup>2</sup> This resulted in the name “Beast” being given to General Butler which he would carry to the grave.

<sup>3</sup> Butler was returned to a command in Virginia where he performed poorly. After the war he switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican, was elected to Congress from Massachusetts and led the impeachment proceeding of President Andrew Johnson.

foreign population of New Orleans who could sue only in federal courts. This was done on the advice of the State Department to improve the Union's still tenuous foreign relations, especially with England and France.

While the Provisional Court aided foreigners, it turned out to be more trouble than it was worth. One critic called it "the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, of justice in Louisiana."<sup>4</sup> No one ever challenged its federal jurisdiction, but allowing a paramilitary judge to assume authority over state litigation did not sit well with the bar or the populace.

One of the problems was the absence of an appeal process. Incredibly, Peabody tried to remedy this defect by hearing appeals of the cases he had already decided. Shepley tried to remedy this by appointing three new supreme court justices, one of whom (the chief) was none other than Peabody. The three never heard an argument or decided a case and soon disbanded.

At this point, the relationship between Peabody and Banks began to sour, with the latter unhappy over Peabody's handling of maritime cases and the seizure of Confederate property. Banks's complaints to the War Department received a sympathetic ear, and an order was given recognizing his "full power" in the district. This gave Banks authority over thousands of dollars' worth of seized contraband which critics would later say was used for his own enrichment.

June of 1863 would bring a real federal judge, one Edward H. Durrell,<sup>5</sup> appointed by Lincoln and confirmed by the Senate, to preside over the Eastern District of Louisiana. Yet Durrell, like Peabody, refused to recognize Banks's absolute power. The showdown came in November over the seizure of the steamer *Alabama* in the New Orleans harbor. Durrell had the U.S. Marshals seize the ship; Banks then sent in his soldiers to take over.<sup>6</sup> After a brief confrontation, the marshals retreated and Banks's authority was reaffirmed.

The one thing Banks and Durrell could agree on was their displeasure with Peabody and the provost court. Instead of attacking him "head-on," they simply created a new court, gave it plenary jurisdiction, named it "The Provost Court of the Department of the Gulf" and turned it over to one Colonel Charles Dwight of New York. Finally, while Peabody was on vacation in the North, Banks abolished his court, leaving him a judge without a court. He then transferred all criminal jurisdiction, except that involving the military, to the three district courts.

March of 1864 would bring the election of Michael Hahn as governor in the state's occupied parishes. In the following month, Banks suffered a humiliating military defeat at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. He was relieved of command in September, and that fall, he faced a congressional board of inquiry looking into the entire Red River Campaign. He never returned to Louisiana.

The Constitution of 1864 allowed the governor to appoint both supreme court and district court judges. This was done, and on April 4, 1865, these courts opened. Lincoln, shortly before his death, appointed Peabody the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District.

Several cases involving the constitutionality of acts of the military courts and the provost court found their way to the United States Supreme Court. In all cases, those bodies were recognized as valid courts and the acts of the military tribunals upheld.<sup>7</sup>

In the end, the military rulers of New Orleans, facing unexpected issues in a wartime environment with no direction from Washington, managed to maintain a workable system of law and order in various ways, many not meeting constitutional due process as we understand it today. In the end, however, the city's former legal system was restored without significant loss or detriment.

Thanks and Credits to:

Thomas W. Helis, "Of Generals and Jurists: The Judicial System of New Orleans under Union Occupation, May 1862-April 1865." 29:2 *La. History: The Journal of the La. Historical Ass'n*, 143-162 (1988), accessible at: [www.jstor.org/stable/4232652](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4232652)

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*Report of 'The Red River Expedition,' Thirty-Eighth Congress, Second Session, December 6, 1864* (1977 Kraus Reprint).

Shelby Foote, *Civil War Narrative*, vol. 1. Norwalk, Conn.: Easton Press ©1991.

A.S. Le Page Du Pratz, *The History of La.* Pub. 1774; reprint, Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publ. Div. ©1972.

*The La. Purchase: Bicentennial Series of La. History*, Vol. XV. Lafayette, La.: U. of La. at Lafayette, ©2000.

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<sup>4</sup> The authority of the "Provisional Court" of Louisiana, *American Law Register* 386.

<sup>5</sup> Judge Durrell, of New Hampshire, born in 1818, Harvard educated, practiced law in New Orleans from 1837 until his appointment to the bench. When Reconstruction ended he moved to Newburgh, New York, where he practiced law until his death in 1887.

<sup>6</sup> This was not the Confederate warship by the same name, which was then in the Indian Ocean.

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<sup>7</sup> *United States v. Diekelman*, 92 U.S. 520 (1875).

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for our country  
and community  
in this time of need.



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# How Write You Are

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

**What do you call ...** the white part of an egg? If you said “yoke,” you’d be doubly wrong. One court stepped into a slippery substance in a merchant liability case: “She stated there was no egg yoke or egg shell in the vicinity. \* \* \* [W]hoever cleaned around the membrane must have cleaned up the yoke and the egg shell.” *Kimble v. Winn-Dixie La. Inc.*, 01-514 (La. App. 5 Cir. 10/17/01), 800 So. 2d 987. A criminologist explaining the nuances of DNA vs. fingerprint evidence offered this take: “The latent print data would resemble a bowl of eggs that had been removed from their shells. The number of eggs could be determined by counting the yokes, but where each egg ended and another began may not be possible to determine[.]” Wayne G. Plumtree, *A Perspective on the Appropriate Weight to be Given to the National Academy of Sciences’ Report on Forensics in Evidentiary Hearings*, 42 Sw. L. Rev. 605 (2013), fn. 156.

Of course, the yellow part of an egg is the *yolk*. That other word, *yoke*, means a *heavy frame for binding two animals together, or any agency of oppression, subjection or slavery*. It is usually employed correctly in the figurative sense: “None of these cases sought, like NiGen’s, to lift a *yoke* of alleged unconstitutional conduct from the plaintiff’s own shoulders.” *NiGen Biotech LLC v. Paxton*, 804 F. 3d 389 (5 Cir. 2015). “Accepting the full force of Dr. Hollenshead’s opinion regarding the *yoke* of Dr. Carlisle’s control over Mrs. Senn, we find that Mrs. Senn was exhibiting the requisite anger[.]” *Senn v. Board of Sup’rs*, 28,599 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/21/96), 679 So. 2d 575, 112 Ed. L. Rep. 1121.

And yes, the white part of an egg is the *albumen*. Everybody knows this, but to avoid confusion with the protein in blood plasma, called *albumin*, make your meringues out of *egg whites*.

**Another sticky usage.** A guest editorial *The Shreveport Times* wrote a touching tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The writer mentioned the perennial problem of urban crime: “It is a *viscous* cycle that plays out every day in many communities, but especially in the urban community.” The word used, *viscous*, means *sticky* or *undesirably adhesive*.

The standard expression is *vicious cycle*, or *vicious circle*, meaning a sequence of causes and effects that *intensify the bad effects* and yield *no stop in the cycle*. “And when the *vicious cycle* finally ends, chances are that the union will lack the resources to effectively perform the responsibilities of an exclusive representative.” *Janus v. American Fed’n of State, County & Mun. Emps., Council 31*, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018) (Kagan, J, dissenting). “[T]he continuous transfusions were contributing to a downward spiraling ‘*vicious circle*’ because of the blood pressure being placed on the heart by infusion of the additional blood.” *Jeane v. Byrd Regional Hosp.*, 2010-0867 (La. App. 3 Cir. 3/9/11), 58 So. 3d 1113.

Stay out of this sticky situation, and avoid the vicious cycle of nonstandard usage.



**I commend their perception.** The word for *acumen* or *keen observation* is *insight*. Writing that is full of such observations or good judgment is *insightful*. Occasionally writers (usually pro se litigants) will misspell this as *inciteful*, an odd and little-used word that actually has an entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, Additions Series., vol. 2 (©1993): “Chiefly N. Amer. Liable to rouse passion; provocative.” OED traces the word to *Sutherland v. DeWulf*, 323 F. Supp. 740 (S.D. Ill. 1971), “The Supreme Court has clearly recognized the *inciteful* impact of flag desecration in *Halter v. Nebraska*, 205 U.S. 34 (1907) where it said \* \* \*.” Notably, the opinion in *Halter v. Nebraska* did not use the word *inciteful*. No, the word did not appear from SCOTUS until over 100 years later, in *United States v. Williams*, 128 S.Ct. 1803 (2008): “The Eleventh Circuit held that under *Brandenburg*, the ‘non-commercial, non-*inciteful* promotion of illegal child pornography’ is protected[.]” The Supreme Court, under the firm hand of Justice Scalia, squashed the heresy of innocent child pornography, and sanctioned the use of *inciteful* to describe conduct.

Most legal writers, most of the time, are going to be commending a colleague’s brief or argument for its general astuteness or for an apt aperçu. In that event, we will call it *insightful*. Separating this word from *inciteful* takes very little insight.

**I’ll always rewrite.** A few months ago (November 2019), I referred to a famous epigram, “There is no great writing, only great rewriting,” saying it was ascribed to Justice Louis Brandeis and asking if anyone could trace the actual source of the quote. A thorough researcher answered the challenge!<sup>1</sup> The result is a well-sourced compilation, Peter Scott Campbell, *The Quotable Brandeis* (Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, ©2017), 99. Mr. Campbell states:

516. There is no such thing as good writing – there is only good rewriting.

Again, there is no evidence Brandeis ever said this, despite its prevalence on the Internet. In fact, the quote is also attributed to a number of other authors: James Thurber, Ernest Hemingway, Isaac Singer, and even Brandeis’s colleague on the bench, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. The first person to put it in print, however, appears to be editor Harry Shaw. Shaw wrote a number of articles and books on grammar and English usage, and he often included this maxim. The first time he used it was in his article “Literary Aspects of Medical Journalism,” 65 A.M.A. Archives of Surgery (August 1952) 214.

Perhaps the name Harry Shaw doesn’t have quite the cachet of Brandeis, Thurber, Holmes or Hemingway, but I’ll cheerfully give him credit for being the first to write the maxim about good (or great) rewriting. Rewriting puts you in illustrious company.

<sup>1</sup> My thanks and appreciation to Ms. Marian Drey, Branch Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, right here in Shreveport, for uncovering this useful book.



# SAVE THE DATE LUNCH & LEARN

## TRIAL ADVOCACY SUMMER SERIES



SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION  
— YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION —

Litigators - are you looking to sharpen your trial skills and learn how to be more effective in court? The SBA's Annual Trial Advocacy Summer Series Program is a three-part series in June, July and August 2020 designed to provide practical and entertaining instruction for trial lawyers in all aspects of trial practice. Topics in past sessions have included how to develop a case theme; how to be better prepared at trial; how to take better depositions; how to offer and object to evidence; how to make yourself a better cross examiner; how to handle experts; Federal Court practice; Appellate Court practice; Professionalism; Ethics and more. The program is coordinated by James C. McMichael Jr. and co-sponsored by the SBA Young Lawyers Section but offers valuable learning opportunities for young and more seasoned lawyers alike.

Please join us and let us help you win more cases.

### Session 1– Thursday, June 18

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (lunch included)

2.0 Hours Louisiana CLE Credit

### Session 2– Thursday, July 16

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (lunch included)

2.0 Hours Louisiana CLE Credit

### Session 3– Thursday, August 20

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (lunch included)

2.0 Hours Louisiana CLE Credit

### Registration:

SBA Members -\$100 Per Session or \$275 for All Three Sessions (if paid in full by June 18)

Non-SBA Members -\$120 Per Session or \$335 for All Three Sessions (if paid in full by June 18)

Breakdown of Class Information and Online Registration will be Announced Soon!

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## Law Week 2020 April 27 – May 3



*Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.*  
In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action.

In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society. Free speech and free press are prominent topics in public discourse and litigation. It is impossible to imagine a free society without these individual liberties, yet historical and current debates surrounding them continually challenge us to consider their boundaries and resilience. Changes in technology have reshaped how free speech and free press work in the everyday world.

The women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies.

This year's SBA Law Day Chairperson, Kendra Joseph, and her committee, have been working on several Law Week activities.

As you know, with the Coronavirus pandemic there are many changes and cancellations happening in the city, state, country, and world. Having said that, it will likely impact our Law Week activities. At the time of this publication deadline we are on hold with planned activities. If this changes, we will send out an update via email and social media to everyone.

The following activities are currently planned, and we will update everyone if postponed or cancelled.

**Monday, April 27** – Voter Registration Drive

**Tuesday, April 28** – Mock Election/Mock Trial at Elementary School

**Wednesday, April 29** – Shreveport Bar Association Law Day luncheon will take place at the Petroleum Club of Shreveport with guest speaker Candice Battiste with Power Coalition for North Louisiana. In addition, we will present our annual Liberty Bell Award for community service.

**Thursday, April 30** – Movie/Court Tour/Debate

**Friday, May 1** – Red Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church

**Sunday, May 3** – SBA Member Day Crawfish Boil

# Red Mass 2020

On the occasion of Law Week 2020  
The Red Mass Society of Shreveport  
cordially invites you to attend the  
Twenty-Eighth Annual  
Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit  
historically known as The Red Mass  
to be celebrated at  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
400 Block of Fannin Street, Shreveport, Louisiana  
on Friday, the first of May  
Two thousand and twenty  
at nine o'clock in the morning



Most Reverend Monsignor Francis I. Malone  
Bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport  
Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Very Reverend Rothell Price, J.C.L., V.G.  
Master of Ceremonies



Music begins at 8:30 a.m. provided by Choirs

Zion Baptist Church Choir  
Directed by  
Pastor Brady L. Blade

St. Cecilia Choral Society  
Directed by  
Mr. Aaron Wilson





SBA Members, Spouses, Significant Others, Children and Grandchildren  
are invited to Shreveport Bar Association's

# Member Sunday Fun Day Crawfish Boil

**Sunday, May 3 | 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at  
East Ridge Country Club**

**Music • Bounce House • Swimming**

In addition to crawfish we will have burgers, hot dogs  
and chicken. Cold beer, sodas and plenty of food and fun for all!

**\$15.00 per Adult \$5.00 per Child**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Order (must be received by April 24)

Adult Sizes:

XXL \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

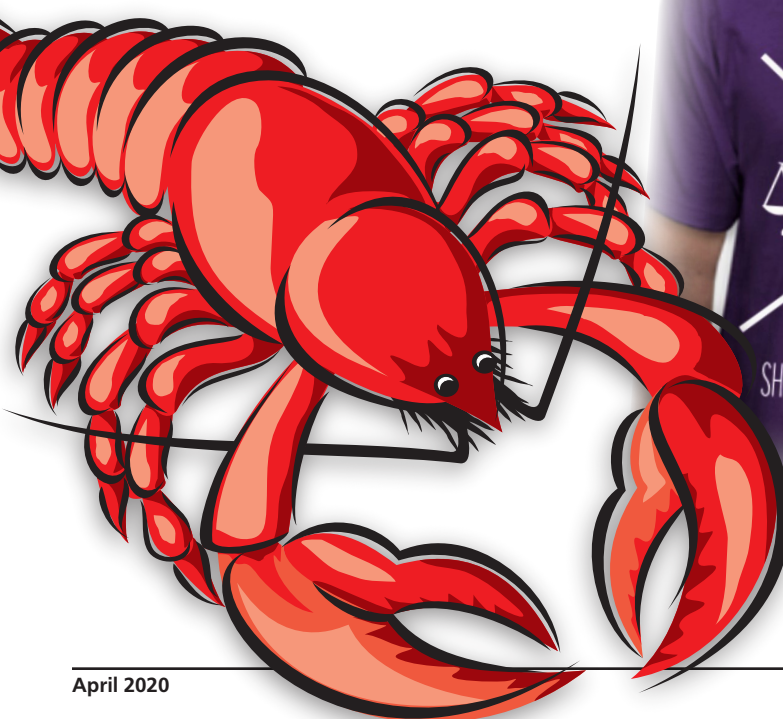
Youth Sizes:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
12 and under

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**RSVP by  
April 24!**

Register and Prepay by April 24  
and get a commemorative T-Shirt!

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625 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA 71101

**Online Registration  
is now open  
[www.shreveportbar.com](http://www.shreveportbar.com)**

# Save the Dates 2020

## Shreveport Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education

MAY

15

3rd Annual North Louisiana  
Appellate Conference

JUNE

18

Lunch & Learn  
Summer Series

JULY

16

Lunch & Learn  
Summer Series

AUG

20

Lunch & Learn  
Summer Series

SEPT

16-17

Recent Developments  
by the Judiciary

DEC

16-17

December CLE  
by the Hour



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*Accredited Senior Appraiser (ASA)*  
*Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA)*  
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*Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)*  
*Certified Treasury Professional (CTP)*  
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*Business Economic Losses*  
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# 3rd Annual North Louisiana Appellate Conference May 15, 2020

Second Circuit Court of Appeal  
430 Fannin Street

Approved for 6 Hours  
Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization  
Credit in Appellate and Family Law Practice  
Including Ethics & Professionalism

- |                   |   |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Registration</b>   | <b>11:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Lunch with the Second Circuit Court of Appeal Judges</b>   |
|                   |   | 90 Minutes        |   |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Brief Writing For the Trial Judge</b>  | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Professionalism</b>  |
| 60 Minutes        | <i>Judge Michael Pitman, First Judicial District Court and Kenneth P. Haines, Board Certified Appellate Specialist, Certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization - Weems, Schimpf, Haines, Shemwell &amp; Moore</i> | 60 Minutes        | <i>Chief Judge Felicia Williams, Judge Frances Pitman and Judge Jeff Cox - Second Circuit Court of Appeal</i>   |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Break</b>  | <b>2:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>9:35 a.m.</b>  | <b>Writs &amp; Appeals</b>  | <b>2:10 p.m.</b>  | <b>Standards of Review</b>  |
| 60 Minutes        | <i>Molly Able - Second Circuit Court of Appeal</i>  | 60 Minutes        | <i>Kenneth P. Haines, Board Certified Appellate Specialist, Certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization - Weems, Schimpf, Haines, Shemwell &amp; Moore</i> |
| <b>10:35 a.m.</b> | <b>Break</b>  | <b>3:10 p.m.</b>  | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>10:45 a.m.</b> | <b>New Rules and Procedure Changes to Clerk's Office</b>  | <b>3:25 p.m.</b>  | <b>Ethics in Appellate Advocacy</b>   |
| 60 Minutes        | <i>Karen McGee, Advanced Certified Paralegal, Chief Deputy Clerk and Brian Walls - Second Circuit Court of Appeal</i>   | 60 Minutes        | <i>Professor Grace H. Barry- Louisiana State University and Susan Kalmbach - Louisiana Disciplinary Counsel</i>   |

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

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 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please include email for materials to be sent)*

**Non-SBA Members and Legal Staff**  
 \$375.00 after May 1st deadline \$400.00



**SBA Members and Legal Staff of SBA Members**  
 \$275.00 after May 1st deadline \$300.00

Please charge to my \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMX  
 Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ SIC#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:**  
 Electronic - **FREE**

**Registration:**  
 Refund until May 1, 2020, less a \$25.00 administrative fee. After May 1, 2020, credit less a \$25.00 administrative fee may be applied to future SBA sponsored CLE for up to one year. Cancellations on the day of the seminar and "no shows" will not receive credit.

**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.

 (318)222-3643  (318) 222-9272

**Please remit with payment to:**  
 Shreveport Bar Association  
 625 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA 71101



# Inn of Court Highlights

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

On February 27, 2020, Booth-Politz American Inn of Court Team 6 presented its annual musical satire program that – as usual – entertained, educated and delighted the audience of Inn of Court members and guests. This year’s program visited Wayne’s World.

Chapter President Judge Elizabeth Erny Foote and team members Elizabeth Carmody, Graham Todd, Henry Byrd, Kenneth Haines, Kevin Hammond, Curtis Joseph, Gahagan Pugh, Marguerite Slattery and Sarah Smith “partied on” as they explored the world of personal injury litigation and the new law criminalizing referee harassment.

Henry Byrd starred as Wayne Campbell; Kenny Haines played the role of Garth Algar; Kevin Hammond was “the G-man” (the show’s sponsor); Elizabeth Carmody starred as Wayne’s crazy ex-girlfriend, Stacy; Gahagan Pugh delivered the performance for President Donald Trump this year; and Marguerite Slattery was Wayne’s girlfriend, Cassandra.

Graham Todd was in charge of the technical aspects of the production. Elizabeth Carmody was the show director, and the script was written through the collaborative efforts of various members of the cast. Curtis Joseph and Sarah Smith once again supported the production musically.

The American Inns of Court is an association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals from all levels and backgrounds who share a passion for professional excellence. Through regular meetings, members build and strengthen professional relationships; discuss fundamental concerns about professionalism and pressing legal issues of the day; share experiences and advice; develop passion and dedication for the law; provide mentoring opportunities; and advance the highest levels of integrity, ethics and civility.

Founded in 1991, the Booth-Politz Inn, in Shreveport, was named in honor of two Shreveport legal legends, Harry V. Booth and Judge Henry A. Politz. The Inn’s goals are to emphasize collegiality and respect among its members, to offer innovative educational opportunities and to provide opportunities for its younger members to be mentored by more senior members.

Other Inn officers are Vice-President Judge Katherine Dorroh and Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Edwards.

The Inn has regular monthly meetings with CLE programs that include ethics, professionalism, practice tips, trial and deposition skills and substantive law topics. These meetings include lunch – or, if after work, dinner and a social hour. Its meetings also include an orientation meeting and welcome reception for new members each fall and an annual dinner each spring.

Each first- and second-year associate of the Inn is paired with a volunteer master or barrister who is responsible for making sure his associate (mentee) feels welcome and engaged in our Inn. The mentoring program is designed to complement, not duplicate, the state bar’s mentoring program. It offers the mentoring senior member and the associate the flexibility to determine how best to achieve our mentoring objectives. Mentors are given a list of suggested activities that include contacting their associate to confirm their attendance

at upcoming Inn meetings, sitting with their associate during Inn functions, introducing their associate to other Inn members, discovering why their associate joined the Inn, and explaining the history and purpose of the AIC. There are also more practical suggestions, such as explaining investigative services available locally, pointing out local pro bono opportunities, offering to get the associate involved in other local professional organizations, and explaining the unwritten rules of local practice that may otherwise take years of experience to learn.

There are also a number of other opportunities during the year for young associates to get practical advice and develop skills through informal lunch programs with judges and senior members on a number of interesting topics.

Judges are an important component of the Inn’s mentoring program. Our membership includes 22 state and federal judges (active and retired) who faithfully attend Inn and team meetings and assist their teams in the presentation of their teams’ programs. We are especially proud that Judge Carl E. Stewart, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and president of the AIC Board of Trustees, is a charter member of our Inn and remains an active member despite his numerous other responsibilities.

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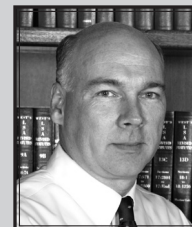
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Elizabeth W. Middleton



Charles D. Elliott



Lottie L. Bash



*Judge Foote introducing Team 6 and its Wayne's World Program*



*Sarah Smith and Curtis Joseph*



*Henry Byrd, Kenny Haines and Kevin Hammond in character*



*Team 6 cast members*



*The highly entertained audience members*



*Elizabeth Carmody*



# Golf ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

## SHOTGUN START

12:30 p.m.

### ENTRY FEES

\$600 per team  
4-Man Scramble

### LUNCH

11:00 a.m.  
included with registration fee

### REGISTER

www.shreveportbar.com  
or call Dana at 222.3643 Ext. 3

### PRIZES

Overall Low Gross and Low Net  
Scores in each flight  
Closest to the hole

June 8, 2020  
Southern Trace  
Country Club  
Shreveport, LA



## RICHARD B. KING, JR. MEMORIAL SHOOTOUT!

Enter to have your team represented in this 2-man, alternate shot contest. \$150 per team. Play begins after the scramble. Only one team will be named KING! Limited to the first 8 attorney teams registered. Call Dana at 222-3643 to register.



## REGISTRATION

### SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION 2020 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 8, 2020 at Southern Trace Country Club, Shreveport  
Lunch and Crawfish Boil is Included – Awards Given Post Play

Captain Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HDCP/Best Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HDCP/Best Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HDCP/Best Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HDCP/Best Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION and mail:  
2020 SBA Golf Tournament Registration, 625 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA 71101



# SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The emphasis is on fundraising and golf fun at the 2020 Shreveport Bar Association Golf Tournament being held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at Southern Trace Country Club. The money raised from this tournament helps fund many worthwhile programs and community services. We would not be able to put on this major event without the support of our sponsors, and we hope you will consider getting involved in this year's tournament. Listed below are the different levels of sponsorship.

### GOLF SPONSOR PACKAGES

**GRAND SLAM  
\$2,000**

**HIGHLY VISIBLE ADVERTISING ON THE COURSE!**  
Four (4) person team for golf  
Hole sponsorship on course  
Recognition in *The Bar Review*

**MASTERS  
\$1,200**

Four (4) person team for golf  
Hole sponsorship on course  
Recognition In *The Bar Review*

**U.S. OPEN  
\$600**

Representative at Tournament  
Hole Sponsorship on course  
Recognition in *The Bar Review*

**PGA  
\$500**

Hole Sponsorship on course  
Recognition in *The Bar Review*

**LEADER BOARD  
LESS THAN \$500**

Recognition in *The Bar Review*  
Day of event recognition

### GOLF SPONSOR OPTIONS

#### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- GRAND SLAM      \$2,000
- MASTERS            \$1,200
- U.S. OPEN         \$600
- PGA                 \$500
- LEADER BOARD    LESS THAN \$500

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it will appear in all publicity information and event signs)

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with your check made payable to SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION to:**

**SBA Golf Tournament, 625 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA 71101**



## Second Circuit Highlights

by Hal Odom Jr., [rhodom@la2nd.org](mailto:rhodom@la2nd.org)

**“On the showing made ...”** One of the more frequent questions asked about Second Circuit practice is, “What does it mean when the court denies a writ *on the showing made*?” The court discussed this, if only briefly, in ***Davis v. Wheeler***, 53,233 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/20), an opinion by Judge Pitman. Waiting at a stop light in his Ford truck, Davis was rear-ended by Wheeler, who was driving a Toyota Prius. Davis sued Wheeler and his insurer, State Farm, alleging the impact was a “tremendous force.” State Farm admitted fault, but contested causation, insisting it was nothing more than a “small bump.”

In the course of discovery, State Farm learned that Davis had been in two prior auto accidents in the nine months before this one. Davis filed a motion in limine to exclude any evidence of these prior accidents; the district court granted it. State Farm took a writ, which the Second Circuit denied “on the showing made.” Shortly before trial, however, State Farm filed a motion to reconsider, and the district court reversed itself, allowing evidence of one of the prior auto accidents. The case proceeded to trial, in which the jury found no preponderance of evidence of causation, and rejected Davis’s claims. Davis appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed. Davis’s first assignment contended that the trial court erred in granting State Farm’s motion to reconsider its ruling in limine to exclude evidence of both prior accidents. Because the writ denial had been “on the showing made,” “the judgment remained an interlocutory judgment that could be reconsidered rather than became a final judgment that could not be modified.” *Tolis v. Board of Sup’rs*, 95-1529 (La. 10/16/95), 660 So. 2d 1206. Under this law, the denial of writs does not create *res judicata*. A denial “on the showing made” is the court’s way of suggesting, without holding, that on a more complete record, the ruling might be different. In all events, an interlocutory ruling (like the motion in limine) is subject to review by the trial court.

**It’s personal, I tell you.** In ***Sanders v. Dupree***, 53,296 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/20), the court addressed an odd and *res nova* question: Can a curator file a suit for divorce on behalf of the interdicted person? Mr. Colvin and Ms. Dupree married in 2014, and at some point Colvin granted a power-of-attorney to Sanders. In 2018, using the power-of-attorney, Sanders filed a petition for protection from abuse and, two weeks later, a petition for Art. 102 divorce. In a separate proceeding, Mr. Colvin was declared an interdict and Sanders was named curatrix; she was later substituted as plaintiff in the divorce action. Ms. Dupree responded to the divorce petition with exceptions of “no right of action/no cause of action” and lack of procedural capacity. The district court sustained both exceptions, and Sanders appealed.

The Second Circuit, in an opinion by Judge Thompson,

framed the issue as “does a person, even if interdicted, lose the right to seek a divorce.” The court quoted the general power of a curator, La. C.C.P. art. 4566, which does not include the right to sue for divorce; the somewhat analogous rule of La. C.C. art. 92, which prohibits *marriage* by procuration; and the French doctrinal giant, Marcel Planiol, who declared in 1901 that divorce is “essentially personal” and cannot be exercised by the “tutor” for the interdict. The court concluded that a curator cannot sue for divorce on behalf of the interdict under the general provisions of authority granted to a curator. The divorce action is completely personal. Depending on the person’s level of incapacity, however, asserting the action could be a challenge.

The court’s phrasing leaves open the prospect that some special provision of law might authorize such an action, and indeed, the court amended the judgment to allow Sanders a period of time to amend the petition to cure the grounds, under La. C.C.P. art. 933 B. The court also reversed the grant of the “no right/no cause,” reasoning that a married person is someone who possesses the right to seek the remedy of divorce. The court also upbraided Ms. Dupree for confusing or improperly combining the exceptions of no cause and no right of action, which are conceptually distinct.

**What kind of doctor are you?** Ms. Staten went to the ER at Glenwood, in West Monroe, with bad abdominal pain; she had a history of ovarian cancer. Doctors ran various tests leading them to diagnose pancreatitis and a “slightly elevated” cancer antigen reading of 66; her symptoms improved, so they sent her home. On a follow-up visit two weeks later, the doctor ran another test, which showed a possible “neoplastic process,” and a CA now 180.1, but sent her home to return in a month. Before the month was up, Ms. Staten checked in at St. Francis, in Monroe, and was promptly diagnosed with peritoneal carcinomatosis. She died about a month later. Her daughter filed a request for MRP against Glenwood and its doctors; the panel found no breach of the standard of care. She then filed suit.

Each defendant filed an MSJ, supported by the MRP opinion and members’ oaths, and other MSJ evidence. The plaintiff opposed with an affidavit from a Dr. Andrew M. Schneider, M.D. This stated that he was a person of majority and resident of Florida; he had reviewed Ms. Staten’s medical records and the MRP report; he was familiar with the care she received at Glenwood; he was competent to testify regarding the standard of care; and he concluded that each named defendant breached the standard. Dr. Schneider’s CV was attached to the cover letter but not sworn. The district court granted all motions for summary judgment, and denied the plaintiff’s motion for new trial. She appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, **Staten v. Glenwood Regional Med. Ctr.**, 53,220 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1/29/20), in an opinion by Judge Cox. After quoting the general law of summary judgments, the court noted that La. C.C.P. arts. 966 and 967 “do not permit a party to utilize unsworn and unverified documents” as MSJ evidence. The problem was that Dr. Schneider’s affidavit, though sworn, did not state his qualifications or what kind of doctor he was. The CV, unfortunately, was not sworn or verified. In short, there was “no evidence” that he was competent to testify as to the standard of care or breach. The court also affirmed the denial of new trial. Chief Judge Williams dissented, arguing that even with its shortcomings, Dr. Schneider’s affidavit created genuine issues of material fact. Read together, the majority and the dissent spotlight the importance of verifying every essential part of the affidavit filed to support or oppose an MSJ.

**Time for a little service.** The court was perhaps slightly more lenient with the plaintiff in **Wilkerson v. Darden Direct Distrib. Inc.**, 53,263 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/20), an opinion by Judge Garrett. Ms. Wilkinson was eating lunch at the Olive Garden in Bossier City when she bit into a light-colored, hard object in her lobster ravioli. She claimed that she cracked a tooth, got a gum infection, and ultimately had to pull six upper teeth and scrap her existing denture. She sued Olive Garden, and the case was set for trial. However, on the date of trial, Ms. Wilkinson’s counsel told the court that the sheriff had failed to serve his subpoenas on Dr. Feavel, the dentist she had seen about two weeks after the incident, and on Mr. Dudley, the owner of the denture clinic where Dr. Feavel worked. Defense counsel offered to submit Dr. Feavel’s discovery deposition, in which he said he saw nothing in her mouth that appeared to be the result of biting into a lobster shell, but plaintiff’s counsel obviously declined. The court began the trial, hearing from Ms. Wilkinson and from the Olive Garden manager, but left the record open for 30 days so counsel could subpoena Dr. Feavel and Mr. Dudley. Deputies served Dr. Feavel and somebody named Dudley, but neither witness appeared for the resumed trial. Ms. Wilkinson asked for another continuance, but the district court denied it; the court remarked that it ran an Internet search and found a different address for Dr. Feavel. It later rendered judgment dismissing Ms. Wilkinson’s claims. She appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed, not on the merits, but strictly on the denial of continuance. The discussion is extremely fact-intensive, with emphasis on counsel’s right to rely on sheriff returns showing service, the potential confusion between two people named Dudley, and the inherent unreliability of simply running an Internet search, all balanced against the right of the plaintiff to have her day in court. Counsel’s efforts to run down two critical witnesses may not have been exemplary, but they were not weak enough to justify dismissal of the case.

**Just an uninterested judgment against the state.** In 2000, the legislature created the Future Medical Care Fund (“FMCF”), La. R.S. 39:1533.2, to cover payment of medical expenses in cases against the state. In 2010, Moore obtained a sizable judgment (nearly \$1.4 million for future medical expenses) against DOTD. The judgment recited that future medicals were to be paid pursuant to FMCF “together with legal interest” of 6%. In 2016, the La. Supreme Court held that payments from FMCF

were not subject to interest. *Fecke v. Board of Sup’rs*, 15-1806 (La. 9/23/16), 217 So. 3d 237. Meanwhile, Moore demanded nearly \$500,000 as interest on his award; the district court rejected this, and Moore appealed. The Second Circuit affirmed, **Byrd v. State**, 53,308 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/20), in an opinion by Judge Stone. The court rejected any claim that *Fecke* could not be applied “retroactively.”

**They thought they were being slick.** Foster and Fisher were the two shareholders of Cognitive Development Center of Monroe, each owning 50 shares. Relations broke down between them, and Fisher locked out Foster, literally; six weeks later, Fisher filed with the Secretary of State “amended” articles of incorporation, listing only Fisher and his wife as shareholders. Foster never voted on or consented to this. Foster sued for recognition of his 50% interest; the district court disagreed, and Fisher appealed. The Second Circuit reversed, **Foster v. Fisher**, 53,205 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2/5/20), in an opinion by Judge Stephens. The court viewed the amended articles as unilateral and without authority.

**Class action explosion?** In October 2012, Explo Systems Inc. was disassembling munitions at Camp Minden when an explosion occurred. (The aftereffects are still being felt, if only in the courtroom.) Certain residents of Doyline filed a suit for damages and certification of a class action, alleging that the class would contain over 300 people. The district court granted class certification, and Explo’s insurer appealed. The Second Circuit reversed, **Reeves v. Explo Systems Inc.**, 53,219 (La. App. 2 Cir. 3/4/20), in an opinion by Judge Garrett. The opinion is a meticulous analysis of class action law, La. C.C.P. art. 591 and FRCP 23.

**What is so rare ... as a novation?** Radar Ridge Planting Co. borrowed money from and mortgaged its 2015 corn crop to Agrifund LLC, for \$2.6 million. Agrifund made Radar Ridge execute an Agricultural Security Agreement, covering “all present and future loans,” and filed its own UCC-1F statement, securing “all present and future FSA payments.” When the note matured, rather than extending the original note, Agrifund had Radar Ridge sign a new note and mortgage, with new ASA and UCC-1F. In the meantime, however, the corn had disappeared, allegedly with the cooperation of the grain storage facility, Bunge. Agrifund sued Radar Ridge and Bunge for conversion. Bunge argued the new note was a novation, C.C. art. 1879, and as such it erased all the accessory obligations connected to the first note. Bunge then filed an MSJ to this effect, which the district court denied. Bunge appealed. The Second Circuit converted this interlocutory judgment appeal to a writ and denied relief, **Ag Resource Mgmt. v. Bunge North Amer. Inc.**, 53,417 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2020), an opinion by Judge Moore. The discussion is, of course, framed in the context of summary judgment, but it shows how exceptionally rare a novation is. If you want a new writing to be a novation, you should probably declare this in the document.



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**DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE: APRIL 15, 2020**

**SBA LAW DAY LUNCHEON - APRIL 29**

*Petroleum Club (15th Floor) – Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. Program and Speaker from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.  
 \$25.00 for SBA members includes lunch with advance reservation  
 \$30.00 for Late Reservations (after 5:00 pm the Monday prior to the luncheon) and Non-SBA Members*



**HOW LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WILL SAVE DEMOCRACY:  
 A CALL TO ACTION FOR 2020 AND BEYOND**

**When:** Wednesday, April 29 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Petroleum Club (15th floor)

**Featuring: Candice Battiste,  
 North Louisiana Power Coalition for Equity and Justice**

Candice Battiste is the North Louisiana organizer of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice and founder of Evangeline Strategies, a public relations, risk management and political consulting agency. She is an alum of Louisiana State University and earned her juris doctorate from Southern University Law Center in 2015. There, she served as president of Law Students for Reproductive Justice and was a recipient of the prestigious Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Fellowship. Upon graduation, Candice helped form the Family Law Unit of Legal Services of North Louisiana. She was the past Shreveport-Bossier field organizer with the Unanimous Jury Coalition/Yes On 2 campaign, public relations director for the Adrian Perkins for Mayor campaign, serves on the Citizen SHE Board of Directors, the ACLU of Louisiana, Board of Directors, Board of the Shreveport Downtown Development Authority and was selected as a United Nations Association Delegate. When Candice is not discussing progressive initiatives that benefit all and working to effect positive change, she is traveling or can be found at one of Louisiana’s many food and music festivals. Please join us on April 29, as we celebrate Law Day and hear Ms. Battiste’s presentation to the SBA.

**The 2020 Liberty Bell Recipient Will Be Announced At the Luncheon**

**YES, I'M  
 ATTENDING**

You may confirm your reservation(s) by email, telephone, or fax.  
 Email: [cwithers@shreveportbar.com](mailto:cwithers@shreveportbar.com) Phone: 222-3643 Ext 2 Fax: 222-9272

I plan to attend the Law luncheon. Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to call and cancel if you’re unable to attend. The SBA pays for each reservation made. Thank You!