

THE BAR REVIEW

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INSIDE | OCTOBER

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Message..... | 1 |
| How Write You Are..... | 4 |
| Federal Update | 5 |
| Second Circuit Highlights | 6 |
| Memorial & Recognition Ceremony..... | 8 |
| You Are a Part of Shreveport History, Too..... | 10 |
| Shreveport Bar Association Archives Committee Update | 11 |
| Reflections on the Life and Legacy of Jim McMichael | 12 |
| SBA Member Memorials: A Look Back..... | 15 |
| September Luncheon Highlights..... | 16 |
| Recent Developments by the Judiciary Seminar Highlights..... | 17 |

From The President



by By Kenneth P. Haines, kenny@Weems-law.com

Summer has turned to fall.

At least, that is what the calendar says. Here in Louisiana, it is usually about the week of Christmas that we have fall and then winter begins in January. One thing is for certain: it is the autumn of my presidential year, and I am finally able to announce an achievement.

I aspired to reestablish a presence for the legal assistants and support staff in the bar association this calendar year. I am able to report that we are about to cross the finish line on that goal. Mary Brown and Mark Perkins agreed to chair the effort. We have had tremendous attendance at our meetings and have organized a sustainable structure for the group to exist as a part of the Shreveport Bar Association.

Specifically, we have amended the bylaws to provide for the establishment of the Legal Community Support Staff Committee. The Legal Community Support Staff Committee shall be chaired by a member appointed by the president. The purpose of this Committee shall be to promote the interests of members of the Shreveport Bar Association who are not attorneys but work in the administration of justice or practice of law. For example, members of the committee may be paralegals, legal assistants, law students and others involved or interested in the legal profession.

Our first big event will be in December when we gather for a party to celebrate our brand-new committee members. Look for a coming announcement. We hope this group will be a resource for the attorneys in our area and will have an active membership that supports each other in the anxiety-filled world of helping lawyers practice law.

I want to thank the people who were instrumental in helping to get this project off the ground. I say off the ground because the committee has just begun. There will be work to do in the coming years. Our incoming president has assured me that she intends to forward the goals and aspirations of the group.

My sincere thanks go especially to Dana Southern. Without Dana, nothing gets done in the Shreveport Bar Association. To Mark Perkins and Mary Brown, thank you for being the first to step forward and chair this group. To my longtime friend from the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, now retired, Karen McGee, thanks to you for coming back to help an old friend. To everyone who has shown an interest and helped us establish this group in the bar association, thank you.

I hope to look back on this milestone in a couple of years and be proud of what we started in 2024. In the meantime, welcome back to all the people who make practicing law easier for someone. We could not do very much without someone helping us along the way.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10/18 | North Louisiana Criminal Law Seminar – Shreveport Bar Center |
| 10/19 | Midway to Mardi Gras Party – The Stage at Silver Star |
| 10/23 | SBA Membership Luncheon – 12:00 Noon - Petroleum Club |

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Save the Dates 2024

Shreveport Bar Association's
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By the Hour



Lunch & Learn
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PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

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How Write You Are

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

Don't clam up. When proofreading, that is! I was rereading a Second Circuit opinion which had already been released, posted on the court's website and distributed to the publishers; in short, a document that had been written by a judge, and read and approved by at least two other judges, a secretary and myself. But there, in the greasy ink of the Thomson Reuters advance sheet, I saw a reference to the "one-year prescriptive period for filing a workers' compensation *clam* involving an occupational illness[.]" A clam can be a shellfish, vernacular for a dollar or an idiom for happiness, but it's not a claim!

This is a typo that is easy to make. "The Court reviews *de novo* a district court's judgment dismissing an action under Rule 12(b)(6) for failure to state a *clam* upon which relief can be granted." *In re Complaint of Settoon Towing*, 2024 WL 3520166 (5 Cir. 7/24/24). "After the PUC issued the two decertification orders, the parties filed competing motions for summary judgment on all remaining *clams*." *Dobbin Plantersville Water Supp. Co. v. Lake*, 108 F.4th 320 (5 Cir. 2024). "The trial court granted Mr. Robinson's exception of no cause of action and dismissed Kerrielle's and Chris's *clams* against him." *Robinson, Praying for Monition*, 22-0851 (La. App. 4 Cir. 10/16/23), 382 So. 3d 934.

The Second Circuit's contribution to this catalog was promptly withdrawn and the opinion now correctly refers to a "workers' compensation *claim* involving an occupational illness" under R.S. 23:1031.1 E. *Linn v. Ouachita Parish Police Jury*, 55,480 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/10/24), 383 So. 3d 1171. It serves as a reminder that nobody is a "perfect" proofreader; proofing is essentially a work in progress.

Some proofreading tips. I tried to assemble a list of strategies for the administrative assistants in our building, to cut down on corrections like the one I just described. These may be of use to readers:

Time! Leave yourself plenty of time for proofreading. Whenever possible, put the document down and come back to it the next day.

Resources. You don't have to memorize every grammar or citation rule. However, you have to be able to look them up. We use a "Modified *Blue Book*" style for statutes, the La. Supreme rules for cases, and our own in-house style and usage guidelines for punctuation, common word choices, etc. When in doubt, refer to these!

Know your weaknesses. Make a mental list of the errors you tend to make. Then look for these when you proofread. I often type *by* instead of *but*. If I catch one of these somewhere in a document, I will search the whole thing for *by* to make sure all are correct. I sometimes type *the* instead of *that* – an error that's



harder to catch by searching.

Hard copy always. It's much easier to catch errors on paper than on a screen. All the authorities agree on this, and so do I.

Spell check and grammar check. These programs are helpful but not perfect. They do not recognize our "special" punctuation of terms like *second degree murder* (no hyphen, per R.S. 14:30.1) or our unique spelling of civil law terms like the *olographic* will (no *h* in front, per La. C.C. art. 1575).

Content. This is the hardest thing. Your proofreading is more effective when you have a good feel for the content – what we normally say, how we normally say it, and anything else that just seems out of place.

These may help. Some guides say to use a wooden or steel ruler under each line of print so you can't jump to the next line too fast. Others say to put a pencil point on each word and read it out loud before moving to the next word. I don't use these tactics, but most authorities list them; they *will* make you go slower and, perhaps, help you catch some typos. Other guides say to do these things, but backwards, starting at the end and moving up to the beginning. I don't use this tactic either, but some authorities say it's great for catching sentence fragments.

For these tips, I'd like to express my gratitude to the following references: (1) *Student Writing Quicktips*, U. of Minnesota, Center for Writing. (2) *Tips for Editing and Proofreading*, E. Illinois U. (3) *Quick Proofreading Tips*, Saginaw Valley State U., The Writing Center. (4) *Guide to Editing and Proofreading*, U. of Wolverhampton (U.K.). These, and many others, can be found online.

I will also reassure readers that absolutely no Artificial Intelligence was used in the compilation of this list, or in any installment of "How Write You Are"!

Dirty, but necessary. A front-page story in *The Times* (Shreveport) reported that an organization had formed to certify that residents and businesses "near the Fairgrounds are not unwittingly exposed to toxic histoplasmosis from *bat feces* at Fair Grounds Field." Ian Robinson, '*Determined to rush recklessly into demolition*,' *The Times*, 8/29/24, p. 1A. Batters like to swing for the fences, but not that kind of fence.

Perhaps the least offensive corrective can be found in a noted treatise. "The bat guano was composed of *bat feces* and urine [and] * * * was a unique and largely undesirable substance that was commonly understood to be harmful." 9 Couch on Ins., 3 ed., § 127.8, fn. 7 (June 2024 update). Your writing should not reek like guano, but sometimes you have to call stuff what it is!



Federal Update

by Chris Slatten, Chris_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov

Time to Serve a Foreign Defendant:

Rule 4(m) allows 90 days from the filing of the complaint to serve a defendant. What about a foreign defendant, where service under the Hague Convention or

similar means can take several months?

Rule 4(m) says that it does not apply to service in a foreign country. But a 5CA decision reminds us that this “does not mean that the time to serve process in a foreign country is unlimited.” Rule 4(f), which governs service internationally, “authorizes a without-prejudice dismissal when the court determines in its discretion that the plaintiff has not demonstrated reasonable diligence in attempting service.” *Shah v. Novelis*, 2024 WL 1739753 (5th Cir. 2024). “Good faith and reasonable dispatch are the proper yardsticks.” *Id.*

The local practice is to ask for a status report on foreign service after a few months. The party responsible for service should be prepared to show reasonable diligence in retaining a service company, getting documents translated, etc. Otherwise, there is a risk the court will dismiss the foreign defendant.

Machine Guns, Glock Switches, Switchblades, and Altered Serial Nos. Protected by the Second Amendment?:

A Kansas district judge recently granted a defendant’s motion to dismiss an indictment under 18 U.S.C. § 922(o) for possessing (1) an Anderson AM-15 machinegun and (2) a Glock switch that allowed a Glock .357 SIG caliber pistol to fire as a fully automatic weapon.

The judge applied *Bruen* and granted an “as applied” challenge to the indictment; the defendant’s possession of such bearable arms was protected by the Second Amendment. *U.S. v. Morgan*, 2024 WL 3936767 (D. Kan. 2024). Other judges disagree. See, e.g., *U. S. v. Mitchell*, 2024 WL 2272275 (N.D. Ohio 2024) (denying motion to dismiss indictment for possessing Glock switch); *U. S. v. Fisher*, 2024 WL 589115 (W.D. N.C. 2024) (same).

Meanwhile, the highest court in Massachusetts unanimously applied *Bruen* to throw out a conviction for possessing a switchblade knife. *Commonwealth v. Canjura*, 240 N.E. 3rd 213 (Mass. 2024). There have also been challenges to the federal ban on obliterating or altering a firearm’s serial number. The Fourth Circuit recently held in a divided opinion that the federal prohibition does not violate the Second Amendment on its face. *U.S. v. Price*, 111 F.4th 392 (4th Cir. 2024) (en banc).

The Second Amendment applies to arms that did not exist at the country’s founding, but *Bruen* says that modern legal restrictions of those arms are unconstitutional unless they are consistent with a “well-established and representative historical analogue.” *Rahimi* muddied that water, making it difficult for practitioners and courts to sort out what is a permitted limitation. This will take the place of the abortion

cases, with courts spending tons of time over the next decades drawing lines as to who can possess what arms when and where.

Lifetime Internet Ban: The feds abolished parole decades ago, but a sentence can include imprisonment followed by a period of supervised release (SR). If the defendant messes up, his SR can be revoked. SR can include terms such as a limitation on internet use for child porn offenders.

The 5CA addressed in *U.S. v. Duke*, 788 F.3d 392, 399 (5th Cir. 2015) an absolute, lifetime internet ban and held that they are not permissible. On the other hand, the 5CA has upheld (1) absolute internet bans for limited durations and (2) lifetime internet restrictions that condition usage on probation officer or court approval.

A district court nonetheless imposed an absolute, lifetime ban in a particularly horrific case. The 5CA vacated the ban based on *Duke*, but Judge Oldham concurred to argue that *Duke* is wrong and should be overturned. *U.S. v. Nelson*, 114 F.4th 478 (5th Cir. 2024). Stay tuned.

Corporate Disclosure Statement: Fed. R. Civ. P. art. 7.1(a)(1) states: “A nongovernmental corporate party or a nongovernmental corporation that seeks to intervene must file a statement that: (A) identifies any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock; or (B) states that there is no such corporation.” The rule is designed to help sniff out cases where a judge may have a financial interest that warrants recusal.

The clerk of court sends a reminder to any entity-party that needs to file a disclosure statement. Attorneys for LLCs, limited partnerships, or other non-corporate entities sometimes ask if they need to file a statement since the rule applies only to corporations. Yes.

A clerk of court explained to me that the docket clerks are not lawyers and cannot always tell from the name of a party whether it is a corporation or some other entity, so their instruction is to send a reminder and require a statement from any party other than an individual or government. If the party is not a corporation, it can file a disclosure statement and say something like: “ABC, LLC is a limited liability company, so the corporate disclosure requirement of Rule 7.1 is not applicable to it.” Of course, if a publicly traded corporation is a member or has an interest, it would be wise to note that to avoid surprise recusal issues. P.S. This has *nothing* to do with the requirement of Rule 7.1(a)(2) to file a citizenship disclosure statement in a diversity case.



Second Circuit Highlights

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

In 2023, the Second Circuit affirmed 61% of the civil appeals it received; in 2022, it was 71%. Most of the reversals are summary judgments, and several arose on the last two dockets.

How big is that hole? Ms. Poole went grocery shopping at the Brookshire's in Rayville. After she finished, she walked out to her car carrying four or five bags of groceries. However, traversing the parking lot she tripped and fell in a hole (she called it a "crater") in the pavement. She sustained various injuries, including an awkward rupture to a breast implant. She and her husband sued Brookshire's for premises liability; Brookshire's responded with a motion for summary judgment urging the hole was so open and obvious that no duty existed. The district court noted the plaintiffs were from Richland Parish and likely were aware that this parking lot was pitted with myriad holes. The court granted summary judgment; the Pooles appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Poole v. Brookshire Grocery Co.*, 55,801 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/28/24), in an opinion by Judge Stephens. The court carefully outlined the owner's duty under La. C.C. art. 2317.1, the duty-risk analysis and risk-utility balancing test recently propounded in *Farrell v. Circle K Stores Inc.*, 22-00849 (La. 3/17/23), 359 So. 3d 467, and the special role of "open and obvious" in this analytical framework. Brookshire's seemed to concede that the hole was large, and the lot was in generally deplorable condition, but the Second Circuit considered that it was a place designated for pedestrians, who may be juggling grocery bags and watching for vehicles and other pedestrians rather than surveying the path ahead. The court asked if a patron carrying grocery bags could see the hole or walk around it? If so, would she only step in another hole? These unanswered questions created a genuine issue that precluded summary judgment. The court also noted that whether Ms. Poole was a resident of Richland Parish was irrelevant to the analysis.

The district court has probably signaled the way it will rule after a trial on the merits, but at least the plaintiffs will get to argue the principles of *Farrell*. Surely Art. 2317.1 doesn't mean owners should let their property degrade to the level of Bakhmut just so they can win a MSJ on the basis of open and obvious defects.

Shine some light here. Dickerson was riding his 2008 Roketa scooter around 9:45 pm on New Year's Eve, going north on Union Avenue, in the Caddo Heights area. Ealy was driving his 2005 Kia Sedona minivan south, delivering a pizza for Domino's. Coming to the intersection with Clanton Street, Ealy slowed to make a left turn. Unfortunately, when he turned, he ran straight into the oncoming scooter, injuring Dickerson. Dickerson sued Ealy, his auto liability carrier, Allstate, and his employer, RPM Pizza.

RPM moved for summary judgment, filing a slew of attachments that really smeared Dickerson's competence as a driver: he was under the influence of THC and meth, was legally blind, was not wearing a helmet, had no driver's license or insurance, and had been warned not to drive anymore. More critically, RPM asserted that Dickerson's headlight was off, a point confirmed by Ealy and by the investigating officer. Dickerson

admitted many of these things but asserted that there was still light in the sky, even at 9:45 pm on December 31, and he offered the deposition of a witness who was riding about 30 feet behind the scooter and was certain that Dickinson's headlight was *on*. Ealy and Allstate joined RPM's motion.

The district court granted summary judgment, finding no evidence that Dickerson made any attempt to slow or avoid crashing into the minivan, which of course he didn't do because of his seriously impaired vision and lack of a driver's license. Dickerson appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Dickerson v. RPM Pizza LLC*, 55,739 (La. App. 2 Cir. 7/17/24), in an opinion by Judge Robinson. The court noted the heightened duty of any driver making a left turn, *Theriot v. Lasseigne*, 93-2661 (La. 7/5/94), 640 So. 2d 1305, and the burden of proving the plaintiff's fault in such a situation, *Dakmak v. Baton Rouge City Police Dept.*, 12-1468 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/4/14), 153 So. 3d 498. In spite of Dickerson's undisputed impairment and incredibly poor judgment in getting on the scooter, the court could not avoid the glaring issue, did the scooter have its headlight on? Ealy and the cop said no, but the other cyclist said yes, and this was crucial to deciding whether Ealy should have seen the oncoming scooter. The court distinguished a case on which the district court relied, *Wooten v. Bartholomew*, 556 So. 2d 75 (La. App. 4 Cir. 1989), as factually similar but coming after a trial on the merits and a specific finding that the cyclist did not have his lights on. The court also declined to dismiss Dickerson's claims on the basis of a special immunity statute, La. R.S. 9:2798.4 ("Immunity from liability; injuries sustained by persons driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs"), as nobody raised this defense on MSJ.

The district court may have signaled how it is likely to rule if the case ever makes it to trial, but even a seriously impaired, borderline competent plaintiff ought to be able to show he turned his headlights on.

Proof of title required. Johnny and Helen owned and operated a 400-acre farm in Morehouse Parish, incorporating it as Ceres Inc. in the early 1980s. They died intestate in 1986 and 1992, survived by two sons, Johnny Jr., who operated the farm with his wife, Annette, and Kenneth, who acted as president of Ceres at intervals. Kenneth moved out of state in 2000 but continued to consult with his brother about operating the business; he moved back in 2009. Johnny Jr. died in 2014, having executed an olographic will that left everything to his wife, Annette; Annette continued to operate the farm. In 2018, Kenneth filed suit for declaratory judgment; he contended Annette was claiming to be 100% owner of Ceres, based on spurious stock certificates. Kenneth contended that *he* was the owner of Ceres, by virtue of his parents' successions.

Less than one month later, Ceres sold the farm to Duke, for \$1.32 million, on the basis of a corporate resolution declaring Annette the sole board member and shareholder. Kenneth then amended his petition, to add Duke as defendant. Duke moved for summary judgment regarding the ownership of Ceres: even though Kenneth alleged he inherited his stock from his parents' successions, he had no evidence to show that his parents actually owned 100% of the corporation. The district court agreed, granting summary judgment and dismissing Kenneth's claims against Duke. Kenneth appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Kovac v. Kovac*, 55,782 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/28/24), in an opinion by Judge Hunter. The court noted that Duke was relying on apparent authority, and such a person “may not blindly rely on the assertions of an agent,” *Service Steel & Pipe Inc. v. Guinn’s Trailer Sales Inc.*, 37,291 (La. App. 2 Cir. 6/25/03), 850 So. 2d 902. The court found that Ceres owned the 400 acres of farmland, and that Johnny Jr. bequeathed his stock in Ceres to Annette. However, Annette relied on stock certificates, from 1992 and 2001, which were not signed by Kenneth, who was secretary-treasurer and president in those respective years. In short, there was a genuine issue whether Johnny and Helen ever conveyed their stock to Johnny Jr., or that Johnny Jr. was ever sole owner of Ceres stock

In ordinary circumstances, it might be difficult for a third-party purchaser to prove a corporate chain of title that predated the sale by 20 to 30 years. However, since the principal action, against Annette, is still pending, the third-party purchaser will get the benefit of the evidence between the two scrapping in-laws.

Cancel with care. Riding his 2006 Harley east on I-20, Dickey Porter slowed down to take the Choudrant exit, in Ouachita Parish, when he was struck from behind by a speeding 2011 Chevy Silverado, knocked off his bike and thrown down the embankment. The Silverado was owned by Service First Inc. (“SFI”), an air conditioning contractor in West Monroe, and being driven by Joshua McGuffee, an SFI employee who was on the job at the time. Alleging extensive injuries, Porter sued McGuffee, SFI and its insurer, Travelers, which provided auto liability coverage for SFI’s fleet. Sadly, the discussion is not yet about the plaintiff.

Travelers immediately asserted that, seven months before the accident, it had issued a “change endorsement” to remove the 2011 Silverado from the policy. SFI and McGuffee responded that if this happened, it was due to clerical error. Travelers decided to force the issue and moved for summary judgment declaring no coverage. It attached the affidavit of its managing director, who said SFI had submitted a policy change request to drop the 2011 Silverado, and Travelers complied, issuing a \$2,477 rebate to SFI. It also attached the deposition of SFI’s CEO, who stated they wanted to remove “Vehicle 8” from service, but this was a mistake which was not noticed until after the accident; he blamed the insurance agent for striking the wrong 2011 Silverado. SFI opposed the motion, filing its CEO’s affidavit stating that they were actually trying to remove the other 2011 Silverado from the policy, but he and the insurance agent removed the one in the accident “by mutual error.” He added that he never received a notice of cancellation from DPSC regarding the Silverado at issue, leading him to think it was still covered.

The district court read the policy and found the 2011 Silverado was removed before the accident. It granted summary judgment; SFI and McGuffee appealed. The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Porter v. McGuffee*, 55,845 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/28/24), in an opinion by Judge Cox. Noting that insurance policies may be reformed on grounds of mutual error, *Samuels v. State Farm*, 06-0034 (La. 10/17/06), 939 So. 2d 123, the court accepted SFI’s position that a clerical mistake had occurred when somebody crossed off the wrong 2011 Silverado, and SFI had no way to notice because its premium was the same either way and DPSC sent no notice. This was enough to create the genuine issue that would preclude summary judgment.

As with any claim of mutual error, this case was probably so fact-intensive that the MSJ was bound to fail. However, it illustrates that with diligent research, an insured can sometimes defeat a MSJ and keep open for trial the issue of coverage.

Petitory action on the fence. Sarah, with her mother and brother, received title to a tract of land in Richland Parish by partition deed in 1957; she and her tenant, Cumpton, allegedly possessed the land all the way to a fence which was long gone. The tract immediately to the south went to another heir and, in late 2020, to Dragon Estates. Dragon Estates wanted to build a subdivision, so it promptly erected a barbwire fence that overlaid part of the property Sarah and her tenant were farming. Sarah and the tenant filed a boundary action claiming ownership of the property all the way to the original fence line. After discovery, Sarah and the tenant moved for summary judgment, which the district court granted. Dragon Estates appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Cumpton v. Dragon Estates LLC*, 55,784 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/21/24), in an opinion by Judge Robinson. The summary judgment evidence was fairly intricate; anyone litigating a MSJ in a boundary case will probably recognize the components. Ultimately, it boiled down to whether Sarah and her tenant had possessed all the way to the original fence, for purposes of acquisitive prescription. The court cited “conflicting surveys with different boundary lines,” aerial photos lacking in clarity, photos of current (but not prior) utility poles, and some testimony riddled with credibility issues, finding too many genuine issues to permit a summary judgment. The case illustrates the challenge of disposing of a rural boundary case by MSJ.

Summary judgment = res judicata? In a diligently litigated case, Mr. Godfrey, an attorney in New Orleans, filed suit against someone named Craig Jones and Jones’s insurer, Go Auto. Godfrey alleged that Jones was driving Godfrey’s 2004 Chevy Suburban, without Godfrey’s permission, and crashed it into a utility pole in Tensas Parish. Go Auto moved for summary judgment, citing its “care, custody or control” policy exclusion. The district court agreed, granted summary judgment and dismissed the claim against Go Auto. Godfrey appealed; the Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Godfrey v. Go Auto Ins. Co.*, 54,060 (La. App. 2 Cir. 9/22/21), 328 So. 3d 537: the exclusion conflicted with La. R.S. 32:900 E. Back in the Sixth JDC, Go Auto filed another MSJ, arguing that a subsequent opinion from the La. Supreme Court, *Landry v. Progressive Sec. Ins. Co.*, 21-00621 (La. 1/28/22), 347 So. 3d 712, held that an exclusion like Go Auto’s did not conflict with § 900. The district court agreed, granted the summary judgment and (again) dismissed the claim against Go Auto. Godfrey appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Godfrey v. Go Auto Ins. Co.*, 55,824 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/28/24), in an opinion by Judge Stone. One of Godfrey’s arguments was that the court already ruled that the exclusion was unenforceable, and this ruling prohibited Go Auto from asserting lack of coverage again. Not so, said the court; res judicata simply does not apply to an interlocutory judgment, La. C.C.P. art. 1915 B(1). The court also observed that a separate exclusion may have had merit, but given the ruling on the contested exclusion, it would not change the result.

Godfrey was ultimately unable to block the summary judgment, but it is a good example of a litigant (here, Go Auto) losing its first MSJ, regrouping, and then coming back with a successful second motion.

Memorial & Recognition Ceremony



Members of the Shreveport Bar Association are encouraged to participate in the annual Memorial & Recognition Ceremony to be held Thursday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m. at the Caddo Parish Courthouse in Courtroom G. It is an opportunity for SBA members to honor the deceased and celebrate their contributions to the profession and to the sanctity of law. Their families are also invited and truly appreciate this show of honor and respect. The memorial service is followed by the introduction of new lawyers which is an important and meaningful kickoff tradition for those just starting to serve the legal profession.

In addition to honoring deceased members and recognizing new members, this gathering presents an occasion to reflect on your own legal career and to encourage those who are just entering the profession.

A reception following the Memorial & Recognition Ceremony will be held in Courtroom B.

Attention All Attorneys!

New Attorneys will be honored on November 14. Please pass this information along to anyone who passed the Louisiana Bar Exam after November 2023.

In connection with the SBA's Memorial and Recognition Ceremony being held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, the following events have been planned for area new attorneys:

8:30 AM – 1:15 PM – New Attorney Seminar – Shreveport Bar Center - 625 Texas Street (includes lunch). All new attorneys who passed the Bar Exam in 2024 are invited to the seminar.

2:00 PM – Memorial & Recognition Ceremony – Courtroom G – Caddo Parish Courthouse

Reception immediately follows in Courtroom B.

All attorneys who passed the Louisiana Bar Exam in 2024 will be recognized during the ceremony. Attorneys and judicial offices are asked to turn in any names of attorneys who have passed the bar to Dana at the SBA Office either by email: dsouthern@shreveportbar.com or telephone (222-3643 Ext. 3).



In Memory of:

Michael Bowers

William Manasseh Cady III

Judge (Ret) Richard Harmon Drew Jr.

Joseph William "Bill" Fleming

Elizabeth Lawrence Gibson

Howard Lynwood "Lyn" Lawrence

James C. McMichael Jr.

Judge Lane Pittard

Henry Allyn Sale

David A. Szwak

Stephen Morrow Waller

Claudius Emile Whitmeyer

Kenneth "Ken" Preston Wright



The Shreveport Bar Association
and Judges of the
First Judicial District Court
cordially invite you
to attend the annual

Memorial & Recognition Ceremony

honoring deceased and
new members of the Bar
Thursday, the fourteenth of November at
Two o'clock in the afternoon
Courtroom G
Caddo Parish Courthouse
501 Texas Street
Shreveport, Louisiana
Reception to follow In Courtroom B

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



General Thomas A. Bussiere

The Shreveport Bar Association
2024 Veterans Day program will be held on
Wednesday, November 13, beginning at 12:00
Noon at the Petroleum Club (15th floor).

Our Veterans Day Program
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You Are a Part of Shreveport History, Too

by Matt Smith, matt@tsjclaw.com

I'm new here. If the following tales are old lore for you, indulge me. There is a point.

While house hunting in Shreveport, my wife said "I want that one" and it was pretty much a done deal before the realtor let us through the front doors. Little did we know, despite our insatiable appetite for research (paid and unpaid), the Mediterranean revival brick house in the historic Fairfield neighborhood that we purchased was a part of Shreveport legal history.



Aaron Burton Levisse

My neighborhood was built on a piney hill belonging to Caddo people, who probably needed better lawyers. After thriving here for 1,000+ years, they were forced out by settlers and the United States government. Shreveport lawyer, judge, soldier and state legislator Aaron Burton Levisse acquired the land and built a house just down the street from us in 1856. He called his estate "Thornhill." It would later

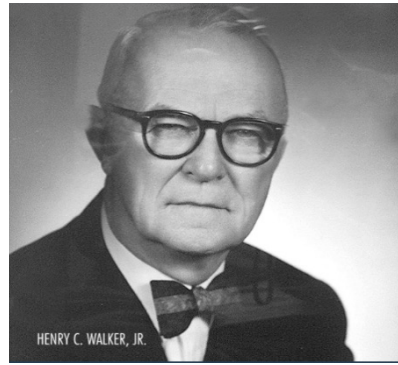
be used as a Confederate hospital and you can bet I'll be replaying that fact for my kids this and every Halloween to come.



Henry Clay Walker Jr. house

Our house was built by Henry Clay Walker Jr., founder of the Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin and Roberts law firm. Many other Shreveport lawyers have resided at my house. I know because I still receive their mail (tsk, tsk) and some have left artifacts – like the enormous portrait of a very debonair, very mysterious woman that hangs in our foyer.

Mr. Walker Jr. built the house for his father in 1923, using the St. Louis architecture firm of Maritz & Young, builders of many houses on the National Historic Register. Mr. Walker Jr. built himself a nearly identical house, just twice the size, around the corner on Fairfield Ave. and sold the lot across the street to Richard William Norton, Sr., from whom Shreveport received the Norton Art Gallery. The sale was notarized by Elias Goldstein, a local hero in his own right, with whom Mr. Walker Jr. started Blanchard Walker in 1917, later adding Governor Newton C. Blanchard, among many notable others. Elias Goldstein and A.C. Steere later gave us Betty Virginia Park. You can't



Henry C. Walker Jr.

Walker Jr. also taught math at LSU to pay his tuition. This was all decades before Huey P. Long sold that property to build the current capitol there and was doling out deanships like a bookie putting bets out over the phone. Hopefully that anecdote helps you remember that, when you're outmatched, every lawyer was once a law student and even Huey P. Long once struggled to close a deal.



Robert Lee Tullis

And everyone was once new to Shreveport – Mr. Walker Jr. arrived in 1914. He was president of the Shreveport Bar Association *and* the Shreveport Country Club, Shreveport Riding Club and Shreveport Skeet Club (which reminds me of current Bar Association President Kenneth Haines enthusiastically telling kids "I am the president of the bar association *and* my homeowners' association!" – a critical historic footnote for the future).

Perhaps his most important legacy, Mr. Walker Jr. was remembered for his contributions to the development of young legal talent in Shreveport, and what better legacy could a lawyer leave?

Here's the sales pitch. Lawyering isn't easy and we're not all as fortunate to have access to the insight and guidance from old(er) lawyers. That's why you should check out the Shreveport Bar Association's Oral Histories page. The campfire yarns and inspiring memories of the legal giants of yore are frozen in time there. When you feel like just another cog in the machine, the Oral Histories page colorfully suggests that you are not. You are a part of something bigger and if you bend your arc of history toward justice, you too may one day become immortalized for whatever it is you probably should be working on right now instead of reading this.

To get started, I highly recommend the oral history of Henry C. Walker IV – the grandson of Henry C. Walker Jr. and a champion of civil rights – who provides a gruesome anecdote from his seminal case before Judge Tom Stagg, *Jackson vs. Whitman*.

Acknowledgement: information herein is based on recreational research of materials from the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, the Blanchard Walker law firm, the Library of Congress, the National Parks Service, the Shreveport Bar Association, LSU Professor Robert Mann, and Eric Brock, and is, for the most part, not the product of any of the author's actual historic research, and should not be relied upon for professional purposes.

go anywhere in Shreveport without walking on the history of its lawyers.

Born in 1885, Mr. Walker Jr. graduated from Vanderbilt and studied law at LSU under Dean Emeritus and moot court namesake Robert Lee Tullis when the law school was in the basement of the LSU Chemistry Building. Mr.



Shreveport Bar Association Archives Committee Update

by Lawrence W. Pettiette Jr., lpettiette@padwbc.com

On Friday, September 20, 2024, the Archives Committee invited senior members to visit and reminisce and tell tales. Among those in attendance were Charles Salley, Henry Walker, Laurie Lyons, Herschel Richard, Tommy Johnson, Ben Politz, David Melville, Larry Pettiette, Chris Slatten, Taunton Melville and Matt Smith.

The event was entertaining and informative, and a video was made to commemorate it for the Shreveport Bar's archives.

Please join the SBA Archives Committee for fellowship, lunch and storytelling of events of interest in the Shreveport Bar Association

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20 Sept 2024 Shreveport Bar Center
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM 625 Texas Street
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Note: Bring your stories and memorabilia



Janey Pettiette provided a vegetarian lasagna with Cucuzza Italian Squash by Louis Cordaro, which the family ships all over the United States.

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Reflections on the Life and Legacy of Jim McMichael

by Scott Crichton, scrichton@lasc.org

Fresh out of law school and eager to watch a jury trial in action, I randomly stumbled into the second degree murder case of *State v. Lewis Graham*.¹ As fate would have it, the defendant was being prosecuted by Caddo District Attorney Paul Carmouche² and Assistant District Attorney Jim McMichael. After witnessing Jim masterfully undermine an expert's credibility in this showcase trial and secure the conviction of Dr. Graham, I was hooked. I knew my next career move.



McMichael Jr, James C.

Shortly thereafter, I was hired by the Caddo District Attorney's Office and assigned to Section One, under the leadership of Jim, who was chief of that section at the time. A few days before my start date, Jim introduced himself and, in the same breath, instructed that I should spend the weekend reading the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. I protested that I had "read both in law school." "Read them again," Jim retorted. Jim was a stickler for black-letter law, but he also made sure I knew the way things were *actually* done – some of which were well-known formal rules and some of which could not be found written down anywhere (believe me, I looked). Jim was a devout student of Irving Younger, a lawyer, law professor and prolific author who taught trial advocacy.³ Jim particularly loved Younger's "Commandments of Cross Examination" and insisted that I commit them to memory, with a test to follow.

Jim was outstanding at identifying and exploiting weaknesses in the opposing party's case. He was preparing for the retrial in *State v. Bobby Ray Williams*, an aggravated rape/attempted second degree murder case which had ended in a mistrial.⁴ Jim asked me to serve as second chair, tasked with about 20% of the courtroom work. Excited, yet apprehensive, I spent days and nights poring over police reports, digging into physical evidence, reading and rereading the first trial transcript, and imagining my role in the case. Days before trial began, Jim asked me to join law enforcement in a state police helicopter as it flew over the crime scene to take aerial photos – a thrilling opportunity! Criminal trials are often emotionally charged and contested, and this one was no different, with unexpected twists and turns almost resulting in a second mistrial. The most memorable point was Jim's brilliant cross-examination of the defendant, using the aerial photographs he had trusted me to obtain, which established that the events of that night could not have possibly occurred as the defendant had testified. The defendant's credibility was completely undermined, and the jury returned guilty verdicts in less than an hour.

In another case, an armed robbery that occurred in broad daylight, the defendant insisted he was innocent and testified he was home on the Saturday in question watching *American Bandstand*, which, he explained, he religiously watched every weekend. Jim debunked this purported alibi by calling the programming manager at KTBS-TV, who testified that on that particular day, the ABC Network had preempted *American Bandstand* for a football game! Again, Jim's willingness to go the extra mile proved the defendant was lying and ensured a guilty verdict.

Jim wasn't all business, though! A Friday afternoon custom of the Caddo District Attorney's Office was to gather at a certain dive bar a few blocks from the courthouse. Jim was a regular and, as my boss, mandated that I also attend those meetings. It was collegiality-building, fun and a great way to unwind from the week. As he had promised, and true to his personal commitments, Jim devoted three years of his career to the DA's Office before returning to private practice, where for the next 40 years he served his clients with the highest degree of both legal prowess and professionalism.⁵ Among his many accomplishments, Jim was a recipient of the Shreveport Bar Association Professionalism Award, which recognized that while Jim was the consummate litigator – well prepared and zealous, fighting hard for his clients – he also fought fair, and was known for his integrity.

Meanwhile, I took the teachings of my mentor and ran a decade-long course in the DA's Office, ending with my own showcase trial.⁶ I applied the trial advocacy skills that I learned from Jim, including his ability to eloquently tell

the story of his client through an opening statement, his thorough direct examination of witnesses on his side and, of course, his razor-sharp ability to cross-examine the adverse side applying Younger's Commandments.

When I announced my candidacy for Caddo District Judge in 1990, Jim was by my side. Nearly a quarter century later, in 2014, when I ran for Louisiana Supreme Court, Jim was there once again. He offered advice, counsel, friendship and, as always, mentorship. Through the 10 years that followed, though my job was in New Orleans, we stayed in contact as much as our schedules would allow, visiting over lunch, sometimes for a beer, or indulging in one of his favorites: Maker's Mark and water. And of all the weddings I have performed during my time in the judiciary, perhaps the most memorable was that of Jim and Sharla on November 30, 2013. It was truly an honor of my life.

After receiving the distressing news in the fall of 2023 that Jim had diabetes with severe complications, I visited him in the hospital. Out of planned for a short visit, but, at visit lasted more than two hours. early days in the DA's Office, our his 40-year journey through year journey with the judiciary, regaled me with his plans to leg, and insisted that after my together – this time with me as

Jim bravely managed to before his health took an even this year. Through it all, Jim a resilient focus through the Jim in the summer of 2024. Once marathon discussion covering then Jim had resigned from the practice of law, so I suggested that he might serve as a litigation consultant and maybe, upon the conclusion of my term, a shared mediation practice. That seemed to excite both of us, if for just a moment. But as the visit drew to a close and reality set in, we came to the stark realization that we must make our final farewells. We exchanged deeply personal and important words. Jim died days later.



Nov 30 2013 Jim and Sharla McMichael Wedding with Justice Scott Crichton officiating.

respect for Jim and his family, I Jim's insistence, that precious We talked of everything: the (literal) trials and tribulations, civil practice and my 30-plus our families, and politics. He learn to play golf with only one term ended, we'd litigate a case first chair.

make a few court appearances more serious downturn earlier didn't complain; he maintained agony. I made one last visit with again, we fell into an afternoon every topic we could think of. By

Until his funeral on August 16, 2024, I was not aware that Jim had performed legal work for St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and had developed not only a solid attorney-client relationship but also a friendship with the Very Rev. Alston Boyd Johnson. While Jim was hospitalized, Rev. Johnson visited him often. Together they embarked on a Christian journey, one never too late to start. As we learned from a heartfelt and moving remembrance delivered by his daughter Lee, Jim's last word following his receipt of Holy Communion from Rev. Johnson at his bedside was "Amen."

Delivering a powerful and impactful eulogy before a full-capacity congregation at St. Mark's, Rev. Johnson spoke of Jim's life, peppering it with snippets submitted by Jim's close friends. I provided the following note about Jim: "Jim was the quintessential courtroom lawyer; he could take a complex case and distill it down to two simple issues, each with a resolution that would make total sense." As Rev. Johnson recited, others contributed the following:

One wrote: In thinking about Jim, one word that comes to mind is "comfortable." Jim was comfortable with himself, with his family and friends, with his profession, and with his interests. Whether it was duck hunting, fly fishing, golf, cooking or in the courtroom, he was comfortable with those he was with and what he was doing.

When I think of Jim, I am reminded of a four-letter word. Not the one you're thinking of. The word is nice. Jim was a really nice guy. That is why so many of us liked him, why he had so many friends and why so many people are here today at this service. I know he is finally resting in peace.

Another one focused on Jim's last year: When any of us think of Jim, we think of him as happy. Happy to see you. Happy to talk with you, happy to laugh with you. But those closest to Jim know he had plenty of things to be unhappy about . . . His attitude? Same old Jim. Then he learned he had terrible kidney problems. Jim loved to cook and loved to enjoy good food in all forms. But Jim was put

on a diet so strict that the doctor said, “If it tastes good, spit it out.” He lost lots of weight.

What he didn’t lose was his sense of humor. He laughed at himself and made us laugh, too...

If Jim wanted to complain, to cry about all the pain, physical and emotional, he could have complained to me. We’d been best friends since we were in the seventh grade. No, what Jim wanted to talk to me about was getting to play golf again. We went through his bag, club by club, discussing whether or not each one should be one of the 14 he’d play with.

The last time I talked to Jim he sounded great. He’d finally faced the music and decided to retire. That gave him a great sense of relief. I thought Jim’s luck had finally changed. Maybe it had. No more pain. No more worry. No more fretting over what driver would be best for a man with two prosthetic legs.

And, finally, a pallbearer presented a lighter, perhaps incriminating anecdote: Jim was one of a few of our law school classmates who made law school somewhat bearable, if that is possible. Jim and a few of us decided to concentrate more on golf than on law classes. We would send a designated person into the class to sign the roll sheet, and then meet at the golf course. Some of those individuals, who shall remain unnamed, are honorary pallbearers today.

Considering Jim’s stunning list of contributions, I was left with the question: How can we keep his legacy alive? I remembered that it was Jim that originated the Shreveport Bar Association Lunch and Learn series. This series, conducted for two hours per day over the course of three summer days, focused on various aspects of a jury trial, from *voir dire* to closing arguments – imparting to others Jim’s passion for effective courtroom advocacy.

In keeping with his commitment to excellence in legal advocacy, I am honored to recommend rededicating the seminar as the James C. McMichael, Jr. Summer Institute, offered with no tuition fee. My wife Susie and I are contributing \$5,000 to the Shreveport Bar Association to begin this endeavor. Those who have had the privilege of knowing, loving and learning from Jim, can contribute as they wish – for Jim and our next generation of young lawyers. This seems to be a fitting tribute to a man who loved the challenge of a courtroom trial and valued passing knowledge on to the community’s youngest “incoming class” of attorneys.

Having now completed his course on earth and traversed the gate of eternal life, I imagine the “same old Jim” is well settled. I suspect that he has already offered himself for litigation or mediation (assuming there are any disagreements in Heaven), a golf game or fly fishing and followed by a cold beer or Maker’s Mark while reflecting on a life well lived. A “quintessential courtroom lawyer,” this “comfortable, nice, happy, never-complaining-in-the-face-of-adversity guy,” we vow to honor and keep his legacy alive. As Jim said at his last Communion – we say, Amen.

Endnotes

1 *State v. Lewis Graham*, 422 So. 2d 123 (1982).

2 Paul Carmouche was sworn in January 1, 1979, and served until December 31, 2008.

3 Irving Younger was a lawyer, law professor, judge and writer “Hearsay – A Practice Guide Through the Thicket”; “The Advocate’s Deskbook: The Essentials of Trying a Case”; and several more.

4 *State v. Bobby Ray Williams*, 445 So. 2d 1171 (1984).

5 Tucker, Jeter and Jackson; Blanchard Walker O’Quin and Roberts; and McMichael, Medlin, D’Anna and Wedgeworth.

6 *State v. Nathaniel Code*, 91-988 (La. 11/29/93), 627 So. 2d 1373.



SBA Member Memorials: A Look Back

by Chris Slatten, Chris_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov

The SBA will hold its annual memorial and recognition ceremony in November, and our members who departed in the last year will be recognized. All past memorials are archived on the Caddo Clerk of Court website under the link for Memorials. In the months leading to this year's ceremony, we'll take a look at some of the many interesting tributes penned over the years.



Jessie N. Stone Jr.

lawyer since 1932, and in 1952 he became the first Black lawyer to appear in a Bossier courtroom.

Donovan Stone, a law clerk to Judge Carl Stewart and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, said in an article about his relative that at Stone's first appearance at the Caddo Parish Courthouse he was denied a seat behind the railing with the white lawyers, but he successfully petitioned the judge and the SBA to allow him a proper seat. Donovan also described Stone's major civil rights victories, including school desegregation suits in Caddo and Bossier parishes, and a suit against the Bossier Parish registrar of voters for denying the right of Black citizens to vote by using a "good character" clause that required potential voters to find two white residents willing to attest to their character. The registrar claimed that she could not find any white residents in Bossier Parish, in over 31 years, to attest that any Black citizen was qualified to vote. A federal court struck down the scheme.

Judge Carl Stewart, who delivered Stone's memorial, stated that Stone's dogged determination to defend his clients and vindicate the rights of those victimized by Jim Crow customs won him great esteem and admiration from the community and colleagues. After practicing for many years, Stone served in appointed positions including Associate Director of Governor McKeithen's Louisiana Commission on Human Relations, Dean of the Southern University Law School and President of the Southern University System. He became the first African American appointed to the Louisiana Supreme Court when he was selected to fill a vacancy as a justice pro tempore in 1979.

Jesse N. Stone Jr. (2001): Jesse Stone was born in Gibsland, raised in Minden, and served in the Army during WWII before earning a degree in agriculture from Southern University. He then enrolled as one of six students in Southern University Law Center's first class. Stone was admitted to the bar in 1950 and soon opened a law firm in Shreveport's Calanthean Temple on Texas Avenue. Stone was Shreveport's first Black

Judge Stewart concluded: "When the events of his era are finally accounted for, history will note that our society is better because Jesse Stone chose to practice law in northwest Louisiana and did so with a dedication and passion for the rights of his clients and for the standards of equal justice for all under the law." His survivors include a daughter, Shonda Stone, who sits on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

Alex F. Smith (1969): Alex Smith was born in 1886 in East Feliciana Parish as one of six children. He attended Centenary College when it was located in Jackson, Louisiana, and he earned a degree from LSU in 1908. He worked his way through LSU Law School as a minute clerk in the Baton Rouge court and a reporter for a local paper.

WWI broke out soon after graduation, and Smith served as an officer with the 130th Field Artillery in France. The job market was tough in Louisiana at the time of his discharge from the military, so he took a job with the *San Francisco Examiner*, where he worked until he came to Shreveport in 1920.

Smith married, had children, and practiced law with a succession of partners. At the time of his death, he was the senior member of Mayer & Smith, consisting of two Mayers, three Smiths, and young associate Caldwell Roberts. We now know this firm as Mayer, Smith & Roberts.

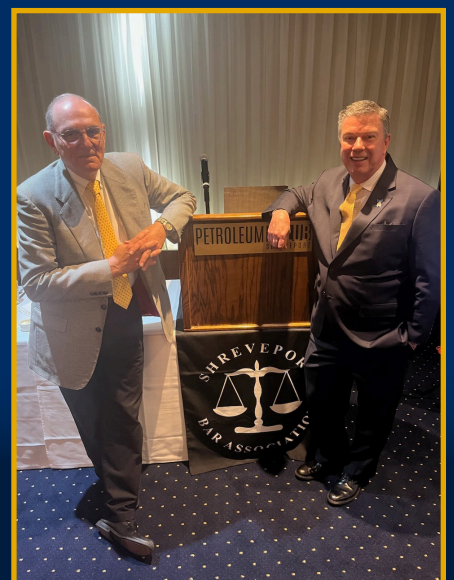
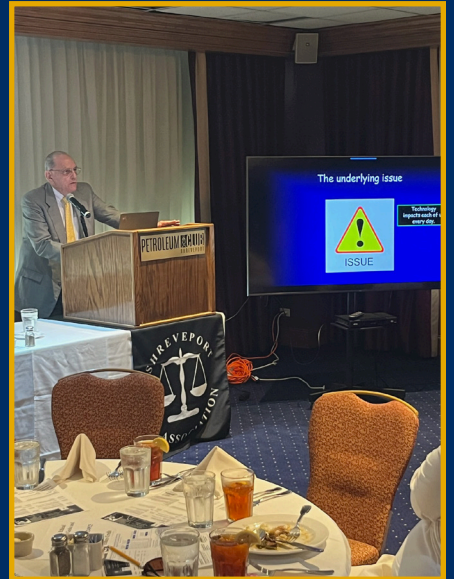
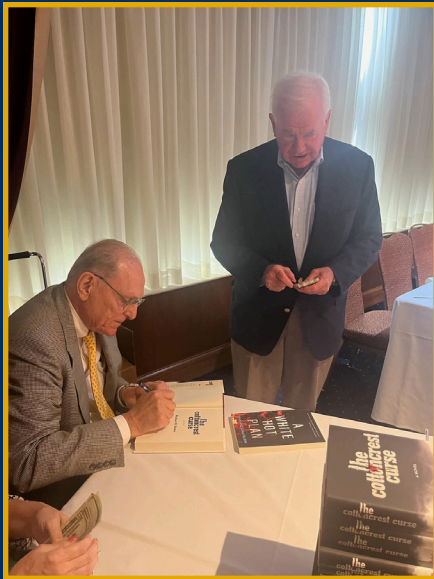
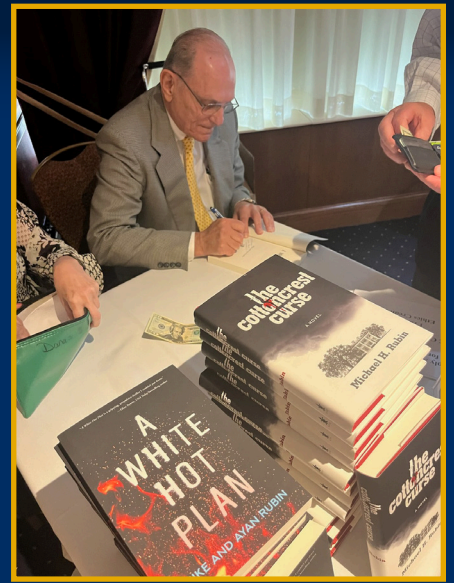
Smith was president of the SBA in 1931, served on the Louisiana Law Institute, and was a member of various boards and committees related to the study and clarification of the law. He was president of the Community Fund in 1937, and he directed the successful mayoral campaign of Sam Caldwell. The committee who delivered Alex Smith's memorial noted that he was well-read, a true scholar, an accomplished fisherman and hunter, and always among the first to arrive at the office and the last to leave.

George T. "Tom" Allen Jr. (1994): Tom Allen was born in Haynesville in 1947 and died of cancer at the young age of 47. Before becoming a lawyer, he taught Louisiana history at Jonesboro-Hodge High School and coached eighth grade basketball. He left teaching to go to LSU to earn his law degree in 1977, and he immediately became associated with Mayer, Smith & Roberts, where he worked his entire career.

Ben Marshall delivered Tom's memorial and recounted how Tom, then the senior associate, spoke up at a firm meeting when some partners suggested that the associates needed to work more hours on the weekends. Tom, who no doubt became the hero of the other associates, said, "I will give you all I've got during the week, but I insist on spending the weekends with my family." That family included a wife and three children.

Ben spoke about the dignity and grace with which Tom lived his final years fighting cancer. He said that whenever he was in court or around town, people would always ask how Tom was doing and comment, "What a remarkable guy." Ben noted that he was inspired by the tenacity with which Tom fought his disease, while refusing to feel sorry for himself. "Many people teach us how to live, Tom taught us how to die."

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS





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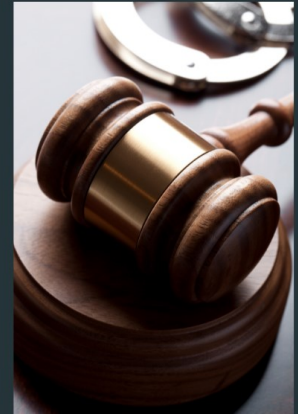
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| 9:30 a.m. 60 Minutes | Recent Developments in Constitutional Law on AI <i>D. Lee Harville - The Harville Law Firm</i> | 1:45 p.m. 60 Minutes | Ethics in Criminal Cases <i>Judge Jeff Cox - Second Circuit Court of Appeal</i> |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break | 2:45 p.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. 60 Minutes | Federal Sentencing Advocacy <i>Betty Marak - Federal Public Defender's Office</i> | 3:00 p.m. 90 Minutes | Professionalism in Criminal Cases <i>Sarah Giglio - Gilmer & Giglio LLC and Joey Greenwald - Greenwald Law Firm</i> |

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The Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office has an opening for a position as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Section of the office. Applicants must be licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana. This is a full-time, salaried position and pay is commensurate with experience. Benefits are also offered. Duties include legal research and writing of criminal appellate briefs, responding to federal habeas corpus petitions and state post-conviction relief litigation. Knowledge and experience with Westlaw is preferred. Interested applicants should email a cover letter, resume and writing sample to jstewart@caddoda.com.



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*2024 SBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS

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

OCTOBER 18
North Louisiana Criminal Law Seminar
Shreveport Bar Center

OCTOBER 19
Midway to Mardi Gras
The Stage at Silver Star

***OCTOBER 23**
Speaker: H. Alston Johnson

***NOVEMBER 13**
Veterans' Program
Speaker: General Thomas A. Bussiere

NOVEMBER 14
SBA Memorial & Recognition Ceremony
2:00 p.m.
at Caddo Parish Courthouse

NOVEMBER 15
SBA Pickleball Tournament
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club

DECEMBER 18-19
December CLE by the Hour
Shreveport Bar Center

DECEMBER 8
SBA Christmas Party
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Silver Star Grille

AMAZON WISH LIST

The Shreveport Bar Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its Wish List program for the Pro Bono Project, Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence programs, and the Shreveport Bar Center through Amazon. This new wish list program allows our supporters to purchase supplies and other items needed to run our programs. This can range from pens (for the AAL clinics) to soap and paper products (for the building)! [Check out the full list of options!](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3EW9JTZSJNVEZ?ref=wl_share)

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3EW9JTZSJNVEZ?ref=wl_share

Or scan the QR code.



SBA and Booth-Politz Inn of Court Luncheon Meeting-October 23

Petroleum Club (15th Floor) – Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. Program and Speaker from 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m.

\$50.00 for SBA members includes lunch and one hour CLE credit or \$30 for lunch only;

\$60.00 for non-SBA members includes lunch one hour CLE credit or \$35 for lunch only;

Advance reservation is required no later than 5 p.m. Monday, October 21



H. Alston Johnson III

When: 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, October 23

Where: Petroleum Club (15th floor)

Featuring: H. Alston Johnson III

Mr. Johnson's presentation is eligible for 1 hour CLE credit

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

H. Alston Johnson is a favorite presenter at the SBA luncheons. His annual Louisiana legislative update CLE is highly anticipated and well-attended. Johnson was for many years senior counsel in the Baton Rouge office of Phelps Dunbar LLP, with a particular emphasis on complex litigation and appellate matters. He received his J.D. from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center and is now an adjunct member of the LSU Law faculty.

He is the author or co-author of three books on Louisiana law, published by West Publishing Company in the Louisiana Civil Law Treatise series: Louisiana Workers' Compensation Law and Practice (Fifth Edition); Louisiana Insurance Law and Practice (Fourth Edition, with Shelby McKenzie); and Louisiana Civil Jury Instructions (Third Edition). He was associate editor of the Louisiana Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. In 2005, he was chosen for the Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award by the Louisiana State Bar Association. In May 2006, he was honored by the Louisiana Bar Foundation with its Distinguished Attorney Award for 2005.

#SHREVEPORTBARASSOCIATION

Confirm your reservation:

Inn of Court members will confirm reservation(s) to Heidi Martin at heidi.martin@nickelsonlaw.com

Non-Inn of Court members will confirm reservation(s) by email at dsouthern@shreveportbar.com

Please remember to call and cancel if you are unable to attend.

The SBA pays for each reservation made.

No-shows will be invoiced.

Thank You!