THE BAR REVIEW

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INSIDE | NOVEMBER

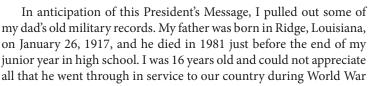
President's Message1
How Write You Are4
Federal Update5
Second Circuit Highlights6
Shreveport Bar Association Archives8
Louisiana Bar Admission Ceremony 10
The 2024 SBA Professionalism
Award Announcement12
Monroe Inn of Court14
October Luncheon Highlights 16
North Louisiana Criminal Law
Seminar Highlights17

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

LVLITIO AT A OLAHOL			
11/13	SBA Membership Luncheon – 12:00 Noon - Petroleum Club		
11/14	SBA Memorial & Recognition Ceremony – 2:00 p.m. – Caddo Parish Courthouse		
12/18-19	December CLE by the Hour Seminar		
12/8	SBA Christmas Party		
12/10	SBA Legal Support Staff Committee Social		

From The President

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



II. His name was Paul Hunter Hains.



Paul Hunter Hains

In his records is a form letter signed by President Harry S. Truman. It reads:

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

My dad's enlistment papers say that he first enlisted in the Army on June 24, 1938, and served until August 7, 1941. After Pearl Harbor, he reenlisted for an uncertain term. His papers state that the enlistment was for "the duration of the war and six months thereafter." His second enlistment

lasted from October 17, 1942, to November 9, 1945, where he served in the Chinese Theater in Burma. He would finally serve a third term from July 17, 1947, to March 16, 1948, when he received an Honorable Discharge for the last time.

I wish I knew more about my father's military service. But at least I have Veterans Day to reflect on it and honor those who, like him, served this country through the perilous times of World War II. That generation is mostly gone now, but their contribution should never be forgotten.

At our November SBA luncheon, we will honor the members of our bar association who, as President Truman said, "answered the call" of our country and "served in its Armed Forces." General Thomas Bussiere was originally scheduled to be our keynote speaker. General Bussiere commands the Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base. Alas, as is often the case in military service, General Bussiere has TDY'd. However, we are of good fortune to have another great military man agree to be of service and speak at our luncheon. Brigadier General Jon Ellis has graciously agreed to be our speaker.

General Ellis, now retired, was formerly the wing commander of the 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base. Before retirement he was General Bussiere's mobilization assistant when General Bussiere commanded the Eighth Air Force. Since retirement, General Ellis has been actively involved in the local community and working with Radiance Technologies, who you will recognize is the current title sponsor of the Independence Bowl.

Our November luncheon is usually very well attended by our military members, but our civilian members are not as present. I would encourage all our members to show up in support of our veterans as we celebrate the Veterans Day holiday and honor those who have given so much to our country.

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DEC 18-19

> December CLE By the Hour

30

Lunch & Learn
Session III
Ethics & Professionalism
Last Chance



FRIDAY
11.15.2024
STARTS AT 9A





TENNIS CLUB 578 SPRING LAKE DR. SHREVEPORT, LA 71106

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

How Write You Are

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

Hold your horses! A common homophone error has made some recent appearances. It's not exactly rampant but you can hear it coming.

"Moreover, while insisting that the offer to tour the crime lab gave defense counsel *free reign* to access any and all materials, prosecutor Shannon acknowledged * * * that he did not in fact agree to open file discovery." *State ex rel. Robinson v. Vannoy*, 21-00812 (La. 1/26/24), 378 So. 3d 11.

"[I]t appears that even under preenactment law, courts recognized that *tight* reigns must be kept on a cause of action for insurer settlement practices." *Kelly v. State* Farm, 14-1921 (La. 5/5/15), 169 So. 3d 328.

"The Court finds that if the Artists had known of the deficit spending * * *, they would have stopped the spending and *taken back the reigns* of their business sooner[.]" *In re Porter*, 498 B.R. 609 (E.D. La. 2013).

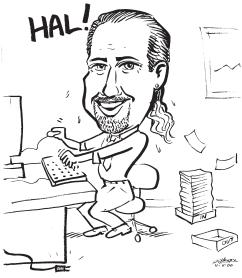
"Since the contract of employment cannot continue subsequent to a wrongful dismissal in the repudiatory breach, the 'remedies/ rights' argument posits that the 'automatic' theory of termination must *rein supreme*." David Cabrelli & Rebecca Zahn, *The Elective and Automatic Theories of Termination at Common Law*, 41 Indus. L. J. 346 (Sept. 2012).

A *rein* is the leather strap used to slow or stop a horse you're riding. When you give a person great discretion to run an operation, you give them *free rein*; when you give them little discretion, it's *tight rein*; and when you must seize control from them, you *take the reins*.

That other word, *reign*, is the time a king or queen sits on the throne; it can also refer to the highest governing authority. "That formulation, Nevils asserts, violates the Supremacy Clause's mandate that only the 'Laws of the United States' may *reign supreme* over state law." *Coventry Health Care of Missouri v. Nevils*, 137 S. Ct. 1190, 197 L. Ed. 2d 572 (2017). The Scottish contributors to the British labour law journal could exercise tighter proofreading reins

On a bright note: "The Jolie is one of several run-down apartment complexes that's been targeted by the City of Shreveport in its year-long effort to *rein in* problematic landlords who'd allowed their properties to fall into disrepair[.]"Adam Duvernay, *Judge rules Jolie apartments must pay nearly \$270,000 water bill*, www.shreveportbossieradvocate (10/2/24). This reporter got it right!

You can't explain everything. Normally, to *explain* something means to say *why or how* it happened, when these reasons are not immediately apparent. It is misleading to use *explain* as a replacement for *testify*, *state* or *say*, when it is a simple description. Consider: "He *explained* that the suspects took numerous items from the apartment and put them in bags." *State v. Rogers*, 23-558 (La. App. 5 Cir. 8/28/24), 2024 WL 3963969. "She further *explained* she was given one blanket and no pillow, and had to sleep on



the ground." State v. Griffin, 23-1317 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/26/24), 2024 WL 4297639. "Similar to Cormier's testimony, Olsen explained that Holmes was his 'usual' self and 'sober." Holmes v. Reddoch, __ F. 4th __ (5 Cir. 2024). These are simple descriptions providing no background information or rationale for the observation or action; in each instance, testified or stated would be a more precise word.

When you are providing reasons, explain is totally correct: "[The court] explained that it was not given an opportunity to set a contempt hearing * * * because it had been placed in a position to regain control of the courtroom[.]" State in Interest of JK, 55,833 (La. App. 2 Cir.

9/28/24), 2024 WL 4219781.

Jurisprudence, **ranked**. Some cases are more persuasive than others. When you're fortunate enough to find lots of jurisprudence and have the time to digest it, you can organize it along these lines:

Best: Case in which a trial court did what my opponent is asking for, and the appellate court *reversed it*. This is precedent with the implicit threat of reversal, and it's the gold standard.

Second best: Case in which a trial court did what I am asking for, and the appellate court *affirmed it*. This is also very persuasive, if the appellate court adequately explains (and doesn't just state) its reasoning.

Getting weak: Case in which the appellate court mentioned what you are asking for but did not express any opinion on it. In other words, a dictum case. Sometimes, this is all you can find, but you can always argue that had the court considered the procedure or argument wrong, it *probably* would have said so.

Dredging. Case that holds the opposite of what you are asking. Under RPC 3.3 (a)(2), you are required to "disclose to the tribunal legal authority * * * known to the lawyer to be directly adverse to the position of the client and not disclosed by opposing counsel." Still, you can argue that such a case is factually distinguishable and thus not really controlling; as a last resort, you can argue for a good-faith modification or reversal of existing law. It's not much, but it's something.

Shall we proceed? Please avoid confusing the word for *move forward* (proceed) with the one for *go before* (precede). "He had already entered the intersection * * * and was in the process of turning when she *preceded* into the intersection." *Washington v. Taylor*, 21-0080 (La. App. 4 Cir. 1/26/22), 334 So. 3d 1060. "Interestingly, Benny bequeathed all her possessions to Michael in the event Andrew *proceeded* her in death." *Succession of Davisson*, 50,830 (La. App. 2 Cir. 12/22/16), 211 So. 3d 597. "Attorney's conduct in * * * halting a legal *preceding* and failing to cooperate with the ODC violated Rules of Professional Conduct." *In re Avery*, 12-0598 (La. 4/5/13), 110 So. 3d 563 (synopsis provided by Thomson Reuters). Resolve to proceed without these errors!

Page 4 The Bar Review

Federal Update



by Chris Slatten, Chris_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov

Initial Disclosures and Legal Theories: Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 requires a party to disclose "a computation of each category of damages claimed by the

disclosing party" If a party fails to disclose information required by Rule 26, then exclusion of the evidence under Rule 37 is proper "unless the failure to disclose was substantially justified or harmless."

A losing defendant argued that the plaintiff disclosed its computation but did not disclose the legal theory that entitled it to those damages. In a case of first impression, the 9CA held that Rule 26 "does not require disclosure of legal theories." Rather, it is a discovery rule intended to ensure that the parties have access to the information that will be used to support a claim or defense. *Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency v. Whittaker Corp.*, 99 F.4th 458, 471 (9th Cir. 2024).

ERISA and Anorexia Treatment: A plaintiff got a rare win in an ERISA case, which arose when the insurer cut benefits and underpaid in connection with treatment of a teen for anorexia nervosa. The case presented terrible facts about a 14 year old girl who dropped to 72 pounds, gained to 117 pounds after months of in-patient treatment, and relapsed on a three-day weekend pass. The insurer initially approved full hospitalization, decided to lower to partial hospitalization after a few months, then decided that it was appropriate to discharge the girl entirely and quit paying for in-patient care. The girl's father paid out of pocket and appealed the decision. The administrator denied the appeal, and the case headed to court.

The 5CA parsed United's denial letter and found almost every factual statement about the girl's care and condition was contradicted by the record. It also shot down United's post hoc rationalizations because courts review an administrator's actual basis for denial of benefits, not what it comes up with after it gets sued. If it's not in the denial letter, it doesn't count. *Dwyer v. United Healthcare Ins. Co.*, 115 F.4th 640 (5th Cir. 2024).

The father also lodged an administrative appeal of the plan's payment for some care at an out-of-network rate. United never responded. Of course, it had an argument or two when it got to court, but the 5CA said United was limited to the arguments it made at the administrative level, which were none. The 5CA also explained its policy to not remand for a "do over" by the insurer in such circumstances. That would discourage administrators from making a good record before the case comes to court. No second bite at the apple for sloppy administrators.

ERISA, Accidental Death, and Surgical Complications: Mr. Wicks was morbidly obese and had a history of sleep

apnea. He underwent gastric sleeve surgery, and in recovery he was prescribed drugs including fentanyl, morphine, and Dilaudid. He was found unresponsive and, despite administration of Narcan, died two days later. His widow applied for accidental death benefits under his ERISA governed life insurance plan. She argued that he was given an accidental overdose of pain medications.

Ms. Wicks was required to show that Mr. Wicks "sustain[ed] an accidental injury that [was] the Direct and Sole Cause of a Covered Loss," with "Direct and Sole Cause" being defined as a "Covered Loss" that "was a direct result of the accidental injury, independent of other causes." Although Ms. Wicks could point to language in the death certificate that indicated Mr. Wicks's death was caused in part by the post-operative narcotics he received, she failed to provide evidence that the narcotics were the "Direct and Sole Cause" of the "Covered Loss," *i.e.*, Mr. Wicks's death. Ms. Wicks failed to show that the covered loss was a direct result of an "accidental injury" that was "independent of other causes" (Mr. Wicks's morbid obesity). *Wicks v. Metro. Life Ins. Co.*, 2024 WL 4212891 (5th Cir. 2024).

Ms. Wicks also argued that her claim fell within a prescription drug exception to illness/treatment exclusions in the plan. The 5CA rejected that plea, citing its rule that "an exclusion cannot create coverage that would not otherwise exist under a policy." A claimant must establish that a claim is covered under the insuring clause of the policy before exclusions or exceptions are at issue.

Cops Don't Always Get QI: The introduction to a decision by a very conservative panel: "For those who worry that qualified immunity can be invoked under absurd circumstances: Buckle up."

"Austin Thompson Hughes is a Good Samaritan. After 2:30 a.m., Hughes called 911 to report a pickup truck swerving violently across a four-lane highway in Houston. While Hughes was on the phone with emergency dispatchers, the drunk driver crashed. Still on the phone with 911, Hughes pulled behind the drunk driver and effectuated a citizen's arrest in accordance with Texas law. But when police officers arrived at the scene, they let the drunk driver go and then arrested Good Samaritan Hughes. (Seriously.) Piling insanity on irrationality, the officers then charged Hughes with a felony for impersonating a peace officer. Hughes spent thousands of dollars defending against the frivolous criminal charges before the City of Houston dropped them. Then Hughes brought this \$ 1983 suit against the two officers who victimized him. The district court denied qualified immunity. We affirm. (Obviously.)" Hughes v. Garcia, 100 F.4th 611, 614 (5th Cir. 2024).

Second Circuit Highlights



by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

Pool safety. The Southerns lived with six minor children, ranging in age from 2 to 13, on Forsythe Ave., just north of Bayou DeSiard in north Monroe. One

day in February when the kids were off school, the Southerns left the house to run a few errands and take Ms. Southern to work; they left the kids under the care of a 16-year-old nephew (the kids' uncle), Griffin. When Southern got back home, he saw Griffin and another relative, who'd stopped by, out in the front yard looking for one of the kids, 6-year-old Matthew, who'd been missing about 15 minutes. The house next door had a swimming pool in the backyard, and Southern immediately noticed that the gate was open: he ran through the gate and found Matthew at the bottom of the pool. He dove in, dragged the child out, administered CPR and called EMS, but it was to no avail. After seven days on a ventilator and two days off, Matthew was pronounced dead.

The Southerns sued the owner of the house, Dr. Rosales, alleging negligence for failing to properly secure the fence and gate to his pool, failing to protect children from an attractive nuisance and, generally, failing to take reasonable measures to protect children. Dr. Rosales moved for MSJ urging that the pool was surrounded by an eight-foot tall, plank privacy fence accessible by two spring-loaded gates with latching mechanisms; when he and his wife left the house that morning, both gates were securely closed. Further, he was not aware that children would be present, and he never gave them permission to enter the property. The Southerns admitted that nobody ever gave them permission, but the gate was not posted "No Trespassing" and, since Dr. Rosales was fully aware of the large family of children next door, he had a duty to prevent access by putting a lock on the gate. The district court granted summary judgment and dismissed the claim; the Southerns appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Southern v. Rosales*, 55,927 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/24), in an opinion by Judge Marcotte. After restating the elements of a duty-risk claim, the court noted that it is foreseeable that a landowner with a pool will allow others to enjoy it, *Collins v. Whitaker*, 29,324 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/2/97), 691 So. 2d 820; a pool with an "incomplete fence" is unreasonably dangerous, *Simmons v. Whittington*, 444 So. 2d 1357 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1984), but otherwise a pool is not an unreasonably dangerous thing per se, and the risk of drowning is open and obvious. Moreover, municipalities have the authority to set safety standards for swimming pools, La. R.S. 33:4875.1, and Monroe's Code of Ordinances required only a six-foot safety fence and is silent as to locked gates, M.C.O. § 37-76(i)(2). Dr. Rosales's pool obviously met code. Further, the court could find no cases requiring

a *locked* gate around a swimming pool; hence, there was no duty for Dr. Rosales to do what the Southerns requested. A defendant is not required to take "every precaution against every foreseeable risk," *Smolinski v. Taulli*, 276 So. 2d 286 (La. 1973). Finally, the court rejected the subordinate argument that the pool was an attractive nuisance.

There was some summary judgment evidence that little Matthew wasn't trying to take a swim but had gone outside to play basketball and, somehow, the ball bounced over the fence and into the pool, and the kid was just trying to retrieve it. Still, this tragic case illuminates the distinction between *reasonable* care and *extraordinary* care.

Please take note, or not. Between 2003 and 2007, Huggins took out a series of student loans from various lenders; much later, in 2017 and 2018, entities called National Collegiate Student Loan Trusts filed six petitions alleging that Huggins had defaulted. (The loans must have been fairly sizable; the demands totaled \$265,062, exclusive of "accrued interest" and "additional interest.") Huggins responded with exceptions of no cause and no right of action: National Collegiate failed to attach the original promissory notes and alleged nothing to show it was entitled to enforce the loans. After several judgments on exceptions and amendments to the petitions, the district court held that without the original notes, the plaintiffs stated no cause of action; further, without a cause of action, there was also no right of action. The court dismissed all claims, and National Collegiate appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, National Collegiate Student Loan Trust 2006-1 v. Huggins, 55,786 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/24), in an opinion by Chief Judge Pitman. The court stated that if the claim had been an executory action, the original negotiable instruments would be essential, La. C.C.P. art. 2635. However, in an ordinary action – which this was – the plaintiff need show only proof of the obligation by a preponderance of the evidence, *Hayes* Fund v. Kerr-McGee Rocky Mtn., 14-2592 (La. 12/8/15), 193 So. 3d 1110. Moreover, evidence is not normally admissible on an exception of no cause, La. C.C.P. art. 931. The essential allegations were that Huggins borrowed money and promised to pay it back, failed to do so, and National Collegiate acquired the right to enforce the obligations; hence, the petitions stated a cause. The court also rejected the exception of no right, citing the attachments to the amended petitions showing National Collegiate's chain of title.

Student loans have a way of coming back to bite you; even under the current Administration's latest proposal for student debt relief, which maxes out at \$20,000, Huggins would still owe a huge amount. Individual borrowers might have some structural defenses but, in general, alleging that no obligation exists is not one of them.

Page 6 The Bar Review

Speaking of lost notes ... In 2006, Ms. Dunbar executed a promissory note to Home 123 Corp. in the principal amount of \$156,000, secured by a mortgage on a house in the Highland neighborhood. She failed to pay, and in late 2007, Wells Fargo Bank, alleging it was trustee, sued to enforce the mortgage. The matter was subjected to motion practice for over a decade, with HSBC Bank eventually substituted as party plaintiff. In October 2020, Ms. Dunbar moved for summary judgment asserting the original note had been lost and, alternatively, not advertised in a reasonable time under R.S. 13:3741. HSBC opposed, attaching an affidavit of lost note and advertisement in *The Times* back in 2014. The district court found this was not reasonable under the statute, but it allowed HSBC to post a commercial bond instead. HSBC did just that and then filed its own MSJ alleging the debt had by then ballooned to \$376,196. Ms. Dunbar countered with an exception of res judicata urging HSBC was trying to relitigate issues already decided. The district court disagreed, granting HSBC's motion and denying Ms. Dunbar's exception. Ms. Dunbar appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, HSBC Bank USA v. Dunbar, 55,854 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/24), in an opinion by Judge Stephens. The first part of the opinion rejected Ms. Dunbar's argument that res judicata barred any reconsideration of HSBC's claim: an interlocutory ruling never creates res judicata, Babineaux v. Pernie-Bailey Drilling Co., 262 So. 2d 328 (La. 1972); Aymond v. Citizens Progressive Bank, 52,623 (La. App. 2 Cir. 6/26/19), 277 So. 3d 477. The court then addressed Ms. Dunbar's primary claim, that allowing HSBC to post bond some 67 months after the notice of lost note and 13 years after default was an absurd result. The court closely read R.S. 13:3741, finding that only the advertisement in a public newspaper was subject to the "reasonable time" requirement; the posting of a surety bond was available "in any case," which means "prior to obtaining judgment." The court added that HSBC's efforts were indeed reasonable. Finally, on the merits, the court found that with the true and correct copy of the note, plus the evidence of the chain of title (not contradicted by Ms. Dunbar), HSBC was entitled to summary judgment.

This case might be a little unusual in taking over 12 years to get from petition to judgment, but the underlying evidentiary issue – continual reorganization of financial institutions and the potential loss of original paper – is likely to be recurring. Lenders or their assignees should make sure their enforcement practices are "reasonable" under R.S. 13:3741.

No "deep" state here. Earlier this year the court held that an "exclusive" pipeline servitude did not entitle the holder to prevent, by injunction, all use of the affected property all the way down. *ETC Tiger Pipeline LLC v. DT Midstream Inc.*, 55,534 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/10/24), 384 So. 3d 458, *writ denied*, 24-00763 (La. 10/8/24). Apparently, more cases presenting this issue were "in the pipeline" when the opinion was rendered.

In *Enable Midstream Partners LP v. La. Energy Gateway LLC*, 55,916 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/24), the holder of an exclusive pipeline servitude argued that *ETC Tiger* didn't apply because (1) the competing operator bombarded it with 42 proposed pipeline crossings on one single day and (2) the wording of the servitude document was different from that in *ETC Tiger*. The Second Circuit disagreed, noting that Enable's senior director of rights-of-way "anticipated multiple crossing requests" and told the competing operator "to submit all its requests at once." Further, Enable's servitude used the word "exclusive" only once, and didn't define it, so there was nothing to distinguish the case from *ETC Tiger*. The opinion is by Judge Cox.

In ETC Tiger Pipeline LLC v. La. Energy Gateway LLC, 55,913 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/2/24), involving related parties, the court reiterated the one-time use of the word "exclusive" in a pipeline servitude "does not transfer the landowner's right to grant efficacious pipeline servitudes to the 'exclusive' servitude holder." In short, ETC Tiger still can't get an injunction. The opinion is by Judge Hunter.

You can sweat the small stuff. Mike and Celina loved to come to Horseshoe Casino, in Bossier City, to play the slots. They described a system by which when a player "cashed out," the slot machine, instead of dispensing their balance in coins and currency, printed out a "gaming voucher," which the player must carry to an automated cash-out machine (called a "kiosk") which would pay the cash money. They were irked, however, at Horseshoe's new system, in which the kiosk would not dispense exact change, but only paper currency; they wanted their small change. They sued Horseshoe seeking class action certification and alleging breach of contract, conversion and unjust enrichment. Horseshoe filed an exception of no cause, which the district court granted. Mike and Celina appealed.

The Second Circuit reversed and remanded, *Young v. Horseshoe Ent.*, 55,749 (La. App. 2 Cir. 9/4/24), in an opinion by Judge Hunter. The court cited the standard for stating a cause of action – "whether a party is afforded a remedy in law based on the facts alleged in the pleading" – and found that Horseshoe's system, that effectively withheld the small change from cash-out vouchers, stated a claim for unjust enrichment.

I have to wonder if Horseshoe could have avoided this litigation by programming its kiosks a little differently: to "round down" anything up to 50¢ but to "round up" anything 51¢ or higher. Perhaps the cost of dealing with people like Mike and Celina is less than paying a few quarters to players who cash out. I don't know; what are the odds?



Shreveport Bar Association Archives Father and Son at the Bar: E.B. Herndon Sr. and E.B. Herndon Jr.

by Taunton Melville, tmelville@melvillelawfirm.com



E.B. Herndon Sr. [from LSUS Archives]

E.B. Herndon Sr. and his son, E.B. Herndon Jr., dedicated much of their lives of legal and public service to Shreveport across a span of over 60 vears, from the early 1870s to 1936. They worked as law partners from 1903 until 1930 when the elder Herndon passed.

E.B. Herndon Sr.: A Life of Law and Public Service

Born in 1849 in Kentucky, E.B. Herndon Sr. studied law at the University of Virginia and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1872, after moving west with his family. He married Mary F. Wise in 1874, and they had two children: a daughter, Mary, and a son, E.B. Herndon Jr., affectionately known as Eddie.

In February 1872, the *Shreveport Times* praised the new lawyer Herndon, expressing optimism for his future success, writing: "The young men are coming forward in the professions to take the places of their seniors who must, after a time, pass away. We publish to-day the law card of Mr. E.B. Herndon, who has come to the bar and casts his lot with us. ... We wish him success, as we do all worthy young men who are starting in life dependent upon their own exertions."

Herndon frequently advertised his services in the paper, emphasizing his practice in Caddo and neighboring parishes, as well as the state Supreme Court. His practice varied, for example, defending a person accused of horse theft in 1881, and another in a murder case in 1884. In 1895, he represented the First National Bank in a tax-related matter.

A biographical sketch about Herndon described him and his son (his law partner by this time) this way: "He and his partner constitute one of the best known firms at the Louisiana bar, are intelligent and substantial men, thoroughly versed in law, and are a standing example of the much-doubted fact that honorable men can be good lawyers."

E.B. Herndon Sr. also contributed to his community as Caddo Parish Treasurer and Parish Attorney and served on the City Council in Shreveport. In March 1890, he was appointed mayor *pro tem* after the resignation of the sitting mayor, though he ultimately lost a bid for mayor to Captain R.T. Vinson later

that year.

In 1883, he became president of the North Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association. He also served as a director of local railroad companies. On October 4, 1890, Herndon was a passenger on the inaugural electric streetcar ride in Shreveport, celebrated with a large event near the Phoenix Hotel, then at the corner of Market and Texas Streets.

Herndon acquired land on Jordan Street, known as "Herndon's Pasture," a popular Sunday stroll spot, as one writer described it several decades after living near it. In 1895, the *Times* featured his new two-story residence under construction on Jordan Street, which he himself described in his will as a place of "love and rest." Loyola High School now occupies the site where the Herndon house stood. After his death in 1930, he left



E.B. Herndon Jr. [from LSUS Archives]

a substantial estate, including properties in Caddo, Bossier and DeSoto Parishes.

E.B. Herndon Jr.: Continuing the Legacy of Service

In the December 6, 1903, edition of the *Times*, E.B. Herndon Sr. announced the formation of the law firm Herndon & Herndon with his son. Like his father, E.B. Herndon Jr. studied law at the University of Virginia and emerged as a

prominent legal and social figure, serving as an acting city court judge and as the Bossier Parish Levee Board secretary.

The partnership undertook several cases representing the city's minority population. In 1915, E.B. Herndon Jr. defended Ida Williams, a Black woman convicted of violating a law prohibiting cohabitation for alleged immoral purposes. In 1930, he and his father represented a Black defendant accused of larceny, initiating a habeas corpus proceeding against the chief of police for unlawful detention. They also defended musician Huddie Ledbetter against assault charges that same year.

In 1923, St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church applied for a permit to replace its wooden structure with a brick building in a predominantly white neighborhood. The city building inspector denied the permit, citing a race-based ordinance allowing objections from nearby property owners

Page 8 The Bar Review

who were the opposite race as those applying for a permit. On September 11, 1923, E.B. Herndon Jr. represented the church in an appeal to the City Council, arguing that since the congregation already occupied the site (and had since 1878, in a wooden structure), upgrading should be permitted. However, the council unanimously sustained the denial, 5-0.

Following this, Herndon and his firm sued for a writ of mandamus to compel the city to issue the permit, but the church ultimately did not build the new structure. A few years later, the city constructed the Municipal Auditorium on the site where the church had stood. Despite this outcome, the Herndons demonstrated their commitment to challenging discriminatory actions and advocating for Black citizens.

E.B. Herndon Jr. married Laura Elizabeth Jasper in September 1916, and they had a daughter and a son, E.B. Herndon III, who chose a Navy career as opposed to continuing the family's law legacy, graduating from the Naval Academy and retiring as a Commander.

E.B. Herndon Jr. passed away in January 1936 after a brief illness.

In his last will and testament, E.B. Herndon Sr. left his "law books and things in the office" to his son. Today at the Bar Center in Shreveport, there are book shelves that belonged to the Herndons, which serve as reminders of the two Herndon attorneys, father and son.

Sources: This article draws on archives from the *Shreveport Times* and the *Shreveport Journal*, Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's Office, materials from the LSU Shreveport Archives, and various books and articles related to the legal history of Shreveport and its prominent figures.



Herndon home on Jordan Street [from LSUS Archives]



Law office of Herndon and Herndon [from LSUS Archives]

Louisiana Bar Admission Ceremony

by Scott Crichton, scrichton@lasc.org

Justice Scott Crichton delivered these remarks at the swearing-in

ceremony for 333 new attorneys at the La. Supreme Court, October 21, 2024:



Justice Scott Crichton delivers remarks at the Louisiana Bar swearing in Ceremony

As I complete my 34th and final year as a member of the judiciary, it is a special honor and privilege to stand before you on this extraordinary and memorable day. My colleagues, Chief Justice John Weimer, Associate Justices Jeff Hughes, Will Crain, Jay McCallum, Piper Griffin, Associate Pro Tempore Jeannette Knoll and I congratulate you on your hard work and this significant accomplishment.

I also extend congratulations to those who helped you along the way in achieving your goal of becoming an attorney. No one made it here alone. The celebration of your accomplishments is rightfully shared by those who helped to make it possible. Attorneys, please give a round of applause to your loved ones.

I recognize and thank the members of the Committee on Bar Admissions. These individuals have spent countless hours in volunteer service to the entire bar membership, giving up valuable time from their families and their own practices knowing that their only compensation is in maintaining the integrity and privilege of being in our profession. To all members and volunteers with the Committee on Bar Admissions, we thank you.

More than a century ago, United States Supreme

Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo eloquently stated: "Membership in the bar is a privilege – burdened with conditions." This brief statement expresses great wisdom about the unique position you will have as an attorney throughout your lives. As an attorney, you will have significant power: you will represent clients, you will give legal advice, and you will stand up in courts of law as voice of the voiceless. These are privileges not afforded to the general public. But with these privileges come conditions and responsibilities. Today, as you embark on your new career, I want to speak about four pillars that I hope will guide you throughout your practice, as they have mine for 44 years: competence, work ethic, integrity and reputation.



333 New Attorneys at the Louisiana Bar Swearing In Ceremony

THE FIRST PILLAR: COMPETENCE

Competence is foundational to the practice of law. It is the first requirement of the Rules of Professional Responsibility. Competence is not just about having passed the bar exam, but also about maintaining the knowledge and skill required to represent your clients effectively. The complexities of cases will challenge you. The law is dynamic. Each year there is new state and federal legislation; each year there is a new body of jurisprudence. And, now even more than ever, technology is rapidly changing the practice of law. You should always look to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Professionalism Guidelines as guideposts. As lawyers, the Rules of Professional Conduct hold us to high standards – not just in court, but in everything we do. A lapse in competence can be costly, not only to your

Page 10 The Bar Review

career but, more significantly, to those who depend on your guidance.

THE SECOND PILLAR: WORK ETHIC

The next pillar is work ethic. Some cases will be demanding of your time, your knowledge, your resources. There are no shortcuts to excellence. Long hours, detailed research, and often grueling tasks are part of the conditions about which Justice Cardozo spoke. Your success and the outcomes you achieve for your clients depend on your willingness to put in the work – despite the challenges.

In discussing work ethic, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson recently quoted a selection from an 1847 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem that she keeps in her office. It is titled "The Ladder of St. Augustine":

The heights by great men reached and kept

Were not attained by sudden flight,

But they, while their companions slept,

Were toiling upward in the night.

Standing on what too long we bore

With shoulders bent and downcast eyes.

We may discern - unseen before -

A path to higher destinies.

Similarly, Alfred Lord Tennyson's 1842 poem, "Ulysses," among other things is about striving against adversity with resilience, determination and the refusal to succumb, it concludes with my favorite line: "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield." That is my charge to you as you embark on your career.

That said, however, please also heed this advice: temper that hard work with rest and relaxation. Balance your work life with a fulfilling personal life.

THE THIRD PILLAR: INTEGRITY

Over the course of your career – and likely sooner than you could imagine – you will face situations that may tempt you to compromise your integrity. As a teenager, I attended a boarding school, the Latin motto of which was: *Noli Res Subdole Facere*, which translates to "Do Nothing on the Sly." These five words have been a grounding moral compass throughout my life. As our Code of Professionalism provides in its very first line: your word is your bond. In every contract, every

negotiation, every courtroom exchange, your integrity is what allows others to trust you.

THE FOURTH PILLAR: REPUTATION

Finally, related to integrity, I want to talk about reputation. You are building your reputation as an attorney from this very moment. Every case you take, every client interaction, every time you engage with opposing counsel or the court, you are defining who you are in the eyes of the legal community. Be mindful of how you conduct yourself. Be courteous, even in the heat of battle. Strive to be known not only as someone whose work is of high quality, but also as someone whose character is beyond reproach.

A Harvard law professor wrote:

Loss of reputation is the greatest loss you can suffer. If you lose it, you will never recover it. Whether other lawyers or judges or clerks or commissioners trust you and take your word, whether you are straight with your clients (and everyone else), whether principles and people matter to you, whether your adversaries respect you as honest, fair and civil, whether you have the guts to stand up for what you believe – these are some of the hallmarks of integrity.

And if your reputation for integrity is alive and well, so will be your career and your well-being.

You are the architect of your reputation – which begins today.

As you step into the legal profession, I urge you to carry these four pillars with you: competence, work ethic, integrity and reputation. If you do, I am certain you will be fulfilled in knowing that you have honored both the law and the clients you serve.

CONCLUSION

And so, borrowing from Longfellow, Tennyson and my own high school motto, let me direct you to reach that higher destiny. Do nothing on the sly and strive to seek, to find and not to yield. You have earned the privilege of joining the legal profession; and if you stay true to these time-honored principles and the four pillars I discussed, you will have satisfied the conditions of which Cardozo spoke – and, as I have, you will have an immensely rewarding career in our profession.

Congratulations and Godspeed!

T C

The 2024 SBA Professionalism Award Goes to Tommy Johnson

by Allison Anne Jones, ajones@dhw-law.com

Every year, the Shreveport Bar Association presents its Professionalism

Award to a lawyer who exemplifies the highest standards of legal practice. This year the recipient is Tommy Johnson. My father used to say all the time that this country is made up of small towns and big dreams. The recipient of this year's professionalism award is someone from a small town who arrived in Shreveport, Louisiana, with big dreams.

Tommy Johnson was born in Homer, Louisiana (not Houma, but Homer). Tommy left Homer for the metropolis of Ruston, Louisiana, where he graduated from Louisiana Tech in 1971. He then attended LSU Law School graduating in 1975. During this entire time, he served in the Louisiana National Guard.

In 1975, Tommy was just a young man, starting his law career, when he accepted a job with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office in Shreveport and then accepted a private practice job with the Shreveport law firm of Waddell & Kelly (two men you may know as Judge Bobby Waddell and Judge Bill Kelly).

In March 1977, Tommy was hired as an Assistant District Attorney under District Attorney John Richardson.

In 1978, Tommy re-entered private practice and formed a law partnership with Jerry Tyler centered on personal injury cases and plaintiffs' work. The law firm known as Tyler and Johnson lasted nearly 37 years. The friendship of those two men never ended.

The most important thing that happened in this good ole



country boy's life occurred in June 1981, when he married Kathy. They have four sons, Jordan, Trevor, Ballard and Spencer...and those four sons have blessed Tommy and Kathy with 8 grandchildren.

I first really got to know Tommy in the early 2000s. Don Miller and Gordon Rountree had encouraged both of us to become more active in the SBA. I was president in 2004, and Tommy was president in 2005. Tommy spent most of 2004 guiding me through the challenges of my term. He was a true mentor.

In 2005, when he took over as president, you may remember that there was little storm named Katrina that rocked the State of Louisiana. That storm was no problem for a good ole country boy from the small town of Homer, Louisiana, who led the Katrina relief efforts of our bar association, making us all proud in the help that we were able to provide.

Now, Tommy is back at the District Attorney's Office working in the Appeals Division.

He is a mentor to many, and a friend to all.

He sets the standard for what the Shreveport Bar Association honors in professionalism. He always kept his small-town values while pursuing his big dreams.

Tommy Johnson was best described by a New Orleans' defense counsel, years ago: "He's a good ole country boy, and he gets a lot of mileage out of it."

Congratulations Tommy on this well-deserved award.



Page 12 The Bar Review



December CLE By The Hour December 18-19, 2024

Petroleum Club, 15th Floor • 416 Travis Street, Shreveport

13 Louisiana CLE Credits (including 1 Hour Ethics & 1 Hour Professionalism)
13 Texas CLE Credits Approved (including 2 Hours Ethics)
(Please Circle Classes Attending)

	y, December 18, 2024	-	December 19, 2024	
7:30 A.M.	Registration	7:30 A.M.	Registration	
	Procedures & Tips for Practicing Before the First JDC Judge Brady O'Callaghan - First Judicial District Court Break		City Court Update Judge Brian Barber, Judge Emily Merckle and Judge Brittany Arvie— Shreveport City Court	
9:35 A.M. 60 Minutes	Writs and Appeals at the Second Circuit Robin Jones and Jenny Segner – Second Circuit Court of Appeal		Oil & Gas Update Andrew "Drew" Martin and Grant Summers —	
10:35 A.M.	Break		Davidson, Summers, Hearne, Martin & Powell	
10:40 A.M.	Developments in the Louisiana Supreme Court and	10:35 A.M.	Break	
90 Minutes	Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 2024 - Kenneth P. Haines – Weems, Schimpf, Haines & Moore and Roy "Hal" Odom Jr. – Second Circuit Court of Appeal		Co-Parenting Apps Can Enhance Client Communication and Ensure Success- Judge Edwin	
12:10 P.M.	Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$30)		Byrd - First Judicial District Court and Kevin Do OurFamilyWizard	
	Criminal Law Update	12:10 P.M.	Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$30)	
60 Minutes	Judge Jeff Cox - Second Circuit Court of Appeal and Tammy Jump - Bienville Parish District Attorney's Office	1:00 P.M. 60 Minutes	Bankruptcy Update Judge John Hodge – United States Bankruptcy Court	
2:00 P.M.	Break	2:00 P.M.	Break	
2:05 P.M. 60 Minutes	Tort Update Marshall Rice - Rice & Kendig Injury Lawyers and Alexander Mijalis - Lunn Irion Law Firm		The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act— "The Feds' Big Money \$\$\$ Maker" Mary Lou Salley Bylsma - The Law Office of Jack M. Bailey Jr.	
3:05 P.M.	·	3:05 P.M.	Break	
3:15 P.M. 60 Minutes	Professionalism Judge Jimbo Stephens and Judge Jeff Robinson - Second Circuit Court of Appeal	3:15 P.M. 60 Minutes	Ethics Judge Edwin Byrd - First Judicial District Court and Ronald J. Miciotto - Law Office of Ronald J. Miciotto	
gistration Fe	form or register online at shrovenerthar som		ne registration fee includes course materials provided	

Registration Fees:	
Complete this forn	n or register online at shreveportbar.com
Individual Session	<u>Rates</u>
	per session (\$75 after Dec. 9) per session (\$65 after Dec. 9)
	y Non-Members - \$400 (\$450 after Dec. 9) SBA Members - \$300 (\$350 after Dec. 9)
All Day Thursday (6.50 hours)	Non-Members - \$400 (\$450 after Dec. 9) SBA Members - \$300 (\$350 after Dec. 9)
	Non-Members - \$550 (\$600 after Dec. 9) SBA Members - \$450 (\$500 after Dec. 9)
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(Please include email for materials to be sent)

Materials: The registration fee includes course materials provided electronically. A link to the seminar materials will be sent to you via email prior to the seminar and posted on the SBA website. Because neither internet access nor electrical outlets are guaranteed, we ask 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. Full registration refund until November 15, 2024, less a \$25 admin. fee. After November 15, full credit less a \$25 admin. fee may be applied to future SBA sponsored CLE for up to one year. No Shows will not receive credit.

Please remit with payment to:

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Questions?(318) 222-3643 or email dsouthern@shreveportbar.com

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Monroe Inn of Court

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

Proposed Tax Sale Revamp on Program

A proposed revision of Louisiana's tax sale procedure was the topic of the Judge Fred Fudickar Jr. AIC (Monroe, La.) at the inaugural meeting of its 2024-25 Inn of Court

season. Wesley Eby Johnson, of E & P Consulting LLC, in Monroe, introduced the subject by asking, how do you lose property? How often is this heirs' property? These issues come up often in E & P's tax adjudication practice.

She gave an overview of current law, Act 819 of 2008, under which no tax sale shall transfer or terminate the property interest of any person until that person has been duly notified and both the redemption period and the right to challenge the sale have terminated. However,

the legislature passed a significant revision, SB 505 of 2024, which will require a constitutional amendment and, if passed, would take effect in January 2026. She characterized the amendment caption as "ice cream and puppy dogs," as it refers only to "eliminat[ing] mandatory tax sales for nonpayment of property taxes."

In Wesley's view, "some parts of this are good, but others are scary!" At 81 pages, the proposed law is a lot to digest, but she hit some high points. For example, there

Ashley Herring, of the Chapter 13 Trustee's Office in Monroe, and Charlen Campbell, of the La. AG's Office, were among the early arrivals for Wesley's presentation

is a requirement for pre-tax auction notice whereby, if certified mail notice to the owner is returned, the assessor is to "review the local telephone directory" to

locate the tax debtor. "Who does that anymore?" (A generic reference to "internet" is also included.) Another is the elimination of "bid down" process for percentage or undivided interests and new procedures for enforcing a tax lien certificate – which would be moved from the conveyance records to the mortgage records.

Many of the details seemed arcane to practitioners who do not often handle tax adjudications, but it was a useful overview and a telling glimpse into the political process.

The meeting was held on Monday, October 14, at the Lotus Club, on the ninth floor of Monroe's historic Vantage-ONB Building. A modest 11 members were in attendance, but each received one hour of CLE credit and enjoyed a nice visit at the open bar before the presentation began. The secretary, Mike Street, announced that the next meeting will be November 11. He also encouraged members to solicit new attorneys for the Inn.



Wesley Eby Johnson, of E & P Consulting, in Monroe, enhanced the program with various examples from actual cases



Judge Larry Jefferson, of the Fourth JDC, Leah Sumrall, of LaSalle Corrections, Hal Odom and Judge Jeff Joyce, also of the Fourth JDC, were among the attendees

Page 14 The Bar Review

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Save the Date
The Shreveport Bar Association

Christmas Party

honoring
Area Law School Students
Will be held on
Sunday, December 8, 2024
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Silver Star Grille

Invitations will be mailed mid-November

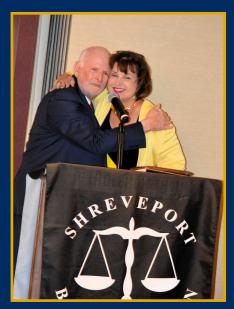
OCTOBER LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS





































North Louisiana Criminal Law Seminar Highlights









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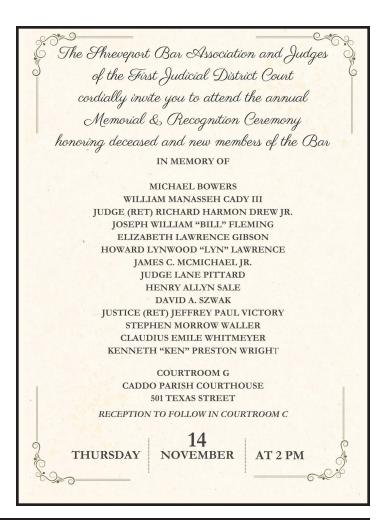


FRANK'S PIZZA NAPOLETANA OCT 24

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Page 18 The Bar Review





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The Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General Liz Murrill, Litigation Division, seeks applications for Assistant Attorney General in the Shreveport office. The Litigation Division defends the State and its agencies and employees in suits, including Civil Rights, General Liability, Medical Malpractice, Road Hazard, Transportation, and Workers' Compensation. Applicants must have valid driver's license and be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Excellent benefits include insurance and retirement. Forward cover letter and resume to yandleh@ag.louisiana.gov.

The Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General Liz Murrill, Litigation Division, seeks applications for Legal Secretary in the Shreveport office. Legal secretaries would assist assigned attorneys handling various civil cases pending in State and Federal court. Must have high school diploma/GED, or higher. Must have valid driver's license. Prior legal secretary experience strongly preferred. Excellent benefits package, including health insurance and retirement. To apply, forward cover letter and resume to yandleh@ag.louisiana.gov.

The Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General Liz Murrill, Litigation Division, seeks applications for Paralegal in the Shreveport office. Paralegals would assist attorneys in the civil defense of the State of Louisiana, its agencies, and employees in State and Federal court. Must have valid driver's license and paralegal certificate OR Bachelor's degree or higher. Prior paralegal experience strongly preferred. Excellent benefits include health insurance and retirement. Forward cover letter and resume to yandleh@ag.louisiana.gov.

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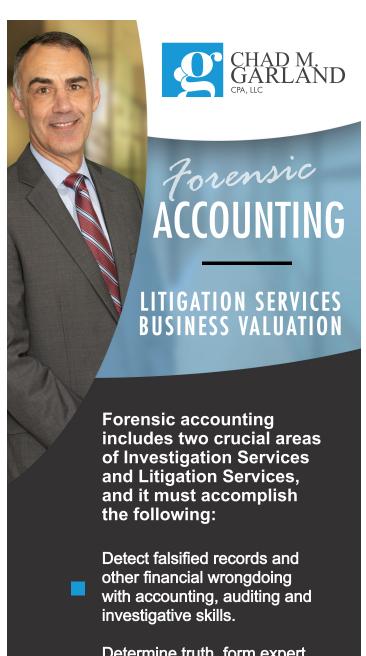
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Page 22 The Bar Review





*2024 SBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS

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

*NOVEMBER 13

Veterans Program Speaker: Brigadier General (Ret) Jonathan Ellis

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 8

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

DECEMBER 10

SBA Legal Support Staff Committee Social 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Shreveport Bar Center

DECEMBER 18-19

December CLE by the Hour Shreveport Bar Center

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
Or scan the QR code.





DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: NOVEMBER 15, 2024 Veterans Appreciation Luncheon - November 13

Petroleum Club (15th Floor) — Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. Program and Speaker from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. Cost for lunch is \$30.00 with advance reservation and \$35.00 for late reservation (after 5:00 pm the Monday prior to the luncheon).



Brigadier General (Ret) Jonathan Ellis

When: Wednesday, November 13 From: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Petroleum Club (15th floor)

Featuring: Brigadier General (Ret) Jonathan Ellis, **United States Air Force**

Our keynote speaker for the 2024 SBA Veterans Day Program will be Brigadier General (Ret) Jonathan Ellis. Brigadier General Jon Ellis grew

up as the grandson, son, brother and nephew of U.S. Army officers which instilled a deep appreciation of military service. After graduating from Penn State as a ROTC scholarship recipient, he began his Air Force career as a navigator, then went to pilot training. Over the course of his career, he flew over 4,500 hours in several different aircraft, including the B-52 in combat missions in Operation Desert Storm and as an instructor pilot in T-38s and T-1s. He was later selected to stand up the initial cadre of pilots to fly the Global Hawk high altitude reconnaissance drone. Ellis was chosen to command every level squadron, group, and finally, as the wing commander of the 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale. Upon his promotion to brigadier general, he was reassigned to serve on the staff at Barksdale, first as the mobilization assistant to the director of operations at Air Force Global Strike Command, then as General Bussiere's mobilization assistant when General Bussiere commanded the Eighth Air Force. In 2019, Ellis retired after 35 years of service.

I plan to attend the September Luncheon.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force, Ellis joined Radiance Technologies as a Vice President and Senior Portfolio Advisor for Test and Training, focusing on Barksdale and the nuclear enterprise. As you probably know, Radiance is the title sponsor of the Independence Bowl, and he serves in a variety of roles with the Bowl. Ellis is very active in other community organizations as well. He is the president of the board of directors for STARBASE, Inc., a nonprofit supporting STEM education in Caddo and Bossier Parish schools and is a member of the Committee of 100 where he serves on the Community Relations Committee and the Barksdale 10. He is a supporter of the Shreveport Symphony, and continues to serve the military community as a board member for two local nonprofits assisting veterans: Warrior Horse, which helps veterans and first responders deal with post-traumatic stress through equine services and Woody's Home for Vets, which provides housing and full spectrum care for chronically mentally ill homeless veterans in Shreveport. He is also part of a team filming a television series about the nuclear enterprise and its role in national security. General Ellis lives in Bossier City with his wife, Suzanne Ellis, where he can watch B-52s fly over his home almost every day.

You may confirm your reservation(s) by email dsouthern@shreveportbar.com or Phone 222-3643 Ext 3.

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Attorney:			