

# THE BAR REVIEW

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## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

3/26	SBA Membership Luncheon – 12:00 p.m. - Petroleum Club
4/30	SBA Law Day Luncheon – 12:00 p.m. - Petroleum Club
5/2	Red Mass – 8:30 a.m. – Holy Trinity Catholic Church
5/6	Give for Good Campaign



## From The President

by Elizabeth M. Carmody, [elizabeth.carmody@cookyanacey.com](mailto:elizabeth.carmody@cookyanacey.com)

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BOUNDARIES AND SELF-CARE

I have recently been listening to a podcast recommended to me by my Mendell sister-in-law. I might be a little late to the party, but I highly recommend it – “Wiser Than Me,” by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, one of the great comedic actresses of all time along with Carol Burnett, in my humble opinion. The premise of the podcast is that Louis-Dreyfus conducts interviews of accomplished women more mature than Louis-Dreyfus to seek advice from those with more life experiences. It has truly been enlightening!

So far, my favorite tidbit is the piece of advice an 85-year-old actress said she would give to her 21-year-old self: “No” is a complete sentence. Simple, yet profound (obviously, a sentence currently lacking from my repertoire) and a beautiful way of stating that we can, and should, create boundaries for ourselves, physical, emotional, mental or even digital.

When I think about digital and professional boundaries, I am reminded of a CLE presentation given by Ben Marshall Jr. during which he appeared to shock the audience by declaring that he has no cell phone and has not had one. He still does not have one to date. I am quite impressed by his holding out. If I remember correctly (Ben, do not curse me if I am wrong), he reasoned that if someone needed him for professional reasons, he could be reached at his office number at his desk when he could take the phone call in an environment that would guarantee his focus on the call. Once he left the office, he could focus on his home life. It makes sense to me even if I admit that I do not practice what he preaches.

The boundaries of our personal and professional lives became blurred during our days of the COVID shutdown when many of us had to work from home whether it was because of forced office shutdowns, childcare needs and/or the need to make sure your high school children were actually doing schoolwork (me!). Those days are thankfully behind us, but the blurry lines linger. It is up to us to clarify those boundaries for ourselves.

Boundaries are the limits we set for ourselves and others regarding what we are willing to accept or tolerate. Boundaries are not to be confused with building walls or shutting people out but rather are about protecting our personal needs, values and feelings without guilt or fear. In recent months and as I have matured, I have become acutely aware of the importance of self-care and the role of setting boundaries in that self-care. I have also become more comfortable with and confident in the boundaries I set for myself.

Self-care refers to the activities and practices that nourish your body, mind and spirit. It is about prioritizing your own well-being and making choices that contribute to your happiness, health and peace of mind. The topic of our most recent Inn of Court meeting was wellness and mental health. It shed light on the challenges that we as attorneys face in those areas.

Take the time to understand your limits and set boundaries for yourself as an exercise in self-care. They help to protect your emotional well-being, build healthy relationships, reduce stress and burn out and signify self-respect. A renewed focus on self-care allows each of us to take time for ourselves to recharge, reflect and rejuvenate.

The act of caring for yourself is not selfish – it is necessary and allows you to be the best version of yourself for those around you.

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# SBA Legal Community Support Staff Committee

by Karen McGee, Committee Chair, [kgmcgee2@gmail.com](mailto:kgmcgee2@gmail.com)

## WELCOME

2025 is going to be a busy year for the SBA Legal Community Support Staff (LCSS) Committee and everyone is invited to join us in a range of activities. Plans include regular meetings to further legal support staff education and professional networking opportunities in our area. We are very excited about celebrating upcoming events such as Law Week, April 28-May 2, 2025, and the first federally recognized National Paralegal Day on August 6, 2025.

<https://nala.org/nationalparalegalday/>.

The Committee is continuing to collect surveys from those currently working in the legal profession or those seeking legal work in northwest Louisiana, and from employers in the area looking to hire legal support staff. Use the QR code on the next page to complete the survey.

Nonlawyers are invited to apply for membership of the LCSS committee, and once approved, are considered nonvoting members of the Shreveport Bar Association and will be represented on the SBA Executive Council by the Chair of this committee. To obtain a membership application, email Jan Melton at [jan@hayterlaw.com](mailto:jan@hayterlaw.com).

Please look for the SBA Communiqués and SBA newsletters for information about our exciting plans.

We are so pleased to welcome these inaugural members of the SBA Legal Community Support Staff Committee:

Angela Lundsford Cascio  
*Stephen T. Collins, Attorney at Law*

Haley Scally  
*Miramonte Law Inc.*

Julie Langley  
*Nelson & Hammons APLC*

Kristen Sharp  
*Ryan E. Gatti*

Karen McGee, ACP  
*Second Circuit Court of Appeal*

Denise Tolber  
*Caddo Parish Attorney's Office*

Jan L. Melton, CP/LCP  
*Hayter & Reynolds*

Angela Rivers  
*Gilsoul & Aronson*

Sonia L. Orgeron  
*Weems, Schimpf, Haines & Moore*



# SBA LEGAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT STAFF COMMITTEE



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## WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

01

Open  
your camera



02

Point at the  
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03

FILL OUT THE  
SURVEY AND  
CLICK SUBMIT

**SUBMIT THE SURVEY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A DOOR PRIZE!**



# Second Circuit Highlights

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

**One view of mandamus.** In early 2024, the Fourth Judicial District Court developed its 2024 budget and determined that \$662,994 was necessary and reasonable for its operation; it submitted this to the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, which approved a budget of only \$133,122 (roughly 20% of the amount requested). Feeling the Police Jury had a mandatory obligation to fund the court's operations (based on statutes like R.S. 13:961, 15:571.11 B, 33:1654, 33:4713), the Fourth JDC sued the Police Jury for a writ of mandamus to compel full funding. The Police Jury felt its own obligation was nowhere near mandatory, so it filed an exception of no cause of action. The district court (an ad hoc judge, to be sure!) sustained the exception and dismissed the Fourth JDC's suit; the Fourth JDC appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed and remanded, *Jefferson v. Ouachita Parish Police Jury*, 56,096 (La. App. 2 Cir. 12/18/24), in an opinion by Chief Judge Pitman. An authorizing statute, R.S. 13:1888, provides for the salaries of clerks and deputy clerks, and the La. Supreme Court recently held this was discretionary and, hence, not subject to mandamus, *Pineville City Ct. v. City of Pineville*, 22-00336 (La. 1/27/23), 355 So. 3d 600. The Second Circuit found this dispositive, affirming the denial of mandamus, but applied the rule of La. C.C.P. art. 934 to allow leave to amend the petition if the grounds of the exception can be removed. The case was remanded for this purpose.

**Another view.** In July 2024, a citizens' group, Bossier Term Limits Coalition, presented a petition to the Bossier Parish registrar of voters calling for a special election to set term limits for the Bossier City council and mayor. The petition was signed by 3,582 people, of whom 2,982 were certified as electors. According to the Bossier City Charter, such a petition must be signed by 33% of the votes cast for mayor in the last preceding contested general election. The 33% would be 2,715, so the BTLC petition qualified and was forwarded to the Bossier City Council to call an election. The council, however, rejected the petition, by a 5-2 vote, so one of the signers of the petition filed suit in the 26th JDC, against the council and

its members, for mandamus to compel the council to hold the election. The district court granted mandamus; the council and its members appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Rogers v. City of Bossier City*, 56,117 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1/15/25), in an opinion by Judge Hunter. The court referred to the Bossier City Charter itself, § 21.04, whereby if an amendment is proposed by petition of electors, "the City Council *shall* submit the same to the electors of the City at a special election[.]" The court easily found the word *shall* is mandatory. La. C.C. art. 9; La. R.S. 1:4; *Auricchio v. Harriston*, 20-01167 (La. 10/10/21), 332 So. 3d 660. The court rejected a claim that the plaintiff failed to introduce a copy of the original petition into evidence, along with some incidental arguments. The election is now set for May 3, 2025.

**The limits of nullity.** Ms. Butler and her husband owned a lot in Morehouse Parish; in 2010, they separated but did not divorce. At some point, her husband bought a manufactured home and placed it on the land, executing a note and mortgage for the purchase price; Ms. Butler did not sign or consent to the mortgage and, in fact, never lived in the house. The husband defaulted on the mortgage and passed away (the sequence is not clear from the record), and in September 2022, the lender, TOWD Point Master Funding Trust 2020-1, sued Ms. Butler to reform the mortgage, for declaratory judgment, to quiet title and for other relief. Ms. Butler was served with the petition but filed no responsive pleadings at all. In December 2022, TOWD moved for default, which the court granted. Ms. Butler neither sought a new trial nor appealed.

In February 2023, however, she filed a petition to annul the default judgment, on grounds it was "taken by mail and without any appearance by petitioner nor any witness testimony, or affidavit testimony"; in short, without making a prima facie case. TOWD responded with an exception of no cause of action alleging the action for nullity, La. C.C.P. 2002, applies only to technical defects of procedure or form, not to an evidentiary claim. The district court sustained the exception, dismissing Ms. Butler's suit. She appealed.



The Second Circuit affirmed, *Butler v. TOWD Point Master Funding Trust 2020-1*, 56,004 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1/15/25), in an opinion by Judge Hunter. Even though it is very hard to prevail on an exception of no cause, the law is clear that Art. 2002 applies only to “technical defects of procedure or form of the judgment.” *Nat’l Income Realty Tr. v. Paddie*, 98-2063 (La. 7/2/99), 737 So. 2d 1270. Any failure of proof must be raised by motion for new trial or by appeal; the court found Ms. Butler’s claim fell in that category.

Oddly, the default judgment was dated December 12, 2022, and Ms. Butler filed her suit for nullity February 6, 2023. By my reckoning, this would be within the delay of seven days (new trial) plus 60 days (devolutive appeal). Now, however, an appeal would be untimely. It pays to know what you can (and can’t) do with the action for nullity.

**A special trust.** In 2004, Kristen and her husband, Richard, took out student loans from Bank One, of \$18,764 and \$30,000 respectively. They made payments over the years but ultimately fell behind. In February 2021, an entity called National Collegiate Student Loan Trust filed suits against them seeking balances of \$33,638 plus accrued interest of \$16,525 against Kristen and \$64,375 plus accrued interest of \$28,634 against Richard. Not recognizing the name of the creditor, the couple filed exceptions of no right of action, lack of procedural capacity, and vagueness, all of which were overruled. NCSLT then filed motions for summary judgment, which were granted. Kristen and Richard appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Nat’l Collegiate Student Loan Trust 2005-1 v. Brown*, 55,971 (La. App. 2 Cir. 12/18/24) (opinion by Judge Cox), and *Nat’l Collegiate Student Loan Trust 2004-1 v. Pleasant*, 55,970 (La. App. 2 Cir. 12/18/24) (opinion by Judge Marcotte). The common issue was that the holder of the loan paper, NCSLT, was a trust, and under La. law a trust is not authorized to sue or be sued in its own name: only the trustee may be a plaintiff or defendant. La. R.S. 9:1731; La. C.C.P. art. 699. The court found, however, that, under Delaware law, NCSLT is a “registered statutory trust,” 12 Del. C. 3801(g), and as such may sue or be sued in its own right, 12 Del. C. 3804(a). La.’s Business Corporation Act recognizes the “business trust” and confirms such

an entity’s right to be “governed by an organic law of a jurisdiction other than this state,” La. R.S. 12:1-140 (10B). The court noted that the Third Circuit had already drawn the same conclusion, *Nat’l Collegiate Student Loan Trust 2006-1 v. Thomas*, 21-90 (La. App. 3 Cir. 6/2/21), 322 So. 3d 374. The court also found that NCSLT made an adequate showing to support the summary judgments.

The debtors raised an interesting argument appealing to the simple application of La.’s Trust Code, but the overarching effect of Delaware’s corporate-friendly law of statutory trusts, and our own Business Corporation Act, give the lender a very strong hand.

**Yes, you can dismiss.** In certain circumstances, the appellant may unilaterally dismiss his own appeal. URCA 2-8.4 states, “Where there has been no timely answer to the appeal, or other formal action to amend or modify the judgment appealed by any other party, the appellant may, by ex parte motion, request that the appeal be dismissed. The appeal shall be dismissed only by order of the court.” This doesn’t happen often, but it did in the recent case of *In re Owhe*, 56,199 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1/22/25), a summary opinion by Judge Ellender. Owhe, a Nigerian national and current resident of Austin, Texas, and his wife, Ms. Cooper, a resident of Ouachita Parish, had applied for Owhe to adopt Ms. Cooper’s twin 12-year-old daughters. The children’s court-appointed counsel argued against the adoption and, after a hearing, the district court found that the main reason for Owhe’s request was to burnish his application for U.S. citizenship. It denied adoption as not in the kids’ best interest. Owhe appealed.

Owhe’s initial appellate brief, pro se, was rejected for noncompliance with URCA and Second Circuit rules; his amended brief, also pro se, cured the defects identified in the rejection letter. Because of the preference given to adoption cases, La. Ch. C. art. 337, the appeal was placed on the very next docket. Apparently Owhe had a change of heart and filed a pro se motion to dismiss his own appeal. Ordinarily such a matter would be handled by writ order but, because the matter had already been docketed, the court issued a summary opinion granting the motion and dismissing the appeal.



# Federal Update

by Chris Slatten, [Chris\\_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Chris_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov)

## Amended Complaint Defeats Federal Question Removal:

If a complaint filed in state court asserts federal claims and related state-law claims, the defendant may remove the case to federal court. The federal court will have original jurisdiction over the federal claims and supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.

What happens if, after removal, the plaintiff amends her complaint to delete all federal claims, leaving nothing but state-law claims behind? The amended complaint supersedes the original complaint, so it is as if the federal claims never existed. The federal court loses its original and supplemental jurisdiction and must remand the case. *Royal Canin U. S. A., Inc. v. Wullschleger*, 145 S.Ct. 41 (2025).

Local federal practitioners often follow state court practice of voluntarily dismissing claims or parties by filing a motion to dismiss and obtaining an order from the court. Other jurisdictions have a tradition of accomplishing the same thing by amending/restating the complaint to drop claims or parties. If you are a removed plaintiff who wants to take advantage of *Royal Canin*, do it *exactly* like the plaintiff did in that case and file an amended and restated complaint that deletes all federal claims. A motion/order to dismiss the federal claims might not accomplish the same thing with regard to jurisdiction. My thoughts on this issue are too lengthy to explain in this space, but doing it any way other than the *Royal Canin* method is volunteering to be a test case when you could have had an easy win.

## Who Can Remove Based on Federal Question?:

Plaintiff sued two defendants in state court. He asserted a federal claim against D1 but only state law claims against D2. Can D2 remove the case based on federal question even though no federal claim is asserted against it? Yes, said the local court, citing language in the removal statutes and several district court decisions from around the country that have said the same. *Hutchinson v. Reed*, 2025 WL 451838 (W.D. La. 2025) (Hornsby, M.J.).

## Sentencing Guidelines:

Undercovers and a CI bought meth multiple times at a motorcycle shop. Mr. Le was often present and supplied the drugs, but he did not own or operate the shop. Le and others were charged with Using or Maintaining a Drug Premises on the grounds they “unlawfully and knowingly use[d] and maintain[ed]” the motorcycle shop as a drug premises in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 856(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2. Le pled guilty.

The factual basis to which Le admitted said that he “did unlawfully and knowingly use and maintain [the] motorcycle shop ... for the purpose of distributing and

using methamphetamine.” The Probation Office added a two-level enhancement under U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(b)(12) on the ground that “[Defendant] and co-conspirators maintained [the motorcycle shop] for the purpose of distributing and using methamphetamine.” Defendant then objected that he merely used the shop, not maintained it; he had no possessory interest and did not control access.

Even though the factual basis contained an admission to using and maintaining, “it [was] not plausible to find that Le maintained the motorcycle shop based on evidence elsewhere in the record.” There was also a record of the court and prosecutor employing the terms “use” and “maintain” almost interchangeably. Under the circumstances, it was reversible error for the district judge to add the sentence enhancement for maintaining the shop. *U.S. v. Le*, 126 F.4th 373 (5th Cir. 2025).

**Arbitration Ambiguities:** “[I]f the dispute is not settled by mediation . . . the dispute shall be referred by either Party to and finally resolved by arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of the DIFC LCIA (the “Rules”) . . .” Does this provision refer the matter to arbitration before the DIFC LCIA? Or does it merely refer the matter to an arbitration (somewhere) in accordance with that organization’s rules? The 5CA says that it “designates only a set of rules and not a particular arbitral forum.” *Baker Hughes v. Dynamic Indus., Inc.*, 126 F.4th 1073 (5th Cir. 2025).

Does a clause that adopts the rules of a specific institution *implicitly* select that institution as a—or the—forum? “Every circuit court to have addressed this issue has held in the affirmative, but we have lingering doubts—doubts we need not resolve in this appeal.” *Id.*

The DLF LCIA was abolished after the agreement was signed, but it was replaced by a nearly identical organization. The 5CA punted on whether the (perhaps) implicitly designated forum was “unavailable.” Even assuming it was designated and unavailable, the court must consider whether the parties’ primary intent was to arbitrate *generally* or instead set an exclusive forum. The 5CA said that their intent was to arbitrate generally. Case remanded to the district court to compel arbitration and appoint a substitute arbitrator consistent with the parties’ intent.

The lesson here is to draft arbitration clauses with attention to detail. The *Baker Hughes* decision and the many cases it cites generated untold hours of litigation that likely could have been avoided by precise language. But you can rest assured that some lawyer will one day nonetheless copy and paste this ambiguous clause into another contract.

# How Write You Are

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

**This should not predominate.** The standard, and very reliable, rule for forming an adverb is to add *-ly* to an adjective. A local journalist, however, recently deviated from this: “Johnson has published four books, *predominately* about New Orleans culture.” Presley Bo Tyler, “La. legend remembered / Writer, photographer and lover of area culture dies at age 59,” *The Times* (Shreveport), 2/3/25, p. 1.

She is not alone. “On the other hand, the Equal Protection Clause applies strict scrutiny to redistricting that is grounded *predominately* on race.” *Callais v. Landry*, 732 F. Supp. 3d 574 (W.D.-La. 2024). “Sgt. Sciortino said the composition of the bottom of the bayou was *predominately* mud[.]” *State v. Orso*, 23-1153 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/6/24), \_\_ So. 3d \_\_. The trial court focused “*predominately* on the questions concerning shoe size[.]” *State v. Brown*, 16-0998 (La. 1/28/22), 347 So. 3d 745. The North Carolina General Assembly “drew [an] initial remedial map that [the district] court found was still *predominately* based on race[.]” *North Carolina v. Covington*, 585 U.S. 969, 138 S. Ct. 2548 (2018) (headnote supplied by Thomson Reuters).

*Predominate* is a verb; the related adjective is *predominant*, and the adverb is formed by adding the standard *-ly* – *predominantly*. Fortunately, legal writers predominantly use the correct word. “To be sure, nothing in the Constitution requires these *predominantly* commercial benefits.” *Vidal v. Elster*, 602 U.S. 286, 144 S. Ct. 1507 (2024) (Sotomayor, concurring). “The State’s own case *predominantly* established Robert’s guilt while the evidence against the defendant \* \* \* was minimal.” *State v. Alexander*, 22-01205 (La. 5/5/23), 362 So. 3d 356.

**Something to ponder.** A parallel formation arises from the verb for to *outweigh* – *preponderate*. Which of these seem right or wrong?

“[T]he plaintiff could not *preponderately* prove the measures taken by the tax collector after the original notice had been returned by the post office[.]” *Koeppen v. Raz*, 29,880 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/29/97), 702 So. 2d 337.

“In order to obtain a summary judgment, it is not sufficient to prove that it is unlikely that the plaintiff may recover, or that the showing then made *preponderantly* indicates there is no liability.” *Phillpott v. Clarendon Am. Ins. Co.*, 09-144 (La. App. 5 Cir. 9/29/09), 22 So. 3d 1102.

“[T]he circumstantial guarantees of the statement’s reliability were insufficient and the trustworthiness of the statement was not *preponderately* shown.” *United Investors Life Ins. Co. v. Alexander*, 27,466 (La. App. 2 Cir. 11/1/95), 662 So. 2d 831.

The correct word is *preponderantly*, but Spell Check does not tick the other form. (It also does not tick *predominately*.) Careful writers will have to remember, as they already do, *preponderantly*.

**Keeping your headings straight.** In addition to word choice, grammar, spelling and other fine points, effective writing must be organized. Your entire memo should be easy to use for quick



reference; divisions should be clearly marked; sections should be easy to locate. An excellent way to achieve this is to use headings. Some headings are more effective than others.

Topic headings should be used for major divisions of any legal document of more than two or three pages. Subheadings may also be used to identify the topic of a paragraph or block of paragraphs, thereby reinforcing the traditional topic sentence.

Other useful tips include:

(i) Topic headings should be short to help the reader locate the information quickly.

(ii) Form should be consistent: Use either complete sentences or topic summaries, but do not switch back and forth. (This is probably the most distracting quality of hastily written headings.) Headings may state the questions presented.

(iii) All words in fragmentary topic headings should begin with capital letters except prepositions (such as *of* and *in*), articles (*a*, *the*) and conjunctions of four letters or fewer (*and*, *but*).

(iv) Fragmentary topic headings are not punctuated.

(v) A colon is used for compound topic headings, for example: *The Basics: When Partition is Available*.

These hints are adapted from a nearly antediluvian book in West’s “In a Nut Shell” series, Lynn B. Squires & Marjorie Dick Rombauer, *Legal Writing* (St. Paul, Minn.: West Pub. Co., ©1982). The authors offer a sixth tip which, in my view, has not survived the computer era: they recommend underlining headings. **Don’t.** We now use underlining only for URLs. Don’t mislead readers by underlining something that’s not a link. Use **Boldface** for emphasis in headings.

**What does that word mean, anyway?** It’s one of my favorite nitpicking items, derived from La. C. Cr. P. art. 894.1 A(3). “Any lesser sentence would *depreciate* the seriousness of the defendant’s crime, which ended a life.” *State v. Clement*, 23-1356 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/10/24), \_\_ So. 3d \_\_. The “trial court \* \* \* believed a lesser sentence would *depreciate* the seriousness of the crime[.]” *State v. Stewart*, 24-50 (La. App. 5 Cir. 10/30/24), \_\_ So. 3d \_\_. Or this headnote, supplied by Thomson Reuters: “lesser sentence would *depreciate* seriousness of defendant’s crimes[.]” *State v. Gaines*, 54,383 (La. App. 2 Cir. 5/25/22), 338 So. 3d 1212. The word used means *make it worth less* or *belittle*, and it fits reasonably well.

Look again: the legislature gave us “A lesser sentence will *deprecate* the seriousness of the defendant’s crime.” A tiny letter is missing, and what does this shortened word this mean? It is defined as *express earnest disapproval of* or *protest against*. A synonym would be *disparage*.

I deprecate any use of the wrong word, but I can almost forgive this one!





# Young Lawyers' Section

by Gregory Trompé, [gregorytrompe@gmail.com](mailto:gregorytrompe@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCING THE 2025 YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

I am stoked and grateful to be serving as the 2025 President of the Young Lawyers' Section. It would be remiss not to thank the past president emeritus, Thomas Mayfield, for his outstanding contribution and efforts during last year's administration.

I am pleased to announce the **2025 YLS Executive Board** officers and members: **Vice-President** Tanner Reed Yeldell, **Secretary** Skylar Dean, **Treasurer** Zachary Mayfield, **Social Media Chair** Anna Claire Tucker and **Member-at-Large** Calvin Combs.

### Goals & Objectives: 2025

The Board's goal this year is to continue building our Young Lawyers' Section's involvement within the Shreveport/Bossier Community and forge relationships with other peers, mentors, attorneys and judges that serve our communities.

Our first community engagement participation of this year was volunteering in the 2025 Richard N. Ware, IV High School Mock Trial Competition. The mock trial competition was held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the **U.S. District Court-Western District of Louisiana**.



**Gregory Trompé**  
*President*



**Tanner Yeldell**  
*Vice-President*



**Skylar Dean**  
*Secretary*



**Zachary Mayfield**  
*Treasurer*



**Anna Claire Tucker**  
*Social Media Chair*



**Calvin Combs**  
*Member-at-Large*





# Monroe Inn of Court

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

## Professionalism, judicial and legislative highlights feature in recent programs

Professionalism and highlights, judicial and legislative, were topics of recent programs of the Judge Fred Fudickar Jr. AIC (Monroe, La.).

Ty Storms, a sole practitioner in Ruston, moderated the program on February 10, “The Life and Work of Professor Yiannopoulos: The Importance of Instilling Professionalism in Law Students.” Ty began by briefly relating his experience working as the late Prof. Yiannopoulos’s research assistant while in law school at Tulane, and then their ongoing projects at the La. Law Institute. “He treated everyone with such respect that students and colleagues couldn’t help carry it on with their own associates, colleagues and clients,” he said. Ty then moved on to the history of CLE in the LSBA, challenging older members to recall when the system was initiated, and when ethics, and then professionalism, were added. “Does anybody remember the ‘Ethical Considerations’? They were close to ‘professionalism.’ I’m sure even our current Code of Professionalism will change too, as the challenges of practice and technology evolve.”

For the bulk of the program, he asked audience members to share personal experiences that would illustrate various points of the current Code. There was no shortage of volunteers! “This group is probably the *least in need* of reminders to act professionally,” he added. “Our best work is to lead by example.”

On November 11, 2024, I presented “Recent Developments in Criminal & Civil Appeals (Second Circuit),” starting with the legislative changes most likely to affect appellate work: the new two-year prescriptive period for torts (except for certain kinds of malpractice), the exception of peremption in the appellate court and the burden of proof in self-defense cases.



Ty Storms paid tribute to the late Prof. Yiannopoulos and recalled his dedication to professionalism, at the February meeting. “Although he became a fixture at Tulane, his heart was always back in Baton Rouge, with LSU and the Law Institute.”



Judge D. Milton Moore (now retired), Hal and the Lotus Club’s longtime bartender, Mr. Van Eleam, posed for this picture before Hal’s presentation at the November 2024 meeting.

and well received.

All three meetings were held at the Lotus Club, on the ninth floor of the historic Vantage/ONB Building, on DeSiard Street in downtown Monroe. Social hours with an open bar and heavy hors-d’oeuvres preceded all meetings. Attendees in November and December received one hour of general CLE credit, and in February, one hour of professionalism. Secretary Mike Street announced the next meeting would be March 13 at the ULM Library.

Then, the statistics: in the 12-month period, the court rendered 202 formal opinions (up from 149 in 2023). Among civil opinions, 50% were to affirm, 22% to amend and affirm in part, 28% to reverse. (Bear in mind, many civil reversals are technical, such as summary judgments and exceptions of no cause of action.) Among criminal opinions, 81% were to affirm, 25% to amend or affirm in part, and only 4% to reverse. The court also issued 281 writ orders; among civil writs, 82% of applications were denied. Like the opinions, most writ orders may now be viewed on the court’s website, [www.la2nd.org/orders/](http://www.la2nd.org/orders/).

Finally, I traced the more interesting opinions, most of which involved the mechanics of summary judgments, med mal claims, slip-and-fall, employment issues and insurance coverage. The court had two defamation opinions as well.

On December 2, 2024, Prof. William Corbett, of LSU Law Center, presented “Recent Developments in La. Civil Litigation: A Holiday Primer.” Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this one, but his comprehensive handout covered changes to rules for expert witnesses, La. C.E. art. 702, the Direct Action Statute, La. R.S. 22:1269, offer of judgment, La. C.C.P. art. 970, and other topics. He also discussed significant cases from the La. Supreme Court and the other courts of appeal. Prof. Corbett’s annual presentation is always thoughtful, analytic



# JUSTINYAN BAL Highlights









# CENTRAUR

## Parade Highlights



Christine Fortson, Amy Bokenfohr and Sandra Monroe



Justinian Float Photo #4



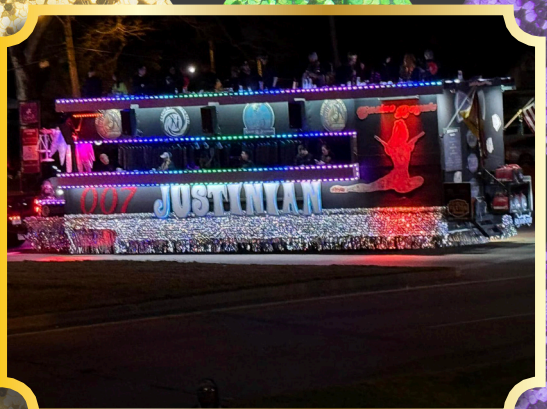
Justinian Float Photo #2



Justinian Float Photo #3



Sandra and Ray Monroe



Justinian Float



Float Riders



# 200th Anniversary of the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825 CLE and Cocktail Reception



Phelps Gay, Judge Brady O'Callaghan and Clint Bowers



Clint Bowers, Mayor Tom Arceneaux, Judge Brady O'Callaghan and Phelps Gay



Krislyn Flores, Rachel Hughes and Helen Marrs





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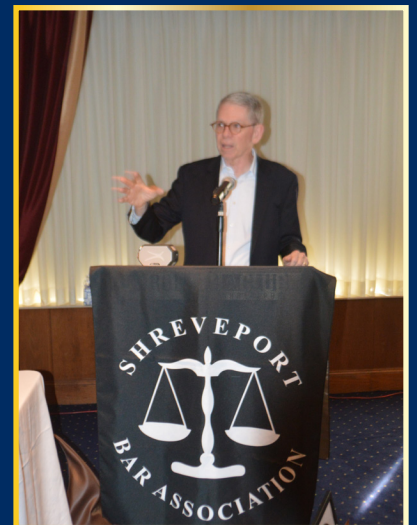
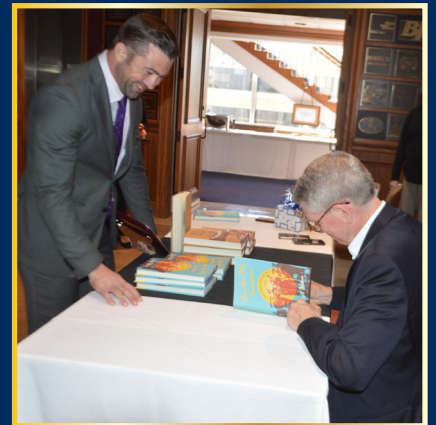
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# FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

## Highlights





# CLASSIFIEDS

## Brief writing/legal research.

Columbia Law School graduate; former U.S. 5th Circuit staff attorney; former U.S. District Court, Western District of Louisiana, law clerk; more than 20 years of legal experience; available for brief writing and legal research; references and résumé available on request. Appellate Practice specialist, certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## \*2025 SBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON 12:00 Noon at the Petroleum Club (15th Floor)

### \*MARCH 26

**SBA MEMBER LUNCHEON**  
Speaker: Alexander Mikaberidze,  
Professor of History, Ruth Herring  
Noel Endowed Chair for the  
Curatorship of the James Smith Noel  
Collection LSU-Shreveport

### APRIL 30

**LAW DAY LUNCHEON**  
12:00 Noon at the Petroleum Club  
(15th Floor)  
Speaker: TBD

### MAY 2

**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RED MASS**  
Music 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m.  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church

### MAY 6

**Give for Good Campaign**  
Event Locations and  
Times are TBD

### \*SEPTEMBER 25

**SBA MEMBER LUNCHEON**  
Speaker:TBD

### \*OCTOBER 22

**SBA MEMBER LUNCHEON/CLE**  
Speaker: H. Alston Johnson

## 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 Luncheon Meeting – March 26

*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 of CLE credit or \$30 for lunch only.*

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



Alexander Mikaberidze

**When:** 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, March 26

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

**Featuring:** Alexander Mikaberidze, Professor of History, Ruth Herring Noel Endowed Chair for the Curatorship of the James Smith Noel Collection

**Topic:** From Paris to the Bayou? The Napoleonic Code and Louisiana

*This presentation is eligible for 1 hour CLE credit.*

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER AND TOPIC

Alexander Mikaberidze is a Professor of History at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, where he also holds the Ruth Herring Noel Endowed Chair for the Curatorship of the James Smith Noel Collection. He has an LL.M. in international law and a Ph.D. in history and currently serves as a Fulbright US Scholar. A scholar of the Revolutionary Era, he is renowned for his award-winning works that challenge conventional narratives and situate Napoleonic conflicts within a broader context. He has written and edited over two dozen titles, including *The Cambridge History of the Napoleonic Wars* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and *Kutuzov: A Life in War and Peace* (Oxford University Press, 2022). His book *The Napoleonic Wars: A Global History* (Oxford University Press, 2020 and 2025) was critically acclaimed worldwide, translated into half a dozen languages and earned multiple honors, including the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award and the Gilder Lehrman Military History Prize.

The Napoleonic Code was a revolutionary legal framework that reshaped civil law in France and beyond. But how much of its influence truly reached Louisiana? This talk explores the development of the Napoleonic Code, its philosophical and legal foundations and its complex role in shaping Louisiana's legal system. By tracing this legal legacy, the talk will uncover how history, culture and law intertwined to create a system that still distinguishes Louisiana from the rest of the United States.

Confirm your reservation(s) by email at [dsouthern@shreveportbar.com](mailto:dsouthern@shreveportbar.com) or by phone at 703-8372.

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