

THE BAR REVIEW

PUBLICATION OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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| 11/5 | SBA Member Luncheon
12:00 p.m. - Petroleum Club |
| 11/6 | Memorial & Recognition Ceremony
2:00 p.m. - Caddo Parish Courthouse |
| 12/17-18 | December CLE by the Hour Seminar |
| 12/7 | SBA Christmas Party |

From The President

by Elizabeth M. Carmody, elizabeth.carmody@cookyancey.com



I love November! I am not sure if it's because it's my birth month, the colors of the leaves are changing or it's the first month in Louisiana when you can be more hopeful about enjoying a crisp breeze, especially in Shreveport. November, along with April, are probably my two favorite months here (as I mentioned in my April article) and in New Orleans where I attended college. In fact, this month always brings to mind some of the lyrics of Better Than Ezra's classic, "This Time of Year":

Well there's a feeling in the air
Just like a Friday afternoon
Yeah you can go there if you want
Though it fades too soon

So go on
Let it be
If there's a feeling coming over me
Seems like it's always understood
This time of year



Hearing that song never fails to evoke college memories of beautiful fall Friday afternoons sitting outside at The Boot chatting with friends while watching fellow students playing pickup football on the lawn in front of Newcomb College. Sadly, Tulane saw fit to take over that beautiful lawn with more buildings. This song is particularly nostalgic this year as I, along with my Class of 1995 classmates, will celebrate our 30-year college reunion in a couple of weeks. I am truly grateful for the lifetime friendships I made while attending Newcomb/Tulane and cannot wait to see and spend time with some of my closest who will be traveling in from all over the United States.

November is also the month of one of my favorite holidays – Thanksgiving! There is just something about a holiday with no expectations from anyone of anything other than gratitude, good food, family and/or friends and camaraderie that brings me tremendous joy.

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, surrounded by family, friends and maybe a few too many side dishes, it's also a good time to pause and think about those in our community who might not have as much to celebrate. For some, this season can be tough – whether it's worrying about making ends meet, finding a warm meal or just feeling alone during the holidays.

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One of the things I love about our legal community is how giving it is. We don't just talk about service; we show up for it. Whether it's volunteering time with pro bono clients, donating to local charities or helping organizations like the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, Providence House or the Common Ground Community, just to name a few, every bit of effort goes a long way toward making someone's season a little brighter.

November has a way of reminding us to slow down, appreciate what we have and share where we can. So, as you soak in the cooler air, good food and time with loved ones, I hope you'll also take a moment to spread a little of that Thanksgiving warmth to others. After all, that's what community – and this time of year – is all about.

As Better Than Ezra says, "*There's a feeling in the air...*" – here's hoping it's one of gratitude, connection and community. May this season remind us to be thankful not only for what we have, but also for the opportunity to share it. From my family to yours, wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a November full of warmth, laughter and good people.





December CLE By The Hour

December 17-18, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn / Homewood Suites ▪ 2015 Old Minden Rd, Bossier City

13 Louisiana CLE Credits (including 1 Hour Ethics & 1 Hour Professionalism)

13 Texas CLE Credits Approved (including 2 Hours Ethics)

(Please Circle Classes Attending)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

7:30 A.M. Registration

8:30 A.M. Louisiana State Court E-filings

60 Minutes Mike Spence, Caddo Parish Clerk of Court - First Judicial District Court

9:30 A.M. Break

9:35 A.M. Cybersecurity with an Emphasis on Law Firms

60 Minutes Scott Wolf - Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway

10:35 A.M. Break

10:40 A.M. 2025 Legislative Update

90 Minutes Senator Thomas Pressly - Pettiette, Armand, Dunkelman, Woodley & Cromwell LLP

12:10 P.M. Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$30)

1:00 P.M. Professionalism

60 Minutes Judge Frances Pitman - Second Circuit Court of Appeal and Judge Michael Pitman - First Judicial District Court

2:00 P.M. Break

2:05 P.M. Trends in Investigating and Prosecuting Child

60 Minutes Exploitation Cases
Zachary A. Keller, United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana

3:05 P.M. Break

3:15 P.M. Caddo Parish Juvenile Court Update

60 Minutes Judge Justin Courtney - Caddo Parish Juvenile Court

Thursday, December 18, 2025

7:30 A.M. Registration

8:30 A.M. Recent Developments in Constitutional Law on AI

60 Minutes D. Lee Harville - The Harville Law Firm

9:30 A.M. Break

9:35 A.M. Second Circuit Court of Appeal and Writs -

60 Minutes Meaning of "Denied" vs. "Not considered"
Robin N. Jones, Clerk of Court and Jessica Stephenson - Second Circuit Court of Appeal

10:35 A.M. Break

10:40 A.M. Oil & Gas Update

90 Minutes Drew Burnham - Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway

12:10 P.M. Lunch (included with all-day registration, or \$30)

1:00 P.M. Ethics

60 Minutes Associate Justice (Ret) Scott Crichton - Louisiana Supreme Court

2:00 P.M. Break

2:05 P.M. Meta Data, Audio & Video Update

60 Minutes Marion K. Marks - MMCC Forensics

3:05 P.M. Break

3:15 P.M. Tort Update

60 Minutes Marshall Rice - Rice & Kendig Injury Lawyers and Alexander Mijalis - Lunn Irion Law Firm

Registration Fees:

Complete this form or register online at shreveportbar.com

Individual Session Rates

Non-Member - \$65 per session (\$75 after Dec. 8)

SBA Member - \$55 per session (\$65 after Dec. 8)

All Day Wednesday Non-Members - \$400 (\$450 after Dec. 8)

(6.50 hours) SBA Members - \$300 (\$350 after Dec. 8)

All Day Thursday Non-Members - \$400 (\$450 after Dec. 8)

(6.50 hours) SBA Members - \$300 (\$350 after Dec. 8)

Both Days Non-Members - \$550 (\$600 after Dec. 8)

(13 hours) SBA Members - \$450 (\$500 after Dec. 8)

Name _____

Billing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone No. _____ Fax No. _____

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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, 2025, 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.

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How Write You Are

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

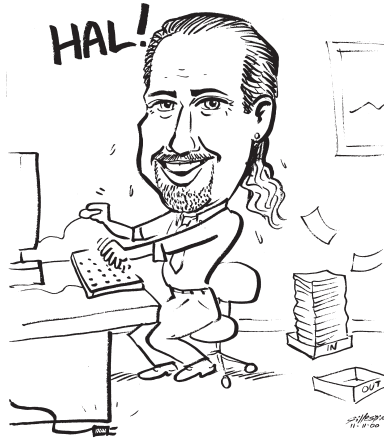
These are not lessees. In an action denying writ in a death penalty case, a concurring opinion rejected the applicant's claim of religious beliefs that the writer deemed "expansive enough to prohibit any form of execution as being in contravention of his theological and moral tenants." *State v. Hoffman*, 25-00327 (La. 3/18/25), 402 So. 3d 1214 (McCallum, concurring). The justice is not alone; a dissenting judge in a civil case wrote, "Moving on to the interpretation of La. R.S. 13:3923, the basic tenants of statutory construction must be employed." *First Pay Inc. v. Dukes*, 2023-1272 (La. App. 1 Cir. 11/20/24), 405 So. 3d 1066 (Miller, dissenting). Even a well-curated legal reference can miss the mark: "One of the main tenants of antitrust law is that competition occurs best when participants make decisions independently." Alan S. Gutterman, *Business Transactions Solutions* § 235:36 (Westlaw Next, Aug. 2025 update).

These writers were reaching for *tenet*, meaning a *doctrine* or *dogma*, especially one held by members of a particular profession, group or movement. Legal writers depend on the tenets of statutory construction or antitrust law. The word is often mispronounced as *tenant*, meaning a *renter* or *lessee*; in all fairness, many words end in the unstressed *-ent* sound. Consider *present*, *potent*, *competent*. To complicate matters, Spell Check will not catch any of the examples cited above, so writers have to be cautious. Proofreading is an important tenet of legal writing.

We might denounce this. The Supreme Court recently tightened up the concept of waiving abandonment for failure to take any step in the prosecution or defense of a case, La. C.C.P. art. 561 A(1). Apparently seeking to make such waiver harder to prove, the court stated: "Post-abandonment waiver is limited to a situation where a defendant takes an action which *renunciates* the defense of abandonment[.]" *Found. Elevation & Repair LLC v. Miller*, 24-00810 (La. 5/9/25), 408 So. 3d 893. Did the court want to *annunciate* a new term of legalese, or *cancellate* a perfectly good word, *renounce*?

The court's word choice is not unprecedented. The Second Circuit has stated the plaintiffs' claim "had prescribed; and plaintiffs must, therefore, demonstrate that their claim was either suspended, interrupted, or *renounced*." *Pickett v. Willis-Knighton Pierremont Health Ctr.*, 43,692 (La. App. 2 Cir. 11/5/08), 998 So. 2d 777. Another court, however, treated the term more objectively, when listing a defendant's assignments of error, verbatim: "The court *renounced* [*sic*] and relinquished [*sic*] its incumbent constitutional duty to comport to fair and impartial procedure[.]" *State v. Thibodeaux*, 15-723 (La. App. 3 Cir. 4/13/16), 190 So. 3d 426 (bracketed material in original).

So, I glimpsed the authorities. My "go-to" online refence is dictionary.com, which aggregates other dictionaries; it lists **renunciate** as a *noun*, meaning "(1) Hinduism, another word for sannyasi; and (2) Christianity, any religious devotee who renounces earthly pleasures and lives as an ascetic." Please note,



it's a noun, for use in theological contexts, and not a verb for *swear off*. The leading curated reference, *The American Heritage Dict. of the English Language*, ahdictionary.com, gives "No word definition found." Another major source, *Merriam-Webster Dict.*, merriam-webster.com/dictionary, comes up a total blank. My favourite British source, *Chambers 21st Century Dict.*, chambers.co.uk/search, gives "Sorry, no entries for **renunciate** found." The antique *New Century Dict. of the English Language* (New York: P.F. Collier & Son, © 1938), which I keep in my office for historical perspective, lists **renunciation**, and gives as related forms only **renunciative** and

renunciatory. Same with Black's Law Dict., 8 ed. (Thomson West ©2004): after defining *renunciation*, it lists related forms *renunciative*, *renunciatory*, adj., *renounce*, vb. Against this background, I'm slightly perplexed that Spell Check does not tag *renunciate*. (Oddly, it redlines the past tense *renounced*. Go figure.)

This word should probably be consigned to humorous writing, along with *administrate* and *cohabitate*. It's permissible to find a renunciation, but to phrase it actively, write that the defendant *renounced* abandonment.

Are you squinting? A recent email from Word Smarts made me chuckle. In "What Is a Squinting Modifier?" Rachel Gresh defined this as a "grammatical quirk that creates ambiguity, often confusing readers who are unsure if the modifier is attached to the word before or after it." Some examples tell the story:

"Studies show that reading *often* improves memory." Does this mean that *frequent reading* improves memory, or that reading *in many instances* improves memory?

"The house that got a new roof *recently* was sold." Was the new roof *installed recently*, or did that house *sell recently*?

"Public speakers who pause *briefly* refocus their audience." "Taking a moment to think *clearly* improves your writing."

"One morning I shot an *elephant in my pajamas*. How he got in my pajamas I'll never know." (Groucho Marx, "Animal Crackers")

The best approach is to reread your first draft with a fresh eye, perhaps 24 hours after writing it, to find anything that might make the reader stumble. How would you fix the examples given above?

This is not proscribed. In other words, it's not *forbidden*. "Hard Rock cites to *Ardoin v. Hartford Acc. & Indem. Co.*, 360 So. 2d 1331 (La. 1978) in support of its assertion that the statute at issue merely *proscribes* the burden of proof for plaintiff's claim." *Johno v. Doe*, 16-0087 (La. 12/6/16), 218 So. 3d 1004. Neither *Ardoin* nor any other case proscribes (*banishes* or *outlaws*) the burden of proof in a negligence claim; it only prescribes (*sets out the rules for*) the burden. Try to be a *pro scribe*, everyone – an ace at writing!



Federal Update

by Chris Slatten, Chris_Slatten@lawd.uscourts.gov

Motion to Dismiss and Prescription:

Defendants sometimes file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that all or some of the plaintiff's claims are prescribed. Those motions face a

heavy burden and are often denied.

The statute of limitations is an affirmative defense that "places the burden of proof on the party pleading it." *Frame v. City of Arlington*, 657 F.3d 215, 239 (5th Cir. 2011) (en banc). A Rule 12(b)(6) motion based on a limitations defense is proper only if the grounds for the defense "clearly appear on the face of the plaintiff's complaint." *Songbyrd, Inc. v. Bearsville Records, Inc.*, 104 F.3d 773, 776 (5th Cir. 1997). But under federal pleading requirements, "a plaintiff is not required to allege that his claims were filed within the applicable statute of limitations." *Frame*, 657 F.3d at 239-40.

The moving defendant in *Robinson v. Grand Cane Enters., LLC*, 2025 WL 2597559 (W.D. La. 2025) argued that claims were untimely because the plaintiff's petition "does not specify the date(s) on which the allegedly improper" actions happened. Well, the plaintiff had no obligation to make such allegations. The timeliness defense was not clear on the face of the petition, so the motion to dismiss was denied.

For a defendant to win such a motion, the plaintiff has to squarely allege that the relevant events happened outside the timeliness window. If that is not the case, a motion for summary judgment is the better vehicle for asserting the timeliness defense.

Summary Judgment Memoranda: More than 30 years ago, the 5CA pointed out, "Unsworn pleadings, memoranda, or the like are not, of course, competent summary judgment evidence." *Larry v. White*, 929 F.2d 206, 211 (5th Cir. 1991). I've used that quote countless times since. You might think that all lawyers in summary judgment contests know this rule and would not represent a fact in a memo that is not backed by a record reference to competent summary judgment evidence. Unfortunately, you would be wrong.

Drilling Down for Diversity: The citizenship of an LLC or partnership is based on that of its members or partners. An LLC removed a case based on diversity. It filed its Rule 7.1 diversity jurisdiction disclosure statement and did a good job of drilling down through six levels of membership until it hit a limited partnership. It then stated that the partners "include" Omega Healthcare Investors, a Maryland corporation with its principal place of business in Maryland, "and limited partners who are outside investors, none of which are citizens of the State of Louisiana."

The court ordered a redo. *Tesci v. FC Encore*, 2025 WL 2654911 (W.D. La. 2025). "A party seeking to establish

diversity jurisdiction must specifically allege the citizenship of every member of every LLC or partnership involved in a litigation." *Settlement Funding, L.L.C. v. Rapid Settlements, Ltd.*, 851 F.3d 530, 536 (5th Cir. 2017). The allegation that the partners "include" Omega and unidentified limited partners is not sufficiently specific to identify all of its partners. All partners, limited or general, must be identified.

It was also not sufficient, even if the limited partners had been identified, to merely allege that "none of [them] are citizens of the State of Louisiana." *Mullins v. TestAmerica Inc.*, 300 Fed. Appx. 259, 260 (5th Cir. 2008) (party's stated belief that none of the entities had members and partners in Texas "falls manifestly short of distinctly and affirmatively alleging [a partnership's] citizenship"). Sometimes there are hundreds of limited partners, but their citizenship (at the time of filing and the time of removal) must be specified. *Moran v. Gulf South Pipeline Co., LP*, 2007 WL 276196 (W.D. La. 2007) (collecting cases that required specificity of limited partners despite there being thousands of them or their interests being minuscule).

Call Your Congressman: Many lawyers complain about these requirements. I tell them that we don't enjoy spending hours each week reviewing citizenship allegations, but we must because of how the courts have (correctly) interpreted § 1332 with respect to unincorporated associations. If you want to change the law, call your congressman and ask for a legislative fix. When Congress amended the diversity statute as part of the Class Action Fairness Act, it said, "For purposes of this subsection and section 1453 (removal of class actions), an unincorporated association shall be deemed to be a citizen of the State where it has its principal place of business and the State under whose laws it is organized." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(10). If they can do it there, they can change it for all diversity cases. Then the citizenship of corporations, LLCs, and partnerships would all be determined the same way. It would be a nice bonus if Congress also did something to clarify the citizenship of the various forms of trusts.

Sham Trustee and Diversity: Speaking of trusts, the trustee is the proper party to bring a claim on behalf of a trust, and it is the trustee's citizenship that matters for diversity purposes. In *Fugedi v. Initram, Inc.*, 150 F.4th 690 (5th Cir. 2025) there was evidence that the trustee was improperly appointed as a sham trustee to create diversity jurisdiction that otherwise would have been lacking.

"A district court shall not have jurisdiction of a civil action in which any party, by assignment or otherwise, has been improperly or collusively made or joined to invoke the jurisdiction of such court." 28 U.S.C. § 1359. The 5CA said that "or otherwise" included appointing a sham trustee. The district court's decision to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction was affirmed.



Second Circuit Highlights

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

This use is almost uncontested. In late 2020, the Cahills bought a house in Willow Ridge Subdivision, a development on Cross Lake in Shreveport. The Cahills are residents of Oklahoma but apparently intended to use the house as a pied-à-terre when they visited the area. In August 2022, however, they applied for a short-term rental property permit (using the name “Cahill Dream Properties”) and listed the house on Airbnb and Vrbo. The homeowners’ association (“MHA”) sent them a cease-and-desist letter; when this obtained no results, MHA filed suit for an injunction.

The subdivision was subject to a declaration of covenants filed in the Caddo Parish conveyance records in 1982. The declaration stated, in Art. VII, § 1, “No Lot shall be used except for residential purposes.” MHA contended that using the house for short-term rental was not a residential purpose. The declaration also stated, in Art. VIII, § 3, that the restrictions would bind the land and be enforceable by MHA “for a term of twenty (20) years from the date this Declaration is recorded, after which time said covenants shall be automatically extended for successive period of ten (10) years.” The Cahills contended that the declaration was recorded in 1982, ran until 2002, got an automatic 10-year extension, ran until 2012, but then it was over, no longer enforceable. The district court agreed with MHA, found the declaration enforceable and granted the permanent injunction. The Cahills appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Marina Homeowners Ass’n Inc. v. Cahill*, 56,423 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/27/25), in an opinion by Judge Cox. The analysis focused on the curious phrasing of Art. VIII, § 3, which extended the declaration “for successive period of ten (10) years.” Because the word *period* is singular, did this mean the drafters intended exactly one 10-year extension? Or, because they also used the word *successive*, did they intend to allow a sequence of extensions? The court went with the latter view, holding the use of *successive* meant “multiple, automatic 10-year periods,” and apparently adopting MHA’s hypothesis that the singular “period” was a typo for the plural “periods.” There is a lot to be said for the value of careful drafting and diligent proofreading!

With that decided, the court found, almost as an afterthought, that using the house as a short-term commercial business, with listings on Airbnb and Vrbo, was “a clear violation” of the restriction to residential purposes. MHA could enjoin such use.

Given the explosive popularity of individual vacation rentals – Airbnb and Vrbo boast over 2 million active listings – it was inevitable that some friction would occur. This case illustrates that if the house is subject to a restrictive covenant with residential-only use, for-fee rental is probably not a viable option.

The technological divide. The plaintiffs, Reed and Young, rented a house in the Booker T. Washington area of Monroe. In 2023, they filed suit in Monroe City Court against their landlord, Woods, alleging “unsafe living conditions, emotional distress, pain and suffering, and negligence of property.” The petition, which was handwritten by the plaintiffs on a form provided by the city court and filed pro se, did not elaborate on the unsafe conditions, but said, “Attached USB drive.” The USB drive contained four videos of the house’s backyard, recorded at different times, showing several inches of raw sewage and damp toilet paper covering most of the yard; another, of the laundry room, showed brown water flowing behind the washing machine and water damage to the wall and floor; another showed a toilet that would not flush; and the final video showed a repairman stating he did not want to enter the backyard to make

repairs because of the standing sewage. Woods answered and reconvened arguing the tenants caused the damage by blocking the sewer line and air return of the AC and by unscrewing the hose to the washing machine.

On the day of trial, Woods filed a motion to strike the contents of the USB drive because it had never been served on the defendant; hence, it was outside the scope of the pleadings. The city court denied this and proceeded to trial, the Youngs still acting pro se. The court found the conditions in the house were unsuitable for habitation; Woods breached his duty to make necessary repairs; and the tenants were justified in leaving the premises and did not owe full rent for the nine months they were affected by the sewage problems. The court awarded them each \$2,700, for half of nine months’ rent, and \$3,000 for pain and suffering. The total award was \$11,400. Woods appealed. The tenants secured a lawyer for the appeal.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Young v. Woods*, 56,328 (La. App. 2 Cir. 7/16/25), in an opinion by Judge Marcotte. The assigned error was the admission of the USB drive. The court has wide discretion to strike “any redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter,” La. C.C.P. art. 964, but a copy of any written instrument which is an exhibit to a pleading “need not be served upon the adverse party” unless such service is expressly prayed for, La. C.C.P. art. 1311. The court found that the USB drive was “an exhibit * * * related to their claims,” was relevant, and the trial court was not required to strike it. The Second Circuit also dismissed Woods’s argument that he was “blindsided” by the contents of the USB drive: he had 10 months in which he could have viewed it at the clerk of court’s office or compelled production of it, and he had ample opportunity at trial to cross-examine the tenants about its contents. The court found no abuse of discretion and affirmed the judgment.

This trial was held in city court, with a certain level of informality, and pitted unrepresented tenants against a landlord with the lawyer. In other circumstances, I would not recommend attaching a USB drive to a petition with no provision for the other side to receive a copy of it. However, the tenants’ unschooled approach probably shows a trend in the popular perception: a cellphone video exported to a thumb drive is strong and authoritative evidence. Is the legal system adapting to this?

Where it’s still just one year. Ms. Sherman rented a house in west Shreveport, using a Section VIII subsidy. Her lease had expired in April 2019, but the landlord allowed her to stay month-to-month, subject to a 15-day notice to vacate written into the lease. In March 2020, the landlord told her to vacate, but COVID orders intervened and he allowed her to stay until August 31. When she refused to leave, the landlord filed an eviction notice. Ms. Sherman hired an attorney to defend her. Unfortunately, the attorney was unable to present a compelling defense; the city court granted eviction in September 2020, and the Second Circuit rejected her appeal in April 2021. In May 2022, Ms. Sherman filed, pro se, a malpractice suit against the attorney alleging, among other things, failure to communicate with the client or learn the facts of the case, return the file when requested, and educate herself about Title VIII. The attorney filed an exception of peremption, under La. R.S. 9:5605. The district court sustained this and Ms. Sherman, still acting pro se, appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Sherman v. Anderson-Scott*, 56,429 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/27/25), in an opinion by Judge Ellender. The court reviewed and explained, for the benefit of the self-represented plaintiff, the wealth of emails – all attached to the plaintiff’s own pleadings – that showed her actual knowledge of facts that would have enabled her to state a cause of action for malpractice well over a year before she filed suit. Also, certain allegations in her pleadings constituted judicial confessions of knowledge. The plaintiff’s own words torpedoed her claim.

The point worth remembering is that the legal malpractice statute, R.S. 9:5605, sets a time limit of “one year from the date of the alleged act, omission, or neglect, or within one year from the date that the alleged act, omission, or neglect is discovered or should have been discovered,” all subject to a three-year outer limit. The period is preemptive, not merely prescriptive. *Nicholas v. Bonnie*, 23-01250 (La. 5/31/24), 385 So. 3d 1130. And, crucially, it’s *one year*, an important outlier from the general two-year period for torts that has been the law since July 1, 2024. La. C.C. art. 3493.1. In matters of legal malpractice, we can still use the old, familiar one-year limit.

It’s easier to will now. In September I wrote about *Succession of Baggett*, 56,266 (La. App. 2 Cir. 5/21/25), 412 So. 3d 247, in which the codicil to a purported notarial testament was declared invalid because, contrary to La. C.C. art. 1577 (2), the testator did not sign each separate page – she signed the final page but only initialed the first page. The court followed the recent guidance of *Succession of Frabbiele*, 24-00091 (La. 12/13/24), 397 So. 3d 391, which extended the concept of substantial compliance to the phrasing of the attestation clause but refused to apply it to other formalities stated in Art. 1577.

Apparently, the legislature was not pleased. On June 4, it passed 2025 La. Acts No. 30, which significantly revamped the law of testaments. Article 1577 is now completely repealed, and the new Art. 1576 B reads, “The signature may appear anywhere in the testament and is sufficient if it identifies the testator and evidences an intent by the testator to adopt the document as the testator’s testament.” In short, one signature, at the bottom of the document, might suffice; a signature there, plus initials on every other page, will be better; it’s all a matter of proof, under La. C.C.P. art. 2887. The legislature helpfully declared the amendment “shall apply both prospectively and retroactively and shall be applied to all claims existing and pending on the effective date of this Act and all claims arising or actions filed on and after the effective date of this Act.” This pretty much covers everything, right?

Incidentally, the will in *Succession of Baggett* was declared invalid because the notary failed to sign the attestation clause. Lo and behold, the new Art. 1576 tosses the requirement of an attestation clause entirely; it requires only that the will be “signed by the testator, each witness, and the notary.” Whether Ms. Baggett’s will would have survived under the new standard is a matter of proof and not addressed in the opinion.

The attorney as public figure. In April 2024, Gilbert, a recent graduate of La. Tech (MS in biology), went to Rhett’s Tails & Shells, a restaurant-bar on Lake D’Arbonne in Farmerville. Gilbert was Black; he was with a racially diverse group of friends. Standing on the dock and drinking, they ventured into a little horseplay and one of the friends, Cassidy, pushed him off the dock and into the lake. The water was deeper than anyone expected, and Gilbert was not a good swimmer; he sank to the bottom. The friends first suspected he was pranking them, but quickly realized Gilbert was in trouble; they tried but could not get him out, so they recruited a restaurant patron to dive in and rescue him. By this time, Gilbert had been underwater three to five minutes and, although CPR was given onsite, he had to be airlifted to Ochsner/LSU in Shreveport, where he spent three weeks in the hospital. (Fortunately, he made a full recovery.) However, while he was in the hospital, his friends visited and ran into Gilbert’s biological mother, Ms. George, who was described as “somewhat estranged” from him. Ms. George was not happy about Gilbert’s diverse set of friends and was particularly animated over the fact that Cassidy, the woman who had pushed him off the dock, was white (or so Ms. George thought; she is actually Native American). Sensing a racial animus, Ms. George went on social media, calling for Cassidy to be arrested and seeking help from an “activist lawyer.” The Facebook page of a lawyer in Ruston, named Payne, was tagged; Payne contacted Ms. George and accepted her account of the case. Payne did not get in touch with Gilbert, who was still on a ventilator at the time, or any of the friends; she took Ms. George’s story at face value.

Payne promptly called Farmerville police and demanded Cassidy’s immediate arrest; she told the police chief that she was writing a news release stating that an arrest had been made, so the chief needed to act fast. The chief replied that he did not have probable cause, but Payne moved forward with a sequence of Facebook posts about Gilbert’s accident. These asserted that Cassidy was white, that Gilbert had been underwater for 20 minutes, that no one from the friend group tried to rescue him, that there was “no positive opinion” about his prospects for recovery – all claims that were unverified or demonstrably false. Her posts were shared 1,700+ times, reacted to 1,200+ times and commented on 570+ times. She was generating publicity. (Ms. George also went to Facebook, promoting a theory of racial injustice and intrigue.)

Payne finally met with Gilbert five days after the accident, but he was heavily sedated and still on the ventilator; he could not recall the event. Ten days after that, Payne gave Ms. George a contingency fee agreement for a premises liability action against Rhett’s Tails & Shells and asked her to present it to her son. Despite his diminished state, he signed it; it did not call for a civil rights campaign, publicity or pursuit of Cassidy’s arrest. The next day, however, Payne gave an interview on KSLA News, and the story was picked up on *New York Post*, MSN, Yahoo! News and VIBE.com, all describing the incident as “racially motivated.”

By this time, Gilbert was out of the hospital and could now recall the incident. Apparently displeased with Payne’s handling of the case, he discharged her, but this did not stop her from appearing on “The Breakfast Club,” a radio call-in show, still claiming to be Gilbert’s attorney. He hired a new attorney, Lawrence, who issued a press release to “clarify” the situation, setting out the misstatements in Payne’s media posts; Payne, however, maintained on Facebook that Gilbert had been “influenced” to accept a different story. Later, she called Lawrence, an honorably discharged U.S. Marine with active conflict deployments, a “bottom-tier” attorney and “a joke.”

A few days later, Payne filed a defamation suit against Lawrence and Gilbert, alleging Lawrence’s press release made intentionally false statements about her and that Gilbert knew she had full authority to represent him. Lawrence and Gilbert responded with an anti-SLAPP motion to strike and dismiss. After a hearing, the district court granted this motion and dismissed Payne’s suit, finding the statements in Lawrence’s press release were true and she produced no evidence of malice. The court awarded them attorney fees totaling \$51,767, and she appealed.

The Second Circuit affirmed, *Payne v. Lawrence*, 56,416 (La. App. 2 Cir. 8/27/25), in an opinion by Judge Thompson. The opinion is detailed, laying out hornbook law about the First Amendment, the elements of a defamation claim, the anti-SLAPP statute (La. C.C.P. art. 971) and the parties’ respective burdens of proof. The crucial issue was whether the trial court erred in finding her to be a public figure: a *public official* – later expanded to include a *public figure* – cannot win a defamation claim unless he can prove the statement was made with *actual malice*. *Kennedy v. Sheriff of E. Baton Rouge*, 05-1418 (La. 7/10/06), 935 So. 2d 669 (gathering authorities). Payne argued she was not a public figure and thus had a lower burden of proof. The court disagreed, citing her “aggressive and constant social media presence [that] was intended to elevate her name recognition and engagement with the general public,” her “roles as an activist, as an attorney, and as an activist attorney,” and her “sought-after attention of multiple local and national news sources.” As she was a limited-purpose public figure, she had to establish actual malice, a showing she could not make, given that Lawrence’s press release “contained the truth.” The court affirmed the judgment and awarded each defendant an additional \$5,000 in attorney fees.

My assumption is that attorneys do not often sue their former clients for defamation. Still, in certain, extreme circumstances, it might occur. This case will illustrate some of the pitfalls of such an action or, better yet, strategies for avoiding it.



The 2025 SBA Professionalism Award Goes to John M. Madison, Jr.

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

John M. Madison, Jr., received the 2025 Shreveport Bar Professionalism Award on Wednesday, October 22, at the Shreveport Bar Membership Luncheon. This award, given annually, recognizes a lawyer who exemplifies the highest standards of civility, professionalism, competency and mentoring in the practice of law. John enjoys a distinguished legal career spanning over 50 years highlighted by involvement in several landmark decisions in the State and Federal courts, district and appellate, including several significant decisions in the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is a past president of the Shreveport Bar Association.

His father was a lawyer; his grandfather, a judge. John himself excelled in academics and graduated from LSU Law School, Order of the Coif and member of the Law Review. He then clerked for the U.S. District Court Judge Ben Dawkins in Shreveport. He started work with his father's old firm, Carmody, Lewis & Wilkinson. In 1975, he became a named partner in Wiener, Weiss & Madison, where he continues to practice law with its many good lawyers.

John and his wife Jan have two children. His son Clint and family live in Dallas, where he works in commercial real estate. His son John is an attorney practicing at his own law firm in Baton Rouge.

John Madison continues to actively practice law today. He seems to know everybody and everybody knows him. You just enjoy being around him, but he also has the uncanny ability to perceive the situation when a young lawyer may need mentoring. At the conclusion of a deposition that did not go well for me at which he was present, he simply said, "Walk with me." We walked downtown Shreveport as he shared advice. John departed to his building and I to mine. How did he know? His law partners could share many stories of his professionalism, courtesy and mentoring.

John and I were involved in a significant oil and gas mineral lease dispute. The lease itself was in El Dorado, Arkansas. Lawsuits were filed in both Union County, Arkansas, and Caddo Parish, Louisiana. During the Caddo hearing, an experienced oil and gas lawyer questioned our joint client establishing reasons why the client owned these lucrative mineral rights; however, while testifying on the stand, our client continued to pepper his testimony with the fact that he often walked this property and knew it because he was shooting squirrels on the lease. He repeated this many times during his testimony.

The testimony was funny and entertaining. After our lead attorney sat down I thought we had the better of the argument. Then John Madison calmly approached the podium, looked at the presiding judge and said: "Mr. Jones, are there any squirrels left up there in Union County, Arkansas?" My client laughed, the judge laughed, everybody laughed (I did not because I knew what was coming). Predictably we lost and John Madison prevailed. My client sent a note the next day saying that he wanted to change lawyers.

Everybody wants John Madison to be their lawyer. In fact, he was my family's lawyer over 50 years ago when my younger brother was involved in an automobile accident (John's wife, Jan, had taught my brother high school civics two years earlier). When the petition was served, we were both extremely unsettled; however, our attorney was John Madison. He quickly told us that we did not need to quit school to go find a job. In a short time, he had the matter dismissed.

When Dana Southern and I called John to inform him of this award, his response was humble and very appropriate as always. After the call I said to Dana the same thing I said to my brother 50 years ago: "When I grow up, I want to be like John Madison."



John M. Madison and Larry Pettiette



H. Alston Johnson and John M. Madison



MONROE INN OF COURT OPENS 2025-'26 TERM

by Hal Odom Jr., rhodom@la2nd.org

The Judge Fred Fudickar Jr. AIC (Monroe, La.) opened its 35th-anniversary term with a meeting on October 13, 2025. A special guest speaker, **Anne Paul**, presented "Core Objectives of Inns of Court – Professionalism." Ms. Paul is the AIC Director of Chapter Relations and is our regional representative in the organization. Although she hails from the Midwest (Michigan), she has been making appearances in the Louisiana and Texas Inns.

Ms. Paul is enthusiastic about resources available to local chapters from AIC, including free websites, governance advice, program archives and, importantly, an online directory of members and associate Inns. She spoke glowingly about AIC's new executive director, LTG Joseph Berger III, who had a long career in the U.S. Army culminating as 42nd Judge Advocate General. After his abrupt dismissal from post by new Secretary of Defense Hegseth, LTG Berger retired from the military and assumed the top position at AIC executive offices. Ms. Paul expects him to bring great energy and organizational talent to AIC.

Members in attendance reminisced about their history with the Inn and what induced them to join in the first place. The bulk of the discussion, however, was about sagging membership and attendance. The turnout at this meeting, which featured a national guest speaker and qualified for one hour of professionalism CLE credit, was a mere 10 members – a weak showing that can only be partly attributed to the Federal holiday, Columbus Day, and to a completely stopped train on the KCS line making any approach from the north totally impossible. Ms. Paul strongly suggested activating the Inn's AIC webpage. Members also considered recruiting from the DA's office and coordinating with the Mississippi College Law School, which enrolls many students from northeast La.

The meeting was held at The Lotus Club, on the ninth floor of the Vantage ONB Tower in downtown Monroe. Members in attendance enjoyed the open bar and heavy hors-d'oeuvres (including some extraordinary duck medallions) before the meeting began. The Inn's secretary, Mike Street, announced the next meeting would be November 10 and asked everyone to encourage their young associates to get involved with the Inn.



Anne Paul, AIC's Director of Chapter Relations, visited with the youngest member in attendance, Christina Moore, a sole practitioner in Monroe.



Stacy Guice and Ashley Herring, of the Chap. 13 Trustees Office, and Judge Larry Jefferson, of the Fourth JDC, were among the early arrivals for the October meeting.



Wesley Johnson, of E&P Consulting Services in Monroe, and Hal Odom, of the Second Circuit, were part of the small yet receptive audience for Ms. Paul

SECOND CIRCUIT RIDES THE CIRCUIT AT LOUISIANA TECH

The Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal recently held oral arguments on the campus of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. The event was part of the Second Circuit's "Riding the Circuit" initiative, in the spirit of the La. Supreme Court's "Judges in the Classroom Program." The whole court, all nine of its judges, came to La. Tech's Howard Auditorium to sit in three-judge panels for a full day of six oral arguments on September 30, 2025.

Three local high schools, Quitman High School, Choudrant High School and Cedar Creek School (Ruston), brought students to the morning session. Two La. Tech classes in the Business Law Department, Legal Environment of Business and Business Law for Accounting Majors, attended morning and afternoon sessions. After each case, judges took the stage for students to ask questions. Some of these concerned the cases, but most covered the legal profession, the judicial system and the role of judges in society. Many students expressed a keen interest in pursuing a legal career.

Cases on the docket included a workers' compensation claim from OWC District 1-E (Winn Parish), a medical malpractice case from Lincoln Parish, a teacher employment dispute from Bienville Parish, a homicide case from Caddo Parish, a sex-offender case from Franklin Parish and a railroad employee claim under FELA from Caddo Parish.

The Second Circuit's "Riding the Circuit" initiative has, in prior years, brought oral arguments to the campuses of the University of La. Monroe (ULM) and Grambling State University. For the session at La. Tech, the stage of Howard Auditorium was adapted to a "bench" for three-judge panels of the court, a lectern for argument, counsel tables and a desk for court personnel.

Chief Judge Frances Pitman strongly supports "Riding the Circuit." "By taking our court proceedings to the students in north Louisiana, we give them a unique opportunity to learn about the judicial system," she said. "It's part of a valuable outreach that the judges of the Second Circuit are devoted to."

Robin Jones, the Second Circuit's clerk of court and judicial administrator, expressed her thanks to La. Tech personnel for their planning, execution and "impeccable hospitality," which included a buffet lunch for judges and court personnel.



A panel of Judges Cox, Pitman and Robinson sat on the Second Circuit bench at La. Tech's Howard Auditorium, September 30. Lee Harville was at the lectern and Eric Whitehead was at counsel table for the 11:00 am case.



Prof. Forrest Moegle, an attorney who teaches business law at La. Tech, is shown with Chief Judge Pitman between oral arguments. Prof. Moegle brought his "Legal Environment of Business" and "Business Law for Accounting Majors" classes to attend the event.



La. Supreme Court Justice Jay McCallum, center, stopped by University Hall for a luncheon and reception. He offered thanks before the luncheon and visited with the various judges in attendance, including Danny Ellender, left, and Jeff Cox of the Second Circuit.

OCTOBER LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS





Trying their Hand at Trials

by Luke Whetstone., luke.whetstone@cookyancey.com

The Tom Stagg Court House was buzzing with activity. More than two dozen attorneys had descended on the various courtrooms on the fourth floor, and they were all there for the same case: *Adams v. Brown*. It was the 2025 Shreveport Bar Association Trial Academy, held October 24 and 25.

One group of the participating attorneys had come to hone their skills as trial lawyers. Their experience ranged from those with a few trials under their belts to some who had never set foot in a federal courthouse, and even several who had been sworn in only days before. The other group made up the instructors and the judges. These were the experienced trial lawyers, men and women who have become staples of the local courthouses.

The Academy mirrors a trial in almost every feasible way, while still allowing for instruction to the participating attorneys. In the weeks before the “trial” starts, each attorney is paired with another attorney. Those two are each assigned one of the parties – Pat Adams or Jordan Brown – and they remain paired with that attorney throughout the presentation of their “case.” The attorneys are given pleadings, exhibits and deposition excerpts with which to prepare. The participating attorneys are even given “secret” impeachment evidence to use during the trial.

Once the attorneys cross the bar, they argue against each other in openings and closings. They conduct direct and cross-examinations of the same witnesses, and even object during the other’s examinations. The witnesses are played by local volunteers and attorneys, and they act as both lay and expert witnesses. All of this is presided over by a local judge. In between the lawyering, the attorneys are given critiques and advice by seasoned trial lawyers and judges.

For those who took the time to attend, it was an invaluable experience. The instructors and judges gave great, instant feedback and instruction, and everyone left just a little bit more of a trial lawyer than when they walked in. In his courtroom, Judge Maury Hicks provided final remarks to those who had presented their cases before him. He spoke of the great local trial lawyers who had come before them. The baton that they carried was being passed, he said, and those in the room were taking a vital step toward being able to take it.

Today, trials are certainly less common than they used to be, but they are certainly no less important. For those who believe this, the Trial Academy is simply invaluable.



SBA TRIAL ACADEMY

Highlights



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Pro Bono Project Update

The Shreveport Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Project extends heartfelt thanks to the following attorneys who accepted one or more Pro Bono cases and volunteered at our Ask-A-Lawyer Clinics in September and October. Your time and expertise make it possible to serve clients who could not otherwise afford legal assistance.

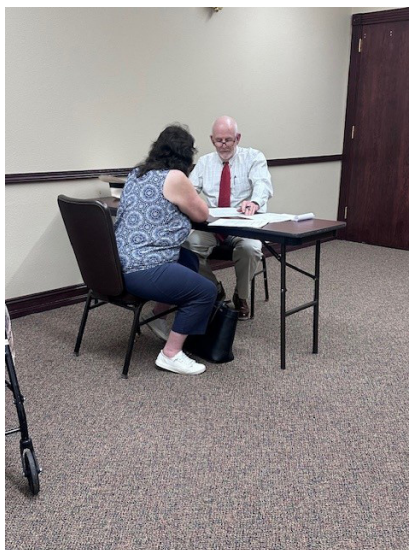
Volunteer Attorneys

Christopher Broussard • Calvin Combs • John Davis • Valerie DeLatte Gilmore • Felicia Hamilton • Tommy Johnson • Holland J. Miciotto • Pamela King Newlen • Sangbahn Scere • Mary Winchell.

Together, these volunteers assisted more than 50 individuals at our fall clinics. We deeply appreciate their commitment to ensuring access to justice for all.



Attorney Sam Scere assists at the October Ask A Lawyer Clinic



Tommy Johnson assists at the September Ask A Lawyer Clinic



Matt Smith provides basic wills and estate planning advice at Shreve Memorial Library in Belcher

Pro Bono Week & Community Outreach

During the ABA's 2025 *Celebration of Pro Bono* (October 19–25), themed "Supporting Communities," the Shreveport Bar Foundation hosted a week of outreach events recognizing the vital work of our volunteers.

Outreach Coordinator Linnae Magyar visited several local firms, including Casten & Pearce, Bradley Murchison, Hargrove, Smelley & Strickland and Rice & Kendig to promote volunteer opportunities through SBF programs.

Throughout the week, SBF hosted community-focused clinics:

- Monday, Oct. 20: Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic offering free legal advice.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21: Wills and estate planning presentation by Matt Smith (Thomas, Soileau, Jackson & Cole LLP) at Shreve Memorial Library – Belcher Branch, and a Pro Se Divorce Clinic led by Pamela King Newlen at the Bar Center.
- Thursday, Oct. 23: Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour at Frank's Pizza Napoletana celebrating the generous attorneys who make our work possible.

If your organization or firm would like to partner with us or host an informational session, please contact the Shreveport Bar Foundation. Together, we can continue expanding access to justice in our community.

SBF is grateful for the ongoing support of the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation, The Community Foundation of North Louisiana, Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beaird Family Foundation, First Methodist Church, Grayson Foundation and the SBA Krewe of Justinian.



Sam Scere, Tommy Johnson, Holland Miciotto and John Davis



Calvin Combs, Sam Scere, John Davis, Felicia Hamilton, Holland Miciotto and Chris Broussard



CELEBRATING PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

WE THANK YOU ALL!



FRANK'S PIZZA NAPOLETANA
OCT 23

SHREVEPORT BAR FOUNDATION PRO BONO PROJECT IS FINANCIALLY ASSISTED
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★ ★ Thank You

*Deceased

Roland Achee * - Navy Reserve - LTJG
Michael Adams - Vietnam - Army Reserve - Captain
Matthew Allen - Iraq War, Post 9/11 - Army - Corporal
Matthew Bailey - Army National Guard - Specialist
John R. Ballard * - Army - Captain
Roy Beard * - Army - Captain
Ed Blewer, Jr. * - Army - 1st Lieutenant
John N. Bokenfohr - Army - E4
James E. Bolin, Jr. - Vietnam - Army - 1st Lieutenant
Hon. Henry Brown - Vietnam - Army - 1st Lieutenant
Hon. Stephen V. Callaway - Vietnam - Marine Corps. Reserve - Sergeant
Nelson Cameron - Vietnam - Navy - Petty Officer 3rd Class
James H. Campbell - Vietnam - Army - 1st Lieutenant
Arthur Carmody, Jr. * - Korean Conflict - Army Reserve - 1st Lieutenant
Reginald Cassibry - Vietnam - Navy - Captain
Samuel W. Caverlee* - Vietnam - Army Reserve - 1st Lieutenant
Merritt Chastain, Jr.* - Vietnam - Army Reserve - Captain
Hon. James E. Clark * - Marine Corps - Corporal
- Air Force Reserve - Captain
Joseph M. Clark, Sr.* - Navy - PO3
William Carey Clark - Army - Captain
Ben E. Coleman * - Army - Corporal - Air Force Reserve - Staff Sergeant
Calvin Combs - Marine Corps Reserve - E3
Steven Cowel * - Army - Captain
H. T. (Ted) Cox - Vietnam, Iraq War - Army Reserve - Colonel
Jackson B. Davis * - World War II - Navy - Lt. Commander
Robert M. Davis, III - Vietnam - Army Reserve - Captain
S.P. Davis - Army Reserve - Colonel
Hon. Harmon Drew* - Army Reserve - Captain
Robert Eatman, Sr. * - Navy - Chief Petty Office
Gary L. Fox - Army - 2nd Lieutenant
Hon. Andrew Gallagher * - Army - Corporal
Sidney Galloway * - Air Force - Major
James C. Gardner * - Army - 1st Lieutenant
Twain K. Giddens, Jr. * - World War II - Navy - Lieutenant
Gaylon Kent Gill - Army - Specialist 4
Robert Gillespie* - Army - Sergeant
Harold C. Gilley, Jr. - Air Force - Lt. Colonel
Joseph R. Gilsoul - Vietnam - Army - E5
Rellis Godfrey - Vietnam - Army - Sergeant
James Godfrey * - Air Force Reserve - Colonel
Richard Goorley - Vietnam - Navy - Petty Officer 2nd Class
Norman R. Gordon* - Air Force - Captain
James Graves* - Air Force Reserve - Major General

Warren Graves * - Air Force - Colonel
Britney A. Green - Marine Corps - Sergeant
A.J. Gregory, Jr. * - Army - Sergeant
David G. Griffith - Army - Acting Sergeant
Cody Grosshart - Post 9/11 - Army National Guard - Captain
Charles Grubb - Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq War - Army Reserve - Command Sgt. Major
Hon. Gayle K. Hamilton* - World War II - Marine Corps. - Corporal
Elizabeth A. Hancock - Iraq War - Air Force - E3
F. Stanton Hardee, III - Army - 2nd Lieutenant
Quintin T. Hardtner, III - Marine Corps. - Captain
Dakota S. Hawkins - Post 9/11 - Marine Corps. - Lance Corporal
Kenneth L. Hickman - Navy - Captain
W. James Hill, III - Gulf War - Army Reserve - Colonel
Elmon Holmes * - Army - Captain
John Hussey - Army - Captain
Val Irion * - Army National Guard - Lt. Colonel
Wellborn Jack, Jr.* - Army Reserve - Major
Whitfield Jack * - Army - Major General
Patrick R. Jackson - Army National Guard - Chief Warrant Officer
T.Haller Jackson, Jr. * - Army - Captain
T.Haller Jackson, III - Vietnam - Navy - Ensign
Robert A. Jahnke - Vietnam, Gulf War - Army Reserve - Lt. Colonel
Joseph G. Jarzabek - Navy - Petty Officer 2nd Class
James R. Jeter * - Army - Captain
Harry A. Johnson, Jr. * - Army - Lt. Colonel
Tommy J. Johnson - Army National Guard - E4
Walter F. Johnson, III - Air Force - 1st Lieutenant
David C. Joseph - Army - Captain
Hon. Charles W. Kelly, IV - Vietnam, Gulf War - Army - Colonel
Benjamin King, Sr. * - Air Force - Lt. Colonel
David Klotz * - Army - Tech Sergeant
Norman Lafargue - Vietnam - Marine Corps. - Corporal
William H. Ledbetter, Jr.* - Army - Captain
Joe C. LeSage Jr. * - Army - Captain
Hon. Charles Lindsay - Vietnam, Gulf War - Army - Brigadier General
Stuart D. Lunn * - World War II, Korean Conflict - Army - Captain
Wilburn V. Lunn * - Army - Colonel
Paul Lynch * - Army - Major
Hal V. Lyons * - Navy - AM 3C
John M. Madison* - Army - 1st Lieutenant
Winfred L. Martin * - Army - Lt. Colonel
Kenneth Mascagni - Vietnam - Air Force - Captain
Robert K. Mayo * - Army - 1st Lieutenant

TO OUR Veterans ★ ★

Lawrence McCollum * - Army Reserve - Lt. Colonel
 Kyle McCotter - Post 9/11 - Army National Guard - Captain
 Marshall McKenzie * - Army - Sergeant
 Donald R. Miller * - Air Force - Captain
 Garner R. Miller * - Army - Tech 5th Grade
 C.Gary Mitchell - Army National Guard - Sergeant
 Luther S. "Monty" Montgomery* - World War II - Navy
 J.Peyton Moore * - Army - Captain
 John B. Morneau * - Coast Guard Reserve - E5
 Seth Moyers - Marine Corps. - E-4
 Harry R. Nelson * - Air Force - Lt. Colonel
 Sydney B. Nelson* - Navy - Lieutenant
 Jeffrey S. Norris - Army - Major
 John S. Odom, Jr. - Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq War,
 Post 9/11 - Air Force Reserve - Colonel
 Ross Owen - Gulf War - Army National Guard - Specialist
 Curtis N. Petrey * - Navy - Petty Officer 1st Class
 John R. Pleasant * - Navy - Lieutenant
 Hon. Henry A. Politz * - Air Force - Staff Sergeant
 Robert G. Pugh * - Air Force - 1st Lieutenant
 David Rabb, Jr. - Army - Captain
 Cecil Ramey * - Army Air Corps - Sergeant
 Christian Redmon - Afghanistan, Iraq War - Army Sergeant
 Elton Richey - Army National Guard - Lt. Colonel
 C.Vernon Richie - Army National Guard - Specialist 4
 Hon. Jeff Robinson - Gulf War - Army National Guard - Sergeant -E5
 Hon. John Robinson - Vietnam - Army National Guard - Staff Sergeant
 Hon. Patrick Robinson - Army - Captain
 Gordon Rountree - Vietnam - Army - 1st Lieutenant
 Jennifer Sandusky - Air Force - Captain
 Daniel C. Scarborough * - Army Reserve - Major

John E. Settle, Jr. - Air Force - Captain
 Hon. Fred C. Sexton* - Army - Captain
 John M. Shuey, Sr. * - Army CIC - 1st Lieutenant
 I.Henry Smith * - Navy - Lieutenant
 James W. Spradling, II - Air Force - Major
 Hon. Tom Stagg * - Army - Captain
 Hugh Milling Stephens * - Navy - Lt. Commander
 Hon. Carl E. Stewart - Army - Captain
 Hon. Ford Stinson, Jr - Vietnam - Army Reserve - Captain
 A.M. (Marty) Stroud, III - Army National Guard - Major
 William Stroud - Navy / Army - Colonel
 Fred Sutherland - Air Force - Sergeant
 Richard H. Switzer * - World War II - Army - Sergeant
 Hon. Gorman Taylor * - Army - Corporal
 Edmund M. Thomas - Army - 1st Lieutenant
 Graham H. Todd - Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq War - Air Force - Lt. Colonel
 Casper Ardis Tooke, Jr. * - Army - 2nd Lieutenant
 John H. Tucker, Jr. * - Army - Colonel
 Yves M. Verret, III - Marine Corps. Reserve - E5
 Hon. Jeffrey P. Victory* - Vietnam - Army National Guard - Spec. 4
 Glenn E. Walker - Vietnam - Air Force - Captain
 Walter Doug White - Vietnam, Gulf War - Army - Lt. Colonel
 Charles R. Whitehead, Jr. - Army - Captain
 William Scott Wilkinson * - Army - Colonel
 David S. Williams - Marine Corps. - Corporal - Navy - Lieutenant
 Thomas N. Williams - Vietnam - Air Force - Lt. Colonel
 Kenneth P. Wright* - Vietnam - Army National Guard - Spec. 6
 Clarence L. Yancey * - Army - Lt. Colonel
 Steve R. Yancey, II - Vietnam - Army - 1st Lieutenant

If you served in the Armed Forces and are not listed or if you know of a past or present SBA member who is not listed, please provide the information below, or call Dana Southern at the SBA office at 222-3643 Ext. 3.

Name - Branch of Service - Rank

Save the Date
The Shreveport Bar Association

Christmas Party

honoring
Area Law School Students

Will be held on
Sunday, December 7, 2025
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Silver Star Grille

Invitations will be mailed mid-November



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of the First Judicial District Court
cordially invite you to attend the annual
Memorial & Recognition Ceremony
honoring deceased and new members of the Bar*

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SEAN LANDRY
WILLIAM LEDBETTER JR.
JAMES R. MADISON
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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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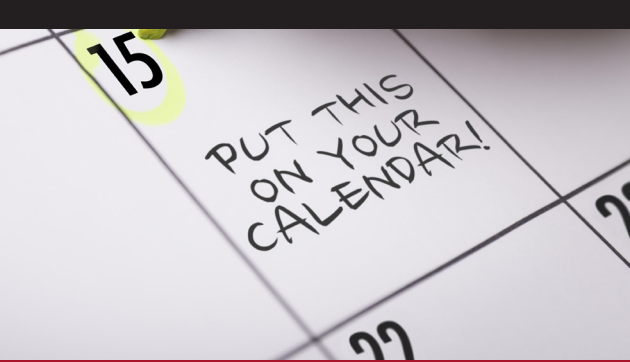
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UPCOMING EVENTS

*2025 SBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS

12:00 Noon at the Petroleum Club (16th Floor)

*NOVEMBER 5 VETERANS PROGRAM

*Speaker: Major General Thomas C. Friloux, Commanding General
Louisiana Army National Guard and the
Louisiana Air National Guard*

NOVEMBER 6

**SBA Memorial &
Recognition Ceremony**

2:00 p.m. at Caddo Parish Courthouse

DECEMBER 7

SBA Christmas Party

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Silver Star Grille

DECEMBER 17-18

December CLE by the Hour
Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City

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)

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Or scan the QR code.



Veterans Appreciation Luncheon – November 5

Petroleum Club (16th Floor) – Buffet opens at 11:30 a.m. Program and Speaker from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Cost for lunch is \$35.00 with advance reservation and \$40.00 for late reservation (after 5:00 pm the Monday prior to the luncheon)



Major General Thomas C. Friloux

2025 SBA Veterans Day Program

When: Wednesday, November 5

Where: Petroleum Club (16th floor)

Featuring: Major General Thomas C. Friloux,
Commanding General of both the Louisiana Army
National Guard and Louisiana Air National Guard

Our keynote speaker for the 2025 SBA Veterans Day Program will be Major General Thomas C. Friloux. Major General Friloux was appointed the 51st Adjutant General of Louisiana by Governor Jeff Landry on January 8, 2024. He serves as the Commanding General of both the Louisiana Army National Guard and the Louisiana Air National Guard. He is responsible for providing the State of Louisiana and the United States of America with a ready force of more than 11,000 service members of the Louisiana National Guard prepared and equipped to fight our Nation's wars and respond to the State's emergencies.

Major General Friloux attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned into the Infantry in 1992. His previous command and staff positions include: Commander, A Troop 108th Cavalry; Commander, A Company 3-156th Infantry; Commander, B Company 3-156th Infantry; Operations Officer, 3-156th Infantry; Executive Officer, 3-156th Infantry; Operations Officer, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Commander, 2-156th Infantry; J7 – Joint Director of Plans, Louisiana National Guard; J3 – Joint Director of Operations, Louisiana National Guard; Director of the Joint Staff, the Louisiana National Guard; and Dual-Status Commander, Joint Task Force Louisiana.

Major General Friloux has mobilized into active federal service four times during his career. In 1990, he mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. In 2004, he mobilized and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II/III. In 2010, he mobilized and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom X and Operation New Dawn. In 2021, he mobilized with US Northern Command as the Dual-Status Commander in response to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1995, a Master of Arts in Military Studies with a concentration in Land Warfare from the American Military University in 2011, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2016. His military education includes the Infantry Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College, and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School. He has executive-level certificates from the Naval Postgraduate School, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and the National Defense University.

Major General Friloux's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Louisiana War Cross, the Louisiana Legion of Merit, the Louisiana Cross of Merit, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and other decorations.

He resides in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is married to the former Laurie Anne Spadoni with four children: Madison, Dylan (Grace), Zachary and Nicholas. He has two grandchildren, William and Evangeline.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 5 as we honor our SBA Veterans and all those who have served our great nation.

**You may confirm your reservation(s) by email dsouthern@shreveportbar.com,
or phone 703-8372.**

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