



FALL 2010

# THE SIDEBAR

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Journal

## ***Fall Court opening set for October 15***



***Mark your calendar now for OctoBARfest on October 15, 2010. A full schedule of activities is planned to mark the Fall Court opening.***

***The festivities will start with the Young Lawyers OctoBARfest Social Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 8:30 at Mazens. Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> will start with a Red Mass at 8:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, 935 Bilbo Street, with Bishop Glen John Provost as principal celebrant. At 10 a.m. the Fall Court Ceremony will start in Courtroom A, Calcasieu Parish Courthouse. The traditional Fall luncheon will be at Reeves Catering. Contact Adel Murphy, Executive Director of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, at [exdir@swlabar.com](mailto:exdir@swlabar.com) for more information.***

***The annual business meeting of the Bar Association will be conducted at the luncheon, including election of Officers and Executive Council for 2010. Additionally, a short presentation will be made concerning the Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation. The afternoon will be devoted to CLE, with one hour of Professionalism and one hour of Ethics.***

***The traditional Fall Party this year will be at the home of Tom and Prissy Gayle, 8172 Highway 397 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. You do not want to miss the OctoBARfest Party featuring live entertainment by The Crawford Brothers, good food by Cookey's Catering, a great time and most of all, good friends.***



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 14 Family Law Section Luncheon  
11:30-1:00, Reeves Catering

### OCTOBERFEST ACTIVITIES

- 14 Young Lawyers OctoBARfest Social  
5:30-8 p.m., Mazen's

- 15 Red Mass, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.  
Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Fall Court Opening  
10:00, Courtroom A

Fall Member Luncheon  
Annual Meeting & Election of Officers  
11:30-1:00, Reeves Catering

#### OCTOBERFEST CLE hours

1:15-2:15 - 1 Hour Professionalism  
(John Green, Jr.)

2:30-3:30 - 1 Hour Ethics  
(Judge Clayton Davis)

**Fall Party 6:30 TO 9:30 P.M.**  
at the home of  
**Tom and Prissy Gayle**

### NOVEMBER

- 11 Family Law Section Luncheon  
11:30-1:00 Reeves Catering

- 12 Young Lawyers Law Office Practices  
CLE Seminar, 14<sup>th</sup> JDC

- 19 SWLBA Member luncheon  
Secretary, James M. LeBlanc, DPCS

### DECEMBER

9 and 10 CLE by the Hour – 14<sup>th</sup> JDC

- 17 Member Luncheon  
11:30-1:00 Reeves Catering

The Sidebar is a publication of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. It is published quarterly.

**Officers of the Bar Association:**

President - Paul P. Reggie

Acting President - Robert C. McCorquodale

Immediate Past Pres. - Walter M. Sanchez

Treasurer - Cary W. Vercher

Secretary - Betty A. Raglin

**At Large Members of the Executive Council:**

Todd Clemons

Carl J. Rachal

Shayna L. Sonnier

Jonathan L. Johnson

Chantell M. Smith

Todd H. Melton

John R. Pohorelsky

Gregory Marceaux

Charlotte Guilbeaux

Executive Director - Adel Murphy

Editor - Betsy Doucet

The Sidebar is a publication of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. We need and welcome articles from members of the Bar including judges, lawyers and clerks of Court.

Articles can be emailed to Betsy Doucet at [doucet-law@netcommander.com](mailto:doucet-law@netcommander.com)



2010 has been a tough year. For the first time, as far as I can remember, the President of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association passed away while in office. Paul Reggie was a good friend of mine and his loss was personal to me, but in a larger sense it was personal to all of us.

He was a great example that it is possible to do your job, spend time with your family and make time to volunteer. Even though Paul was only 47 when he passed, he had already made an impact in our community by volunteering his time.

As lawyers, like it or not, we are all inexplicably linked together. The best of us will make the rest a little more attractive to the community, and the worst of us will bring the entire association down to their level. Paul was one of those who made lawyers as a whole look better.

He pulled us up in the eyes of the community, not just because he was a good and dedicated public servant, but because he made time to share himself and his gifts with worthwhile causes. Many of our members do the same thing, but maybe one of the lessons the rest of us can take from Paul's untimely death is that we can't keep putting off "making a difference." We need to consider all of the blessings we have been given in our life and start giving back a little at a time sooner, as opposed to later.

I want to thank all of you who rose to the occasion during the time of Paul's passing. This was uncharted territory for the SWLBA, and we all did our best to act and react appropriately. I am sure there are things we could have done

better, but I was very proud to be a member of such an important organization, filled with compassionate and generous individuals.

Many people asked us what they could do to help the family, and we were happy to notify everyone of the memorial fund set up by ICCS. If you are inclined to donate to the fund dedicated to Paul's memory and designed to benefit his children, it is not too late. Contact Adel or me for more information.

OctoBARfest just is around the corner. Fall Court Ceremony, the Fall Court Luncheon and the Fall Party should all be on your calendar for October 15, 2010. A Red Mass will be at the Cathedral downtown at 8:30, with the Fall Court Ceremony set to start at 10:00 a.m. Remember, it is during the Fall Court Ceremony that we introduce new members to the Bar, so if you know any new lawyers, or lawyers new to the area, please make sure to pass that information on to Adel. Additionally, we also pay tribute to those lawyers who passed away during the previous year. A good turnout will mean a lot to the families of both the new lawyers and the lawyers that recently passed. I hope everyone will try to clear some time on their calendars to attend.

At the Fall Luncheon we will elect new officers and take care of some business. Last year I know the meeting ran long, and Paul and I heard LOUD AND CLEAR that it should not happen again. Let me promise you that this year, other than a brief report from the Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation, all we will do is take care of our normal yearly business. I hope to have you out

early enough to start billing time by 1:00. If you are not interested in going right back to work, we will offer some CLE. For more information on that, contact Adel.


Finally, the Fall Party will be at Tom and Prissy Gayle's house. Please join me in thanking them. They have an absolutely beautiful home, and I promise it will be worth the drive to attend. No one throws a party like Tom and Prissy Gayle; you don't want to miss it. (When you get there ask Tom to show you their pet donkeys! Then ask him why they have pet donkeys??)

Special thanks to the Gayles and to Betty Raglin. Betty not only volunteered to help the Reggie family with the succession, but she also agreed to accept the nomination for the office of President-Elect next year.

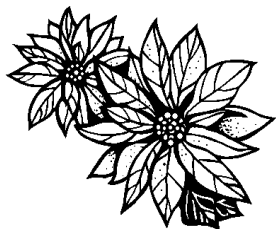
The President-Elect is in charge of the Bench Bar Conference, and it is a bit of a handful. Betty's nomination is subject to the approval of the membership, but her willingness to step up on short notice was greatly appreciated by the Nominating Committee.

Thank you all, and I hope to see you October 15!

Sincerely,



Rob McCorquodale  
SWLBA Acting President



## YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION KICKS OFF HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS 2010

Make a child's wishes come true with your gifts. The SWLBA Young Lawyers Section and members of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association are kicking off the annual "Holiday Helping Hands" project. Thanks to the generous support of members of the Bar, we have been able to provide a brighter holiday season for almost 2,000 area children over the last seven years.

Through Holiday Helping Hands, principals, guidance counselors and teachers at area schools in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes provide names of children who would not otherwise receive Christmas presents due to financial hardships. The Young Lawyers Section then obtains each child's wish list and asks members of the Bar to adopt a child, providing clothing, toys and other gifts from the child's wish list.

As a profession, we can make a positive impact in the lives of children at a time of year when it will be most deeply felt and appreciated.

Although there are likely many other good causes competing for your limited time and resources, the Holiday Helping Hands program is unique in that it allows you an opportunity to help a local child who is identified by school officials as needing your assistance. There is no specific financial or time commitment required.

You can be as hands-on as you would like, or, if you prefer, make a financial contribution and have members of the Young Lawyers Section or the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Auxiliary purchase gifts on your behalf.

For more information contact Adel at the SWLBA office, 497-0090 or email [exdir@swlabar.com](mailto:exdir@swlabar.com) Peter Pohorelsky, 433-9436 email [ppohorelsky@scofieldgerard.com](mailto:ppohorelsky@scofieldgerard.com) or Jonathan Johnson, 433-1414 or email [jonathan@terryjohnson-atty.com](mailto:jonathan@terryjohnson-atty.com)



## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 2011, SWLA BAR ASSOCIATION

The Nominating Committee of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association recommends the following proposed slate for the 2011 Executive Council:

President Elect - **Betty A. Raglin**

Treasurer - **Philip W. DeVilbiss**

Secretary - **Chantell Marie Smith**

Three (3) Members at Large:

**Jason R. Bell**

**Jonathan L. Johnson**

**Shayna L. Sonnier**

The election will be held at the annual membership Luncheon, Friday, October 15, 2010

**HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS  
SPONSORS NEEDED CONTACT**

**ADEL MURPHY at  
exdir@swlabar.com**

DIVERSITY CONCLAVE

BRINGS TOGETHER ATTORNEYS FROM  
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

April 8, 2011      Reeves Catering

**Mark your calendar**

**2011 Bench Bar Conference  
March 24 - March 26, 2011**

**at**

**The Houstonian Hotel,  
Club and Spa**

**PERRY DAMPF**  
DISPUTE SOLUTIONS

October 10, 2010

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions extends a warm welcome to its newest panel member, Hon. H. Ward Fontenot (Ret.). Judge Fontenot will be handling mediations and arbitrations throughout South Louisiana. A graduate of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, he served for 32 years as judge of the 14th and 38th Judicial District Courts. He has also served by special appointments on other courts, including the 1st and 3rd Circuit Courts of Appeal. Judge Fontenot's experience as attorney and judge in Southwest Louisiana centered on maritime, mineral rights and a full range of civil litigation issues.

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions is honored to announce Judge Fontenot's affiliation with the firm.

721 Government Street, Suite 102  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

PDDS Phone: (225) 389-9899 • (866)389-9899

PDDS Fax: (225) 389-9859

Web site: [www.perrydampf.com](http://www.perrydampf.com)

[http:// www.perrydampf.com/med\\_fontent-ward.asp](http://www.perrydampf.com/med_fontent-ward.asp)

## FROM THE CLERK OF COURT



The Clerk's office is excited to announce that we have completed the digitizing and indexing of hundreds of thousands of important records housed in the Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court office which are currently available to our online users. These efforts make our records more accessible to our users, and at the same time, will keep the records safe if an unforeseen disaster should arise. We have also made major investments in our computer hardware so that we can handle the current and future expansion of the capacity of our systems.

We increased the scope and capabilities of our online service. In addition to new search options on the basic search we added a new section of archived records. Online Index Books (OLIB) is a new way to search archived records utilizing partial indexing, saving hundreds

We also improved the search for all index types with extended date range and broadened the search criteria and filters in civil and criminal, providing more detailed information and document tracking. Internal filing processes were adjusted to allow many more documents to be imaged sooner, thereby making them available sooner. Internal filing processes were streamlined through the use of bar coding providing valuable document tracking that was not previously available. Images can now be properly linked in case history, and internal documents are auto-imaged at the time of creation.

Many more advancements are on the near horizon that will continue to enhance services for our constituency.

### **Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation**

October is National Pro Bono Month!

We are working on a Pro Bono recognition event hosted by Judge Thibodeaux – please save the date!

**Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm**

**Mayor Randy Roach will be doing a Proclamation – declaring October 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Pro Bono Week!**

## **SWLABF Advice Clinic Update in coordination with our local libraries**

Our first advice clinic on 9/17 was a big hit – Thanks to Tom Lorenzi and Mark Judson and the library team!! And, we all really enjoyed ourselves. Here is what Tom had to say about the experience:

*“What a reaffirmation that we are filling a serious need! I was able to visit with over a half dozen people, all of whom were so grateful for the opportunity to have access to a lawyer. It was humbling to realize how many people do not have the ability to get answers to the most basic legal questions. I was afraid that I would not be able to answer most questions because of the nature of my practice, but most were not complex and the ability to refer those that needed representation to Acadiana Legal Services or Southwest LA Law Center enabled me to help point them in the right direction. Having done this once, while not knowing what to expect, I look forward to doing so again soon because it is so worthwhile. Great project for the community and I think every lawyer will walk away from the experience proud to be a lawyer and satisfied that they helped very appreciative people.” Tom Lorenzi*

Please review the library schedule included in the SideBar and let Sandy Haan know if there are days you would like to participate in the future

**Advice Clinics.** We need your involvement and know you will enjoy it!

## DIVISION A TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL DATES

The 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court is ordering a Pre-Trial conference for all matters fixed for the following trial dates. At all arraignments, all Division A cases will be given two dates, a trial date and a pre-trial date. All lawyers and clients are required to be present on both dates. The prosecutor is expected to make offers and we will dispose of whatever cases we can, and we'll know what cases will be tried. This is an effort on my part to reduce the docket on Petit Jury weeks. If an agreement is made, we will take up pleas on the designated dates in Courtroom B. Please see the schedule below. Courtroom to be scheduled

TRIAL DATE	PRE-TRIAL DATE @ 9:00 AM -
3/21/11	2/22/11
5/16/11	4/5/11
6/20/11	5/10/11
9/26/11	9/6/11
11/7/11	9/6/11
1/3/12	12/6/11
2/6/12	12/6/11
3/19/12	1/24/12
6/11/12	4/10/12

The Court has also scheduled special jury fixings for conflict cases on January 30, 2011 and March 21, 2011, again in an effort to move these cases. Please, mark your calendars accordingly,

Sincerely,

D. Kent Savoie, District Judge

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – 2010

Daniel A. Bailey - 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Tony C. Fazzio - 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Jeffrey D. Fruge - Woodley Williams Law Firm, L.L.C.  
Brett P. Gaspard - Calcasieu Parish DA's Office  
W. Taylor Hale - Law Office of Steven Hale  
Raveen A. Hills – Acadiana Legal Service Corporation  
Zita M. Jackson - Todd Clemons & Associates  
Derrick D. Kee - Public Defenders' Office  
Kilburn S. Landry-Baggett, McCall, Burgess, Watson & Gaughan, A.P.L.C.  
Ian P. McDonald - U.S. Federal Court - Western District  
Ann M. McSpadden - Woodley Williams Law Firm, L.L.C.  
Ryan Q. Moon - Hunter, Hunter & Sonnier, L.L.C.  
Marcus L. Myers - Calcasieu Parish DA's Office  
Matthew B. Pettaway - 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Ross M. Raley - Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P.  
Wesley A. Romero - 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Melissa A. St. Mary - Simien Law Firm  
Elizabeth H. Wyatt - Calcasieu Parish DA's Office

**SWLABF CASE UPDATE:** The Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation has 4 pro bono divorce cases that we need attorneys to take on – please contact Sandy Haan if you are able to help. Thank you to Dan Lorenzi and Kevin Powell for taking on the last couple of cases. Also, a thank you to Leonard Knapp, Walt Sanchez and John Green for closing their cases! We appreciate your service!

## Free Legal Advice Clinic Schedule

**Free Legal Advice Sessions in Coordination with the Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Public Libraries**

**Attorneys to volunteer for any of the open dates below please call or email Sandy Haan – Thank YOU!!**

(We'd ideally like 2 Attorneys signed up per location)

Branch	Date	Time	Location	Library Contacts	Attorney / Info
Central Library 301 W. Claude L.C. 70605 721-7116	Second Thursday of the month: 10/14, 11/11, 12/9	3pm – 5pm	Conference Rooms Downstairs Accommodate 2	Susan Gerhart – Interim Manager; Marilyn Bonnette / Jayme Champagne Adult Programming	10/14 Kevin Powell, Leslie Musso 11/11 Sonny Marks, Kevin Powell 12/9 Kevin Powell, Randy Fuerst
Moss Bluff 261 Parish Road 721-7128	Wednesday's: 11/3, 12/1	3pm – 5pm	Meeting Room Accommodate 2	Vicky Staton – Manager Elizabeth Daigle - Facilitator	11/3 and 12/1 Dan Lorenzi, Jeff Cole
Sulphur Regional 1160 Cypress 721-7141	Third Thursday of the month: 10/21, 11/18, 12/16	Would prefer 10am – 12pm or 1 – 3pm	Conference Room Accommodate 1	Esther Pennington – Manager Mike Staton, Adult Programming	
Epps Library 1320 N Simmons 721-7090	Fourth Thursday of the month: 9/23, 10/28	3pm – 5pm	Conference Room Accommodate 1	Felicia Oliver - Manager	9/23 Jackie South , Winfield Little (if he gets out of court in time)
Carnegie Memorial 411 Pujo L.C. 70601 721-7084	Friday 9/17- Complete Thursday 11/4 topical: Wills, Estate Planning	10am – 12pm	Meeting Room Accommodate 2	Delores Guillory – Manager	9/17 Tom Lorenzi, Mark Judson 11/4 Theresa Barnatt – Q&A format followed by 1 on 1 advice
Iowa Library 107 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Iowa, 70647 721-7101	Thursday, 9/30	3pm – 5pm	Accommodate 1 Temporary divider	Cornell Thomas - Manager	9/30 Tom Lorenzi, Theresa Barnatt
Westlake Library 937 Mulberry Westlake, 70669 721-7113	Fridays, 10/8 & 12/10	10am – 12pm	Meeting Room Accommodate 1	Kathy Jones - Manager	10/8 Dan Lorenzi
Fontenot Library 1402 Center St. Vinton, 70668 721-7095	Fridays, 11/12	10am – 12pm	Accommodate 1 Temporary divider	Theresa Watson - Manager	
DeQuincy Library 102 W. Harrison DeQuincy, 70633 721-7087	Friday, 10/15	10am – 12pm	Accommodate 1 Temporary divider	Janet Jordy - Manager	

Sandy Haan | SWLABF | cell: 337.936.1015 or 337.855.2312 | [ExecutiveDirector@swlabf.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@swlabf.org)