



Posing on the bench in historic Courtroom A at the 14th Judicial District Court with Chief Judge Robert Wyatt, Judge Mike Canaday and Judge David Ritchie are Judge Kyu-Hyun Han, Presiding Judge, Judge Yoo-sung Kim, Associate Judge, Judge Deok-ki Jung, Associate Judge, Jae-Su Park, Clerk of Court and Song-Yi Kim, Assistant Court Officer of Suwon District Court; Judge Ji-Sook Kim, Judge and Sung-Myeon Cho, Clerk of Court of Seoul Western District Court; and Jin-Hui Kim, Assistant Court Officer of Seoul Central District Court, with their Interpreter.

KOREAN JUDGES VISIT 14TH JUDICIAL COURT

The judges of the 14th Judicial District Court hosted a delegation of 4 judges, 2 assistant court officers and 2 clerks of court representing Suwon District Court, Seoul Western District Court and Seoul Central District Court, all located in South Korea, for two days November 4 and 5, 2009. This visit was part of the International Visitors Education Program of the National Center for State Courts. Korea has recently adopted a jury system, and the main objective for this visit was to learn and observe how the American jury system works. (Continued on P.6)



SPRING 2010

THE SIDEBAR

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Journal

2010 BENCH BAR CONFERENCE DRAWS JUDGES AND LAWYERS FROM AROUND SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

It's not too late to register for the Annual Bench Bar conference at the Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa. More than 20 judges and more than 50 attorneys have already registered for the three day event, which offers 6.0 CLE credit hours, including ethics and professionalism. The registration fee of \$400 includes the registrant's CLE materials. (Continued on page 2)

Many thanks to the following sponsors of Bench Bar 2010 without whom the Conference would not be possible.

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(Bench Bar Conference continued from p.1)

The registration fee covers the CLE programs, the tennis open, the Thursday night Happy Hour Cocktail Party and the Friday night opening party.

The theme of this year's Bench Bar Conference is "Everything I needed to learn about the practice of law, I learned at the Bench Bar Conference 2010."

The traditional golf tournament (four man scramble format) is scheduled for Friday, March 19 at 12:30. The Tennis Open, sponsored by the SWLBA and Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, LLP will also be Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa courts. "The Houstonian has new tennis courts onsite, including indoor courts, so we will play regardless of the weather," said Rob McCorquodale, chairman of the Bench Bar Conference.

If you haven't registered yet it is not too late. Although the rooms reserved at the Houstonian have been filled, registrants can have comparable accommodations at the nearby Omni Hotel. This is an event you do not want to miss.

**Lake Charles Young Lawyer
Spotlighted by Louisiana State Bar
Association**

Kevin P. Fontenot, an associate with the firm of Scofield, Gerard, Singletary & Pohorelsky was recently spotlighted in the Louisiana Bar Journal. Fontenot was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2006. In addition to being a member of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association he is a member of the Southwest Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE FOR THESE DATES

Tentative: Night Court once a quarter **SPONSORS STILL NEEDED**

March 18-20 Bench Bar Conference,
Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa

April 8 Family Law Section Luncheon, 11:30-1:00, Reeves
16 Mini Diversity Conclave, 11:30-TBA, Reeves, includes
3 Hours CLE
22 Night Court Function-sponsored by
Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson

May 7 MAY LAW DAY, Courtroom A, 10:00 A.M.
May Law Day luncheon, 11:30-1:00 Reeves
13 Family Law Section luncheon, 11:30 -1:00, Reeves

September

9 Family Law Section Luncheon, 11:30-1:00 ,Reeves
17 Member Luncheon, 11:30-1:00 Reeves

October

14 Family Law Section Luncheon, 11:30-1:00, Reeves
15 **OCTOBERFEST ACTIVITIES**
15 **FALL COURT CEREMONY, 10:00, Courtroom A**
Fall Member Luncheon, 11:30 - 1:00, Reeves
OCTOBER CLE Hours, 1:15-3:30 Reeves
Fall Party (Details to be announced)

November

Young Lawyers CLE Seminar early in the month
11 Family Law Section Luncheon, 11:30-1:00, Reeves
19 Member Luncheon, 11:30-1:00, Reeves

December

CLE By the Hour 12.5 Hours in Mid month
9 Family Law Section Luncheon, 11:30-1:00, Reeves
17 Member Luncheon, 11:30 -1:00 Reeves

Officers of the Bar Association:

President--Paul P. Reggie

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Executive Director-Adel Murphy

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

Articles can be emailed to Betsy Doucet at doucet-law@netcommander.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank the membership for choosing me to serve as your President for 2010. I am honored and look forward to another exciting year being a part of this great association.

By way of background, I was born and raised in nearby Crowley. After my third year at Notre Dame High School, I attended college preparatory school at the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, Massachusetts for two years. Thereafter, I attended Tulane University, where I studied Political Science, then Tulane Law School.

Twenty years ago, I moved to Lake Charles to clerk on the Criminal Staff at the Third Circuit Court of Appeal. I owe a great deal of thanks to the late Honorable Henry L. Yelverton who was an exemplary jurist, and mentor to all of those clerks who worked for him. Judge Yelverton instilled in me a great work ethic and appreciation for the law.

In 1991, I joined the staff of the District Attorney as an appellate attorney, where I worked in that capacity for several years, as well as assisting in the Asset Forfeiture division. I had the honor and privilege of working in Ward 4, which includes Sulphur City Court, DeQuincy and Vinton. I met many constituents and colleagues there, and forged many long-lasting friendships. Since 1996, I have been a felony assistant district attorney. Since 2001, I have been the assigned felony prosecutor to Division B of the Fourteenth Judicial District Court. I owe a debt of gratitude to the late F. Wayne Frey, a dedicated prosecutor, a defender of the rights of all, and a wonderful mentor. Wayne was always available to answer any question, assist with any problem, and step in when needed. Wayne was a walking Code of Criminal Procedure.

I joined this association as soon as I was admitted into the Bar, and it is one of the best decisions that I made in my career. Membership has allowed me to meet many bar colleagues that I would most likely not have known, and forge friendships that will last forever.

This year, we look forward to the annual Bench Bar Conference to be held at the Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa on March 18-March 20. I encourage you all to sign up and attend the premier event of our Association. I want to thank Rob McCorquodale, Chairman for this year's BBC, for his gusto and reinvigorating of the event. Also, a special thanks to all of our sponsors who support this event, without which it would not be possible.

I am excited to be a part of the newly-established Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation, whose purpose is to improve and facilitate the administration of justice, coordinate all pro bono activity in Southwest Louisiana, provide access to justice to all individuals and provide law related education. I welcome its new Executive Director, Sandy Haan, and wish her well. And, I encourage your participation and input.

I look forward to our annual Law Day celebration on May 7. We are honored to have LSBA President Kim M. Boyle as our Keynote Speaker. I always look forward to the participation of our elementary school students in our poster and essay contests; they are always enlightening. Please mark your calendar and join us.

A special thanks to Executive Director Adel Murphy who does so much behind the scenes to keep our Association moving in the right direction.

Best Regards, Paul P. Reggie, President

SOLACE STORIES

Dear SOLACE members,

A New Orleans attorney was diagnosed with Stage III cancer in June of 2008. A SOLACE Request was circulated to assist him... Here is his follow up:

"I was astounded by my peer's response to my condition; even those acting as my "opposition." Judges, lawyers, secretaries, vendors, clerks were all extraordinarily accommodating. To this day I cannot brag enough on our profession and how everyone was extremely willing to help me out professionally. However, one attorney stood out; Kermit "Tre" Roux with Deutsch.....who told me about the SOLACE program.... I was really impressed that something like Solace was available to me.....I've beaten cancer and I am full swing back to the practice of law. So, I would be more than happy to help others in their time of need."

Thanks again to the wonderful members of our legal community.

Please remember to keep your eyes and ears open, and let us know when a fellow member of the legal community needs assistance.



HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS A big thank you to all of the members of the Bar to helped to make Holiday Helping Hands a great success. Many thank you notes were received from parents and children. From Kathleen Pias, a counselor at Gillis Elementary School came this note. "Thank you all for the support for our families at Gillis. Christmas is a difficult time for little ones if they don't have toys. All of us at Gillis appreciate your generosity."

Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation Hires Executive Director

The Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation (SWLABF) is pleased to announce it has hired Sandy Haan as its Executive Director. Sandy has been working with Theresa Barnatt and Tom Lorenzi to get the foundation up and running in Southwest Louisiana.

The Bar Foundation was incorporated during the summer, 2009. The mission of the foundation is to foster confidence in the law, lawyers and the judiciary and encourage altruism among the legal profession and the general public.

Sandy is a native of Iowa. However, she moved from Southern California to Lake Charles in June 2006 after Hurricane Rita. Her background is in consulting with medical professionals and start up businesses, "so I am not used to working with lawyers, so be patient with me," she told members of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. Speaking at a recent luncheon of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Sandy reiterated that there is a great need for legal services for indigents in the five parish area that makes up Southwest Louisiana. "Until recently Southwest Louisiana was the only region in the state that did not have an organized pro-bono program. The SWLABF is being modeled after several successful bar foundations in the state. We are confident that we can do as well in our area given the history of commitment shown by our bar members in the past."

The Bar Foundation hopes to build a network of attorneys who have a passion to serve our community and at the same time have fun through social events and recognition events. Included on the last page of this issue of the SIDEBAR is a form being used by the Bar Foundation to match up lawyers to cases. Please review, complete and return the document to: SWLABF, PO Box 1139, Lake Charles, LA 70602. Also, Sandy will be at the Bench Bar conference in Houston and looks forward to meeting all who attend.

Feel free to contact Sandy via email at:
ExecutiveDirector@swlabf.org.

Korean Judges Visit Lake Charles

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to learning how the jury system works in Calcasieu Parish, from the start when jurors are randomly selected and summoned to appear, to the actual selection of jurors for either civil or criminal jury trials, the delegation was given a tour of the Judicial Center where the judges' offices and courtrooms are housed and were able to observe a second degree murder trial in progress. They spent time in both the civil and criminal courtrooms, as well as in family & juvenile court. They also were given a tour of the District Attorney's offices.

On the final day in Lake Charles, Mayor Randy Roach met with the delegation and presented them all with keys to the city.

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Court of Appeal, Third Circuit was created in 1958 by Act. No. 561 Section 21(C) which amended Article 7 Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921. As established, the Third Circuit Court of Appeal had five judges and jurisdiction over a 21 parish area. The Court began operations in Lake Charles on July 1, 1960 in the courthouse annex of the 14th Judicial District Court. The original five judges were Chief Judge Albert Tate, Jr., J. Cleveland Fruge, Preston L. Savoy, John T. Hood, Jr. and William A. Culpepper.

In 1968 Act 10 increased the number of judges from five to six. Act 620 Section 1 of 1977 increased the number of judges from six to nine. In 1987 ACT 801 Section 2(B) increased the number of judges from nine to twelve.

The current courthouse was constructed in January 1990 at a cost of \$3.4 million. The Court took occupancy of the new building on November 1, 1991. In 1999, the court building was dedicated and renamed in honor of Judge Albert Tate, Jr., the first Chief Judge of the Third Circuit.

Currently, the circuit serves a population of more than one million people and has an annual budget of \$8 million. Three of the current judges have their offices in Lake Charles, while the other nine judges have satellite offices. The judges are elected from three major districts. Currently, Judges Jimmie C. Peters, Elizabeth A. Pickett, and Shannon J. Gremillion are elected from the First District. Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux, and Judges Billy H. Ezell and J. David Painter are elected from the Second District. Judges Sylvia R. Cooks, John D. Saunders, Oswald A. Decuir, Marc T. Amy and James T. Genovese are elected from the Third District. David Chatelain is currently an ad hoc judge appointed by the Supreme Court to replace recently deceased Michael G. Sullivan. The Clerk of Court is Charles K. McNeely.

New Courtroom for 14th Judicial District Court

You were correct if you thought there was a new courtroom at the 14th Judicial District. The judges' library located on the third floor of the Judicial Center was recently renovated and is now Courtroom J. (Pictured below) It is being used for Motion Hour. The newly retrofitted courtroom had updated audio and video technology. The Court has also upgraded the audio and video equipment in Courtrooms D and H on the second floor. Over the next couple of years the Court will continue to upgrade all of the courtrooms with updated technology.



Please check the categories of pro bono cases you would consider accepting and feel free to specify the specific type of cases you would prefer.

The types of pro bono cases we will typically be given to represent

<input type="checkbox"/> Consumer/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy/Debtor Relief	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts/Warranties	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption	<input type="checkbox"/> Paternity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorce/Separation/Annulment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Custody/Visitation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Evictions (public housing)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Disputes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Income Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Benefits (food stamps, FITAP, SS, SSI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Benefits
	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile	<input type="checkbox"/> Child in Need of Care (CINC) (Jeff Davis, Allen and Beauregard parishes only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/> Tort Defenses (cases with a defense regarding liability)	<input type="checkbox"/> Successions (wills, estates)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Indicate pro bono cases that you would like to see us represent

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Firm: _____ **email:** _____

Circle the parish(s) you would be willing to accept a case in: Allen - Beauregard - Cameron - Calcasieu - Jeff Davis

Yes, I would be open to having the SWLABF meet with my firm to see how we can partner in meeting the needs of the underserved in our community.

Yes, I would consider donating up to 3 hours a month to help with free legal advice clinics in the community.

Acadiana Legal Services will continue to do all the intake for those in need of free legal services and the SWLABF will be given the CINC cases that are a conflict for them and other types of cases that require a minimal amount of time. The SWLABF will then recruit attorneys to take on the cases, pro bono.