



Federal Bar Association

Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter

AMICI CURIAE

Spring 2016

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President's Message

By Heather W. Edwards

We are halfway through the year, and I could not be more proud of what the Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter has already accomplished! We have sponsored our first Brown Bag CLE, held our first Trivia Night, hosted a group of high school students for a day at the Federal Courthouse, sponsored the Louisiana State Bar Association's annual Diversity Conclave, and sent representatives to the 2016 Judicial Conference of the Fifth Circuit.

Some of the projects we are currently working to complete are upgrading the public Wi-Fi at the Lafayette courthouse (provided and paid for by our Chapter) in order to bring much-needed increased bandwidth and speed to our members. This upgrade will allow more reliable video conferencing capabilities, the ability to connect quickly with offices and share information in real time, the capacity to email files with larger data, and more. We are planning two new events - "The Davis Lectures" in honor of Judge W. Eugene Davis, and the first FBA Fishing Rodeo to be held at Cypremort Point this September. Rest assured our Chapter's efforts this year have not gone unnoticed - the judges of the Alexandria Division have asked us to sponsor a new chapter in their division and we are hard at work accomplishing that goal. These are very exciting times for our Chapter, and I am so pleased with the growth we have attained this year. We have many more exciting events planned, so please be sure to check the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter and mark your calendars.

By the time you receive this newsletter, your President-Elect, Jaclyn Bacon, will have attended Capital Hill Day and Leadership Training with the National FBA in Washington DC. Capital Hill Day is an event sponsored by the National FBA, where leaders from chapters across the country meet with House and Senate offices to discuss important FBA legislative issues that impact the administration of justice and the federal courts. During Jaclyn's meetings with the Louisiana Delegation, she will discuss issues critical to our Third Branch of government, including: adequate funding for federal courts, filling judicial vacancies promptly, sufficient judgeships to render justice, and the establishment of an Article I Immigration Court.

In closing, I want to repeat what I said in our last newsletter - we are here to serve. This is your bar. If there is anything we can do to add enrichment or value to your membership, we want to know. Please contact us with any and all ideas. We look forward to the remainder of 2016 and hope you will join us as we make your bar an effective tool in the administration of justice and service.

Upcoming Events

Brown Bag CLE: IT for Attorneys

Date: June 29, 2016

Place: Federal Courthouse – Court Room 5 - 3rd Floor

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presented By: Brent Norris

Brown Bag CLE: Bankruptcy

Date: July 27, 2016

Place: Bankruptcy Courthouse

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presented By: The Honorable Robert R. Summerhays

Brown Bag CLE: Criminal Law

Date: August 31, 2016

Place: Federal Courthouse – Court Room 5 - 3rd Floor

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presented By: The Honorable Carol B. Whitehurst & Cristie G. Gibbens

Cypremort Point Fishing Rodeo

Date: September 23-24, 2016

Place: TBA

13th Annual Judge Shaw “Country Gentleman” Civility & Ethics Seminar

Date: December 1, 2016

Place: Federal Courthouse

Interested in becoming a member of the Federal Bar Association?

Contact Membership Chair:

Jerome H. Moroux
Broussard & David
PO Box 3524
Lafayette, LA 70502
(337) 513-4277
Fax (337) 233-2353
jerome@broussard-david.com

or

Federal Bar Association
1220 North Fillmore St., Suite 444
Arlington, VA 22201
(571) 481-9100
Fax (571) 481-9090
www.fedbar.org

Membership fee includes both national and chapter membership in the FBA.

Community Outreach



“The mission of the Association is to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and the needs of the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary *and the public they serve.*”
FBA Mission Statement (Emphasis added).

Service to the public is part of the foundation of the FBA. To that end, on April 7, 2016, the Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter of the Federal Bar Association partnered with AMIkids Acadiana to bring 15 students to the U.S. District Courthouse. AMIkids Acadiana is a residential program for boys ages 14-18. The program works to strengthen the community by discovering the potential within these young men and transforming their lives. The students began the day with a tour of the U.S. Marshal Service’s Office. The students were then able to observe a civil proceeding before the Honorable Patrick J. Hanna, followed by a presentation from the U.S. Probation and Parole Office.

The Clerk of Court, Deputy-in-Charge, Sandy Williams, facilitated the tour. The program ended with a panel discussion with attorneys, special agents, and tactical analysts from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Federal Public Defender’s Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the Department of Homeland Security. The students were able to obtain information about these agencies and careers, and to ask questions. The Honorable Rebecca F. Doherty served as a special guest panelist, advising the students on the power of their choices, communication, and goal setting. A lunch of delicious po-boys was served to cap off an informative morning. This inaugural outreach program was a huge success. Many thanks to Committee Chairs Jaclyn Bacon and Karen King for making this event happen!

“Battle of the Brains” Trivia Night



On March 30th, the Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter held its first “Battle of the Brains” Trivia Night at Legends Annex. It was an epic showdown to determine who was the master of truly useless legal and political trivia. After a festive evening of libations, food, trivia (and a few more libations), we crowned a victor deserving of the Wisdom Bee trophy. Coming in at first place, the biggest

brains in the area went to Dave Ernst, Donna Moliere and Cliff LaCour. Not only did they get to take home the coveted Wisdom Bee trophy, but they also won a television and \$50 Legends gift certificate. Rumor has it, Wisdom Bee now proudly displays herself in the office of Mr. LaCour. Swing by his office. Behold the glory! *(Cont'd on p. 5)*



Second place winners were Nadia de la Houssaye, Elwood Stevens, Will Grubbs, Jaclyn Bacon, and Jack McElligott. Your brains may be large, but you'll have to study up for next year if you want to rip the Wisdom Bee from the Ernst-Moliere-LaCour clan! However, until next year, you'll have your grill, UL baseball tickets, and if those don't do the trick, you can drown your sorrows with your Legends gift card.



Third place winners were Jamilla Barnes, Robert Abendroth, and Robert Moore of the U.S. Attorneys' Office. While they may be #1 at fighting crime, they're going to have to hit the books if they want to add the Wisdom Bee to their repertoire of trophies and awards for next year. We'll see if they can find the time to study now that they have surely scheduled a standing tee time, thanks to their new golf bag! Their prizes additionally included UL baseball tickets and a Legends gift certificate. Many thanks to Jared Doise and the staff at Legends for donating prizes and making our first Trivia Night such a huge success! *(Cont'd on p. 6)*



Clerk's Corner

By Tony R. Moore, Clerk of Court, Western District of Louisiana

Since this is the first in a series of articles about the Federal Clerk's Office, I thought it would be appropriate to tell you a little about myself and my journey with the Federal Judiciary. In the future, I will write about topics concerning the Western District of Louisiana, including the role of the Clerk, electronic filing, the use of electronic courtrooms, and various other topics of interest.

After graduating from LSU Shreveport and working as a computer analyst and an accountant for three years, my journey with the Judiciary began. Robert Shemwell - now retired Clerk of Court, Magistrate Judge, and my mentor - hired me in August 1991 as the district's first PC Administrator. I was the computer geek who went around the district to all five courthouses and installed and supported PCs. It was a busy and exciting three and a half years. I met a lot of good people many of whom I still work with today.

In November 1994, I transferred to the Federal Public Defender's (FPD) Office in Lafayette to be the Computer Systems Administrator managing the computer networks and providing PC support to not only the office in Lafayette but FPD Offices in Shreveport, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Beaumont, and Tyler. It was my first experience living in Lafayette and I fell in love with the city and its people. I enjoyed it so much that after one year I had to go on a diet because I gained 25 pounds. I was no longer the skinny kid with suspenders, a pocket protector and braces.

After three and a half years in Lafayette, I moved to the mountains of Colorado to get back in shape. I was fortunate enough to transfer to the Federal Public

Defender for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming performing the same job that I performed with the FPD in Lafayette. Other than climbing mountains, skiing, and, yes work, I did find time to go to night school at the University of Denver College of Law where I graduated with a Masters of Science in Legal Administration.

I had a blast during my five years in Denver but in July of 2003 it was time to move back home. I transferred back to District Court in Lafayette to manage the IT Department. After two years as the Automation Manager, I was promoted to Chief Deputy (2nd in command) for District Court until Clerk Robert Shemwell's retirement in March of 2009 when I was appointed Clerk of Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

More important than my work history above, I met my wife, Valerie Ferrante, when I moved back to Lafayette in 2003. We were married on May 28, 2005 and I instantly became a stepfather to two beautiful girls, Rachel and Rebecca. For someone who had been carefree and single for the previous twelve years, you can rightfully ask, "What were you thinking?" It has been the best experience of my life with many years to go and chapters to write.

Now that you know a little bit about me, please feel free to call me if you have any questions about the Federal Court. I, as well as the entire Clerk's Office staff, take our commitment to service very seriously. I'm not sure what I will write about in the next newsletter but I can assure you that it will not be about me.

Brown Bag CLE – ADR with the U.S. Judiciary



The Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter's first Brown Bag CLE of the year – Alternative Dispute Resolution with the U.S. Judiciary – was a big success! Thank you to Magistrate Judge Hanna for an engaging hour of tips and strategies for resolving cases prior to trial. There are three more brown bag CLEs scheduled for the year. Please join us for these low cost, highly informative events.

News and Announcements

Welcome to our newest members:

**The Honorable
W. Eugene Davis**
*U.S. Court of Appeals,
Fifth Circuit*

Henry C. Perret, Jr.
Perret Doise

Talayeh Voosoghi
Elmore Griffin

Kristyn R. Harris
Loyola University

Lori R. Dowell
Tulane University

Welcome to our newest members of the Judiciary:

The Honorable John W. Kolwe
*U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western
District of Louisiana*

**The Honorable Joseph H. L.
Perez-Montes**
*U.S. Magistrate Judge Western
District of Louisiana*

***If you have any news you would like to share with our members,
please contact us at federalbar.acadiana@gmail.com***



Federal Bar Association

Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter

IT for Attorneys

Brown Bag CLE
Wednesday, June 29, 2016
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is pleased to host a one (1) credit hour CLE on the dangers of using free email services such as Gmail, Yahoo Mail, AOL, etc., presented by Brent Norris. Brent is the Assistant IT Director for the Louisiana Western District of Louisiana Court. He will discuss best practices for personal email, liability in using free email services with client communication, and alternative email sources. Application pending for one (1) hour of MCLE credit.

Details

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 29, 2016
Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.; CLE presented from 12–1 p.m.

Location: U.S. District Court WDLA, 800 Lafayette Street, Lafayette, LA
Third Floor, Court Room 5

Registration Fees: FBA Member Rate (CLE only) - \$10 advance / \$15 at the door
Non-Member Rate (CLE only) - \$20 advance / \$25 at the door

** Registration fees are waived for attendees who become new members of our Chapter*

*** Registration must be received no later than June 27, 2016 for the advance rate*



Federal Bar Association

Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter

Registration

Name: _____

Firm / Organization: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

La. Bar Roll No. _____ Bar Admit Date (Month/Year): _____

FBA Member:

\$10 Advance / \$15 At Door (CLE only)

Non-Member:

\$20 Advance / \$ 25 At Door (CLE only)

Brown bag lunches available for additional \$10 with advance registration

Total \$ _____

Registration fees will be waived for attendees who become new members of our Chapter; membership applications will be available at the registration table.

To register online, go to: www.fedbar.org/Chapters/LafayetteAcadiana-Chapter/Calendar.aspx. Otherwise, please complete the above registration and remit payment to the Federal Bar Association, Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter c/o Heather W. Edwards, 800 Lafayette St., Ste. 4900, Lafayette, LA 70501. Registration must be received no later than June 27, 2016 to qualify for the advance rate. Please contact Heather W. Edwards at federalbar.acadiana@gmail.com with any questions.