

# This Holiday Season



AT MANSHIP THEATRE

COOL WINTER NIGHTS, HOT JAZZ

DEC 11 & 12 • 7:30 PM

Cool Winter Nights and Hot Jazz will feature Brian Shaw, Willis Delony, and Bill Grimes in a program of new arrangements and holiday favorites including the classic Duke Ellington version of the Nutcracker Suite

# MARC BROUSSARD: MAGNOLIAS & MISTLETOE HOLIDAY SHOW

**DEC 20 • 7:30 PM** 

Marc Broussard's ragged voice and bayou soul attitude gently infuse his sparsely accompanied covers of holiday chestnuts, which include the sacred ("O Come, All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night")





# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS DEC 27 • 7:30 PM

Singer-songwriters from Louisiana will perform while "home for the holidays" - celebrate their successes and see what's coming up next in their careers!



**DEC 16 • 2:00 PM** 

Everyone's favorite first grader is back to celebrate the holidays and she's here to bring you a lesson! Come and watch this beloved character learn a heart-warming lesson on the gift of giving and celebrate this holiday season!















## November Bar Luncheon

The November Bar Luncheon will be held at 11:45 AM Thursday, November 8, 2018, at Ruffino's Catering at De La Ronde Hall. Please join us at this membership meeting as we recognize Veterans Day and BRBA members who have served in the military. Glen Oaks High School Color Guard under the direction of LTC Ronald Mahomes will present the colors.

This month's luncheon speaker is H. Alston Johnson III of Phelps Dunbar who will give a one hour Legislative Update CLE. He practices in the area of litigation, particularly at the appellate level and with emphasis in the areas of tort litigation, insurance coverage and litigation, and administrative law. Johnson has presented the annual Legislative

Update for the BRBA for well over three decades.

# H. Alston Johnson provides annual Legislative Update



was a member of the full-time law faculty at the Hebert Law Center of Louisiana State University for 12 years. He continued to serve as an adjunct member of that faculty from 1984-2011. When he took senior partner status with the firm in early 2012, he taught full-time again on that faculty until the end of the spring semester of 2013, when he reverted to his prior adjunct status. He currently teaches courses in Federal Courts and Conflict of Laws and has previously taught courses in Torts, Insurance, Louisiana Civil Procedure and Louisiana's civil law subjects.

Cancellations must be made by noon Monday, November 5, 2018. Fax this completed form to 225-344-4805, email it to claudia@brba.

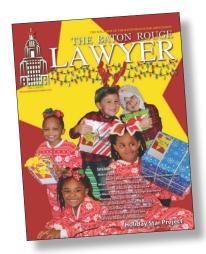
org or you may register online at www.brba.org. Please note: the luncheon CLE will conclude at 1:30 PM.

Prior to joining Phelps Dunbar in 1984, Mr. Johnson

	Please check applicable affiliation:   BRBA member  Guest
Bar Roll No	Branch of Service: 🗅 Army 🕒 Navy 🕒 Air Force 🗅 Marine 🗅 Coast Guard
Name	Firm
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	OVEMBER BAR LUNCHEON at Ruffino's Catering at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third St., which will t
members and non-members includes lunc	h and one hour of CLE). SPACE IS LIMITED. <i>Please reserve your seat by sending in this form to the B</i> o 2225-344-4805. Cancellations must be made by noon Monday, November 5, 2018. "No shows" wil
members and non-members includes lunc by noon Monday, November 5, 2018. Fax to	a.m. at \$35 per BRBA member. Guests who are non-members may attend for \$45 per person (price h and one hour of CLE). SPACE IS LIMITED. <i>Please reserve your seat by sending in this form to the Bio 225-344-4805.</i> Cancellations must be made by noon Monday, November 5, 2018. "No shows" will e at www.BRBA.org.  If paying by credit card, please include the following:

# Inside

#### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



#### On the cover:

The 2018 Holiday Star Project is underway and we need your help! We ask that local firms and individuals who have made valuable contributions to this program in the past, consider taking on a few more "Stars" and those who may not have previously participated as "Star Gazers", consider becoming involved this year.

The deadline for returning gifts is November 26, 2018, and gift delivery will be on December 4, 2018.

Pictured: Mason Flowers (2), Madison Flowers (4), McKinlee Flowers (7), Austin Vela-Vick (7) and Triston Vela-Vick (5).







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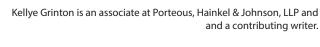
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THE BATON ROUGE LAWYER supports participation of the membership in its production. We encourage the submission of articles and letters to the editor. Articles should be less than 1,800 words, typed and single-spaced. A Word file should be emailed as an attachment to: landon@BRBA.org

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The Baton Rouge Bar Association will be the beacon for the full spectrum of the legal profession by fostering professional courtesy; increasing the diversity of the bar and the participation of underrepresented groups; maintaining a sound financial base; enhancing and developing member services and community outreach; and promoting and improving the image of the profession.

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# Join us at the Renaissance BR Hotel BRBA office. It is the policy of the hours prior to each seminar. Time is available in the meeting room.

7000 Bluebonnet Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70810 EARLY REGISTRATION: \$30/hr. for BRBA members; \$45/hr. for non-members by 5 pm, Monday, Nov. 19, 2018.

**REGULAR REGISTRATION:** \$45/hr. for BRBA members; \$60/hr. for non-members after 5 pm, Monday, Nov. 19, 2018.

**LATE REGISTRATION:** \$55/hr. for BRBA members; \$70/hr. for non-members beginning at 5 pm Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018. "No Shows" will be billed. To be considered registered, both payment and registration must be received by the BRBA office. It is the policy of the BRBA CLE Committee that no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 48 hours prior to each seminar. Time is allowed for lunch on your own each day. Break foods will be provided. Wireless access is available in the meeting room.

MATERIALS: Materials will be available on our website for downloading in advance of the seminar. Printed materials will not be distributed. Register online at www.BRBA.org.

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	□3:50-4:50 pm	1.0	Practicing in City Court	Judge Suzan Ponder (Ret.)
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13	□8:00-9:00 am □9:10-10:10 am □10:20-11:20 am □11:30-12:30 am □1:30-2:30 pm □2:40-3:40 pm	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	Recent Developments in Successions and Donations Ethics Challenge Depose the Lawyers? How about the Commissioner? Why not the Governor? Unique Discovery Issues from Client Network Services, Inc. v State of LA. Insurance Update Effective Legal Writing Smokin' Hot: Ethical Issues For Louisiana Lawyers Advising Business Clients on Transactional Matters Concerning Medical Marijuana	Joseph W. Mengis Eric Barefield Michael McKay  Harry "Skip" Phillips Marlene Krousel Michael Rubin
	□3:50-4:50 pm	1.0	Professionalism	Judge Jewel Welch William Corbett
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# Letter from the President

BY LINDA LAW CLARK

# "So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye" - Sound of Music

"Good Mornin'... Nothing could be grander than to be in Louisiana" (Singin in the Rain). This last year in Louisiana as President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association certainly was grand—both at the Grand at the Bench Bar Conference and throughout the year at the many BRBA events and programs. It was amazing. The year has been chocked full of fantastic programs and events serving



Linda Law Clark

our membership and our community. As the 'Fiddler on the Roof' explains, "Traditions" are meant to be kept but change occurs and can keep life exciting. This year we have had both. Honoring our traditions but embracing new and fresh ideas keeps us as an association growing. Thank you for being involved.

Our November Bar Luncheon will again honor those who serve and those who have served our country in our Armed Forces. Come help us celebrate our veterans and our "Grand Ole' Flag" (*Yankee Doodle Dandy*). Be sure and stay to hear Alston Johnson's annual legislative update as well.

Don't forget December's CLEs by-the-hour, for all of you who may have procrastinated in completing your required number! The CLE programs include ethics, professionalism and specialty areas presented by the top legal minds in our area.

Nominations have been submitted for the 2019 Leadership Teams. If you have not yet, please renew your membership now and remember to vote in the BRBA election. Why not join one of our many specialty sections this next year, volunteer for one of the many special events held or donate pro bono services

through BRBA for those in need? The Bar needs your energy and commitment to continue to grow.

Thank you for your support and participation in all the events of this year. Thank you for allowing me, in the words of George M. Cohen, to "Give My Regards to Broadway" in my articles and the events I attended throughout the year. My "Memories" (*Cats*) of this year remind me of how vibrant our Bar Association is and how many amazing staff and volunteers participated throughout the year. The hard work and collaboration of the directors and officers of the BRBA Board of Directors, the Board of the Young Lawyers and the officers and chairs of our specialty sections were invaluable in serving as your President.

It has been an honor "Getting to Know You" (*The King and I*), many of you for the first time while with others expanding our friendships. As the year draws to a close and the holiday season approaches, it is not likely we will have a "White Christmas" (*Holiday Inn*) but I hope each of you will find time away from the long hours and stress of our profession to spend time with those you hold dear. In closing, "Don't Let the Parade Pass You By" (*Hello Dolly*). Please renew your membership in the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Vote in the upcoming election. Be an active Baton Rouge Lawyer and volunteer with the BRBA. Our new president, Amy Lambert, will lead us into our 90th Year Celebration. With your continued support, I know it will be a great year. Thank you for allowing me to be your 2018 President.

# Making Waves: Water Campus Takes Applied Research to the Next Level

have been frequently asked about the new building at the site of the old Municipal Dock. You know it: made of glass and steel, it looks like giant grasshopper ready to spring gracefully across the Mississippi River. This striking the structure is Center for Coastal



and Deltaic Solutions. Within it are scientists of The Water Institute of the Gulf, conducting research to address the one thing that makes life in Louisiana fun and beautiful but also troublesome—water.

We have all heard the troubling statistic: Louisiana loses the equivalent of a football field of wetlands every 100 minutes. The Water Institute of the Gulf and the Water Campus where it is located were created to tackle this issue head on, not only for our coast but for all the coasts of the world, where 3 billion people live.

The idea formed after Hurricane Katrina. A delegation of Louisianans traveled to the Netherlands for a solution to our rising waters and subsiding lands. The Dutch had revolutionized water management since a devastating flood of the North Sea killed 1,800 of their people in 1953. Their answer was Deltares, an independent institute for applied research in the field of surface and subsurface water. Deltares' scientists focus on deltas, coastal regions

and river basins, and their expertise now is sought around the world. We can appreciate their motto—Enabling Delta Life.

Seeing the success of Deltares, members of the delegation decided to create Louisiana's own Deltares. The Baton Rouge

Area Foundation and its real estate development and management company, Commercial Properties Realty Trust, took on the project with bipartisan public partners. They began by creating the Water Institute of the Gulf in 2011; the idea evolved into a bigger plan—the Water Campus that we see today. Continued support from the public sector has allowed the project to thrive.

Rising on Nicholson Drive on 35 acres of riverfront property, the Water Campus is a world-class collaborative research campus devoted to the study of coastal restoration and sustainability. The idea is to bring the necessary parties together— ecologists, social scientists, engineers and modelers—to solve problems together that they can't solve alone. There are three organizations on the growing Campus.

The LSU Center for River Studies houses a scaled physical model of the lower delta of the Mississippi River. This is one of the coolest buildings in Baton Rouge and is open



to the public by appointment. The model allows scientists to put their research to the test and determine how Mississippi the River will respond different situations, especially the construction of barrier islands for rebuilding parts of the coast. You



sunset and the sounds of the river.

can request a tour of this building at https://lsu.edu/river/.

The headquarters for the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is also located on the Water Campus. The CPRA is the state entity tasked with developing and implementing comprehensive coastal protection and restoration for Louisiana, primarily through the state's \$50 billion coastal plan.

Located on the second floor of the Center for Coastal and Deltaic Solutions is the Water Institute of the Gulf.

The Institute's scientists work on coastal issues, but inland as well. Imagine if Louisiana homeowners had known two days before the 2016 floods how much water they could have anticipated in their homes. Homeowners could have readied their homes, collected necessary items and had time to safely evacuate. Public entities could have strategically located resources and first responders. It would have been a game-changer. As a response to the 2016 flood, the Water Institute created a model for inland flooding; Calcasieu will be the first parish to deploy it.

Stantec, a global engineering and design firm, recently announced it will move to a building under construction at the Water Campus in the summer of 2019. Stantec is the first commercial tenant at the Water Campus. Additional new tenant announcements are anticipated in the coming months.

The top floor of the Center for Coastal and Deltaic Solutions is available to rent for special occasions. The Estuary features meeting and event spaces,

You can find more information about the Water Campus at http://www.thewatercampus.org/ or you can email me at fcomeaux@braf.org for more information or a tour.

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sunsets.

public,

views

of the Mississippi River. It is at the

outdoor terrace

seen some breath-

The dock is open

so one evening,

moment, head out

overlooking

the

taking

to

WRITTEN BY FRANCISCA COMEAUX



Jim has over 44 years of experience litigating, negotiating and resolving disputes, judicial and non-judicial, including personal injury, commercial, business, medical malpractice, construction, insurance, oil and gas (including legacy litigation), property disputes (including damages), class actions, complex litigation, environmental litigation/claims and general civil litigation.



JAMES P. DORÉ, ESQ.

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# When You Wish Upon a Holiday Star . . . BY KELLYE GRINTON

Although the holidays may seem far off, the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation and members of the BRBA Young Lawyers Section are working hard to bring the annual Holiday Star Project to the Baton Rouge community just in time for this holiday season! Generous donations from members of the Baton Rouge legal community make the holiday season a little brighter by providing Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in our area. Last year, more than 800 festively wrapped presents, including clothes, bicycles, books, and toys, were delivered to local agencies and distributed to the children they serve!

Agencies served by the Holiday Star Project include: Children's Hospital, Family Services, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, HAART, Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, St. Anthony's, Volunteers of America-Special

in the past, consider taking on a few more "Stars" and those who may not have previously participated as "Star Gazers", consider becoming involved this year.

Star Gazers can be groups or individuals. For each child sponsored, short wish lists detailing the age, gender and interests of the specific child will be provided, so that items can be easily purchased and tailored to fit each child's needs. For those who prefer to make a monetary donation, Holiday Star Project volunteers will serve as "personal shoppers" to purchase gifts using any funds received. The deadline for returning gifts is November 26, 2018 and gift delivery will be on December 4, 2018.

Together, we can make a meaningful impact and spread holiday cheer to those in our community that need it most!

For more information about the Holiday Star Project or to become a Star Gazer, please contact Landon Hester, at Landon@brba. org.

This year, the Holiday Star Project Committee hopes to be able to spread even more joy by reaching more children, but we need YOUR help! We ask that local firms and individuals who have made valuable contributions to this program

Services, and YWCA Early Head Start.

### The Young Lawyers Section Holiday Star Project

Sign up to sponsor a child. Please fill out the form below and fax it to the Bar office at (225) 344-4805.

Name:			
Firm:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	_Fax:		
Email:	# of stars	s you wish to spon	sor:

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation will mail your star and child's wish list directly to you, along with instructions. Should you have any questions, call Susan Kelley at (225) 214-5559.

# Journey to the Center of the Lame

I am not proud of what I am about to confess. I hereby admit that I faithfully tuned in to each and every embarrassing episode Glad that's "The Bachelorette." off my chest. In my defense, there was a reason for this utter waste of my leisure time. A visit to the home of my two pre-teen granddaughters a few months ago coincided with their being glued to watching with their parents the premiere episode of this disturbing program and its premise that lasting love can be selected on national TV from a display rack of a couple of dozen social media celebrity wannabes. Being ultimately convinced that knowing the characters and plot line would help me bond with my eldest granddaughters (and give me credibility in talking through seedy this show is on every level), I swallowed hard and signed on.

The real reason I share this predicament with our reader(s)



is what the script of this show did nothing but affirm - that the word "journey" is the most overused noun in current American culture, rivaled only by "hashtag." I dare say that had the drinking popular game been applied to each time the "j" word was uttered in "The Bachelorette," cirrhosis would have been detected in its viewers by the third episode. I have reflected mightily on this situation. Perhaps connotes use some heroic, exotic, pseudo-intellectual ordeal that is not done adequate justice by ordinary words like "experience" or, for that matter, "ordeal." If that be the case, I suppose "hejira" (the prophet Muhammad's celebrated exodus from Mecca some 1400 years ago – or a classic old Joni Mitchell album) is next in the self-importance offing.

There appear to be ominous signs among us that "journey" has become this decade's equivalent to the most overused three-dollar noun of the Nineties, the ever present "Project," always spelled with a capital "P." For a while it seemed that every artsy endeavor from garage sales to galleries to rock bands had read the same memo that you were nothing if your moniker lacked the "P" word.

As a public service, I have ruminated on the possible roots of "journeymania" and have rolled snake eyes. Perhaps this is the unfortunate lingering detritus of the musical group of the same name, a virtual one-hit wonder ("Don't Stop Believin'") of the early Reagan administration whose signature tune is still heard as an inspirational ode at numerous campaign rallies and in most high school stadiums in North America.

Let this be a call to sanity and creativity before the next Gene Roddenberry production is christened "Star Journey" and Bill Bryson's best seller is renamed "A Journey in the Woods." If truth be told, the only parties deserving of the word would be a very short list of true "journeyers" ranging from Lewis and Clark to Henry Morton Stanley (of "Dr. Livingstone, I presume" fame). The rest, including every single character in "The Bachelorette," are simply pretenders.

So by now you must be wondering just what possible relevance this endless rant has to any subject matter worthy of a lawyer's periodical. Just ask my cohort Gail Stephenson. Very simply, our calling as worthy advocates requires that we strive always to communicate effectively and resourcefully on behalf of our clients. Cookie-cutting the word "journey" into a brief or oral argument falls far short of that duty.

So if you will permit me, I will now conclude this lonely (exercise, trip, path, excursion, pilgrimage, campaign, voyage, trek, expedition, jaunt, meander, walk, outing, peregrination, passage, ride, junket, course, march, odyssey) and take my medication.

WRITTEN BY VINCENT P. FORNIAS

# Attorney Spotlight: John Grinton

TBRL: Where are you from?

JG: I was actually born in Minnesota but only lived there for 6 months before moving to Baton Rouge.

TBRL: Tell us about your education.

JG: I went to Episcopal in Baton Rouge before attending LSU, where I earned a B.S. in economics. I went to Loyola Law School.

TBRL: If you were not practicing law, what would be your alternate profession?

JG: I joined the Marine Corps after college only to have a heat stroke two weeks before receiving a commission. I was planning to go back, but applied to law school in the interim and decided to give that a shot. I'm glad I did - I met my wife on the first day of my contracts class, and I wouldn't change a thing.

TBRL: Where and what type of law do you practice now?

JG: I'm an associate at Keogh Cox. My practice consists primarily of general commercial defense and construction law.

TBRL: Are you involved with the BRBA?

JG: I am the chair of the Holiday Star Committee this year.

TBRL: Tell us about the Holiday Star Program.

JG: Holiday Star provides gifts to underprivileged children in our community during the holiday season. For most of these kids, the gifts from Holiday Star are all they get. By working with a number of charities in the Baton Rouge area, Holiday Star identifies children in need and secures gifts for those children through donations from local firms and

attorneys. Last year, Holiday Star delivered 787 gifts to children in December. It's a great way to bring some holiday cheer to our community.

TBRL: How can BRBA members get involved with Holiday Star?

JG: Members can contact Landon Hester or Ann Gregorie to join the committee. We need volunteers to drum up participation at their firms so that we can reach as many children as possible. We are always in need of volunteers to sponsor kids by donating gifts. For those that don't have the time to shop for gifts themselves, we accept cash donations and will have someone do the shopping for you.

TBRL: What is your favorite BRBA activity or event?

JG: I would be lying if I didn't admit that it's the Thirsty Thursday events that the Young Lawyers Committee puts on. They are always a good time and a great way to meet new people in the legal community. And who couldn't use a free drink or two?

TBRL: Are you involved with any other organizations or causes?

JG: I am the membership chair of the Dean Henry George McMahon American Inn of Court.

Inns of Court provides a great opportunity to interact with judges and fellow practitioners on an informal basis, while also providing an easy way to earn CLE credit for the year. encourage I would especially everyone, young lawyers, to join the Inn. I'm also on the BREC Special Projects Committee. This committee focuses on building and improving variety of **BREC** facilities throughout the community.

TBRL: What is the best piece of advice you have received?

JG: My parents always told me that if you work hard



and exercise a strong moral compass, success will follow. They both provided a great example.

TBRL: What are your leisure activities?

JG: Watching LSU sports, reading, occasional hunting, and spending time with my wife and newborn son.

TBRL: What is the last book that you read?

JG: *Skunk Works*. It's about Lockheed Martin's military development department. It was a very interesting read and I highly recommend it.

TBRL: Tell us something interesting about yourself.

JG: I lived in Amman, Jordan, and studied Arabic at the University of Jordan for about 6 months between undergrad and law school. ■







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## What I've Learned: William E. Steffes

**Vital Statistics** 

Age: 67

Born and Raised: Chicago

Parents' Occupations: Mother - caterer; father - deceased when I was 6

Name of Spouse: Catherine nee Tomlin High School: Mendel Catholic

College: LSU
Law School: LSU
Synopsis of Legal Career:

Associate and eventually a partner in Anderson, Anderson & Roberts from 1978 to 1982; Solo and then a partner with R. Bruce Macmurdo in Steffes & Macmurdo from 1982 to 2001; Founder and member of The Steffes Firm f/k/a Steffes, Vingiello & McKenzie from 2001 to present

TBRL: I grew up:

WES: I grew up on the South Side of Chicago. I came to LSU for undergraduate school on a last-minute whim primarily based on glowing reports about the school from my boss at work and the very low cost of attending LSU back then. Little did I know that the low cost was largely attributable to my dorm having no air conditioning and being located under the student section in the North Stadium. A rude awakening...

TBRL: I first decided that I wanted to be a lawyer when:

WES: Well, many adults that I knew while I was in high school and after often said that the law was likely my calling. I guess it was because I tended to be argumentative even back then. Although I took the LSAT while in my senior year of undergraduate school, I got married on the same day that I graduated, so I put off law school for a few years while I worked at a finance company. Once my wife got a decent job making enough money for us to live, I applied and fortunately got into the LSU Law Center.

TBRL: My first court appearance was:

WES: Not sure that it was my first court appearance but very early in my career I had a trial in East Feliciana before Judge Kline. As I recall, we were defending a local feed-and-seed store that allegedly had supplied bad feed to a local rancher. While just about everyone was smoking cigars in the courtroom (yes, that was the norm back then), the judge started asking the plaintiff questions about whether his cattle had gotten into some rye grass rather than eating the allegedly tainted feed. The plaintiff hemmed and hawed before answering that he couldn't be sure. Shortly after the judge finished his questions, we were able to come to a very quick and inexpensive settlement. That's when I learned that cattle and rye grass may not mix so well.

TBRL: The mentors early in my career were:

WES: I guess my primary mentors early on were John and Larry Anderson. John was the bankruptcy guru back then who made me read all the old case law from the early 1900s and Larry was always the procedural wizard. After I left the Anderson firm in 1982, many of the older lawyers in Baton Rouge and New Orleans helped me out greatly – too many to name without inadvertently leaving someone out.

TBRL: The main focus of my early career:

WES: Although I was originally going to work for a large insurance defense firm in New Orleans, my focus immediately changed when I went to work for the Anderson firm instead. John was a pioneer in business bankruptcies back then, so I became immersed in Chapters X, XI, and XII under the Bankruptcy Act and subsequently Chapter 11 cases under the new Bankruptcy Code, which became effective in 1981.

TBRL: Advice to young lawyers about conducting themselves in court or about the practice of law in general:

WES: First and foremost, always try to be courteous to opposing counsel, their client(s), and court and clerk personnel. Many of my best friends in the legal world have been long-time opponents of mine, but we remain friends nonetheless. Also, over the years I have had adversaries of my clients engage my firm despite the prior adverse engagement. Obviously, being courteous and deferential to court personnel is important since they often have some control over your schedule.

TBRL: The focus of your current practice and retirement plans:

WES: My practice remains pretty much the same: Chapter 11 work. Retirement is really not something to which I

look forward. I think I would quickly get very bored.

TBRL: If I hadn't become a lawyer:

WES: Hard to say on alternative career although most likely I would have ended up in banking or some sort of financial career.

TBRL: When I'm not working:

WES: I play a little bad golf, go out to eat with my wife and friends and go to a lot of sporting events since I seem to have season tickets to just about all the team sports in the area.

TBRL: I am most proud of achieving or accomplishing in my career:

WES: I think I am most proud of the fact that I knew no one when I first came to LSU from Chicago in 1969 but have made so many good friends and acquaintances over the past nearly 50 years and have been able to establish a relatively thriving law practice as a result.

TBRL: The best advice I ever got was:

WES: Live by the Golden Rule—do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

TBRL: The best lesson I ever learned was:

WES: Early on I learned that judges often check cited decisions to make sure that they actually say what lawyers claim they say in their memos and briefs. It is truly amazing how many lawyers either don't know that or choose to ignore it. It is imperative that you make sure that the cases you are citing really do support your position and not just do "Headnote" research.

TBRL: One of those jobs I had as a kid was:

WES: Many . . . part time waiter and janitor for my mother's business, stock clerk, trucking dock worker and (the absolute worst) a pot washer in a bakery.

TBRL: If you really want to get me angry:

WES: Tell me that all lawyers are corrupt and/or unnecessary and that the legal system is broken. The latter seems to have worked very well for hundreds of years, and most (certainly not all) lawyers are honorable and trustworthy in my experience.

TBRL: My parents taught me:

WES: My mother instilled in me in the value of hard work. Nothing worthwhile usually comes of not attacking a task or job sooner rather than later and pressing on to the finish.

TBRL: If I could, I would:



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WES: Wave a magic wand to eliminate racism, bullying and corruption in government at all levels.

TBRL: The truth is:

WES: Unfortunately becoming harder and harder to discern these days.

TBRL: The turning point in my professional life was when:

WES: When I decided to go out on my own in 1982 and realized that I could create business as well as anyone.

TBRL: The best judges:

WES: There are far too many good ones to name but, in my bankruptcy practice: Judges Summerhays, Dodd, Brown and Steen have been the best.

TBRL: My most interesting case:

WES: Was probably my involvement in the A.C. Lewis/ CLIC-LP case over 30 years ago. It not only involved complex and in many instances *de novo* issues of bankruptcy law but also spun off litigation with multiple large lenders over allegations of raiding trusts and such. That case kept me and other members of our firm quite busy for a number of years.

TBRL: The most important person I've ever met:

WES: My wife, Catherine, is the most important to me.

TBRL: I've never been able to:

WES: Chip or putt.

TBRL: I would like to have dinner with (three non-family members dead or alive) and why:

WES: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy to get their perspective on the current state of politics in the USA.

TBRL: The best movie ever produced was:

WES: My vote would be either Gone with the Wind, African Queen or Casablanca.



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# Louisiana's Enhanced Anti-Hazing Law

Max Gruver's short time upon the Earth tragically ended on September 14, 2017, when he aspirated on his own vomit, allegedly from alcohol poisoning. The day before, according to media reports, Gruver had been forced to participate in an LSU fraternity hazing ritual known as "Bible Study," which allegedly involved forced consumption of 190-proof liquor after Gruver incorrectly answered questions about the fraternity. Gruver's blood alcohol level registered at 0.495, more than six times the legal limit to drive in Louisiana.<sup>1</sup>

Gruver's needless death was certainly not the first at LSU involving hazing. In August 1997, a fraternity pledge named Benjamin Wynne died from alcohol poisoning, with a blood alcohol level of 0.588. Wynne also had traces of the date-rape drug GHB in his system.<sup>2</sup>

Gruver's family has filed a wrongful-death suit against the university, the housing corporation that owns the house where the incident allegedly occurred, the fraternity and more than a dozen of its members.<sup>3</sup> According to media statements released by the Gruver family, "Max's parents allege the hazing ritual that caused his death would never have taken place if LSU or Phi Delta Theta had responded appropriately to numerous complaints of hazing at Phi Delta Theta's chapter at LSU in the years before Max's

death . . . The Gruver family alleges in their lawsuit that LSU's and Phi Delta Theta's failure to end the tradition of hazing at the chapter was driven by a broken model of self-governance and outdated gender stereotypes about young men engaging in masculine rites of passage — in direct violation of Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination."

Prior to Gruver's death, hazing had been a misdemeanor within Title 17 of the Revised Statutes, which deal with state colleges and universities. The old law had a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment, coupled with mandatory expulsion, "and [the accused was] not permitted to return during the current session or term in which the violation occur[ed]." 5

In response to Gruver's death, the Louisiana Legislature passed the "Max Gruver Law," House Bill 78, enacted as Act 635 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, which created R.S. 14:40.8. Companion acts that further clarified the new law included Act 512/House Bill 270; Act 637/House Bill 446; and Act 640/House Bill 793.

The revised law expands penalties for hazing, and new R.S. 14:40.8, effective Aug. 1, 2018, titled, "Criminal Hazing," provides: "If the hazing results in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim, or the hazing involves



# "Newly enacted R.S. 17:1801.1 now provides for mandatory widespread adoption of uniform policies regarding hazing education at state-funded colleges and universities. In accordance with this mandate, the Louisiana Board of Regents developed and adopted a uniform policy on hazing prevention."

forced or coerced alcohol consumption that results in the victim having a blood alcohol concentration of at least .30 percent by weight based on grams of alcohol per one hundred cubic centimeters of blood, any person who commits an act of hazing shall be fined up to ten thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for up to five years."<sup>6</sup>

The new legislation further clarifies the definition of hazing:

- (a) "Hazing" is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another when **both** of the following apply:
  - (i) The person knew or should have known that the act endangers the physical health or safety of the other person or causes severe emotional distress.
  - (ii) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.
- (b) "Hazing" includes but is not limited to any of the following acts associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization:
  - (i) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding, electronic shocking,
  - (ii) Physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, or calisthenics, that subjects the other person to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.
  - (iii) Activity involving consumption of food, liquid, or any other substance, including but not limited to an alcoholic beverage or drug, that subjects the individual to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.
  - (iv) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.<sup>7</sup>

The definition of hazing excludes from the criminal sanctions physical activity that is normal, customary, and

necessary for a person's training and participation in an athletic, physical education, military training, or similar program.<sup>8</sup>

While newly amended R.S. 17:1801 makes clear that the criminal sanctions of R.S. 14:40.8 apply to organizations of publicly funded colleges and universities, the new law extends application of these sanctions to organizations affiliated with an "education institution," defined as "any elementary or secondary school or any postsecondary education institution in this state."9 The legislation further provides that hazing prohibitions now address and include virtually any collection of individuals, including fraternities, sororities, bands, spirit groups, athletic teams, clubs of every kind, social groups and many more categories of groups or gatherings. 10 Similar to publicly funded colleges and universities, public high schools, middle schools and even elementary schools must now be wary of these provisions and their applicability to their clubs and organizations.

According to recent media reports, a former McKinley High School student who spent five days in the hospital in 2014 after he was ordered to do 200 push-ups for being tardy to marching band practice was awarded \$185,000 by a jury on Thursday, September 20. Tristen Rushing was 16 when he was hospitalized with muscle and kidney issues after the Oct. 28, 2014, incident involving the push-ups. Rushing testified at the trial that his arms swelled so much that they resembled those of the cartoon character Popeye, and he said his urine turned "pitch-black." <sup>11</sup>

While the new hazing legislation was not in effect at the time of Rushing's incident, comparing the Tristen Rushing facts as above reported to how hazing is now defined in R.S. 14:40.8 (C)(2)(a & b) suggests that this incident, if it happened today, could warrant prosecution under the new law.

The new law also criminally sanctions certain individuals who know of and fail to report acts or incidents of hazing. If any person serving as a representative or officer of an organization, including any representative, director, trustee or officer of any national or parent organization of any of the underlying knew and failed to report to law enforcement that one or more of the organization's members were hazing another person, the organization may be subject to the following:

- (a) Payment of a fine of up to ten thousand dollars.
- (b) Forfeiture of any public funds received by the organization.
- (c) Forfeiture of all rights and privileges of being an organization ... If the hazing results in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim, or results in the victim having a blood alcohol concentration of at least .30 percent by weight based on grams of alcohol per one hundred cubic centimeters of blood, the period of time shall be for not less than four years.<sup>12</sup>

Newly enacted R.S. 17:1801.1, effective May 31, 2018, now provides for mandatory widespread adoption of uniform policies regarding hazing education at state-

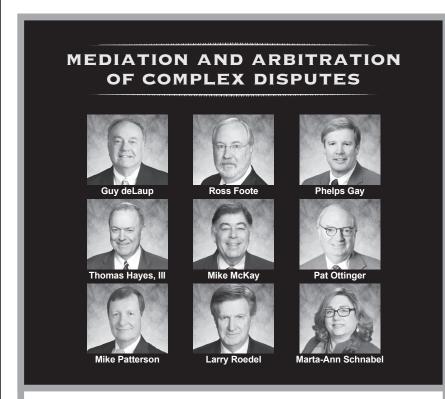
funded colleges and universities. In accordance with this mandate, the Louisiana Board of Regents developed and adopted a uniform policy on hazing prevention. Each postsecondary education institution is required to adopt the uniform policy developed by the Board of Regents.

In addition, "beginning in the fall semester of 2019, each new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process either in person or electronically." Each publicly funded college or university "shall provide annually at least one hour of hazing prevention education to all members and prospective members." <sup>14</sup>

Another provision of Title 14 was enacted that deals with responding to emergencies, and specifically dealing with individuals who participate in hazing and who then must notify the authorities. R.S. 14:502 now provides that any person at the scene of an emergency who knows that another person has suffered serious bodily injury shall, to the extent the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, give reasonable assistance to the injured person.

In addition, any person who engages in reckless behavior that results in the serious bodily injury of any person shall, to the extent that the person can do so without danger or peril to self or others, give reasonable assistance to the person. "Reckless behavior" is defined as, "activity or behavior in which a reasonable person knew or reasonably should have known that the activity or behavior may result in injury to another, including but not limited to excessive consumption of alcohol, binge drinking, drag racing, consumption of any controlled dangerous substance, acts of hazing, or other similar activity, including activity which is defined as a criminal offense under this Title."15 This obviously addresses participants in the hazing activity, who must now act responsibly in taking measures to get medical assistance. A violation of this statute can mean five years imprisonment.16

While this legislation rightly addresses, and hopefully prevents, tragedies such as Max Gruver and Benjamin Wynne, expansion of these provisions and prohibitions to national organizations as well as other levels of educational institutions shall undoubtedly create angst over potential



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impacts and unforeseen or unintended consequences. On the other hand, if these sanctions prompt immediate and widespread assessment and proactive involvement and investigation, and if more lives are saved, then the legislation is worth it.



#### WRITTEN BY JOHN FENNER

<sup>1</sup>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\_rouge/news/article\_042d4746-bd3a-11e8-87fe-eb41f53e0304.html.

<sup>2</sup>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\_rouge/news/education/article\_66f3226e-9a5a-11e7-bb78-bb16df3e5d0c.html.

<sup>3</sup>https://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2018/08/max\_gruver\_25\_million\_lawsuit.html.

<sup>4</sup>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\_rouge/news/courts/article\_d93cd6e4-a189-11e8-9e61-438d3a74eb1f.html.

<sup>5</sup>[R.S. 17:1801 [through 2017 legislative session].

<sup>6</sup> La. R.S. 14:40.8(A)(2)(b).

<sup>7</sup> La. R.S. 14:40.8(C)(2).

<sup>8</sup> La. R.S. 14:40.8(C)(2)(c).

<sup>9</sup> La. R.S. 14:40.8(C)(1).

<sup>10</sup> La. R.S. 14:40.8(C)(3).

<sup>11</sup>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\_rouge/news/courts/article\_a2d52c36-bc4c-11e8-b7cd-0f72749778fe.html.

12 La. R.S. 14:40.8(B).

13 La. R.S. 17:1801(B)(2).

<sup>14</sup> La. R.S. 17:1801(C).

15 La. R.S. 14:502(B)(2).

<sup>16</sup> La. R.S. 14:502(C)(2).

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# What I've Learned: Mary Terrell Joseph

Vital Statistics

Age: 73

Born and Raised: Shreveport, Louisiana

Parents: John S. Terrell and Tetine Querbes Terrell

Parents' Occupation(s): Executive with a wholesale electric company and civic volunteer

Siblings: Jane Terrell Johnson; Randolph Querbes Terrell

Spouse: Cheney C. Joseph (deceased)

Children: John Terrell Joseph, M.D. and Allen Fort Colley Joseph

Grandchildren: Reece Stewart Joseph; Chloe Alexandrine Joseph; Jackson Porter Cheney Joseph

High School: St. Timothy's School, Stevenson, Maryland College: Hollins University, Roanoke Virginia Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

TBRL: Did you always know that you wanted to become a lawyer?

MTJ: I had no idea I wanted to be a lawyer until I was a senior at Hollins College (a woman's college now University and still a women's undergraduate school!) in Roanoke, Virginia. I took a constitutional law course and really enjoyed it. Then, I applied to law school and was accepted.

TBRL: What happened after you were accepted into law school?

MTJ: My plans changed and I had the opportunity to travel to Europe in the Fall of 1966. I stayed with a family in Spain and then camped for a few months and was determined to save the world when I returned in August 1967 to Shreveport, Louisiana. It was too late to apply for the Peace Corps, so I applied to VISTA (the domestic Peace Corps). I was assigned to Watts, Calif. and decided I better save the world another way. I drove to LSU and marched into the School of Social Welfare and said I wanted to attend and of course they said absolutely not since I had not applied. So, I went upstairs to the LSU Law School and asked if they could let me in since I was accepted the year before. The answer was yes, and five days later I came to LSU Law School.

TBRL: What happened next?

MTJ: Since I did not have a place to live, two secondyear students, Dottie Amman (now Hardy Bailey) and Carol Anne Nathanson (now Blitzer) allowed me to crash on their couch in the fancy newly opened Embassy Apartments. Luckily for them, I got married and moved out! In the Fall of 1967, I "re-met" Cheney Joseph, whom I had briefly met in college. We dated a few weeks and got married in December 1967. That was when exams and classes were after Christmas. So, the day after our wedding we flew back (yes, they had planes from Shreveport to Baton Rouge in those days) along with others who attended the wedding and started studying. What a honeymoon. Cheney did GREAT on his exams (he was a second-year student), and I needed a lot of improvement. Our first son was born in April 1970, and I graduated in May of that year. For the next eight years I "practiced" out of my home office, mainly doing curatorships and collection work and one big succession. I even had a criminal appointment! When our second son was six, in 1978, I went to work with Sanders Downing Kean and Cazedessus. I was the first woman in their firm.

TBRL: Do you recall your first court appearance and how it went?

MTJ: My first court appearance was when a senior lawyer sent me with a new file. I had no preparation to handle a motion for summary judgment. Thank goodness the judge was understanding because I knew nothing. I was a whiz at curatorships and collections, but not motions or trials!

TBRL: Any mistakes to avoid that you have learned along the way?

MTJ: Don't be afraid to ask questions of other lawyers. Even if the one you work for is not helpful, someone else will be. Charles McCowan was my mentor, although I was assigned to another senior attorney.

TBRL: What advice would you give to young lawyers about de-stressing after particularly long workdays?

MTJ: Exercise, exercise, exercise.

TBRL: What was the best advice you received from a senior attorney when you first entered the profession?

MTJ: Take the time to be prepared and don't be afraid to ask questions

TBRL: What was the turning point in your professional life?

MTJ: When several of us left Sanders Downing in 1983 to form our own firm, which became Rubin, Curry, Colvin and Joseph. RCCJ merged with McGlinchey Stafford in 1983.

TBRL: What do you enjoy most about the practice of law?

MTJ: The most enjoyable part of the law practice is my

wonderful clients and wonderful partners.

TBRL: What is one thing that you would change about the practice of law?

MTJ: Nothing. I love what I do.

TBRL: If you hadn't become a lawyer, what would you be?

MTJ: If not a lawyer, I would be heading up a non-profit.

TBRL: In your experience, how has the practice of law changed over the years?

> MTJ: Of course, the practice has changed tremendously, but the biggest change to me is the lack of professionalism and civility among lawyers

TBRL: How do you think technology, in particular, the advent of smartphones, has changed the practice of law?

MTJ: Smartphones make the expectations of clients and other lawyers too high. Everyone expects an immediate response. To me, it is better to slow down and think before you text or email too quickly.

TBRL: What your biggest pet peeve from an opposing counsel?

MTJ: Lawyers asking for informal extensions and then never formally answering or responding to my inquiries.

TBRL: What are you most proud of achieving or accomplishing in your career or what has been the most fulfilling aspect of your career?

MTJ: The most fulfilling part of my career is making my clients happy and working with a great group of lawyers at McGlinchey Stafford. Another joy for me is being involved with the community and working with the Arts Council, Capital Area United Way, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, LSU Museum of Art, Rotary Club of Baton Rouge and the Junior League. I love volunteering for "good works," although I have learned to say no!

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Federal Court Admissions Ceremony

December 11, 2018 • 3PM • Russell B. Long Courthouse U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana

Installation of 2019 Officers Meeting and Reception

January 9, 2019 • 3PM • Russell B. Long Courthouse U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana



# Judicial Interview: 19th Judicial District Court Judge Beau Higginbotham

**Vital Statistics** 

Born and Raised: Baton Rouge, Louisiana Position: 19th Judicial District Court Judge

Family: Wife, Carrie Madge Fortenberry Higginbotham, and two children, Manny (8) and Wiley (6)

High School: University High School College: Louisiana State University Law School: Southern University Law School

TBRL: You come from a family of judges. How did this shape your desire to become an attorney?

BH: The fact that my parents are judges; that never made me want to become a lawyer. They were very good at not imposing or steering me into the legal field, and I respect them immensely for that. However, because of them, I realized how great and valuable the profession was and knew that with my interests in business and marketing, I would need a legal degree. They let me discover on my own that I wanted to be a lawyer. So really, they had everything to do with me becoming a lawyer and eventually a judge.

TBRL: What was your career path before you became a judge?

BH: My dad had me mowing grass at an early age and eventually in a business with John Odenwall until I was probably 14. After that, I started working for Lane Grigsby and Cajun Contractors (now Cajun Industries) during the summers of high school and college. I then went to work for Doug Welborn and the East Baton Rouge Clerk of Court until law school. In law school, I worked with the great attorneys at Due, Caballero, Price, Guidry, Piedrahita and Andrews. Once out of law school, I immediately went to work in the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office for 11 years before being elected to the 19th JDC.

TBRL: Did you have any mentors while beginning your career as an attorney?

BH: My parents definitely; they helped me early on in my career and they are still a great sounding board for me today. While I was working in law school, Scott Andrews and Randy Piedrahita really showed me the ropes and how to work cases. There are a lot of great attorneys in the DA's office, but Brent Stockstill took time and effort to show me how to be a lawyer. I will be forever grateful to all of them for the lessons I learned from each of them.

TBRL: What is the most valuable piece of advice that you were given as a young attorney?

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BH: The most important advice I received as a young lawyer was that winning your case is nice, but it's not everything. In this business, doing what is right and having integrity are far more important than winning. We as lawyers have a responsibility and a duty to uphold the ideals of our profession, so that we maintain the public's confidence.

TBRL: What do you most enjoy or find to be most rewarding about being a judge?

BH: As you can imagine, I see a lot of people that are in a low point in their lives that have no hope or confidence in their situation or future. When I see that person recognizes what the problem is and then addresses it, I find it very rewarding when you can see change in that person and watch them develop the confidence to go forward and have hope in the lives. I'm also a believer in education, so I really love when people that do not have a high school education go out and receive their GED or HiSet. To see the smile on their faces when they receive that diploma is just so rewarding to me because they know it is the beginning of better things to come.

TBRL: What is the most difficult aspect of being a judge?

BH: The most difficult aspect of being a judge is being consistent. We have a lot of cases and every case is different, yet people expect the same result in every case. You really have to ask a lot of questions about each case to get a feel for them, so that the outcomes in each case are consistent with the facts in each case.

TBRL: What advice would you give to lawyers who practice in front of you?

BH: To start with, be prepared and be on time. I know people are busy, but you should know your case and your opposing counsel's case better than they do and if you are going to be late, let your opposing counsel and the court know. The most important thing is to be nice to the judge's staff and court personnel. It is \_\_\_\_\_

amazing what you can get accomplished when you treat everyone with respect.

INTERVIEWED BY MARY ROPER

# In Memoriam

BY CHRIS HESTER

## Remembering Judge Bob Hester

Judge Bob Hester passed away on December 3, 2017. He will be missed by many people, especially around the courthouses in Baton Rouge, and most of all by his family.

Bob Hester was my father, and when I was asked to write this column—though humbled at the opportunity to honor my father in this way—I wasn't sure I was the right person for the task. I thought it should be someone who knew my father well; perhaps a long-term colleague, someone who knew and could recount his "war" stories; someone who also had the good fortune to know him personally as well as professionally.

I soon realized I had become one of those people. Bob Hester was not only my father, but my most important mentor in the profession we both chose. I not only heard all his old war stories and proudest moments, I was a witness to many of them. Most importantly, I was able to know my father as a true friend as well.

Working in the same profession as your father is a unique and rewarding experience. One of the best things about sharing a profession with your father is the opportunity to hear so many stories. Most of the stories people tell me about Dad are not about some big event; rather they are

simple, routine interactions where something special stuck with them. Dad loved that and sought that in his daily life.

Bob loved the law and he loved being a lawyer and a judge. He wanted to go on doing it forever. One of his regrets was retiring from the bench so soon. Luckily he was able to sit *pro tempore* for several courts in the area. In fact, his last court

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Judge Bob Hester (August 21, 1945 - December 3, 2017)

appearance was as a judge pro tempore in Baton Rouge City Court days before he had heart surgery. Dad was a proud man, and though the last years of his life were very challenging, he tried to hide his ailments from even his closest friends, myself included. He hid them not because he was embarrassed by them, but because he didn't want to be treated any differently-he wanted to working, continue continue contributing. But he began to struggle with physical tasks he was accustomed to handling with ease. He had trouble walking even short distances without having to catch his breath. Once, after falling on his way to court, I made the mistake of suggesting he use a cane. He quickly informed me that canes were for old people,

and at 70 he wasn't old yet.

Of his time serving as a judge *pro tempore*, he often told me that it was an honor to be on the bench again, and that he did his best to rule as he believed the judge he was filling in for would, not necessarily how he would if it were his court. I did not fully appreciate this principle of his until recently. For him, this was a showing of deep respect for not only the law, but for the people that elected those specific judges to serve. He did his best to be fair to everyone that came before him. Judge Lou Daniel shared recently that Bob told him determining a sentence for a

convicted defendant was the most difficult part of being a judge and that he prayed that the Lord would give him the wisdom and strength to do the right thing for the right reason.

My father loved being a mentor to young attorneys and felt it was a vital part of our profession. So many lawyers have shared stories about Bob with me. I have noticed when they begin the



story they are almost always smiling. I love hearing Judge Daniel reminisce about Bob warning him to cover his mouth with a file if he ever wanted to say something bad about the great Judge John Covington. Judge Daniel was new to the DA's office, and Bob told him he had found out the hard way that the judge could read lips. Another favorite was one of my colleagues at the DA's office bringing me a letter that Bob had pecked away himself on his computer, humbly asking for a police report so he could show it to his client that was apparently being a bit close-minded. Bob described him in a way to get a laugh from even the most formal of prosecutors. Lastly a young attorney representing a co-defendant who had prepared

his case for hours only to have Bob walk in and tell him to follow his lead. When pressed for what was about to happen, Bob said he wasn't sure but most of the time these type of cases work out so don't worry about all those motions right now. They went in chambers to discuss the case with the prosecutor and the judge and dad was able to negotiate a simple resolution resulting in a dismissal of the charges for both clients if certain conditions were completed. The young colleague was happy to go back to the office and share the results of all of his hard work.

Bob definitely preferred to work smarter, not harder. He made it a point to know the names of every staff member he came in contact with because it was the right thing to do and he knew they could make his life much easier. He tried to treat everyone with respect regardless of their position. As many "seasoned" attorneys can, he loved the ability to walk in a courtroom and have the judge call up his matter before he sat down.

Dad was not motivated by power, fame or fortune; he



wanted to make an impact on people. After he passed, I found several of his journals dating back to his high school days. One of my favorite entries is from March 30, 1991, which included the following:

"Be kind to people because you have been blessed with enough love to share. Be moral because God taught you the blessings of peace of mind. Be honest because you have no reason to be otherwise."

I hope that Dad's legacy is his desire and drive to impact people every day. Remember the little things and take advantage of them. Make someone's day around you better for no reason except that you can. Make someone remember something

different in a world of ordinary. Most importantly, do it today. I promise it will better our profession and will make Dad smile.

Thanks for making me a better lawyer and a better person, Dad. You are greatly missed.

Bob was born August 21, 1945, in New Orleans. Bob received his undergraduate and law degrees from LSU. He was a member of the Louisiana State and Baton Rouge Bar Associations since 1971 and was a retired 19th Judicial District Court judge. Bob was a member of First Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed spending time with his family and was an avid LSU sports fan. Bob was married to his wife of 41 years, Connie. He had one son, Chris, daughter-in-law, Emily and one grandson, Hayden.



WRITTEN BY CHRIS HESTER

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## Bar News

BY LANDON T. HESTER

#### **Arts Judicata**















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PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

#### **Motions Pictures**











#### 19th JDC Civil Law Day CLE





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PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

PHOTO BY LANDON T. HESTER

#### CANDIDATE BIOS FOR THE BRBA DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE 2019 ELECTION

— Online election begins Friday, Oct. 26, 2018, and ends Friday, Nov. 16, 2018. —

All voting will be conducted electronically. Make sure the BRBA has an email address for you on file.

The 2018 Board officers are as follows: Amy Lambert, President; Dennis Blunt, President-elect; Christopher K. Jones, Treasurer; Abboud Thomas, Secretary and Linda Law Clark, Past-President.

You will need to vote for six of the following seven candidates.



#### **KELLY E. BALFOUR**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2001. Firm: Balfour Emonet. Seeking third term, Director at Large. Activities: Bench Bar Conference Committee member, Law Day volunteer, CLE speaker, BRBA softball tournament participant; Ball Maul golf tournament participant. Other: LSBA House of Delegates, Nominating Committee, Greater Baton Rouge Airport Commission.



#### **MELISSA M. CRESSON**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 1996. Law Firm: Kean Miller, LLP. Seeking fifth term, Director at Large. Activities: Young Lawyers Section Council (past chair, secretary/treasurer (1997-2004); Belly Up with the Bar (past chair); Young Lawyers Dress for Success Program (past chair); Bench Bar Conference Committee (member, 1998); Volunteer Committee (1997-2001); Youth Education Committee (member, instructor,

mock trial coach and judge (1996-2001). **Other:** Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, board of directors, 2016 – present; Top "40 Under 40," Baton Rouge Business Report, 2003; Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana (LSBA, 2004); Playmakers of Baton Rouge (past-president and board member, 2009-12); Spring Hill College National Alumni Association (past-president, member, board of directors, 1999-2010); Spring Hill College (past member, Board of Trustees, 2006-08); Jay Cresson Memorial Foundation (co-founder); Recipient of Excellence in Community Service Award, Safety Council of Greater Baton Rouge (2005); LSBA (member); ABA (member).



#### **LOREN SHANKLIN FLESHMAN**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2010. Law Firm: Smith Shanklin Fleshman, L.L.C. Seeking first term, Director at Large. Activities: 2018 Young Lawyers Section Past-Chair; 2017 Young Lawyers Section Chair; 2016 Young Lawyers Section Chair-Elect; 2015 Young Lawyers Section Secretary; Young Lawyers Section Council Member (2012-2014). Other: 2018 LSBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Recipient; LSBA Young

Lawyer Division 5th District Representative (2018-2020); Louisiana Association for Justice Member (2011-present).



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#### **MELANIE NEWKOME JONES**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 1991. Law Firm: Melanie Newkome Jones, APLC. Seeking sixth term, Director at Large. Activities: Family Law Section (past chair, past vice chair, past secretary, current member); Active Pro Bono panel member with more than 1,000 hours of service. Other: Board Certified Family Law Specialist; Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization; Family Law Board Certification Committee (past chair, present

member); Baton Rouge Association of Women Attorneys (past president); First Circuit Court of Appeal Pilot Mediation Program (past director); Certified Family and Civil Mediator; 2012 recipient of the LSBA Pro Bono Publico Award; Friends of the Animals Board of Directors.



#### JENNIFER MOISANT

Law School: Southern University Law Center. Year: 2003. Law Firm: Balfour Emonet. Seeking second term, Director at Large. Activities: Chair of the BRBA Family Law Section and BRBA Director at Large. Other: Chairperson of the Board of the Council on Aging.



#### **MONICA M. VELA-VICK**

Law School: University of Michigan Law School. Year: 2007. Law Firm: Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Seeking first term, Director at Large. Activities: Mock Trial Committee (Chair); Teen Court Committee (Past-Chair); Arts Judicata Committee; Youth Education Committee; Holiday Star Committee; Law Day volunteer; Lawyer in the Classroom volunteer; President's Award Recipient (2015). Other: LSBA Diversity Committee; LSBA Conclave Committee;

LSBA Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award Recipient (2017); LSBA YLD Awards Committee; Hispanic Lawyers Association of Louisiana; Wex S. Malone American Inn of Court Member; LANO Community Leaders Program; LSBA Leadership Class (2013-2014).



#### **LUKE WILLIAMSON**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 1996.
Law Firm: Williamson Fontenot Campbell & Whittington,
LLC. Seeking second term, Director at Large. Activities:
BRBA Athletic Committee (former chair); Mock Trial
Committee (former chair); Co-Chair of the BRBA 90th
Anniversary Planning Committee. Other: AV Rated —
Martindale-Hubbell, Super Lawyers — Personal Injury.

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# CANDIDATE BIOS FOR THE BRBA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019 ELECTION

The 2018 Council officers are as follows: Jordan Faircloth, Chair; Erin Sayes Kenney, Chair-elect and Chelsea Caswell, Secretary/Treasurer.

You will need to vote for five of the following seven candidates.



#### **ASHLEY N. BUTLER**

Law School: Southern University Law Center. Year: 2014. Law Firm: Louisiana Department of Education. Seeking fourth term, Council Member. Activities: YLS Council member (2016-2018); Belly Up with the Bar Committee member (2017-2018). Other: Louis A. Martinet Legal Society (member); American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division scholarship recipient.



#### JOSEPH J. CEFALU III

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2012. Law Firm: Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson. Seeking second term, Council Member. Activities: 2018 YLS Council Member; Assistant editor, The Baton Rouge Lawyer; Workers' Compensation Section member; Belly Up with the Bar participant; BRBA Softball Tournament participant; Holiday Star Project participant and gift delivery volunteer; Bench Bar Conference attendee and YLS Liaison. Other:

2017 Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum Gala Host Committee; co-founder, Club Blue (young professionals group affiliated with the Boys & Girls Club); Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge volunteer / mentor; LANO community leader program; mock interview volunteer, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; ABA member; LSBA member.



#### **ANTHONY JOHN GAMBINO**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2016. Law Firm: Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Seeking first term, Council Member. Activities: Law Day Committee (2017-present); Holiday Star participant; Contributing Writer for The Baton Rouge Lawyer. Other: Wex S. Malone American Inn of Court member; Member of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; Louisiana Law Institute observer; ABA member.



#### **KELLYE ROSENZWEIG GRINTON**

Law School: Loyola University College of Law. Year: 2012. Law Firm: Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson, LLP. Seeking fourth term, Council Member. Activities: Young Lawyers Section Council Member (2015-present); Firm Liaison for Arts Judicata 2017; Holiday Star Committee member (2015-2018); Belly Up with the Bar participant (2015). Other: District I Finalist for Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel 2017 Frank L. Maraist Award; The Dean Henry George

McMahon American Inn of Court (2015-present); and City Year of Baton Rouge Associates Board.



#### **MELISSA PESTALOZZI**

Law School: Southern University Law Center. Year: 2017. Law Firm: Long Law Firm, LLP. Seeking first term, Council Member. Activities: Bench Bar Planning Committee; Holiday Star Planning Committee; Easter Eggstravaganza Planning Committee; BRBA Softball Tournament Planning Committee; Belly Up with the Bar Fundraising Committee; BRBA Young Lawyers Section. Other: LSBA Community Action Committee member; Club Blue Ambassador (young professionals

group affiliated with the Boys & Girls Club); Women's Energy Network-Southeast Louisiana Chapter member; LSBA Public Utility Section member; Wex S. Malone American Inn of Court member; Member of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.



#### **LAUREN RUCINSKI**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2016. Law Firm: Kean Miller, LLP. Seeking first term, Council Member. Activities: Law Day Committee (2017-present); Belly Up Participant and Firm Coordinator; Holiday Star Participant and Firm Coordinator; Contributing Writer for The Baton Rouge Lawyer. Other: Air & Waste Management Association member; Women's Energy Network-Southeast Louisiana Chapter member; We Produce Grads Board





#### **LAUREN M. TEMENTO**

Law School: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Year: 2014. Law Firm: Louisiana Public Service Commission. Seeking third term, Council Member. Activities: YLS Council member (2016-present); Volunteer Committee (member 2014- present); Holiday Star Committee (member 2014- present); Easter Eggstravaganza (2016); BRBA 90th Anniversary Planning Committee. Other: LSBA Public Utilities Section; Energy Bar Association; Boys & Girls Club of

Greater Baton Rouge - Club Blue member.

#### **GAIL'S GRAMMAR**

Two words that are sometimes confused are *amuse* and *bemuse*. To *amuse* is to entertain or make someone laugh; to *bemuse* is to confound or to puzzle. An easy way to remember the difference is that one who is bemused is bewildered or befuddled.

**EXAMPLE:** The law professor was *amused* when the *bemused* first-year student thought that liberative prescription was a drug that reduced inhibitions.

Send suggestions for future Gail's Grammar columns to Gail Stephenson at GStephenson@sulc.edu, or call Gail at 225.771-4900 ext. 216.

## Foundation Footnotes

PRO BONO & TEEN COURT REPORTS - 2018

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation thanks those who volunteered in July, August and September.

#### TEEN COURT -

Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., Louisiana Supreme Court, Division of Children and Families; Anthony D. Winters, Louisiana Department of Justice; and Raveen Hills, Attorney at Law; served as judges for the August and September Teen Court hearings. Volunteers from the LSU Law School PILS program served as jury monitors for the September hearing: Michael Dalman, Chelsea Moudry, Emiley Dillon, Katherine Dukes and George Day.

Brittany Jorden, EBR District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division; Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., Louisiana Supreme Court, Division of Children and Families; and Raveen Hills, Attorney at Law; conducted a training session for teens on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The Hon. Joycelyn Yvette Elmore, Division of Administrative Law, presided over the teen court swearing-in ceremony.

#### ACCEPTING PRO BONO CASES –

J. David Andress, Andress Law Firm; Edward Atebara, The Law Office of Edward R. Atebara; Michael Betts, Attorney at Law; Morley Diment, Pierce & Shows; Arlene Edwards, Delatte, Edwards & Marcantel; David Gunn, Gunn & York; Rena Hester, Attorney at Law; Tammeral Hills, Hills Law Firm, LLC; Melanie Newkome Jones, Attorney at Law; Randy Ligh, Attorney at Law; Miracle Myles, The Law Office of Miracle D Myles, LLC; DeVonna Ponthieu, Attorney at Law; Brett Sandifer, Law Offices of Keith S. Giardina; Arthur Vingiello, The Steffes Firm, LLC; Kathleen Wilson, Wilson Law Firm.

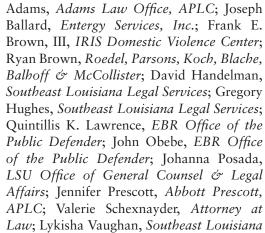
#### CONSTITUTION DAY PRESENTERS -

Ross LeBlanc, *Dudley DeBosier*; Regina Ramsey James, *Southern University Law Center*; Leslie Richard Chambers, Office of the Governor; Michael Schillage, *EBR Parish Attorney's Office*; Wendy Shea, *Southern University Law Center*; and Hon. Darrell White, *President, Retired Judges of America*.

#### SELF HELP RESOURCE CENTER VOLUNTEERS -

The Pro Bono Project is financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program of the Louisiana Bar Foundation; Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Franciscan Ministry Fund; Family, District and City Court Filing Fees; W. K. Kellogg Foundation; Baton Rouge Area Foundation; and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge is funded by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program for the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, LANO Change Fund and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

Janeane G. Abbott, Abbott Prescott, APLC; Steven E.



Legal Services; Cherry Roberts-Matherne, Louisiana State University Law Center; Alanna Hayman, Southern University Law Center; and Breana Wilson, Southern University Law Center.

#### ASK A LAWYER VOLUNTEERS -

Emily Ziober, Attorney at Law; James R. "Jim" Austin, Butler Snow; Todd E. Gaudin, Attorney at Law; Donald Dobbins, Attorney at Law; James Word II, Attorney at Law; Sarah Bradley, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; and Mona Joseph, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

#### THIRST FOR JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS -

Allen M. Posey, Jr., Attorney at Law; Cherita McNeal, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response Center; Talya Bergeron, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; and Scott P. Gaspard, Attorney at Law.

#### LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEERS -

Payton Lachney, Louisiana State University Law Center; Breana Wilson, Southern University Law Center; Yazan Rantisi, Southern University Law Center; Christian Davidson, Louisiana State University Law Center; and Kaylin Jolivette, Louisiana State University Law Center.

#### PRO BONO PROJECT FALL INTERNS -

Jasmine Cooper, Kayla Dixon and Jasmine Louis, *Southern University Law Center*.

Novemeber 2018							De	ecei	mbe	r 20	18		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

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#### Duty Court Schedule

#### 19<sup>™</sup>JDC CIVIL COURT

Oct. 29 - Nov. 9	Judge Caldwell
Nov. 12 - Nov. 23	Judge Kelley
Nov. 26 - Dec. 7	Judge Morvant
Dec. 10 - Dec. 21	Judge Johnson

#### 19<sup>™</sup> JDC CRIMINAL COURT\*\*\*

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2	Judge White
Nov. 2 - Nov. 9	Judge Marabella
Nov. 9 - Nov. 16	Judge Anderson
Nov. 16 - Nov. 23	Judge Erwin
Nov. 23 - Nov. 30	Judge Jackson
Nov. 30 - Dec. 7	Judge Daniel
Dec. 7 - Dec. 14	Judge Moore

#### **BATON ROUGE CITY COURT\***

Oct. 29 - Nov. 4	Judge Prosser
Nov. 5 - Nov. 11	Judge Temple
Nov. 12 - Nov. 18	Judge Smith
Nov. 19 - Nov. 25	Judge Alexander
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	Judge Moore Vendetto
Dec. 3 - Dec. 9	Judge Prosser
Dec. 10 - Dec. 16	Judge Temple
Dec. 17 - Dec. 23	Judge Smith
Dec. 24 - Dec. 30	Judge Alexander

#### **FAMILY COURT\*\***

Nov. 2	Judge Day
Nov. 5	Judge Baker
Nov. 6	Judge Woodruff-White
Nov. 7	Judge Day
Nov. 8 & 9	Judge Greene
Nov. 13	Judge Woodruff-White
Nov. 14	Judge Day
Nov. 15	Judge Greene
Nov. 16 & 19	Judge Baker
Nov. 20	Judge Woodruff-White
Nov. 21	Judge Day
Nov. 26	Judge Baker
Nov. 27	Judge Woodruff-White
Nov. 28	Judge Day
Nov. 29	Judge Greene
Nov. 30	Judge Day
Dec. 3	Judge Baker
Dec. 4	Judge Woodruff-White
Dec. 5	Judge Day
Dec. 6 & 7	Judge Greene
Dec. 10	Judge Baker
Dec. 11	Judge Woodruff-White
Dec. 12	Judge Day
Dec. 13	Judge Greene
Dec. 14 & 17	Judge Baker

Dec. 18	Judge Woodruff-White
Dec. 19	Judge Day
Dec. 20	Judge Greene
Dec. 21	Judge Woodruff-White
Dec. 26	Judge Day
Dec. 27	Judge Greene
Dec. 28	Judge Day

#### **JUVENILE COURT**

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Judge Taylor-Johnson
Dec. 1 - Dec. 31	Judge Haney

NOTE: Duty Court changes at 5 p.m. each Friday unless otherwise specified. \*City Court's Duty Court schedule changes each Monday at 8 a.m. \*\*Family Court's Duty Court schedule is completely different each day, rotating on Fridays \*\*\*19th JDC Criminal Court changes each Friday at noon.

#### **COURT HOLIDAYS**

Thursday, November 1	All Saints Day
Tuesday, November 6	General Election Day
Monday, November 12	Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 23	Acadian Day
Monday, December 24	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Holiday

#### **Classified Ads**

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Rowe Law Firm is seeking an experienced family law attorney, preferably with existing clients, to join their team. Call (225) 250-1161 for more information.

\*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at the Baton Rouge Bar office.

#### **Important Dates**

Ongoing: Every Wednesday & Thursday, 3-5 p.m., Thirst for Justice takes place at St. Vincent de Paul;

Ongoing: Every Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Self Help Resource Center,19th JDC;

#### **NOVEMBER**

2	Nuts and Bolts of Estate Planning CLE
	- 8 AM - 1:30 PM - WLA 1, 2 & 3

Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30 - 11:30 AM -West Baton Rouge Parish Library

Wills for Heroes - WLA 1, 2 & 3

November Bar Luncheon & Legislative Update CLE

Cocktails with the Court - 5 - 7 PM - Gallery at the Manship Theatre

9 Nuts and Bolts of Successions CLE - 8 AM - 1:30 PM - WLA 1, 2 & 3

Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Zachary Branch Library

Workers' Comp Annual Seminar - 12 - 5 PM - Sullivan's

Ask-A-Lawyer, 9 -11:30 a.m. - Catholic Charities

Meet the City Court Crew- 3:30 - 5:30 PM - Baton Rouge City Court

15 Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM Mansur's

Family Law Section Meeting & CLE - 12 - 2 PM - BRBA

The Importance of Self-Care CLE - 8:30 AM - 12 PM - BRBA

#### **DECEMBER**

Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30 -11:30 AM -Carver Branch Library

6 CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel BR

Ask-A-Lawyer, 9:30 -11:30 AM -Charles R. Kelly Community Center FLS Christmas Party - 6 - 8 PM -

7 CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel

11 Practicing in Federal Court CLE -12 - 3 PM - Middle District Ralph E. Tyson Training Room

Federal Court Admissions Ceremony - 3-5:00 PM - Middle District Courtroom

Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM - Ruth's Chris

CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel

14 CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel

27 CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel

28 CLE by the Hour - Renaissance Hotel BR

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## **COMMITMENT & COMPASSION**





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