

THE PROMULGATOR

The Official Magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association



STEPPING INTO 2025
DECEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 6



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LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION is to serve the profession, its members and the community by promoting professional excellence, respect for the rule of law and fellowship among attorneys and the court.

THE PROMULGATOR is the official magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association, and is published six times per year. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Committee.



ON THE COVER

In this 2024 December issue of The Promulgator we cover our 2024-2025 LBA Board Installation, Pro Bono Week, CLE by the Hour, and many more events!

Enjoy the photos from our 2024-2025 LBA Board Installation on page 18.

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To register for events, visit
lafayettebar.org or call (337) 237-4700.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLE BY THE HOUR DATES:

LBA Office
December 6th
December 9th
December 11th
December 13th
December 16th
December 17th
December 19th
December 20th
December 27th
December 30th (half day)

RED MASS

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
January 10th

COURT OPENING

Lafayette Parish Courthouse
January 10th

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Lafayette Bar Association Members:

This is my first "President's Message." I couldn't be more excited and honored to assume the role of LBA President and I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Luckily for me, I am following in the footsteps of incredible leaders who have put the LBA on incredibly strong footing and solidly on the path to continued success. In particular, I would like to recognize Lindsay Meador Young, Immediate Past-President, for all of her hard work and dedication to the organization. She is an exemplary leader, a mentor and a friend. I am also grateful for the incredibly talented people serving on our Executive Committee, Board, and Foundation Board.

Also luckily for me, and for our entire organization, we are blessed with an extraordinary staff. They work tirelessly on our behalf and do an outstanding job. I'd also like to welcome our new Executive Director, Jan Swift, who took the reins during our busiest season and hasn't missed a beat. Welcome, Jan!

With the year quickly winding down, the pace of activities at the LBA is picking up. Our annual holiday party--always a member favorite--was on December 4 at The Room at Corner Bar. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Dr. Brett Venable of Recovery ChiroMED and Lafayette Bone & Joint Clinic, for contributing to our holiday cheer! You are very much appreciated!

We are also gearing up for CLE By The Hour, with full-day sessions on December 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 27. We have a fantastic schedule! Thanks to all who have signed up to present! I encourage everyone to participate in this incredible program, which is our primary fundraiser.

The new year will begin with the traditional Red Mass, to be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on January 10, 2025, with Broussard, David & Moroux again generously sponsoring a luncheon immediately following the service. Later that afternoon, the annual Court Opening ceremony will take place at the Lafayette Parish Courthouse. As is tradition, we will welcome our newly-admitted attorneys and honor those attorneys who passed away over the previous year. A reception will follow. Please be on the lookout for details and please make every effort to attend these truly meaningful events.

In closing, I want to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season, filled with all of the hope and promise that it represents. Let us also remember the less fortunate and take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to service, which is and always has been a hallmark of our organization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events, and throughout year!



Stuart Breaux

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we enter the holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May this time of year bring joy, peace, and gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. It's also a wonderful time to reflect on the values that unite us as members of the Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation and the ways we can make a meaningful difference in our community.

I am excited and honored to introduce myself as your new Executive Director. Joining such a distinguished organization is truly a privilege, and I look forward to building meaningful connections with each of you as we work together to strengthen our legal community.

As a graduate of LSU Law School, my career has included work in real estate, estate planning, Uniform Commercial Code Article 9, governmental affairs, and service as an Assistant City-Parish Attorney. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for the vital role bar associations play in advancing the legal profession and fostering camaraderie, professional development, and public service.

My husband, John Swift, and I are deeply rooted in Lafayette, where we raised our two daughters, Taylor and Kelly, and are active members of Asbury United Methodist Church. John, who many of you know through his own service to the Bar and Foundation, was thrilled about my new role—and so was I!

As we look ahead to the new year, I am committed to ensuring that the Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation remain relevant and impactful for all of our members. This includes expanding educational offerings, improving services, and exploring innovative ways to engage our membership. Most importantly, I hope to encourage more members to collaborate on meaningful initiatives that address pressing



needs in our community, particularly in pro bono cases.

The holiday season is a time for giving, and I believe that as an association, we have a unique opportunity to give back in impactful ways. Whether through volunteering, mentorship, or pro bono efforts, I hope to work with each of you to identify opportunities where our collective skills and passion can make a real difference.

I invite you to share your ideas and insights with me as we chart a course for the future together. Your engagement and collaboration will be essential as we grow and adapt, ensuring the Association is a resource and advocate for your professional needs.

Thank you for welcoming me into this incredible organization. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of service or answer any questions.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

With warmest regards,

Jan Swift



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT KENNY HEBERT

As we begin the holiday season, the Young Lawyers Section begins its transition to new leadership, as the formal installation of the Young Lawyers Section officers and board members recently took place with the installation of the Lafayette Bar Association Board of Directors, the Bar Foundation Officers and Board, and the Family Law Section Officers and Board on November 13th. A special thanks goes out to the staff of the Lafayette Bar Association, led by its new Executive Director, Jan Swift, for putting on a wonderful event that was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

While our board has only just transitioned to its new leadership, the Young Lawyers Section has already been working hard this past fall in putting on our first ever Pickleball Tournament to replace our annual Tennis Tournament as well as hosting the Annual Shoot for Justice Clay Shoot. Both events were well run and attended and resulted in funds raised for the Bar Association so that we may continue our mission in helping the community with its legal needs. That said, we have many more events on the horizon. Every year, the Young Lawyers Section chooses a Holiday Giving Project to assist those in our community who need it most, and this year we have elected to partner with Foster the Love Louisiana, a charity focused on helping foster families in our community. We thank you and your firms for all that you've already given and continue to give to support this program.

I am humbled and honored to serve as the Young Lawyers Section President. But before I begin my term, a giant "THANK YOU" must be extended to outgoing YLS President Jami Ishee, who, due to the changing leadership transition time, served as the YLS President for nearly 15 months. Jami has been a strong advocate for the YLS, the Bar, and the legal community in general and we've been so lucky to have her year-plus of service and will

continue to rely on her in her role as Immediate Past President on our Board.

I must also extend the sincerest thanks and gratitude to all of the Officers, Committee Chairs, and YLS members who have made this past year such a success. I look forward to the coming year of CLEs, Socials, Fundraisers, Pro-Bono Programs, and many other events that the YLS and Bar Association put on for our legal community. I especially look forward to working with our (slightly younger) new Bar Association President Stuart Breau to help deliver a truly memorable year for our Bar Association and our community.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A report of the Lafayette Bar Foundation, provided by Foundation Chair Dean Cole



My second term for the Chairman of the Lafayette Bar Foundation has gotten off to a running start. I'm proud to work with so many generous lawyers willing to extend legal help to members of our community who would otherwise not receive the assistance they need. The Foundation has made incredible progress over the last twenty years and we're committed to continuing that upward trajectory.

The 15th annual Shoot for Justice was held on October 18 at Wilderness Gun Club. We extend gratitude to our generous platinum, gold, and station sponsors - Piccione & Piccione, Welborn & Hargett Injury Attorneys, Clark Integrated Medical Clinics, and NeunerPate - whose support made this event possible. Additionally, we thank our Committee Chair, Tad Hightower, and Miles Matt for the delicious fish fry.

The National Celebration of Pro Bono was established in 2009 to recognize the growing need for pro bono legal services during difficult economic times and the remarkable response of attorneys in meeting this demand. Since that time, organizations like the Lafayette Bar Foundation have participated each October in the National Celebration of Pro Bono. This annual event serves to raise awareness of the need for pro bono work and to express gratitude to the lawyers who volunteer their time throughout the year.

During this year's Pro Bono Celebration, the Lafayette Bar Foundation hosted several events during the week of October 19th -25th, including the following:

- Saturday - Oct. 19, 2024 – Wills for heroes event – Free wills to veterans and their spouses
- Monday - Oct. 21, 2024 – Geaux Casual for Pro Bono - Also, the LBF/LBA staff served lunch at St. Joseph's Diner to those in need.
- Tuesday - Oct. 22, 2024 – Free seminar for the public – How to represent yourself in court presented by attorneys Phillip Smith and Robert Guidry at the Lafayette Public library.
- Wednesday - Oct. 23, 2024 – Free lunch and

learn CLE presented by attorney Jonathan Jarrett.

- Thursday - Oct. 24, 2024 – Counsel on Call - Free 15 min. civil legal advice with an attorney.
- Friday - Oct. 25, 2024 – Champions of Justice breakfast/awards at the Petroleum Club where we recognize the following:

Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney Awards
Joshua Barnhill, Dean Doherty, David Kaufman, Dyan Schnaars, L. Shaun Trahan. Karly Dorr, Brittany LaCombe, and Taneisha Riggs

Outstanding Counsel on Call Award
David Kaufman

Outstanding H.E.L.P. Award
Joshua Barnhill

Top Corporate Financial Contributor Award
HMR Servicing

Outstanding Solo Practitioner Award
David Kaufman

Outstanding Firm Award
NeunerPate

Steven J. Matt Beyond the Books Award
Brittany LaCombe

Tammy Derouen Outstanding Service to the Bar Award
Jonathan Jarrett

Ally of the Year
Catholic Charities of Acadiana

We also thank our guest speakers, Ben Broussard from Catholic Charities of Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and Tamiko Chapman of Acadiana Legal Service Corporation for emphasizing the vital role of volunteering, and our keynote speaker, Frank Neuner (NeunerPate), . Last but not least, the Bar Foundation welcomes our two new executive committee board members, Kenny Oliver, Chair-elect, and Kyle Gideon, Secretary Treasurer.

As always those interested in volunteering with the Lafayette Bar Foundation should email Marilyn at Marilyn@lafayettebar.org.



FAMILY LAW SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT
LESLEY BEAM

I am sure that many of us are looking forward to this upcoming holiday season – a chance to hopefully take some time out of the office, away from our desks, and with our families and friends. As the years have gone by, I have gotten more and more willing to set expectations and boundaries with my clients – when I take these days off to be with my family, then I am going to do all that I can to be fully present with them. In my earlier years of lawyering, I felt I had to be as available as possible to clients all the time and that by doing so, I showed how much I cared for them. Now, I have to come to realize a few things that I hadn't in the past: (1) I am allowed to care for my family, my friends and myself more, and prioritize them occasionally as a result; (2) most of my clients actually are capable of understanding that and respecting it; and (3) as long as I am planning ahead, caught up on my work and communicating well with my clients in advance, there is no harm that is going to come to them from waiting until I get back to the office. And then I will try not to cringe or cry when I come back to my inbox. On behalf of the family law section, I wish everybody a very happy and healthy holiday, with as much time as you wish to take to enjoy the people you love.

As to the family law section, we were really excited to co-host Steven Bradley with the AFCC at the Bar Association on November 15, 2024. Steven gave an effective and thorough (while frightening) presentation on some of the latest technology in stalking and tracking; creation of deepfakes (videos and texts, for example); and privacy and security concerns for our clients and ourselves. We learned some of the ways we can safeguard our information, try to protect our clients, and keep on the lookout for fabricated evidence. Turnout was strong and included a number of folks from outside of the section. Thanks to all of you who took the time to join us. Our next CLE will be on January 17, 2025 at 10:00 am; speakers and subject matter will be announced in the near future.

The family section collected donations of toys for Toys for Tots, which is our charitable project this holiday season. If there is still time, please bring whatever toys you can to the Lafayette Bar Association by or before December 13th, 2024. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and thanks in advance for your generosity.



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BRAIN TEASERS RIDDLES & TRIVIAL PURSUITS

1. What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?

2. I am a ball that does not bounce. What am I?

Find the answers later on a different page!

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2024 PRO BONO WEEK

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Jonathan Jarrett

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JAMES MONTGOMERY, KARLY DORR, AND JARED NELSON

2024 CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE

Awards Breakfast

OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY AWARDS
Presented by Judge Garrett



Joshua Barnhill



Dean Doherty



Karly Dorr



Brittany LaCombe



Dyan Schnaars



Taneisha Riggs



L. Shaun Trahan



TAMMY DEROUEN
OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE BAR AWARD

Jonathan Jarrett



OUTSTANDING H.E.L.P. AWARD

Joshua Barnhill



ALLY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Catholic Charities of Acadiana



THE STEVEN JAMES MATT
BEYOND THE BOOKS AWARD

Brittany LaCombe



TOP CORPORATE FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

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OUTSTANDING FIRM AWARD

NeunerPate

RED MASS

JANUARY 10, 2025
12:00 PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The custom of solemn Mass invoking the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the judicial year originated in the 13th century. From the time of Edward I, the Mass was offered at Westminster Abbey at the opening of the Michaelmas term. It came to be called the "Red Mass" from the red Mass vestments and from the scarlet robes of the Lord High Justices and the university professors. Today the Catholic judges assemble at Westminster Cathedral for the Red Mass while the Anglican and jurists worship at Westminster Abbey. In France the observance was held at the Sainte-Chapelle, until the government secularized it in 1906, and the Messe Rouge was transferred to Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois. The Red Mass has also been traditionally identified with the Sacred Roman Rota, the high appellate court of the Catholic Church.

The first Red Mass in America was at old St. Andrew's Church in New York City on October 6, 1928. The custom has spread to other cities, and not only Catholic, but many Protestant and Jewish judges and lawyers have also adopted the custom of attending.

The Red Mass is offered to invoke the Holy Spirit as the source of the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fortitude, for the dispensing of justice in the courtroom and in the lawyer's office. Since the judicial year is no longer so clearly defined, the Red Mass is offered in some places as part of the observance of Law Day, while in other areas it is still offered at the beginning of the fall term. Our Red Mass is in observance of Court Opening.

Please RSVP at <https://laba.memberclicks.net/redmass25>.

Court Opening

JANUARY 10, 2025
3:00 PM

LAFAYETTE PARISH COURTHOUSE

Reception to follow - 4:30 PM | Chase Tower Lobby

The 2025 15th JDC Court Opening will be January 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Parish Courthouse. Please join us for Court Opening where our newest members of the legal profession will be introduced and sworn in and our departed lawyers will be eulogized. A reception will follow the ceremony in the Chase Tower lobby, 600 Jefferson St., Lafayette, LA 70501. Please RSVP at <https://laba.memberclicks.net/courtopening2025>. We hope to see you at this event and encourage you to invite other members of your firm and/or your colleagues to attend as well.

Dr. Brett Venable

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Meet the 2024-2025 LBA President, Stuart Breaux



As a lifelong resident of Lafayette, Stuart Breaux brings a deeply rooted understanding of the community to his new role as President of the Lafayette Bar Association (LBA). His leadership arrives at a pivotal moment of transition for the organization, combining his local expertise with a forward-thinking approach to legal practice.

Breaux's connection to law began early in his life. "I have always been drawn to the law," he reflects. "It's at the intersection of so many of my interests. But it's also central to everything we do as a society." This early fascination, coupled with exposure to influential lawyers in his youth, set him on a path that would lead to significant contributions to Lafayette's legal and civic landscape.

Among his notable achievements, Breaux served as the primary legal advisor for Lafayette Consolidated Government's Unified Development Code (UDC), a comprehensive initiative that modernized the city's zoning and development regulations. His work prioritized stakeholder dialogue and focused on efficient infrastructure utilization, demonstrating his commitment to community-driven solutions. He also played a crucial role in Fix the Charter PAC, supporting successful City-Parish Charter amendments and their subsequent legal defense.

Taking the helm of the LBA wasn't something Breaux actively sought. "I wouldn't say that I sought the presidency. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," he explains. "But when the opportunity to serve presented itself, I couldn't turn it down. The LBA has been so important to my development as a professional, I feel called to do what I can to give back."

As President, Breaux faces several immediate priorities. The organization has welcomed new staff members including Catherine Vincent as Marketing Coordinator, Bailey Moyer as Events Coordinator, and Jan Swift as Executive Director. Together with Pro Bono Coordinator Marilyn Lopez and Administrative Assistant Cheryl Robichaux, they form what Breaux enthusiastically describes as "an amazing staff."

A key initiative under Breaux's leadership is updating the organization's strategic plan. "We will need

to examine where we are as an organization and where we want to go over the next half-decade," he explains. This review comes at a crucial time, as the legal profession grapples with technological changes that are reshaping practice norms.

Breaux recognizes the challenges of maintaining community bonds in an increasingly digital age. The LBA is responding with innovative programming, including recent presentations on high-tech stalking and data protection, while emphasizing the continued importance of personal interaction. "In our increasingly atomized profession, good, old-fashioned personal interaction is more important than ever," he notes.

The organization's approach to member support reflects Breaux's understanding of generational dynamics. The Young Lawyers Section, which he describes as the "heart" of the LBA, continues to excel in recruiting new talent, while the organization works to maintain engagement with experienced attorneys through relevant programming and leadership opportunities.

Community service remains central to the LBA's mission, primarily through the Lafayette Bar Foundation's pro bono services and the Lafayette Bar Cares initiative. Under Breaux's leadership, the organization continues to partner with outside organizations on service projects, food drives, and fundraisers throughout the year.

Drawing inspiration from history and his predecessors, Breaux approaches leadership with a focus on service, guided by the principle "Non sibi, sed suis—not for oneself, but for one's own." His vision for the LBA emphasizes sustainable progress rather than dramatic change. "My job isn't to reinvent the wheel, but to help keep it rolling forward," he states.

In his current professional role, Breaux finds fulfillment in building quality neighborhoods and addressing unique daily challenges. This practical experience in community development, combined with his legal expertise and commitment to service, positions him well to lead the LBA through its next chapter.

Under Breaux's leadership, the LBA appears poised to strengthen its foundations while preparing for future challenges and opportunities. His presidency promises to maintain the organization's momentum while adapting to meet the evolving needs of its members and the broader Lafayette community.



THE LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION

2024 INSTALLATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 | CITY CLUB OF RIVER RANCH



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The Lafayette Bar Association Young Lawyers Section's Pickleball Tournament & Clinic



2024 YLS Pickleball Tournament
Winners:
Luke Abraham & Logan Landgrave



2024 YLS Pickleball Tournament
Elimination Bracket Winners:
Layne Brown & Dan Schnaars



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2024 Clay Shoot for Justice Champions:
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Highest shooter of the day: Steven Berger



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THE GRAPEVINE

The LBA would like to offer our condolences to the families, colleagues, and friends of Judge Jules Edwards III.

Do you have a new member at your firm, a new edition to your family, or just any life updates that you'd like to share? Submit it for The Grapevine and you'll be featured in our next Promulgator!



LBA HOLIDAY PARTY



The Legal Profession as a Catalyst for Community Change: Lessons from Three Leaders

The legal profession stands at a unique intersection of expertise, leadership, and community impact. Through the experiences of three distinctive legal professionals—Roya Boustany, Jared Nelson, and Stuart Bowie—we can observe how legal training and leadership can transform communities while building successful careers. Their stories demonstrate that effective legal leadership extends far beyond the courtroom, creating ripples of positive change throughout society.

Legal Expertise as a Foundation for Community Leadership

The fundamental skills developed through legal practice—strategic thinking, active listening, negotiation, and conflict resolution—prove invaluable in driving social change. As Assistant District Attorney Roya Boustany explains, "Whether it's advocating for justice in the courtroom or fighting for policy or social change in the community, advocacy is a skill honed in our profession." This perspective is reinforced by the diverse paths taken by all three leaders, showing that legal expertise can be leveraged in multiple ways to benefit the community.



Roya Boustany

The power of legal training in community leadership is particularly evident in how these professionals navigate complex challenges. Boustany's leadership of the Junior League of Lafayette during the challenging year of 2020-2021 demonstrates how legal strategic thinking can help organizations adapt to unprecedented circumstances. Similarly, Jared Nelson's transition from probation officer to attorney shows how diverse professional experiences can enhance legal leadership capabilities.

Building Strong Foundations Through Professional Development

Success in legal leadership isn't accidental—it requires intentional development and training. Nelson's journey illustrates the importance of formal leadership training programs, including participation in the Louisiana State Bar Association Leadership Class, the Legal Counsel on Legal Diversity Pathfinders program, and the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy. These programs provide essential frameworks for understanding how to lead effectively within both legal institutions and diverse communities.



Stuart Bowie

Stuart Bowie's military background adds another dimension to this leadership development narrative. His experience as an infantry squad leader translated into clear leadership principles for law firm management: leading by example, understanding team perspectives, supporting mission accomplishment, and maintaining professional relationships while remaining approachable. These universal principles demonstrate how leadership skills can be developed through various experiences and applied effectively in legal settings.

The Importance of Community Engagement

A common thread among these leaders is their emphasis on community engagement as fundamental to professional success. Bowie's approach to building his law practice centers on community involvement, asserting that "The single best way for an attorney to develop a client base is to be active within the community at large." This philosophy aligns with Boustany's call for attorneys to "show up" and engage in community service, regardless of whether they feel they have perfect expertise.

This community-centric approach creates a virtuous cycle. As lawyers become more involved in their communities, they gain deeper insights into social issues that affect their legal work. Boustany notes that while courtroom work directly impacts public safety, understanding broader social issues like

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Justice, Education, and Community: The Enduring Legacy of Judge Jules Edwards

The passing of Judge Jules Edwards marked the end of an era in Lafayette's legal community, closing a chapter written by a remarkable person whose life and career were dedicated to his family, faith, profession, and most precious, his country and community. His legacy lives on through the profound impact he had on drug court innovation, rehabilitation programs, and the countless lives he touched throughout his judicial career.

From Courtroom Opponents to Judicial Colleagues

Judge Doug Saloom's relationship with Edwards began in an adversarial setting, with Saloom serving as one of Edwards' first public defenders. "I was the defense attorney that handled his first murder trial that he presided over as a judge," Saloom recalls. This early professional interaction would later evolve into a profound collegial partnership when Saloom joined the bench in 1995, three years after Edwards began his judicial career.

A Pioneer in Drug Court Innovation

Perhaps Judge Edwards' most significant contribution to the legal community was his role in establishing and advancing drug courts. Saloom, who worked closely with Edwards on substance abuse and rehabilitation initiatives, dubbed him the "drug guru," noting there was "nothing he didn't know about addiction and substance disorders."

When drug courts emerged as a national trend, Edwards immediately recognized their potential to break the cycle of recidivism. He didn't just implement them locally; he became a national leader in the movement. "When drug courts became the trend across the country, Judge Edwards immediately saw it as a tool that can help people not come back," Saloom explains. "He became one of the national leaders in the drug court area."

Faith in Human Potential

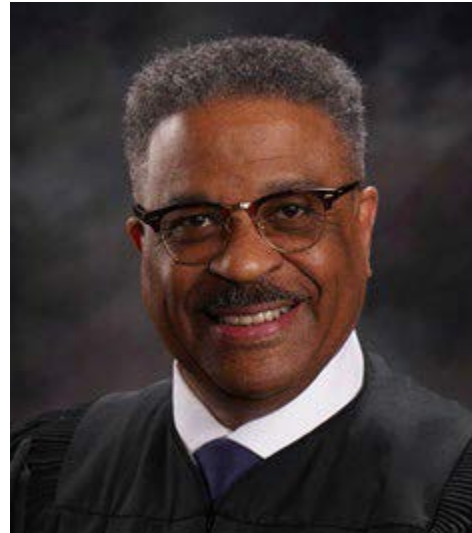
What drove Edwards' dedication to rehabilitation was what Saloom describes as an "unbending faith in people." His personal faith life significantly influenced his professional approach, understanding that successful rehabilitation requires belief in a reason to improve. "He understood that rehabilitation has to have some belief," Saloom reflects. "You have to believe there's a reason to be better."

Military Precision Meets Judicial Compassion

Edwards' military background infused his judicial practice with remarkable precision. "If he had something at 11 o'clock, he would tell you, 'I have seven minutes for you.' At the seven-minute mark, he would say, 'Okay, thank you. Let's visit again,'" Saloom remembers with admiration. This punctuality enabled Edwards to maintain an extraordinarily productive schedule while remaining accessible to the community.

A Unique Partnership at City Court

At Lafayette City Court, Edwards and Saloom formed a remarkable judicial partnership, bringing a combined 59 years of judicial experience to the bench. "Between the two of us, we had 59 years of judicial experience," Saloom notes proudly. "How many two-person courts anywhere can say that?"



Their complementary strengths created a dynamic working relationship. "He was my mentor, law clerk," Saloom shares, explaining how they would consult each other on various matters. "If I had a question... we would talk about things. When I needed him, he was always there, and when he needed me, I was always there."

The Never-Ending Energy

Saloom describes Edwards as the "Energizer Bunny" of the judicial system, possessing "a never-ending amount of energy." Whether at the courthouse, with his family, or engaging with the general public, Edwards maintained an extraordinary level of commitment and presence. His wife Rita, whom Saloom describes as "just a phenomenal lady," stood strong by his side, keeping pace with his tireless dedication to service.

A Legacy That Echoes Forward

Judge Edwards' passing leaves his friends, staff, and colleagues with the challenge to carry forward the principles he so passionately shared. It falls upon their hands to echo his booming voice, to ensure it does not go silent, to find the strength to continue his heartfelt laugh, but most importantly, to not allow his work to go unfinished.

His approach to justice offered valuable lessons about balancing compassion with accountability. While his unique style may be inimitable, his fundamental goals – rehabilitation, respect for human dignity, and unwavering dedication to justice – remain guideposts for those who follow in his footsteps. Through the memories shared by his longtime colleague Judge Saloom and the impact he had on countless lives, Judge Edwards' legacy continues to inspire and guide the Lafayette legal community toward a more just and compassionate future.



The Advocate



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2024 CLE BY THE HOUR

We invite you to join us throughout the month of December to obtain your 2024 CLE credits if you have not done so already.

All of the CLEs will run throughout the full length of each of these days and will be hosted at the LBA office. We will also be offering these sessions virtually. Sign up here:



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	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
DEC 6	8:00 - 9:00 am	1.0 PSC Regulatory Issues 101	Glenn Edwards, <i>Davidson Meaux Sonnier & McElligott</i>
	9:05 - 10:05 am	1.0 The Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act	Tessa Seitzinger, <i>Seitzinger Law</i>
	10:10 - 11:10 am	1.0 Tax-Sale Property and 2024 Legislative Changes	Ryan Goudelock, <i>Goudelock Law</i>
	11:15 a - 12:15 pm	1.0 Community Property Settlement 101 - For Dummies	Lesley Beam, <i>Beam Law</i>
	12:20 - 1:20 pm	1.0 An Update on Jury Selection in the Post-Pandemic Era	Jack McElligott, <i>Davidson Meaux Sonnier & McElligott</i>
	1:25 - 2:25 pm	1.0 Legislative Updates from the 2024 Legislative Session	John Stefanski, <i>Edwards, Stefanski & Zaunbrecher</i>
	2:30 - 3:30 pm	1.0 The (Very,Very) Basics of Local Government Law	Patrick Ottinger, <i>Lafayette City Parish Attorney</i>
DEC 9	3:35 - 4:35 pm	1.0 Basics of Deposing Expert Witnesses	Kyle Gideon, <i>Davidson Meaux Sonnier & McElligott</i>
	8:00 - 9:00 am	1.0 *Sidestepping Pitfalls: Ethical Challenges Every Litigator Faces	Clare Roubion, <i>LA Legal Ethics</i>
	9:05 - 10:05 am	1.0 2024 Louisiana Legislative Recap for Energy/Enviro. Law	Danny Bosh and Sydney St. Pierre, <i>Kean Miller</i>
	10:10 - 11:10 am	1.0 Immigration Relief for Survivors of Domestic Violence & Other Crimes	Florencia Ibañez, <i>Florencia Ibanez Law</i>
	11:15 a - 12:15 pm	1.0 Bankruptcy for Dummies	Kathryn Wiley, <i>Wiley and Jowers Law Office</i>
	12:20 - 1:20 pm	1.0 Intersection of Mass Tort Cases with Bankruptcy Law and the impact of Purdue Pharma	Hon. Robert Summerhays & Hon. John Kolwe, <i>Western District of LA</i>
	1:25 - 2:25 pm	1.0 Estate Planning	Sudie Mann, <i>Sue Tannehill Mann Law</i>
DEC 11	2:30 - 3:30 pm	1.0 **Small Firm / Solo Practice Systems	Jonathan Jarrett, <i>The Jarrett Firm</i>
	3:35 - 4:35 pm	1.0 Injunctive Relief in Domestic Violence Cases	Jonathan Jarrett, <i>The Jarrett Firm</i>
	8:00 - 9:00 am	1.0 *Decking the Halls Without Taking the Falls: 2024 Ethics Update	Clare Roubion, <i>LA Legal Ethics</i>
	9:05 - 10:05 am	1.0 *Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession: The History, Future Implications, and Ethical Concerns	Judge Jonathan Perry, <i>State Senate District 26</i>
	10:10 - 11:10 am	1.0 Summary Judgment Practice in Federal Court	Judge David Joseph & Judge Robert Summerhays, <i>Western District of LA</i>
	11:15 a - 12:15 pm	1.0 To plea or not to plea? How my criminal background can affect my immigration process.	Florencia Ibanez, <i>Florencia Ibanez Law</i>
	12:20 - 1:20 pm	1.0 **So, do you wanna fight or nah?!: The journey to maintaining civility in the legal profession.	Dwazendra Smith, <i>D. Smith Legal</i>
DEC 11	1:25 - 2:25 pm	1.0 Recent Developments and Please be on Time	Judge Fitzgerald, Judge Duplantier, & Judge Breaux, <i>3rd Circuit Court of Appeal & 15th JDC</i>
	2:30 - 3:30 pm	1.0 Navigating Workers' Compensation in Louisiana	Remy Jardell, <i>Domengeaux, Wright, Roy</i>
	3:35 - 4:35 pm	1.0 Special Needs Planning	Julie Rosenzweig, <i>Attorney at Law</i>

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