Get Involved in one of NOBA’s Committees

- Appellate Practice
- Bankruptcy & Debtor/Creditor Rights
- Business Litigation
- Business Transactions
- Civil Rights
- Class Actions
- Complex Litigation
- Construction Law
- Criminal Law
- Domestic Violence
- E-Discovery
- Entertainment and Intellectual Property Law
- Environmental Law/Toxic Torts
- Family Law
- Healthcare Law
- Immigration Law
- Insurance Law
- Labor & Employment Law
- Maritime & International Law
- Minorities in the Profession
- Oil & Gas Law
- Pharmaceuticals/Medical Devices
- Products Liability
- Property Law
- Solo & Small Firms
- Study Group on Cuba
- Study Group on Panama
- Tax Law
- Technology
- Wellness & Stress Management
- Wills/Trusts/Successions
- Women in the Profession
- Worker’s Compensation Law

Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING EDITOR:
John F. McCormick, III, Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith

ADVERTISING
If you are interested, please contact NOBA for advertising Information and rates for 2019.

SAVE THE DATE
NOBA’S DELEGATION TO
PARIS
May 11-18, 2019
Dear Members:

It’s March, and at the New Orleans Bar Association that means we are preparing for two of our signature events: the YLS Bar and Grille, which will be held on March 24 at City Park, and our annual Bench Bar Conference, which will be March 28-31 in Point Clear, Alabama.

If you haven’t been to the Bar and Grille, you are missing a great time. Many of the area’s law firms field teams, who prepare a variety of dishes and specialty drinks to compete in multiple categories. As you are eating, you can also get drinks from the open bar, usually staffed by members of the local judiciary. The YLS does an amazing job with this event every year, and all proceeds went to a good cause: the Veterans Justice Fellowship. Make sure to attend this year and bring your family and friends for plenty of entertainment!

The 2019 Bench Bar Conference is again at the beautiful Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. The chair this year, Judge Jane Triche Milazzo, has assembled a fantastic team, and they have produced an incredible program to discuss the latest legal developments. As always, the conference will include the Meet the Judges segment on Friday afternoon, a round-robin session where lawyers interact in small groups with our local state and federal judges. This will be followed by an open bar, dinner, and entertainment at the hotel on Friday night. On Saturday, there is a full morning of excellent CLE programs and a champagne and wine tasting event in the afternoon, which is always a big hit with attendees. This is one of my favorite events of the year, and I hope you will join us for the interesting programs and relaxing fun.

Finally, don’t forget about our Delegation to Paris, which is May 11-18. Registration for this trip is now open. Our delegation co-chairs, Jan Hayden and Rick Duplantier, have arranged three half day CLE programs, along with a private tour of the newly opened Cité de la Justice, visits to the Palais de Justice and Cours de Cassation, a lunch-eon at Place Dauphine with the Paris Bar Association, and many other exciting events. Interest in going to Paris as part of the NOBA delegation is high, so please don’t be left behind! Contact NOBA or go to our website to make your reservations.

As always, thank you for your membership in NOBA. I hope to see you at one of our events this month.
March Committee Meetings

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less a $15 administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.

Get involved with the Young Lawyers Section at their Monthly Meeting!

Date: Thursday, March 7th

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: NOBA Office
650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
New Orleans, LA 70130

Kelly E. Brilleaux, YLS Chair

Civil Rights Committee Meeting

Speaker: Susan Meyers, The Advocacy Center

Date: Thursday, March 21st

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Cost: $15.00 Lunch Included

Location: NOBA Office
650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
New Orleans, LA 70130

To Register: Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Briana Nelms at bnelms@neworleansbar.org

Susan Meyers, Director for Policy and Community Engagement, The Advocacy Center of Louisiana

Construction Law Committee Meeting

Speaker: To Be Announced

Date: Friday, March 22nd

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Cost: $15.00 Lunch Included

Location: NOBA Office
650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
New Orleans, LA 70130

To Register: Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Briana Nelms at bnelms@neworleansbar.org

Michael S. Blackwell, Construction Law Committee Chair
March CLE Programs

State Workers’ Compensation v. Longshore
Hosted by: The Workers’ Compensation Committee

Speaker: Lance S. Ostendorf, Ostendorf, Tate, Barnett, L.L.P.

Date: Friday, March 15, 2019

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505 New Orleans, LA 70130

CLE: 1 hour of CLE Credit

Cost: NOBA Member: $35.00; Non-Member: $55 (includes lunch)

To Register: Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Briana Nelms at bnelms@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less a $15 administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.

Meet The Orleans CDC Domestic Court Judges
Hosted by: The Family Law Committee

Speaker: The Honorable Monique Barial, The Honorable Bernadette D’Souza, The Honorable Omar Mason

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Time: 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505 New Orleans, LA 70130

CLE: 1 hour of CLE Credit

Cost: NOBA Member: $35.00; Non-Member: $55 (includes lunch)

To Register: Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Briana Nelms at bnelms@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less a $15 administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.
EVENTS: EXCEPTIONAL. ENGAGING. ENERGIZING.


2. Seventeen Past NOBA Presidents attended a Luncheon held in their honor on February 6, 2019 at Antoine’s Rex Room.

3. Members enjoyed Baked Alaska for dessert at the NOBA Past Presidents Luncheon.

Excited for Mardi Gras? Send in a picture of your firm celebrating to Marie Thomas at mthomas@neworleansbar.org for a chance to be featured on our Instagram and Facebook!

4. The NOBA Inn of Court held a Mardi Gras CLE Luncheon featuring speakers: Lesli D. Harris, Judge Franz Zilibich, and Shannon A. Kelly, who “Unmasked the Laws of Mardi Gras.”
5. NOBA Members listening diligently at the Roundtable Discussion with Law Clerks from the U.S. 5th Circuit Court held on February 1, 2019. Speakers included: Jason Siu (Judge Davis), Marianna Mao (Judge Higginson), Matthew Drecun (Judge Higginson), Suzanne Graffeo (Judge Davis), Ace Factor (Judge Wiener), Laura Grave-ner (Judge Englehardt) and Zack Jarrett (Judge Clement).

6. Women in the Profession hosted a movie night showing of On the Basis of Sex, the American biographical legal drama based on the cases of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The event took place on February 13th at the VIP Canal Place Cinebarre. A BIG thank you to Jennifer Gordon Lampton WIP Chair, Judge Dana M. Douglas and Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott for putting on such a special event.

7. Property Law Committee Chair, Robert P. Thibeaux, with Professor John A. Lovett and Lily Eyrich at the property law committee meeting on January 30th. Property Law Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month.

8. Professor John A. Lovett of Loyola University College of Law engages members on the topic of the Uniform Easement Location Act.

Interested in speaking at a program or meeting this year? Visit the NOBA website to contact your committee chair about opportunities!
www.neworleansbar.org
SAVE THE DATE

NEW ORLEANS BAR & GRILLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019
1-5 P.M.
PERISTYLE AT CITY PARK

Join NOBA’s Young Lawyers Section as teams of amateur chefs from local companies and law firms participate in the 17th annual New Orleans Bar & Grille. Teams compete for Best Local Favorite, Best Dessert, Most Creative, Best Booth Decoration, Crowd Favorite, and Best Overall.

All proceeds benefit New Orleans Bar Foundation’s Veterans Justice Fellowship.

The Bar & Grille is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and firm teams. To register or become a sponsor, please complete and return the following form located on the back of this page to the NOBA office.
2019 Bar & Grille Registration Form

Please check the appropriate box(es), complete the form below and return to:

New Orleans Bar Foundation
650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
New Orleans, LA 70130

Please make all checks payable to the New Orleans Bar Foundation

Yes, we are interested in registering a team for the New Orleans Bar & Grille on Sunday, March 24, 2019. Please send us registration information, including the cook-off rules and regulations. If tickets are required for guests other than team members please also fill in form below.

*The Bar & Grille is a “rain or shine” event. However, the safety and security of our participants and guests are of the utmost importance. In the unlikely circumstance that the event has to be cancelled as a result of unsafe weather conditions, or other unforeseen issues, and cannot be rescheduled, teams, participants, and sponsors will not be issued a refund for their donations. The purpose of this event is to raise money for the Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Veterans Justice Fellowship and, as always, we appreciate your amazing support.

Name of Firm/Company: ______________________ Contact Person: _______________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email Address: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Will Electricity be required? ____ YES (team registration cost $250.00)
                                    ____ NO (team registration cost $225.00)

Please be aware, the City of New Orleans now requires teams to cook under the Peristyle or under a fire retardant tent. If you choose to cook under a tent, the team must provide it on the day of the event. There will be a fire watch present for safety purposes.

TICKET ORDER: Please reserve ____ TICKETS at $30 each (please submit names on a separate sheet)

Team Fee: _______________ Additional ticket charge: _______________________

GRAND TOTAL: ____________________________

If you have any questions about sponsorship, please contact Gerard Gaudet at (504) 585-0287 (gerard.gaudet@arlaw.com) or Kimberly Silas at (504) 556-9804 (ksilas@lasc.org). All proceeds are for the benefit of the Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.
More Resources for Effective Resolution

Perry Dampf is pleased to welcome four accomplished legal professionals to our panel. With their addition, we now offer more than 50 experienced mediators, arbitrators, umpires and special masters to meet your dispute solution needs. To learn more, call us at 866-389-9899.

JAMES R. “SONNY” CHASTAIN brings nearly 30 years’ experience as an intellectual property attorney and commercial litigator to our panel.

REBECCA WISBAR has successfully participated, both as an advocate and as mediator, in almost 500 mediations, and hosts The Mediation Minute podcast.

VINCENT P. FORNIAS has over 40 years’ experience as a litigator and neutral, including service as appeal panelist in the largest environmental damage settlement in U.S. history.

DANIEL KNOWLES III is a recently retired U.S. Magistrate Judge and has handled more than 7,500 settlement conferences across virtually every area of litigation.

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New Orleans Bar Association
Bench Bar Conference
Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL  March 28-31, 2019

NOBA Makes the Grand Splash!
Friday, March 29, 2019

NOBA Makes the Grand Splash!

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration

3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks
Jason Waguespack, President, New Orleans Bar Association

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Professionalism: Sailboats, Battleships & Submarines
 Speakers: Richard C. Stanley, Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, LLC
 Peter E. Sperling, Frilot, LLC
 Irving J. Warshauer, Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, LLC
 Judge Kern A. Reese, Orleans Civil District Court, Division “L”
 Moderator: William B. Gaudet, Adams & Reese, LLP

• Can An Old Battleship Learn To Sail Peacefully?
• What Makes The Bigger Splash?
• Sink Or Swim With The Sharks

4:40 p.m. - 6:10 p.m. Meet the Judges
Chair/Moderator: Judge Jay C. Zainey, USDC - EDLA, Section “A”

What do judges expect in their courtrooms? What won’t judges tolerate? Are there special rules that exist particular to each judge’s court?
Do you want to know special practice pointers?

Get the answers and more at “Meet the Judges.” “Meet the Judges” is a rapid-fire, round-robin session where lawyers will be given the opportunity to meet and interact with members of the judiciary.

7:00 p.m. Make a Splash, Let’s Go to the Beach!

Join NOBA, Chairs Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott & Judge Paula Brown for a night of fun, dinner and dancing “at the beach.” Leave the suit behind, and come dressed in your favorite beach-themed attire. Dinner will include your favorite beach games and a live band that will keep you dancing all night long!

With special thanks to our Weekend WIFI Sponsor

THE MCCULLOUGH GROUP LLC

Leave the suit behind. Dress is casual.
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast
8:55 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Welcoming Remarks
Cory Vidal, Corporate Counsel, Hancock Whitney Bank

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  The Art of Advocacy
Speakers:  Judge Jane Triche Milazzo, USDC - EDLA, Section “H”
Judge Carl J. Barbier, USDC - EDLA, Section “J”
Judge Tiffany G. Chase, Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal
Judge Ethel S. Julien, Orleans Civil District Court, Division “N”
Moderator: Shannon S. Holtzman, Liskow & Lewis

- This program will provide a crash course in improving your credibility and persuasiveness in court.
- This panel presentation has been specifically planned by state and federal court judges to let YOU know what works and what irks. What are you doing that annoys your judge? Come and find out.
- This is your opportunity to interact with and get candid answers to your questions from state and federal judges.

10:40 a.m.

Speakers: Judge Paula A. Brown, Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal
Darryl M. Phillips, Assistant General Counsel, Entergy Services, Inc.
Quentin Urquhart, Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, LLC
Joseph Giarrusso, III, Barrios, Kingsdorf, & Casteix
Moderator: Kelly Juneau Rookard, Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, LLC

The panel will discuss the procedure for introducing exhibits into evidence at trial, as well as the procedure for properly preserving evidentiary issues for appeal. This discussion will also include an appellate judge’s perspective on these issues.

11:50 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Practical Criminal Law for Civil Lawyers
Speakers:  Judge Lance M. Africk, USDC - EDLA, Section “I”
Judge Laurie A. White, Orleans Criminal District Court, Section “A”
Brian J. Capitelli, Capitelli & Wicker, Attorneys at Law
Brigid Collins, Leger & Shaw
Moderator: Michael W. Magner, Jones Walker, LLP

What to do when your civil client calls with these issues:

- Stopped for a DWI
- Receives a Grand Jury subpoena
- Is the subject of a search warrant
- Is interviewed by the FBI
- Family member arrested for marijuana
- Client is arrested

Leave the suit behind. Dress is casual.
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  “Fit to Practice” Wellness Luncheon

Speaker:  Dr. Debbie Hannan

According to the Rules of Professional Conduct, an attorney must be fit. The astute attorney, however, understands that fitness means more than just fitness of legal expertise; it also means those qualities of physical, mental and psychological health that enables a lawyer to carry out the demands and responsibilities to their clients and to their profession. Dr. Hannan will provide insights on steps you can take to be fit for practice.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  Be There in a Prosecco!
A Champagne and Sparkling Wine Tasting

Start the day with a smile and end it with champagne.

Please join Jason Waguespack, NOBA President, along with Co-Chairs of Be There in a Prosecco, Angie Christina, NOBF President and Katie Swartout, YLS Executive Council Member, for conversation as sparkling as the wine.

The only complexity will be in your glass.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Special thanks to our sponsor: aea GROUP

After 7:00 p.m.  Dinner on your own

Leave the suit behind. Dress is casual.
Sunday, March 31, 2019

NOBA Makes the Grand Splash!

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

8:55 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Welcoming Remarks

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  The Great Debate

Speakers:  Judge Dana M. Douglas, USDC - EDLA, Division “3”
Judge Piper D. Griffin, Orleans Civil District Court, Division “I”
Christina Carroll, Robein, Urann, Spencer, Picard and Cangemi, APLC
Ravi Sangisetty, Sangisetty Law Firm, LLC
Erin Pelliteri Howser, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Moderator: Magdalen B. Bickford, McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC

Employment law litigation often evokes passion, fireworks and heartaches for clients, as well as their attorneys, in ways that are very different from other areas of litigation. This session will compare a variety of litigation scenarios from the plaintiff and defense perspective with insight from the bench. This multi-faceted dialogue will no doubt be evocative as well as informative and you will learn about key issues to spot while interacting with your clients that help you ponder whether employment litigation is the next step.

10:10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.  Ethics: Can Judges Perform Independent Factual Research on Issues in Litigation?

Speakers:  Judge Barry W. Ashe, USDC - EDLA, Section “M”
Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott, Orleans Civil District Court, Division “D”
Judge Scott U. Schlegel, Jefferson Parish 24th Judicial District Court, Division “D”
Judge Michael B. North, USDC - EDLA, Division “5”
Moderator: Thomas M. Flanagan, Flanagan Partners, LLP

In an adversary system of justice, where the facts typically come from the mouths of witnesses or the pages of documents, what are the limits of a judge’s independent research into the facts? What about background facts about an industry or field of study? The immediate accessibility of vast amounts of information on the Internet make these questions increasingly relevant, and they were the subject of a recent ABA formal opinion. The matter is closely related to a judge’s limited ability to take judicial notice of so-called “adjudicative facts.” A panel consisting of a federal judge, a state judge, and a seasoned practitioner will explore the associated ethics issues and discuss practical steps for lawyers when information is sought from nontraditional sources.

With special thanks to our Weekend WIFI Sponsor

The McCullough Group

Leave the suit behind. Dress is casual.
Bench Bar Conference

NOBA Makes the Grand Splash!

Special Thanks to The Bench Bar Conference Exhibitors (as of 2/14/2019)

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Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, LLC
2019 Bench Bar Registration Form

Name   ________________________________________________________________________________
Firm   _________________________________________________________________________________
Address  ______________________________________________________________________________
City  ___________________ State  ______ Zip  ________ Phone ___________________________
Email Address  _________________________________________________________________________

Payment Information

□ Check Made Payable to the New Orleans Bar Association
□ Visa  □   MasterCard   □   Discover  (please note there is a 3% fee for all credit card transactions)

Credit Card # _____________________________  Exp. Date ______  3 Digit Code ___________________
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NOBA Conference Registration Fees (March 29-31, 2019)

Bench Bar CLE Priority Early Registration (By February 28, 2019)  □   $350
Bench Bar CLE Registration (After February 28, 2019)  □   $400
• 8.66 Hours of CLE including Ethics and Professionalism
• Saturday and Sunday Breakfasts
• Saturday Wellness Luncheon
• Saturday Evening Champagne & Sparkling Wine Tasting

Bench Bar Young Lawyer CLE Priority Registration (By February 28, 2019)  □   $185
Bench Bar Young Lawyer CLE Registration (After February 28, 2019)  □   $235

Plus Options

Friday Night Dinner at The Grand Hotel for Let’s Go to the Beach  □   $125

Guest Registration for  _____________________________________________________________  □   $150
• Friday Night Dinner at the Grand Hotel for Let’s Go to the Beach
• Saturday Evening Champagne & Sparkling Wine Tasting
• Saturday and Sunday Breakfasts

Total $___________

Please mail completed form to New Orleans Bar Association, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505, New Orleans, LA 70130 or email bnelms@neworleansbar.org. Please contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 if you have any questions or if you have a disability that may require a special accommodation at this conference. NOBA is committed to providing full accessibility for all registrants.

Conference Refund Policy
Written cancellation must be received by March 25, 2019 for a full refund of registration fees only, less a $30 administrative fee.
Leave the suit behind. Dress is casual.
Jason Waguespack, NOBA President, and Rick Duplantier with Jan Hayden, Delegation to Paris Co-Chairs, are pleased to announce the first annual New Orleans Bar Association’s Study Abroad and Legal Exchange program to Paris, France. The Delegation will depart New Orleans on May 11, 2019 and return from Paris on May 18, 2019.

**Cost Details:**

- Single: $4,800.00
- Double: $7,400.00 (CLE participation for one person) $7,700.00 (CLE participation for two)

**Cost without airfare:**

- Single: $3,200.00
- Double: $3,800.00 (CLE participation for one person) $4,100.00 (CLE participation for two)

There is limited capacity, and we ask that you commit as soon as possible.

Email Marie Thomas at mthomas@neworleansbar.org to secure your reservation.

**Trip Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare on United Airlines
- Six night stay at the 5-star Hotel Bel Ami in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés
- Transportation to and from the Charles De Gaulle Airport
- Three half-day CLE Programs held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the trip provide 9 hours of CLE credit
- Private Tour of the newly opened Cité de la Justice
- Visit to Palais de Justice (Courts old), la Cour de Cassation, Supreme Court, and Sainte-Chapelle and luncheon at Place Dauphine with the Paris Bar Association
- Friday Evening Closing Night Reception
- Optional Small Group Tours and excursions

More information available on the NOBA website: www.neworleansbar.org/delegation-to-paris-2019
Delegation to Paris

**CLE: The Confluence of France and Louisiana’s Legal Traditions and Their Impact on the International Legal Market**

**Monday, May 13, 2019** (3 hours CLE credit):

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: French General Counsel and their interaction with the American legal system
10:10 a.m.—11:10 a.m. Introduction and discussion of the French civil and criminal legal systems
11:20 a.m.—12:20 p.m. Comparative analysis and evolution of the legal structures of France and Louisiana

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019** (3 hours CLE credit)

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: A comparative analysis of the role of the Judiciary in France and Louisiana
10:10 a.m.—11:10 a.m. Napoleonic Code and its impact on common law in the United States and around the world
11:20 a.m.—12:20 p.m. Navigating France’s discovery process

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019** (3 hours CLE credit)

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: Conducting business in France
10:10 a.m.—11:10 a.m. The interplay and impact of French and US tax law
11:20 a.m.—12:20 p.m. Understanding the interactions of French estate and property law in the international marketplace

**Conference Faculty:**

**Richard G. Duplantier**, a senior partner at Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith focuses his practice on commercial litigation. Rick has conducted seminars around the country with a focus on risk management to educate, heighten awareness, and assist clients in avoiding malpractice pitfalls.

A shareholder in the New Orleans office of Baker Donelson, **Jan M. Hayden**, practices corporate workout and bankruptcy arena. She currently serves on the American College of Bankruptcy chair and is currently co-chair of the Louisiana Bar Association’s Continuing Legal Education Committee.

**Kyle Schonekas**, founding member of Schonekas, Evans, McGoey & McEachin, LLC, has extensive trial experience in both state and federal court. He is focused primarily on complex commercial contractual and business disputes as well as criminal litigation.

NOBA President **Jason P. Waguespack** is the current Managing Director of Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith. His practice is focused primarily on litigation and arbitration related to all aspects of maritime and international law. In addition to his work with NOBA, Jason serves in numerous professional and civic organizations.

**Gerard Wimberly**, partner at Akerman LLP, primarily focuses on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on government contracts law. Gerard maintains an active leadership role in development in all aspects of public contracting. He was the recipient of Akerman’s 2018 Pro Bono Impact Award.

More information available on the NOBA website: www.neworleansbar.org/delegation-to-paris-2019
Veteran’s Justice Fellowship

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Q4 Progress Report
2018
October, November, December

Summary / Introduction

Established in March 2017, the Veterans Justice Fellowship commenced its second year by strengthening its presence and outreach in the New Orleans area. As the Fellowship has become more widely known, more veterans are contacting SLLS to seek help with their civil legal needs. The VA Hospital has asked SLLS to expand its presence at its healthcare centers throughout Southeast Louisiana.

26 cases were completed for veterans during the fourth quarter. Successes include obtaining Social Security disability benefits for veterans, preventing evictions, and negotiating tax issues with the IRS.

Overall, the VJF has reached approximately 1,823 veterans, veterans’ family members, veterans’ caseworkers, and veterans’ advocates since its inception. 146 cases have been opened for veterans through December 31, 2018.

Due to the high volume of calls from veterans inquiring about our legal services, SLLS has set up a dedicated phone line to field their calls. Veterans can contact SLLS through the Veterans Justice Intake Line at (504) 529 – 1000 ext 250. The Veterans and Innovative Projects Unit at SLLS currently operates the phone line. In the future, we hope to train volunteers to help field some of these calls.

With the close of the fourth quarter of 2018, we are happy to report strong numbers to close out the second year of the Veterans Justice Fellowship.

In the fourth quarter, SLLS accepted 16 new veterans as clients for direct legal services. SLLS fielded 98 phone calls from veterans inquiring about legal services. Additionally, 40 veterans were referred to the private bar or other providers of legal or social services if they were not eligible for our services.

Partnership Project Updates

Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) with the VA Medical Center

By the end of last year’s fourth quarter, 113 veterans have received direct legal services from SLLS through the MLP at the VA medical center. During the fourth quarter, 11 new cases were opened for veterans through this partnership.
On October 27, 2018, SLLS participated in the VA “Stand Down” event. The goal of the event was to provide care and highlight regional services for homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless. SLLS was onsite at the VA Hospital grounds to provide information about the VJF along with dozens of other veteran service providers. Approximately 246 veterans attended.

On January 25, 2019, SLLS held a new Advance Directives Clinic at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS). The clinic was held from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. SLLS hopes to assist approximately 25-30 veterans with power of attorney and advanced directive documents. Once the documents are completed onsite subject to the veteran’s consent, the documents were provided to the VA Hospital and made part of the veteran’s medical record. This was previously scheduled in November but had to be re-scheduled.

**Veterans Treatment Court in Section K of Orleans Parish Criminal Court**

We have strengthened our relationship with the Veterans Treatment Court. On May 18, 2018, SLLS presented information on our services to 18 court participants during their monthly meeting. SLLS now visits veterans onsite at Treatment Court every first Thursday of the month to check-in, briefly meet with current clients, and do intake for potential new clients. Visiting Treatment Court once a month allows SLLS to screen any veterans new to the treatment court since it accepts new participants on a rolling basis.

**Bastion Living Community for Veterans**

On November 6, 2018, another legal education outreach was conducted at the Bastion in their community room for the benefit of their new residents. The Bastion is a mixed-income apartment complex in Gentilly with all the low-income units targeted to veterans with traumatic brain injury or other serious disabilities. Bastion recently completed their final phase of apartments and had welcomed many new residents since SLLS’s last visit. We provided the residents and staff with information on legal services available to them at SLLS and how to make referrals.

Within the next year, the St. Bernard Project is opening a new low-income complex with 21 units targeted for vulnerable veterans near the Broad Theater. We will keep this on our radar to develop a new partnership to reach low-income veterans there.

**SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS**

**VJF Stops Illegal Convictions**

Mr. C is a 62-year old Army veteran who fell behind on his rent after the VA started garnishing his paycheck. He had recently completed physical rehabilitation that enabled him to start working for the VA Medical Center. While going through rehabilitation, his only means of support was a VA disability pension.

Even though his apartment complex had previously accepted partial rent payments, they sent him an eviction notice in October for past due rent. SLLS represented him in his eviction hearing to present his legal defenses. The judge ruled that his apartment complex had to accept his October and November rent payments. SLLS is continuing to negotiate his debt with the VA to lower the garnishment. Mr. C. continues to work and pay his rent and no longer has to worry about becoming homeless.

**Future Stabilized for Disabled Veteran**

Mr. G is 56-year old Army veteran forced to retire from work earlier than planned due to worsening symptoms of several service-connected injuries. His doctor at the VA Medical Center referred him to SLLS. We helped him complete his claim for Social Security Disability Insurance, develop his medical record to support the claim, and pushed for a fast approval. We are happy to report Mr. G was awarded benefits within a few months instead of having to wait up to two years for an administrative hearing. He is now able to support himself and his family with a steady income source of $1,656.00 a month.
Our Veterans Justice Fellowship is inspired by the Ranger/Soldier’s Creed, “Leave No Man Behind.” 25% of New Orleans area veterans are low-income with a range of unaddressed civil legal needs adversely impacting their lives. A recent survey of veterans found that five of their top ten overall unmet needs had a legal solution in the areas of housing law, consumer issues, discharge upgrades, child support, and removal of legal barriers to employment.

The NOBA Veterans Justice Fellowship will help us fight for veterans as they once fought for us. Won’t you support us by making a donation to help fund this Fellowship? Help fund this Veterans Fellowship so we can “Leave No Veteran Behind.”

Yes, I will support the Veterans Justice Fellowship, honoring the noble obligation of my profession, to render assistance to those in need.

I pledge:
- $500
- $250
- $100
- $50
- $25

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Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard announces the selection of 20 attorneys to the 2019 Louisiana Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists, as well as two attorneys who received placements on Louisiana’s top lists.

Highlighted on top lists for their professional success, managing partner Stewart Peck is featured on the Top 50: New Orleans Super Lawyers List and shareholder Ashley Belleau is recognized on the Top 25: Women Louisiana Super Lawyers List.

The complete list of attorneys recognized in the 2019 Louisiana Super Lawyers rankings include:

Ashley Belleau, Business Litigation  
Christopher Caplinger, Bankruptcy: Business  
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Rose McCabe LeBreton, Real Estate: Business  
Stewart Peck, Bankruptcy: Business  
Seth Schmeeckle, Insurance Coverage  
David Sharpe, Transportation/Maritime  
Rodger Wheaton, Transportation/Maritime  
Kristopher Wilson, Insurance Coverage

Attorneys recognized in the 2019 Louisiana Rising Stars rankings include:

Tyler Arbour, Business/Corporate  
Joseph Briggs, Business Litigation  
Dan Centner, Business Litigation  
Jay Farmer, Insurance Coverage  
Benjamin Kadden, Bankruptcy: Business  
Heather Sharp, Insurance Coverage

Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C. is pleased to announce that Lance W. Waters has joined the firm as an Associate.

Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer is pleased to announce that Matthew P. Miller has rejoined the firm as a Partner.

Perrier & Lacoste is pleased to announce Dustin L. Poché has become a Member of the firm.

Perrier & Lacoste is pleased to announce Michael W. Robertson has become a Member of the firm.
**AROUND THE BAR**

**Steven J. Lane** of the law firm of **Herman, Herman & Katz** has been included in the following publications in 2018-2019: Best Lawyers in America (15th year), Louisiana Super Lawyers (13th year), Top 50 New Orleans Super Lawyers List (2018-2019), New Orleans Magazine Top Family Law Lawyers (7th year).

**Deutsch Kerrigan LLP** is pleased to announce **Caroline F. Bordelon** has joined the firm as an Associate in the New Orleans office. Ms. Bordelon will focus on defending insurance defense and construction litigation claims.

**The Kullman Firm** announces that **MaryJo L. Roberts** has been elected as a Shareholder of the Firm.

**The Kullman Firm** announces that **Nicole S. Adler** has been elected as a Shareholder of the Firm.

**The Kullman Firm** announces that **Jessica L. Marrero** has been elected as a Shareholder of the Firm.

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