Dana Douglas, Chief Justice Bernette Johnson, and Christopher Ralston at the 2018 Supreme Court Luncheon
If you are interested, please contact Liz Daino at (504) 525-7453 or ldaino@neworleansbar.org for advertising information and rates for 2018.
My fellow NOBA Members,

As we enter into the month of September, I am amazed at how the Summer has flown by. It has been a season filled with remarkable events with some of the top leaders in the city, informative continuing legal education programs, and socials with various committees that have strengthened the relationship between members.

On August 16th, members of the legal community gathered in the French Quarter for our Supreme Court Luncheon. This was the final luncheon this Summer and similar to the first two, it was nothing short of a success. As a whole, the New Orleans Bar Association understands the importance of hearing city leaders speak on current and future initiatives, both personally and professionally. It is equally as important to listen to the historical background that led us to where we are today.

As we move forward, I am looking forward to the programs we have ahead. There are a diverse range of CLE programs scheduled on the calendar that are worth mentioning. The Wills/Trusts/Successions Committee will be inviting its members to hear about “Sales for Non-sales Professionals.” The Environmental Law Committee has invited Councilman Joe Giarrusso III and Zachary Wool to discuss the “History of The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) and How It Works.” Finally, the Worker’s Compensation Committee will hold a program on “Immigration Challenges in Workers’ Compensation For Employers and Employees,” presented by Maria Stephenson.

To close out the month of September, the Delegation to Panama trip will provide attendees with the tools necessary for doing business in Latin America. The courses will include explorations into trade and project financing in Latin America, strategies for negotiating commercial agreements, and using international arbitration for dispute resolution with Latin American companies.

We can’t to see you at one of our upcoming events as we wrap up Summer at the New Orleans Bar!

Dana
Ethical Guidelines For Non-sales Professionals CLE
Hosted by the Wills/Trusts/Successions Law Committee
This CLE program will discuss ethical methods for marketing your expertise and making the public aware of the need for professional estate planning.

**Speakers:**
Paula French, Search Influence
Gabrielle Benedetto, Search Influence

**Date:** Wednesday, September 12, 2018

**Time:** 12 noon - 1 p.m.

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

**CLE:** 1 hour of ethics CLE credit

**Cost:** NOBA Member Discount: $35; Non-Member: $55
(Includes lunch)

**To Register:** Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Liz Daino at ldaino@neworleansbar.org.

History of The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) and How It Works CLE
Hosted by the Environmental Law Committee
The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 streamlined the EPA's ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic oil spills. A trust fund financed by a tax on oil is available to clean up spills when the responsible party is incapable or unwilling to do so. Join the Environmental Law Committee to hear about the OPA in full detail.

**Speakers:**
Councilman Joe I. Giarrusso, III, Barrios, Kingsdorf & Casteix
Zachary L. Wool, Barrios, Kingsdorf & Casteix

**Date:** Thursday, September 13, 2018

**Time:** 12 noon - 1 p.m.

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

**CLE:** 1 hour of CLE credit

**Cost:** NOBA Member Discount: $35; Non-Member: $55
(Includes lunch)

**To Register:** Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Liz Daino at ldaino@neworleansbar.org.

Please note, payment is expected before the start of programs in order to attend. Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund. No shows are not eligible for refunds and will be charged for the program, plus an administrative billing fee.
Immigration Challenges in Workers’ Compensation For Employers and Employees CLE
Hosted by the Workers’ Compensation Committee

Immigration issues impact employers, insurers, and employees in workers’ compensation and in business and governmental regulation matters. Immigration and workers’ compensation attorney, Maria Stephenson, will discuss the multi-faceted legal aspects of immigration in comp cases from hiring practices to vocational rehabilitation.

**Speaker:** Maria O. Stephenson, Stephenson, Chavarri & Lambert, LLC

**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018

**Time:** 12 noon - 1 p.m.

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

**CLE:** 1 hour of CLE credit

**Cost:** NOBA Member Discount: $35; Non-Member: $55 (Includes lunch)

**To Register:** Contact the NOBA office at (504) 525-7453 or email Liz Daino at ldaino@neworleansbar.org.

Please note, payment is expected before the start of programs in order to attend. Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund. No shows are not eligible for refunds and will be charged for the program, plus an administrative billing fee.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

10.4.18
at Bayou Oaks in City Park

New Orleans Bar Foundation
Young Lawyers Section

To Benefit
The Veterans
Justice Fellowship

**Fellowship**
Chief Justice Bernette Johnson Addresses New Orleans Bar Association

On Thursday, August 16, 2018, a portion of the legal community gathered in the Formal Conference Room of the Louisiana Supreme Court for The Supreme Court Luncheon. The Supreme Court Luncheon was the final luncheon of the New Orleans Bar Association (NOBA) Summer Leadership Luncheon Series, which included the Mayoral Luncheon on June 1, 2018, and the Governor's Luncheon on July 24, 2018.

Poised with grace and charm, Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson commanded the attention of everyone in the room, which included The Honorable John Tarlton Olivier, Clerk of the Louisiana Supreme Court, The Honorable Justin I. Woods, Clerk of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit, The Honorable Piper D. Griffin, Judge, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division I, and current NOBA President Dana Douglas. Chief Justice Johnson opened up her address by reflecting on her time on bench, which began in 1984 when she was the first woman elected to serve as judge in Orleans Parish Civil District Court. In 1994, Chief Justice Johnson was elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court, and in 2013, she was the first African American to become Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Johnson spoke on the great strides the State has made in criminal justice reform due to the passage of the Justice Reinvestment Act in June 2017. Prior to the passage of this Justice Reinvestment Initiative legislation, Louisiana had the highest incarceration rate in the nation and was spending millions of dollars on locking up individuals for low-level offenses. Chief Justice Johnson proudly stated that since the passage of this legislation, Louisiana no longer possesses the highest incarceration rate in the nation.
Supreme Court Luncheon

Additionally, Chief Justice Johnson pointed out that she enjoys mentoring young lawyers and encourages young lawyers to learn trial advocacy and become involved in the community. In commenting on the intergenerational changes within the practice of law, Chief Justice Johnson noted that practitioners extended more courtesy "back in the day", and that attorneys need to get back to the basics of professionalism — respect, collegiality, proper court decorum, and the exercise of civility.

The New Orleans Bar Association is extremely grateful that Chief Justice Johnson took time out of her schedule to address the Bar. Her words of wisdom and insight were warmly received by all attendees.

NOBA wishes to recognize everyone who worked hard to make this event a success. Special thank you to Dana Douglas, NOBA President, Gary Johnson, Leadership Luncheon Chair, Helena Henderson, NOBA Executive Director, and Liz Daino, NOBA Program Director.
Veteran’s Spotlight

Interview conducted by Tiffany Delery Davis, Liskow & Lewis, APLC

John Wilson, Of Counsel with Liskow & Lewis, has been litigating for nearly five decades and has been involved in many of the key legal issues in oil and gas, expropriation (condemnation), commercial matters, professional liability, tax, and construction contract litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout Louisiana.

DAVIS: Tell us about your military service?

When I entered LSU as an undergraduate in 1960, participation in ROTC (Army or Air Force) for two years was mandatory for all male undergraduates. I entered the Army program, and after the first couple years, I entered the advanced program. I did well in ROTC, rising in my fourth year to one of the top positions in the Army program, the G-3, the operations officer charged with planning all of the operations of the Brigade, the Army half of the overall ROTC program.

Upon graduation, I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. I had plans for law school and received a deferment of active duty to attend the LSU Law School. Upon graduation, I transferred into the Judge Advocate General’s Corps (“JAGC”). My first duty station was the JAGC School in Charlottesville. The first couple of weeks of that assignment were spent at Fort Lee, Virginia going through a kind of mini-basic training.

I was married, and my wife, Edie, was pregnant with our first child as the JAGC Basic Course ended and we reported to our next duty station, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Fort Sam Houston is a historic fort dating back to the early efforts to settle the west and subdue the Native American tribes out there. When we were there, Fort Sam was the home of one of the Army’s largest hospitals, Brooke Army Medical Center. The Vietnam War was going hot and heavy, and Brooke was filled with casualties of that war. It had a maternity ward, but that wasn’t the real focus of operations. Nevertheless, our first son was born there.

Fort Sam Houston was a big post with lots of personnel, and I got lots of criminal trial experience while there, including a number of general courts martial (serious, felony-type cases). I also did some legal assistance for other military personnel (any civil type problem, including the preparation of wills, debtor issues, etc.) and claims work (processing claims for such things as furnishings and personal items lost or damaged in the course of shipment from one duty station to another). The bulk of my work, though, was criminal defense work.

I received orders to Vietnam and flew there, arriving at Bien Hoa Air Base on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day. I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), known as the “1st Air Cav,” headquartered adjacent to the village of Phuoc Vinh. My work there was completely criminal trial work. The Commanding General of the Division did not believe in bringing combat soldiers to the rear to see their lawyers; rather, the lawyers went out to the field to see their clients and witnesses. We tried both general and special courts martial involving offenses ranging from murder, assault with a deadly weapon, robbery, and other serious crimes to more run-of-the-mill offenses such as possession of marijuana, AWOL, or insubordination. Most trials were held in the field as well. Thus, the JAGC counsel and judges with the 1st Air Cav traveled by helicopter almost on a daily basis. Most of our travel was by hitch-hiking. We would go to a landing pad and catch a ride on the first helicopter heading in the direction we were going. In the late spring of 1970, the 1st Air Cav made an incursion into Cambodia to interdict the movement of troops and supplies on the Ho Chi Minh trail. Early in the campaign, I went in on a troop replacement and resupply helicopter to see a client. I tried innumerable cases while with the 1st Air Cav and was awarded a Bronze Star and an Air Medal.
After about six months with the 1st Air Cav, I was transferred to the Army’s in-country headquarters at Long Binh, principally as a prosecutor and eventually as Deputy Chief of Military Justice. While at Long Binh, I had some administrative duties, but I still spent most of my time prosecuting cases of the same kind mentioned before. I did a great deal of traveling while at Long Binh, but not as much as had been the case at Phuoc Vinh. At the end of my tour in Vietnam, I was awarded a second Bronze Star and boarded my “Freedom Bird” on St. Patrick’s Day 1971 for the flight home.

Upon return to the “World,” I was assigned as the Post Judge Advocate at Fort Monroe Virginia. Fort Monroe is a very historic fort. The central fort and batteries are surrounded by an actual moat. My individual office overlooked the moat and the bridge leading into the central fort. At this job, I may have done some criminal work, but much of the work was legal assistance and serving as counsel for the Army Recruiting Command. I was awarded an Army Commendation Medal for my service there, Edie delivered our second son, and shortly after that we left the service. That is when I joined Liskow & Lewis here in New Orleans in June of 1972.

DAVIS: What inspired you to join the military?
At the time, the Vietnam War was going on and lots of friends and classmates were going into the service. My family and I always have been very patriotic, and entering the military just seemed like the right thing to do.

DAVIS: How has your experience in the military assisted you in the practice of law?
I tried many, many cases while in the Army, and I did so as first-chair, even on very serious charges such as murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, etc. I probably would not have been able to gain that level of experience so quickly outside the military. And I did much of my own investigation to work a case up for trial. This made me very aware of how lay witnesses thought about legal issues and how they expressed themselves. The experience in preparing and trying cases was great and readily transferred from criminal trial work to civil litigation, which has been my focus since entering private practice. Also, since I was able to hold a number of positions of responsibility at a young age, I developed leadership traits and a sense of responsibility early on. And there was a lot of learning how to live your life and a resulting maturity that came with the military service.

DAVIS: What can we as lawyers do to help Veterans?
There are a number of legal programs available to assist veterans, such as the NOBA program here in New Orleans. I am embarrassed that I have not been as involved in such programs as I should have been, but I plan to use this interview as an incentive to become more involved in a veterans assistance program. I will say that there seems to be much more support generally for veterans now than there might have been at the time I returned from Vietnam. While I never personally had an unpleasant experience at that time, I have heard of others who did. Now I hear a lot of “thank you for your service,” both personally and to others who have served.

DAVIS: Is there anything else you would like to add?
I would like to mention the strong friendships that are formed in the service, the camaraderie among service members (and service families), and the support of one another in the military community. I enjoyed these things in the service, and I also enjoyed them when I joined Liskow & Lewis. I am not sure, however, that such support and friendship always is forthcoming in the civilian communities around the country. This may be because our civilian societies are so diverse in what they are doing. In the military, various members may have different jobs, but they all are to support the military mission. I think the loss of this camaraderie and support is a factor in the problems that have manifested themselves in some returning service members in our present society. Moving in the direction of replacing the camaraderie and support might be a way to begin addressing some of the problems.
The New Orleans Bar Foundation would like to thank the following people for their generous donations to the Foundation’s various funds. Donors can give to a variety of funds, each designated to serve different programs housed within the Foundation. To learn more about how to donate to the New Orleans Bar Foundation, please visit www.neworleansbar.org/foundation-donations.

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Thomas M. Flanagan, Harold J. Flanagan, Sean P. Brady, and Ann R. Koppel of Flanagan Partners LLP have been named to the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Thomas Flanagan was recognized for his work in appellate law (for the twelfth consecutive year), in the area of commercial litigation (for the seventh consecutive year), and “bet-the-company” litigation (for the fourth consecutive year). Harold Flanagan was honored for his work in appellate practice, commercial litigation, insurance law, oil & gas law, and construction litigation. This is the ninth time Harold Flanagan has been named to the prestigious listing. Sean Brady was honored for his work in commercial litigation for the fourth consecutive year. Ann Koppel was also honored for her work in commercial litigation.

Additionally, Harold Flanagan has been recognized as the 2019 New Orleans Insurance Law “Lawyer of the Year.” Mr. Flanagan previously received this honor in 2014.

Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C. is pleased to announce that Judy Barrasso, Celeste Coco-Ewing, George C. Freeman, III, Craig Isenberg, John W. Joyce, Stephen H. Kupperman, H. Minor Pipes, III, Andrea M. Price, Richard E. Sarver, and Steven W. Usdin have been selected for inclusion in the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. George C. Freeman, III has also been named the 2019 “Lawyer of the Year” for Securities Litigation in New Orleans.

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard announces that 15 lawyers have been recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America®. Ashley Belleau, Christopher Caplinger, Stanley Cohn, Elia Diaz-Yaeger, Celeste Elliott, Delos Flint, Jr., Benjamin Kadden, Rose McCabe LeBreton, Stewart Peck, Martin Sadler, Seth Schmeekle, David Sharpe, Rodger Wheaton, and Kristopher Wilson.

Liskow & Lewis is proud to congratulate Beth Wheeler for her selection to New Orleans CityBusiness’ ‘Women of the Year’ 2018. Beth was recognized for her success in the legal industry, as well as her work in the community. She is a shareholder in the firm’s New Orleans office focusing on a range of complex litigation matters, including environmental law and toxic tort litigation, oil and gas disputes, insurance disputes, commercial litigation, and construction contract litigation.


The firm is also pleased to announce that Robert P. Thibeaux was recognized in Financial Services Regulation Law as part of the Best Lawyers “Lawyers of the Year” in the New Orleans area.

To place an announcement in Briefly Speaking, email Liz Daino at ldaino@neworleansbar.org for pricing information.
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