



19th Annual Law Expo
& September Bar Luncheon
— Thursday, Sept. 9

*Special 75th
Anniversary Issue*



Inside this issue:

Historic Homes of the Local Courts & the Baton Rouge Bar • A Lifetime of More than Modest Success — A Tribute to Leaders in the Bar • *Around the Bar* — Nearly Two Decades in Review • BRBA Early Years • Diversity in the Bar • Women and Bar Leadership Awards of the Bar • History of the Bar Foundation • 2005 Board of Directors, YLS Council & FLS nomination forms • Ball Maul & Belly Up with the Bar registration forms

A History of Leadership and Service...

The lawyers of Kean Miller salute the Baton Rouge Bar Association and its two-thousand members on seventy-five years of leadership and service to the legal profession and to the Greater Baton Rouge community.

Together, we have made Baton Rouge a better place by upholding the high standards of our profession, by providing educational programs for lawyers and the community, by providing pro bono legal services to those who cannot afford legal representation, and by providing a platform for civic service to our community.

Our firm's history is one of leadership in the community, leadership in business, and leadership in the law. On this important milestone, we are pleased to recognize the many fine lawyers in our community who have helped shape and define the essential mission of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

As we celebrate this 75th Anniversary, Kean Miller wishes to thank all of the Bar Association members— past and present – who have helped make Baton Rouge a better place to live and work.



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THURSDAY, SEPT. 9

9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

SHERATON BATON ROUGE
CONFERENCE CENTER HOTEL'S ATRIUM

Sept. Bar Luncheon & Law Expo

Luncheon Speaker: H. Alston Johnson III
will be giving his annual legislative update

ETHICS CLE Seminar Speaker:

Craig Kaster — 9:20-10:20 a.m.

PROFESSIONALISM

CLE Seminar Speaker:

Tony Walker — 10:40-11:40 a.m.

(Free to BRBA Members who
pre-register & fill out a CLE credit card)

FREE Professionalism CLE
for the first 125 to pre-register*

Champagne Toast for
BRBA Members to Celebrate
75 Years of BRBA History
& the Completion of Law Expo 2004
— Champagne Available at 1:45 p.m.
— Toast To Be Given at 2:00 p.m.

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Tinseltown

*To receive one credit hour of Professionalism for FREE, you must pre-register and have a CLE Credit Card filled out completely by visiting a minimum of 15 booth vendors prior to your departure from the Law Expo.



On the cover:

The September issue of *Around the Bar* has been dedicated to honoring the Baton Rouge Bar Association's 75 years of history. The photo on the cover was taken in the early 1900s and is of the original membership of the BRBA. See the accompanying article on page 30 by Jeffrey Wittenbrink and Alton T. Moran.

Cover photography was reproduced with permission by B.B. Taylor III from *River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge*, by Mark T. Carleton.



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AROUND THE BAR supports participation of the membership in the production. We encourage the submission of articles and letters to the editor. Articles should be under 2000 words, typed and single-spaced. If possible, a WordPerfect or Microsoft Word file should accompany the article on a floppy disk or CD, or can be E-mailed as an attachment to: pamela@BRBA.org. For advertising information call Pamela Labbe at (225) 214-5560. Display ads should be E-mailed as an attachment as a .PDF, and classified ads as text only. Publication of any advertisement shall not be considered an endorsement of the product or service involved. The editor reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article or letter.

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september bar luncheon

GUEST SPEAKER: H. ALSTON JOHNSON III

For the 19th consecutive year, H. Alston Johnson III has agreed to present his legislative review at the BRBA's Annual Law Expo, to be held in the Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's Atrium. Luncheon tickets are \$25 per person, however, there is no cost to visit the Law Expo itself.

Taking place on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004, the Law Expo is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the buffet lunch line opening at 11:50 a.m. A champagne toast in honor of the Association's 75th anniversary is scheduled to take place at 2 p.m.

Two Continuing Legal Education Seminars — ethics and professionalism — will be available prior to the luncheon. The professionalism is **free to all BRBA members** who register in advance and who fill out a Law Expo CLE card by visiting at least 15 booth vendors. *See details in form below.*

H. Alston Johnson III to speak at Law Expo & Sept. Luncheon for 19th consecutive year

Johnson received his J.D. from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and was a full-time member of the LSU Law Faculty from 1972 to 1984. He currently is a partner with Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Johnson continues to share his wisdom with law students by serving as an adjunct member of the LSU faculty.



H. Alston Johnson III

Make your luncheon or CLE seminar reservation today by faxing this luncheon form to the BRBA at (225) 344-4805 by noon on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004, or call (225) 344-4803 by this deadline. "No shows" will be billed. Payment can be made in advance or at the door. VISA, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

There is limited seating, so make your reservation today. Even if you are unable to attend the luncheon, you'll definitely want to visit with our Law Expo booth sponsors.

Please fax this page to the Baton Rouge Bar Association, (225) 344-4805, by noon on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004.

Bar Roll No.: _____

Name _____ Firm _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

YES, register me for the **SEPTEMBER BAR LUNCHEON** at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's Atrium taking place on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004, at a cost of \$25.00 per person. I understand my reservation may be transferred but not canceled after noon on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004. "No shows" will be billed.

YES, register me for the **ETHICS CLE SEMINAR** at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's Atrium taking place at 9:20 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2004, at a cost of \$40.00 per BRBA member / \$50.00 per non-BRBA member. **Speaker:** Craig Kaster. I understand my reservation may be transferred but not canceled after noon on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004. "No shows" will be billed.

YES, register me for the **PROFESSIONALISM CLE SEMINAR** at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's Atrium from 10:40 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004, at NO COST per person (for BRBA members) / \$40.00 per person (for non-BRBA members). **Speaker:** Tony Walker. I understand my reservation must be made by noon on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004. To get your Professionalism CLE seminar for FREE, you must: (1) Be a BRBA member; (2) be one of the first 125 to pre-register, and (3) turn in a completed Law Expo CLE Card to the CLE table or registration table with 15 vendor signatures/stamps prior to the end of Law Expo on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004. "No shows" will be billed.



letter from the president

BY MICHAEL FERACHI

Birthday wishes and potpourri

This issue of *Around the Bar* is a special issue celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Our dedicated writers have spent a good deal of time researching our first 75 years. I know you will enjoy reading about the beginnings and highlights of our Association's history.

It is coincidental that I am writing this letter for the September issue commemorating the Association's 75th Anniversary on the day I am celebrating my own 40th birthday. It provides all sorts of opportunities to reflect on the past and think about the future.



Michael Ferachi

Every birthday I think back to my earliest memories and ponder the major and happy events of my life. As I perform this ritual this year, I apply it to our Association. I imagine what it must have been like for our founders to form our Association. Were they a couple of bar groupies, and they just did not know it yet? Were they spending a significant amount of their time drinking at the local watering hole and decided to call it a bar association so they could rationalize the necessity of meeting at the bar? Or maybe they just thought it was a good idea to form a sort of guild to improve our profession? I guess we may never know the real reasons they decided to form the Baton Rouge Bar Association in 1929, but I am grateful that they did.

As I think back on the major events of my life (graduations, vacations, wedding, births of my children), I ponder over what must have been the major events of our bar association. Events like the first opening of court ceremony, the admission of women, the admission of African Americans, the first organized monthly membership meetings and the publishing of a regular newsletter. As I experienced some of the life-altering events of my life, I did not realize that they would be life altering. I wonder if the members of our Association had the same lack of understanding. Did our Bar Association leaders understand the significance of beginning regular meetings and the hiring of a full-time executive director?

The other thing I like to do on my birthday is to imagine what the next few years will bring. Applying that to our Bar Association, I wonder about the impact of technology. Will the *Around the Bar* cease to be a hard copy and only e-mailed to our members? Will we become a more regional bar association? We now have Bankruptcy, Solo and Small Firms, Family, Government Lawyers, Workers' Compensation, and Young Lawyers sections. Will the number of sections grow to reflect the areas of interest of our members?

I am grateful to our founders for starting this fabulous Bar Association many years ago, but I am even more grateful for those of you, who may not even know it yet, who will become the leaders of this Association over the next 75 years. I look forward to being there when you celebrate our 150th anniversary and reflect on the last century and a half. (Hey, it's my birthday. I can wish for whatever I want.)

Law Expo and Ball Maul Golf Tournament

We have two major events this month that I expect will still be around when the Bar Association celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2029. The first one is the 19th Annual Law Expo and September Bar Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 9. This luncheon is our most popular luncheon, mainly because of the great discussions by H. Alston Johnson III on the shenanigans of our legislators and because of the outstanding vendor booths at the Law Expo. If you have not made your reservation yet, please call the bar office as soon as possible.

The foursomes are already forming for the Ball Maul Golf Tournament set for Tuesday, Sept. 21, at the University Club. Matt Bailey, the chair of the event, has been working tirelessly to organize this excellent golf outing. If you have a group that wants to play, or even if you are a single player, call the bar office to make a reservation to play. The proceeds from the tournament go directly to the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation to fund our charitable activities.

message from the chair

BY JONATHAN C. "JAY" AUGUSTINE, 2004 LAW EXPO CHAIR

The year 2004 marks the 19th anniversary celebration of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Law Expo. This year is also the 75th anniversary of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the 50th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

I am especially pleased to have served as chairman of the 2004 Law Expo Committee, and would like to encourage everyone to participate in this year's Law Expo, which will be held at the Sheraton's Atrium in downtown Baton Rouge on Thursday, Sept. 9. This annual fund-raiser has grown each year, and this year's event promises to be the best yet.

The year 2004 was so special for the Bar Association. We paused to celebrate our past and prepare for our future. We enjoyed wonderful academic and fun-filled celebrations commemorating the U.S. Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. Moreover, through the Youth Education Committee, we continued to prepare for the future by affirming *Brown's* central premise: quality education is

Celebrating our past and preparing for our future

the key to good citizenship. We also paused to enjoy the wonderful legacy 75 years of service have built in the Baton Rouge community. In addition to partying with a purpose at our historic block party, we continued to celebrate the late David Hamilton's legacy by giving our time and talents to those who need them most through *pro bono* and volunteer activities.

This year's Law Expo promises to be a grand celebration as well. We are delighted to again welcome our featured guest speaker, H. Alston Johnson III of Phelps Dunbar LLP. Each year we look forward to his legislative update and professional insight.

I am also thankful to the two BRBA employees who do so much for the Law Expo Committee. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with committee liaison Pamela Labbe and Executive Director Ann G. Scarle. Thanks, ladies, for making this year so much fun!

A TRADITION CONTINUES

Opening of Court Memorial Ceremony



Beginning at 9 a.m., Monday, Sept. 20, 2004
Courtroom 705, 19th JDC
(in Judge Duke Welch's courtroom)



Back in the old days, when courthouses were not air-conditioned, courts closed during the summer months. As a result, in September, when the courts were opened again, courts had an "Opening of Court" ceremony in which all of the lawyers were present and the chief judge presided, delivering a "State of the Court" presentation, introducing all of the new lawyers and remembering those lawyers who died in the previous year.

Our courts had a similar ceremony, even after the advent of air conditioning, and even though we didn't close for the summer. It was a very nice ceremony, and no one knows why we discontinued it, but we did. It was held on a rule day in the 19th JDC (rules were set at 10:30 a.m. instead of 9:30 a.m.). After the ceremony, we all met for coffee and doughnuts in the hallway outside of the courtroom. Those of us who had a rule left to handle their rule. The rest stayed to meet the new lawyers, talk to the judges and each other.

Well, the more things change, the more they remain the same. This year we have decided to reinstitute our "Opening of Court" ceremony. It will be held on rule day, Monday, Sept. 20, 2004, beginning at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 705, and will be presided over by Chief Judge Lou Daniel. Please join us. All of the retired judges in the Baton Rouge area have been invited to attend and many will be present.

Special thanks to retired Judge Doug Gonzales and to Judge Tony Marabella who spearheaded this event. This ceremony is being co-sponsored by the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. **COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

Sixth Annual "Belly Up with the Bar" Entry Form



C o o k - o f f & B r e w f e s t

Event takes place on Friday, Oct. 15, 2004

WHAT IS IT: The Sixth Annual "Belly Up with the Bar" is a cook-off, brewfest and outdoor party with live music—sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Proceeds from this event will benefit the BRBF's Youth Education Program. Team and Individual entries are welcome. Judges will select winners in a variety of categories. Advance general admission tickets are \$15 per adult, \$7.50 per child ages 7 to 12, and FREE admittance to children ages 6 and under. Prices at the door are \$20 per adult and \$10 per child, so buy 'em now!

WHEN & WHERE: The location is 6513 Perkins Rd., in the lot behind the law offices of Moore, Walters, Thompson, Thomas, Papillion & Cullens. The date is Friday, Oct. 15, 2004, 5 p.m. - until — **mark your calendars NOW!**

WHO CAN ENTER:

- Anyone who's willing to cook and serve enough to feed/water our local bar
- The entry fee is the same as the general admission fee - \$15 per team member
- Teams can consist of 1 to 5 members
- The entry fee gets you (1) in the door to try all the fabulous food, (2) all the beer you care to drink, and (3) the chance to show off your culinary talents

THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO BRING:

- Enough food to serve roughly 200 "sample size" portions
- Any cooking/heating/brewing equipment necessary to serve your entry
- A team of no more than 5 members
- A sign to indicate what you're making and who's on your team

THINGS WE'LL PROVIDE:

- Plastic serving bowls, forks, spoons and cups
- Beer, food, live music. . . and millions of dollars in fabulous cash and prizes (OK, more like tens of dollars in semi-appealing prizes, but it's how you play the game, right?)

ENTRY FORM

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND FAX IT TO (225) 344-4805 OR MAIL IT BY SEPT. 17, 2004,
TO: Baton Rouge Bar Association, ATTN: YLS, P. O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

**(CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "BRBF - BELLY UP WITH THE BAR."
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED BELOW.)**

TEAM NAME: _____

WHAT YOU'LL BE COOKING: _____

TEAM MEMBERS: CAPTAIN (1) _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Ticket # _____

Ticket # _____

Ticket # _____

Ticket # _____

Ticket # _____

**FOR "BELLY UP WITH THE BAR" TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE BRBA AT (225) 344-4803
OR WILL COENEN AT (225) 387-0999 OR KYLE FERACHI AT (225) 383-3796.**

**If you are unable to participate or attend, but you wish to make a donation for the BRBF's award-winning Youth Education Program, please make your check payable to the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.*

Credit Card Information: Type of card: (circle one) MC VISA AmExp

Name on card: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

in retrospect

BY PAMELA LABBE

Tiny bubbles cascading from a Main Street office building balcony onto hundreds of lawyers and their guests dancing in the streets of downtown Baton Rouge is a rare sight to see. But it happened on Saturday, May 8, 2004, during the Baton Rouge Bar Association's 75th Anniversary Block Party. The event was a success, attracting 700 attendees. The Bench Bar Boogie Band, Storywood, Rollover and the V-Tones provided musical entertainment.

The extreme heat did not dissuade the many volunteers who helped to build stages donated by Mockler Beverage Co. and Mercedes-Benz of Baton Rouge. They wrapped gold foil paper around the bases of decorative trees and strung white lights across the Middleton Bar Center balcony. The evening's clear skies were a welcome reprieve from all the rain that had fallen in the previous weeks.

Special thanks to Jay M. Jalenak Jr., who put together the excellent slide presentation of historic BRBA

75th anniversary block party deemed a success

photographs and images that was exhibited on the side of a neighboring engineering building.

Thanks to all who were involved in the planning of the 75th anniversary celebration, especially the chairs of the overall committee, Mathile W. Abramson, Michael Patterson and Edward J. Walters Jr., and the chairs of the block party itself: Jeanne Comeaux, Daniel D. Holliday III, Danny McGlynn and Judge Suzan Ponder. To host a party of this magnitude, a number of subcommittees were formed, including decorations, food, beverage, tickets and silent auction. Carol Anne Blitzer, Shelton D. Blunt, Jennifer L. Crick, Jeanne Davis, Michael Ferachi, Dede Sabagh Ferrara, Jay M.

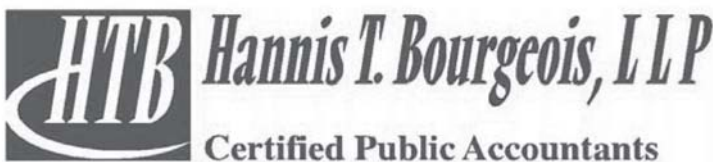
Jalenak Jr., Leonard L. Kilgore, Edna Latchem, Judge Annette M. Lassalle, Don Phelps, Mary Olive Pierson, Vincent A. Saffiotti, Andrew P. Sellers, Kyle Talbert and MacDougall Womack served on the Block Party Committee.

Event attendees enjoyed tasty cuisine from a number of participating restaurants, including: Café Mamou and Catering Too; Drusilla Seafood; Harrington's; Chuck Heine; The Jambalaya Shoppe; Juban's; Maggio's; Mortorano's; Sammy's; Serop's; Shelby & Company Catering; Walk-On's; and Zippy's.

The block party raised \$25,000, which will be used to purchase a gift for the city of Baton Rouge in commemoration of the Association's anniversary. The Gift Committee is currently researching various options for a gift. The silent auction, organized by Edna Latchem, was an exciting element of the block party. Thanks to all who donated items to be auctioned and to all who bid.

In addition, the 75th Anniversary Publicity Committee, which includes Linda Perez Clark, Erin Wilder-Doomes, Eric Miller, Megan Foco and Kelsey Kornick Funes, organized publicity throughout the year. Crimson and gold flags featuring the Bar Association's 75th anniversary logo were hung from light posts that line St. Louis Street in front of City Court prior to the block party, and will remain on display until January 2005.

Through the Publicity Committee's efforts, articles were published in the May



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issues of *InRegister* and *The Advocate*, and an ad was placed in the *Business Report's* special legal supplement. The *InRegister* article featured the volunteerism of the BRBA's Young Lawyers Section, the Dress to Impress clothing collection drive and the 75th anniversary block party. *The Advocate* article by Carol Anne Blitzer featured the Association's long history, the Middleton Bar Center and some of our past presidents.

News releases were disseminated to promote the block party and the 75th anniversary. BRBA President Michael Ferachi appeared on several television station morning shows promoting the event. Articles and ads in *Around the Bar* highlighted the event, as did our web site and weekly e-newsletters. An electronic Lamar billboard was donated for our use in the weeks prior to the event. A banner was designed to promote the anniversary and will hang from the balcony of the Middleton Bar Center for the remainder of the year.

Sponsors of the event included ABMB Engineers Inc., Baton Rouge Chapter of the Antique Auto Club of America, Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Downs & Saffiotti, Mercedes-Benz of Baton Rouge, Mockler Beverage Co., Glazers Wholesale Liquor, Hart's / Corporate Green and Dr. Michael J. Keogh, Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician.

GAIL'S GRAMMAR

Is Alton Moran **an** historian or **a** historian? In the United States, he's **a** historian because we pronounce the letter *h* at the beginning of the word. The same applies for other words that start with a weak *h*, such as *habitual* and *hypothesis*.

Mark Twain wrote in 1882 that "[c]orrect writers of the American language" do not put **an** before *humble*, *historical*, and *heroic*. We use **an** in front of a word beginning with *h* only when we do not pronounce the *h* sound, as in *hour*. Unless you want to be considered pretentious, stick with **a** for words in which the *h* is pronounced.

EXAMPLES:

What **a** historic year 1929 was for the Baton Rouge Bar Association!

A historian can spend many **an** hour researching old newspaper articles for information.

E-mail ideas for future "Gail's Grammar" columns to Gail at Gstephenson@SULC.edu or call her at 771-4900 ext. 267.

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Lunch / Registration: 11:30 a.m.
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There will be a \$20 poker run.

*Proceeds benefit Baton Rouge Bar Foundation projects

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Brief History of *Around the Bar* —

The more things change, the more they remain the same

BY PAMELA LABBE

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of *Around the Bar* as we know it. A total of 189 issues have been produced in the last 19 years.

Edward J. Walters Jr., the current editor of *Around the Bar*, has held his title since its inception in September 1985. At the time, Walters was of the two-man law firm of Moore and Walters, which eventually became what it is today. He volunteered for what turned out to be a publications committee of one. Bobbi Zaunbrecher, the first executive director of the Association, worked with Walters to produce the magazine. The name of the magazine was coined by Jim Toups, president of the Bar Association at the time. Toups was the motivating force to abandon the legal-sized typed page that was previously the BRBA newsletter and to move toward a more professional looking, printed magazine. As the years marched on, Executive Director Ann G. Scarle worked closely with Walters, as did select bar staff members (i.e., publications directors or communications coordinators).

The membership of 700 members in 1985 has nearly tripled in the last 19 years, and is currently 2,061 members. Magistrate Judge Stephen Riedlinger became the assistant editor in April 1986. Vince Fornias accepted the role of assistant editor in January 1989. Bar members who have served on the Publications Committee since its start are Art Vingiello, Robert Collins, Amy Counce, Michelle Finnegan, Marshall Grodner, Glenn Marcel, Gail Stephenson and Jeff Wittenbrink. Fornias'



Tales from the Bar Side column first appeared in April 1986, and Mike Patterson's Eye on Evidence appeared in March 1989. Gail's Grammar debuted in December 1994.

The magazine's rules and goals remain the same after all these years. Rules followed today for the publication include:

1. The magazine prints; it does not reprint.
2. Articles by lawyers may deal with any topic of general interest.
3. The writing must be good, or at least approved by the editorial board.



Our goal, which was probably most clearly stated by Walters in his September 1995 *Around the Bar* article "Ten Years *Around the Bar*," are "to publish at least one article on the law, one article on people in our legal community, one humor article, one article outlining any changes in court rules and several articles to let you know

what is going on within the Bar Association. We like controversy. We like letters to the editor. We encourage point-counterpoint articles."

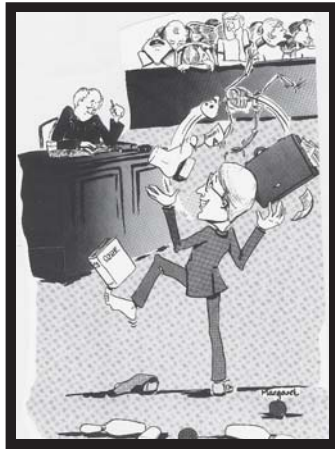
The most recent survey of the bar in late 2003 found that 99 percent of the membership read *Around the Bar*, and 46 percent of the membership read the magazine within the first 24 hours of receiving it. Three-fourths of the respondents stated that one to three people in their office read the magazine. Respondents are very satisfied with the number of issues and number of pages. Greater than 50 percent satisfaction was cited in the quality of ads, type of advertisers, number of articles, quality of articles and quality of the cover. While 67 percent of the respondents



Editorial cartoons from past *Around the Bar* issues are reprinted with this article.

are in favor of having a web-based version of *Around the Bar* (which we offer on our web site, www.brba.org),

78 percent are against having a web-based only publication. The bar membership made suggestions as to what they would like to see in future issues of the magazine, and in future issues we intend to accommodate their wishes as best we can. As Walters wrote nearly a decade ago, "We must be doing something right."



Membership magazine changes look, BRBA web site to follow suit

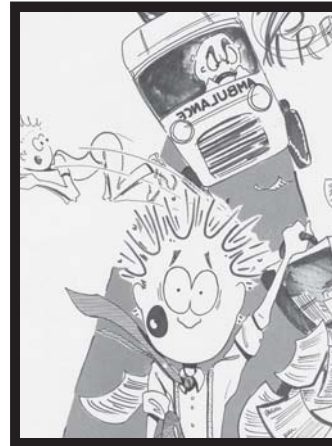
If any updating is to be done to the look of the Bar Association's magazine, *Around the Bar*, it usually takes place beginning with the September issue. No major facelifts have been given to the magazine for at least four years, so 2004 seemed as good a time as any to do a little tweaking of the magazine's general design.

The new design attempts to be cleaner and more modern through use of different fonts, using more white space and larger photographs. Our goal is for the magazine to be easier to read and more pleasing to the eye.

We now have a contributors page, which will highlight all contributing and regular writers of *Around the Bar* at the front of the magazine instead of on the same

page as the submitted article. As always, a byline will still be included along with each article.

Regular columns such as the Letter from the President, Tales from the Bar Side and Gail's Grammar will remain, as will Technology Tips and Eye on Evidence. More Hometown Justice columns will be incorporated into future issues. Practice Pointers is a



fairly new addition to the magazine. In My Own Words is an editorial column that is a recent addition. Message from the Chair, an editorial column that began recently, features the views of a different committee chairman each month. The issues will continue to be theme-driven, when possible.

If there is a legal topic you would like to see covered in a future issue, please let us know by e-mailing: pamela@brba.org. Any interested BRBA member is invited to join the Publications Committee. Meetings are typically the second Monday of the month.

In addition, Continuing Legal Education credit is available from the Louisiana State Bar Association for the writing of published legal articles in bar journals (up to four credit hours).¹ Submit your completed form with the published version of your BRBA article to the LSBA.

The Web Site Subcommittee of the BRBA Technology Committee has been discussing giving the member web site a face change as well. Neil Coig will spearhead that effort. Evidence of this should be visible by late 2004. In the next couple of months, we hope to upload all member photos in the members' only section. Chairing the 2004 Technology Committee is Drew Patty. To join the Technology Committee, contact: pamela@brba.org.

¹Download the form from the State Bar's web site: http://www.lsba.org/MCLE/Request_for_CLE_Writing_Credit.pdf

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a closer look

BY MARY LOUISE ALBRITTON LEBLANC

My father was born in Baton Rouge in 1908. He graduated from Baton Rouge High School at age 15, and received his undergraduate degree from LSU. The most influential person in my father's life was his own father, A.R. Albritton, a local attorney. He developed his interest in the law by working in his father's office. He decided to attend Law school at LSU, and was admitted to practice law in 1930. He was a Lt. Commander in the Navy during World War II and was stationed in Panama. He married Mary Saddler Stewart of Clinton, La., in 1950.

I am the eldest of my father's two daughters. My father has been the most influential person in my life. From an early age he became my teacher, coach, adviser, friend and comforter. He encouraged me to go ahead when I was timid and taught me to be brave but not foolish. He raised me to love and respect the outdoors, its woods, its wildlife and its beauty. He always encouraged me, instilling confidence and inspiring my interest. He was interested in so many things. He had an unbelievable mind, with so much to offer, and so much love for life.

This dad was a child's dream come true. We've canoed and fished a million miles. We rode horses on trails that did not exist to streams and lakes rarely seen by others. There was always an adventure waiting. As long as he was able, he "put the food on the table" — it was hunted, caught, raised or grown by him. He kept a vegetable garden and a fruit orchard going year-round. And he could actually cook it all!

Some of his favorite memories included riding on his grandfather's milk wagon in Jackson, La., delivering milk at about age 5. He also remembered working in the Paramount Theatre for 5 cents a day as an usher for the silent films. He loved to talk about disobeying his parents after high school graduation in 1923 by hitchhiking all the way to Miami with a friend. He actually wore out a pair of shoes on that trip because they had to walk most of the way. And there were few roads then.

My father was also the "Neighborhood Dad." My house was the weekend house of choice for my friends, as we were always doing something fun. He managed to get sidewalks put in on our street when it was finally black-topped, and he would take us all bike riding at night with flashlights, to our delight. Or he would load up as many bikes and tricycles as could fit in his station wagon and go to City Park. We would even go to the State Capitol to ride down all the steps. This all coincided with going out into the country to ride, fish, hunt, explore the woods and swim in the lakes and streams. He made sure we had fun, and he was so much fun to be with. He was a very loving parent, and I enjoyed sharing him with my friends.

Who was Wm. Louis Albritton?



Wm. Louis Albritton and his wife, Mary, were photographed (above) on their Dec. 23, 1950, wedding day.

He fostered my lifelong involvement with horses by allowing me to grow up with them, carefully teaching me about them from the ground up: their care, their nature, riding skills and right on to the show ring itself. He took me to many a "one night" show in a rickety old horse trailer with my first quarter horse. He brought me to ride in the Rodeo Parade and Grand Entry at LSU for years. Decades later he was still cheering me on as I graduated to showing champion Tennessee Walking horses. I know he was proud.

My father enjoyed people of all ages, was very sociable and was interested in just about everything. He took me with him everywhere he went from the time I could walk. As a child I remember many days accompanying him to his office in the historic Roumain Building and having lunch in the old Piccadilly on Third Street. After graduating from LSU, I worked in his office and spent the next 18 years working alongside him, learning from him, and just being with him. He took the time to teach me the way his father had taught him — by doing. He was always patient with me, helping me to get the business background I would eventually need. He was a fabulous communicator, and his memory was unparalleled. He did math without pencil and paper, never kept a calendar for meetings or appointments, was extremely well read and currently informed, and was sought after for advice from many sources. My father always said that his legal education was the most valuable thing he ever attained. He had a tremendous respect and admiration for the law. And I had the privilege of having him for my father.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

a closer look

BY JAYNE LOBDELL MIDDLETON
AND VERNON P. MIDDLETON

Editor's Note: *Both the Baton Rouge Bar Association and Baton Rouge Bar Foundation are housed in a newly renovated building on Main Street that was aptly named the Middleton Bar Center. Paula Manship gave a generous donation to the Foundation to be used as seed money to purchase our own building. One of her specifications was that the building be named after her longtime attorney and friend Frank W. Middleton Jr., so the building was named the Middleton Bar Center.*

Born on July 13, 1919, in Texarkana, Tex., Frank W. Middleton Jr. moved to Minden, La., as a young boy and then to Shreveport. He graduated from Byrd High School and entered LSU in 1936. Prior to his 1941 graduation, he entered the Army Air Force and served until 1945.

In January 1944, while on a three-week leave, he married Jane Lobdell Porter, the daughter of Charles Vernon Porter, a former president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and one of the co-founders of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips LLP. Through their years together, Middleton and his wife had three children, all attorneys: Frank W. Middleton III; Vernon P. Middleton and Jayne L. Middleton.

After discharge from the military, Middleton returned to Baton Rouge and LSU. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration. His last year of undergraduate school coincided with his first year of law school. In 1947 Middleton graduated from LSU Law School, and he was admitted to the bar in Louisiana.

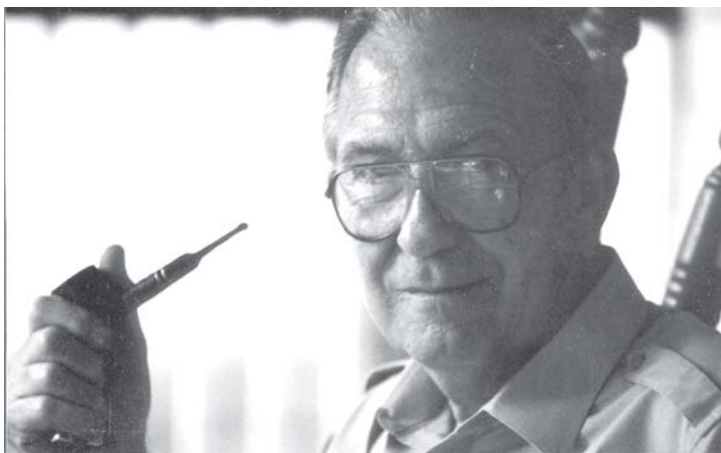
He had wanted to become a lawyer from childhood, possibly influenced by his grandfather, who was a judge in Texarkana, Tex. He loved debating, viewing that as an important legal skill, and he was an active member of the LSU Debate Team.

Middleton was a partner of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips LLP, where he practiced for 46 years. His areas of practice included general civil practice, serving many large corporate clients as well as individuals. He particularly enjoyed medical malpractice defense,

Who was Frank W. Middleton Jr.?

corporate law and financing, regulatory law, successions and estates, and handling individual client needs.

He viewed the practice of law as the most honorable profession, one in which a gentleman could be successful for his clients without resorting to tricks, acrimony, anger and the like. Middleton treated his clients, the courts, and his opponents and their clients with the utmost respect and honor, yet remained and succeeded as a zealous defender of the causes he represented. In turn, he enjoyed the same respect from his peers and clients. He firmly believed that the law and the ethical standards



Frank W. Middleton Jr.

for attorneys were the bare minimum of acceptable conduct. He chose to live and practice to the highest of standards. To that end, he was a strong proponent of what we now call professionalism. He helped train and mentor attorneys young and old and actively supported Baton Rouge's first Inns of Court. His clients' legal problems

became his, and he had great compassion for their situations. He was their lawyer, but they were not merely his clients. The practice of law was an extension of his persona.

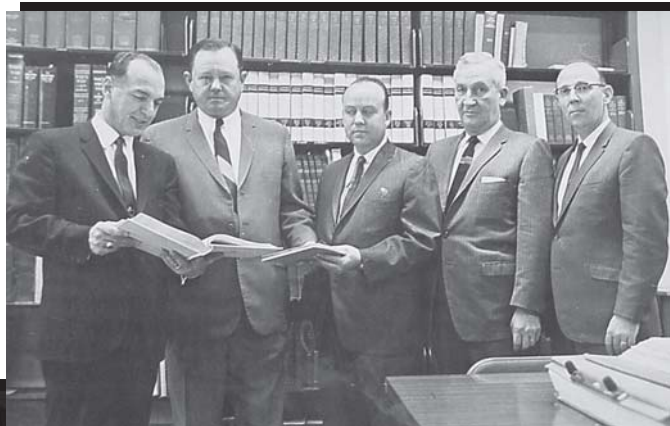
Many considered Middleton to be the consummate gentleman; well grounded in his faith; generous; humble and unassuming; dedicated; loyal; with a lively sense of humor; a devoted son, brother, husband, and father; idealistic; and a determined but poor golfer, the latter of which some might have attributed to the pipe that was always in his mouth.

Middleton assumed a number of leadership roles during his lifetime, including Rotary Club president, BRBA president, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel president, Louisiana Law Institute member, LSBA board member, Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America president, United Way Campaign of Baton Rouge president, and American College of Trial Lawyers fellow. He was active in the founding of Episcopal High School and St. James Place of Baton Rouge. Middleton was a firm believer in *pro bono* work and contributed hundreds of hours to many worthy causes over the years.

Frank W. Middleton Jr. (1919-1993)

from the scrapbooks

Past BRBA presidents from 1965 to 1969 (in photo right) include Sam D'Amico, B.B. Taylor Jr., Luther Cole, A.G. Seale and John V. Parker.



The above photo was taken in 1957 of the LSU law school senior class.



Fred Blanche Sr. and Sam D'Amico pose for a photo at a past bar function.

The Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association will be appointing one person to represent the BRBA in the American Bar Association House of Delegates. The two-year term will begin at the 2005 ABA Mid-Year meeting. Additional information will be mailed with the ballots for the 2005 Board of Directors or you may contact Ann G. Scarle at 225-214-5563.

			
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Just a-lookin' for a home —

Former homes of the Baton Rouge Bar Association

BY GAIL STEPHENSON

The Baton Rouge Bar Association led a peripatetic existence before moving to its present location at 544 Main St. Like the boll weevil, the BRBA was “just a-lookin’ for a home” until it finally found one in 2000.

For years, each BRBA president handed his successor a box or armload of files. The Association had no staff, and the president’s secretary was the “workhorse” who handled the typing and filing duties, according to Gerald L. Walter Jr. (Pres. 1977). J. Huntington Odom (Pres. 1976) and Walter described the operation of the Association as “by the seat of our pants.” Walter explained that the task was not as daunting as it might seem because in those days, there were considerably fewer members, and a much higher percentage of members turned out for bar luncheons. An announcement at the bar luncheon thus provided notice to the vast majority of the membership.

In 1977, the 19th Judicial District Court offered office space in the Governmental Building to the BRBA at no charge. The space, located where a corridor reached a dead end on the seventh floor, was scarcely larger than a walk-in closet, but it was a beginning. In 1979, BRBA hired its first staff member, a secretary. However, the presidents’ secretaries were still doing most of the typing and filing at that point.

Carey Guglielmo (Pres. 1979) stated that he “popped in every once in a while,” but the Governmental Building office was primarily used as a place to receive

applications and dues and count ballots. During Robert Roland’s presidency in 1980, an office furnishings fundraising drive covered the expense of framing the 1968 membership pictorial to grace the office wall, among other things.

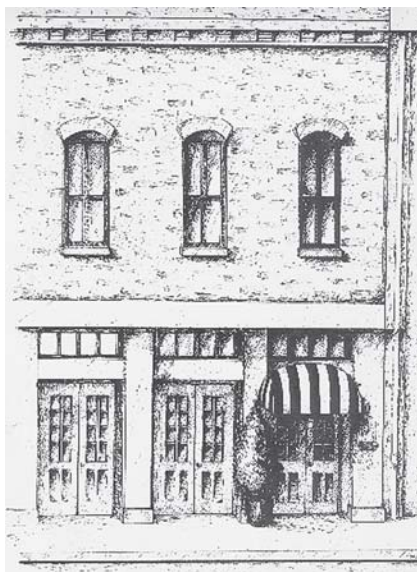
By 1984, the BRBA was ready to create more of a presence in Baton Rouge and “take it to the next level,” according to Greg Eaton (Pres. 1987). While still occupying the Governmental Building “closet,” the BRBA employed its first executive director, Bobbi Zaunbrecher. By this time more activity was taking place at the office, including pro bono/lawyer referral services. But in 1987, the 19th JDC decided it needed the space BRBA was occupying, and the Association was forced to relocate.

The BRBA moved into the second floor of a building owned by Eaton at 309 North Blvd. in June 1988.

The office, located above City News, was approximately 1,800 square feet. The Association eventually outgrew the space and moved to 850 North Blvd. in January 1995. That building was formerly the Moore & Walters Law Office. The BRBA outgrew that space as well.

In 2000 the BRBA finally moved into a home of its own when the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation purchased and renovated the building at 544 Main St. The BRBA’s beautiful two-story office contains 5,000

square feet of space, including the Wm. Louis Albritton Conference Room — a large conference room on the second floor that can be divided into smaller rooms when needed, the Past Presidents’ conference room on the first floor, a second-floor kitchen, and offices for the BRBA’s seven full-time and three part-time employees.



309 North Blvd. — 1988



850 North Blvd. — 1995



544 Main St. — 2000

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(225) 214-5556**WHO WAS WM. LOUIS ALBRITTON?**

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Wm. Louis Albritton
(1908-1994)

Editor's Note: The upstairs conference room of the Baton Rouge Bar Association was named the Wm. Louis Albritton Conference Room in 2000.

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bar news

BY KELLY AVALTRONI

Pro Bono Project provides Ask-A-Lawyer workshops

June and August Ask-A-Lawyer workshops, organized by BRBF Pro Bono Coordinator Lynn Haynes, invited the public to receive free legal advice.

Yolanda Cezar, an associate of Capital Area Legal Services, provided counsel on June 10 at Catholic Community Services. Attorney Cynthia Reed volunteered on June 22 at Volunteers of America. Other Ask-A-Lawyer workshops were held on Aug. 12 with Barbara Baier at Catholic Community Services, and on Aug. 17 with Yolanda Cezar at Volunteers of America.

Two additional workshops have been scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Goodwood Branch Library, and Sept. 23 at Catholic Community Services, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Contact Lynn at (225) 214-5558 for more information or to volunteer.

LSBA to present Crystal Gavel Award to E. Wade Shows

E. Wade Shows, a BRBA past president, will be presented the LSBA Crystal Gavel Award on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004, at the Law Expo luncheon.



Shows is receiving this award for the funding he sought and secured for the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education to provide urban, suburban and rural youth with the Annual Law Day Youth Summit, a program containing practical legal information that features lawyers as mentors and instructors.

LSBA names Cresson "Outstanding Young Lawyer"

The LSBA presented Melissa Cresson with the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award during the 63rd Annual Meeting in Sandestin, Fla. on June 11.



Cresson is a partner with Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman LLP. Cresson has been involved with the Young Lawyers Section Council since 1997, serving as secretary, chair-elect, chair and past-chair.

LSBA honors Crifasi with Pro Bono Award

Fred Crifasi, a solo practitioner, was awarded the Pro Bono Award during the LSBA's 63rd Annual Meeting June 11 in Sandestin, Fla. In 2003, Crifasi served as the Pro Bono Project liaison to the Board of Directors and was influential in encouraging larger firms to accept more *pro bono* cases.



Mitchell receives Career Public Interest Award

Michael A. Mitchell Sr. received the Career Public Interest Award from the LSBA during the 63rd Annual Meeting June 11 in Sandestin, Fla. Mitchell is the chief indigent defender for the 19th Judicial District of Louisiana. The award recognizes Mitchell's service on various law and community-related boards. As a career public servant, Mitchell has assisted the BRBA Pro Bono Project as a volunteer attorney.



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Members recognized for *pro bono* service

The BRBA announced recipients of the Century, Double Century and Quadruple Century Club awards during its monthly luncheon on June 3, 2004, at De La Ronde Hall. President Michael Ferachi presented the awards.

The Century Club Award recipients included solo practitioners Melanie Jones, Bruce Craft and Barrington Neil. Jay Jalenak Jr., a partner of Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman, LLP, received the Double Century Award. Solo practitioner Virginia Anthony received the Quadruple Century Award, having volunteered 400 *pro bono* hours of legal service.

Gaudin receives Michaele Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award

Todd E. Gaudin was presented the Michaele Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award on June 11 at the 2004 Young Lawyers Section Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the LSBA's 63rd Annual Meeting. Gaudin is a partner with the law firm of Gaudin & Romero, LLC. The Professionalism Award is presented annually to a young lawyer for his or her commitment and



dedication to upholding the quality and integrity of the legal profession and consideration toward peers and the general public.

BRBA develops Government Lawyers Committee

The BRBA has developed a Government Lawyers Committee to increase government lawyer membership. Fred Crifasi led a meeting on June 16 to discuss the establishment of the Government Lawyers Committee and hopes to later have it become an independent section. The committee will offer CLE seminars in government law and a reduced rate for city, state and federal government lawyers. Marty Mansfield will chair the committee. Approximately 24 individuals attended, and 13 volunteered to spearhead the new committee's efforts. Contact Crifasi at (225) 766-0014 or Ann G. Scarle at (225) 214-5563 for more info.

YLS Sidebar Luncheon to be held Thursday, Sept. 23

The Young Lawyers Section will hold a Sidebar Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004, at the Middleton Bar Center, 544 Main St. Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball will speak. YLS members are invited to register to attend. Contact Jason Bonaventure at (225) 928-5400 or Susan Kelley at (225) 214-5559 to register.



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BRBA offers free professionalism CLE seminar at Law Expo to first 125 who register

One free hour of professionalism credit is available on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004, for the first 125 BRBA members who register.

The seminar will be held at 10:40 a.m. on the day of the 19th Annual Law Expo, and will take place at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's atrium. Prior to attending the seminar, attendees will be given a Law Expo CLE card, which requires them to visit 15 booth vendors, who will initial or stamp each card.

To sign up for the free professionalism seminar, or the regularly priced ethics seminar that begins at 9:20 a.m. on Sept. 9, call (225) 344-4803.

Volunteer Committee to hold annual food drive at O'Neal Lane Wal-Mart

On Saturday, Sept. 18, members of the BRBA's Volunteer Committee will be manning a table at the O'Neal Lane location of Wal-Mart as they accept non-perishable food donations during their annual food drive to benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. The drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and everyone is invited to come by and donate.

Needed items include canned vegetables, soups and meats, dried beans, rice, pasta, peanut butter, flour, cornmeal and other canned, bagged and boxed non-perishable food items.

Co-chairing the event are Doug Foster and Chris Golberg. Sponsors include Clear Channel Communications, PODS (Portable OnDemand Storage), Panels Plus Inc. and Wal-Mart.

LSBA installs McKay as State Bar President

Michael W. McKay was installed as the State Bar's 63rd president on Friday, June 11, 2004, during the LSBA's annual meeting.



A senior partner with McKay, Williamson, Lutgring & Cochran, LLC, McKay received the LSBA President's Award in 1997 and the LSBA Pro Bono Publico Award in 1994. McKay is a past BRBA president.



Photography by Neil Coig

Volunteering to help with the Uniforms for Kids project in July 2004 on behalf of the BRBA Volunteer Committee were a group of attorneys from Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman. Photographed above are (front row, L to R) Lyn Savoie, Tiffany Sues, Katie Deranger, Laura Hart; (back row, L to R) Kelly Duncan, Ginny from St. Vincent de Paul, Jessica Coco, Margaret Grace, Beverly Creech-Chauvin, Jesslyn Landers, Traci Shirley, Ryan Blackledge, Cole Smith and Matt Mullins.

BRBA 2004-05 legal pictorial directory planned

A new BRBA 2004-05 Legal Pictorial Directory is being planned. Photo sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 6 and Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2004, at the Middleton Bar Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A third session is scheduled during the Nov. 4, 2004, bar luncheon at De La Ronde Hall beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Those BRBA members who have joined within the last three years are encouraged to have his or her photo taken. Individuals who wish to update his or her photo are welcome to set up an appointment as well. The

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sitting fee is \$20 per person. The directory itself is a member benefit and will be available in early 2005.

Call (225) 344-4803 to make your appointment.

Green receives Bat Sullivan Chair's Award

Karleen Green, an associate with Phelps Dunbar, received the Bat Sullivan Chair's Award from 2003-04 LSBA Young Lawyers Section Chair Monique Svenson. Green was presented with the award at the 63rd Annual Meeting on June 11, 2004. Green received recognition for her performance as chair of the 2003 YLS State Mock Trial Competition. She organized the entire Mock Trial Competition from creating the hypothetical legal issue, planning the regional and state competitions to hosting the awards dinner in conjunction with the state competition and sending the state winner to the national competition.



Photography by Susan Kelley

Lisa Prater, Lisa Leslie Boudreaux and Karen Murphy sort clothing for the Young Lawyers Section-sponsored Dress to Impress Clothing Drive, held May 11-13, 2004.

YLS holds Sizzlin' Summer CLE Seminar

The Young Lawyers Section held its annual Sizzlin' Summer CLE Seminar on Friday, July 23, 2004, at the Middleton Bar Center. Four hours of continuing legal education was available, including bankruptcy, successions, professionalism and DWI defense. Speakers included Louis Phillips, Jeff Koonce, Abboud Thomas, and Kris Perret. A total of 37 attended the half-day seminar.

Special thanks to Elisabeth Quinn Zelden, who organized this CLE event. A. Edward Hardin Jr. is the 2004 YLS Council chairman. Susan Kelley is the staff liaison of the Young Lawyers Section.



The Gold team from Baton Rouge Magnet High School was honored at the June 3, 2004, BRBA bar luncheon at De La Ronde Hall. The Region V High School Mock Trial Tournament trophy was presented to the students. James Carver served as attorney coach for the team. Whitney Breaux (on right) received the Best Overall Performance Award.

Gov. Blanco proclaims Sept. 13 to 17 as "Paralegal Week" in the State of Louisiana

The Baton Rouge Paralegal Association announced recently that Gov. Kathleen Blanco has proclaimed the week of September 13 to 17 as "Paralegal Week" in Louisiana.



Russell L. Mosely, Bridget DeNicola, Jeff Rabb, Elisabeth Quinn Zelden, Josh Zelden, and Jeff Nichols attended the YLS Summer Sizzlin' CLE on Friday, July 23, 2004.



The June bar luncheon honored members who have practiced law 30 to 39 years. Pictured above are (top row, L to R) Byron R. Kantrow Jr., Henry D. Salassi Jr., Kenneth F. Sills, Capt. Bob Bell, Emile Rolfs, Michael Zelden; (bottom row, L to R) Judge Frank J. Polozola, Wendell Lindsay, Donald L. Beckner, James E. Toups Jr. and Thomas Watts.

Historic homes of the local

Baton Rouge's first courthouse was built in 1813 on Square 27, Beauregard Town (between St. Louis and St. Ferdinand streets) on land that had been donated to the parish by heirs of Manuel Beauregard. A condition of the donation was that the parish build a courthouse on the grounds.¹ This building remained as the Baton Rouge Courthouse until a new courthouse was built in 1857, also on Square 27. The old building was then used as a school, first called Academy Hall and then later named St. Louis Street School.

The contract for construction of the 1857 courthouse was awarded to Maryland-born Richard Burke, who came to Baton Rouge in 1847 at the age of 21 as a journeyman carpenter. Burke and his next door neighbor Nelson Potts, a master bricklayer, nearly always worked together. The two men constructed most of the governmental and other important buildings in Baton Rouge in the 1850s, including the courthouse. The construction went well. At the police jury meeting of Sept. 8, 1857, Burke was commended for the quality and workmanship of the building and for its early completion within its budget.

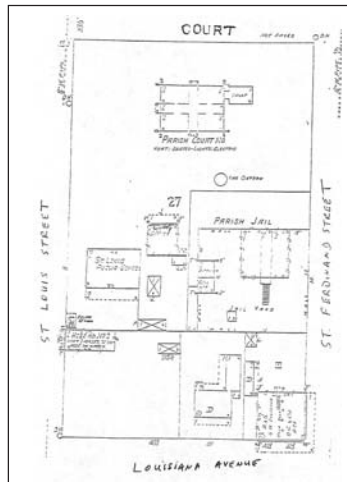
As the legal activity in the city increased with its population, the attitude of the bar towards the courthouse became less approving and more faultfinding. In a meeting of the State Bar Association in 1910, Judge T. Sambola Jones declared:

His Honor, the Mayor has told you of our one besetting fault — we have no Courthouse worthy of name. For 30 years I have viewed it with fear and apprehension, lest it might fall as a trap and kill the cream of Baton Rouge society. But we



City Court, 2nd floor — 1901-1957

have the prospect and province of a Temple of Justice in the near future that will be a credit to Baton Rouge and a glory to the State of Louisiana.²



Square 27, Beauregard Town C. 1900, showing 1857 Courthouse and 1813 Courthouse (St. Louis School)

Judge Jones' view of the courthouse was shared by the *State Times* who described it "as the meanest, shabbiest and most out-of-date temple of justice in the State of Louisiana."³

Finally, in 1921, the 1857 courthouse as well as the 1813 courthouse were razed, and a new courthouse was constructed.

The new parish courthouse was constructed in 1921-22 with the dedication and laying of the

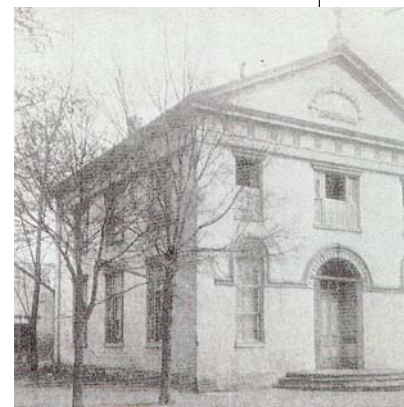
cornerstone occurring on July 4, 1923.

The courthouse was constructed on the site of the old 1857 courthouse. The building was set on a terrace elevated about five feet above the general level of the block. It contained four floors, exclusive of the basement, and its general design was an adaptation of Italian Renaissance. The intended usage of the floors was as follows:

First Floor: Occupied by Police Jury, Assessor, Clerk and Record Room, Sheriff and Tax Collector.

Second Floor: Occupied by the School Board, Grand Jury and Witness Rooms, Registrar of Voters with one wing at the end of the building for future courtroom use.

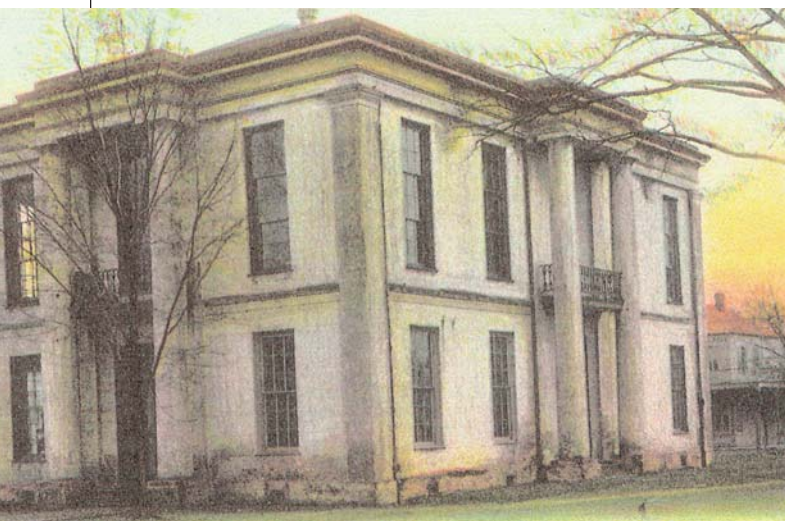
Third Floor: Occupied by Criminal Court Room, Jury Room and Dormitory, Court of Appeals, Library, Judges' Offices, District Attorney's offices, witness rooms and space for future Courtroom.



1813 Courthouse

1 courts

BY ALTON T. MORAN



1857 Courthouse

Fourth Floor: Prisoner cells, hospital rooms, separate rooms for women and juveniles, kitchen and store rooms, baths and showers, and the Jailer's living quarters.

Basement: Receiving quarters for the jail, bailer, machinery and fuel room and public toilets.⁴

In the 1970s the business of District Court had again outgrown its host, and a new building was necessary. For the first time in Baton Rouge history the new District Court would be outside Courthouse Square (the square enclosed by St. Louis Street, St. Ferdinand, St. Louis Court and North Boulevard), but just barely. In 1976-77 District Court moved from the east side of St. Louis Street to its west side to the new Governmental Building, where it lies today.

CITY COURT

City courts in this state were created by LSA-R.S.13:2071, effective 1900.

Baton Rouge was prompt in taking advantage of this statute by holding an election in 1899 and electing the first Baton Rouge City Court Judge, Hubert Wax. Judge Wax was only 27 years old when elected and had been practicing law for three years.

The location of the first City Court was the second floor of the Old City Hall Building. This building was located at 308 North Blvd., directly across the street from the present City Club. The courtroom was on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

THE EARLY YEARS of the Baton Rouge Bar

BY ALTON T. MORAN

The first bar association in Louisiana was formed in New Orleans in 1849 for the expressed purpose of establishing a law library for the use of all its members and to protect the interest, dignity and character of the bar in New Orleans. Ironically, the first president was John Randolph Grymes, a man known for his representation of the pirate Jean Lafitte, for his shooting of the Speaker of the House on the floor of the State Legislature, his enthusiastic gambling, his frequent duels, and his extravagance in dress and drink. Grymes was succeeded the following year by the less colorful Christian Roselius, who served as president for 10 years.

In 1898, with Henry P. Dart Sr. as president, the New Orleans Bar became the Louisiana State Bar, and Dart was its first president. The intention of the State Bar was to achieve a "true" state bar association, and immediate attention was given to adding new members outside of New Orleans and forming local bar associations. However, little interest was found outside of New Orleans until 1907, when the local bar in Shreveport agreed to host the annual State Bar meeting. Alexandria followed as the host in 1909 and Baton Rouge in 1910. The Baton Rouge Bar Association was represented in this meeting by Judge T. Sambola Jones, who welcomed the State Bar members in attendance and promised them:

During your stay here, every law, except the law of hospitality, will be suspended. Tonight we will introduce you to the beauty of Baton Rouge: our wives, sisters, daughters and sweethearts. Tomorrow we will undertake to extend special courtesies to the ladies of your distinguished party, and tomorrow night, while you make merry over the festive board at our leading hotel, your ladies will be received and entertained at our beautiful Memorial Hall.

Despite the festiveness of the occasion, the 1910 Bar Association meeting gave an indication of how difficult it was to establish local bar associations. The report of the Committee on Local Bar Association stated that "as far as the organization of the local associates is concerned, the Bar of this state has done nothing and the best recommendation your Committee could make would be for its abolition."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Nevertheless, the State Bar still maintained a Local Bar Committee the following years. Reports of these chairmen were similar to that in 1910. In 1912-13, W. J. Carmouche of Crowley, chairman of the Committee, gave the Committee's report as "a duplicate of my predecessor that little has been done. I find that very few towns in this state have a local association. My only recommendation to the Association is that the Committee be abolished."

In 1914 the new chairman of the State Bar Association Bar Committee reported that he assumed the role as chairman with an enthusiastic hope to see local bar associations formed with the grand purpose to foster good feelings and a fraternal spirit among the lawyers while raising the Code of Ethics of the profession. He instead observed that those few local bars organized had for their primary purpose regulation of fees.

In the 1918 report to the Bar Association, George H. Terribery of Shreveport gave a critical review of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, stating that there is "an East Baton Rouge Association in existence but it has been rather inactive for the past several years. L.D. Beale is president of this association and John Fred Odom is the secretary." The report went on to note an active bar association in New Iberia and a very strong and active bar association in Shreveport, which Mr. Terribery took credit for forming.

The 1920s brought forth the first real functioning of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, as well as many other local bars, as something other than a group that met merely for fellowship and setting fees. This was the result of the increased number of attorneys in Baton Rouge, better means of communication with other attorneys in the state, a greater sense of professionalism among attorneys, as well as an extraordinary group of able, capable lawyers interested in the betterment of their profession, its services to the public, and its own image.

The next few decades brought forth a local bar association that became quite active in voicing its opinion in political matters,¹ the fellowship of its members,² and working to improve legal services to the public and to those who couldn't afford attorneys^{3,4}. All of these services and functions were in place by the 1960s, and with the exception of political involvement, the BRBA has continued to grow stronger and more active.

¹ a) Baton Rouge Bar denounces Long's attack on Samuel Jones - 10/8/34; b) Reported its preference in Judge's election

² c) Hodding Carter speaks at Bar Assoc. dinner - 2/4/52; b) Justice Hamlin addresses local bar - 4/28/65; c) Memorials given in opening day of Court - 9/30/34; d) Insurance plan for its members - 1950

³ a) Cited by the American Bar Association as the most active bar in the nation - 9/22/50; b) Bar asks for improvements for Clerk's Office - 3/21/53

⁴ a) Sponsored the Legal Aid Society - 1949; b) Harrison Tweed award for distinguished service by a bar association in furthering and strengthening of legal aid and defender services. - 1958.

west side of the building, with the office of the Court on the east side. The building was destroyed in 1957, and its space became the present Municipal Building's parking lot. The presiding City Court Judge, Lawrence A. Uter, was provided a courtroom and office space in the Municipal Building.

By 1969 two additional judges were added and facilities in the Municipal Building were inadequate, so in November 1974 the City leased the northwest corner of the Attorney's Building at 300 Louisiana Ave. for the use of newly elected Judge Frank Foil.

The number of City Court judges continued to increase, and by January 1977, City Court moved to the old Baton Rouge Junior High School located on Florida Boulevard. These facilities were from the beginning inadequate with congested hallways and small courtrooms.

Finally, in 1994, City Court moved to its present location, the renovated 1923 Courthouse, which had for more than 40 years served District Court.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

Side bar Luncheon

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 23

TIME: Noon to 1 p.m

PLACE: Middleton Bar Center,
544 Main Street

GUEST JUDGE:
Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball

*For more information
or to register to attend,
call Jason Bonaventure at 928-5400,
or Susan Kelley at 214-5559.*

FEDERAL COURT

In 1888 the Eastern District was divided into two divisions with terms of court in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. For the first time judges of the Eastern District came to Baton Rouge to hear federal cases. The court was located at the State Capitol Building (now the Old State Capitol) and convened on the second Monday in April and November. In 1894 a new Federal Building was constructed on the corner of North Boulevard and Church Street (this building is now the City Club). The bottom floor of the building was a post office, and the second floor contained the courtroom and offices. The Deputy Federal Clerks of Courts were Joseph T. Young⁵ and R.J. Hummel, who was also assistant Postmaster.

In 1933 a new Federal Building was erected at 707 Florida St. The first floor was again a post office and the second and third floors were used for Federal Court. The construction of this new Federal Building was precipitated by the passage of the Public Building Act of 1926. Due to the failure of more than half of the national architectural and construction firms during the Depression, many U.S. government buildings in the early 1930s were designed and constructed by local firms, as

was this building. Architect Moise Goldstein followed the pattern of most of the Federal Buildings of this period with a streamlined design and lavishly furnished interiors with marble and a well-appointed courtroom.

The 1933 Federal Building was constructed on property that had been the grounds of the State Penitentiary from the 1830s to 1917. When the penitentiary was demolished in 1917, the city bought the property and turned it into a community park. In 1920 an American Legion building was constructed on the grounds. The American Legion building remained after construction of the 1933 Federal Building and was not destroyed until the present Federal Building was constructed in 1990.

¹East Baton Rouge Conveyance Record, Judge Book C, folio 27. While Louisiana was a French and Spanish possession, trials were held at the Fort located a little west of the present Welfare Building, just south of the Pentagon Building, near the Mississippi River.

²La. State Bar Association Report 1910.

³*State Times* – Oct. 30, 1914.

⁴Souvenir Booklet of the “Dedication Ceremonies – East Baton Rouge Parish Court House” held July 4, 1923.

⁵Later Sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish.



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The men of the Baton Rouge Bar Association who were photographed included (seated) J.Y. Sanders Jr., Judge Burgess, T.J. Cross, A.R. Albritton, Judge Sam G. Laycock, W. Carruth Jones, L.B. Aldrich, (middle row) Herman Moyse, Warren O. Watson, Fred S. LeBlanc, Oliver Bouanchaud, Shelby Taylor, Jess Johnson, Fred G. Benton, Bob Day, (back row) Charles Cecil Bird Jr., Joe Brunot, P.G. Barron, B.B. Taylor Sr., J.F. Odom, H. Payne Breazeale Sr., C.W. Kernan, C.A. Holcombe, Tom Ed McHugh, Deputy Sheriff Rodriguez and Gillie Sides and (standing in far back) Judge H.F. Brunot.

Standing on the shoulders of giants

BY JEFFREY WITTENBRINK AND ALTON T. MORAN

The first known and oldest surviving photograph of the Baton Rouge Bar Association hangs in the 19th Judicial District Courthouse in the Clerk of Court's office. The picture, taken in July 1922, included 27 attorneys and judges. All were prominent in the Baton Rouge community, and their legacy is felt in the legal community and beyond today. The Bar Association was chartered seven years later in 1929.

Featured on the cover of this month's issue is the 82-year-old photograph, reprinted with permission by B.B. Taylor III and printed in Mark T. Carleton's *River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge*.

Many of the names from the photo are still famous today in the local bar and are carried on firm letterhead in several prominent law firms. H. Payne Breazeale Sr., Benjamin B. Taylor and Warren O. Watson were all founding partners of prominent law firms that bear their names today.

Fred G. Benton started a family legal tradition that still continues. He was born in 1897 and went to LSU Law School, taking the bar exam during the Spanish American War. Fred Benton Jr. reports that his dad had to "slip away" from the army in order to take the bar exam, only to be captured upon attempting to return, making him a defendant in the first legal case of his career. Benton's other son, Tommy, is also an attorney.

Tom Ed McHugh was the uncle of the former Baton Rouge mayor. Tom Ed McHugh II reports that his uncle had been elected Sheriff, Clerk of Court and the first Mayor of Zachary during his distinguished legal career.

While all of the members in the photo doubtlessly contributed to the Baton Rouge legal community, we were able to uncover some biographical details on the following distinguished members:

William Carruth Jones — Born in Jackson, La., on Oct. 25, 1876, Jones attended Centenary College in Jackson, LSU and Tulane, where he graduated with a law degree in 1902. He engaged in the successful practice of law in Baton Rouge and was elected a City Court judge in 1912. He was a state representative from 1916 until his election as judge for the 19th Judicial District in 1923. He was a prominent member of the Association, having served as its president prior to his election as district judge. His son, Phillip Jones, is an attorney.

Charles A. Holcombe — Born in Jackson, La., on Sept. 6, 1884, Holcombe graduated from Centenary College in 1902, and from Tulane law school in 1905. His law office in Baton Rouge was located on the sixth floor of the Roumain Building on Third Street. From 1910 to 1917, he was the District Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish, and in 1921 he was elected to the State Senate. In 1925 he was president of the East Baton Rouge Bar Association and had long been an active member. Holcombe later became judge of the 19th Judicial District. He died in 1957. Holcombe's granddaughter is Commissioner Rachel Pitcher Morgan of the 19th JDC.

John Fred Odom — He specialized in criminal law. Odom was district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish from 1916 to 1936 and a member of the Louisiana Board of Supervisors as well as the Democratic State Central Committee. Odom's son is J. Huntington Odom, a former president of the BRBA.

Jared Young Sanders Jr. — Born April 20, 1892, in Franklin, La., Sanders was the son of Jared Young Sanders Sr., who served as Governor of Louisiana and later in the U.S. House of Representatives. Sanders attended Dixon Academy at Covington, Washington and Lee University in Virginia, LSU and Tulane, where he graduated with a law degree in 1914. He immediately began his practice in Baton Rouge. He was a Captain in the Army during World War I and was elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives in 1928 and served to 1932, when he was elected to the State Senate, where he served until January 1937. Sanders again served as senator from 1941 to 1943. He died Nov. 29, 1960, in Baton Rouge.

Fred S. LeBlanc — Born July 24, 1897 on a small River Road farm near Baton Rouge, LeBlanc graduated from LSU Law School in 1920. He was mayor of Baton Rouge 1941-44, attorney general for the state of Louisiana,

1944-48 and 1952-56. He served as District Attorney for East Baton Rouge from 1949-52 and District Court Judge 1958-69. LeBlanc died June 11, 1969, in Baton Rouge. His son is retired Judge Daniel W. LeBlanc.

Harvey F. Brunot — Born in Catahoula Parish, La., on Oct. 8, 1860, Brunot earned his law degree from Tulane in 1882. He began a private practice in Baton Rouge in 1882; and he was Baton Rouge City Attorney from 1882-96; state district judge from 1896 to 1904 and 1906-23; state supreme court judge from 1923-36, when he retired. He died on March 11, 1944.

Jess Johnson — Born in Washington Parish on July 4, 1887, Johnson graduated from Georgetown University with a law degree in 1914. He practiced law with former Gov. Jared Y. Sanders in Bogalusa from 1916-18, when he joined the Army. Discharged in 1919, he worked for the U.S. Government in New Orleans until 1922, when he began the practice of law in Baton Rouge with Byron Kantrow. He was elected District Judge in 1951 and served until his retirement in 1966.

Not pictured in the photo, but known to be members of the BRBA at the time of the photo, were:

Charles Vernon Porter — Born in Natchitoches on April 29, 1883, Porter graduated from Yale University with a law degree in 1910. He began his law practice in Baton Rouge the same year with H. Payne Breazeale, with offices on Third Street in the Reymond Building. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I until he was honorably discharged in 1919, having achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was an active member of the BRBA.

Thomas Sambola Jones — Born in Jackson, La., on Oct. 5, 1859, Jones graduated from Centenary College in Jackson and Tulane law school. He was a judge in Baton Rouge for over 10 years and was a state representative from 1912-18. He was always an active member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He died in Baton Rouge on May 15, 1933.

It is clear from the biographies of these men that our Baton Rouge Bar Association had auspicious beginnings, which have been favoring us these past 75 years.



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A Lifetime of More than Modest Success — A Tribute to 75 Years of Bar History

BY RALPH BREWER

Fifty years ago, Douglas MacArthur, upon being released to inactive duty in the U.S. Army, proclaimed old soldiers never die; they just fade away. Those old soldiers who double as Baton Rouge lawyers don't believe it. They just keep on keeping on.

Five centuries ago, Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor of England, was of the opinion that old men object too much, consult too long and content themselves with a mediocrity of success. None of that applies to Baton Rouge's aging legal warriors at all. They know when and why to object in court, if at all. Their consultations with clients, with one another or with judges are effective and efficient, and each of them can point to a lifetime of more than modest success.

One of our successes has been the formation 75 years ago and the continuation of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, which is observing and celebrating its anniversary this year amid compliments from friends, clients, other lawyers and other bar associations. We are celebrating these entire 365 days of this year 2004.

At the January luncheon meeting of our Bar Association, our officers and members invited 25 of our number to be honored. They were licensed as early as 1934 and as late as 1954, and many are still in active practice, one still active as a sitting judge in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. He is, of course, Honorable John V. Parker, who accepts trials as a sitting senior judge.

These are our members with the year of their law school graduation or their year of original licensing: 1934, Frances L. Landry; 1938, Sam J. D'Amico; 1940, Frank S. Craig Jr.; 1942, J. Burton LeBlanc and Margaret T. Lane; 1948, Judge C. Lenton Sartain; 1949, Robert L. Roland, Saul Litvinoff, Harris D. Copenhaver and John L. Avant; 1950, Robert L. Kleinpeter, Judge Rosemary Pillow, Warren L. Mengis, Louis Curet, Justice Luther F. Cole, Fred G. Benton Jr.; 1951, Stephen P. Dart, Judge Eugene W. McGehee, Judge Lewis S. Doherty III; 1952, Tom F. Phillips and Judge John V. Parker; 1953, Thomas H. Benton and Benjamin Shieber; 1954, David W. Robinson and Leah S. Guerry.

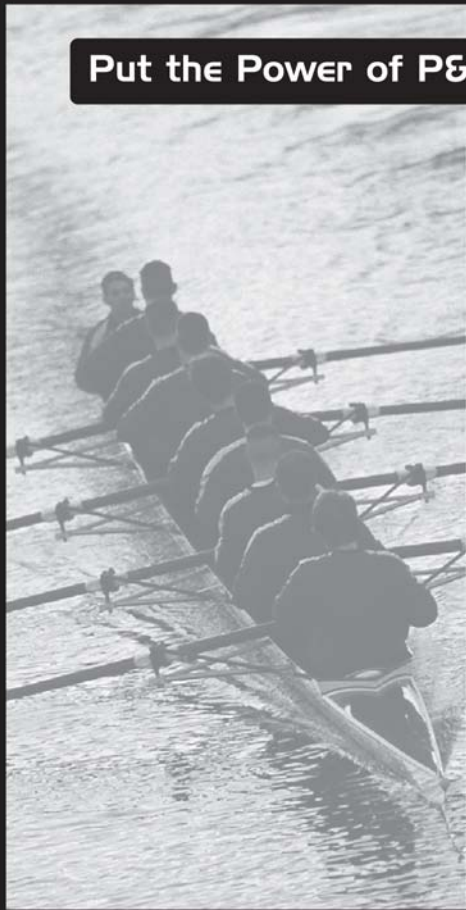
We invited another 70 of our members, those who had logged between 40 and 49

years of service and who were admitted to practice prior to 1965, as honorees at our March luncheon meeting. Of the 70, however, only 24 stayed to have their group photograph taken, which appears on the next page.

My classmates — J. Peyton Parker Jr., Victor A. Sachse III, Geraldine Bullock Weaver, William E. Crawford, Walter R. Krousel Jr. — and I will reach our 50th year of practice in 2005.

Other longtime lawyers practicing in our corner of the state who have also contributed much to the legal profession, but are not currently members of our association, include Ossie Brown, Johnnie Jones Sr., Rolfe McCollister, Nealon Stracener, Murphy Bell, James Dendy, Judge Wallace Edwards, Ed Fetzer, William P. Wray Jr., Alex W. Wall Sr., James B. Thompson III, James D. Thomas III, Troye E. Svendsen, John McKowen Taylor, Edwin A. Smith Jr. and Richard O. Rush.

A few ancient soldier-lawyers have died, including the following who were the early presidents of the BRBA and their year of service as president: Charles Cecil Bird



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photography by Pamela Labbe



Photographed after the March 2004 Bar Luncheon were (bottom row, L to R) John B. Williams, Robert A. Hawthorne Jr., Judge Melvin Shortess, Judge Russell Bankston, Judge Burrell J. Carter; (second row, L to R) Ralph Brewer, John S. White Jr., Clark Gaudin, Lawrence Durant, Gerald Walter, Cyrus Greco, Frank Simoneaux, Ben Miller Jr., J. Peyton Parker Jr.; (third row, L to R) Charles Rea, George Covert, John Dale Powers, James A. George, Joe E. Thompson, Charles Sklar, Neil Mixon; and (fourth row, L to R) W. Shelby McKenzie, Judge Daniel W. LeBlanc and Don Zuber.

Jr. (1929), Herman Moyse Sr. (1930), Benjamin B. Taylor (1931), C. Vernon Porter (1932), J.Y. Sanders Jr. (1933), H. Payne Breazeale Sr. (1934), Joseph A. Loret (1935), Paul G. Borron Sr. (1936), J. Oliver Bouanchaud (1938), Victor A. Sachse Jr. (1942), Fred G. Benton Sr. (1944), Bert E. Durrett (1945), Warren O. Watson (1946), Glenn S. Darsey (1947), Judge Jess Johnson (1948), Ben R. Miller (1949), Laurance W. Brooks (1950), Fred A. Blanche Sr. (1951), Louis S. Prejean Sr. (1952), Ashton L. Stewart (1953), Roland C. Kizer (1954), Lemuel C. Parker (1955), Charles C. Wilson (1956), Byron R. Kantrow (1957), Maurice J. Wilson (1958), G. Dupre Litton (1959), A. Leon Hebert (1960), Charles W. Phillips (1961), Calvin E. Hardin Jr. (1962), George Matthews (1963), B.B. Taylor Jr. (1967), A. G. Seale (1969),

several blocks down Third Street.

Another bar association president who lived and worked downtown was Charles W. Phillips.

Daniel J. McGlynn lives today downtown in his condominium in what used to be the Piccadilly building and works in his office in what was known as the Varsity Shop.

Indeed, there may be some other current members who are living and working downtown. Would you let me know who you are? I have been working as a lawyer downtown 49 years without interruption, and maybe the time will come when I will move back downtown where I lived for a while before I entered law school. Isn't that the trend? Or maybe it ought to become a trend.

Edward F. Glusman (1970), Harvey H. Posner (1971), and Frank W. Middleton Jr. (1974).

Our earliest president was Charles Cecil Bird Jr. Like most of the old-time lawyers, he lived and worked downtown. His home was located at 116 North Fourth St. and he was a graduate of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Va. His office was located in the Masonic Temple Building on Convention Street, just off the first block of Third Street, right around the corner from where he lived. His office was located at one time in the Roumain Building,

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Bar Auxiliary weaves a common thread throughout the legal community

BY PAMELA LABBE AND KELLY AVALTRONI

The first meeting of the Auxiliary to the East Baton Rouge Bar Association was a "festive coffee event," held in January 1955, at the Woman's Clubhouse (originally located downtown), according to an *InRegister* article. The organization, which later became known as the Baton Rouge Bar Auxiliary, was incorporated in 1963.



In attendance at the Auxiliary's July meeting at Juban's were Leah McKay, Kristina Shapiro, Tara Leigh Hayes, Jamie Messina and Karen Vingiello.

Today members meet several times per year to organize their activities, which recently included the planning of the Opening of Court party set for October 7, a holiday social, a luncheon and meeting for March and the annual mimosa party at the 2005 Bench Bar Conference.

In the beginning, the Bar Auxiliary consisted of attorneys' wives, and concerned itself primarily with planning coffee meetings and social gatherings, such as luncheons, style shows and community activities.

The first set of Auxiliary leaders in 1955 included Mrs. Fred G. Benton, president; Mrs. Alvin Rubin (Janice), secretary; Mrs. Theo Cangelosi (Peggy Gore) and Mrs. A.G. Seale. Cangelosi and Seale are credited with the idea of forming the organization. It was their hope that the wives of local attorneys could meet one another socially and give recognition to their respect for the legal profession. They based their organization on a legal auxiliary in Houston, Tex., to which a friend of theirs belonged. Mrs. William Dodd, Mrs. Aubrey Hirsch, Mrs. Eugene McGehee and Mrs. R.O. Rush are credited in forming the local auxiliary.

Also active in the Auxiliary during the 1950s were Mrs. Rufus Hayes, Mrs. Joe Sanders, Mrs. Frank Gladney, Mrs. Robert Kleinpeter, Mrs. C.C. Woods, Mrs. J. Burton LeBlanc, Mrs. Wallace Hunter and Mrs. Gordon Kean, according to *InRegister*.

Officers and directors who signed the Charter in 1963 included Mrs. Calvin E. Hardin Jr., president; Mrs.

H. Payne Breazeale Sr., Mrs. Leo L. Brassett, Mrs. Robert L. Kleinpeter, Mrs. Rolfe McCollister, Mrs. Byron Kantrow, Mrs. A.G. Seale and Mrs. Frank Gladney.

Mrs. Johnnie Jones Sr. became the first African American member of the Auxiliary in 1968. The meetings were moved from the Baton Rouge Country Club to the Prince Murat Inn at that time because of the Country Club's refusal to allow entrance to African Americans.

Common Thread

Today, the Bar Auxiliary weaves a common thread through the Baton Rouge legal community, including attorney spouses, attorneys and their children, who have also become legal professionals.

The sons of Mrs. Rubin, 1955 Auxiliary secretary, are both

attorneys. David practices with Kantrow, Sapht, Weaver & Blitzer APLC, and Michael practices with McGlinchey Stafford PLLC and is a former president of the BRBA. The eldest daughters of Michael and David are in the legal field as well; David's daughter entered law school this semester.

Kay Smith, the 1989 Auxiliary president, and her husband Don, a solo practitioner, have two daughters who are attorneys. Lauren Smith Coenen practices law with Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson. She is an active member of the Association's Young Lawyers Section and Publications Committee. Gretchen Smith is a law clerk with Judge Michael Caldwell with the 19th JDC.

"I liked the camaraderie of the Auxiliary, and it



Early Bar Auxiliary publicity highlighted the group's coffee hosting events.

gives another opportunity to meet people,” said Kay Smith.

Norma Walters, 1996 Auxiliary president, is married to Edward J. Walters Jr. Together they have two sons, one of whom is an attorney who co-founded Fastcase, Inc. in Virginia.

The Auxiliary Today

The function of the Auxiliary today remains one of providing camaraderie to its members and of organizing social events, such as the Opening of Court party. Today auxiliary membership includes male and female attorneys who are spouses of attorneys, as well as

attorney spouses who are not in the legal field.

The Auxiliary started a scholarship program, where the BRBA and Auxiliary each contribute \$1,000 annually toward two law students, one from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and one from Southern University Law Center. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, community service and exemplary character.

The funding for the Auxiliary’s share of the scholarships is derived from membership dues and funding collected through social functions that are sponsored by the Auxiliary, according to 2002 Auxiliary President Karen Vingiello.

The 2004 Auxiliary leaders include: Tara Leigh Hayes, president; Melissa Dotson, president-elect; Leah McKay, secretary; Jamie Messina, treasurer; Ronnie Bodin, parliamentarian; Sharmaine Claitor, historian; Karen Vingiello, director-at-large; and Laurel Clauer, immediate past president. Presently, the group has over 100 members. Membership dues are \$40 a year.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BANKRUPTCY COURT

Monica M. Menier has been appointed Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, effective July 26, 2004. She has worked for the court for over 16 years and served as Chief Deputy clerk for 12 of those years. She was co-project manager for the transition to the Electronic Case Filing system now employed by the court.

The Middle District Bankruptcy Court was the first court in the nation to become fully electronic “paperless” for all cases filed. She has also served as a mentor to several other courts in the nation during their conversion to electronic filing and held a position on a national committee to study ways to improve the system for future versions. Menier is a native of Mamou, La., and graduated *cum laude* from LSU with a degree in Business and Public Administration. She is married to Kirk Menier and has two children, the late Ryan Menier and Paige Menier. She replaces J. Lynn Burkett, who died in May 2004.

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2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office
at P.O. Box 2241, Baton Rouge, LA 70821,
or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2005 Board of Directors election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and my 2005 dues assessment must be paid by Nov. 5, 2004. I understand that, if elected, I am expected to comply with the minimum Standards of Board Attendance as outlined in the

Association Bylaws. These standards include: attendance of at least nine board meetings, five monthly luncheons, one special event and one committee meeting with each committee under his/her liaison authority, and a Board Retreat that will be held in January. Further, I understand that I will bear my prorated expense for those meetings. (If

you would like a set of the Bylaws, contact the Bar office). I understand that this is a working body and that I will be expected to accept and fulfill designated responsibilities. The Baton Rouge Bar Association Board of Directors also serves as the Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

I wish to run for the position of:

Director at Large (6) _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

President-Elect _____

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The November issue of *Around the Bar* will include a feature on all candidates for office. Please complete the following for use in the feature. Use no more than the space allotted. If your photograph is not on file with the Bar office, you must include a picture with this form. It will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of *ATB* and on the ballot.

Name _____

Position for which you are running _____

Firm _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Year admitted to practice _____ Law School _____

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association _____

Other professional information _____

Nomination Form

2005 YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION COUNCIL

This form is to be returned to the Baton Rouge Bar Association office
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or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2005 Young Lawyers Section Council election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and my 2005 dues assessment must be paid by Nov. 5, 2004. Further, I understand that I must be eligible for membership in the Baton Rouge Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Eligibility is limited to all lawyers under the age of 36, or who have been admitted to the first bar less than five years who pay any dues as set and assessed by the Board of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Membership in this section terminates automatically at the end of the calendar year within which a member attains 36 years of age or five years after admission to his or her first bar, whichever last shall occur. I understand that this is a working body and that any office or council member failing to attend three successive meetings of the council shall be asked to vacate his or her position. I also understand that I will bear my pro-rated expense for all YLS meetings.

I wish to run for the position of: Chairman-Elect _____ Council Member (5) _____
Secretary / Treasurer _____

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The November issue of *Around the Bar* will include a feature on all candidates for office. Please complete the following for use in the feature. Use no more than the space allotted. If your photograph is not on file with the Bar office, you must include a picture with this form. It will be used in the pre-election candidate introduction, which will appear in the November issue of *ATB* and on the ballot.

Name _____

Position for which you are running _____

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Other professional information _____

Nomination Form

2005 FAMILY LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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or to 544 Main St. no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004.

Please place my name on the ballot for the 2005 Family Law Section Executive Committee election. I understand that I must be a regular member in good standing of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and of the Family Law Section, and my 2005 dues assessment must be paid by Nov. 5, 2004. I understand that this is a working body and that any officer or council member failing to attend three successive meetings of the Committee shall be asked to vacate his or her position.

I wish to run for the position of: Secretary _____

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete the following for use as a bio to provide to section members. Use no more than the space allotted.

Name _____

Firm _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Year admitted to practice _____ Law School _____

Activity with the Baton Rouge Bar Association _____

Other professional information _____

Moving toward diversity

BY GAIL STEPHENSON

In 1967 Johnnie Jones Sr. became the first African-American member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Jones wanted to join the BRBA because he knew that the meetings included speakers and updates on the law. Before the days of continuing legal education, local bar association meetings were the primary place for gaining legal information. He had been to local bar meetings in New York and Philadelphia, he'd seen what took place there, and he wanted to be more a part of the local legal community.

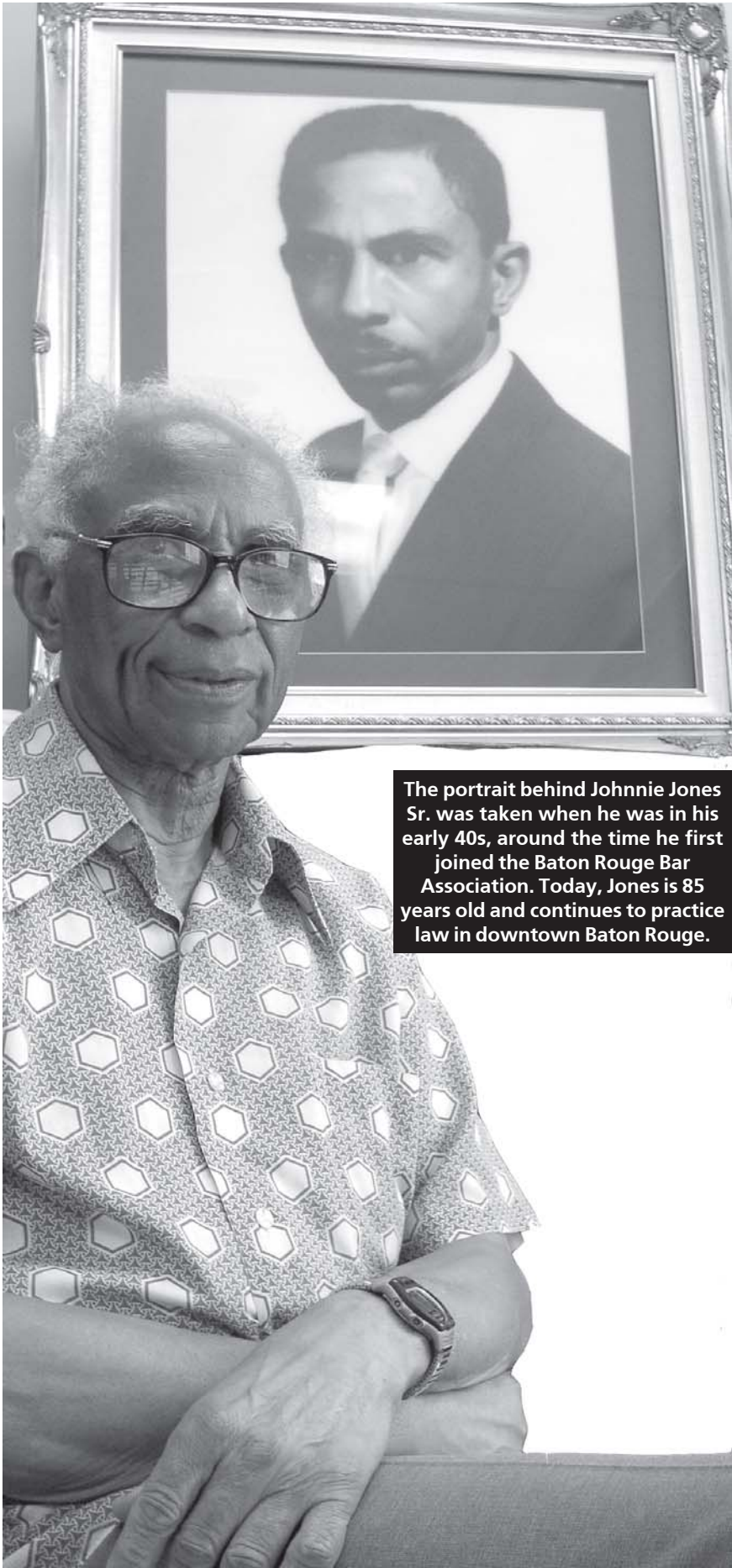
"You're denied all of that if you're not allowed to be in your local bar," he said.

He spoke with B.B. Taylor Jr., who was worried that Jones would sue the BRBA for membership. Jones told him, "That won't be necessary because you are going to open up that bar without me suing you."

Sure enough, eventually the Bar Association voted to admit him. After he joined, several prominent attorneys, including Richard Cadwallader, Victor Sachse, Elayne Hunt, John Covington, Sam D'Amico, and Dennis Whalen, began to do him favors to indicate it was all right with them for him to belong to the BRBA.

Jones stated that Taylor played an important role in his being accepted by the BRBA membership. Taylor made a point of reminding him of each BRBA meeting and sitting by him at the meetings. Sometimes he'd arrive before Taylor and sit at a vacant table.

"After a while, people began to just file in around me, and we all became one big family," he said.



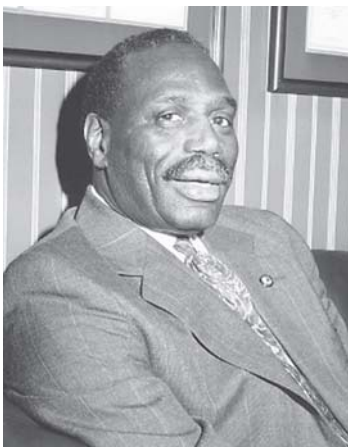
The portrait behind Johnnie Jones Sr. was taken when he was in his early 40s, around the time he first joined the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Today, Jones is 85 years old and continues to practice law in downtown Baton Rouge.

Jones recalled a chilling experience after leaving a BRBA luncheon at the Capitol House in the late 1960s. He'd brought Earl Amadie, a black attorney from New Orleans, to the meeting as his guest. As he got in line to leave the parking garage and exit onto Lafayette Street, a car with KKK placards on the sides pulled up behind him. While he waited for traffic to clear on Lafayette Street, the KKK car "hit the gas fast as all outdoors, like it was going to hit me in the back...but it didn't hit me. However, Earl fainted dead away and had to be taken to the Lincoln Hotel, where they called for a doctor and a priest, because everyone thought he was going to die of fright."

Someone once told Jones that he didn't have to always keep trying to prove himself. Jones replied, "I'm not trying to prove myself. I'm just trying to see that this country does right. There's no sense in people acting like you're not a human being when you have just as good an education as they have. I fought in the war [World War II] for freedom; not for the practice of democracy, but for the principle of democracy. And we hoped that sooner or later the practice was coming, too," Jones said. "If someone didn't insist, the practices

would remain the same and the principles would never be fulfilled."

According to Jones, other black attorneys were slow to follow his lead and join the BRBA. Vanue LaCour, then dean of Southern's law school, and Curtis A. Calloway joined and tried to convince other black attorneys to join also. But Freddie Pitcher Jr., now chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, said the ice-breaking moment, after which more black attorneys felt comfortable joining the BRBA, was in 1983 when Pitcher was elected as a judge of the Baton Rouge City Court in a city-wide election. Pitcher stated that white attorneys, BRBA members, endorsed him in a full-page newspaper advertisement during the campaign. That was the beginning, he said, of the ice melting away, marking a change across the board



Judge Curtis A. Calloway

in the level of acceptance of black attorneys by white BRBA members.

Mike McKay persuaded several prominent black attorneys to join the BRBA during his tenure as president in 1992. Sheldon Dennis Blunt, Dwayne Murray and Leo

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C. Hamilton all credit McKay with getting them involved in the BRBA.

Edward J. Walters Jr. noted that during his presidency in 1993, he made an effort to encourage African-American attorneys to join the BRBA. He noted that while black defense attorneys, particularly those with large firms, have been quick to join the BRBA, there are still few black plaintiff attorneys and solo practitioners among BRBA members. A number of black attorneys attended the first meeting of the Government Lawyers' Committee, and the BRBA hopes the approval of the new Government Lawyers' Section will encourage those attorneys to join.

Much progress has been made in the 37 years since Jones joined the BRBA. Leo C. Hamilton became the BRBA's first African-American president in 2002. Preston Castille Jr. currently serves as a director at large, a stepping stone to the presidency. Erin Wilder-Doomes is a Young Lawyers Section Council member. Three major committees, CLE, Membership and Law Expo, are chaired respectively by Blunt, Anna M. Jackson and Jonathan C. "Jay" Augustine.



Leo C. Hamilton

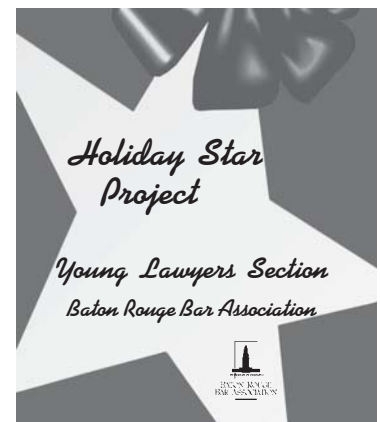
"I think that the movement towards diversity, as in every segment of society, is a constant journey," said Jackson, regarding her role as Membership Committee chair. "But I think the Association is certainly moving in the right direction. The Baton Rouge Bar is reaching out to attorneys of every racial and cultural background, as well as across the gender lines. There is even a great effort to include more student attorneys as members, both from Southern and LSU."

Blunt, BRBA CLE Committee Chair, agrees with Jones that the BRBA is a good place to learn about changes in the law. But, he said, gaining knowledge about change is not the only reason a black attorney would want to join. "Membership in the BRBA gives you an opportunity not only to know about change, but to effect change. You can either stand on the outside and criticize, or you can be a part of the change," Blunt said. "Many folks have learned that if you increase your own sphere of influence, you broaden other folks' minds about you, and in so doing, you broaden your own influence. The BRBA gives minority attorneys the opportunity to influence from within."

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A woman's touch — Women and bar leadership

BY PAMELA LABBE

Louisiana politics and the legal field have traditionally been male-dominated, with men having all the power and prestige. By the latter 20th and early 21st centuries, all that changed with women's increased involvement in both politics and the law. Today, more than 50 percent of most incoming law school classes are composed of women. In 2003, Louisiana voted in its first woman governor, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

The Baton Rouge Bar Association, also a traditionally male-dominated Association, voted in its first woman president in 1995, by electing Christine Lipsey. Within only a few years, the Association had already welcomed Amy E. Counce as the second woman president in 2000, and Mathile W. Abramson as its third in 2003. The purpose of this article is to spotlight the dedication of our three women past presidents as well that of other women bar leaders involved in the BRBA.

Currently a partner with Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, Lipsey graduated from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and was admitted to the bar in 1988. She is married to Michael Patterson, who served as the 1984 president of the BRBA. Some of the greatest challenges during Lipsey's presidency included the membership survey and the judicial evaluation survey.

"Any accomplishments [during my presidency] were the membership's accomplishments. We did a lot of new things in 1995, such as creating the Workers' Compensation Section and having CLE mock trial seminars. Additionally, through a combined effort between the Law School Liaison Committee and the Pro Bono Committee, law student assistance was provided to lawyers who volunteered to handle pro bono cases. We revived the Lawyer in the Classroom program. A new

dimension to our media relations effort was a bi-weekly question and answer segment on Channel 9's *Daybreak* morning show. Our lawyers participated in the Flood Disaster Assistance Project," said Lipsey. "It was a busy year."

When asked about challenges she faced as the first female leader of the BRBA, Lipsey replied, "My leadership role was a natural evolution in the BRBA. I don't believe that I faced any specific challenges as a female bar leader."



Amy E. Counce

It was during her presidency that the BRBA moved into the newly renovated Middleton Bar Center.

"While I don't consider it as my own personal accomplishment, there is no doubt the major accomplishment of the BRBA in 2000 was the successful completion of the building renovations and subsequent move-in and grand opening of the Middleton Bar Center, along with the successful fund-raising efforts to achieve that end," said Counce. "My biggest challenge as president was to see that the building fund-raising efforts were successful to ensure the long-term stability and security of the Association and Foundation."

While Counce does not perceive being the second woman BRBA president as particularly noteworthy, she said she is proud to have been elected to that position by her friends and colleagues, both male and female.

"I hope that my service as the 2000 President contributed in some way, however small, to the rich tradition of the organization and its successful presence in the Baton Rouge community," said Counce.

Abramson became president in 2003, with her claim to fame being that she was the first Jewish grandmother to be elected to the position. She graduated from the LSU



Christine Lipsey



Mathile W. Abramson



Anthony Marabella and Ann G. Scarle are presented with a public service award in 1995 by a Lexis-Nexis representative (center).

Paul M. Hebert Law Center and was admitted to the bar in 1988. Abramson is a partner with Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman, LLP.

“Due to the untimely and unfortunate death of our good friend and president-elect, David Hamilton, I began my tenure in 2003 instead of 2004,” explained Abramson. “My initial challenge was to try to step into his very capable shoes and lead the bar forward in 2003. I was blessed with the tremendous outpouring of encouragement and help from Ann G. Scarle, the BRBA staff, board members and officers, the entire Baton Rouge Bar Association, and the Bench. Everyone came together and we had a very good year.”

Abramson was instrumental in the success of the Association’s 75th Anniversary block party and celebration earlier this year, and is currently serving on the BRBA’s Board of Directors as past president.

When asked if she faced any particular difficulties during her presidency because of being a woman, Abramson answered: “As the third female BRBA president, any so-called glass ceilings were broken before



Bobbi Zaunbrecher

my term. I am very proud to have served on the Board and especially as president. What an honor! I have enjoyed working with and getting to know so many of our members. I hope that my term left a positive impact on our Association and provided a favorable impression of the BRBA to our community. Honestly, I feel that I have gained much more than I have given.”

Other women who have been instrumental to the BRBA have been the first two executive directors of the Association, Bobbi Zaunbrecher and Ann G. Scarle. Zaunbrecher served the Association from 1985 to 1991, when Ann G. Scarle was chosen as executive director. Scarle has served in her executive director capacity for 13 years.

Directors at Large Barbara Baier and Gail Stephenson have been active with the Association for a number of years prior to joining the Board of Directors. Baier is a staff attorney with the Louisiana Department of the Treasury. Stephenson is the director of legal writing with the Southern University Law Center.

The Young Lawyers Section Council is made up primarily of women this year, including Chairman-elect Amy Lambert, Secretary/Treasurer Kelsey Kornick Funes, Past Chair Melissa Cresson, and the following Council members at large: Rose Olivier, Lisa Prater, Erin Wilder-Doomes and Elisabeth Quinn Zelden. Denise Akers is the Family Law Section chair this year, while Pamela Baker is the FLS chair-elect, and Lorraine Andresen McCormick is the past chair.

Committee chairwomen who have been especially notable in the past few years include Jeanne Comeaux (Bench Bar Conference and 75th Anniversary Block Party); Judge Suzan Ponder (75th Anniversary Block Party); Jeanne Davis (Bench Bar Conference); Phyllis Sims (Law Day), Anna Jackson (Holiday Star and Membership), Melanie Fields (Youth Education), Lisa Leslie Boudreaux (Pro Bono), Alesia Mottle (Law Expo) and Linda Law Clark (Pro Bono).

Counce provided a little advice to all future presidents of the BRBA: “(a) rely heavily upon the talents and energies of the bar leadership and staff – it will make your job easier; (b) recognize the efforts of the many lawyers who have gone before you in serving the Association – it will make you determined to carry on that successful tradition; (c) remember that the legal profession is a good and noble one – that pride will help you to be a true representative of the Baton Rouge legal community; and (d) don’t forget to have a blast while you’re president – it’s over before you know it!”

Lipsey, Counce and Abramson agreed that future presidents should enjoy their year as president as it goes by much too quickly.

D I V O R C E C L E

“Back to the Basics”

DATE/TIME: Friday, Sept. 10, 2004, 3 p.m.

SPEAKER: Judge Toni Higginbotham

LOCATION: Middleton Bar Center

Call Rebecca at 214-5561

Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Makes History

BY ANN G. SCARLE

The Baton Rouge Bar Association has been a dynamic force in the Baton Rouge community since its reorganization from a social organization to a professional association in 1929. Over the years a number of forward-thinking presidents have charted the path for the Association's growth. As the Association grew, so did its need for permanent office space and increased member and public service programming. The construction of the Governmental Building provided an opportunity for the BRBA to move its office from that of the current president to a consistent location that was accessible to its members in 1977.

By 1988, the BRBA had outgrown its office in the Governmental Building and began renovating a larger suite of offices located at 309 North Blvd. Thinking ahead, the Board of Directors and President Paul Marks Jr. created a 501(c)3 foundation to provide tax benefits to members making donations to the renovations and to allow the organization to accept certain types of grants. This vision led to a significant tax deduction for donors and has allowed the organization to receive additional sources of funding.

The Board of Directors established the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation on April 7, 1988. The Association and the Foundation are two distinct entities, each having its own set of articles of incorporation, bylaws, budget and accounting system. The Foundation is exempt from federal income taxation as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The Association is a 501(c)(6) and may receive dues or other payments. Both organizations, however, share staffing. The BRBA's Board of Directors and executive director run the Foundation.

To be eligible for membership into the Foundation, one must be a member in good standing of the Association. Any such member of the Association who makes a voluntary contribution to the Foundation is an automatic member of the Foundation. Foundation membership is added to Association dues each September for \$15.

Initially, the establishment of a foundation provided a way for members to make a contribution and receive a tax deduction. The Foundation now enables the

Association to receive private donations and memorial contributions and to seek federal and state government grants. In return, the Foundation supports and operates the Pro Bono Project and the Youth Education Program in the Baton Rouge community.

The Pro Bono Project serves indigent clients and provides free legal services. Pro Bono Panel volunteers accept pro bono cases from 12 agencies in civil matters, such as family law, bankruptcy, administrative law, wills and successions. Each year the Project accepts a minimum of 500 new cases to be placed with volunteer attorneys.

During the last 20 years, volunteer attorneys have contributed 51,000 hours and approximately \$5.7 million worth of legal services to the Pro Bono Project and served a total of 11,193 clients. The Pro Bono Project also helps provide a way for members to complete their voluntary *pro bono publico* service hours. As of March 1, 2004, the Louisiana Supreme Court proclaimed that a lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of *pro bono publico* legal services per year for those unable to pay. The Pro Bono Project can help members meet this requirement.

The Foundation also coordinates the Youth Education Program to serve the youth of the community. This program sponsors several programs, including Lawyer in the Classroom and the Region V High School Mock Trial Competition.

In 2003, the Youth Education Program impacted 3,664 local students. A total of 278 attorneys volunteered their time for an in-kind donation of approximately \$101,000.

With an annual budget of \$250,000, the Foundation hosts two fund-raisers for its community service programs. At the Ball Maul Golf Tournament, attorneys compete in an annual game of golf at the University Club. Proceeds from registration and sponsorships benefit

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Over the years a number of forward-thinking presidents have charted the path for the Association's growth. As the Association grew, so did its need for permanent office space and increased member and public service programming.

the Pro Bono Project. The Foundation also hosts Belly Up with the Bar, an outdoor cook-off and cocktail party. Teams of attorneys prepare samples of drink and food dishes for a panel of celebrity judges to test. Funds raised goes toward youth education programs.

In 2000, the Foundation funded the construction of the Middleton Bar Center on Main Street. The new building became a home for the Association staff and members. It serves as a location for committee meetings, program activities and for individual members' meetings and depositions. Members also can use the attorney work station, equipped with a WI-FI wireless network, to work in an office away from home.

The Foundation's Middleton Bar Center changed the downtown area with its commitment to help revitalize Main Street. The Middleton Bar Center was the first renovated building in the area, and the Main Street

Market soon followed.

Thanks to generous donations from members, the Foundation will be able to retire the Middleton Bar Center's debt in 2005. A new reserve fund will be set soon to fund ongoing repairs and renovations.

Members can help fund the Foundation, along with its building and programs, by paying membership dues, participating in fund-raisers and making a donation in memory or in honor of someone.

The following grants currently support the programs of the Foundation: Louisiana Bar Foundation Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), a subgrant from Capital Area Legal Services, and the Junior League of Baton Rouge.

For more information about the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation and how to make a donation, contact Executive Director Ann Scarle at (225) 214-5563.

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Luther F. Cole



B.B. Taylor Jr.



John V. Parker

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Edward J. Walters Jr.	1993

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Christine Lipsey	1995
C. Frank Holthaus	1996
Eugene R. Groves	1997
Paul S. West	1998
Jack M. Dampf	1999
Amy E. Counce	2000
E. Wade Shows	2001
Leo C. Hamilton	2002
David Hamilton (in memory)	
Mathile W. Abramson	2003
Michael Ferachi	2004



Bert K.
Robinson



Carey
Guglielmo



Robert L.
Roland



Fred H.
Belcher



Anthony J.
Clesi Jr.



W. Shelby
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Michael A.
Patterson



James E.
Toups Jr.



Michael H.
Rubin



C. Frank
Holthaus



Eugene R.
Groves



Paul S. West



Jack M.
Dampf



Amy E.
Counce



E. Wade
Shows



Leo C.
Hamilton



David
Hamilton
(in memory)



Mathile W.
Abramson

foundation footnotes

BY REBECCA MYHAND, MAY AND JUNE 2004 REPORT

This program is financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program of The Louisiana Bar Foundation; Capital Area Legal Services; Family, District, and City Court Filing Fees and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

NEWS UPDATES: Thanks to the help of WAFB Channel 9 and Julie Baxter, the Pro Bono Project is proud to announce the completion of a Public Service Announcement. The PSA recognizes all of our volunteer lawyers.

- **FREE CLE for those who agree to accept a divorce case:** Friday, Sept. 10, 2004 at 3 p.m. at the Middleton Bar Center - Back to the Basics Divorce CLE with Judge Toni Higginbotham. Call Rebecca at 214-5561 to sign up.
- **Family Law CLE Seminar:** Take two pro bono cases and get lunch and three hours of CLE for \$45.00 - Nov. 12, 2004 - Noon to 4:10 p.m. - Ethics with Michael Walsh, Evidence with Amy Counce and Karen Downs, and Evaluation with Jack Dampf, Mary Lou Kelly, Ph.D. and Owen Scott, Ph.D.
- **Lawyers Work for Food** will be Nov. 5, 2004, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Throughout May and June our volunteers accepted 85 cases and closed 231 cases, reporting over 700 hours with an in-kind donation of \$97,046.90. Big thanks to our volunteers.

The following attorneys accepted cases: **Michael Aaron, Steve Adams, Barbara Baier, Walton Barnes, John Braymer, Katie Brown, Brandon Brown, Arax Brumfield, George Caballero** (four cases), **Jamie Fontenot, Tommy Hessburg, Rena Hester, Melanie Jones** (two cases), **Kevin Johnson, Kim Landry** (four cases), **Dale Maas, Rip Manint, Dorsey Martin, Kevin McCleary** (three cases), **Donald Meltzer, Rhonda Mercadel, Steve Meyers** (three cases), **David Mooney, Chip Moore, Diedra Roberts, Dan Scheurman and Vijay Venkatarama** (two cases), all of whom are solo practitioners.

The following accepted cases in May and June: **Dale Behan** of *Behan Law Firm*, **John Blackman** of *Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevant, Carrère & Denègre*, **Durward Casteel** of *Futrell & Casteel*, **Renee Cooper-Willis** of *Cave Law Firm*, **Cazeline Dixon** of *Dixon & Associates* (five cases), **June Denlinger** of *Nordyke & Denlinger*, **Douglas Foster** of *The Law Office of Ossie Brown*, **Todd Gaudin** of *Gaudin & Romero*, **Stacey**

Greaud of *Adams & Reese*, **Jay Jalenak Jr.** of *Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman*, **James Johnson** of *Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson* (two cases), **Barry Marionneaux** of *Marionneaux & Marionneaux*, **Kendra McCune** of *Caire & Gregorie*, **Keith Nordyke** of *Nordyke and Denlinger*, **Pamela Pendley-Bodin** of *Pendley Law Firm*, **Louis Phillips** of *Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan* (four cases), **Skip Phillips** of *Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips*, **Timothy Poche** of *Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips*, **Gordon Polozola** of *Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman*, **Brian Prendergast** of *Belcher & Prendergast*, **Jeff Rabb** of *Simoneaux, Carleton, Dunlap & Olinde*, **Janey Ray** of the *Law Office of Eric Tadda*, **Jack Riffle** of *Waguespack, Seago & Carmichael*, **Greg Rome** of *Lotwick, Kennedy & Rome*, **Jim Rooks** of *Kolb & Rooks* (two cases), **Vincent Saffiotti** of *Downs and Saffiotti* (two cases), **Dan Schaneville** of *Schaneville & Baringer*, **John Seago** of *Waguespack, Seago & Carmichael*, **Andrew Sellers** of *Power, Willard & Hightower*, **Christopher Suba** of *The Clary Law Firm*, **Billy Theis** of *Beall & Theis*, **Greg Toney** of *Law Office of Art Smith*, **John Walsh** of *Shows, Cali & Berthelot*, **Michael Walsh** of *Lee & Walsh* and **Aub Ward** of *Naquin & Ward*.

Curator: Thanks to Garth Ridge for acting as a curator.

Thirst for Justice — 188 clients have come in for legal consultation during the first six months of 2004.

Volunteers for May and June: Judge Melvin Shortess, Cyrus Greco, Ann Rasmussen, Vincent Saffiotti, Garth Ridge, Jack Harrison, Melanie Jones, Ralph Brewer, Carlos Romanach, Lisa Patterson, Dinah Ambeau Scott, Rebecca Myhand, Lynn Haynes, Ann Pace and Alainna Mire. Special Thanks to Charlotte Pugh of *Harris & Pugh* for donating a conference table. Thirst for Justice still needs desks, chairs and general office furniture.

Ask-A-Lawyer Workshops — 95 clients have visited the different Ask-A-Lawyer workshops held this year.

Volunteers for May and June: Cynthia Reed, Jane Thomas, Yolanda Cezar, Stacy Manual, Joycelyn Elmore, Kevin Johnson, Heidi Vessel and Carlos Finalet.

PLEASE CALL (225) 214-5561 or (225) 214-5558 TO TAKE A PRO BONO CASE. Thirst for Justice needs a small refrigerator — Call Rebecca.

September 2004



For classified or display ad rates, contact Pamela at (225) 214-5560 or E-mail: pamela@BRBA.org



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

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Duty Court Schedule

19TH JDC CIVIL COURT

Aug. 30-Sept. 10 Judge Clark
 Sept. 12-Sept. 24 Judge Bates
 Sept. 27-Oct. 8 Judge Caldwell

19TH JDC CRIMINAL COURT***

Aug. 30-Sept. 3 Judge Erwin
 Sept. 6-Sept. 10 Judge Jackson
 Sept. 13-Sept. 17 Judge Daniel
 Sept. 20-Sept. 24 Judge Hernandez
 Sept. 27-Oct. 1 Judge Fields

CITY COURT*

Aug. 30-Sept. 5 Judge Wall
 Sept. 6-Sept. 12 Judge Alexander
 Sept. 13-Sept. 19 Judge Ponder
 Sept. 20-Sept. 26 Judge Davis
 Sept. 27-Oct. 3 Judge White

JUVENILE COURT

Sept. 1-Sept. 30 Judge Taylor-Johnson

FAMILY COURT**

Aug. 30-Sept. 3 Judge LaVergne
 Sept. 6-Sept. 10 Judge Lassalle
 Sept. 13-Sept. 17 Judge Higginbotham
 Sept. 20-Sept. 24 Judge Luse
 Sept. 27-Oct. 1 Judge LaVergne

Court Holidays:

Monday, Aug. 30, 2004
 Monday, Sept. 6, 2004

Huey P. Long Day
 Labor Day

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 changes at 4 p.m. each Friday.
 ***19th JDC Criminal Court changes each Friday at noon.

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Calendar of Events

- 1 Pro Bono Committee Meeting, Noon
- 2 Bench Bar Conference Committee Meeting, Noon
- 6 BRBA Office closed in recognition of Labor Day
- 8 YLS Council Meeting, Noon
- 9 September Bar Luncheon & Law Expo, Sheraton Baton Rouge Conference Center Hotel's Atrium, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Ethics and Professionalism CLE seminars.
- 10 Westlaw Training, 9 a.m.;
Technology Committee Meeting, Noon;
Back to Basics CLE, Family Law Section, Mansur's;
Belly Up with the Bar Committee Meeting, Noon;
Volunteer Committee Meeting, Noon
- 13 Publications Committee Meeting, Noon;
Finance Comm. Meeting, 3 p.m.;
Executive Comm. Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting, Juban's, 6 p.m.
- 15 CLE Committee Meeting, Noon
- 18 Ask-A-Lawyer Workshop, Goodwood Branch Library, 9-11:30 a.m.
- 21 Ball Maul Golf Tournament, University Club
- 23 Ask-A-Lawyer Workshop, Catholic Community Services, 9-11:30 a.m.
Family Law Section Meeting, Noon;
LRIS Meeting, Noon;
YLS Sidebar Luncheon, Noon
- 28 Youth Education Committee Meeting, Noon

THE 2004-2005 PICTORIAL LEGAL Directory will be published in early 2005. Photo sessions are scheduled for Oct. 6, Oct. 20, and Nov. 4, 2004. **All law firms and solo practitioners are invited to purchase advertising in this special issue.** For rate and deadline information or to schedule a photo sitting, contact Pam at (225) 214-5560, or e-mail: pamela@brba.org.

TIME-TESTED QUALITY: MORE THAN JUST A WINNING STREAK

Baton Rouge Bar's award-winning programs BY PAMELA LABBE

Over the years, Baton Rouge Bar Association and Foundation programs have earned recognition for their innovativeness, excellence and quality. Community outreach has been a large part of many of the Association's award-winning programs.

The BRBA was cited by the American Bar Association as early as 1950 for being the most active chapter in the nation, according to an *Advocate* article dated Sept. 22, 1950. This award recognized the Association's efforts to sponsor a Legal Aid Society, which provided free legal services to the indigent beginning in 1949 under Ben R. Miller Sr.'s term as bar president. Eight years later, in 1958, the Baton Rouge Bar received the Harrison Tweed Award, the highest honor given for distinguished service by a bar association for legal aid and defender services. Then-Bar President Maurice J. Wilson accepted the award at a meeting of bar presidents.

Throughout the last five decades, the BRBA has grown in leaps and bounds in membership as well as in quality programming. The accolades bestowed upon the programs and their leaders are numerous and deserve mention.

The Volunteer Committee, which provides volunteers to assist with projects of non-profit organizations in the Baton Rouge area, received the ABA's National Association of Bar Executives and Lexis-Nexis Public Achievement Service Award in 1998. The same year, the Volunteer Committee was recognized for volunteerism in the workplace by Volunteer! Baton Rouge.

The Holiday Star Project, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the BRBA, has received several awards, including the ABA's National Association of Bar Executives Luminary Award for Public Relations in

1996, LSBA Public Service Award in 1999 and 2000, and the LSBA Young Lawyers Section Outstanding Public Service Project in 2000.

The Bar Association's magazine *Around the Bar* was an honorable mention winner of the National Association of Bar Executives' Communication Section Luminary Award in 2001.

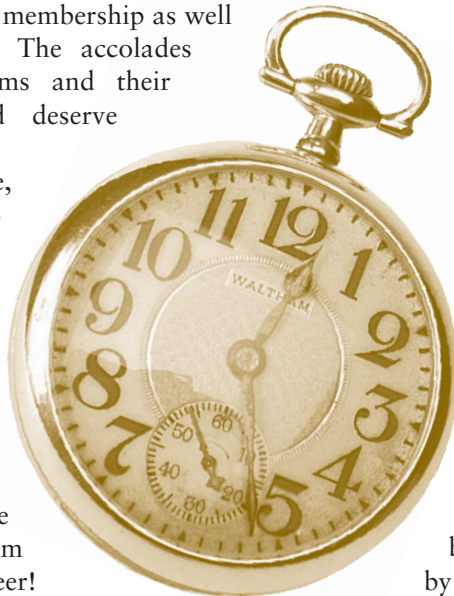
The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation was chartered in 1988, and programs classified under its umbrella have received numerous awards for their community outreach. The Foundation received a Public Service Award from the American Bar Association in 1991 for its Law Day activities and the National Association of Bar Executives Public Service Award for Teen Court in 1994. The Foundation's Law Day Program received the "Best Overall Law Day" Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association in 1994. The program also received American Bar Association awards for Excellence in Law

Day Activities in 1999, 2000 and 2001. The 2002 Law Day Program was recognized by Associations Advance America (ASAE) with a 2003 Award of Excellence for producing an outstanding program that resulted in significant benefit to American society.

The Foundation's Pro Bono Project was honored for the Thirst for Justice Program in 2002, with the ABA's National Association of Bar Executives and Lexis-Nexis Public Service Achievement Award.

The BRBA and its members have been honored with so many awards for pro bono work that the Foundation has created a Pro Bono Wall of Fame on the second floor of the Middleton Bar Center. On display are the many plaques and awards that have been earned on behalf of the Foundation and that have been given

by the Foundation to honor its members and their heartfelt pro bono efforts. The Pro Bono Project regularly honors members with the Century Club Award, which has grown into the Double Century, Triple, Quadruple and, most recently, the Quintuple Century Award.



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