



Jefferson Bar Association

35th Annual CLE by the Sea
April 10-13, 2024
The Lodge at Gulf State Park
Gulf Shores, Alabama

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



HON. RAYLYN R. BEEVERS, Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson

Hon. Raylyn R. Beevers is a Judge in Second Parish Court handling civil, criminal misdemeanor, and traffic cases. During her tenure as Judge she has been instrumental in the transition of paper documents to paperless, identifying and implementing procedures for both court efficiency and to assist the public. Judge Beevers is responsible for the technological upgrades to all three courtrooms and various departments within Parish Court. She is currently working with the Office of Motor Vehicles and Jefferson Parish President's Office on housing a DMV Pilot Program in Second Parish Court.



HON. FRANK A. BRINDISI, 24th Judicial District Court

JUDGE FRANK BRINDISI serves on the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Division E. He graduated with a degree in government in 1981 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan, New York. He received his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1987. He began his 30-year career as a prosecutor in 1987 at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office where he worked as a prosecutor for the District Attorney's Narcotics Strike Force. In 1991, he left the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office to work as a narcotics prosecutor at the Louisiana Department of Justice in Baton Rouge. While an Assistant Attorney General, he traveled the State handling serious felony cases in all sixty-four Louisiana parishes. He left the Louisiana Department of Justice in 1997 to work as a prosecutor at the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office. He later returned to the Louisiana Department of Justice to work as a prosecutor for the Insurance Fraud Division, and during his tenure prosecuted various felony cases. In 2019, he was elected to the 24th Judicial District Court.

Judge Brindisi is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association, St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers' Association, Knights of Columbus, and Italian American Society of Jefferson.



HON. JUNE BERRY DARENSBURG, 24th Judicial District Court

On April 1, 2006, the Honorable June Berry Darensburg was elected Judge to the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division C, for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana. She was re-elected without opposition in July 2008, August 2014, and July 2020. Judge Darensburg is the first African-American female elected to a judgeship in Jefferson Parish.

Judge Darensburg is a 1980 graduate of Grace King High School. Pursuing her first career ambition, she enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana where she majored in Pharmacy. She received her Bachelor of Science in

Pharmacy from Xavier in 1985. While working as a Pharmacist, Judge Darensburg developed an interest in the law. She attended Loyola University College of Law full time, while working part time as a Pharmacist. In December, 1994, Judge Darensburg graduated from Loyola. She worked in private practice, and was employed by the Jefferson Parish Indigent Defender Board providing legal services to those unable to afford representation. She was also employed as an Associate Attorney by The LeBlanc Butler Law Firm where she was a litigator in the areas of Products Liability and Insurance Defense.

She is a member of the National Bar Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Association of Women Judges, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council-NBA, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Jefferson Bar Association, Louis A. Martinet Society and Louisiana Pharmacy Association.

She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Westwego Rotary Club, the Xavier University Investigational Review Board, Leadership Jefferson Task Force, Academy of Our Lady Board, and Loyola Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Judge Darensburg presides over civil, criminal and domestic cases, and volunteers as an Intensive Probation Drug Court Judge. She serves on the Management Committee for the 24th JDC, where she chairs the Specialty Treatment Court Committee. She also serves as Treasurer of LJCF/NBA. She served as Chief Judge of the 24th Judicial District Court from January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2015.



ALBERT J. DERBES, IV, The Derbes Law Firm, LLC

Albert J. Derbes, IV, a member of the Derbes Law Firm, LLC, has practiced law for more than 30 years, with a heavy emphasis on commercial matters. His areas of practice include commercial bankruptcy, contracts, entity law, successions and interdiction litigation, wills, and real estate. A graduate of Rice University and Tulane Law School, he is licensed to practice law in Louisiana and Texas. He is a frequent CLE speaker and active in various bar

organizations.



ERIC J. DERBES, The Derbes Law Firm, LLC

Eric J. Derbes is a member of The Derbes Law Firm, LLC. His practice areas include successions, succession litigation, bankruptcy, tax representation, and commercial litigation. Eric has been married to Rebecca for 35 years. Eric and Rebecca have five adult children.



HON. MEREDITH S. GRABILL, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana

The Honorable Meredith S. Grabill currently serves in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Prior to taking the bench in September 2019, she practiced primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial, and oil-and-gas litigation in New York and Louisiana. In her practice, she served on bankruptcy teams representing publicly traded, closely held, and individual chapter 11 debtors; official unsecured creditors' committees; and corporate creditors. Outside of bankruptcy court, she has represented large and multinational corporations in antitrust proceedings, labor and contract disputes, and insurance and reinsurance disputes.

Judge Grabill served as a judicial clerk to The Honorable Edith Brown Clement in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, The Honorable Martin L.C. Feldman in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and The Honorable Martin Glenn in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. She earned her J.D. from Tulane Law School, where she served as Editor in Chief of the Tulane Law Review, and received a B.A. from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

Prior to earning her law degree, Judge Grabill worked for years in the juvenile justice field in Washington State, providing direct treatment services and administering state-wide programs for offenders with mental health issues, chemical dependency issues, and developmental delays.



HON. PIPER D. GRIFFIN, Louisiana Supreme Court

Piper D. Griffin is the newest Associate Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court. Prior to joining the Supreme Court she spent almost 20 years as a judge on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, distinguishing herself as a Judicial Pacesetter, leader and scholar among the bench and bar. A frequent speaker, Justice Griffin is a member of many professional organizations including the American and National Bar Associations. She serves as the Secretary of the Louisiana Judicial Council Foundation/NBA, Executive Board member of the American Judges Association and has previously served as President of the Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA, President of the 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association and Second Vice President of the Louisiana Association of District Court Judges. She is a member of the Louisiana Law Institute and is active in many civic and community organizations. Justice Griffin received her J.D. from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center and her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame.



HESTER R. HILLIARD, St. John the Baptist Parish Public Defender Office

Hester R. Hilliard was born and raised in Jefferson Parish, and she graduated from the Jefferson Parish Public School System. She attended Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge. While at Southern, she excelled academically. She received the West Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award for three consecutive years, the Southern University Law Center Academic Award for two consecutive years, and the BESLA Scholarship in 2005. Attorney Hilliard served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Southern University Review in addition to being a member of the American Inns of Court, Elder Law Clinic, and the Elections Committee for the Student Bar Association.

She owns and operates her own law practice located in LaPlace, Louisiana. She practices in the area of Criminal Law, Family Law, and Successions. In 2010, she began representing abused and neglected children as a Qualified Children's Attorney. She also services as the Felony Supervisor with the 40th Judicial District Public Defender's Office. Her daily and lifelong mission is to help those who cannot help themselves.

JORDAN D. HUCK, Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board

Jordan is the Hearing Committee Counsel for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board. Jordan provides legal counsel to the Board's Hearing Committees in adjudicative matters. Jordan is also responsible for the training and development of the Hearing Committee members. Prior to working for the Disciplinary Board, Jordan served as the law clerk for the Honorable Emile St. Pierre in the 29th Judicial District Court of Louisiana (St. Charles Parish). He is a graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Jordan is a former President of the National Council of Lawyer Disciplinary Boards.



HON. SHARLAYNE JACKSON PREVOST, Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson

The Honorable Sharlayne Jackson Prevost was born in Marrero, Louisiana and is a lifelong resident of Jefferson Parish. She is a graduate of O. Perry Walker High School, Southern University at New Orleans and Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2003.

While in law school, Judge Prevost work for Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans as a law clerk. She also worked as student attorney for the Innocence Project of New Orleans.

Following law school, Judge Prevost became the Executive Director of Making Great Strides, a non-profit organization which bridged the gap for high school student from high school to college and entered into private practice. Her practice consisted of personal injury, criminal, domestic and civil litigation. After Hurricane Katrina, Judge Prevost was thrust into Houston, Texas where she became Corporate Counsel and Vice President of Human Resources and Contracts. She later became the Vice President of MasTec, LLC – a multi-million dollar company – where she oversaw risk management and acted as a legal liaison advising on all legal issues including, but not limited to, policy analysis, operational decisions, contract review, ethics and conflicts of interest.

Upon leaving Corporate America, Judge Prevost became a founding partner of the VAST Law Group, LLC – an all-women’s law firm with a combined 50 years of experience, specializing in the areas of personal injury, succession, workers compensation, and family law. In addition, she served as a City Attorney for the City of Kenner, and an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Bureau of Administrative Adjudication in Jefferson Parish.

Judge Prevost was elected as the First African American Judge of Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson, following the retirement of the Honorable Roy Cascio, Division “A” in 2020.

She is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Jefferson Parish Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association, American Judges Association, Louisiana City Judges Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Fifth Circuit Judges Association. She is proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Judge Prevost is married to Kyle Prevost and has two children and grandson



SHERMIN S. KHAN, Khan Law Firm, LLC

Ms. Khan received her Bachelor of Arts in history at University of Texas at Austin in 2010. Thereafter she earned her Juris Doctorate at Southern University Law Center in 2015. While at Southern, Ms. Khan graduated top of her class and was an editor for the Journal of Race, Gender, and Poverty. During her time there, she also performed valuable internships such as being a law clerk for the Louisiana Attorney General's Civil Division and as a judicial intern for the Honorable Judge Fredericka H. Wicker at the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Ms. Khan spent the summer after her second year studying abroad at University College London, at which time she studied Private International Law and European Law.

Practicing law since 2017, Shermin S. Khan has experience representing individual and corporate clients in complex civil litigation, business law, contractual obligations, and property law. She has experience winning against the State of Louisiana and presenting a successful defense against the State of Louisiana in Road Home cases. Experience in winning \$250,000+ judgments in civil litigation. Appellate experience regarding en banc on a supervisory writ before the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal on 20-C-470, 20-C-413, and 20-C-453.

Ms. Khan serves as general counsel for a local non-profit, BMANA: LA Chapter, composed of members in the medical field wherein she advises and represents the Executive Committee on nonprofit corporate governance procedures and addresses questions regarding matters of regulatory compliance in the medical field. Ms. Khan also has had experience serving as general counsel for New Orleans organizations involving voting rights at Crescent City Media Group.

Before starting her firm, Ms. Khan served as the law clerk for the Honorable Judge Penelope Q. Richard at the Thirty-Eight Judicial District Court. During her term, Ms. Khan gained insight on complex civil litigation cases involving maritime accidents, legacy cases involving primarily environmental and oil and gas litigation, and torts dealing with federal aviation and products liability.

Ms. Khan is admitted to practice before the all-Louisiana state courts. She is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Society, New Orleans Bar and Baton Rouge Bar Association. Ms. Khan is a member of the South Asian Bar Association as well as of the International Business Law section of the American Bar Association. Ms. Khan is an avid member of the Louisiana Association for Justice, a voluntary bar association whose statewide membership is composed mostly of lawyers who have a trial practice. Ms. Khan was selected to be part of the 2021/2022 Leadership LSBA Class, which she is co-chairing for the 2022/2023 year.

When she is not working, Ms. Khan enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, painting, traveling, attending music festivals, and cheering on the Pelicans. Ms. Khan is an active member of Cameron Lions Club, a non-profit organization, dedicated to servicing its community. She is also a member of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.



MINDY LABROSSE, United States Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges, Covington District

Mindy LaBrosse is the Senior Staff Attorney of the Covington District Office and works under Judge Rosenow's supervision. She maintains a working knowledge of most of the Acts adjudicated by the OALJ. She acts as clerk of court and magistrate during the prehearing process in each Longshore case assigned to the Covington District Office and prepares Black Lung dockets for hearing. Ms. LaBrosse is an alumna of Loyola New Orleans College of Law and identifies as a Ravenclaw.



HON. NGHANA LEWIS, 40th Judicial District Court

The Honorable Nghana Lewis was elected to serve as District Court Judge, Division B, 40th Judicial District Court, on November 4, 2020 and took the bench on January 1, 2021. A proud native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Judge Lewis holds a BA in English from Tulane University; a PhD in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and a JD from Loyola University College of Law. Prior to her election, Judge Lewis was a tenured associate professor, with joint appointments in the English Department and Africana Studies Program, at Tulane University. She was also an affiliate faculty member of Tulane's School of Law and an adjunct professor with Tulane's Department of Psychology. In addition to her positions at Tulane, Judge Lewis maintained a private law practice, serving clients in the areas of criminal defense, employment & labor, and civil rights.

In 2021, Judge Lewis was appointed to Louisiana's Children's Justice Act Task Force and, in 2022, she was appointed to the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission, one of only three standing committees of the Louisiana Supreme Court, for a two-year term. Currently, Judge Lewis serves as Parliamentarian for the Louisiana 4th and 5th Circuits Judges Association. She also continues to teach part-time at her beloved Tulane University.

With funding appropriated by the Louisiana State Legislature and allocated to the 40th Judicial District Court, by the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2021, Judge Lewis launched The Literacy Clinic, in August 2021. The clinic supports literacy education for adults who are involved in the criminal justice system and families with children enrolled in resource-challenged public schools. The ultimate goal of the clinic is to strengthen communities through prevention-by-way-of-intervention transformative criminal justice, juvenile justice, and K12 education.

With funding awarded to the 40th Judicial District Court by the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, Judge Lewis also recently launched "Respect Is Just a Minimum: Tooling Youth in Small Urban Communities for Social, Academic, and Professional Success," a pilot program designed to build conflict-resolving communication skills; empathetic decision-making skills; health & wellness competency; and financial literacy skills among at-risk youth in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Judge Lewis is the proud wife of Corey Hutchinson and the proud mother of two beautiful girls, Ciel Noir and Cydney Isabella, and two miniature schnauzers, Carlos and Kween.



SREE HARSHA MANDAVA, Hoffman Nguyen Kuehl

Sree Harsha Mandava, JD, MD, MHSA, MBA, is a 2022 graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Dr. Mandava currently practices Family Law, including Estate Planning. He is also a qualified Civil Mediator in Louisiana.

While attending law school at Loyola, Dr. Mandava interned with the Hon. June Berry Darensburg at the 24th Judicial District Court, before clerking at an Estate Planning and Family Law firm. While at Loyola, Dr. Mandava was a Rule XX participant in the Loyola Family Law Clinic wherein he often appeared before the Courts and administrative tribunals in Louisiana. Further, Dr. Mandava served on the “We Work for Justice” Advisory

Committee spearheaded by the Hon. Ivan L. R. Lemelle.

Prior to joining HNK Family Law, Dr. Mandava spent one and a half years with a medical malpractice defense firm defending medical malpractice claims against physicians, hospitals, and non-physician healthcare providers. Dr. Mandava additionally represented medical professionals in State Board licensing and credentialing actions.

Dr. Mandava also earned a Medical Degree from St. Matthews University/Maine Medical Center in 2009. At the same time, he also completed a dual degree program with St. Joseph’s College of Maine where he received a Master of Health Science Administration in 2010. Upon obtaining his M.D., he worked at the Department of Urology at Tulane University in the Infertility Center helping individuals with all of their reproductive needs. While at Tulane Urology, Dr. Mandava was an avid research physician and published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in the areas of Men’s Health and Uro-Oncology and enjoyed the privilege of speaking at numerous national and international conferences on these topics. Moreover, while working at Tulane, Dr. Mandava obtained a Master of Business Administration in 2018, dual specializing in Strategic Management and Leadership, and Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Mandava is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, and the St. Thomas More Inn of Court. He is currently active in the Jefferson Bar Association Young Lawyer’s Division serving as a board member.



HON. JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR., Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal

HONORABLE JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR. serves on the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, Division “G.” He arrived at the appeal court in August of 2018 from his position as district court judge of the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson in Gretna, Louisiana, Division “E.” He was first elected to the bench in 2007 without opposition and was re-elected twice without opposition. Judge Molaison has served as Chief Judge of the 24th Judicial District Court and as President of the Louisiana District Judges Association. While on the district court bench, he strongly supported specialty courts. In addition to serving as a Drug Treatment Court judge, he helped create the D.W.I. Treatment Court, the Veterans Treatment Court, the Re-entry Court, and the Swift and Certain Intensive Probation Court. Judge Molaison also established the court’s supervised misdemeanor probation program.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Molaison was the managing partner of Molaison & LeBlanc and an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish for approximately 20 years until his election. During his tenure with the Jefferson Parish District Attorney’s Office, he served as a felony prosecutor, the Supervisor of Parish Court prosecutions, and the Executive Assistant District Attorney. Additionally, Judge Molaison was the Prosecutor and City Attorney for the City of Westwego and the Prosecutor and Town Attorney for the Town of Grand Isle for many years.

Judge Molaison received his Juris Doctor from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1986. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Loyola University New Orleans in 1983. Judge Molaison is active in extra-judicial activities and has a strong commitment to improving Louisiana’s system of justice. He currently serves as a member of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana and the Supreme Court’s District Court Rules Committee. On the recommendation of the Judiciary Commission, the Supreme Court may censure a judge. He or she may also be suspended with or without salary, removed from office, or involuntarily retired. The Rules Committee reviews and makes recommendations for the amendment of district court rules or implementation of new rules to the Supreme Court.

The judge helps others improve by teaching law students and lecturing judges from many countries. He is on the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans.



HON. SHAYNA BEEVERS MORVANT, 24th Judicial District Court Honorable Shayna Beevers Morvant was elected to the 24th Judicial District Court and took office in October 2020. Prior to her election, she was managing partner of the Gretna law firm of Beevers & Beevers, L.L.P. She received a B.S.M. degree in 2009 from Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business and her J.D. degree in 2012 from Tulane Law School. During her time as a general practitioner, she gained extensive class action and civil litigation experience. Her practice areas included personal injury, criminal defense, family law, and representation of local law enforcement

agencies.

She is a member of the adjunct faculty at Tulane University Law School, teaching litigation skills for the Boot Camp and Trial Advocacy Programs.

Judge Beevers Morvant makes time to promote the interest of her community. She is a leader in Tulane's American Inn of Court, a national association that promotes ethics and professionalism in law. Additionally, she believes in promoting respect for law; as such she is currently the President of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and working on Chief Justice Weimer's Judges Imparting Knowledge, Education, & Skills Task Force.

Most recently, Judge Beevers Morvant has been appointed as a Specialty Court Judge working with criminal offenders to provide life skills and prevent recidivism through the re-entry court program and swift and certain probation. On the bench, she has partnered with some of her colleagues to bring the courts into the technology world, going beyond Zoom hearings to using Wonder and QR codes for base juror selection.

A passion prior to assuming her duties on the bench was working with the Wills for Heroes Program where she prepared wills and trusts for first responders at no charge. She was a member of Bridging the Gap Legal Education Committee which assisted students transitioning into the practice of law. She was elected for two terms on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council as the District 2 Representative. She served on the LSBA's House of Delegates and was elected to the Nominating Committee for the years 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021. For several years she was the secretary of the Civil Law and Litigation Section and a regular contributor to the Louisiana Bar Journal. Additionally, she was a member of the 2015-2016 Leadership LSBA Class.

Judge Beevers Morvant has frequently been selected as instructor of continuing education since 2013, with a focus on social media, professionalism, and trial litigation. She has also presented CLE programs for the New Orleans Bar Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, and Tulane University Law School.

Apart from her legal related activities, she is a member of the Republican Women of Louisiana, the former chair of legislative affairs for the Junior League of New Orleans, and a Louisiana Children's Museum campaign leader. Judge Beevers Morvant and her husband, Wesley, are the proud parents of three children.



HON. KERN A. REESE, Orleans Parish Civil District Court

Kern Anthony Reese is a judge of Orleans Parish Civil District Court. Prior to taking the bench, he maintained a solo practice in New Orleans that focused on the areas of tort litigation, corporation and general business law and municipal. He has also served by appointment as a judge ad hoc for New Orleans Traffic Court, Municipal Court and First City Court. He earned a B.A. degree in history from Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., and a J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. Before launching his solo practice, Mr. Reese was a partner in Braden & Reese and an associate in Murray, Murray, Ellis, Braden & Landry. He was also a staff attorney for the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation and a law clerk for Harris, Stempley Mckee, Bernard & Broussard. Mr. Reese was a fellow of the Metropolitan Area Committee's 1982 Leadership Forum and of Loyola University of the South's Institute of Politics, 1980-1981. Since 1995, he has served as chair and a board member for the New Orleans -Home Mortgage Authority/Finance Authority of New Orleans. He has been an associate adjunct professor of Tulane University School of Law for the last two decades. Mr. Reese was a member of Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and is currently a member of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society and the Louisiana State Bar Association. He has also served as a member of the President's Council of Loyola University of the South and as a chairman and commissioner of the Board of Commissioners of the Regional Transit Authority and of the Regional Planning Commission.



HON. PATRICK M. ROSENOW, United States Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges, Covington District
Patrick M. Rosenow is the District Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Covington District Office of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges. The son of a career Air Force officer, Judge Rosenow attended high school in Spain and graduated from the Air Force Academy with dual majors in Operations Research and Economics. After an initial assignment as a KC-135 Stratotanker navigator, he was selected to participate in the Air Force's Funded Legal Education Program and graduated with High Honors from Duke University Law School. He is admitted to practice in the state of North Carolina and before the United States Court of Military Appeals.

After an initial assignment to Andersen AFB, Guam, he joined the faculty of the Judge Advocate General School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, where he became the Chief of the Civil Law Division and was named the Air Force's Outstanding Young Judge Advocate. After an assignment as the senior judge advocate at March AFB, California, he was appointed as a military trial judge at Bolling AFB, District of Columbia. His docket included homicide, rape, and drug trafficking bench and jury trials, and he managed the administration and support of more than twenty-five circuit judges. He then moved to Langley Air Force Base to lead a staff of more than 50 attorneys, paralegals, and support personnel and was selected as Air Combat Command's Outstanding Senior Judge Advocate.

Judge Rosenow returned to the bench at Randolph AFB, TX, as the Chief Judge of the Air Force's largest and busiest circuit. He presided over many high visibility cases, including the hearing of F-16 pilots charged with manslaughter after dropping a bomb on Canadian troops near Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was selected as the Air Force Legal Service Agency's Outstanding Senior Judge Advocate. After more than 27 years of service, Judge Rosenow retired from the Air Force and accepted a position with the Office of Administrative Law Judges. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation and Achievement Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, and Air Force Recognition Medal. Judge Rosenow He became Acting District Chief of the Covington District Office in January 2020 and was ultimately appointed District Chief.

Judge Rosenow has extensive experience as a basketball referee, officiating on national television and traveling to France, Croatia, Korea, Italy, Lithuania, China, and Belgium for international tournaments. He has written for national and international publications and spoken on sports officiating, ethics and management.

His wife, Ann, has a degree in Molecular Biology from Auburn University and works as a court appointed special advocate (CASA). Both Judge Rosenow and his wife are active in the music ministry of their parish in Mandeville, where you may find Judge Rosenow either behind the mic or behind his trumpet. Judge Rosenow and his wife have four children.



ERIC M. SCHORR, Sessions Fishman & Nathan

Eric Schorr joined Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, L.L.C. in 2002, and practices primarily in the areas of Trusts, Estate Planning and Probate. He is certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization as a Specialist in Estate Planning and Estate Administration and advises clients in all aspects of estate planning and estate administration, and he is recognized as an authority in the fields of Special Needs Trusts and Medicaid Planning. Eric is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and he is

a member of the Special Needs Alliance, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Academy of Special Needs Planners, the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning and the New Orleans Estate Planning Council. He is also a Co-Chair of the New Orleans Bar Association's Committee on Wills, Trusts and Successions.

Eric received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his Juris Doctor from the Loyola University School of Law, where he served on the editorial board of the Loyola University Journal of Public Interest Law as Articles Editor and received several awards for Law Excellence in the areas of Federal Taxation of Wealth Transmission and Federal Income Taxation. He also earned a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Elder Law (with Honors) from the Stetson University School of Law in Tampa, Florida. He is one of only three lawyers in Louisiana (and the only lawyer in Southeast Louisiana) to have earned this distinct designation.

Eric is a member of the Louisiana Law Institute, the official advisory law-revision commission, law-reform agency, and legal-research agency of the State of Louisiana, where he serves on the Committee for Disabled Adult Children.

Eric is also approved as a Dispute Resolution Arbitrator by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and frequently serves on arbitration panels deciding cases of securities law violation and broker/dealer misconduct.

In 2020, Eric was named as a Managing Partner of the Firm.

SETH W. SHUTE, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office

Seth W. Shute graduated from LSU Law Center in 2004. He immediately began working at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and worked there until 2011, when he moved to the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. In 15 years as a trial attorney, Seth has tried almost every type of case, from a misdemeanor to a capital murder. Since 2019, Seth has served as the Chief of Trials at the JPDA.



P. DOUGLAS STEWART, JR., Stewart Robbins Brown & Altazan LLC
Mr. Stewart is a founding member of Stewart Robbins Brown & Altazan LLC and has substantial experience representing debtors, committees, fiduciaries, and other significant parties in complex commercial bankruptcy cases. Mr. Stewart was recently inducted as a Fellow into the 34th Class of the American College of Bankruptcy, is a Certified Business Bankruptcy Specialist and sits on the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization, holds the

Advocate designation from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and is perennially recognized by Chambers and Partners (Bank 1), Super Lawyers, Top Attorneys, Best Lawyers, U.S. Leaders in Law, and others as an outstanding commercial bankruptcy attorney. Mr. Stewart frequently writes and lectures on bankruptcy topics, having most recently presented as a panelist at the 2023 Louisiana State Bar Association bankruptcy seminar on Bankruptcy from a Trustee's Perspective. Mr. Stewart is a member of the Louisiana State Bar and is admitted to practice in all Louisiana Bankruptcy Courts, the Northern and Southern Districts of Texas, and the District of Colorado.



RENEE L. SWANSON, Renee Swanson, LLC

Renee L. Swanson has been a solo practitioner since 2011. Since that time, her practice has focused primarily on representing clients in complex and highly contested family law litigation in Jefferson, Plaquemines, and Orleans Parishes at both the trial court and appellate court level. Renee obtained her Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in 2010. During law school, Renee worked as a full-time law clerk for Leo J. Palazzo at the Palazzo Law Firm, she worked as a student practitioner in Loyola Law School's Criminal Defense Clinic and Tulane Law School's Legislative Law Clinic, she served as an editor on the Loyola Journal of

Public Interest Law, and her article, Are We Safe at Home from the Prying Dog Sniff, was published in the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law. Upon graduating law school, Renee continued working for the Palazzo Law Firm as an associate attorney focusing on personal injury litigation and sat second chair in several jury trials. Renee has served on the Family Law Council of the Louisiana State Bar Association for three years, and she is currently Vice-Chair. She is a member of many professional associations including the Louisiana State Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association, and New Orleans Bar Association.



HON. DANYELLE M. TAYLOR, 24th Judicial District Court
Judge Danyelle Taylor is a Judge in Division "O" of the 24th Judicial District Court. She was elected to her position in 2014. She is a graduate of Loyola School of Law in New Orleans and Nicholls State University. She practiced law for 18 years before being elected to the bench. She is a member of several professional organizations including the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, the Louisiana District Judges Association, the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association and the National Association of Women Judges.

She currently serves as the president of the Fifth Circuit Judges Association and Chairs the Domestic Commissioner and Hearing Officer committee of the 24th Judicial District Court.



THOMAS "T.C." WICKER, IV, Capitelli & Wicker

T.C. has always enjoyed speaking, writing, and helping others. At Georgetown University, T.C. pursued those passions, double majoring in English and Government. Following graduation, T.C. had an opportunity to put these passions into practice. He joined Teach for America and taught 4th and 5th-grade Social Studies classes in the New Orleans Area.

After two years in the classroom, T.C. enrolled at Tulane University's Law School. There, T.C. distinguished himself particularly as a writer and speaker. He won the CALI Excellence for the Future Award for Trial Advocacy and was a Teacher Assistant for Trial Advocacy courses. He was also a Legal Research and Writing Senior Fellow and was awarded the Moot Court Board Service Award in 2016-2017.

Before entering legal practice, T.C. clerked for The Honorable Nannette Jolivette Brown – the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He then joined a prominent New Orleans law firm, working on complex commercial matters and high-profile white-collar criminal defense cases. And putting his trial skills to work, T.C. played an integral part in achieving multiple acquittals in federal trials.

Now, with Capitelli & Wicker Attorneys at Law, he looks forward to continuing to help individuals in their time of need.

Outside of work, T.C. still teaches, now as an adjunct professor in the Tulane Trial Advocacy program. He is also involved in the Sugar Bowl Committee and the Georgetown Alumni Club.



HON. STEPHEN J. WINDHORST, Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal

Judge Steve Windhorst is a judge of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, which includes the Parishes of Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John, and St. James. Prior to his election to the Fifth Circuit in 2012, Judge Windhorst was a trial judge for 12 and a half years on the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District for the Parish of Jefferson, presiding over Division J, which has jurisdiction over criminal, civil, and domestic law cases. He also presided over the Jefferson Parish Environmental Court. While on the 24th JDC,

Judge Windhorst chaired the Court's Technology and Building Security Committee.

Prior to his election to the trial bench in 2000, he was an attorney and legislator. In 1991, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing portions of Jefferson Parish and New Orleans, and was re-elected twice without opposition. In his second term, he became Chairman of the House Criminal Justice Committee, through which all bills relating to criminal law, procedure, rules of evidence, corrections, parole, and gambling must pass.

Judge Windhorst attended Tulane University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. In 1982 he graduated from Tulane School of Law and was admitted to the practice of law. From 1982-89 he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish. He is also a graduate of the Gretna Police Department Training Academy (1985), after which he served as P.O.S.T. certified reserve police officer in the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office until his election to the legislature. Judge Windhorst is a frequent Continuing Legal Education seminar presenter for the Louisiana and Jefferson Bar Associations.