



Spring 2009

THE SIDEBAR

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Journal

NEW DIRECTORS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE IN CALCASIEU AND CAMERON PARISHES NAMED

The Louisiana Public Defender Board on February 26, 2009 appointed Mitchell Bergeron District Director replacing Ronald F. Ware who was elected Judge in the November 2008 election. Mr. Bergeron has been with the Public Defenders Office since January 2004 where he worked as a felony staff attorney until 2006 when he was appointed Deputy Public Defender.

Mitch graduated from Loyola Law School in 1988. In 1987 he worked for the Southwest Louisiana Legal Services and in 1988 he became a criminal staff attorney at the Third Circuit Court of Appeal. From 1989 to 1994 he worked as Assistant Vice President and Assistant Legal Counsel for Calcasieu Marine National Bank of Lake Charles. He has maintained a private practice until recently.

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April 2009 Bench Bar Conference April 16 to 18- Promises to be best yet



Immediate Past President of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association Kendrick Guidry and his wife Kimalee took us back to the hippee days at the OctoberBarfest Fall Party.

Thanks to Bench Bar Sponsors

Sponsors for the 2008 Bench Bar Conference

The Kingdom Sponsors;

The Lions: Baggett, McCall, Burgess, Watson and Gaughan; Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson, L.L.P., Larry A. Roach, Inc., Richard Law Firm, L.L.C.

The Tigers: Bice, Palermo & Veron, L.L.C., Loftin, Cain, Gabb & LeBlanc, L.L.C., Lundy & Davis, L.L.P., Mudd & Bruchhaus, L.L.C., Plauche, Smith & Nieset, Ranier,, Gayle & Elliot, L.L.C., Scofield, Gerard, Singletary & Pohorelsky, L.L.C., Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P., The Hanchey Law Firm, L.L.C., Townsley Law Firm, L.L.P.;

The Cheetahs-Fuerst & Godley, Guillory & McCall, Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Ormond McCowan & Jarman, Kenneth Michael Wright, L.L.C., Johnson & Vercher, L.L.C., Jones & Alexander, L.L.C., Liles & Redd, L.C., Lorenzi & Barnatt, L.L.P., Rudie Soileau, Spears & Gary, L.L.C.

The Zebras-Frohn & Thibodeaux, Kendrick J. & Kimalee S. Guidry, Robert & Keri McCorquodale, Vamvoras & Schwartzberg, Walter M. Sanchez.

Corporate Sponsors- Digital Archiving Systems, LSU Law Center, Perry Dampf Dispute Resolution, Whitney National Bank

The Sidebar is a publication of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. It is published quarterly.

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Editor: Betsy Doucet

The Sidebar is a publication of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. We need and welcome articles from members of the Bar including judges, lawyers clerks of Court .

Articles can be emailed to Betsy Doucet at doucet-law@netcommander.com



Judge Fred Godwin and Judge A.J. Planchard were honored at the Fall Opening at Court for 50 years of service

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Ginger Vidrine was recently appointed as Public Defender for the 38th District by the Louisiana Public Defender Board. Ginger is replacing Penelope Richard who was elected in November as the Judge for the 38th District. Ginger has worked as a contract attorney for the Calcasieu Parish Public Defenders' Office since 2006. She graduated from LSU

Register for the 2009 Southwest Louisiana Bench Bar Conference

Last year's SWLBA Bench Bar Conference was a tremendous success. The 2008 Bench Bar Conference exceeded all expectations largely because so many of the members of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association attended and fully participated.

Paul Reggie, the 2009 Chairman of the Bench Bar Conference thanked all the sponsors and participants who helped to make the 2008 conference such a success. (See story on page two with a list of sponsors) It is time again to mark your calendar and register for the SWLBA Bench Bar Conference for 2009 scheduled to run from Thursday April 16, 2009 through Saturday April 18, 2009. The Bench Bar Conference will once again be held at the Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa in Houston Texas. , Reggie said.

This year's conference will have six hours of continuing legal education, including ethics and professionalism. There will be a "happy hour" get together with cocktails and hor d'oeuvres

Sponsors are needed for this year's conference. Please contact Adel Murphy, Executive Director at 497-0090 either to register or to be a sponsor.

Don't forget to Register for the 2009 Bench Bar Conference Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. at the Longwood Golf Club. Transportation and lunch provided. To register contact Adel Murphy no later than March 25, 2009 with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Please indicate your handicap and if you already have a team of four. If you are not already on a team please let Adel know and you will be assigned to one. Don't Miss the fun.



Don't forget the 2009 Bench Bar Conference Tennis Open. The Tennis Open is scheduled for Friday, April 17 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. At Memorial Park Tennis Center, near the Houstonian. To Register contact Adel Murphy at 497-0090.