



VOL. 8, ISSUE 1 | January/February 2025

THE BATON ROUGE LAWYER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BATON ROUGE BAR ASSOCIATION

A full-page photograph of a family of four in a modern, bright interior. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a colorful floral patterned top, stands behind two young boys. The boy on the left is wearing a grey blazer, and the boy on the right is wearing a blue blazer. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The background features a white brick fireplace, a large window with a snake plant, and a chandelier.

2025 BRBA President & Family
Monica M. Vela-Vick

PERRY DAMPF

DISPUTE SOLUTIONS

Arbitration Panel



Daniel Balhoff



Patrick Briney



Robert Burns, Sr.



Sonny Chastain



David Clement



Scott Crichton



Vince Fornias



Ernie Gieger



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Trippe Hawthorne



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On the Cover

On the cover of the January/February 2025 issue of The Baton Rouge Lawyer is a photograph of 2025 BRBA President Monica M. Vela-Vick; her husband, Shea; and their sons, Austin and Tristan.

Photography by Kent Moroux.

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*Please join us at the
U.S. District Courthouse,
Middle District of Louisiana,
for the Admission to the Courts Ceremony,
BRBA Leader Installation Ceremony,
and
FBA Installation Ceremony*

3 - 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025

Contact Ann K. Gregorie for more information: 225-214-5563 or ann@brba.org

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The Baton Rouge Lawyer supports participation of the membership in its production. We encourage the submission of articles and letters to the editor. Single-spaced, typed articles in Word should be fewer than 1,800 words including endnotes. Please email article submissions to: pam@brba.org.

For advertising information call 225-344-4803 or 225-214-5560. Display ads should be high-resolution attachments (.PDF), and classified ads as text only. Please email all ad artwork to pam@brba.org. Publication of any advertisement is not an endorsement of the product or service involved. The editor reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article or letter.

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Volunteer to Assist with the Region III High School Mock Trial Competition as a Competition Coach, Judge or Timekeeper **Competition will take place March 21 - 22, 2025, at the 19th Judicial District Court**

Please complete this form and send it to Jordyn Baker at jordyn@brba.org or 225-344-4805 (fax).

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Letter from the President

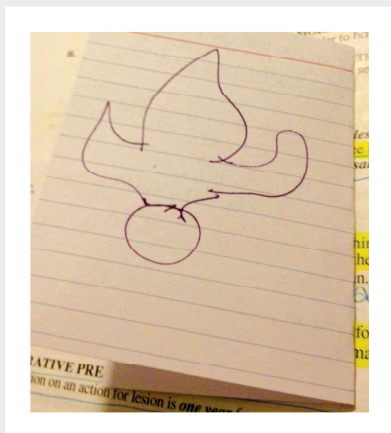
by Monica M. Vela-Vick

You Are Welcome

When my family moved from Philadelphia to Baton Rouge, I did not know a single person, much less a lawyer. I had been practicing for five years but started over in every way. I had never heard of the civilian tradition and had no clue what a code article was.

I quickly befriended a fellow BARBRI bar review attendee, Amber Amore (now Crain), who became my study partner and very first friend. A few weeks into studying and after we'd just started studying sales, I scribbled on a notecard. Once she was done laughing, Amber promptly posted the memory to Facebook:

After explaining to my new friend from the North what "Who Dat" means, she then says, "Oh yeah, and what is this symbol I keep seeing everywhere? It's all over Bed Bath and Beyond here, and on people's cars, and on my shower curtain hooks!"—and hands me this drawing. [See image below.]



literal physical divide of McKernan Law Auditorium with SULC students on the left side and LSU Law students on the right, and I did not fit in either place. But with Amber, I felt welcome.

As luck would have it, I passed. Amber was the first to share the news because I was too nervous to look for myself. Soon, I would need to get a legal job. Having volunteered with the Philadelphia Bar Association, I thought the Baton Rouge Bar Association would be the perfect place.

I quietly attended the BRBA Opening of Court, Memorial and New Member Ceremony, where naturally, there was no one to introduce me. After the firms had introduced their shiny



Amber Amore Crain and
Monica M. Vela-Vick (on right)

Amber taught me about many Louisiana nuances. I learned where to eat great food and that I would be asked routinely where I went to high school. (The answer is Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, Texas). While Amber and her cohort were beyond friendly, I felt like a definite outsider at bar prep. There was a

new associates, someone called out the extra (me) with my law school, the University of Michigan. I hurried out after, not really feeling like I belonged or wanting to show my face. Weeks later, I attended the February bar luncheon expecting to meet a full room of diverse attorneys, hopefully even some Latina lawyers. I didn't quite fit. But two perfect strangers chatted with me at De La Ronde that day and welcomed me.

These two strangers could not give me a job, but they knew someone who knew many who possibly could. Randy Young asked that I email him my résumé so it could be shared with the person introducing the guest speaker. Judge Fred T. Crifasi, who was a practicing lawyer at the time and later became BRBA president, then shared it with Ed Walters, explaining that "[Ed] is as entrenched in the local bar as anyone and will be glad to help in any way he can to help place a talented lawyer." Ed, a former BRBA president and future LSBA president, got the résumé and kept it, bringing me to then-Walters Papillion Thomas Cullens as its first associate. Ed and his partners encouraged me to become involved in the state and the local bar. They welcomed me.

In the weeks, months and years that followed, I learned from Ed what it meant to be a Baton Rouge Lawyer, a topic Ed wrote about so many years ago. Darrel Papillion, former president of the BRBA and LSBA, and now a federal judge, wrote of it again in his first president's letter of this magazine. I started volunteering for Teen Court of Greater Baton Rouge, Mock Trial and Law Day. I stuffed the truck for the Holiday Star Project and notarized signatures for the Self-Help Resource Desk. I found my people and felt welcome. And as I moved forward, bar involvement was supported by my employers. I signal the "future" titles of the mentors in this story with their roles to emphasize that this is a small bar. It is a generous bar. It is a welcoming bar with the support of an outstanding bench on the state and federal level.

I have every confidence that the extraordinary people who sit around the BRBA Board of Directors table this year welcome you and want to be a part of your story, however small. I thank Luke Williamson for his leadership and wise counsel, along with my friends Loren Shanklin Fleshman, Hayden A. Moore, Trey Tumminello, Kelley Dick Jr., Marcus Plaisance, Kellye Grinton, Lori Palmintier, Anthony Gambino and Chris Shows, whose dedication will carry us through a year of change ahead.

And now, I welcome you. It is a new year! At 3 p.m. Jan. 29, 2025, we will have our annual memorial ceremony at the 19th Judicial District Court, and in February, we will host yet another bar luncheon with our sister bar associations.

I welcome you to be the new one in the room. I welcome you to come back to the bar, if you haven't been here in a while. I get that it can be lonely and scary—I know because I still feel like that all the time. Please know that you are welcome.

Contributors



Judge Fred T. Crifasi, a judge with the 19th Judicial District Court, is a contributing writer.



David C. Fleshman, a partner at *Breazzeale, Sachse & Wilson*, is a contributing writer.



Bradley C. Guin, a shareholder in the Baton Rouge office of *Roedel Parsons Blache Fontana Piontek & Piscano*, is a member of the Publications Committee.



Kolby P. Marchand practices with *Kinchen Walker Bienvenu Bargas Reed & Helm LLC*, is a member of the Publications Committee and is the 2025 chair of the Young Lawyers Section.



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Rebecca Wisbar, a founding member of *Akers & Wisbar LLC* and a panel member with *Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions*, is a contributing writer.

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President's Awards

by Luke Williamson

It is extremely difficult to narrow down the list of people who played key roles in serving the Baton Rouge Bar Association over the last year. More people than I can count took my call, answered the bell and served our legal community. To all of the managing partners and sponsors who had to go see an orthopedist due to my arm-twisting, you have my humble gratitude.

However, as outgoing president, it is my honor to recognize certain individuals who went above and beyond to serve our organization. This does not minimize the countless hours put in by scores of dedicated and selfless contributors who further our cause year after year. Nevertheless, there are some who deserve special recognition. *Drumroll please.* And the winners are:

Brad Cranmer & Anthony Gambino: These two gentlemen undertook the mission of fulfilling my vision of an “old school” Bench Bar Conference. It takes a lot of effort to make a big event look effortless, and these two pulled it off. From handling countless details, to obtaining sponsors, to managing my expectations, they were tireless in their efforts. They are both foundational members of the bar, with Brad serving as past chair of Young Lawyers and Anthony serving on the board. There is an axiom that if you “want something done right, ask the busiest person you know.” Well, I found two of the busiest people in town, and they rocked it. Cheers!

Magistrate Judge Scott D. Johnson & Judge Kelly Balfour: I have said it many times, but the main thing that makes the Baton Rouge Bar special is the engagement of our judiciary. It is difficult to single out any individual judges for accolades, as so many are actively involved in our bar activities, but these two stand out amongst giants. Magistrate Judge Scott Johnson supports our bar throughout the year, attending countless events and involving our lawyers in federal court activities. Moreover, he has served on the continuing education committee for Bench Bar for many years, and that is a lot of 7:30 a.m. Zoom meetings. He actively recruits judges to participate in and attend our seminars and never shirks from any request. He also tirelessly brought the Constance Baker Motley presentation to life this year, which was one of the CLE

highlights of the decade. Judge Balfour left the BRBA board to take the bench, and he remained committed to our association. From advocating on behalf of our association, rounding up judges to participate, speaking at events and giving excellent advice, Judge Balfour has answered the bell on behalf of the bar for years. These two judges epitomize what being a Baton Rouge Lawyer/Judge is all about. Thank you!

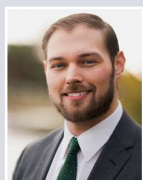
Hayden Moore: I do not think anyone has won more President's Awards than Hayden Moore. There is a reason why: She is simply special. She can turn a wrapper of gum and a dandelion into a centerpiece even Martha Stewart would envy, handles details like other people read menus and always has an upbeat attitude. If not for Hayden, the Gavel Gala – now one of our signature events – would not exist. Hayden, you deserve tremendous credit for the time and effort you have given to the bar. Salud!

Cornelius Troy Hall: Belly Up with the Bar is one of our biggest and most challenging events. Troy chaired the event in 2024 and made the 26th annual Belly Up one to remember. Everywhere I went in the months leading up to Belly Up, there was Troy, tirelessly promoting Belly Up. There is much anxiety involved with overseeing an event as big as Belly Up, and Troy did yeoman's work in getting it done. Thanks for your efforts!

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered throughout the year. A special shout out to Ann and the bar staff for their efforts. The volunteer hours, professional growth opportunities and networking events that we expect do not just happen on their own. A significant amount of work is performed behind the scenes.

As we transition into 2025, I can tell you from both observation and experience that we have some great leaders lined up to shepherd the BRBA into the future. Monica M. Vela-Vick and Loren Shanklin Fleshman are primed to accomplish great things.

For the record, there will be a peaceful transfer of power as I leave the association in good hands. It has been the honor of my career to serve as your president. With that, I bid you adieu.



Brad Cranmer



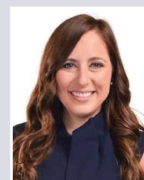
Anthony
Gambino



Judge Kelly
Balfour



Magistrate Judge
Scott D. Johnson



Hayden A. Moore



Cornelius Troy Hall

Message to Young Lawyers

Our Success Depends on You

Dear Members of the Young Lawyers Section of the Baton Rouge Bar Association,

As the incoming chair of the Young Lawyers Section, I am honored to serve alongside you in building a vibrant, dynamic and engaged community of young attorneys in Baton Rouge. Together, we have the unique opportunity to shape the future of our profession while making a meaningful impact in our local legal and civic communities.

The YLS has always stood as a resource and support network for new and emerging legal professionals. However, as we look to the year ahead, we aim to take our efforts even further—fostering not just participation, but a sense of ownership and collaboration among all of our members.

Getting involved is more than a benefit—it's an investment. Whether it's through volunteering for pro bono initiatives, attending networking events or participating in professional development programs, your active involvement will strengthen the foundation of our section and enhance your own growth as a professional.

Social media offers a powerful platform for us to stay connected, informed and engaged, not only as a community of lawyers, but as lawyers in our community. This year I hope to enhance our presence on all social media platforms and I hope that you take the time to engage with each of our social media pages. Together I feel that we can create a vibrant digital space that reflects the energy, involvement and contribution of our section.

I understand that your time is valuable, and the demands of building a career in law can be overwhelming. That's why we are committed to creating opportunities that are flexible, meaningful and tailored to your needs. From casual networking happy hours to skill-building workshops, from mentorship programs to community service events, we offer something for everyone to contribute and benefit from.



Kolby P. Marchand

Our success depends on you—your voice, your ideas and your energy. I encourage each of you to consider how you can get involved this year. Whether you're a seasoned participant in section activities or someone who hasn't yet had the chance to attend, we welcome you with open arms and look forward to your contributions.

No idea is bad. Get involved with the new committees the council has formed.

As we embark on this journey together, I am eager to hear your thoughts and feedback. What do you hope to see from the Young Lawyers Section this year? What would help you feel more connected to our legal community? Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the executive team with your suggestions.

Thank you for your dedication to the Baton Rouge legal community and for the support you bring to one another. Let's make this year one of collaboration, connection and growth for all of us.

With enthusiasm and gratitude,



Kolby P. Marchand

Young Lawyers Section 2025 Chair



Opening of Court, New Member & Memorial Ceremony

Please join us at
3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025,
at the

19th Judicial District Court

(11th floor ceremonial courtroom)

as we introduce new members of the bar
and honor BRBA members we lost in 2024.

Please join us in remembering:

Mr. Samuel A. Bacot

Mr. James J. Bailey IV

Mr. Eugene A. Booth

Mr. Randall J. Cashio

Hon. Marcus R. Clark

Mr. Vincent J. DeSalvo

Mr. Richard S. Dunn

Mr. David Ellison, Jr.

Ms. Cassie Erin Felder

Professor Maurice R. Franks

Mr. Ira "Steve" George

Hon. Carl Guidry

Mr. Rob E. Harroun III

Mr. Van A. Heard

Mr. Cornelius Hyde

Mr. George Kim Johnson

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Mr. Willie D. Maynor

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Mr. Joseph A. Perrault

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Mr. Frank P. Simoneaux

Mr. Donald R. Smith

Mr. David A. Swak

Mr. Joe E. Thompson

Mr. Robert W. Tucker

Ms. Sherryl J. Tucker

Professor Roederick White

Bar News

Two New Commissioners Installed at 19th JDC

On Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, the 19th Judicial District Court welcomed two new commissioners: Jermaine Guillory (section C) and Kory Tauzin (section D). The two were officially installed during a joint ceremony that took place in the 11th Floor Ceremonial Courtroom at the 19th JDC.



Commissioner Jermaine Guillory



Commissioner Kory Tauzin

Admission Ceremony Scheduled for Jan. 9 at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of La.

The Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will host the annual admission ceremony for lawyers who are being sworn into federal courts. Ceremony begins at 3 p.m. Jan. 9, 2025, at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. Application packets are available on the BRBA website: www.brba.org. Contact Ann K. Gregorie at ann@brba.org or 225-214-5563 for details.

Opening of Court, Memorial & New Member Ceremony Scheduled for Jan. 29

The BRBA will hold its annual Opening of Court, Memorial & New Member Ceremony at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, in the 11th floor ceremonial courtroom of the 19th Judicial District Court. There we will remember members of the bar we lost in the last year, and we will recognize all new members of the bar as well. Contact Ann K. Gregorie at ann@brba.org or 225-214-5563 for more information.

Ball Maul Golf Tournament Returns March 31

Register your golf team for the next BRBF Ball Maul Golf Tournament taking place Monday, March 31, 2025, at The University Club. Or, you might prefer sponsoring this tournament, which supports the BRBF. For sponsorship information, contact Ann K. Gregorie at ann@brba.org or Pamela Labbe at pam@brba.org.

Trivia Night at Jolie Pearl Oyster Bar

The most recent Trivia Night was held Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, and the winning team was from the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office. Special thanks to Luke Williamson and Marcus Plaisance, who hosted the Thanksgiving-themed trivia competition and to the four teams that competed.



YLS Council Members Candace B. Ford and Kolby Marchand served on a discussion panel along with Cornelius Troy Hall and 2024 YLS Chair Brad Cranmer (not pictured) at LSU Law, where they addressed the concerns of law students by answering questions during a Lunch & Learn event that took place Nov. 13, 2024. Marchand is the 2025 chair of the Young Lawyers Section. Photo provided by Jennifer Tran, LSU Law.



BRBA Board Member Marcus Plaisance and 2024 BRBA President Luke Williamson served as hosts of the Nov. 21, 2024, Trivia Night event held at Jolie Pearl Oyster Bar.



The winning BRBA Trivia Night team from the Nov. 21, 2024, event at Jolie Pearl Oyster Bar is the Subpoena Coladas from the EBR Parish District Attorney's Office. Pictured (L to R) are Dylan Alge, Irena Zajickova, Carlin Chambliss, Kaitlyn Mistretta and Laura Tracy. Zajickova, previously with the DA's Office, is now with the AG's Office.



Carlesia Carmena Bibbins (left), who is photographed beside 2024 BRBA President-elect Monica M. Vela-Vick, was recognized for her contribution of 100 hours of pro bono work during the Oct. 25, 2024, ceremony.

Pro Bono Project Holds Century Club & Pro Bono VIP Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

The Pro Bono Project of the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation honored attorneys who volunteer for pro bono and accept cases throughout the year during a ceremony held Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at the Middleton Bar Center.

After the Century Club & Pro Bono VIP Volunteer Recognition ceremony, attendees attended a one-hour CLE seminar.

For information about how to become involved with the Pro Bono Project, contact Robin Kay at robin@brba.org or Lynn S. Haynes at lynn@brba.org.



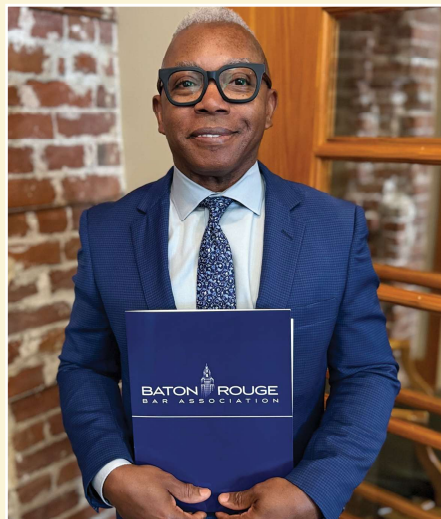
BRBA 2024 President-elect Monica M. Vela-Vick presented awards during the BRBF Pro Bono Project's Century Club & Pro Bono VIP Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Photographed (L to R) are Vela-Vick and Cynthia N. Reed, recipient of the Crystal Century Club award. Reed donated a cumulative total of 1,200 hours of pro bono case work.



Valerie T. Schexnayder, 2024 Pro Bono Committee chair, was honored during the ceremony for donating 50 hours of pro bono work.



Todd E. Gaudin received the Century Club Award for his donation of 100 hours of pro bono work.



Barrington Neil was honored with the Century Club award and a certificate for his donation of 500 hours of pro bono work for the BRBF Pro Bono Project.



DeVonna M. Ponthieu was recognized for her contribution of 100 hours of pro bono work.



Gavel Gala Raises Funds for Foundation Projects

The City Club of Baton Rouge was the venue for the third annual Gavel Gala, a black-tie affair that raised funds for the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

Spearheading the event were Luke Williamson and Hayden Moore, with the help of the Gavel Gala Committee. Loren Fleshman worked closely with the pair to secure auction items for both the live and silent auctions. BRBA Executive Director Ann K. Gregorie served as the staff liaison to the committee.

Luke Williamson welcomed guests at the event, introducing the "last lawyer standing" game. The game was followed by the live auction, which was led by celebrity auctioneer John L. "Jay" Dardenne.

Attending the Gavel Gala are newly elected City Court Judge Brittany Bryant Jorden and Judge William "Will" Jorden with the 19th Judicial District Court.



Photographed are (L to R) Christine Lipsey and Michael Rubin. Lipsey received the Gregorie Gavel Lifetime Achievement Award during the third annual Gavel Gala.



Photographed during the 2024 Gavel Gala and representing Mansfield Melancon are (L to R) Brad Cranmer, Collin Melancon, Linnea Brailsford and Kelley Dick Jr.



Funds derived from the Gavel Gala bottle pull, silent and live auctions, event tickets and sponsorships went to support the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. Special thanks to all who participated in this year's event.



Laurie N. Marien, Melanie Newkome Jones and Family Court Judge Pam Baker attended this year's Gavel Gala, which supports the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.



Photographed at the Gavel Gala are (L to R) S. Dennis Blunt, SULC Professor Carol Guidry and First Circuit Chief Judge John Michael Guidry.



Karli Johnson, Magistrate Judge Scott Johnson, Chief Judge Shelly Dick and John Haile attended the third annual Gavel Gala.



Photographed are (L to R) Scott and Jill Brady; Johnny and Amy Joubert; and Karen and Henri Saunders.



Photographed are (L to R) Charles Szeszycki, Sadie Herbert, Tucker Ganley, Evan Gaudet and Adam Guarisco.



BRBF Holiday Star Project Brightens the Lives of Many Children In Need Each Year

Volunteers from throughout the Baton Rouge legal community purchased gifts for children in need so that they could experience joy ahead of the holiday season. The culmination of their efforts took place Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, when the gifts for the Holiday Star Project were delivered to six agencies representing approximately 450 children. Special thanks to Diesel Driving Academy for use of the big truck; 2024 Holiday Star Committee chair, Emily A. Lindig; and Jordyn Baker, staff liaison to the committee.

Photographed are (back row, L to R) Emily A. Lindig (chair), Alexis Bratton, Noel Haynes and Beverly Perkins; (front row, L to R) Joseph Conrad with Diesel Driving Academy, Ellis Wolf, Lynn Smith Haynes, Jordyn Baker, Robin Kay and Jamerson Jackson.



Back to Basics: Partial Final Judgments

by Bradley C. Guin

Your client faces a partial judgment and wants to have it reversed or modified. Your next step is crucial: appeal or file a writ? Unlike with “pure” final or interlocutory judgments, the path forward isn’t always clear. Indeed, this area of the law is rife with procedural landmines.¹ Some partial judgments are immediately appealable.² Others require court certification.³ And even if you secure court certification, there is the risk that the court improperly grants certification, which may divest the appellate court of jurisdiction. Misclassifying a partial judgment as final or interlocutory is also risky, as it affects filing deadlines. This article attempts to demystify partial final judgments, first by examining the text and structure of the partial judgments code article and then by exploring how a partial judgment can be certified as final.

Types of Judgments Under Louisiana Law

First, let’s examine the taxonomy of judgments under Louisiana law. Starting with the broadest category, a judgment is either final or interlocutory. A final judgment determines the merits of a controversy, in whole or in part.⁴ An interlocutory judgment does not determine the merits, but only preliminary matters in the course of an action.⁵ Consider the following examples: A judgment after a trial on the merits is a final judgment because it determines the merits of the controversy. A judgment that grants a motion for summary judgment is also a final judgment. But a judgment on a routine procedural motion, like a motion in limine or a motion to compel, is an interlocutory judgment because it does not determine the merits of the case, plus the case is still unresolved.

The final-versus-interlocutory dichotomy is important: only final judgments (and a few specific types of interlocutory judgments, like preliminary injunctions and class-certification judgments) are appealable.⁶ In contrast, interlocutory judgments are generally not appealable.⁷ Instead, the proper procedural vehicle to seek review of an interlocutory judgment is an application for supervisory writs.⁸ But there is no guarantee that an appellate court will grant the writ application

and exercise its supervisory jurisdiction.⁹ Thus, a party always has a right of appeal but not a right to supervisory review.¹⁰

Next, final judgments can either be complete or partial. A complete final judgment disposes of all remaining issues in the case and concludes the litigation (at least at the trial-court level).¹¹ In contrast, a partial final judgment does not grant all of the relief prayed for or adjudicate all of the issues.¹²

The final category of judgments are types of partial judgments. In one bucket, there are partial final judgments that are immediately appealable without any further action from the trial court or the parties.¹³ In another bucket are partial judgments that are immediately appealable only if the trial court certifies the judgment as immediately appealable.¹⁴ In this last category, the partial judgment is not considered a “final” (and therefore appealable) judgment unless it is properly certified.¹⁵

Breaking Down Article 1915

Historically, Louisiana’s courts have disfavored multiple appeals and piecemeal litigation.¹⁶ That’s where Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure article 1915 comes in. Article 1915, which governs partial final judgments, “attempts to strike a balance between the undesirability of piecemeal appeals and the need for making review available at a time that best serves the needs of the parties.”¹⁷

Now, let’s examine the text and structure of article 1915. Article 1915(A) lists six types of partial final judgments that are immediately appealable *without* a certification from the trial court.¹⁸ Those judgments are:

1. a judgment that dismisses the suit as to less than all of the parties;
2. a judgment that grants a motion for judgment on the pleadings;
3. a judgment that grants a motion for summary judgment (but not a motion for partial summary judgment);

4. a judgment on either the principal or incidental demand if the two have been tried separately;
5. a judgment on the issue of liability when that issue has been tried separately, or when, in a jury trial, the issue of liability has been tried before a jury and the issue of damages is to be tried before a different jury; and
6. a judgment that imposes sanctions or disciplinary action.¹⁹

Article 1915(B)(1) then explains that all other partial judgments are not final judgments unless the trial court: (1) makes “an express determination that there is no just reason for delay”; and (2) designates the judgment as a final judgment.²⁰ This order is important: Article 1915(B)(1) states that the designation (or certification) as a final judgment must occur “after” the express determination has occurred.²¹ Thus, when preparing a proposed partial final judgment, it is advisable to always include a paragraph wherein the court determines that there is no just reason for delay before the paragraph designating the judgment as a final judgment. And, of course, you can caption the judgment as a “partial final judgment,” though the caption is not always determinative of the nature of the document or pleading.²²

Propriety of Certification

While article 1915(B)(1) authorizes a trial court to certify a partial judgment as a partial final judgment, there is the risk that the trial court may improperly certify the judgment. And there’s the rub: A court of appeal’s appellate jurisdiction lies over only final judgments.²³ If a trial court improperly certifies a partial judgment as a partial final judgment, the judgment is technically an interlocutory judgment and the court of appeal lacks appellate jurisdiction to hear the case.²⁴ Thus, when a purported partial final judgment is on appeal, a court of appeal often analyzes whether the certification was appropriate.²⁵ If so, there’s appellate jurisdiction and the appeal can move forward; if not, there’s no jurisdiction and the appeal must be dismissed (unless the court of appeal converts the improper appeal into an application for supervisory writs).

So, when is certification appropriate? The Louisiana Supreme Court has instructed trial courts to use the following nonexclusive factors:

1. the relationship between the adjudicated and unadjudicated claims;
2. the possibility that the need for review might be mooted by future developments in the trial court;
3. the possibility that the reviewing court might be obliged to consider the same issue a second time; and
4. miscellaneous factors such as delay, economic and solvency considerations, shortening the time of trial, frivolity of competing claims, expense and the like.²⁶

Factors aside, as the text of article 1915(B)(1) indicates, the “overriding inquiry” for the trial court is whether “there is no just reason for delay.”²⁷

The standard for review for an order designating a judgment as final for appeal purposes turns on whether the order is accompanied by explicit reasons.²⁸ When the trial court

gives reasons, the standard of review is abuse of discretion.²⁹ If, however, the trial court fails to give reasons but some justification is apparent from the record, then the appellate court cannot summarily dismiss the appeal.³⁰ Instead, the appellate court should undertake a de novo review of whether certification was proper, applying the same factors discussed above.³¹ There are a few additional options if the trial court fails to give reasons and the propriety of the certification is not apparent from the record. In that case, the appellate court can either request a per curiam opinion from the trial court or issue a rule to show cause to the parties requiring them to show why the appeal should not be dismissed for failure to comply with article 1915.³²

¹ See generally Mark Tatum & William Norris, III, *Summary Judgment and Partial Judgment in Louisiana: The State We’re In*, 59 LA. L. REV. 131, 133, 152–69 (1998); Haley Baker, Comment, *Curing the Federal Infection: Restoring Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1915 to Its Louisiana Form*, 84 LA. L. REV. 1523, 1563–71 (2024) (discussing confusion and uncertainty surrounding La. Code Civ. Proc. art. 1915).

² See La. C.C.P. art. 1915(A) & cmt. (1999); Matter of Succession of Scott, 23-0826 (La. App. 1 Cir. 3/20/24), ___ So. 3d ___, 2024 WL 1190690, at *2, writ denied, 24-0509 (La. 6/25/24), 386 So.3d 1085 (citation omitted).

³ See La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B)(1) & cmt. (1999).

⁴ Scott, 2024 WL 1190690, at *1 n.2 (citing La. Code Civ. Proc. art. 1841).

⁵ Id. (citation omitted).

⁶ See La. C.C.P. arts. 592(A)(3)(c), 3612(B); Dunbar v. Howard, 21-1171 (La. App. 1 Cir. 8/16/22), 348 So.3d 738, 743.

⁷ Dunbar, 348 So.3d at 743.

⁸ Id. at 744.

⁹ Favrot v. Favrot, 10-0986 (La. App. 4 Cir. 2/9/11), 68 So.3d 1099, 1102, writ denied, 11-0636 (La. 5/6/11), 62 So.3d 127 (citation omitted).

¹⁰ See La. C.C.P. art. 2082, cmt. (a) (1960) (noting that “appeal from all final judgments is a matter of right”); Amedee v. Aimbridge Hospitality LLC, 21-1906 (La. 10/21/22), 351 So.3d 321, 325 (citing La. C.C.P. art. 2086).

¹¹ Bennett v. Laperouse & Son, Ltd., 09-1099 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2/12/10), 35 So. 3d 364, 366.

¹² See La. C.C.P. art. 1915(A).

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B)(1).

¹⁵ La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B)(1)–(2).

¹⁶ Plant-N-Power Servs., Inc. v. JRE Field Servs., LLC, 22-1225 (La. App. 1 Cir. 5/31/23), 369 So.3d 12, 19, writ denied, 23-1077 (La. 11/8/23), 373 So.3d 45.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ La. C.C.P. art. 1915(A); Triton Diving Servs. LLC v. Offshore Marine Serv. Ass’n, 23-0169 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/21/23), 372 So.3d 832, 836.

¹⁹ La. C.C.P. art. 1915(A)(1)–(6).

²⁰ La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B)(1).

²¹ Id.

²² See Warehouse Cafe Props., L.L.C. v. Ernest N. Morial Convention Ctr., 24-0127 (La. App. 4 Cir. 9/3/24), ___ So.3d ___, 2024 WL 4023385, at *3 (citation omitted).

²³ See Triton Diving, 372 So.3d at 836 (citation omitted).

²⁴ See Lexington Land Dev., L.L.C. v. Chevron Pipeline Co., 20-0622, pp. 11–12 (La. App. 1 Cir. 5/25/21), 327 So.3d 8, 18, writ denied, 21-1194 (La. 11/7/21), 327 So. 3d 996.

²⁵ See, e.g., Bellview Estates, LLC v. Knoll & Dufour Lands, LLC, 19-1394 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/21/20), 315 So.3d 252, 258.

²⁶ R.J. Messinger, Inc. v. Rosenblum, 04-1664 (La. 3/2/05), 894 So.2d 1113, 1122.

²⁷ Id.; La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B)(1).

²⁸ Messinger, 894 So. 2d at 1122.

²⁹ Id.

³⁰ Id.

³¹ Id.

³² Id.

NIL

The NIL Revolution and Future of College Athletics

by David C. Fleshman

The landscape of college athletics is undergoing a seismic shift. At the heart of this transformation is the evolving issue of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) rights, which allow student-athletes to profit from their personal brands. This topic has ignited debates over the commercialization of college sports, amateurism and athletes' rights, and has spurred a series of high-profile lawsuits challenging the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) long-standing restrictions on NIL earnings.

The Evolution of NIL in College Sports

Historically, student-athletes were barred by the NCAA from profiting from their NIL through sponsorship deals due to the NCAA's emphasis on amateurism. This prohibition persisted until recent landmark cases challenged the NCAA's policies. Key cases, including *O'Bannon v. NCAA*¹ and *Alston v. NCAA*,² challenged the legality of limiting student-athlete compensation under antitrust law, laying the groundwork for significant policy shifts. The pivotal *O'Bannon* case in 2014 argued that the NCAA's restrictions on NIL earnings were antitrust violations, and the resulting decision allowed schools to offer athletes compensation beyond traditional scholarships.³

In *Alston v. NCAA*,⁴ Shawne Alston (a former running back at West Virginia University) filed a class-action lawsuit challenging the NCAA's rules limiting education-related

benefits. Alston asserted that the members of the class were not allowed to receive the full-cost-of-attendance scholarships, which had been permitted as a result of *O'Bannon*. The Supreme Court upheld the district court's prior ruling that the NCAA's rules had a substantial anticompetitive effect in the market for student-athlete services. This allowed schools to offer more comprehensive education-related benefits, such as internships, computers, tutoring, equipment and up to \$5,980 in academic-achievement stipends, known as the "Alston Awards." While this decision focused only on education-related compensation, Justice Kavanaugh's concurrence raised serious red flags for the NCAA and has paved the way for future litigation against the NCAA. Kavanaugh wrote: "Nowhere else in America can businesses get away with agreeing not to pay their workers a fair market rate on the theory that their product is defined by not paying their workers a fair market rate. And under ordinary principles of antitrust law, it is not evident why college sports should be any different. The NCAA is not above the law."⁵

The NIL Era: Unprecedented Opportunities and Legal Battles

Just nine days after the Supreme Court's decision in *Alston*, the NCAA introduced an interim NIL policy on June 30, 2021, allowing student-athletes to enter endorsement deals, secure sponsorships and monetize their popularity and social-media following.⁶ This change ushered in a new era for collegiate

sports, with athletes like LSU gymnast Olivia Dunn reportedly earning millions in endorsement deals.⁷ Despite this progress, former players argue that the NCAA's NIL reforms came too late for thousands of athletes whose NIL was exploited without compensation. The NCAA has faced a series of lawsuits seeking compensation for the failure to pay student-athletes before the rules changed.

*In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*⁸ is a consolidation of several class-action lawsuits against the NCAA, conferences and member schools.⁹ In these lawsuits, the plaintiffs asserted claims “arising out of injuries they allegedly suffered as a result of certain NCAA rules, which are set and enforced by agreement of Defendants.” However, on Oct. 7, 2024, a landmark settlement was preliminarily approved in connection with three of the cases,¹⁰ requiring the NCAA and Division I schools to pay approximately \$2.6 billion in back pay damages to over 25,000 student-athletes and introducing a new revenue-sharing model that will enable schools to initially provide around \$20 million annually to student-athletes. Although the final approval hearing is not until April 7, 2025, this settlement has sparked the next phase of college athletics’ evolution into a more professionalized entity. Colleges are now preparing to sign athletes not to national letters of intent but to NIL agreements guaranteeing compensation directly from school to player starting July 1, 2025—the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year.¹¹

The NCAA Continues to Face New NIL Lawsuits

While the *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation* settlement is expected to cover an estimated 14,500 Division I athletes who played between June 15, 2016, and Nov. 3, 2023 (when the class was established), a void exists for those former players whose NIL was used prior to that time. Several new lawsuits have emerged attacking that void, with each raising new challenges against the NCAA's past and present policies.

On Sept. 10, 2024, four former University of Michigan football players, including Denard Robinson, filed a putative class-action lawsuit on behalf of all former University of Michigan football players who played prior to 2016, against the NCAA and the Big Ten Network. In *Robinson v. NCAA*, the former Michigan players argue that they deserve retroactive

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NIL compensation for contributions that continue to generate revenue for the NCAA and its media partners and seek in excess of \$50 million for what the plaintiffs claim was a “wrong perpetuated on college athletes for decades.”¹² For example, class plaintiff Denard Robinson was featured on the cover of EA Sports’ popular NCAA Football video game in 2014, but he received no compensation despite the NCAA profiting from its sale of 1.5 million copies. Today’s athletes, by contrast, receive a baseline \$600 payment to every participant in the College Football 25 video game through a NIL agreement, with star players earning considerably more for their commercial appearances and promotion of the game.¹³

Less than two weeks after the *Robinson* case was filed, former University of Southern California (USC) running back and Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush filed a suit on Sept. 23, 2024, against the NCAA, the Pac-12 and USC, alleging they profited from his NIL without providing compensation.¹⁴ In *Bush v. NCAA*, the College Football Hall of Famer argues that the NCAA’s rules acted as a “restraint of trade,” restricting his ability to monetize his identity in ways that were not required for the NCAA’s purported amateurism model.¹⁵ In a similar case filed June 10, 2024, 10 players from North Carolina State’s 1983 national champion

basketball team—known as the “Cardiac Pack”—alleged that the NCAA forced the student-athletes to sign away their publicity rights without compensation and has exploited these rights for more than four decades.¹⁶ The plaintiffs contend that the NCAA “has conspired with conferences, colleges, licensing companies, and apparel companies to fix the price of student-athlete labor near zero and make student-athletes unwitting and uncompensated lifetime pitchmen for the NCAA.” Cases like those of Bush and the former North Carolina State players highlight how deeply intertwined NIL disputes are with the broader issues of athlete rights and NCAA profits.

On Oct. 4, 2024, former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor filed a lawsuit against the NCAA, Ohio State, the Big Ten Conference and Learfield Communications, LLC.¹⁷ In this suit, Pryor alleges that he was wrongfully punished in 2011 for selling memorabilia and that the class of plaintiffs (defined as “all former student-athletes who competed on an Ohio State athletic team at any time prior to the changes to the [NIL] rules of the NCAA”) were damaged by the Ohio State defendants’ conspiracy to illegally restrain trade “by fixing the compensation available to members of the Classes for their [NIL] at zero.” The class further claims that the “[d]efendants’ conduct caused members of the Classes to receive less compensation for their publicity rights and [NIL] than they would have received but for the conduct and elimination of a competitive market.” The lawsuit

further asserts that the defendants continue to use the athletes' publicity rights without permission and adequate compensation through the use of videos that depict Pryor and the class and through replays of games, all of which are alleged to result in large income streams for the defendants.¹⁸

The rising tide of NIL litigation reveals more than a fleeting issue—it signals a fundamental transformation of collegiate athletics' economic and structural landscape. Some cases argue that NCAA-enforced agreements prohibiting compensation have amounted to an illegal price-fixing scheme under the Sherman Act, which prevents unreasonable trade restrictions. This legal approach suggests that the college sports model needs to be further restructured to accommodate fair compensation practices.

Looking Ahead: College Sports at a Crossroads

The NCAA faces a complex, evolving landscape as it navigates these NIL disputes. Should the courts find in favor of athletes in these cases, the NCAA and its member institutions could face significant financial repercussions and will need to adopt more comprehensive NIL policies to avoid future litigation.

More immediately, college sports programs are beginning to implement the revenue-sharing model allowed by the *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation* settlement, which will allow athletes to receive a portion of their school's earnings directly. Schools like the Power Four conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big

12 and SEC) are wrestling with a central question posed by revenue share: how to distribute the revenue among sports.

It appears that the majority of the Power Four schools are planning to disburse the vast majority of their revenue (as much as or more than 90%) to football and men's basketball—the only two profit-turning sports at many universities.¹⁹ This model rewards the sports that generate the most revenue, but also aligns with the formula that attorneys in the *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation* case are using to distribute back damages: 75–80% to football; 10–15% to men's basketball; and 5–15% to other sports. Therefore, for schools offering the maximum amount under the settlement's revenue-share cap, the formula means that football rosters would receive \$13 million–\$16 million and men's basketball rosters \$2 million–\$4 million, according to estimates.²⁰ If schools do distribute 90% of their dollars to football and men's basketball, that leaves roughly \$1 million–\$2 million for all other sports and a heavy forecast of Title IX lawsuits.

The future of NIL rights and athlete compensation remains uncertain. However, it is clear that the traditional boundaries of college sports are shifting. Athletes today have unprecedented control over their personal brands, but the fight for fair compensation for past athletes and current players continues.

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- ¹ O'Bannon v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, 802 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2015)
- ² Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Alston, 141 S. Ct. 2141 (2021).
- ³ See O'Bannon, 802 F.3d 1049.
- ⁴ See Alston, 141 S. Ct. 2141 (2021).
- ⁵ Id. at 2169 (2021) (Kavanaugh, J., concurring).
- ⁶ Michelle Brutlag Hosick, *NCAA Adopts Interim Name, Image and Likeness Policy*, NCAA (June 30, 2021, 4:20 PM), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2021/6/30/ncaa-adopts-interim-name-image-and-likeness-policy.aspx>.
- ⁷ Jenna Lemoncelli, *Livvy Dunne Already Planning Next Steps After Becoming \$9.5 Million NIL Legend*, N.Y. Post (Sept. 13, 2024, 7:00 AM), <https://nypost.com/2024/09/13/sports/livvy-dunne-planning-next-steps-next-after-becoming-9-5-million-nil-legend/>.
- ⁸ No. 4:20-cv-03919 (N.D. Cal. June 15, 2020).
- ⁹ This case includes the consolidation of numerous class action cases, including *House v. NCAA*, 4:20-cv-03919 (N.D. Cal.); *Oliver v Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n*, 4:20-cv-04527 (N.D. Cal.); *Hubbard v. NCAA*; and *Carter v. NCAA*.
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- ¹¹ Ross Dellenger, *With Non-Football Early Signing Period upon Us, We're About to See How Messy College Sports Is Going to Get*, YAHOO! SPORTS (Nov. 13, 2024), <https://sports.yahoo.com/with-non-football-early-signing-period-upon-us-were-about-to-see-how-messy-college-sports-is-going-to-get-150224345.html?guccounter=1>.
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- ¹⁸ Michael McCann, *Terrell Pryor Joins Former College Stars in Suing NCAA over Unpaid NIL*, SPORTICO (Oct. 4, 2024, 11 A.M.), <https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2024/terrelle-pryor-nil-lawsuit-1234799875/>.
- ¹⁹ Dellenger, *supra* note 11.
- ²⁰ Id.

2025 BRBA Board of Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected 2024 BRBA Board: **Monica M. Vela-Vick**, president; **Loren Shanklin Fleshman**, president-elect; **Hayden A. Moore**, treasurer; **Vincent "Trey" Tumminello III**, secretary; and **Luke Williamson**, past-president.

The 2025 directors-at-large are **Kelley R. Dick Jr.**, **Anthony Gambino**, **Kellye R. Grinton**, **Lori E. Palmintier**, **Marcus J. Plaisance** and **Chris Shows**.



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2025 YLS Officers & Council Members

Congratulations to the 2025 Young Lawyer Section leaders: **Kolby Marchand**, chair; **Cornelius Troy Hall**, chair-elect; **Candace B. Ford**, secretary/treasurer; and **Brad Cranmer**, past-chair. Serving as YLS Council members are:

Linnea Brailsford, **Sadie Herbert**, **Emily A. Lindig**, **Rebecca Moreno** and **Beverly Perkins**.



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Rebecca Moreno
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Beverly Perkins
YLS Council

Attorney Spotlight: Ryan French *by Pamela Labbe*

TBRL: I read that you attained Eagle Scout status. Also, I learned from your bio that you earned a 4.0 GPA in college as an accounting major, served as executive senior editor of the Louisiana Law Review and graduated in the top 2% of your law school graduating class. You are now a partner at Taylor Porter. These are impressive feats, but what do you believe is your greatest accomplishment thus far?

RF: Other than my array of merit badges, I would have to say that I am most proud of gradually overcoming the fears that inevitably come up in every case, particularly when the stakes are raised or I have to learn a new area of law. I still have those fears, but over the course of 12 years, the doubts have slowly become background noise as I have started to appreciate the constant challenge of learning (and fighting off panic attacks). Candidly, I expected to be completely burned out by now, but I find that I'm one of those blessed people who gets to enjoy his job.

TBRL: How do you maintain a healthy work/life balance? And was this always a priority?

RF: Let's be honest: no one in my family thinks I have a healthy work/life balance. I'm newly married and have only recently helped to create a child, and so I am a work-in-progress. While I have thrived in the past on immersing myself in details and controlling everything in a case, I am now working toward truly delegating and trusting junior colleagues. Let's just say my 9-month-old is not the only person in my family taking baby steps.

TBRL: What was your first job ever?

RF: Well, in high school, there was my short-lived lawn-mowing business that had only two customers, and they were not of the repeat type. This necessitated a real job as a barista at CC's Coffee, which I still maintain is the hardest and most demanding job I have ever had. When I close my eyes, I can still relive the embarrassment of—in front of patrons—being required in the middle of a “rush” to yield control of the espresso machine to someone who could keep up and make faster lattes. I never recovered.

TBRL: Tell us about your education.

RF: There is not too much to tell here; I attended high school in Baton Rouge at Parkview Baptist, after which I followed all of my friends to LSU. Then, while waiting tables, customers kept telling me that an accounting degree would be more useful than the one I was pursuing in “international trade and



finance.” Eventually, I decided to follow their advice and worked to become a CPA as my backup plan if law school didn't work out.

TBRL: Where did you attend law school?

RF: LSU Law School.

TBRL: What sparked your interest in law?

RF: It's a bit of a lame story. I was giving a police statement after a minor car accident in high school, and before I knew what I had done, I mentioned an unnecessary detail that earned me a ticket totally unrelated to the accident. It was my first realization of how useful it might be to actually know the rules that govern everyone's daily actions and interactions.

TBRL: Is the practice of law different from what you expected it to be when you first entered law school?

RF: Yes, absolutely. It was a relief to see that courtroom and trial practice is often unpolished and that missteps are common and, even more importantly, OK. That enabled me to see that practicing law is not a constant exercise in always performing perfectly and impressing everyone in the room, which is what TV would lead you to believe. Of course, I was also never aware of how little my legal career would be about impressing a jury, and how much it would be about research and writing and billing.

TBRL: Your legal practice areas are commercial litigation and church property law. Tell us more about how you chose these practice areas, especially church property law, as that doesn't seem to be a commonly practiced area of law.

RF: I know, right? It was actually a joke among my law school friends when Taylor Porter began to advertise “church property law” as my expertise. In a nutshell, the practice is essentially helping local churches across the country understand and secure their property rights from whatever broader denomination or religious organization that might also claim to own or control it. Without exception, my clients in this area are simply dedicated bodies of people who want the same religious freedom as a group that we all individually expect. I was introduced to this practice by Lloyd Luncford, a senior lawyer at Taylor Porter, who was the national expert in this area—which is a combination of state property/conveyance law, trust law, corporate governance and hostile-takeover defense, which is then thrown into a pot with First Amendment issues and lastly filtered through each

state's unique way of resolving religion-tinged disagreements. I truly enjoy this work, which has allowed me to work with clients in 20 states, while also becoming a better commercial litigator and an all-purpose lawyer for churches and non-profit organizations.

TBRL: What is your favorite part about practicing law?

RF: What we do really, really matters. Go ahead and laugh at me, but we are modern-day, albeit more boring, gladiators picked by our clients to fight (file briefs, argue, send wordy emails) in their place. The clients are not trained and do not know how to use the weapons (Westlaw). And, what I really like is that, for those who try hard enough, there is almost always a creative solution or argument to address every problem that at first seems insurmountable; I love stumbling upon that answer after hours of research and struggling. I expect that "Gladiator III" will be about attorneys in Baton Rouge.

TBRL: If you were not practicing law, what would be your alternate profession?

RF: I would love to be a judge, but if that is too close to practicing law, I would like to have some management role in the operation of a small or midsize business—it would scratch an entrepreneurial itch to learn a new business, understand its finances, master the underlying widget and then help build it into something big.

TBRL: Tell us something interesting about yourself that few people know.

RF: If I was told I could eat only Indian food for the rest of my life, I'd be totally OK with that.

TBRL: Describe your involvement with the BRBA.

RF: My first introduction to BRBA was heading up Taylor Porter's participation in the Holiday Star Project as a first-year

associate, followed by writing an article for *The Baton Rouge Lawyer* and several years of heavy involvement in and/or eating at the Belly Up with the Bar event.

TBRL: Of the programs you listed, which is your favorite?

RF: You can't beat Belly Up, which my wife and I attend every year. It is great to see the amount of effort that so many local firms and organizations put into the contest.

TBRL: Do you have a bucket list, and if so, tell us a few things that you hope to accomplish in the next year?

RF: From the hip, I would love to complete a triathlon, become a repeat father, and—without having to spend any money—stop annoying my wife with my cheapness.

TBRL: What is your guilty pleasure?

RF: A pumpkin spice latte.

TBRL: How do you unwind? What are your leisure activities?

RF: I love kayak fishing, although it is a rare occurrence. More likely, you will catch me repeatedly running up the stairs after-hours in my office building—a pretty miserable experience but very satisfying when I am done.

TBRL: Tell us about your family.

RF: I have a wonderful wife with an amazing wit, whom I met in St. Francisville. Completing our clan is a brilliant 15-year-old daughter, who is a freshman at Baton Rouge High, and a 9-month old girl widely believed to be the cutest in the state or possibly the country.

TBRL: What advice do you have for young lawyers or lawyers who are just starting out?

RF: Do what scares you. You'll either become less scared as the experiences pile up, or you'll realize that fear does not have to prevent you from doing your job well.



MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF BATON ROUGE
BALL MAUL 2025

CONTACT ANN K. GREGORIE
FOR SPONSORSHIP OR
TEAM INFORMATION:
ANN@BRBA.ORG

VITAL STATISTICS

Age: 72

Profession:

Lawyer in recovery,
retired mediator
and occasional
arbitrator

Name of Spouse:

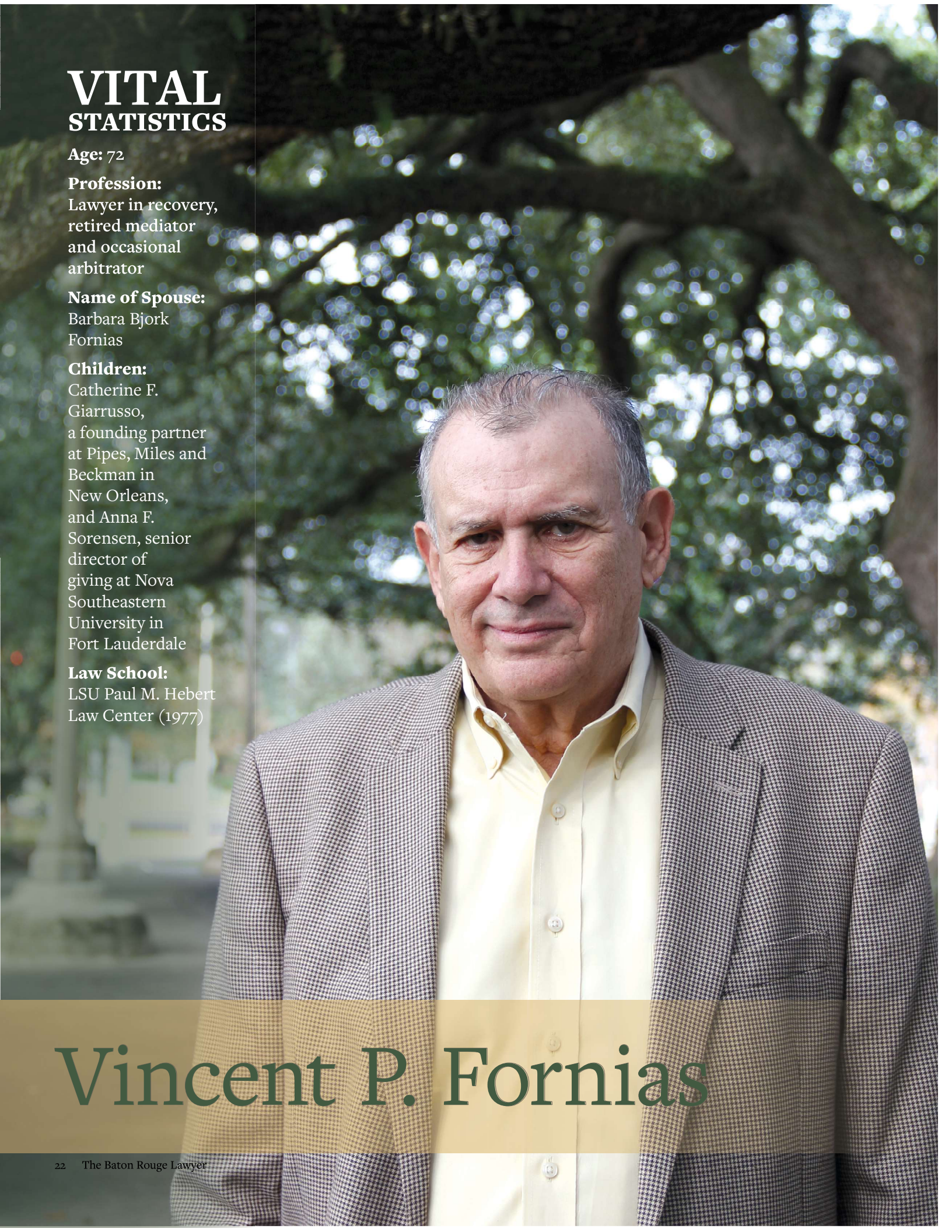
Barbara Bjork
Fornias

Children:

Catherine F.
Giarrusso,
a founding partner
at Pipes, Miles and
Beckman in
New Orleans,
and Anna F.
Sorensen, senior
director of
giving at Nova
Southeastern
University in
Fort Lauderdale

Law School:

LSU Paul M. Hebert
Law Center (1977)

A portrait of Vincent P. Fornias, an older man with graying hair, wearing a light yellow button-down shirt and a brown patterned blazer. He is standing outdoors in front of a large, leafy tree. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the tree and some greenery.

Vincent P. Fornias

What I've Learned: Vincent P. Fornias *by Ed Walters*

Born & Raised: I was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, where I expected to spend the rest of my life as the sole male heir to a family commercial business. Then at the age of 7 my family sought exile in New Orleans about a year after Castro took control of our homeland. After living in New Orleans through high school, I attended LSU, got married and never left.

Parents: My late father, Vicente J. Fornias, imported grain from the U.S. When we came to New Orleans, he first became a grocer and later worked in the shipping department at General Electric. My late mother, Marta P. Fornias, helped him at the grocery, worked at a cafeteria and ultimately retired as a lab assistant at Tulane Medical School.

Siblings: My sister Maria F. Soldani lives in south Florida with her husband and operates several airport shops. My late sister Milly helped her husband Billy run an accounting firm in Kenner.

Law practice: Litigated on both sides of the aisle at Kantrow, Spaht, Weaver and Blitzer, then gravitated to mediating and arbitrating in the late '90s while still litigating. Eventually I helped open the MAPS Baton Rouge office in 2006, where I mediated and arbitrated through 2018. Since then, I have handled arbitrations and early neutral evaluations as a panel member at Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions.

The best advice I ever got was from my father, who stressed before every school year or job to "let them know who you are." By this he meant that only through hard work and dependability could I build a good reputation among those who did not know me or my family.

The best lesson I ever learned was from a treasured high school teacher and mentor, Father Hervé Racivich, who inspired us to define and analyze any situation as precisely as possible before acting upon it as equitably and humanely as possible.

Being a lawyer allowed me to hire competent people to perform so many jobs and tasks that I am useless at performing.

I always looked up to those around me who maintained a positive attitude no matter what. My mother was a master at this.

One of the jobs I had as a kid was—you name it—from a ladder company ("Our Business Is Climbing") to bussing tables and washing dishes at a Spanish restaurant.

I wish more people prioritized volunteering in areas where they can best use their talents to improve their communities. Although serving on boards and donating are important, my favorites are hands-on activities, where you can witness face-to-face the difference you are helping to make. To me, ultimately, it's a selfish thing to do, because I get more enjoyment than any of my recipients could ever get.

If you really want to get me angry, act like you hit a home run when you were born on third base.

My parents taught me to earn my successes and own my failures.

If I could, I would live long enough to witness the magical path in store for each of my four granddaughters.

The truth is that I am one of the luckiest people alive. Every real important decision I have ever made seemed preordained.

The turning point in my life was when we left Cuba when I was 7 and my family started anew with few possessions or connections in New Orleans. I knew not a word of English and was sent to school to seek and find success. I quickly learned that the future was mine alone to forge. Gratefully, I encountered many friends and mentors along the way.

I think that more people should strive for balance in their lives. It keeps your life in perspective and helps you

appreciate both your professional and personal lives.

The best lawyer I tried a case against was the late David W. Robinson. I was fortunate to have had him as an opponent on several occasions. He was always honorable, fair-minded and impeccably prepared, and he could think on his feet as well as anyone I ever encountered. His genuine homespun manner held juries in the palm of his hand. I was honored to call him my friend and to eulogize him in this publication.

I wish more people prioritized volunteering in areas where they can best use their talents to improve their communities. Although serving on boards and donating are important, my favorites are hands-on activities, where you can witness face-to-face the difference you are helping to make. To me, ultimately, it's a selfish thing to do, because I get more enjoyment than any of my recipients could ever get.

The older I get, the more

I value the benefits of listening—really listening—to others, even if their opinions may differ from my own. There is one condition, however, and that is reciprocity.

I've never been able to play golf worth a damn. Lord knows I've tried.

I would like to have one dinner with

Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain and James Taylor. I think they would mesh with each other quite well, including their dry humor, the way each overcame personal tragedies, their compassion and their creativity.

If I hadn't been a lawyer, in my fantasy world I would have been the next James Michener.

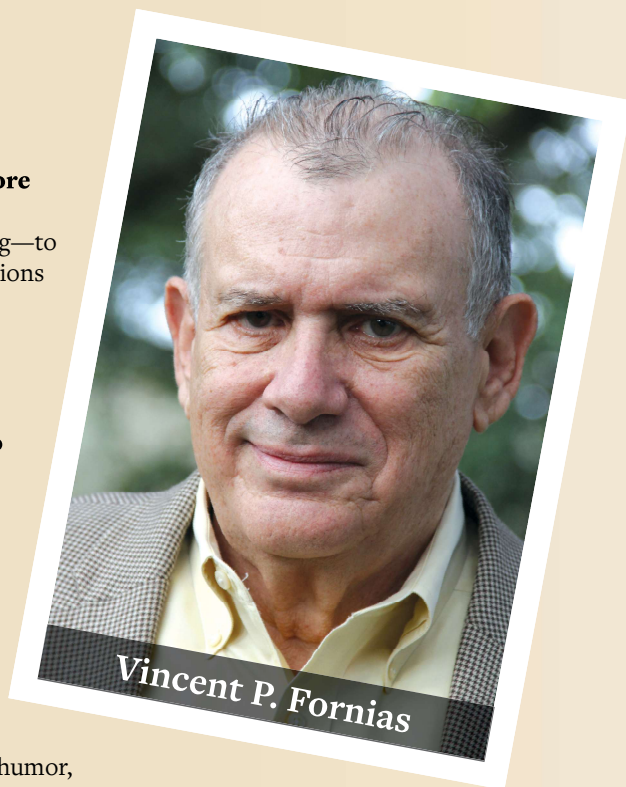
I have the most fun watching the sheer individuality of each of my granddaughters, and laughing with their mothers when their own past words or actions come back to haunt them in the next generation.

I am constantly reading books. Currently I am reading "The Death of a President," by the great William Manchester. I found it at the LSU book bazaar for the princely sum of \$2.

What people don't know about me is that I am very much an introvert at heart. I have a small but valued circle of golden friends that I like spending time with. And I am not much of a schmoozer. I would have made a terrible politician.

I miss both the nervousness and thrill of entering a courtroom, knowing what a privilege it is to advocate a client's cause to the very best of my ability.

My favorite quote is: "All you need is ignorance and confidence, and success is sure." Mark Twain.



**My favorite
quote is:**

"All you need is
ignorance and
confidence,
and success
is sure."

Mark Twain

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

THE BRBA HAS SO MUCH PLANNED FOR OUR MEMBERS IN 2025, BUT WE'RE NOT QUITE READY TO ANNOUNCE MANY OF THESE EXCITING EVENTS, SO IN THE MEANTIME, HERE IS A SAMPLING OF UPCOMING EVENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE BRBA: 225-344-4803.

BRBA LEADER INSTALLATION CEREMONY, follows the **FEDERAL COURT SWEARING IN CEREMONY**, which begins at 3 p.m. Jan. 9, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

OPENING OF COURT, MEMORIAL & NEW MEMBER CEREMONY, 3 p.m., Jan. 29, at the 19th Judicial District Court, 11th Floor Ceremonial courtroom.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION IN FEBRUARY. More information to come.

TRIVIA NIGHT @ JOLIE PEARL OYSTER BAR IN FEBRUARY. Starts at 5:30 p.m. on a Thursday in February 2025. Specific details to come.

JOINT BAR LUNCHEON WITH BATON ROUGE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS (BRAWA) & LOUIS A. MARTINET LEGAL SOCIETY IN FEBRUARY. Date and location TBA.

BALL MAUL GOLF TOURNAMENT IN MARCH. We'll be at University Club Monday, March 31.

MAY IS MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH. The BRBA will be honoring BRBA members by showing our appreciation for them all month long.

BENCH BAR CONFERENCE JULY 16-19. Plan your end of summer trip around our annual conference. This year's event is in Orange Beach, Alabama, at The Lodge.

Please join us at the Baton Rouge City Court
in Courtroom 321 on the third floor
for the
Investiture of Judge
Brittany C. Bryant Jorden
at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025

Contact Ann K. Gregorie for more information:

225-214-5563 or ann@brba.org

In Memoriam:

Mary Olive Pierson

by Judge Fred T. Crifasi

In 2003, I visited the law office of Cooper & Pierson to deliver campaign materials in support of the election of (my then law partner) Tony Marabella. Mary Olive “Ollie” Pierson came out and met me in person and inquired what I was going to do upon Marabella’s certain election. She offered me a vacant office in their suite, which I ultimately accepted. We maintained our separate practices; I was a tenant, and she was my landlord.

Some asked me at the time, how I could stand to practice in that office with her being so loud. Of course, my reply at the time was, “Have you not been around Tony Marabella?” I had moved from the skillet to the frying pan.

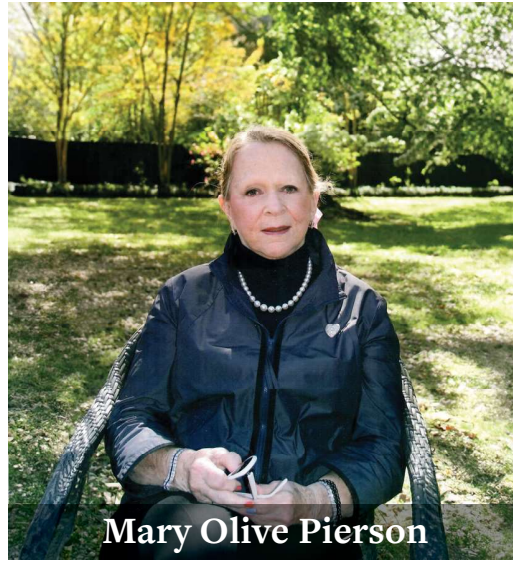
The difference was that Ollie was not in the office as much. Most often, she would leave town on Thursday afternoon to spend another four-day weekend at her camp in Fourchon. Marie, her trusted legal assistant, did a wonderful job of keeping the train on track. Ollie would return on Monday after lunch. Her attire was the same at the camp or in the office: flip flops and t-shirts, always in bright colors. (She had all of her T-shirts tailored to be shorter, and they always appeared pressed.)

She would enter the office talking on her cell phone and pause just long enough to say hello to Bonnie, the faithful receptionist. By the time she passed my door, we had heard an average of five colorful words, which doubled by the time she reached her door.

It was worse when she was on the landline because she always used the speaker phone. She seemed to think that when on speaker phone she had to talk louder than normal. Never mind closing the door either. Wick Cooper was impressed at my courage to close her door – once.

Her camp was famous. Furnished to facilitate numerous overnight guests, she hosted many occasions for others, including weddings and fundraisers. Many regular guests had a weekend identified as “their annual weekend.” All guests were treated to the likes of beef tenderloin accompanied by fresh local vegetables, crawfish bisque and her famous fried chicken. She entertained guests every weekend. Fishing was optional. She made life fun.

The office arrangement worked well for 13 years. Not only was she more than fair as a landlord, she would refer many



criminal cases to me (unless they were high profile, which of course she would keep).

A few times, as in three, we worked together on a large case. I found out quickly that she “did not play well with others.” Candidly, many lawyers of her ilk don’t. We were better suitemates. She was always available for a consultation, which was always focused and valuable. She had incredible intuition.

Since her passing, we have heard a lot about her extraordinary legal accomplishments. For such, please see the article published in *The Advocate*,¹ as well as her beautifully written obituary,² which some wonder if she wrote herself.

This publication is to honor her qualities as a friend, not only to me, but to so many others. Her persona as an aggressive lawyer was, in fact, a persona. Personally, she was attentive, ridiculously generous and, most of all, extremely loyal.

Often I observed her contribute plenty of time and incur plenty of expense to assist a friend in need. This included leaving her house at two o’clock in the morning to get a friend into a treatment facility. It included helping a friend navigate an employment crisis, drafting letters and documents that resulted in the desired goal, all while charging nothing. While this may not be uncommon for many lawyers, she ended by delivering a bottle of fine champagne to the friend to help celebrate – the Ollie touch.

She helped many employees of hers who were in financial need, even once buying property so that the employee, who was at risk of losing her home, could continue to have a suitable place to live at a rental amount she could afford. (And as Ollie would say, “Yeah, and it’s close to the office, so you should have no reason to be late.”)

Ollie’s generosity was endless. She supported many worthwhile causes and organizations. She even partied generously. In my first year on the property, she was celebrating her 60th birthday. She planned and paid for 30 to 40 people to fly to and stay in San Francisco for four days. I just watched it all in amazement.

No, I didn’t get invited. In fact, it took me five years to get on this list. Never again did it leave the state. But my wife and I still have stemware from each, as that was her tradition. While she definitely basked in the attention, it always impressed me

how she would take the opportunity to honor her mother, who attended them all, until she could no longer do so. Her siblings and their spouses likewise attended each year, making it a sort of annual Pierson family reunion. All on Ollie.

Ollie lived lavishly. I could not keep up with her lunch excursions. We eventually reached an agreement. If the restaurant had tablecloths, she paid. If it had none or paper, I paid. It worked well. Ollie was comfortable at either.

As repeated many times at her funeral, “She was one of a kind.” Her stories will be repeated often. In closing, I offer one that I only imagined.

Date: Sept. 9, 2024

Location/Event:

A loud disturbance reported at heaven’s pearly gates

Jesus: Hey, what’s going on over here?

St. Peter: This recent applicant is not at all pleased with my ruling.

Jesus: Well then, we will hear the appeal. We need to appoint counsel.

Ollie: I don’t need an appointed lawyer! I have all the money... in... the... world. Oh yeah, can’t take it with you.

Jesus: It’s ok, I will appoint St. George to represent you.

Ollie: Well Jesus, I think we have a pretty big conflict of interest here.

Jesus: OK but ...

Ollie: Look, I will represent myself. I want to know why St. Peter has this job anyway. Didn’t he deny you three times? I have never denied you. In fact, I used your name all the time!

Jesus: OK but ...

Ollie: Anyway, he’s had this job for nearly 2,000 years– isn’t it time for a woman to take over? Have you all not heard of Title 9?

Jesus: OK but ...

Ollie: By the way, in passing by purgatory, it seems we’ve got some serious violations of the presumption of innocence. Where can anybody get any due process? More than that, we could save a lot of money that could be better spent on heavenly celebrations! And, unlike some, I will never need your help fishing.

Jesus: OK, OK! You’re hired!

Ollie: Ahhhh. Back where it all started – working for the man.

¹ Patrick Sloan-Turner, *Mary Olive Pierson, Prominent Baton Rouge Attorney and Former Top City Official, Dies*, Advoc. (Baton Rouge, La. Sept. 9, 2024), https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/baton-rouge-attorney-mary-olive-pierson-dies/article_docba426-6ed4-11ef-a379-b357456ffoda.html.

² *Mary Pierson*, Advoc. (Baton Rouge, La. Sept. 9, 2024), <https://obituaries.theadvocate.com/obituary/mary-pierson-1092030036>.

BRBA BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2025

JULY
16-19
@
THE LODGE
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA

CONTACT ANN K. GREGORIE
FOR SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:

225-214-5563

OR ANN@BRBA.ORG

In My Own Words

by Rebecca Wisbar

Terms of Engagement

Rule 1.5 (b) of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct provides in part, “The scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which the client will be responsible shall be communicated to the client, preferably in writing....” For those of us who have not updated our client engagement contract in a while, we can take inspiration from the Herculean wedding syndicate. As my family has discovered as we prepare for my daughter’s marriage, the wedding industry is a well-orchestrated money-making and soul-crushing extravaganza.

Let us look at a sample of contract language required by various musicians. Typically, the contract refers to “the client” and “the talent” (the nerve!). This should inspire us to update our contracts from the pedestrian words of “client” and “attorney.” Suggestions from other attorneys are to substitute these words in place of attorney: plenipotentiary, rescuer, savior, His/Her Majesty or “The Big Cheese, hereinafter referred to as “TBC.”

But read on. In other contractual provisions, the “talent” demands that the “client” provide a sound system, microphones, a private dressing room, a well-ventilated private storage room for anything the “talent” may bring (we declined to ask what that may entail) and full meals with drinks. The latter provision is also a requirement of the string quartet that plays for the ONE-hour cocktail portion of the reception prior to the arrival of the bride and groom. We all know that an hour-long deposition results in quite an appetite. So be sure to include a provision for a \$100 meal, ventilation and an unlimited bar tab.

Apparently, the actual day of the wedding includes an all-day gathering of the bride and bridesmaids to have hair styling and makeup applications. You would think these endeavors rival the painting of the Sistine Chapel. These contracts refer to “the

client” and “the artist.” Truly, referring to ourselves as “the attorneys” is mundane. Although the artists’ contracts state a flat rate, there is a provision that “prices may go up at the discretion of the artist.” While you are encouraged to choose your artist from the syndicates, note that a more “masterful artist” has steeper rates. IF that artist does not show up on the wedding date, a less experienced artist will step in at the same rate as the master artist. Imagine this provision in our contracts where a law firm charges partner rates for the less-than-masterful new associate.

Not an early morning advocate? The artist charges an additional \$100 if needed any time before 9 a.m. Just think of this provision the next time you have an 8:30 a.m. pre-trial conference. Mileage for the artist or talent is \$1 a mile. So much for IRS standard mileage rates of 67 cents a mile in 2024.

Perhaps one of the most ironic provisions is the “Bridezilla” (their term) clause. The talent and artist contracts state that they “have no tolerance for Bridezilla. This applies to the bride, moms, dads, etc. [The talent and artist] have every right to refuse services with all money due.” Do they also get their meal and drink to go? Of course, there is no definition of “Bridezilla” conduct, thus allowing arbitrary application by the beneficiary of this clause.

For attorneys, a similar clause should prove invaluable when that difficult or non-paying client requests that the judge permit them yet another 60 days to find counsel before allowing your law firm to withdraw representation.

Or perhaps not. Rule 1.16 “Declining or Terminating Representation” precludes such action. Possibly the legislature would take on the arduous task of drafting a Code of Professional Conduct for the wedding cartel.



PRINT ADVERTISING DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED AD RATES

BAR JOURNAL

THE BATON ROUGE LAWYER

Promote your law firm or company in
our award-winning bar journal.

The Baton Rouge Lawyer is published six times a year as a 32-page glossy magazine. It is also a scholarly bar journal that features peer-reviewed substantive legal articles as well as feature articles and interviews with members of the bar and the judiciary.

Our publication's print circulation is 2,200 per issue. We distribute the printed magazine by mail and the digital version by e-newsletter. Additionally, we archive each digital issue on the Baton Rouge Bar Association website.



Dates of Publication:

January/February • March/April • May/June • July/August
September/October • November/December

Display Advertising Rate (B&W or CMYK):

Ad Size	Cost	Dimensions
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1/3 page	\$325	2" w x 10"h (OR 4.5" w x 5" h)
1/6 page	\$210	2"w x 5" h (or 5" w x 2" h)



Contact information:

Pamela Labbe, Ph.D.
Communications Director
225-214-5560
225-344-4803
(main line)
www.brba.org

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Foundation Footnotes

Pro Bono Reports — September and October 2024

Teen Court Volunteers:

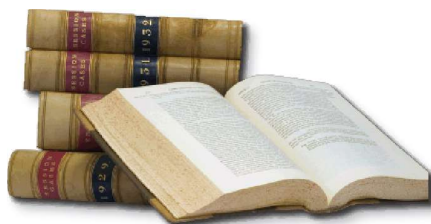
In September, four hearings were held. Volunteers were **Brittany Jackson**, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; **Bria Jones**, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; **Martha “Mandie” Seale Lucas**, *Louisiana*

Homebuilders Association GL Trust; **Lauren Tarver**, *Jones Walker, LLP*; **Monica M. Vela-Vick**, *Dugan Law Firm*; and **Jessica Fuqua** (law student), *Southern University Law Center*.

In October, four hearings were held. Volunteers were **Candace B. Ford**, *U.S. Attorney’s Office*; **Brittany Jackson**, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; **Bria Jones**, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; **Jacob McCon**, *Longman Jakuback, APLC*; **Monica M. Vela-Vick**, *Dugan Law Firm*; and **Jessica Fuqua** (law student), *Southern University Law Center*.

Accepted Pro Bono Cases in September and October:

Dele Adebamiji, *attorney at law*; **J. David Andress**, *Andress Law Firm*; **Christine Baker**, *Kingdom Mission Law Firm*; **Michelle Bradley**, *Diment & Associates*; **Sadie Herbert**, *Williamson Campbell & Whittington, LLC*; **Peter Lemoine**, *Lemoine Law Firm*; **Dwayne Murray**, *Murray & Murray*; **DeVonna Ponthieu**, *attorney at law*; **J. Arthur Smith**, *attorney at law*; **Sharita Spears**, *attorney at law*; **Katelyn Varnado**, *Adams and Reese LLP*; **Arthur Vingiello**, *The Steffes Firm, LLC*.



Self Help Resource Center: **Claire Sauls**, *Adams and Reese LLP*; **Valerie Schexnayder**, *attorney at law*.

Law Student Interns: **Jamerson Jackson** and **Amber Primus**, *Southern University Law Center*; **Eric Roshak**, *LSU Law*.

Legal Hotline Volunteers: Thanks to the following volunteers who assisted with the Legal Hotline in September and October: **Scott Gaspard**, *attorney at law*; **Cherita McNeal**, *attorney at law*; **Lashonda Hubbard**, *attorney at law*; **Melanie Newkome Jones**, *attorney at law*; and **Candace B. Ford**, *U.S. Attorney’s Office*.

Ask-A-Lawyer Volunteers: The following assisted with the September and October Ask-A-Lawyer events: **Marlon Battley**, *attorney at law*; **Todd Gaudin**, *Gaudin Law Group*; **David Gunn**, *attorney at law*; **Shante Harvey Robinson**, *District Attorney’s Office*; **Sharita Spears**, *attorney at law*; **Lykisha Vaughan**, *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*; **James A. Word II**, *attorney at law*; **Amber Primus** (law student), *Southern University Law School*.

Teen Court is made possible in part by grants from the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Charles Lamar Family Foundation. The Pro Bono Project is financially assisted by the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Account (IOLTA) Program of the Louisiana Bar Foundation; Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Family, District and City Court Fees; and the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation.

GAIL’S GRAMMAR

Which of the following is a grammatically correct substitute for *until*?

- ☐ A) 'til ☐ B) 'till ☐ C) till ☐ D) til

You get a gold star if you answered C.

Till is not a shortened form of *until*. *Till* has been around since the 9th century, while *until* doesn’t appear in recorded writing for another 300 years. *Till* and *until* can be used interchangeably, although some think that *until* is more formal.

However, you should avoid either apostrophe form — ‘til or ‘till. ‘Til is sometimes seen in poetry as a contraction, but why use a contraction when the proper word *till* is available? And ‘till gets no love from grammarians; Bryan Garner describes it as “abominable,” while the author of another usage guide calls ‘till a “bastard word.”

In sum, you may choose to use either *until* or *till* but eschew ‘til and ‘till.

Send suggestions for future Gail’s Grammar columns to Gail Stephenson at GStephenson@sulc.edu or call Gail at (225) 926-1399.

JANUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			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	31	

FEBRUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						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	

IMPORTANT DATES

January

- 1 BRBA Office Closed – New Years/Holiday
- 2 BRBA Office Closed – New Years/Holiday
- 3 BRBA Office Closed – New Years/Holiday
- 7 Ball Maul meeting via Zoom, 2 p.m.
- 9 BRBA Executive Committee meeting via Zoom, 8:30 a.m.; Court Admission Ceremony, 3 p.m., U.S. District Court for the Middle District of La., followed by the Bar Leadership Installation Ceremony
- 10 Law Day meeting via Zoom, noon
- 14 Construction Law Section Executive meeting via Zoom, 8 a.m.; Mock Trial Informational meeting via Zoom, 4 p.m.
- 20 BRBA Office Closed – MLK Jr. Day/Holiday
- 23 Publications Committee, in-person meeting at noon, Middleton Bar Center; Judge Brittany Jorden Investiture, City Court, 4 p.m.

24 Belly Up with the Bar Committee in-person meeting at noon, Middleton Bar Center

25 Mock Trial Training, Juvenile Court, 8 a.m.

29 Opening of Court, Memorial & New Member Ceremony, 3 p.m., 19th Judicial District Court, 11th Floor

February

6 Executive Committee meeting via Zoom, 8:30 a.m.

11 Workers' Compensation Section meeting & CLE, noon, Location: TBA

12 BRBA Board meeting, 6 p.m., Location: TBA

20 Family Law Section meeting & CLE, noon, Location: TBA

27 Mock Trial Coaches Meeting, Middleton Bar Center, 4 p.m.

DUTY SCHEDULE

19th JDC Civil	
01/06 - 01/10	Judge Don Johnson
01/13 - 01/24	Judge Higginbotham
01/27 - 02/07	Judge Balfour
02/10 - 02/21	Judge Moore
02/24 - 03/07	Judge Foxworth-Roberts

19th JDC Criminal***	
01/03 - 01/10	Judge Smith
01/10 - 01/17	Judge Jorden
01/17 - 01/24	Judge Hines
01/24 - 01/31	Judge Greggs
01/31 - 02/07	Judge Crifasi
02/07 - 12/14	Judge Ray
02/14 - 02/21	Judge Myers
02/21 - 02/28	Judge Johnson Rose

Baton Rouge City Court*	
12/30 - 01/05	Judge Alexander
01/06 - 01/12	Judge Vendetto
01/13 - 01/19	Judge Marcantel
01/20 - 01/26	Judge Temple
01/27 - 02/02	Judge Jorden
02/03 - 02/09	Judge Alexander
02/10 - 02/16	Judge Vendetto
02/17 - 02/23	Judge Marcantel
02/24 - 03/02	Judge Temple

Juvenile Court	
January	Judge Grover
February	Judge Haney

Family Court**	
1/01	HOLIDAY
1/02, 1/03	Judge Day (Div. C)
1/06	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
1/07	Judge Baker (Div. A)
1/08	Judge Russ (Div. D)
1/09	Judge Day (Div. C)
1/10	Judge Russ (Div. D)
1/13	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
1/14	Judge Baker (Div. A)
1/15	Judge Russ (Div. D)
1/16	Judge Day (Div. C)
1/17	Judge Baker (Div. A)
1/20	HOLIDAY
1/21, 1/22	Judge Baker (Div. A)
1/23	Judge Day (Div. C)
1/24, 1/27	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
1/28	Judge Baker (Div. A)
1/29	Judge Russ (Div. D)
1/30, 1/31	Judge Day (Div. C)
2/03	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
2/04	Judge Baker (Div. A)
2/05	Judge Russ (Div. D)
2/06	Judge Day (Div. C)
2/07	Judge Russ (Div. D)

Family Court (Continued)	
2/10	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
2/11	Judge Baker (Div. A)
2/12	Judge Russ (Div. D)
2/13	Judge Day (Div. C)
2/14	Judge Baker (Div. A)
2/17	HOLIDAY
2/18	Judge Baker (Div. A)
2/19	Judge Russ (Div. D)
2/20	Judge Day (Div. C)
2/21, 2/24	Judge E. Green (Div. B)
2/25	Judge Baker (Div. A)
2/26	Judge Russ (Div. D)
2/27, 2/28	Judge Day (Div. C)

Court Holidays	
Tuesday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Wednesday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Monday, Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day & Inauguration Day
Monday, Feb. 17	Presidents' Day

NOTE: Duty Court changes at 5 p.m. each Friday unless otherwise specified. *City Court's Duty Court judge is on duty from 8 a.m. on the Monday beginning his/her week of duty until 8 a.m. the Monday ending his/her week of duty. **Family Court's Duty Court schedule is completely different each day, rotating on Fridays. ***19th JDC Criminal Court changes each Friday at noon. *Sunday callout due to Monday holiday.

Baton Rouge Bar Association

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Attorney David Abboud Thomas is responsible for this ad.