

2024 Recent Developments by the Judiciary

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Melissa Allen is a Shreveport native and graduated from Centenary College of Louisiana in 2004 with bachelor's degrees in French and Political Science. Melissa earned her *juris doctor* from Tulane University School of Law in 2007. After law school, Melissa worked for one year in private practice at the Hesser Law Firm. The following year, she completed a three-year judicial clerkship for the Honorable Charles B. Peatross of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal. Currently, Melissa works for Judge Carl E. Stewart of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals where she serves as his career law clerk and case manager. Melissa has been a member of both the Shreveport Bar Association and the Harry V. Booth Inn of Court since 2009. Melissa served on the board of the Louisiana State Bar Association Committee on Practice Assistance & Improvement from 2011-2014. Melissa was appointed to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Advisory Committee on Court Attorney Education in 2013. Melissa served as a member of the Executive Council of the Shreveport Bar Association from 2012-2015 and as Technology Chair of the SBA for five years.

Mary Lou Salley Bylsma graduated from Newcomb College of Tulane University in 1995 with a B.A. in History. She graduated from the Louisiana State University Law Center in 1999. While in law school, she received the CALI award for outstanding student in the subject of Constitutional Law and Matrimonial Regime and was Professor Crawford's research assistant for his revised edition of the Torts Treatise. Upon graduation, she was the Honorable Roy Brun's law clerk at the First Judicial District Court. Since joining Jack Bailey Law Corporation in 2000, Mary has specialized in Worker's Compensation. Mary Lou has also been an instructor in the LSUS paralegal program and taught both Basic and General Law and Civil Litigation courses.

Honorable Edwin Henry Byrd, III is a graduate of Louisiana State University Law Center, where he graduated Order of the Coif and was Senior Editor of the Louisiana Law Review. He served as law clerk to the Honorable Tom Stagg, United States District Judge; he was a founding partner of Pettiette, Armand, Dunkelman, Woodley & Cromwell. His law practice involved general civil litigation defense in state and federal courts involving civil rights, employment and insurance defense. He has been a district judge at the First Judicial District Court since August, 2022.

Honorable Jeff Cox has been elected to serve as Judge for the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He has previously served as District Judge for Bossier and Webster Parishes in Division C. Judge Cox is a past partner with the law firm of Mills, Turansky & Cox, P.C., where he specialized his practice in the area of Estate Planning, Wills, Successions, Elder Care law-type issues and business-type issues. Judge Cox has served as an Assistant District Attorney for Bossier/Webster Parishes where he prosecuted crimes against the elderly, crimes against juveniles, white-collar crimes, felonies and misdemeanors. Judge Cox received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from Louisiana Tech University, his Masters of Business Administration Degree from Louisiana State University in Shreveport, his Juris Doctorate degree with *magna cum laude* honors from Southern University Law Center, and his Legal Law Masters in Taxation from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Judge Cox was selected as the 2020 Louisiana State University-Shreveport Distinguished Alumni. He was inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame in 2014 and included on the Southern University Judicial Wall of Fame in 2016. He currently serves on the Louisiana Law Enforcement Commission, Advisory Board for the Bossier Parish Community College Criminal Justice Program, and the Dean's Advisory Committee for the College of Business Administration at Louisiana Tech University. Judge Cox served as King of the Krewe of Justinian for the 2020 Mardi Gras Season and has served as a Duke in 2007. He has served on the Board of Directors for

the Volunteers for Youth Justice, served as Bossier District Chairman for the Norwella Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and is a past instructor at Bossier Parish Community College for the Notary Preparation Class. Judge Cox currently assists with training of cadets at the Bossier Sheriff's Training Academy, State Troopers Academy, the Wildlife and Fisheries Academy, and instructs Law Enforcement Officers all over the State of Louisiana on legal concepts. Judge Cox regularly teaches on legal concepts to area lawyers for their Continued Legal Education requirements. Judge Cox has been a long-time member of the Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council. Judge Cox has served as President and a Board Member for the Caddo Council on Aging RSVP Program; 2nd Vice-President, Secretary and Board Member of the Bossier Council on Aging; former Legal Counsel for the Ark-La-Tex Chapter of the National Stroke Association; and a Board Member of the Shreveport-Bossier Tax and Estate Planning Council. Judge Cox has served on the Board of Directors and is the Past Chairman of the Shreveport Bar Association Pro Bono Project. Judge Cox has also served as a Louisiana State Delegate to the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges and has served on the Executive Council of the Louisiana District Judges Association. Judge Cox currently writes a monthly article for *The Best of Times Magazine*. He has written this column for over 20 years providing legal awareness to the community on a wide range of legal topics. He has contributed articles to *City Lights Magazine*, the *Bossier Press Tribune*, and the *Minden Press Herald*. Judge Cox is a Master member of the Harry V. Booth and Henry Politz American Inns of Court and is a member of the American, Louisiana, Shreveport, Bossier, and Webster Bar Associations. Judge Cox is married to Susan Cox. They have two children, Gabrielle and Stephen, who are both attorneys.

Associate Justice Scott J. Crichton having been elected without opposition, Scott Crichton is serving his tenth - and final - year as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Scott chairs the court's Executive Committee as well as the Louisiana Judicial College; he is the court's statutory designee to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Executive Management Institute Board and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, and serves on the Judges Imparting Knowledge, Education and Skills Task Force. He is the recipient of the 2022 Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award. For five years, as an adjunct faculty member of Tulane Law School, he taught two 3L courses and published two coursebooks. He has also served on the faculty for the LSU Law Center Trial Advocacy Program. Prior to his election to the Supreme Court, Scott served 24 years as a judge with the First Judicial District Court (Shreveport/Caddo Parish), presiding in both the civil and criminal divisions. For more information, see <https://www.lasc.org>.

Kevin Dorsey is a professional liaison for the OurFamilyWizard® website. His role includes educating judges, attorneys, mediators, Guardians Ad Litem, and other family law professionals on the online tools that can be utilized to benefit and monitor parental communication in high conflict cases. Kevin travels the country attending dozens of continuing legal education conferences and seminars each year. Recent speaking engagements include the Jefferson Parish Bench, St. Tammany Parish Bench/Bar, East Baton Rouge Parish Bench/Bar, Lafayette Parish Bench/Bar, Calcasieu Parish Bar, and Loyola University. Kevin graduated from the University of Denver receiving a BA in Music and Political Science.

Robert Dunkelman was born in Shreveport. He graduated from Jesuit High School in 1980, obtained a BA degree from LSU in 1984 and a JD from LSU Law School in 1987 after serving on the Louisiana Law Review. Robert practices in the areas of worker's compensation and employment law defense. He is married to Katie Baucum Dunkelman and has two sons, Drew and Thomas.

Honorable Jerry Edwards received a Bachelor of Arts from Georgia State University in 2002 and his Juris Doctor from Vermont Law and Graduate School in 2005. From 2005 to 2006, he served as a law clerk for Judges Jeanette Garrett and Scott Crichton of the Caddo Parish District Court. From 2006 to 2014, he was an associate at Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, and from 2014 to 2019, he was a shareholder and director at the same firm. From 2019 to 2023, he served as an assistant United States attorney at the U.S.

Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, he served as Chief of the Civil Division from 2020 to 2022 and from 2022 to 2023, he served as the first assistant U.S. attorney. On June 8, 2023, Judge Edwards was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. He was confirmed on December 14, 2023, and began his service on the bench on December 23, 2023.

D. Lee Harville grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1990, he graduated from Caddo Magnet High School. In 1994, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. Lee was a Rhodes Scholar nominee and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In 1997 Lee graduated from Columbia University School of Law in New York, NY. He was a Stone Honor Moot Court finalist, winning best oral argument and best brief and oral argument in his Foundation-Year Moot Court group. Lee was admitted to practice law in the State of New York in May 1998. Lee was admitted to practice law in the State of Louisiana in February of 2001. Lee served as a law clerk to the Honorable Donald E. Walter, Senior Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, from November 2000 to August 2001. Lee is a member of the Shreveport, Louisiana, and American Bar Associations. He also is a member of the LACDL and the NACDL. Lee has served in the public sector for over seven years and in the private sector for over 15 years. He has presented hundreds of cases in Kings County (Brooklyn, New York) Family Court, has argued in and won a moot court case presided over by a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and has represented clients in civil and criminal jury and bench trials. Additionally, he has briefed cases before Louisiana appellate courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court and federal appellate courts, and has argued cases in the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal, and in the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is an attorney for the Louisiana Appellate Project and the CINC Appellate Project. He is an Appellate Practice Specialist, certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. Lee also served as a staff attorney for the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, reviewing numerous federal appeals.

Honorable Mark Hornsby graduated Order of the Coif from LSU Law School in 1988. Served as Law Clerk for Judge Tom Stagg from 1988 to 1990. Practiced law with Wiener, Weiss & Madison from 1990 to 2004. Appointed U. S. Magistrate Judge in January 2005. He is a former President of the local Inn of Court. He is the proud recipient of the 2020 SBA Professionalism Award.

Tammy Jump has been an Assistant District Attorney for the Second Judicial District since October of 2000. The Second JDC includes Bienville, Claiborne and Jackson Parishes. She is currently the only full-time assistant in the district. She was appointed First Assistant District Attorney in October 2010. She has prosecuted over 3,000 felony cases including drug cases, violent crimes, domestic cases, crimes against children and homicides. She is Director of the Bienville Parish Truancy and Assessment Center, the ADA Legislative Liaison and the Elder Abuse Liaison to the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, a member of the Coordinated Community Response Teams for the Domestic Abuse Resistance Team for both Claiborne and Bienville Parishes and she's on the advisory board for the Claiborne Parish Office of Community Services. Tammy has been teaching legal updates with Judge Harmon and Ms. Jean Drew and Judge Jeff Cox in numerous parishes throughout the state for over fifteen years. Tammy is a legal instructor at Bossier Parish Sheriff's Training Academy, Louisiana State Police Academy and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Academy. She and her husband live in Claiborne Parish, and they are very active at First Baptist Church in Minden. She and her husband both play the violin in the orchestra. Her favorite hobbies are riding her horse and working on their farm.

Honorable Amy Burford McCartney is the Chief Judge of the 42nd Judicial District Court in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana. She is a general jurisdiction judge presiding over civil and criminal matters in the district. Additionally, she has exclusive juvenile jurisdiction in the district. Volunteers for Youth Justice recognized

Judge McCartney as its Hero of the Year for 2020. Judge McCartney worked alongside VYJ to establish a Court Appointed Special Advocate program in DeSoto Parish, which program became operational in 2018. She worked with VYJ and the DeSoto Parish Police Jury to renovate courthouse space for a Calming Studio for local foster care children, which opened in 2021. She is a member of several professional organizations, and she serves on the board of directors for Faith and Fostering, which serves homeless young people ages 18 – 24. She received her J.D. from Baylor Law School.

Kyle A. Moore is a partner at the law firm of Weems, Schimpf, Haines & Moore (APLC), where he practices in the areas of trusts, wills, and estates, with a focus on elder law (including assisting clients with qualifying for LTC Medicaid and VA Pension - Aid and Attendance), as well as planning for individuals with special needs. Kyle is a graduate of Northwestern State University and earned his Juris Doctorate from the Southern University Law Center in 1999, graduating *magna cum laude* and first in his law school class. In addition to being a member of the Louisiana and Mississippi Bar Associations, Kyle is also a member of the Special Needs Alliance (SNA) and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). Kyle currently serves on the board of The Bridge Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center, a Shreveport-based non-profit organization that provides resources, education, and support services for families dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Northwest Louisiana.

Honorable Brady Dennis O'Callaghan received his B.A. with honors in philosophy from Yale University in 1995. He received his J.D. from the Paul M. Hebert School of Law at LSU in 1999. After two years of general civil practice in Baton Rouge, he became a prosecutor in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, and then returned to Shreveport to serve as an assistant district attorney for Caddo Parish. Judge O'Callaghan was elected in 2013 as a District Judge for the First Judicial District Court. He was re-elected without opposition in August of 2015. Judge O'Callaghan presides over civil cases in Section B. He is a Past President of the Louisiana District Judges Association, a past Chair of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission, and a Board Member for the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society. He is also a Master of the Bench Member of the American Inns of Court. Judge O'Callaghan has lectured on topics including prosecutorial and judicial ethics, criminal constitutional law, jury selection, and capital litigation. Judge O'Callaghan is married to Amy Vogel O'Callaghan, and they have twin sons, Logan and Marshall.

Vickie Rech is a Client Care Coordinator and Certified Medicaid Planner™ for the law firm of Weems, Schimpf, Haines & Moore, APLC. Vickie has a BS degree in Recreation Education with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation and a Masters of Business Administration from Centenary College. Additionally, she has completed 120 hours of instruction in Life Care Planning for Elder Care Coordinators (University of Florida). She has 20 years of experience working in physical medicine and rehabilitation in various capacities including Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Program Coordinator, and Case Manager. She also worked as a Geriatric Care Manager in private practice for 7 years. Vickie has been with the firm for twenty years. Vickie currently serves as Vice President on the board of The Bridge Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center, a Shreveport-based non-profit organization that provides resources, education, and support services for families dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Northwest Louisiana.

Honorable Jeff Robinson was elected to the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 2021. Judge Robinson previously served at the Third Judicial District Court, in Division A, from July 2018 until January 2021 and an Assistant D.A. for the Second, Third, and Eighth JDC, serving as a misdemeanor and felony prosecutor. He served as a Hearing Officer for the 8th JDC from 2002 until 2004 and served as Magistrate Judge for the town of Jonesboro from 1997 until 2004, and private law practice for twenty-three years. Judge Robinson received his JD from Southern University Law Center, *magna cum laude*, in 1995 and received his B.A. from Louisiana Tech University in 1992.

Honorable James “Jimbo” Stephens graduated from LSU Law School in 1982. Judge Stephens has nearly 42 years of legal experience, including 10 years as a 5th Judicial District Court Judge, having served as Chief Judge for six years. Judge Stephens was elected to the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 2017 and again in 2018. He is married to Faith Aubin Stephens and they have three children and four grandchildren. He and Faith live on their farm and continue the fifth generation of family farming.