

1st Annual Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar at Tulane University

2023 AGENDA

Thursday, January 12, 2023: What's Happening in My Neighborhood?

Location: 115 Richardson Hall, Uptown Campus

8:30-9:00AM

Continental Breakfast & Coffee

9:00-9:10AM

Introduction & Welcome

Gary Hoover, PhD, Professor of Economics and Executive Director of The Murphy Institute, Tulane University

9:15-10:45AM

“I Need Mental Health Help”: Meeting the Mental Health Needs and Challenges of Children and Adults in Louisiana Courts

This session provides practical insight into how Louisiana courts are currently working, and can build upon existing initiatives, to meet the mental health and behavioral disorder needs of children and adults involved in Louisiana's juvenile and criminal justice system. The session also considers costs of full integration of mental health services into juvenile rehabilitation and adult re-entry programs.

Presenters:

Cecile Tebo, LCSW, a New Orleans Native, is currently the Recovery Specialist with Hancock County Family Treatment Court. She recently retired as the Director of Officer Assistance Program with the New Orleans Police Department as well as the Community Coordinator for the NOPD Crisis Intervention Team. Previously she was the Administrator of the New Orleans Police Department Crisis Unit. In that capacity she responded to 911 calls involving people experiencing mental health crisis. For 20 years prior, she was involved in the field of adoption, where she assisted in over 1500 adoption placements.

Honorable Judge Ernestine Gray served on the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court for 35 years. She is past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and has served on the boards of directors for National CASA, the YWCA, and Volunteers of America. Judge Gray currently serves as the judicial fellow of the Pelican Center for Children and Families, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of legal representation for children and providing interdisciplinary training and education to child welfare practitioners.

Honorable Judge Arthur Hunter was elected in November 1996, to the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, and retired February 1, 2020. During his tenure, he served as Presiding Judge of the Orleans Re-Entry Court, Veterans Treatment Court and Mental Health Court. Judge Hunter earned his Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctor from Loyola University of New Orleans, Louisiana. He is a member of several professional associations and is a visiting faculty member of Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop. He is the founder/advisor of the Young Artists Movement (YAM) and Founder/Director of the Allen Ray Bolin Trial Advocacy Workshop.

10:45-11:00AM

Break

11:00-12:30PM

Did the Death of Split Juries Bury the History of Race on Southern Juries?

This session examines the *State v. Maxie*, *Ramos v. Louisiana* and *Edwards v. Vannoy* decisions against the backdrop of debates leading to the 2018 amendment to the Louisiana State Constitution, which ended split-jury verdicts and required the consensus of twelve jurors to convict a felony defendant. Whereas much of the publicity that framed debates leading to the state constitutional amendment considered so-called “Jim Crow juries,” the U.S. Supreme Court, in its majority opinions, focused on common law principles of jury unanimity and precedent regarding retroactivity of new rules of criminal procedure on collateral review. The session examines ancillary issues that are often overshadowed by the ongoing retroactivity discussions, or by the change in law itself.

Presenter:

Angela A. Allen-Bell, JD, B.K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor, Southern University Law Center, researches and teaches on social, restorative, and criminal justice and constitutional, civil, and human rights issues. She has the distinction of having worked on several historic advocacy campaigns, including the Angola 3 case, the case of Soledad Brother John Clutchette, and the abolishment of Louisiana's non-unanimous jury law.

12:30-1:30PM

“Working” Lunch

The interactive, collaborative discussion & learning objectives of the seminar will be fostered during lunch. Each day, this time provides participants a space to discuss takeaways from morning presentations and to map out whether and how what they learned applies to their jurisdiction/s.

1:30-2:45PM

Raise the Age, Spoil the Child?

This session examines the history of legislation leading to the passage of Act 501, commonly referred to as Raise the Age. As a result of Raise the Age, the definition of a child in Louisiana, for any delinquent act, including sex crimes and crimes of violence, is anyone under age 18. Despite this definition, mechanisms remain in place for children to be transferred and tried as adults. The session considers how these mechanisms have been operationalized since the passage of Act 501, and what, if any, patterns the data point to, which can be measured along distinct social and/or economic lines.

Presenter:

Rachel Gassert, Esq., has worked in juvenile justice for 15 years, promoting policies that increase safety by eliminating reliance on incarceration, ending inhumane and unsafe practices, and improving outcomes for youth. Most recently, she served as the policy director for the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, advocating on behalf of youth in Louisiana's justice system at both the state and local level. In 2016, she led a successful campaign to pass Raise the Age legislation, and, in 2022, successfully stopped attempts to roll back that legislation. Ms. Gassert received a Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology from Teachers College at Columbia University and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2:45-3:00PM

Formative Evaluations & Afternoon Unwind

Friday, January 13, 2023: What Do We Really Want, When We Talk about Reform?

Location: 115 Richardson Hall, Uptown Campus

8:30-9:00AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:30AM

Icebreaker

This exercise draws upon takeaways from the January 12 working lunch to reinforce the role that open dialogue plays in achieving the objectives of the seminar.

9:30-10:45AM

Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Initiatives: (How) Has it Paid Off?

This session considers the goals and objectives of Louisiana’s justice reinvestment initiatives (JRI) legislation; whether and how its goals and objectives have been met; and unintended costs and benefits of JRI. Data on crime prevention, alternatives-to-incarceration, and recidivism will be analyzed as part of the process of assessing JRI efficacy.

Presenter:

Honorable James LeBlanc, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, began his careers in corrections in 1973 at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. He promoted through the ranks, serving as Undersecretary, Interim Director of Probation & Parole, Warden at Dixon Correctional Institute, and Acting Chief of Operations. Secretary Leblanc emphasizes “reentry” as a major factor in Louisiana’s justice system; he believes that establishing valuable, real-world vocational, educational, and life skills training for incarcerated persons is a vital component for promoting public safety in Louisiana.

10:45-11:00AM

Break

11:00-12:30PM

What about the Children?: Updates from the Office of Juvenile Justice

This session offers insight into recent developments with Louisiana’s Office of Juvenile Justice. The “continuum of care” foundation upon which the agency operates will be outlined and analyzed and programs currently offering alternative-to-detention opportunities for youth will be reviewed. The presentation will also describe funding opportunities that support enriching services and facilitate alternatives to detention.

Presenter:

The Honorable Otha “Curtis” Nelson, Esq., Acting Secretary, Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, has over 30 years of experience working with children and families in the State of Louisiana, serving as an adolescent mental health technician in mental health settings, a court appointed special advocate, a family attorney for children in need of care and delinquency proceedings, and a juvenile prosecutor for the 19th Judicial District

Attorney's Office. Prior to his current assignment, Secretary Nelson served as Deputy Judicial Administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court Division of Children and Families.

12:30-1:30PM

Working Lunch

1:30-2:45PM

FINS and CINC: Who Pays for the Services and Care that Families and Children Need?

This session breaks down and analyzes the costs of treatment, support, and services within the meanings set forth in the Louisiana Children's Code. In this framework the session also examines whether and how the Code contemplates the costs of quality services, treatment, and support in relation to the desired outcomes for Louisiana families and children in need.

Presenters:

The Honorable Terri Porche Ricks, Esq., Secretary, Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services, has over two decades of legal, financial, human resources, policy and management experience. Prior to her current role, Secretary Ricks served as DCFS deputy secretary and was the undersecretary of the department from 2004 to 2008, when it was known as the Department for Social Services. Secretary Ricks has previously served as head of human resources for Baton Rouge Community College and general counsel for the Louisiana Housing Corp.

Reshonn Saul currently serves as FINS Assistance Program Manager for the Louisiana Supreme Court's Families in Need of Services Assistance Program (FINSAP) Division. Currently, 41 judicial districts, in addition to 3 City Courts participate in the Families in Need of Services Assistance Program and serve more than 7,000 families.

2:45-3:00PM

Formative Evaluations & Afternoon Unwind

Saturday, January 14, 2023: Does It Add Up?

Location: 115 Richardson Hall, Uptown Campus

8:30-9:00AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:15AM

Icebreaker

This exercise builds on prior ice breakers, by continuing to underscore the importance of dialogue among seminar participants, which fosters the goals and objectives of the seminar.

9:15-10:45AM

Fines, Fees, and Court Costs: To Collect or Not to Collect?

This session considers the legislative history of Act 260 and applies cost-benefit analysis theory to the practice of assessing and collecting fines, fees, and court costs to fund courts in the State of Louisiana. The session also considers some of the unintended consequences of operating monetary sanctions systems against Louisiana's sustained commitment to justice reinvestment initiatives.

Presenter:

Honorable Representative Tanner Magee (Republican), was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2015, representing District 53, which includes the parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne. He was elected to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2020. Providing cutting-edge legal strategies in South Louisiana, Representative Magee is an attorney with the law firm Landry Magee in Houma. He has also served as the president of the Terrebonne Bar Association. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, where he obtained his Masters in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate. Prior to current service, Representative Magee worked as a project manager at the South Central Planning and Development Commission, assisting in the development of the Seafood Recovery Program following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In the Legislature, Representative Magee serves on the Appropriations Committee, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, House and Governmental Affairs Committee, House Executive Committee, House Select Leadership Committee and Joint Select Committee on Louisiana Economic Recovery. He also serves as ex-officio on all standing committees of the Louisiana House of Representatives. He is a member of the Louisiana Judicial College and Judicial Compensation Commission. Representative Magee has previously served as Co-Chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding; member of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; and member of the House Committees on Natural Resources and Environment, Civil Law, Health and Welfare, and Judiciary.

10:45-11:00AM

Break

11:00-12:30PM

Making Sense of the Numbers

This session draws from multiple sources to present state-level criminal justice data as frameworks for unpacking how the data informs the operation of each system at district levels. The session also considers information pertinent to the day-to-day adjudicative and administrative work of judges for which the numbers may not account.

Presenter:

Marcus Kondkar, PhD, Associate Professor, Sociology, Loyola University, joined the Sociology Department at Loyola University New Orleans in 2000, after earning his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, and now serves as Chair. His teaching and research interests include criminology, sociology of law, and sociological theory. He has published his work in several peer-reviewed journals, and has authored numerous grant-funded reports on incarceration, sentencing patterns, and reentry. He is also the lead creator of The Visiting Room Project (www.visitingroomproject.org), an ongoing multimedia digital project on life without parole sentences. He is currently conducting additional research on three grant-funded projects: two on prisoner reentry best practices, and a third on gendered pathways to prison. Since coming to Loyola, Dr. Kondkar has received the *University Senate Excellence in Teaching Award*, the *Marquette Research Fellowship*, and Loyola's highest recognition for faculty, the *Dux Academicus Award*. He has also served as Chair of Women's Studies.

12:30-1:30PM

Working Lunch

1:30-2:45PM

What Lies Beneath—The Status Offense?

This session closely examines the provisions of LSA Children's Code Article 730. In this framework, the session considers data showing crimes to which status offenders disproportionately fall victim, including labor and sex trafficking, as well as how status offenses often serve as pipelines to substance abuse and homelessness. The session identifies resources that district courts are using/can use to educate their constituencies about these interrelated issues and to support prevention-intervention for families and children in need of care/services.

Presenters:

Gina Womack, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), was born and raised in Louisiana. FFLIC is a statewide membership-based organization dedicated to creating a better life for all of Louisiana's youth, especially those who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in the juvenile justice system. Since its inception, FFLIC has worked with allies to pass the Juvenile Justice Reform ACT of 2003, which forced Louisiana to close the notorious Tallulah Youth Prison. FFLIC is currently working on a statewide campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in Louisiana and has educated many lawmakers on the ills of school push outs. Ms.

Womack has worked on children's issues in Louisiana for over 24 years and has trained hundreds of parents to be advocates for their children. Her efforts have been featured in both national and local print media, radio, and reports. In addition to her work with FFLIC, Ms. Womack currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission, and is a member of the Louisiana Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, the Louisiana's Governor's Advisory Council of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act, the New Orleans Children's Youth and Planning Board (CYPB), and the Statewide Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.

Alex Person joined Shreveport's Gingerbread House Children's Advocacy Center, in April, 2012 as a Forensic Interviewer and the Education Coordinator. In January 2020, she became the Director of Education and continues to also serve as a Forensic Interviewer. The Gingerbread House Children's Advocacy Center, is an Accredited child advocacy center by National Children's Alliance, and provides critically needed services for child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse, including victims of human trafficking, in the nine parishes that comprise northwest Louisiana. Ms. Person holds a bachelor's degree in Family and Child Studies from Louisiana Tech university (2012), and a Master of Science in Nonprofit Administration and Leadership from Louisiana State University-Shreveport (2019). She is also a Certified Family Life Educator.

Maria Isabella Pontoreiro is a licensed social worker and forensic interviewer providing extensive case management, crisis counseling, and safety planning to child trafficking victims, youth who are at high-risk for exploitation, child victims of other crimes and abuses, and non-offending caregivers at the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center/Audrey Hepburn CARE Center at Children's Hospital. Ms. Pontoreiro leads a child trafficking survivor services multidisciplinary team to ensure collaboration and coordination in service provision for these victims. She trains throughout the State of Louisiana to assist in the identification and improved response to CSEC victims, and has developed and implemented CSEC trainings for the New Orleans Police Department and Greater New Orleans community.

2:45-3:00PM

Summative Evaluations & Final Unwind