

WELCOME TO THE 1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR (PEAJJES)

Sponsored by **The Murphy Institute** at Tulane University, the **Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar (PEAJJES)** seeks to provide a framework for judges to unpack, interrogate, and synthesize academic research, law, and lived experience in order to identify and generate best practice models for strengthening Louisiana's juvenile and criminal justice systems. The goal of the seminar is to deepen judges' knowledgebase and attunement to the day-to-day, interrelated operations of the justice system in their communities, strengthen insight into how the administration of justice intersects with the economy and the law, and explore how the law impacts challenges that the State of Louisiana has historically grappled with, including high rates of income inequality, recidivism, and domestic violence, and comparatively poor overall quality of life indicators.

Retired and currently presiding judges in the State of Louisiana are eligible to register for enrollment in the seminar. The registration review process is informed by the seminar's desire to foster balance of representation from each of the seven districts that comprise Louisiana's Supreme Court.

The seminar takes place annually, Thursday to Saturday, immediately preceding celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

ABOUT THE MURPHY INSTITUTE AT TULANE UNIVERSITY

Established in memory of Charles H. Murphy, Sr. (1870-1954), and inspired by the vision of Charles H. Murphy, Jr. (1920-2002), The Murphy Institute at Tulane University exists to help Tulane University faculty and students understand the economic, moral, and political problems we all face and think about. More important, the institute exists to help us understand how these problems have come to be so closely interconnected.

The Institute consists of five overlapping programs that reinforce each other: an undergraduate major in Political Economy, a graduate program offering an M.A. in Political Economy with Data Analytics, the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, the Center for Public Policy Research, and the Center on Law and the Economy.



Gary "Hoov" Hoover is the Executive Director of the Murphy Institute at Tulane University. He is also a professor of economics and affiliate professor of law at Tulane University.

From 2015 until 2020, Dr. Hoover was a *President's Associates Presidential Professor* and the Chair of the Economics Department at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Hoover received his PhD in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998. Since then, he has published numerous scholarly research papers, book chapters, and reviews on topics concerning public policy considerations of income redistribution/poverty, political economy, and ethics in the economics profession. Dr. Hoover is the co-chair of the *American Economic Association Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession*. He is the current president of the *Sothern Economic Association*, and the founding and current editor of the *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*.

Dr. Hoover has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin. He is a network member at the Center for Economic Studies & ifo Institute in Munich, Germany. He has also been a guest professor at the Universities of Hannover and Konstanz in Germany, the University of Vienna in Austria and X'ian University in China.

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:

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.

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 Kern A. Reese, of Orleans Parish Civil District Court Division “L,” has earned the reputation as a fair and temperate jurist. He is recognized for his involvement in professional organizations, as a teacher/coach, a community leader and mentor to youth and aspiring lawyers. Judge Reese is a graduate of St. Augustine High School, Pomona College in Claremont, California and Loyola University School of Law. Prior to taking the bench in spring 2001, he maintained a solo law practice for 16 years.

Judge Reese has served as an Associate Adjunct Professor of Tulane University School of Law for more than three decades and at Loyola University School of Law. Judge Reese has also served as a continuing education instructor and panelist for the Louisiana Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Louisiana Association for Justice, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, American Board of Trial Advocates, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Loyola Black Law Students Association and CLE of Louisiana, LLC.

Judge Reese was recruited to coach the Loyola University School of Law Trial Advocacy Team. Under his tutelage this diverse team of hopeful young lawyers won the 2007 National Championship of the American Bar Association’s Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition at the John Jay School of Law in Chicago, Illinois. He also assisted the Loyola Black Law Students Association Trial Advocacy team in winning the 2012 national championship competition. Judge Reese most recently helped coach the 2021-22 Dillard University Mock Trial Team, which reached the National Championship competition of the American Mock Trial Association.

Judges Reese is known for his calm demeanor, patience and genuine concern for people, especially young people seeking his counsel or in need of a listening ear. During his twenty-five years as a lawyer, Judge Reese has personally mentored over 100 young people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. His mentees have included potential high school dropouts to young practicing lawyers. He has provided young people opportunities for summer internships and clerkships in his office, often compensating them from his personal resources, when state resources were limited.

As part of his civic and community responsibility, Judge Reese has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Regional Planning Commission, Regional Transit Authority, New Orleans Industrial Development Board, Finance Authority of New Orleans, St. Frances Cabrini Parish School Board, Youth Development Association, Bancroft Park Civic Association and St. Augustine High School. He is also a member of the Zulu Social., Aid, and Pleasure Club, Sigma Pi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Titans of Greater New Orleans.

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, is a graduate of the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After law school, she spent ten years working at an appellate court and, in this capacity, gained an expertise in appellate law.

In 2008, she left the judiciary and began her career in academia as a law professor. She holds the B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professorship and is currently a full professor. Professor Bell is a respected local, national and international legal scholar and expert on constitutional law, civil and human rights, social and restorative justice and the interplay between race and justice. It was her research that catapulted the movement that successfully ended the use of non-unanimous juries in Louisiana in 2018. And she is one of the founding members of the advocacy team that led this effort to reform Louisiana’s jury system through the adoption of legislation requiring unanimous juries in criminal trials in Louisiana state courts. She has the distinction of having worked on several other historic advocacy campaigns, such as the Angola 3 case, the case of Soledad Brother John Clutchette and the case of Robert Holbrook. When, in January 2022, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued a posthumous pardon to Homer Plessy, Professor Bell was selected to speak as the historian for the occasion. The House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has commended her “for her achievements as a legal scholar” and has recognized and recorded “the tremendous pride and honor that she brings” to the state of Louisiana.

Professor Bell is an activist scholar who has made many media appearances and participated in many local, national and international collaborations to discuss her scholarship and advocacy work, including La Presse (France), Le Nouvel Observateur (France), MSNBC (News Nation with Tamron Hall), CBS News, NBC Nightly News and National Public Radio (All Things Considered). She has twice submitted written testimony to the United States Senate’s Judiciary Committee on the Constitution and she has been published in or quoted in a range of print media sources, such as the *Washington Post*, Russia Today TV, the *New Yorker*, the *Huffington Post* and the *Advocate*.

She is a member of the National Black Lawyers-Top 100, an invitation-only society, and the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, an invitation-only society whose membership is

limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. She has been recognized by the Girl Scouts Louisiana East as a Woman of Distinction and is a recipient of the National Civil Rights Conference Civil Rights and Social Justice Award. In 2021, she was named by the Drum Newspaper as one of its “People for 2021.” In 2022, she was selected, through a national search, as a member of the first cohort of the Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing. She was also chosen for inclusion in the 2022 inaugural edition of Louisiana Leading Ladies publication. Jeremiah 5:1, says “give me one who seeks justice.” Professor Bell has adopted this call as her personal edict. Her signature traits are her never-ceasing desire to fight injustice and her tireless commitment to dismantling racial hierarchies and systems of oppression.

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.

Presenters:

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.

Natalie LaBorde, Executive Counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, currently serves as the Executive Counsel to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC). In addition to this role she also serves as the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Division of Research, Policy Development, Communications, and the Criminal Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (RPC). Her responsibilities also include Department communications and legislative affairs which involve regularly providing committee testimony and on the record statements on behalf of the Department. During the 2017 legislative session, Natalie co-led alongside the Governor and Secretary James M. Le Blanc, Louisiana's most comprehensive criminal justice reform package in the state's history. Natalie now oversees the Department-wide reinvestment implementation which to date totals approximately 112 million dollars in savings/reinvestment. Prior to her service at Corrections, Natalie served in the Office of Governor Bobby Jindal from 2010 to 2015 in various roles, including Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy Director, Public Safety, Criminal Justice

and Legal Policy Advisor, and the Assistant Executive Counsel to the Governor. In 2012 and 2014, Natalie spearheaded the passage of comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation, while working in the governor's office.

Natalie has a B.S. from Louisiana State University (LSU) and a Juris Doctor degree from LSU Law Center. She is a member of both the Louisiana State Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar.

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., Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, has over 30 years of professional experience working with children and families. He has worked as an adolescent mental health technician, a court appointed special advocate, a parent's attorney in child in need of care proceedings, a child's defense attorney in delinquency and families in need of services proceedings, a juvenile prosecutor for the 19th Judicial District Attorney's Office, and prior to joining the Office of Juvenile Justice, he served as the Deputy Judicial Administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court's Division of Children and Families. Curtis has served as a Co-Chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Children's Law Committee, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Leadership Collaborative, Committee Member of the Louisiana Children Justice Task Force, Committee Member of the Governor's Advisory Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Advisory Board Fellow for the Pelican Center for Children and Families. He is a veteran of the United States Army, having served six years with the Louisiana Army National Guard (Combat Medical Unit) and six years with the United States Army Reserve (Theater Support Command-Judge Advocate General Corps). Curtis earned his bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from Louisiana State University in 1992, and his juris doctor from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1997.

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 A. 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.

Presenters:

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.

Sarah Whittington, Advocacy Director, Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana, lobbies and testifies in each state legislative session to support and advocate for increased and improved opportunities for reentry individuals and to prevent regression or repeal of “Justice Reinvestment” initiatives impacting returning citizens and communities in the State of Louisiana. Throughout the year, Ms. Whittington also provides research, testimony, and support to several legislative commissions, committees, and task forces focusing on automating expungements, eliminating fees and costs in the criminal legal system, and the structure of Louisiana’s judiciary. Originally from Media, Pennsylvania, Sarah is a 2015 graduate of Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law. Prior to law school, Sarah taught 4th and 8th grade English/Language Arts and Reading in East Feliciana Parish. She received her B.A. in History from Connecticut College in 2006.

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

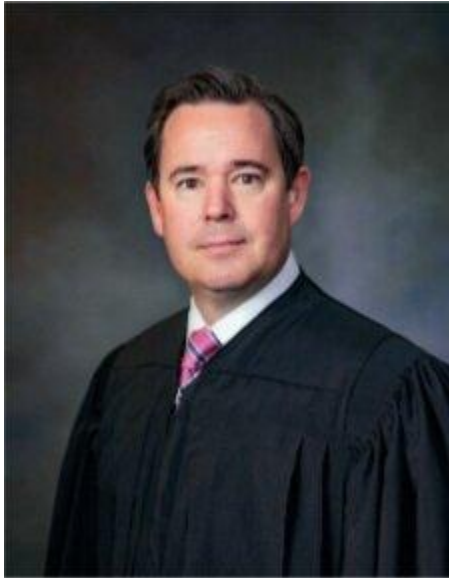
1ST ANNUAL PEAJES LOUISIANA JUDICIARY PARTICIPANTS



Hon. Judge Connie M. Aucoin
29th Judicial District Court
Division C

Judge Connie M. Aucoin was born and raised in St. Charles Parish. She attended St. Charles Borromeo Elementary School in Destrehan and graduated with honors from Destrehan High School in 1992, where she received both the River Parish Maintenance, Inc. and Knights of Columbus scholarships for leadership and academic excellence. Upon graduating high school, Judge Aucoin attended, LSU, from which she graduated Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication/Journalism. While attending LSU, Judge Aucoin interned with both the Houma Courier and the LA Rural Caucus, covering the Legislative Sessions in 1995 and 1996, as a reporter and press release correspondent, respectively.

Prior to her election to the bench in 2019, Judge Aucoin served as an assistant district attorney in St. Charles Parish, and had over eighteen years of trial and appellate experience, in both state and federal court.



Hon. Judge Kelly Balfour
19th Judicial District Court
Division I

The Honorable Kelly Balfour graduated from Teurlings Catholic High School in 1991 and continued his studies at Louisiana State University and then at LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center where he earned his Juris Doctorate in 2001.

Judge Balfour has been on the bench at the 19th Judicial District Court since November 1, 2019. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Balfour maintained a private practice for close to twenty years representing plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of civil matters, trying cases throughout the state. He was active in the Louisiana State Bar Association serving in the House of Delegates as well as a member of the Nominating Committee. Additionally, he was active in the Baton Rouge Bar Association as a board member prior to his election to the 19th JDC. He was the winner of the 2008 Honorable Michaele Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award given by the Louisiana State Bar Association.

As a District Court Judge, Judge Balfour remains active in the Louisiana District Judges Association as an Executive Board Member and as the Association's legislative liaison at the Louisiana Capital. He has been called on to assist in instruction at the LSU Law Center and enjoys working as an assistant grader for the Louisiana Bar Exam.

Judge Balfour is currently Deputy Chief Judge at the 19th JDC and works with his full docket as well as assisting with Recovery Court (formally Drug Court). He is married and has three children and enjoys working within the legal community making the practice of law more fulfilling and equitable for all.



**Hon. Judge Regina Bartholomew-Woods (Ret.)
Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal**

Judge Regina Bartholomew-Woods (ret.), a native of New Orleans, obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, with a minor in Political Science from Southern University at New Orleans in 1994. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University College of Law in 1999, where she ranked in the top 20% of her graduating class. She was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1999.

Woods currently serves as an Assistant General Counsel with Entergy Corporation in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is retired from the Louisiana Judiciary, having recently served as an Appellate Court Judge at the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, as well as a former Civil Trial Court Judge at the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. She is a former adjunct faculty instructor at Tulane University's Law School, where she taught Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure. Prior to her judgeship, Woods served as *Of Counsel* with the law firm of Boykin, Ehret & Utley, APLC. Her prior employment included serving as General Counsel for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as the Orleans Parish School Board; Staff Attorney with McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC; an attorney in private practice with several law firms; and with the United States Government at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor in Dallas, Texas.

Woods devotes her life to various civic and bar association activities. Specifically, she is a member of the Louisiana, American, National and New Orleans Bar Associations. In addition, she is a member of the National Association of Women Judges, the Louisiana Judicial Council, the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court, and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. She is also a member of several civic and community organizations: the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the New Orleans Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, the Pontchartrain Chapter of The Links, Inc., and a lifetime member of the Southern University at New Orleans Alumni Association. She is one of the founding members of a Mardi Gras Organization—the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale. She is also a former board member of the Girl Scouts of Louisiana East, the Keller Group Neighborhood Foundation and The Beautiful Foundation.



Hon. Judge Nandi F. Campbell
Orleans Criminal District Court
Section G

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, **Judge Nandi F. Campbell** worked in the banking industry and in governance as a municipal manager for The City of New York. Determined to make a difference, Judge Campbell decided to pursue a law degree to become a public defender. Judge Campbell attended University of Georgia (UGA) School of Law. While pursuing her law degree, Judge Campbell served as President of The American Constitution Society and The Law Democrats, while also serving as the Executive Director of the Working in the Public Interest (WIPI) Conference. During her tenure at UGA, Judge Campbell was recognized as a Next Generation Leader by the National American Constitution Society. Following graduation, Judge Campbell moved to New Orleans, Louisiana and accepted a position as a public defender with the newly restructured Orleans Public Defender's Office, one of the most prolific and busiest public defender's offices in the country.

After practicing, learning and being mentored by Jason R. Williams and Associates, Judge Campbell opened her own Criminal Defense Law Firm - NFCLAW, in an effort to give each case more of her attention and time. NFCLAW engaged in vigorous litigation, both in State and Federal court. Judge Campbell also served as a contract conflict attorney with Orleans Public Defender's Office and the Federal Public Defender office of the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Campbell was elected Judge of Section G of Orleans Parish Criminal Court on November 3, 2020.

Judge Campbell is a graduate of The Institute of Politics at Loyola Law, The Norman C. Francis Leadership Institute, and Emerge Louisiana. Judge Campbell taught Trial Advocacy at Tulane Law. She is currently an Adjunct professor at Loyola University College of Law, where she teaches Criminal Law Seminar.

Attracted to fresh seafood and Jazz fest, Judge Campbell is a self-appointed New Orleanian. She resides in Central City with her beloved feline, Adamma.



Hon. Judge Ree J. Casey-Jones
Caddo Parish Juvenile Court
Division C

Judge Ree J. Casey-Jones was elected to the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court on December 10, 2016. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Southern University in Baton Rouge in 2000, thereafter obtained a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center, and was admitted to practice law in 2006. She is a 2019 alumni of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada and completed a judicial fellowship at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Judge Casey-Jones is the presiding judge over the Family Preservation Drug Courts, Child Support, Adoptions, Juvenile delinquency matters, and the newly implemented STAR Court, which is a court for youth who are victims of human trafficking. She frequently travels throughout the country visiting other courts and spends several hours learning new and innovative ways to provide fair access to justice to citizens in Caddo Parish.

She was recently selected by the office of Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. She was also selected by Chief Justice John Weimer of the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve as Chair of the Court Improvement Program in conjunction with the Pelican Center of Louisiana. She also serves on the board of Directors for the Pearl of Humanity Foundation.

Judge Casey-Jones is a recipient of the Angels in Adoption Award, a United States Congressional award for her outstanding work in child welfare.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., as well as several professional organizations.

She is married to Dr. Darwin Jones and is the mother to Dawson Casey Jones.



Hon. Judge Ranord J. Darensburg
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
Section F

Judge Ranord J. Darensburg was a practicing attorney and social worker for over 25 years before being elected and joining the New Orleans Juvenile Court bench on January 1, 2021. Prior to his election, Judge Darensburg served as Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Judicial Administrator. He has written and lectured on legal issues, including juvenile justice reform, small business formation, adoption, and business development.

A native of New Orleans, Judge Darensburg obtained graduate degrees in law and social work from Loyola University College of Law (JD) and Tulane University School of Social Work (MSW). He earned his undergraduate degree in psychology (BS) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Fresh out of law school, Judge Darensburg was co-founder of Community Volunteers Association, a non-profit community service organization with the mission of enhancing existing community services to meet youth and families' needs better. As Judicial Administrator for Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Judge Darensburg oversaw all non-judicial functions of the court. In this role, he worked proactively to cultivate relationships with vital stakeholders to improve the operations, effectiveness, and sustainability of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.

Judge Darensburg has served in numerous and varied leadership roles during his career, including an appointment in 2010 as Judge Pro Tempore in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Ad Hoc Judge -First City Court for the Parish of Orleans, Clerk of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Outreach Coordinator Multi-Service Center for the Homeless, Code Enforcement Hearing Officer, and General Counsel at Transit Management of Southeast Louisiana. Also, as Judicial Administrator of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Judge Darensburg worked to enhance court services and operations. Judge Darensburg has utilized his combination of legal and social work education to create evidence--based programing in the Court that has improved outcomes for court-involved youth and families.



Hon. Judge Erika L. Green
East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court
Division B

Judge Erika L. Green was elected to the Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish, Division B, in November 2021. Prior to being elected, Judge Green was a solo practitioner at her law firm, Law Office of Erika Green, LLC, handling estate, family, and civil matters. She was also employed as a Child in Need of Care Attorney for Southeast Legal Services, a Foster Care Provider for the Department of Children and Family Services, and an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, all while working as an adjunct professor for Southern University Law Center.

Beyond her legal practice, she has an extensive history of community service, including serving six years as the East Baton Rouge Metro Councilwoman for District 5. She is an active member of the Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., NOBLE, Top Ladies of Distinction Nonpareil Chapter, Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Society, Louisiana Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association, American Judges Association, Louisiana District Judges Association, National Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, and Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Judge Green has received a number of awards, including the PVAMU Humanitarian Award, the Lottie B. Shackelford Award for Community and Political Involvement Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Baton Rouge Business Report's 40 Under 40.

Judge Green is a 2010 graduate of Southern University Law Center, and a 2007 graduate of Prairie View A&M University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a specialization in Juvenile Justice. She is also the proud mom of an energetic puppy, Thurgood.



Hon. Judge Kendrick J. Guidry
14th Judicial District Court
Division H

Judge Kendrick J. Guidry began serving as Judge in the 14th Judicial District Court, Division H, on January 4, 2021. He is the son of Mary F. Guidry and the late William J. Guidry. He is married to Kimalee S. Guidry and they have two beautiful daughters, Ashlyn Guidry and Kynna Guidry. Judge Guidry is an Eagle Scout and a 1986 Westlake High School graduate. He graduated from McNeese State University in 1990 and is a Distinguished Military Graduate, having served in the United States Army as a 2LT in the Signal Corps.

Following his military service, Judge Guidry returned to Lake Charles and worked in the mental disability field, first, as the Residential Director for CARC and then as its Assistant Executive Director. Judge Guidry graduated from LSU Law School in May 2000. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney from 2000-2006. He prosecuted all levels of crimes with specific focus on Domestic Violence. In 2006, Judge Guidry moved to the civil defense firm of Plache, Smith & Nieset, LLC, working his way to partner, until his retirement to serve on the bench.

Judge Guidry is a teacher. He has taught CLE's in Employment Law Specialization, Discipline Hearing Committee procedures, and Law Office Practices. He has been a Visiting Lecturer at McNeese State University, teaching paralegal courses on Criminal and Employment Law. Judge Guidry has appeared in the United States Supreme Court, *Fox v. Vice*.

Judge Guidry has an extensive history of community service and has been recognized for his various volunteer activities. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors for CARC and Friends of Sisters Surviving, Inc. He is a member of the McNeese Black Alumni Association. He previously served on the Finance Committee for St. John Bosco Church. He also previously served on the boards for the Southwest Louisiana Homeless Coalition, Foreman-Reynaud YMCA. He is Co-Founder of Project Rebuild-Future, a young male mentoring program.

Since taking the bench, Judge Guidry has become an avid participant in the Judges in the Courtroom/Students in the Classroom program. Judge Guidry is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church-ACTS Team member, Eucharistic Minister.



Hon. Judge Roger P. Hamilton, Jr.
16th Judicial District Court
Division H

Judge Roger P. Hamilton, Jr., was elected to serve as District Court Judge, Division H, 16th Judicial District Court, in 2020.

Judge Hamilton was born and raised in St. Martin Parish. His family moved from St. Martin Parish to Iberia Parish, where he graduated from New Iberia Senior High School in 1994. He attended Nicholls State University and graduated Cum Laude in 1998. He was inducted into the Nicholls State University Hall of Fame in 1998. He graduated in 2001 from Louisiana State University Paul M Hebert Law Center, with his Juris Doctor.

His parents are Carmen and the late Roger Hamilton, Sr. He has a daughter, Regan Paige Hamilton.

Judge Hamilton served as President of the Louisiana 4-H Foundation and was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association House of Delegates. He coaches girls basketball at Loreauville High School.

Judge Hamilton began his legal career in 2001 as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Paul J. deMahy. He began working as an Assistant District Attorney in May 2002 until December 2020. Judge Hamilton also served as General Counsel to the Lafayette Parish School Board and the City of Jeanerette.

Judge Hamilton served as an adjunct professor at South Louisiana Community College and Nicholls State University.



Hon. Judge Angel S. Harris
Orleans Criminal District Court
Section L

Elected to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court-Section L, in November 2020, **Judge Angel Harris** previously served as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. (2015-2019), where her advocacy focused on capital defense, juvenile life without the possibility of parole, voter disenfranchisement, school desegregation and policing reform. Prior to joining LDF, Judge Harris served as a Staff Attorney with the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project where she represented death-sentenced prisoners nationwide. Between 2009-2014, Judge Harris was a public defender in Orleans and Calcasieu Parishes.

A nationally recognized expert on criminal justice and civil rights issues, Judge Harris' writing has appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Huffington Post*, and she has provided commentary on "Democracy Now!," "1A" and "The Roland Martin Show."

Judge Harris graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2009 and summa cum laude from Hampton University, with a B.A. in English. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association.



Hon. Judge Marcus L. Hunter
Court of Appeal
2nd Circuit
State of Louisiana

A lifelong resident of Monroe, Louisiana, **Judge Marcus Hunter** is a graduate of the Julia C. Wossman High School in Monroe. Judge Hunter received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Southern University, in 2002, and a Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center, in 2005. After being admitted to the Louisiana State Bar Association, Judge Hunter opened a small business, United Title of Northeast Louisiana, and was an attorney with Willie Hunter Jr., and Associates, at which he practiced alongside his father and brother.

From 2011 to 2018, Judge Hunter was a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing District 17, which encompasses parts of the cities of Monroe and West Monroe and the towns of Richwood and Bawcomville. While a state representative, he served on the Civil Law, Insurance, and Labor committees. In his second year as a state representative, he was named to the Commerce Committee and later sat on the House Ways & Means Committee.

Judge Hunter's initial service on the bench was as district judge for the 4th Judicial District Court, Division G. He won election to the Louisiana Court of Appeal, 2nd Circuit, and assumed office on May 5, 2021. He was re-elected without opposition on November 8, 2022.

Judge Hunter is married to Dr. Tonya H. Hunter, an OB/GYN. The couple has three children.



Hon. Judge William Jordan
19th Judicial District Court
Division D

Judge William Jordan completed his undergraduate studies at Millsaps College, where he lettered in football for four years. While at Millsaps, Judge Jordan became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. Will received his law degree from Southern University Law Center in 2010.

Upon graduating law school, Judge Jordan became an Assistant District Attorney in New Orleans, LA. In 2014 he left New Orleans to join the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office. He was the Section Chief of Section VII of the 19th JDC.

While an attorney, Judge Jordan served his community in other ways, by facilitating the "Real Talk Program," a program designed to bring community stakeholders along with law enforcement and attorneys together to discuss current issues in society with local high and middle school students. While the program started in Florida following the Trayvon Martin shooting, Judge Jordan aided in the facilitation of the nationwide roll out of this program in 2015 at McKinley High School, the oldest historically black public high school in the state of Louisiana. Additionally, Judge Jordan was a cog in the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney office's Junior DA program, which enrolls middle school youth in a two week summer program and educates them about the criminal justice system and related professions.

Judge Jordan was a founding member and Vice -President of the Louisiana Black Prosecutors Association. He was elected the 2015-2016 Southern Regional Director of this organization and was awarded the National Black Prosecutors Association Regional Director of the Year award. This distinction was followed by his election as the President of the National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA), a position he held for two consecutive terms.

Judge Jordan and his lovely wife, Brittany, enjoy travelling across the country and speaking about criminal justice reform and best practices/ common sense approaches to crime prevention.



Hon. Judge Sharlayne Jackson Prevost
Second Parish Court
Parish of Jefferson
Division A

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

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

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

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

Judge Prevost was elected as the First African American Judge of Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson, following the retirement of the Honorable Roy Cascio, Division “A” in 2020. She is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Jefferson Parish Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association, American Judges Association, Louisiana City Judges Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Fifth Circuit Judges Association. She is a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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



Hon. Judge Karelia Stewart
First Judicial District Court
Section 1, Division D

Judge Karelia R. Stewart was elected without opposition to Section 1, Division D, 1st Judicial District Court in August 2014 and took office October 1, 2014. She was the youngest female elected without opposition to serve on the 1st Judicial District Court, the 2nd African American female elected in the history of this court, and the first African American second generation to serve on the 1st Judicial District Court. Her father is the Honorable Judge Carl E. Stewart, Former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court.

Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Stewart served for eight years as an Assistant District Attorney for Caddo Parish. She was instrumental in reviving the Court's rehabilitation program and establishing a Veteran's Court.

Judge Stewart is a 1997 honor graduate of Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport Louisiana. She attended Dillard University in New Orleans Louisiana, where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. Judge Stewart obtained her Juris Doctorate Degree from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 2004.

Judge Stewart has received numerous accolades and awards for her contributions to the legal profession. She was selected by her colleagues and peers to receive the Honorable Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award. She received this award for her commitment and dedication to upholding the quality and integrity of the legal profession and consideration toward her peers and the general public. Additionally, she was honored by the National Bar Association as a recipient of one of the nation's 40 under 40 Best Advocates Award and the Excellence in Leadership Award.

Judge Stewart is actively involved in her community. In addition to her work schedule, she enjoys teaching Real Estate Law as an adjunct professor at Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

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