

OBITER DICTUM

The Newsletter of the Louisiana District Judges Association

April 2012 - Vol. 2, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Scott J. Crichton
1st JDC
President, LDJA
2011-2012

It seems hard to believe I am half way through my term as president of the Louisiana District Judges Association. It is such a great honor to serve the Association and I thank you for this opportunity.

I first want to mention the very recently announced retirement of Justice Kitty Kimball, effective January 1, 2013. As LDJA President, I commend Justice Kimball on her excellent service to the judiciary for the

past 30 years. We will have more words to share with you about Justice Kimball's stellar and outstanding service in the next edition of the *Obiter Dictum*.

I am proud to report that the Executive Committee and our colleagues are hard at work and the Association is as robust, vibrant and busy as ever. I do want to highlight the work of several committees.

The Legislative Liaison Committee, chaired by Bob Morrison, has worked long hours over the course of many days compiling and advising the Association on the multitude of bills filed in this year's legislative session and, perhaps more importantly, conveying our viewpoints to our legislators. What made his task especially challenging was the large number of bills in this year's regular session with 1191 in the House and 746 in the Senate. To discuss Judge Morrison's work, and to address over 100 bills that affect the judiciary as well as our professional and personal lives, the Executive Committee met in Baton Rouge for several hours on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

Of particular importance is the proposed legislation which would increase our retirement contribution from 11.5 to 14.5 percent. Notwithstanding the fact that our contribution is already the highest in the country and despite the fact that Louisiana judges' salaries are slightly

below the southern average, this legislative proposal seeks to substantially increase our contributions with the result being a significant decrease in our monthly take-home pay. While admittedly math is not my strong suit, rough calculations reflect a proposed pay decrease of almost \$350.00 per month and an annual proposed decrease of over \$4,000.00. Significantly, the proposal would not fortify our retirement system, LASERS; instead, the money would be directed to the general fund.

Another important bill seeks to decrease the jury threshold from \$50,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in controversy. Such a change would likely increase both our jury trial backlog and litigation costs, and would result in a further taxing effect on the citizens who serve as jurors. These and numerous other bills require our attention and we thank Bob Morrison and the Legislative Liaison Committee for compiling the list, hearing from us and conveying our viewpoints to the legislators.

Our Education Committee is chaired by Mike Pitman who is also on the Board of Governors of the Louisiana Judicial College. Wearing those hats, Judge Pitman is in a unique position to share our educational needs with members of the newly restructured college, chaired by former LDJA President, now Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Madeleine Landrieu. In particular, the LDJA is a co-sponsor with the Louisiana Judicial College and the Louisiana State Bar Association in the upcoming Annual Summer School in Sandestin. As always, the LDJA expects a strong showing at the event.

A third hat worn by Judge Pitman is as chair of the LDJA Wellness Committee. He has spoken several times on wellness and professionalism, and along with Hans Liljeborg of the 24th JDC and Mackie Shilstone, Judge Pitman is scheduled to present another session at Summer School on June 6. The Judicial College is working to include concepts of health and wellness as a professionalism component in upcoming CLE courses. For more on Wellness, see Judge Pitman's update in this issue of *Obiter*

Dictum, "Get Off Your Bench and Move!"

Judge Wendell Manning has done an excellent job chairing the Judges in the Classroom Committee. It is important for us to take what may be only a relatively small amount of time from our dockets to go into the classrooms and teach our children about the Constitution and our system of justice. This somewhat visionary objective began under the capable direction of Judge Ben Jones, and Judge Manning has continued Judge Jones' excellent work. That work involved the partnership of the LDJA with the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) to form the *Judges in the Classroom/Lawyers in the Classroom* program.

The concept of judges teaching in our communities leads me to address one of my own initiatives. Noting that our Criminal Code (R.S. 14:17) provides that ignorance of the law is not a defense, having seen countless teens charged with serious felony crimes, five years ago, I designed a teen education crime prevention program titled, "Don't Let This Be You." I have since presented it well over a hundred times to about 20,000 students, parents and teachers in high schools, churches and neighborhood associations. It is a 90 minute PowerPoint which addresses laws which are sometimes and unfortunately violated by teenagers. Topics include the legal concepts of the principals and constructive possession; illegal drug use, its effects on cognitive impairment and addiction; the crime of felony carnal knowledge, including registration requirements; paternity and child support laws; and the public records doctrine, with emphasis on how a criminal arrest can impact college admissions and future employment.

For the 20,000 or so students I have reached, on both an intellectual and emotional level, none can claim that no one told them about the law! For me, the program has evolved into a labor of love. For more information, you can visit my website at www.dontletthisbeyou.org.

Another PowerPoint program which I developed is "Sexting, Texting and Beyond" which addresses electronic misbehavior and its consequences. The relatively new laws of texting while driving, cyberbullying and sexting are addressed and the design of the presentation is suitable for middle school students who I regret to say need to know the consequences of violating these laws. For a full description, a video, and a copy of the program handout, you may visit my website at www.judgescottcrichton.com.

I am willing to share my PowerPoint presentations and outlines with any judicial colleagues. Judge Jules Edwards, 15th JDC, Ray Childress, 22nd JDC, and Tony Marabella, 19th JDC, have received the materials accompanying the "Don't Let This Be You" presentation and are in the process of adapting it to their jurisdictions. Judges John Conery, 17th JDC, and Randy Bethancourt, 32nd JDC, are using my PowerPoint on "Sexting, Texting and Beyond." Please contact me if you are interested in using this presentation in your jurisdiction.

By involving ourselves in the classroom, whether through the [Judges in the Classroom](#) program or through one of my programs, we can make a difference. That difference is education, prevention through education, and the power of choice!

A final initiative which I want to address is diversity. The LDJA co-sponsored the LSBA Fifth Annual Diversity Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession, held March 2, 2012 in New Orleans. I was honored to serve as a panelist on a subject titled "Conquering the Myths and Fortifying the Armor: It May Be Legal But Is It Ethical?" Over 200 people attended the excellent seminar, which received rave reviews. In particular, James Davidson, President of the LSBA thanked the LDJA for the contribution to the seminar and stated that "we need programs of this nature to create venues in which attorneys and judges are comfortable discussing hot-button and sensitive diversity-related issues. We all grow from this exchange of information... and, our profession becomes more inclusive, cohesive, and more effective..." Following Mr. Davidson's keen observation, we must continue to heighten and refine our awareness of diversity issues so that all people, irrespective of race, gender or national origin, have faith and trust in what we do.

Having this initiative in the forefront, in my appointments to the Executive Committee and all LDJA Committees, I have done my best to favorably consider race, gender and geographic diversity so that we have an excellent cross section of judges in leadership roles in our Association. I believe that leadership and a balanced judiciary is critical to our well being.

Again, it is an honor to serve the LDJA and I look forward to seeing you at Summer School in June. In the event you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at jcrichton@firstjdcla.org or (318) 226-6818.

U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA SPEAKS AT 2012 EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE SEMINAR

By: Judge Scott Crichton



In addition to excellent subjects and presenters at the February 2012 Evidence and Procedure Seminar, we had an unexpected special guest:

United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia! How this superstar jurist made it to our seminar is worthy of mention.

As LDJA president, I was asked to serve as moderator for the seminar. During the morning coffee hour Billie Bennett advised me that Justice Scalia was a guest at our seminar hotel. With Billie's help, I sent Justice Scalia a hand-written note inviting him to the reception scheduled later that day, hosted by the American Board of Trial Advocates. I also asked if the Justice could possibly speak to our group at any point during the two-day seminar, or perhaps do both. To my pleasant surprise, within a few minutes I received a response from a hotel administrator that, while he could not make the reception, Justice Scalia had agreed to speak to us at 10:00 on Friday morning.

As much as I wanted to immediately proclaim success in securing a U.S. Justice as a speaker for the La. Judicial College, upon further reflection I realized that if word got out to the press then there could be cameras and an entourage, which might result in no Justice. Therefore, as tough as it was, I kept it a secret. My thoughts turned to the rare and probably once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I had just landed to introduce a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. I feverishly began reviewing Justice Scalia's biography, and scribbling notes for what I had hoped would be a most stellar introduction. Unfortunately, upon further reflection, (similar to the reflection of earlier) I was harkened back to the "pecking order," the "food chain," subservient protocol, and perhaps the vested discretion - abuse of which the appellate courts so thoughtfully remind us is intolerable - that often dictates our actions as trial judges.

The reality was this opportunity should go first to the Chief Justice, then to the associate justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court and so on down the line. Forcing humility upon myself, I somewhat reluctantly sent word to the Supreme Court, only to learn that all of the Justices had a conflict ...except Justice Greg Guidry. While not so compelled as to share with Justice Guidry my biography notes, I nevertheless expressed delight in his opportunity.

Throughout the day Thursday I did my absolute best to tantalize the crowd with the fact we would have a very special guest at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, "well worth the price of admission," I said, but whose name I could not divulge. Wild speculation of the Judge-attendees led to rumors that our "special guest" was Bobby Jindal, Les Miles, Drew Brees, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, or possibly Denzel Washington.

A few minutes before 10:00 a.m. on Friday, security agents arrived (they think they're incognito but the sunglasses readily give them away) and then Justice Guidry and finally the U.S. Supreme Court Justice. I briefly introduced Justice Guidry who, as expected, provided an excellent, in fact stellar, introduction to Justice Scalia (even without the benefit of my notes).

Justice Scalia spoke of his judicial philosophy: that the U.S. Constitution is not designed to facilitate social change but rather is meant to protect citizens' basic fundamental rights and responsibilities. He also touched on the limited role of federal government in the affairs of the states underscoring the importance of local government. Justice Scalia further recognized the significance of the district court judges, emphasizing that for witnesses, jurors, and most citizens with cases and controversies, trial judges are the only ministers of justice they may ever know. Praising the work of the District Judges, Justice Scalia proclaimed that we are, "Where the rubber meets the road."

So, in addition to the excellent curriculum, another reason to attend the Judicial College is that you never know who might show up! And that raises another question: How do we even attempt to top United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia? Maybe next year - Drew Brees or Denzel Washington!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLLEAGUES:

By: Judge Scott Crichton

The following new judges were recently elected in several Louisiana District Courts:

The following new judges were recently elected in several Louisiana District Courts:

Regina H. Bartholomew, Orleans Parish Civil District Court;

Charlene Charlet Day; East Baton Rouge Family Court;

Michael D. Clement, 25th Judicial District Court;

Bernadette D'Souza, Orleans Parish Family Court;

Clare Jupiter, Orleans Parish Civil District Court;

Jessie McCroy LeBlanc, 23rd Judicial District Court

Michele Morel, 29th Judicial District Court;

Susan Theall, 15th Judicial District Court; and

Franz L. Zibilich, Orleans Criminal District Court.

As LDJA President, I welcome you to the district court bench. After 21 years on the bench, having presided over hundreds of jury trials, made decisions in thousands of bench trials and hearings, lectured in almost a hundred CLE presentations and served on a multitude of committees (too many to count!) both on the local and state levels, I love my job more than ever. Each day represents an opportunity to administer justice and to make our judicial system work. It's truly been a blessing to do what we are called upon to do each day.

The district judge is the "first responder" in a growing judicial system. As ministers of justice in our respective communities, we set the tone for the integrity and professionalism in which the third branch of government operates. I invite you, as newly elected ministers of justice, to strike that tone of integrity and professionalism in all cases.

Be passionate about this tremendous new job as district judge. Caddo District Judge C.J. Bolin, Jr. once said, "the system is brilliantly designed; it's the people within that make it work." I therefore challenge you to engage, to participate, and to contribute to help make the Louisiana judicial system the very best. I truly hope that you find this calling as enriching as I have. Good luck and God-speed on your new journey.

JUDICIAL COLLEGE NEWS

By: Judge Madeleine M. Landrieu

4th Circuit Court of Appeal

President, Louisiana Judicial College



Over 130 judges recently gathered in Lafayette for the Louisiana Judicial College Annual Spring Conference. Speakers tackled subjects from judicial recusal to our obligations under the Louisiana Budget Act; juvenile law and criminal law updates; and the role of ADR in the case management process. Additionally, each of

the judicial associations conducted business meetings where issues important to the work of those judges were discussed and debated. (Some of the meetings made the debate in the legislature seem like child's play!)

The Judicial College has a new and more invigorated Board of Governors as a result of certain changes to our governance structure. Your new Board is working hard to bring to you quality judicial education. Your input is important to that effort, so please let us hear from you.

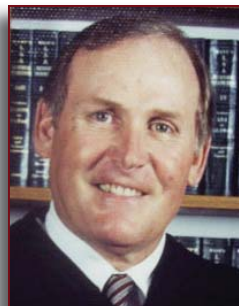
The College is currently planning our Annual Summer School Program in Sandestin along with the Louisiana State Bar Association be held June 3-8 and our August Family Law Conference in New Orleans on August 9th and 10th. We hope you will join us at both.

I always leave these College seminars with a feeling of pride in both the knowledge that I gain there and the fellowship I share with other Louisiana judges.

LDJA/DOC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Judge Harry Randow, 9th Judicial District Court

LDJA/DOC LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIR



The Liaison Committee has been one of the standing committees of the LDJA for the last 7 or 8 years, providing a forum for district judges, the Department of Corrections, and members of the criminal justice community to come together to discuss and collaborate on topics of interest. During its existence, the committee has played a major role in legislative issues and has ad-

dressed important challenges such as substance abuse treatment, sentencing options, SOAP Hearings, IMPACT for Drug Court clients, and the Uniform Commitment Order.

Each year, the Committee conducts several meetings at the various institutions to allow judges the opportunity to see first-hand the programs offered by the DOC. As judges, it is important that we understand the available DOC programs so that at sentencing we can make specific recommendations that will achieve the court's sentence.

For example, in the fall of last year, we met at Forcht-Wade Correctional Center (FWCC) in Keithville outside of Shreveport. FWCC is a 500 bed facility housing the Steve Hoyle Treatment Program. Thirteen judges attended that meeting and toured the facility. We are presently planning a meeting and tour of the Louisiana State Penitentiary for sometime this summer. If you have not been to Angola recently to see the important changes in this facility and its programs, then you will want to plan on attending.

Speaking of attending, the Liaison Committee is open to all district judges. The committee meets several times a year and it is not necessary that you be a member of the committee to attend. Notice will be sent out well in advance of the meeting, and you are encouraged to attend. Based on past experiences, I think you will find it one of the most informative meetings you will attend this year.

JUDGES IN THE CLASSROOM

PREPARING FOR LAW DAY AND OTHER UPDATES

*Judge Wendell Manning, 4th Judicial District Court
Chair, Judges in the Classroom Committee*



With Law Day fast approaching on May 1, 2012, there has been a tremendous response to the promotion of the *Judges in the Classroom* materials for use throughout our state's elementary, middle and high schools. Working with our partner agency, the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, there have already been

85 Law Day individual presentations scheduled with 52 teachers. It is estimated these programs will reach over 3,800 students statewide. This response is more than double that of last year at this same time.

Judges in the Classroom provides over 150 grade specific lesson plans and law related education materials which judges may use as they go into classrooms to speak. With these lesson plans, as well as the Lawyers in the Classroom and other resources made available through our partnership with the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, the volunteer presenter has a wealth of information at his or her fingertips.

Validating its worth, the *Judges in the Classroom* program was highlighted among other programs when it was announced that our partner agency, the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, was awarded the prestigious Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Advancement of Civics Education by the National Center for State Courts. The organization was nominated by Chief Justice Kimball and Judicial Administrator Tim Averill. The award will be presented this summer in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Chief Justices.

In addition, Judge Scott Crichton, was asked to join the faculty of the Annual Summer Institute for Social Studies Educators to be held in New Orleans on July 16-17, 2012. This annual short course is conducted for a group of 30 social studies teachers specially selected by high school principals from every congressional district of the state. Educators receive practical assistance, lesson plans, and in-depth instruction from distinguished faculty including members of the Bench and Bar.

Finally, the LDJA was asked to join the Advisory Board of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. The *Judges in the Classroom* Committee and the LDJA have partnered with the Center and the Louisiana State Bar Association for the past three years to promote civics and law related education. Through this partnership, the Center assists the LDJA with mail outs and e-newsletters sent to over 13,000 lawyers, legislators, and educators throughout the state at a minimum of 6 times per year. Also, the law related education activities of the LDJA are highlighted in the LSBA Bar Journal and Bar Briefs.

If you would like to become a volunteer presenter with the *Judges in the Classroom* program, please contact the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education at **(504) 566-1600, ext. 134**. Lesson plans and other materials can be emailed to you in PDF format. You may also view a listing of lesson plans and resources at www.LALCE.org.

MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS

By Judge Scott Crichton

As Louisiana becomes more ethnically diverse, that ethnic diversity is reflected in the nature of its litigants. These litigants – parties to civil actions, defendants in criminal proceedings, and key witnesses – are often impeded by a limited ability to communicate in English. Federal agencies have identified such litigants as “Limited English Proficient” individuals (LEP) and describe them generally as “individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.”¹ These LEP individuals may be entitled to language assistance through services and benefits designed to promote equal access to the courts.

Following a comprehensive investigation, the United States Department of Justice recently concluded that policies and practices of the North Carolina judiciary discriminated on the basis of national origin, and violated federal law by failing to provide LEP individuals with “meaningful access to state court proceedings.”² A nebulous concept, and dictated by the particular needs of the LEP individual, “*meaningful access*” implies ensuring the availability of effective and quality language resources, services, and processes so that equal access to justice is a fundamental right for all.³ Such meaningful access to justice was exactly what the DOJ found North Carolina LEP individuals were denied.

In their scathing report, the DOJ listed numerous cases where interpreters for LEP individuals were either not made available or flatly denied.⁴ Such practices resulted in many cases moving forward without language assistance for LEP individuals who were thus unable to meaningfully participate in their case. The harms identified included a prolonged period of unnecessary incarceration due to the lack of an interpreter; serious conflicts of interest caused by allowing state prosecutors to interpret for defendants in criminal proceedings; and self-represented and indigent litigants being forced to proceed with domestic violence, child custody, housing eviction, wage dispute and other important proceedings without an interpreter. In one instance, an LEP mother lost permanent legal custody of her two minor children after a hearing where she was denied an interpreter despite her apparent LEP status. The transcript of the proceedings indicated she didn’t even un-

derstand the result until after the hearing when she spoke with a child services employee.

The DOJ investigated the custody case and several other cases of varying subject matter under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the State Streets Act of 1968, and their implementing regulations. These acts and regulations collectively prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and religion by recipients of federal financial assistance. “Recipients of federal financial assistance,” in most instances, includes trial courts. What this means is that under the Civil Rights Act and Federal Regulations, trial judges in state courts must make every effort to identify LEP individuals and to provide them with meaningful access to our courts.

Subject to the North Carolina investigation the DOJ advised the court administrators to remedy the targeted violations of federal law, failing which it could initiate civil litigation against the offending court pursuant to Title VI, seek injunctive relief, and terminate all federal financial assistance. The findings were issued in an eye-opening report and delivered in a terse admonishment to the North Carolina state courts.

What we learn from this report is that trial judges must strive to maintain meaningful access to our courts for all citizens – regardless of national origin – and that means having a policy for such access to the courts for LEP individuals. In fact, the DOJ suggests that the policy should be in the form of a written LEP plan outlining the available language assistance services, and setting forth the manner in which staff and LEP persons can access those services.

As noted by the *Florida Supreme Court Task force on Racial and Ethnic Bias*, “To a minority for whom English is not the primary language, communication barriers only heighten the desperation that justice is simply beyond reach, no matter what the truth or consequences.”⁵ We

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1. Federal Register, Vol. 77, No. 46, 3/8/12, p.13981.
 2. U.S. Department of Justice Investigation of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, Complaint No. 171-54M-8; 3/8/2012.
 3. The National Center for State Courts, “Improving the Courts’ Capacity to Serve Limited English Proficient Persons Seeking Protection Orders” (<http://cosca.ncsc.dni.us/WhitePapers/CourtInterpretation-FundamentalToAccessToJustice.pdf>)
 4. http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/TitleVI/030812_DOJ_Letter_to_NC_AOC.pdf
 5. <http://cosca.ncsc.dni.us/WhitePapers/CourtInterpretation-FundamentalToAccessToJustice.pdf>

as trial judges must see to it that no litigant feels such despair, but rather that justice is not only accessible, but ascertainable. Thus, notwithstanding a voluminous docket and what might appear to be a relatively less important case, we need to always remember that for the litigants, their case is extremely important and we must strive to provide meaningful access to justice in all cases.

LDJA WEBSITE

Judge John Molaison
24th Judicial District Court
WEBSITE COMMITTEE CHAIR



We have great news! Our website has a fresh new design and layout. You can view it at www.ldja.org. Please visit the site and register as a member. You will note that the design provides for public and private pages. When we confirm your registration, you may access the member's private pages.

Currently, the public pages allow users to learn about the LDJA, its leadership, initiatives, programs, events, other government links, and locate judges throughout the state. The private pages, accessible only by members, include discussion pages, forums and a private message center.

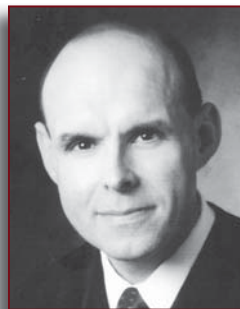
This basic layout is just the beginning. We hope to expand the site to be more responsive to member needs and to conduct LDJA business quickly and efficiently. For example, we envision the forums section as a tool to discuss pending legislation and LDJA initiatives. This tool would allow each of us to post comments and suggestions about upcoming or pending legislation. In addition, the Best Practices Committees will be able to post their findings for your quick and easy access; past seminar materials can be stored for review and downloading in the future; posting of major changes in jurisprudence for review and comment would help keep us current; and other publications would be available for downloading, review, and printing. It is my goal to make the site an easily accessed resource.

To help us get started, log on to the member page and go to Forum 1 and post in the thread "Website Suggestions." We welcome your ideas and thoughts to make the site more useful. So, register as a member and start posting!

GET OFF YOUR BENCH AND MOVE!

WELLNESS UPDATE

Judge Michael A. Pitman, 1st Judicial District Court
WELLNESS COMMITTEE CHAIR



As we all know, Chief Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball suffered a stroke in January of 2010. After months of rehabilitation, we were all very happy to see her at the 2010 Annual Fall Judges Conference. Along with a neurologist familiar with her case, Chief Justice Kimball spoke of her medical condition at the time of her stroke and the events that followed. All of us who were in attendance were so inspired by Chief Justice Kimball's courage and determination.

As I listened to Chief Justice Kimball describe what happened to her, I thought of my father who had a heart attack at age 49 and of my mother's health which, at the time, was failing quickly. I also started to think of my own health and the health of all of you, my fellow judges.

Thanks to Chief Justice Kimball's presentation, I was inspired to begin a wellness program which was presented at the Summer School for Judges and at two other conferences in New Orleans. The goal of the wellness program is to help us make healthier lifestyle choices and, in turn, to become the healthiest, most professional judges we can be.

Another wellness presentation is scheduled for this year's Summer School for Judges. Assisting me will be Judge Hans Liljeberg, of the 24th JDC, and Mackie Shilstone, a renowned trainer of professional athletes. Thanks to the support of the Louisiana Supreme Court, LDJA President Scott Crichton, Kitty Hymel and the MCLE Committee, the wellness presentation is now eligible for CLE credit.

I look forward to seeing you all in Sandestin. Now, let's all get up and move!

UPCOMING JUDICIAL COLLEGE AND LDJA EVENTS

- **Judicial College Events**

For all Judicial College events, call Billie Bennett directly to register at 225.578.8825.

- **June 3-6, 2012**

- **Louisiana Judicial College & LSBA Summer School for Judges**

- Location: Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin Florida.

- **August 9-10, 2012**

- **Domestic/Family Law Seminar**

- Location: Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans

- **September 30-October 2, 2012**

- **Annual Fall Judges' Conference**

- This year's conference is being held in conjunction with the American Judges' Association.

- Location: Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans

- (General Membership Meeting: Mon. October 1, 2012-Election of officers. Time and Location TBA.)

- **October 19-20, 2012**

- **Fall Criminal Seminar - The Bluffs**

- This Seminar is still in the planning stages. More information will be available soon on the LDJA website at www.ldja.org.

- **December 7, 2012**

- **Annual Torts Seminar**

- Location: Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans

GET INVOLVED

To become involved in any LDJA Committee, or for more information, please contact the committee chairs, or send your inquiry to:

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