Justice Knoll to Retire

by Miriam Childs

Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll, Associate Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court, will retire on December 31, 2016, bringing to a close a lengthy and illustrious career as a distinguished jurist.

One of ten children, Justice Knoll was born and raised in Gueydan, Louisiana. Later the family moved to New Orleans, where she graduated high school. Justice Knoll’s extraordinary talent appeared early in her life, when, at age eighteen, she received a Metropolitan Opera Association and New Orleans Opera Guild scholarship to study voice with Maestro Kurt Adler and at the Mannes College of Music in New York City. She returned to New Orleans on a music scholarship to Loyola University School of Music, ultimately earning a B.A. in political science with a minor in history from Loyola in 1966. She continued to pursue voice as a guest soloist with the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony and the New Orleans Summer Pops.

Justice Knoll earned a Juris Doctorate from Loyola in 1969. One of her first attorney positions was as an indigent defender in Avoyelles Parish from 1969-1972. For thirteen years she practiced law with Knoll and Knoll. From 1972-1982, she served as the first Assistant D.A. for the 12th Judicial District. During this time, she was appointed by the President as a gratuitous attorney and advisor for the United States Selective Service at Local Board No. 5 in Marksville.

In 1982, Justice Knoll was elected to the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal for the 12th Judicial District. After serving for twenty years, she was elected as an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2002 where she has served until her retirement.

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Justice Knoll has participated, and continues to participate, in numerous civic and professional activities. She has been an Instructor for the Louisiana Judicial College and served as chair of Continuing Legal Education for Louisiana Court of Appeal Judges. She is currently a member of the Third Circuit Judges’ Association, the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association Judicial Division, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society. Justice Knoll was a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Post-Conviction Relief Committee and the chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Post-Conviction Relief. She is a former member of the State Board of Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the conflicts committee of the State Law Institute.

Justice Knoll is past president of the Business and Professional Women’s Club. She is a founder and a former director of the Arts and Humanities Council of Avoyelles, Inc., and a former chair of the March of Dimes. Additionally, she is a former member of the Marksville Jaycee Jaynes and the Phi Phi Phi social sorority.

In 2007, Justice Knoll and her family were inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame. Prior awards include the Outstanding Judicial Award from Victims and Citizens Against Crime (1995 and 2002) and the Louisiana Crimefighters’ Outstanding Jurist of the Year (2000). She was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2000.

Justice Knoll’s reputation for judicial honesty and fairness has earned the respect of the Louisiana residents she has willingly served for 34 years. Reflecting on her retirement, Justice Knoll beautifully captured her decades of selfless service to the people of this state: “It will be with tears of joy, pride, and humility that on December 31, 2016, at midnight, I will retire my robe in the great ‘Hall of Justice’ knowing that I contributed 34 years of jurisprudence that maintained a balance between liberty and order, between uniformity and diversity, and between individual rights and collective needs.” Justice Knoll will not only be missed for her judicial acumen, but also for her kindness. She is wished the best in her retirement.

New Exhibit on the Civil Code

by Georgia Chadwick & Miriam Childs

A new law library exhibit on display in the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum explores the 1975 Congrés in Paris commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1825 Louisiana Civil Code. Organized by New Orleans attorney David Campbell, the 1975 meeting drew over 1,000 Louisiana lawyers and judges, including the Chief Justice at the time, Joe Sanders. The highlight of the exhibit is a miniature copy of the 1804 Code Civil Français, which was given to David Campbell at the Congrés. Mr. Campbell recently donated the copy to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In 1972, New Orleans attorney David L. Campbell envisioned a special celebration of the 150th anniversary of Louisiana’s Civil Code of 1825. Campbell proposed to hold the sesquicentennial event in Paris. He was appointed to serve as chairman of the sesquicentennial celebration and spent several years planning programs and events. The

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sesquicentennial celebration took place in 1975 and was an adjunct meeting following the LSBA’s regular annual meeting. The invitation garnered a phenomenal response from the Louisiana bar and judiciary. Judges and lawyers packed their bags to travel to Paris for a congress with members of the French legal community and the French Cour de Cassation (the highest court in the French judiciary).

Four members of the Louisiana Supreme Court attended the celebration: Chief Justice Joe Sanders, along with Associate Justices Walter Marcus, Mack Barham, and Pascal Calogero. Also attending was Revius Ortique, who participated on the program and later served as an associate justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

For the closing event of the celebration on May 8, 1975, attendees gathered in the magnificent library of the Paris Bar Association (Barreau des Avocats), located in the Palais de Justice. The president of the Paris Bar Association presented David Campbell with a rare miniature 1804 edition of the French Civil Code from the Association’s library, in appreciation of his leadership in guiding this historic meeting.

David Campbell was an early and inspired supporter of the restoration of the imposing Royal Street courthouse. Campbell attended the first meeting of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society (SCLAHS), held at the Mint, and was pleased to learn of plans to renovate the 400 Royal Street building. He was particularly interested to learn of plans for a museum to be located in the courthouse. Even when the museum was only a glimmer of reality, David Campbell had the idea to give his rare 1804 French Civil Code to the SCLAHS to display in the museum as a remembrance of the sesquicentennial celebration held in Paris some twenty years earlier.

David Campbell visited the building and museum in late 2015, which reawakened his wish to have his copy of the 1804 French Civil Code displayed in the museum. His donation of the volume to Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson and the Associate Justices was gratefully accepted by the Chief Justice for the Court.
CLE on Law Library Services

by Cynthia Jones

At noon on Friday, June 29, 2016, the Law Library of Louisiana hosted a one hour CLE entitled What the Law Library Can Do for You. Slightly over one hundred people attended the program, which was held in the main courtroom on the fourth floor of the Supreme Court building. At the program’s conclusion, attendees were invited to a small reception. Law Library of Louisiana librarians Cynthia Jones, Sara Pic, and Francis Norton were the presenters.

Using a series of entertaining and slightly irreverent slides, Cynthia Jones introduced the program by speaking on the current state of public libraries and the misconception that libraries are moribund or in decline. Instead, she argued technology and modern librarianship are driving innovation, collaboration, and services. The result is redefining public institutions. Ms. Jones traced the founding of the Law Library of Louisiana to an 1838 statute (Act 93) wherein a public law library for the state of Louisiana was first established. To better understand the library’s purpose and constituent groups – the Justices of the Supreme Court, legal administrative departments within the Court, other Louisiana judges, the state bar, and the general public, including a burgeoning number of self-represented litigants – she asked the audience to consider the law library’s mission statement vis-à-vis access to legal information. She stated that access is no longer strictly defined to being in the physical library. Going further, as technology is applied to library operations, it directly impacts how professional librarians interact and serve their constituent groups. Ms. Jones underscored how the application of technology promotes transparency, which translates into smarter and better services. For illustration, she compared a physical card catalog to today’s electronically accessible catalogs, commonly known as “discovery tools.”

Ms. Jones discussed the use of email as the preferred tool for communication and document delivery; increased services through enhanced public research terminals; and the acquisition of new digital scanning technology. At the conclusion of the program, Ms. Jones returned to a quotation from Albert Einstein discussed earlier: “The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.” She suggested to the attendees that “location” in today’s world is relative because libraries and librarians are defined not by physical space or personal proximity but increasingly by services and deliverables leveraged by technology. Her conclusion was to tweak Einstein’s quote, to wit: the only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the Librarians.

Next, Sara Pic presented several ways attorneys might become involved in the access to justice movement and assist self-represented litigants. Ms. Pic, a former public interest attorney who is now a law librarian, spoke about the professional rules that govern limited representation and allocation of authority between a client and a lawyer, known as “limited scope representation.” She discussed the opportunities for participation through bar-sanctioned programs, such as the Lawyers in Libraries Day of Service and the web-based Free Legal Answers platform, at LA.freelegalanswers.org.

Francis Norton, another of the staff’s attorney law librarians, concluded the program by addressing two of the more frequently asked questions: how to compile a legislative history and how to use the law library’s collection of historical statutes to determine the exact language of “the law” at a specific time. For legislative histories, Mr. Norton emphasized the online and web-based resources that can be used to compile a Louisiana legislative history. He closed his remarks by showing how to navigate among the rather large collection of bound historical statute books and permanently preserved historical pocket parts to find how a statute “read” in the past.

It’s dangerous to Google Solo!

Take a Librarian with you
A Report from Rare Books School

by Brandon Wright

From June 4 through June 10, I attended an accelerated certification course at the Rare Book School at Yale University. The course, entitled “Law Books: History and Connoisseurship,” was designed to teach collectors and librarians how to build focused, interesting, and useful collections of historical materials in Anglo-American, European, and Latin American law. The course paid particular attention to planning collections considering intended use and availability of materials and funds. I found this to be an extremely useful lesson in light of the unfortunate budgetary cuts that the state is currently facing. The course surveyed printed and manuscript legal materials and their bibliography and curatorship. Topics included the history of the production and distribution of law books; catalogs and reference books; philosophy and techniques of collecting; and acquiring books, manuscripts, and ephemera in the antiquarian book trade. The laboratory sessions gave students hands-on experience in using some of the basic bibliographical tools and antiquarian book price guides.

More specifically, the class looked at the rare law book as a physical object, and in doing so, the class learned how to identify paper type, typography and ink, book format, book binding, and to pay special attention to any marks of ownership and provenance. The class studied and learned the history of English law books and manuscripts from early medieval periods to the modern day, and likewise studied American law books and manuscripts, Roman and Canon law books and manuscripts, and European and Latin American law books and manuscripts. I found everything that our class studied to be completely relevant to Louisiana because we have a unique relationship with legal history. As the only state in the Union operating under a civil law system, our history runs much deeper and is much more intertwined with the history and culture of other parts of the world than much of the rest of the United States. The Law Library of Louisiana is a most important repository for many of Louisiana's foundational legal materials. Pursuing an education handling and working with these rare, unique, and coveted materials was a duty and an honor that I took very seriously. I will use the knowledge I obtained to help the library staff develop our collection further so that we may create better access to the public through digitization projects that are currently under development.

Library Welcomes LSU LLM Visitors

by Miriam Childs

Five LL.M. candidates from LSU’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center visited the Louisiana Supreme Court for a building tour on August 5, 2016. Professor Olivier Moréteau, Director of LSU’s Center for Civil Law Studies and Assistant Dean for International Programs, and program coordinator Christabelle Lefebvre accompanied the students, who hailed from France, Germany, and Romania. The highlight of the visit was a tour of the library’s Rare Book Room. Brandon Wright, Assistant Librarian, discussed a selection of rare foreign language volumes of particular interest to the students. They were delighted to see an original 1804 copy of the Code Civil Français, or the “Napoleonic Code,” which the public is not allowed to touch or handle in France. The students gleefully took advantage of a photo op with the volume. The Law Library is happy to provide an unforgettable learning experience for LSU’s LL.M. candidates and is ready to assist them in their studies.
On the AMC show *Better Call Saul*, Chuck McGill is a named partner at a big law firm. His “illness” prevents him from being around electricity, so he sorts through boxes of documents by hand, reads cases in paper, and uses a manual typewriter. His legal research and writing techniques are antiquated by today’s standards. With all of the recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI), however, current legal practices may soon appear just as antiquated as McGill’s.

Definitions for AI differ, but common terms include “machine learning,” “natural language processing,” and “game-changing.” AI is software that can analyze large amounts of unstructured information and find patterns. It does not rely on Boolean searching or key words, and can actually learn from past analysis.

Some AI companies utilize the IBM Watson platform, the same one made famous in 2011 by beating humans on the TV game show *Jeopardy!* IBM describes Watson as “a technology platform that uses natural language processing and machine learning to reveal insights from large amounts of unstructured data.”

In 2015, Dentons, the world’s largest law firm, created NextLaw Labs as an independent subsidiary. The developers at NextLaw Labs ask lawyers at Dentons what they do, what problems they have, and for possible solutions. They then go to work to address the firm’s needs. Or, as they modestly state on their website, “We are a global collaborative innovation platform focused on developing, deploying, and investing in new technologies and processes to transform the practice of law around the world.”

Several large firms are now using AI. BakerHostetler recently employed ROSS Intelligence, which uses the IBM Watson platform, in its bankruptcy practice. Latham & Watkins, von Briesen & Roper, and Dentons also became customers. Not coincidentally, NextLaw Labs helped launch ROSS Intelligence. Rather than replace lawyers, ROSS Intelligence is a platform that is designed to help lawyers learn faster, work faster, and do more. As the company develops the platform, it will be able to move into other areas of legal practice.

AI is not just for lawyers at big law firms. Casextext is a company and website that offers free legal research and publishing, allowing one to “search state and federal cases, statutes, and regulations, for free, annotated by insights from the country’s leading attorneys, law firms, and academics.” The software presents the researcher with primary law, and with commentary that has been published by practitioners.

Casetext also offers a case analysis research assistant, named CARA. All you have to do is upload one of your documents, and CARA will search for law that you may have missed. This can be an incredible time-saver for any attorney.

AI can also refer to bots, such as the DoNotPay bot created by an 18-year-old British coder and Stanford University student, Joshua Browder. Free to download and use, the bot walks the user through a series of questions to appeal parking tickets. The bot successfully appealed 160,000 tickets in London and New York. Browder has plans to add software to include other US cities.

In the last few years, AI has begun to transform the practice of law. The largest law firms are employing it, but the smallest sole practitioner may use it as well. The mantra of “Better, Faster, Cheaper” is beginning to reverberate throughout Big Law. The learning opportunities for young associates are unclear in this new environment, but one thing is clear: the practice of law is transforming rapidly.
IN MEMORIAM - LOUIS D. CURET

by Miriam Childs

Louis D. Curet, Board Member and Co-Chair of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society Membership Committee, passed away on Thursday, June 9, 2016, surrounded by his family. Mr. Curet, an avid reader and Francophile, was the type of person who never met a stranger. He was passionate about serving others and trying to make his community a better place. Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society President, Donna D. Fraiche, on behalf of its Board, lamented, “It is with great sadness that we express our deepest sympathy upon the passing of our dear friend and loyal board member, Louis Curet. His professional and purposeful life was a great example to us all. The passion with which he expressed his commitment to the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society as a member of its Board is part of its history. His articulation of the mission of the Society resounded as he coaxed others to participate. He will be greatly missed.”

Mr. Curet graduated from LSU in 1948 and earned his Juris Doctorate from LSU in 1950. Mr. Curet practiced law for more than 55 years, retiring in 2005. He received the Distinguished Attorney Award from the Louisiana Bar Foundation in 2004. For much of Mr. Curet’s adult life, he tirelessly devoted his time in support of innumerable charitable religious and educational organizations, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Lake Foundation Board, the Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation, and the Perkins Cancer Center. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Golden Deeds Award, and in 2015 he was inducted into the LSU Cadets of the Ole War Skule Hall of Honor for LSU’s military alumni.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society benefitted from Mr. Curet’s energetic service as co-chair of the Membership Committee with Phelps Gay. “He was a thoroughly kind and generous man, a true credit to our profession,” said Mr. Gay. Mr. Curet’s personal touch of writing letters to renewing and prospective members helped the Society boost its membership, which enabled the Society to sponsor more events and expand its reach. The SCLAHS is grateful for having had the opportunity to count Mr. Curet among its ranks.

THE LIBRARY’S E-RESOURCES

- WestlawNext
- Lexis Advance
- Gale LegalForms
- HeinOnline
- LegalTrac
- LoisLaw
- ProQuest Congressional
- Historical Louisiana Newspapers
This public document was printed at a total cost of $645.00. 500 copies of this document were published by the Law Library of Louisiana, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA, as the tri-annual newsletter of the Law Library of Louisiana under the authority of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board.

Library Announcements

New Research Guides

Law library staff have continued to add new content to our online LibGuides. Several new LibGuides have been published, including: A Brief History of the Louisiana Juvenile Courts; A. P. Tureaud, Legendary Louisiana Lawyer; A Brief History of the Recorder’s Courts of New Orleans; The New Orleans Batture Controversy; and A Brief History of the Louisiana Courts of Appeal. You can find these and many more resource guides at lasc.libguides.com.

New Exhibits

The law library will debut two new exhibits in the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum in October. Mary Ann Wegmann, graduate student intern at the Law Library, has completed a new exhibit entitled “Jackson’s Bodyguard: Lawyers Who Fought in the Battle of New Orleans.” The exhibit explores the lives of Andrew Jackson and 9 attorneys who fought alongside him in the Battle of New Orleans. The library is also moving a poster exhibit on the life and career of Justice Knoll from the library to the museum.

Upcoming Events

The law library is proud to again co-sponsor the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court’s annual professionalism and ethics CLE. Save the date for this free CLE on December 9, 2016, and look for a registration announcement later this fall.

Comments? Suggestions? Email the editor at svpic@lasc.org.