



SPEAKER BIOS

as of 2/13/14

Craig Ball, *Austin, Texas*, is a board certified trial attorney in Texas, with expertise in forensic technology, emerging technologies, digital persuasion, electronic discovery, and trial tactics. An energetic speaker at CLE programs for the bench and the bar throughout the country, Craig is also an instructor in computer forensics and electronic evidence to the Department of Justice and other law enforcement and security agencies. Craig's articles frequently appear in the national media, including in ABA, ATLA and American Lawyer Media print and various online publications. He also writes a multi-award winning monthly column on computer forensics and e-discovery for Law Technology News and Law.com called "Ball in your Court."

Eric K. Barefield is Ethics Counsel for the LSBA. A graduate of LSU's law school, Mr. Barefield was formerly an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans parish from 1995-1998, and was Deputy Disciplinary Counsel from 1998 to 2005 with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel where his duties involved investigating and prosecuting violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. He joined the LSBA staff in 2005.

Craig Bayer is an in demand speaker and award-winning technology consultant who sets up professional services firms for stress-free efficiency and productivity. His company Optiable is a productivity-centered technology service provider helping Law Firms, Engineering Companies, Financial Advisors, and other Professional Service Companies create more efficient firms. Optiable is certified in all the systems needed to keep up with high-paced firms, and offers step-by-step support when choosing and implementing those systems.

Robert Bergeron, owner of Crescent Title and principal in the law firm of Bergeron, Douglass, Frosch and Mack, is in his 15th year of managing residential and commercial real estate transactions. Recognized throughout the area as an expert on Louisiana real estate law, he lectures frequently to investors and home buyers on the legal aspects of buying and selling property. He also is certified to provide state-mandated continuing education courses to Realtors, and teaches hundreds of real estate agents annually. Throughout the metropolitan New Orleans area, Bob is considered a leading authority in the field of 1031 Tax Deferred Exchanges. A law graduate of Loyola Law School, he is also a retired major in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Brett Burney, *Burney Consultants LLC, Cleveland, OH*. Brett's straight forward and lawyer-to-lawyer style have put him in demand across the country, including to the ABA's Tech Show and other solo conferences. A well-respected author and reviewer on legal technology, Brett is a frequent contributor to LLRX.com, Law Technology News magazine, Legal Assistant Today magazine, and Law.com, a leading legal news and information network for attorneys. His particular focus is on lawyers who want to integrate Macs, iPhones & iPads into their practice. His expertise also includes the ins and outs of electronic discovery. Prior to establishing Burney Consultants LLC, he litigated, built document databases, and advised on electronic discovery issues.

William G. Cherbonnier represents consumers exclusively in foreclosure and repossession actions, debt collection defense, mandatory arbitration proceedings, and bankruptcy and Chapters 7 and 13 reorganization. He is the Louisiana State Chairman of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys; an officer of the LSBA's consumer Law Section, a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates; a past member of the LSBA Legislative Committee; and a volunteer attorney with the New Orleans Pro Bono Project.

Cheri Deatsch is in private practice with offices in New Orleans and Denver, Colorado. In addition to her criminal defense and animal law practice, she regularly assists the Humane Society of Louisiana with legal issues. She graduated from Loyola University Law School in 1995, and practiced in Denver for ten years before returning to New Orleans as a supervisor in the juvenile public defender's office. She is also a volunteer first responder assisting animals in disaster, and has led teams both in the U.S. and abroad, most recently in Japan and New Jersey.

Ariel K. DiGiulio is an attorney with DiGiulio Utley, LLC, a New Orleans law firm, practicing criminal defense and civil litigation in state and federal courts. A board member of the Humane Society of Louisiana, she is the founding member and Chair of the LSBA's Animal Law Section, which hosts an annual CLE dedicated to the evolving area of Animal Law. She co-founded the first student animal law organization at Loyola where she earned her J.D. *cum laude*.

Hon. Bernadette G. D'Souza is currently serving as a judge for the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, Domestic Relations, Section II. Prior to her election, she dedicated her legal career to the practice of family law, many years as the Managing Attorney of the Family Law Unit at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (formerly New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation). A graduate of Tulane University School of Law, she focused her practice on public interest law and represented indigent clients in family law, housing, and domestic violence cases. She is a noted expert and frequent speaker on family law and domestic violence issues.

David Jefferson Dye "Jeff" opened his solo practice in New Orleans after earning his JD from Tulane University. Jeff represents individuals and businesses in state and federal courts and provides transaction support for his business clients. Before law school, Jeff earned a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and worked for several years as an environmental scientist for an interstate natural gas pipeline company operating throughout the Southeastern United States. Jeff cycles as his primary mode of transportation and is a League Cycling Instructor certified by the League of American Bicyclists.

Davidson S. Ehle, III, is an experienced criminal defense litigator with numerous “not guilty” verdicts in Jefferson, St. Tammany, and Orleans criminal courts. His practice also includes state and federal appellate representation. From 1993 to 1997, he was an assistant district attorney for the Parish of Jefferson. In 1994 he was the director of the Louisiana Crime Laboratory Study which analyzed comprehensively every crime laboratory in Louisiana, Virginia, and Florida, including the FBI's as well. A solo practitioner since 2007, he received his undergraduate degree from LSU and law degree from Mississippi College School of Law.

Deborah Foshee, Jefferson Parish Attorney's Office.

Nancy J. Goodwin, a former Administrative Law Judge with the Louisiana Division of Administrative Law, returned to private practice in March 2012, focusing on wills, successions, administrative law, regulatory law and compliance issues. While serving as an ALJ, she was vice president for education of the Louisiana Association of Administrative Law Judges. A graduate of LSU law school and of the University of Southern Mississippi, she served as law clerk with the Mississippi Supreme Court, Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice, and staff attorney to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Brian Greffenius is the president of Sandler Training (<http://www.briang.sandler.com/>), which is in its 35th year of business. Sandler Training offers personal development coaching, and is a full service business development resource. The company assists business professionals develop more powerful attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, and teaches techniques with ongoing, long-term coaching and reinforcement training. Armed with an MBA, Brian has worked in technology, law firm operations and aviation industries and has been a software trainer and flight instructor. A dynamic speaker, he will offer tips in communication and decision making.

Honorable Wendell L. Griffen is a Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial District of Arkansas, Fifth Division; Pastor of New Millennium Church in Little Rock, Arkansas and the CEO and owner of Griffen Strategic Consulting, PLLC. His consulting practice provides strategic advice and assistance to clients concerning cultural competence and inclusion (diversity), domestic and global commerce, strategic management and leadership, human resource management, information technology, government relations and public policy, and legal affairs. He taught as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. Prior to the bench, he litigated with the Little Rock law firm of Wright, Lindsey, and Jennings.

Christian M. Grofcsik, a native Californian, attended Ecole Brillantmont in Lausanne, Switzerland, the University of Texas at Austin and Loyola Law School in New Orleans. Prior to law school, he was a Mortgage Accountant for a large bank in Texas and was responsible for audits, reconciliations, oversight of underwriting and mortgage servicing procedures, and packaged loan pools for sale on the secondary market as mortgage-backed securities. He now focuses on commercial litigation, mortgage fraud matters, promissory note cases and improper foreclosures at Richard W. Martinez Law Corporation.

Shawn L. Holahan joined the staff of the LSBA in 2010, after having been a litigator in New Orleans for more than 20 years. She is responsible for organizing the LSBA Solo and Small Firm Conference; is the association's liaison to the Legislation Committee; and also administers the fee dispute arbitration program. Her duties also include supplying LSBA members with information and resources in the areas of marketing, management, technology and finance so that members can practice more effectively. Educated at H. Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University and Loyola Law School, she clerked for two federal judges, practiced in large firms and had her own firm as well.

Abid Hussain is a solo practitioner in New Orleans after seven years of corporate law in Dallas. A seasoned speaker on legal technology matters, he also provides practical legal and corporate counsel, including intellectual property and asset protection, to entrepreneurs, small business owners, real estate investors, and musicians. Before practicing law, he worked eight years with technology and software companies, including start-ups as well as giants such as Texas Instruments and Microsoft, in marketing and management positions. He now uses that business experience to help his clients as an attorney. Abid is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Oregon School of Law.

Dan Jatres is the Pedestrian & Bicycle Program Manager at the N.O. Regional Planning Commission (NORPC). He was involved in the crafting of the Complete Streets policies for the La. DOTD, the NORPC and the City of New Orleans. He serves on advisory committees for the La. Complete Streets Work Group, La. Safe Routes to School Program, New Orleans Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee and the Tour de Jefferson Coordinating Committee. A founding member of the "Where Ya Rack" bicycle parking project at the Young Leadership Council, he represents Louisiana on the board of the Mississippi River Trail, and has been active in Bike Easy.

Bryan Jenkins, Benefits Consultant with Gilsbar, is certified in consumer directed healthcare by the National Association of Underwriters. He is also a fellow for the Life Underwriting Training Council. With Gilsbar for more than 20 years, he is a frequent speaker on healthcare benefits and consumer drive health plans.

Maureen Blackburn Jennings has worked on both sides of the employment bar for over 25 years. From 1993 through 2007, she represented mostly plaintiffs in employment and civil rights cases in New Orleans. In those 14 years, she learned a thing or two about which cases to accept and which ones to run from. Following her move to Houston in 2007, Maureen practiced with Phelps Dunbar, LLP in the firm's Houston office for six years. She opened her solo practice in Houston in February 2014, where she hopes to further sharpen her skills in selecting employment cases in Texas and Louisiana.

Beaux Jones is the chairman and acting executive director of Bike Baton Rouge, a non-profit advocacy organization, which pushes for bike-friendly infrastructure and policy in Baton Rouge. He is also involved with other regional initiatives relative to providing alternatives to the personal automobile such as the AARP's Sustainable Transportation Action Committee and the CONNECT Coalition. When not advocating for bicyclists, he is employed with the Louisiana Department of Justice where he is an assistant attorney general specializing in environmental litigation.

William N. King is the LSBA's Professional Programs Counsel. His duties include mediating complaints referred to him by the ODC and administering the Attorney Diversion Program including the LSBA schools for ethics, trust accounting, advertising and law practice management. He also works closely with the Client Assistance Fund, the Public Access and Consumer Protection Committee and the Rules of Professional Conduct Committees. Prior to the LSBA, he was a deputy disciplinary counsel with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC), where he investigated and prosecuted violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct by Louisiana licensed attorneys. A speaker on ethics and professionalism, he firmly believes that Louisiana attorneys are some of the best, most professional and ethical attorneys in the country.

Garrett LaBorde is a principal and counsel for Florida-based Idea Launch Partners, a management consulting group where he is a practice management and legal technology consultant. Garrett combines his litigation experience with his previous background in electrical and computer engineering to brainstorm new innovation and collaboration tools to help lawyers with their practice. Garrett has served in the LSBA's House of Delegates, Young Lawyer's Council, Practice Assistance Committee and the Bar Journal Editorial Staff. He is also a member of the ABA's Law Practice Division's "eLawyering Task Force" and Chair of Member Engagement & Retention.

Raymond P. Ladouceur, JD, MBA, CPA, CFF is a licensed CPA and attorney. The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization has certified him as tax specialist, and estate planning and administration specialist, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants has certified him in financial forensics. A practitioner highly regarded for his estate planning expertise, he is a frequent speaker at numerous continuing education seminars. He is the author of *Estate and Gift Taxation (A Louisiana Perspective)*, 2013 Edition and is co-author of *Planning for Marriage, Separation, and Divorce (A Louisiana Perspective)*, 2013 Edition. Mr. Ladouceur is the only person to be named the Louisiana Society of CPA's Outstanding Discussion Leader six times. He is the Past-President of the SLCPA, and of the Louisiana Chapter of Attorney-CPAs.

Richard K. Leefe is the current president of the Louisiana State Bar Association and founder of the firm that now exists as Leefe, Gibbs, Sullivan & Dupré. An engineer initially, he served the army in the Viet Nam war and commanded an engineer company in the Mekong Delta. Thereafter, he earned a law degree from Loyola College of Law where he is an adjunct faculty member. Also a graduate of Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland, he obtained a LLM (Master of Laws) in International Commercial Law. He is the author of legal treatises including: *Louisiana Code of Evidence, Practice Guide*, which he updates annually; *Cases and Materials on Louisiana Negotiable Instrument Law*; and *Cases and Materials in Evidence*. He is a frequent speaker on evidence, ethics and courtroom matters.

Richard P. Lemmler, Jr. has been Ethics Counsel for the LSBA since May 2002 and has been responsible for the development and day-to-day administration of the LSBA's lawyer advertising filing and evaluation process since its inception. He frequently presents CLE on legal ethics and lawyer advertising; he has written several articles for the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. Before joining the LSBA staff, he practiced law in New Orleans for 14 years as a solo general practitioner. He also served two consecutive three-year appointments to the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, first as a lawyer member of a hearing committee and then as chair of a hearing committee.

Joshua Lenon is the Lawyer in Residence for Clio, the provider of a cloud-based practice management system. An attorney admitted to the New York Bar, he studied law at St. Louis University School of Law. He clerked for the Missouri Attorney General, helping prosecute discrimination claims on behalf of Missouri citizens. He also studied European Union Law at the University of Georgia School of Law's Brussels Legal Seminar in partnership with Institut d'Etudes Européennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles, and the Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Charles Lowry is an account executive with Fastcase (www.fastcase.com), a primary law database provided as a member benefit to members of the LSBA. Prior to joining Fastcase, Chuck held editorial, product development and sales and marketing positions at Matthew Bender, Lexis, Kluwer Law International and American Lawyer Media. He is a graduate of the Athenaeum of Ohio (B.A. philosophy) and the University of Cincinnati (Ph.D. classics). He can be reached at clowry@fastcase.com or (646) 327-8702.

Joseph A. Marino, III is a Gretna City Councilman and former President of the Jefferson Bar Association. A board member of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Lawyers and a member of the Front End Committee for the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, he has been practicing criminal defense in Jefferson Parish. He is a graduate of LSU and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is currently an instructor for the Kenner and Gretna Police Academies.

Richard W. Martinez, is a solo practitioner who focuses on commercial litigation, workouts, bankruptcy and reorganizations. With a J.D. from Loyola University Law School, and an M.B.A. in finance and accounting from U.C.L.A., he served as the first law clerk for Hon. T.H. Kingsmill, Jr., of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, E.D. La.. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the Office of the Chief Counsel Small Business Administration, Washington, D.C. A frequent speaker on bankruptcy, restructuring distressed entities, discovery abuses, electronic discovery, and trial tactics, he is the current chair of the LSBA's Solo and Small Firm Section.

Robert E. McKnight, Jr., is of counsel to Marek, Griffin & Knaupp, in Victoria, Texas. He practices in the areas of labor and employment law (including employee rights and benefits, ERISA, wage and hour, and civil rights in employment) and civil rights in housing. He is the author of *Representing Plaintiffs in Title VII Actions* (3d Ed 2011 & Supp. 2012), the publisher and editor of *Fifth Circuit Civil News*, a publication reporting on civil opinions issued by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and *Fifth Circuit Civil News Daily Update*, a daily e-mail supplement to the publication. Licensed in Texas and Louisiana, he is a member of the National Employment Lawyers Association.

Judson Mitchell, an associate clinical professor, is responsible for the Litigation and Technology Clinic at the Loyola University College of Law. Prior to his position with Loyola, he served as a staff attorney at the New Orleans Pro Bono Project, and later directed the Law Clinic's Homeless Outreach Program. He now directs the Pro Bono Program for law students. In addition to expertise in general criminal defense, DWI defense, prosecution and civil liberties, his particular interest is the application of internet technology to law practice, having written a number of software programs (e.g. ClinicCases) for law school clinics and non-profit agencies.

Jason Morgan is President of Herzing University, New Orleans and provides oversight of the Bachelor in Paralegal Studies program, which is one of three ABA approved paralegal programs in Louisiana. He has a Bachelor in Business Administration and a Master in Education Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University. Prior to Herzing, he spent 17 years in the human resources consulting industry as Regional Vice President for a Global 500 organization.

Gayle O'Connor is a legal technology consultant with 20+ years experience. A former trial technician for federal public defenders, she was a marketing director for legal software providers and has taught legal research. She has been a featured speaker at American Lawyer Media LegalTech Events, ABA TECHSHOW, Online World, Special Libraries Association, Glasser LegalWorks, Washington State Paralegal Association, ABA Litigation Section Meetings, local Bar Associations throughout the U.S. and international organizations such as the Law Society of British Columbia and the New Zealand Law Society.

Tom O'Connor is a nationally known consultant, speaker and writer in the area of computerized litigation support systems and electronic discovery. He is the author of *The Lawyers Guide to Summation and (with Bruce Olson) EDiscovery for Small Cases*, both published by the ABA, as well as the recently released *LitigationWorld Quick Start Guide to Mastering Ediscovery*. He graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a BA in Political Science and later earned a J.D. degree from a small non-descript evening program in the Boston area. He currently resides in New Orleans.

Charles B. Plattsmier is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State of Louisiana, and the Chief Counsel under the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB). The author of amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Supreme Court Rule 19, he was a member of the Ethics 2000 Committee which updated and amended Louisiana's ethics rules. A prolific speaker, he lectures on ethics and professionalism nationally and across the state. Prior to LADB, he was a partner of Hunter and Plattsmier, which focused on maritime litigation. He also practiced solo with offices in Morgan City and Baton Rouge. He is the former President of the St. Mary Parish Bar Association and a former member of the LSBA's House of Delegates.

Paul Rabalais founded Rabalais Law in 1994. Mr. Rabalais has his Finance and Law degrees from LSU, and his LL.M. in Taxation from Boston University School of Law (1991). He is certified by the Louisiana State Bar Association as a Specialist in Estate Planning and Estate Administration. His law firm employs eight full-time estate planning attorneys, with offices throughout Louisiana, and in Texas, Tennessee, and Missouri. He is the author of the popular book, *"Estate Planning in Louisiana, A Layman's Guide to Understanding Wills, Trusts, Probate, Power of Attorney, Medicaid, Living Wills & Taxes,"* which is currently in its 3rd Edition.

Catherine Sanders Reach, *Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL*. A seasoned speaker and a prolific author on legal tech, Catherine is returning to the Big Easy and to this conference (2008 and 2010) with her informative and easy-to-understand technology presentations. She is the Director, Law Practice Management and Technology for the Chicago Bar Association, and was previously the Director at the American Bar Association's Legal Technology Resource Center for over ten years. She has served on the ABA TECHSHOW Board from 2007-2009 and is on the Editorial Advisory Board for Law Technology News, Law.com's LegalTechnology and Law Practice Today. Armed with a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, she was selected to be an inaugural Fastcase 50, celebrating 50 innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders in the field of law.

Marta Richards maintains a private solo practice in Baton Rouge. She is a board member and general counsel to Friends of the Animals Baton Rouge and has served as general counsel to Animal Protective and Welfare Society (APAWS), both pet rescue organizations in Baton Rouge. She has consulted with rescue groups and other entities and persons around the state concerning animal ownership, adoption, foster care, and abuse.

Becky Rolland, RP, is a bankruptcy and litigation paralegal at Reasonover & Associates, LLC and the owner of Freelance Paralegal Services. She is a Certified Bankruptcy Assistant and earned her Registered Paralegal designation. A former member of the Massachusetts Paralegal Association, she serves as the President of the New Orleans Paralegal Association. Her articles have appeared in several legal publications, and she has participated in seminars and panel discussions regarding bankruptcy law, technology and self-employment. Her chapter on bankruptcy law is included in Carole Buno's book *Lessons From The Top Paralegal Experts: The 15 Most Successful Paralegals and What You Can Learn From Them*.

Leah Rosa, MHS, NCC, LPC is the Clinical Director of the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (LAP) and provides a wide range of expert oversight to LAP's operations. She maintains and updates relationships with mental health experts and treatment facilities to ensure LAP utilizes the most effective clinical resources available at any given time. She has worked in mental health and addiction settings throughout her career. With a BS in Social Counseling and a Masters of Health Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, she is a Nationally Certified Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor both in Louisiana and Texas.

Beau P. Sagona is a member of The Derbes Law Firm, LLC in Metairie, Louisiana. He is certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization as an estate planning and administration specialist. A significant portion of his practice involves handling successions which require administration - whether contested or uncontested. He has a B.S. in finance with a concentration in risk and insurance and a law degree, both from LSU. He is a past president of the Jefferson (Parish) Bar Association, and an active volunteer with the Pro Bono Project (New Orleans location).

J.E. "Buddy" Stockwell, III is the Executive Director of the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (LAP), a non-profit corporation, which assists, on a confidential basis, lawyers or judges regarding professional impairments which may be caused by alcohol/drug abuse, mental health problems or gambling addiction. He has 121 hours of accredited study in substance abuse counseling, and has served on the LSBA Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for over 15 years. A frequent speaker and LAP monitor, he has assisted in interventions involving lawyers and judges. Prior to LAP, he was a solo practitioner in Baton Rouge, and an associate with Roy, Kiesel & Tucker. He holds a B.S. and J.D. from LSU.