



Reflections on the Louisiana Legal Profession: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Headed

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the 2015-16 Leadership LSBA Class conducted a series of interviews with distinguished Louisiana jurists and practitioners regarding the history and future of the Louisiana legal profession.

Class members had the pleasure of interviewing Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll, associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court; Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux, chief judge of the Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal; Judge Kern A. Reese, chief judge of Orleans Parish Civil District Court; and Bob F. Wright, the oldest living past president of the Louisiana

State Bar Association.

In these interviews, Justice Knoll, Judge Thibodeaux, Judge Reese and Mr. Wright bring their breadth of experience and unique and diverse perspectives to reflect on how the profession has changed over time, how technology has impacted the practice of law in Louisiana courts, the biggest challenges facing the profession and the Louisiana judiciary, and, ultimately, what the future holds for the profession.

We hope these interviews serve as a snapshot of where our profession has been and where it is headed — a bright future by all accounts.

Interview: Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeanette Theriot Knoll

Interviewed by Mark R. Deethardt

Journal: Tell us a little bit about your career as an attorney, a judge on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal and now as a Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court?

Knoll: I was an attorney for 13 years before I was elected as the first woman to serve on a reviewing bench in the state. I just remember being extremely busy trying to meet the demands of my career at all levels while raising five active boys. I served the 3rd Circuit for 14 years, and I have now been on the Louisiana Supreme Court going on 20 years.

Journal: Since you began serving on the bench as a circuit judge in 1982, what is the biggest, or most dramatic, change you have seen in the practice of law in Louisiana appellate courts?

Knoll: At the Court of Appeal level, the appellate process hasn't changed all that much from what I have observed. In recent years on the Supreme Court, we have begun disposing of writ applications by per curiam much more frequently rather than by authored opinion. Consequently, we have many fewer cases docketed for oral argument.

Journal: How have you seen diversity improve in the Louisiana judiciary since you began serving on the bench?

Knoll: I have witnessed it, and I am part of it. When I was elected in 1982, there were approximately 48 all white male judges on the Louisiana Courts of Appeal and seven all white male Justices on the Louisiana Supreme Court. When I was elected, I was the first female elected to the Court of Appeal. There were only a handful of female judges at the District Court level in 1982. Judge Joan Bernard Armstrong was the first African-American woman elected to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal in 1984. Former Chief Justice Catherine D. (Kitty) Kimball (who was the first woman elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court), Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson (who was the first African-American to serve as Chief Justice) and I used to call ourselves "the icebreakers." It is so delightful to see how diversity has progressed in our state. Prior to the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, women were not among the jury pool unless they submitted

a specific written request to be included. It's amazing how far we've come!

Journal: How have you seen technology change the practice of law in Louisiana appellate courts and the Louisiana Supreme Court over the last 35 years?

Knoll: Technology has significantly impacted the processes that we use now. Eventually, the Supreme Court will become paperless just as the federal courts are now. Most attorneys conduct legal research almost exclusively using a computer. The older members of the bench and bar find this new technology rather difficult as we were not trained in how to use it and we were not exposed to it until very recently.

Journal: Do you think technology has improved the practice overall, or do you see any downsides to the use of technology in Louisiana appellate courts?

Knoll: I am sure that technology has been a great cost-saving and time-saving measure, with much less paper being used and much less storage space for books and with communication conducted practically instantaneously. Having said that, since I am

from the “old school,” I still prefer my pen and pad and a book in my hand!

Journal: What is the biggest challenge (or challenges) facing the Louisiana judiciary?

Knoll: Presently, the budget is a major challenge for the courts, especially with respect to paying for criminal indigent defense. As to civil representation for the poor, Louisiana is one of, I believe, three states that do not provide funding to help them. Civil legal aid for the poor comes primarily through pro bono work, and some federal grants that keep decreasing. Hopefully, this situation will improve as the Legislature works to get our state’s fiscal house in order.

Journal: What are some challenges you see facing the Louisiana Bar now and in the future?

Knoll: As a Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court, I have noticed an appreciable increase in the number of attorney disciplinary matters over which the Supreme Court has exclusive and original jurisdiction. In my view, the legal market is flooded, and finding employment is very challenging for new lawyers. As a result, many strike out on their own without having the benefit of guidance which would come from more experienced members of a law firm. This is why the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) efforts to develop a meaningful mentoring program are so important and would probably reduce the incidents of sanctionable conduct.

Journal: Are there any moments or cases—either on the 3rd Circuit or Louisiana Supreme Court—that you are most proud of, or that are particularly memorable for you?

Knoll: Actually, the most memorable moment of my career came before I was elected to the bench. *State v. Silton James* was a case I tried as an indigent defense attorney shortly after law school. Mr. James was an African-American man charged with the aggravated rape of a white woman, and he was facing the electric chair. He was truly innocent. I am very proud that I successfully defended him and saved his life. Shortly after the trial was over, the jury had the pen with which they signed the “not guilty” verdict mounted on a wood plaque



Associate Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll

to present to me. I first gave that pen to the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame when I was inducted in 2000. I then donated the pen and plaque to the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame when I was inducted, along with my entire family, in 2007.

As a jurist, one of the most incredible feelings you experience is when an opinion you authored “makes a difference” and has an effect on the practice of law. I remember authoring an opinion when I was on the 3rd Circuit called *Hayes v. Autin* in which we acknowledged that then-recent amendments to La. C.C.P. art. 966 removed the jurisprudential presumption in favor of trial on the merits and against summary judgment. The Legislature was so impressed with the opinion that, in a subsequent amendment clarifying art. 966, the Legislature included in its comments that “all cases inconsistent with *Hayes v. Autin*” were legislatively overruled. That was a good feeling.

I realize that all of my opinions have an effect on the litigants before us in that a legal dispute is resolved, and certainly that is very rewarding.

Journal: What do you enjoy most about serving Louisiana as a Justice on the Supreme Court?

Knoll: I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the development of Louisiana jurisprudence. This is a very demanding job that requires tremendous dedication and many hours of research. I am very proud that the people of this state gave me their trust in four elections over 34 years. It has been my privilege and honor to serve them

as a jurist.

Journal: Do you have any advice for young lawyers who are just beginning their careers and entering the Louisiana Bar?

Knoll: Maintain the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. Be kind and courteous to your adversaries. Treat all courts with respect. Always be honest and do nothing that would impugn your integrity and good reputation. Work hard for your client, and always do your homework.

Journal: As we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the LSBA, do you have any bold predictions for where the Louisiana Bar is headed in the future?

Knoll: I think technology will continue to have a major and increasing impact on the practice. It will be very exciting to watch the practice change from the sidelines! I hope that our profession continues to promote diversity of all kinds, including intellectual diversity. I hope that the LSBA will get involved in developing programs to provide legal representation to the poor. I also hope the Bar continues to encourage more experienced lawyers to participate in mentoring new lawyers.

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Interview: Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux

Interviewed by L. Sean Corcoran

Journal: Tell us a little bit about your career.

Thibodeaux: After graduating from Tulane Law School in 1975, I began my legal career with the Legal Defense Fund in New York City as an intern/attorney. The Legal Defense Fund is one of the nation's preeminent public interest law firms and has participated in every major civil rights case and constitutional law case over the past 75 years or so. I focused primarily on fair employment, housing, school desegregation and capital punishment issues. I assisted in briefing the *Roberts v. Louisiana* brief to the United States Supreme Court while with the Legal Defense Fund. I returned to Lake Charles and began a two-and-a-half-year stint with the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office under the leadership of Frank Salter. While there, I tried both misdemeanor and felony jury cases. I went into full-time private practice with Newman & Thibodeaux in 1980-92. My practice consisted of 40 percent personal injury, 40 percent criminal defense and 20 percent civil rights litigation.

I was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to fill a one-year vacancy on the Lake Charles City Court in 1994 where I gained invaluable judicial experience in dealing with everyday legal problems of the average citizen. I had no plans to become a judge. However, when an opening on the 3rd Circuit became available in 1992, I decided to seek that office and ran unopposed. I have been there since 1992. I am now chief judge of that court. It is the largest appellate court in Louisiana from a geographic standpoint, covering 21 parishes in southwest and central Louisiana. It has a population base of approximately 1.1 million citizens. The 3rd Circuit is, of course, domiciled in Lake Charles where I live.

Journal: What are the most dramatic changes you have seen in the practice of law in Louisiana appellate courts?



Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux

Thibodeaux: The most dramatic change in the practice of law in Louisiana appellate courts has been the expanded use of technology. This expanded use has facilitated ease of research and has enhanced the quality of presentation before appellate court panels. Our system of document management at the appellate court enables attorneys to get voluminous records on disks at a very nominal charge as opposed to dealing with tons of paperwork. We also have seen the use of hyper-linked briefs which greatly assist the court in accessing documents, cases and codal authority relied upon by the attorneys, deposition excerpts, and even video presentations via a brief.

Journal: How have you seen diversity improve in the judiciary and the practice of law in general?

Thibodeaux: Louisiana has seen a

dramatic increase in both numerical and philosophical diversity since I began my legal career. When I started my legal career in 1975, Louisiana's judiciary and the Louisiana bar could be characterized as "too male and too pale." For example, there were only six black judges in the entire state of Louisiana in 1988. Four of those judges were in Orleans Parish; only two were not. Today, there are 82 black elected jurists in Louisiana. That number represents the highest number of minority judges on a proportionate basis than any other state in the country, and we should be proud of that. We now have 11 black judges on our five intermediate courts of appeal in Louisiana. That is more in absolute numbers than the states of New York, Texas, Florida and California. Those states, of course, have demonstrably larger populations than the state of Louisiana.

There were only three black attorneys in

Lake Charles in 1976. There are now at least 25 or 30 practicing in Lake Charles. The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) has had two black presidents, Wayne Lee and Kim Boyle. A third, Darrel Papillion, will be installed this June.

Moreover, Louisiana has seen a dramatic increase in gender representation in both the judiciary and the bar. Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll was the only woman on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal when I first became a judge. We now have three female judges. Our court pretty much is a microcosm of other appellate courts throughout the state. The presence of female attorneys is also demonstrated at the major law firms throughout the state of Louisiana.

So, in terms of diversity, Louisiana has a lot to be proud of. That is very healthy for our state and our Bar Association. Why? The increase in visibility has inspired a search for role models among minority and female youth. The enlarged visibility of black attorneys and judges and female attorneys and judges adds to the appearance of fairness in our judicial system. It

gives legitimacy to the system in the eyes of those who have been previously marginalized. Further, the presence of an otherwise previously-excluded group brings a different perspective to how a case is viewed. It may not always be outcome determinative. The point is that it brings a different perspective and different viewpoints to the resolution of legal issues, and that is important. Finally, the administration of our system is due in large part to the implementation of policies by committees, boards and commissions. Minorities and women form an essential part of those committees, boards and commissions. We add voices that have previously not been present.

Journal: Do you think technology has improved the practice overall in Louisiana appellate courts and are there downsides?

Thibodeaux: Yes, technology has definitely improved the practice overall in Louisiana appellate courts. (See my previous response to the changes brought by technology above). There are two downsides, however. Sometimes the overuse of technology

at oral argument can prove to be distracting. After all, attorneys have only 20 minutes to make their presentations. The overuse of technology tends to distract judges from giving full attention to the oral presentation. Also, the overuse of technology, *e.g.*, in the use of videoconferencing, tends to distract from collegiality, which is the fountainhead of every appellate court. It is important to have that personal contact with your colleagues to better understand the positions which they espouse in formulating a judgment or an opinion in the resolution of legal issues. Quite simply, it is important to know one's colleagues personally and to appreciate what makes them "tick."

Journal: What is the biggest challenge or challenges facing the Louisiana judiciary?

Thibodeaux: There are several challenges currently facing the Louisiana judiciary. (1) The influence of money in judicial elections has become particularly egregious after the United States opinion in *Citizens*.

Continued next page

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Jones Walker LLP congratulates the Louisiana State Bar Association as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, and we salute the past and current presidents who have helped lead the LSBA in its mission, especially Jones Walker attorneys **John C. Combe, Jr.**, **Harry S. Hardin, III**, and current president **Mark A. Cunningham**.



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1979-1980



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Interview continued

The quality and the representation on our courts will become a matter of who can raise and spend the most money in influencing our electorate. (2) The lack of appropriate budgetary allocation to the Louisiana judiciary threatens judicial independence and the proper and efficient functioning of our courts. (3) The alarming decrease in judge and jury trials means that judges will be coming to the bench with very little trial experience. The practical impact is that there is a likelihood of having judges with little or no actual in-court experience and who may tend to view the law in a vacuum and in a very abstract sense. Effective judicial decision-making is greatly enhanced, I believe, through actual participation in trials and the application of life experiences in reaching a fair judicial outcome.

Journal: What are the biggest challenges facing the Louisiana Bar now and in the future?

Thibodeaux: (1) Public cynicism about the legal profession and the judicial system as a threat. The public needs to see the law as something that is vibrant and helpful and not something that is threatening. It is incumbent upon lawyers and judges to restore confidence in the vitality of our law. We have not done enough to promote the good deeds and the altruistic programs of our bar associations throughout the state. (2) Lawyer advertising threatens to portray the legal community as strictly a business and not a profession. It also threatens the existence of small firms that cannot afford sometimes expensive advertising campaigns. (3) Access to the courts may become a major issue, particularly for those groups with language barriers. We must be sensitive to and cognizant of those needs.

Journal: Are there moments or cases that you are most proud of and particularly memorable for you?

Thibodeaux: There are several cases from a lawyer and judicial perspective. I represented Emerick Sonnier in a capital case where the first police officer in the history of Calcasieu Parish was killed. Mr. Sonnier, a black citizen, was exonerated by an all-white jury in Calcasieu Parish. Mr. Sonnier was

truly innocent, yet the DA sought the death penalty. Really sad. Former Judge Al Gray, now deceased, and I defended Joe Lewis Perry and were able to get his death sentence overturned because of ineffective assistance of counsel. Joe Perry was scheduled to die two days before we undertook his representation. I also participated in *Fisher v. City Service* when I was an intern with the Legal Defense Fund in New York City and upon my return to Lake Charles. At the time, *Fisher* was the largest Title VII settlement in this country. I was happy to have negotiated the consent decree in that case. *Bernard v. Gulf Oil* was the first case I ever filed as a lawyer after law school. That case went to the United States Supreme Court and was argued in 1981 on a First Amendment issue. We succeeded. The United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of our class action clients.

Another extremely significant case is *Clark v. Edwards*, a class action civil rights case which was argued before the United States Supreme Court. *Clark* challenged the method by which Louisiana judges were elected as violative of Sections 2 and 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Judge Parker of the Middle District of Louisiana ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. Consequently, the Legislature enacted subdistricts in 1992 and that has resulted in the increased diversity of Louisiana's judiciary.

I also sat by appointment on the Louisiana Supreme Court and participated in *In re: Office of Chief Justice, Louisiana Supreme Court*, 12-1342 (La. 10/16/12), 101 So.3d 9 (per curiam), which resulted in Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson becoming the first black person to serve as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2012.

From a judicial standpoint, I am especially proud of *Maxie v. Brown Industries, Inc.*, 95-19 (La. App. 3 Cir. 5/31/95), 657 So.2d 443, writ denied, 95-1630 (La. 10/6/95), 661 So.2d 469. *Maxie* was a case which helped to expose the practice of sham rehabilitation in the workers' compensation arena. Another case is *Rachel v. Brouillette*, 12-794 (La. App. 3 Cir. 3/13/13), 111 So.3d 1137, writ denied, 13-690 (La. 5/3/13), 113 So.3d 217, which established a threshold amount for the wrongful death of a parent.

Journal: What do you enjoy most about serving as a chief judge of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal?

Thibodeaux: The most enjoyable thing about serving as the chief judge of the 3rd Circuit is being able to establish and retain collegiality among 12 prima donnas. Another very satisfying aspect of my job is to recruit and maintain a happy and productive employee workforce. Finally, I am very proud that the 3rd Circuit is seen as very attorney-friendly and public-friendly around the state. Image is very important, and we at the 3rd Circuit always attempt to project the most positive image possible to the constituency we serve and that is the public.

Journal: Any advice for young lawyers?

Thibodeaux: Do not attempt to go into solo practice after law school. You will make mistakes that you don't even know are mistakes. Align yourself with good practitioners who will be able to mentor and tutor you. Be prepared always. Do not overextend yourself by taking cases or causes you should not be taking and for which you could get no good result. If one has a judicial career in mind, save money early, be visible in the community, participate and contribute to your local community, and develop your political networks early.

Journal: Do you have any bold predictions for where the Louisiana Bar is headed in the future?

Thibodeaux: Our profession, I believe, is in very good shape. We have young, bright attorneys who are graduating from law school and Bar Association leaders who are very progressive thinkers and who believe in what Shonda Rhimes calls "normalcy." That is just another name for inclusion. I further predict that the LSBA is prepared to deal with the threats to and advantages of technology and social media and the need to cultivate good trial skills among our young lawyers.

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Interview: Orleans Parish Civil District Court Chief Judge Kern A. Reese

Interviewed by Simone B. Boustead

Journal: Tell us a little about your legal background and career.

Reese: I graduated from Loyola University Law School in 1977. After passing the bar, I started working at the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corp. for \$10,000 a year. After that, I worked at Murray, Murray, Ellis and Braden, Landry. The firm dissolved and I started my own firm with Hank Braden (Braden and Reese). After the firm closed in 1985, I became a sole practitioner for 16 years. I worked in a variety of legal areas — tort litigation, family law, municipal law, general business law and criminal law. I was an “Old Country” lawyer. I eventually focused strictly on tort litigation and criminal law because that was what I did the best.

In May 2001, I was elected judge of Division “L” at Orleans Parish Civil District Court and, in September 2004, I moved to the general docket where I saw it all. I did make it a point to leave work at work and not bring it home.

Journal: Since you began serving on the bench in 2001, what is the biggest or most dramatic change you have seen in the practice of law?

Reese: The biggest change I have seen is technology. No one uses books anymore and everything is on a computer. While it is faster and more time is saved, it has been an adjustment to get used to.

Journal: How have you seen diversity improve in the Louisiana judiciary since you began serving on the bench?

Reese: Louisiana is quite unique in this regard because of *Clark v. Edwards*, which set up judicial subdistricts. Because of this, Louisiana has more minority judges per capita than any other state. The subdistricts carved out minority districts which gave minority judges a better opportunity to be elected.



Chief Judge Kern A. Reese

Journal: Do you think technology has improved the practice overall, or do you see any downsides to the use of technology in Louisiana courts?

Reese: Yes, it has improved the practice overall, but it depersonalizes the issues. Attorneys can write an email instead of speaking in person. Attorneys can hide behind the computer and be more hostile.

Journal: What is the biggest challenge or biggest challenges facing the Louisiana judiciary?

Reese: Attacks on the independence of the judiciary are the biggest challenge. For

example, laws that impose mandatory jail time. It prevents judges from having any flexibility. As a consequence, Louisiana incarcerates more people than anywhere else in the world. Louisiana spends a substantial amount of money on jail and we still have a major crime problem. These laws take away all of the judge’s discretion. Each case has a different set of facts and we must remember that when actions of the judiciary are limited. We have a system of checks and balances for a reason.

Journal: What are some challenges you see facing the Louisiana Bar now and in the future?

Reese: There needs to be more civility. I have increasingly had to moderate personal animus between attorneys. It has become more of a problem. There also needs to be better training for the judiciary.

Journal: Are there any moments or cases that you are most proud of, or that are particularly memorable for you?

Reese: Yes, I presided over the suit involving the City of New Orleans and New Orleans firefighters. It was a 35-year-old case. I would like to think I had some small part of it.

Journal: What do you enjoy most about serving Louisiana as a judge?

Reese: I enjoy the ability to make a difference in someone's life, bring justice and resolve legal issues.

Journal: Do you have any advice for young lawyers who are just beginning their careers and are entering the Louisiana Bar?

Reese: Yes, a few things. 1) Education is a lifetime process. 2) Acquire experience and appreciate it. It will help in practice. 3) Time management. Make the best use of it and be able to balance home and work life. 4) Develop a good network with strong positive people who will help you and vice versa. 5) Guard your reputation. How you are perceived will determine your own success.

The incoming generation is bold and not saddled with issues I had to work through. They have more diversity and institutionalized racism is not as overt.

A little lagniappe . . .

As an aside, Judge Reese said that he enjoys hearing attorneys advocate for their clients and encourages them to think clearly, write clearly and speak clearly. If an attorney can accomplish that, he or she has a better opportunity to prevail. In addition, Judge Reese loves being a lawyer. He stumbled into the profession and it was one of the best trips he ever made.

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Interview: Bob F. Wright, 1978-79 LSBA President

Interviewed by Jamie Polozola Gomez

Journal: Can you tell us a little bit about your career as an attorney, what areas do you practice in, how many years have you practiced, and why did you decide to go to law school?

Wright: I was one of 10 children being raised by my mother after my father's death. This was during the depression years, and, while I had two older brothers who had become lawyers, I did not know if I would be able to further my education without financial assistance. Fortunately, I was able to obtain an athletic scholarship and I attended Centenary College in Shreveport. I graduated from Centenary in 1954. I was then granted a full scholastic scholarship to Tulane University Law School.

Upon graduation in 1957, instead of remaining in New Orleans with one of the large firms, I was introduced to Mr. James Domengeaux, who offered me a job for \$50 per month more than the going salary for a new lawyer in New Orleans.

Journal: What is the biggest, or most dramatic, change you have seen in the practice of law in Louisiana during your career?

Wright: A great change came about in the future of Louisiana when the United States Supreme Court made the Jones Act applicable to injured offshore workers. Theretofore, those individuals received only workers' compensation benefits if injured or killed. Accordingly, the maritime practice exploded in southwest Louisiana. Because Mr. Domengeaux had been a member of Congress and was very well known in the Lafayette area, this opened the door for my engaging in this new field of litigation. The number of lawyers in the Lafayette area dramatically increased over the ensuing years, and I was fortunate enough to benefit from the litigation that ensued.

Historically, Domengeaux & Wright (now Domengeaux, Wright, Roy, Edwards & Colomb, L.L.C.) has concentrated its practice in the area of tort litigation involving personal injury, death and property damage.



Bob F. Wright

In approximately 1980, our firm expanded to include commercial litigation, including anti-trust, unfair trade and toxic tort.

Journal: Can you tell us a little about why you decided to become involved in the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA)? When did you hold your first office with the LSBA? What year were you president?

Wright: I became involved in the LSBA upon graduation from law school in 1957 and was honored to be elected president of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and, thereafter, the president of the LSBA in 1978.

Journal: While you were president, what was the biggest issue facing the LSBA?

Wright: The biggest issue facing our profession during my tenure as president of the LSBA was lawyer advertising, which was approved by the United States Supreme Court and became an issue as to how to handle such advertising in the state of Louisiana. During this time, I was a frequent speaker at legal seminars and panels throughout the United States on the subject of civil litigation, maritime law and professional ethics.

Journal: What is the biggest, or most dramatic, change you have seen in the prac-

tice of law in Louisiana during your career?

Wright: I believe the most dramatic change I've seen in the practice of law in Louisiana, or anywhere for that matter, has been the evolvement of electronics and computerization of virtually the entire practice. Technology has dramatically changed the practice of law, particularly regarding discovery, trial preparation and trial presentation. We have evolved into "paperless" offices. It has become necessary for lawyers to become literate in the use of technology in solving the court requisites of the profession. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence will dramatically change the role of "legal advice" as we think of it today.

Journal: Are there any moments or cases in your career that you are most proud of, or that are particularly memorable for you?

Wright: The most rewarding aspect of my career has been dealing with people and trying to assist those who have need for an advocate in the legal process. It is my belief that young lawyers should be willing to devote the necessary time and energy to those who have problems which require the legal process, and not to over-emphasize the need for making money, but rather serve the public with their legal needs.

Journal: As we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the LSBA, do you have any bold predictions for where the Louisiana Bar is headed over the next 75 years?

Wright: I see the litigation process becoming more and more secondary to mediation and arbitration in the resolution of legal issues.

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