



All photos provided by the Simon family.

6 Generations

The Simons: Six Generations of Legal Service (If You Count the Family's Belgian Patriarch!)

By Celia R. Cangelosi

Lawrence P. “Larry” Simon, Jr., a Lafayette attorney with Liskow & Lewis and a 1972 Tulane Law School graduate, is a fifth generation Louisiana attorney, or sixth generation if you count Edouard Simon, his great-great-great-grandfather, a noted advocate and jurist in Belgium.

The first Simon lawyer in Louisiana was Florent Edouard Simon, Edouard Simon’s son, born in 1799 in Tournai, Belgium, who studied civil law at the university in Brussels, Belgium. Florent Edouard Simon left Belgium because of political disaffection when Belgium was annexed to Holland after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo. He arrived in the United States in 1817 and was admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana on Dec. 3, 1821. He resided in St. Martin Parish and grew sugar cane in St. Mary Parish. He practiced law in what is now the 16th Judicial District Court and was appointed an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court by Gov. Andre B. Roman in 1840, serving on that court

until 1846. Edouard had 11 children, two of whom became judges — Judge Arthur Simon who served on the bench in Opelousas, and Edward Simon, from whom Larry Simon is descended.

Edward Simon, named Emile Edouard Joseph Simon, Larry Simon’s great-grandfather, was born in 1824 and died in 1913. He was educated at Jefferson College in St. James Parish, La., and Georgetown College in the District of Columbia, and completed his law studies at Harvard University where he studied under Justice Joseph Story of the United States Supreme Court. While at Harvard, Edward Simon was also a literature student of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and provided Longfellow with information about the south Louisiana country of the Acadians, including a general description of the people and the topography, which were later incorporated into Longfellow’s poem “Evangeline.” (His contribution to that epic poem is commemorated by a plaque at the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville.) Edward Simon was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in

1848 and served briefly as district attorney until appointed district judge in 1853, at the age of 28. In 1858, he was elected district judge and served until 1866, when displaced by the usurping federal authorities. He continued to practice law in St. Martinville and served as a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1879. Edward Simon had seven children, one of whom was Larry Simon’s grandfather, James Etienne Simon.

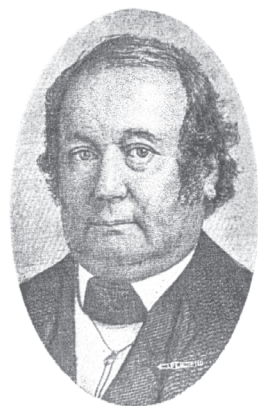
James Etienne Simon was born in 1866 and died in 1925. He attended Louisiana State University and read the law in the offices of his father to gain entry to the Bar. He married Marie Josephine Laurence Mouton, herself the daughter of a judge, Judge James E. Mouton. James E. Simon served in the Louisiana Legislature for one term and then as district attorney before serving as judge for the now 16th Judicial District from 1904-25. Three of his sons were lawyers, one of whom was Larry Simon’s father, Lawrence P. Simon.

Lawrence P. Simon graduated from Louisiana State University Law School

in 1934 and practiced law in New Iberia until his death in 1963. An eminent trial lawyer, he founded the firm of Helm & Simon, which later became Helm, Simon, Caffery and Duhe. (Pat Caffery served in Congress and John Duhe served on the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.) A second son of James E. Simon, Warren M. Simon, graduated from Tulane Law School and practiced law in New Orleans for many years. Among those who practiced with him were his son, Warren Simon, Jr., and Tom Wicker, who later served on the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeal. The third attorney of the generation was a third brother, James Dudley Simon, a graduate of Tulane Law School, who was elected judge of the 16th Judicial District Court in 1925, succeeding his father who died that year, and serving on that court until 1954. James Dudley Simon was 28 years old when he became a judge and had already served as a state senator. He was elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1954 and retired from the court in 1960. Justice Simon died in 1982 at age 85.

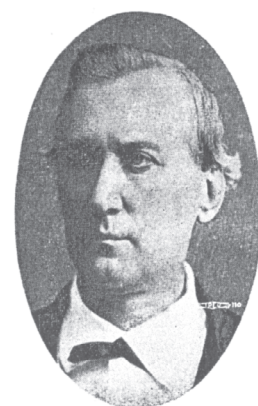
This generational succession of judges from Edouard Simon to James D. Simon was published in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" with a picture of James D. Simon and the notation that he was "the son of a judge, the great-grandson of a judge and the grandson of two judges."

There are several attorneys in the fifth Simon Louisiana lawyer generation. Warren Simon, Jr., a Tulane Law School graduate, practiced for many years in New Orleans and is now retired. Larry Simon graduated from Tulane Law School in 1972 and has practiced with Liskow & Lewis in Lafayette since that date. Larry Simon's wife, Diana P. Simon, is also a lawyer and has served as a judge of the 15th Judicial District Court. Even Larry Simon's sisters married attorneys. His younger sister, Mildred, married Leon Roy, now deceased, and his older sister is married to J. Albert Forrest, who still practices in New Iberia. Until Roy's death, the two brothers-in-law practiced under the firm name of Roy, Forrest & Lopresto. Another fifth generation Simon descendant, James Mouton, practiced in



EDOUARD SIMON

*Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court
February 1840 to March 1846*



EDWARD SIMON

*Judge of the 14th Judicial District Court
1853 to 1866*



JAMES SIMON

*Judge of the 16th Judicial District Court
1904 to 1925*



JAMES D. SIMON

*Judge of the 16th Judicial District Court
1925 to 1954*

Lafayette for a number of years. Another, Edward Seymour, graduated from Tulane Law School, but he went into business in Monroe and did not practice law.

The succession of Simon lawyers continues in the present generation. Larry Simon's nephew, J. Ralph Linn III, graduated from Tulane Law School and works in Austin as an equity portfolio manager of the natural resource industries for a major pension fund. Larry Simon's younger son, Paul B. Simon, will enter Columbia Law School in the fall and will soon join the next generation of Simon lawyers.

All totaled, the Simon family has had an impact on the state's legal system with four direct generations of judges (five if

you count a daughter-in-law) and five generations of lawyers. (But raise that to seven if you count the influences of the Belgian patriarch and the next law graduate!)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Celia R. Cangelosi, a sole practitioner in Baton Rouge, served as guest editor on this issue of the Louisiana Bar Journal. She received her JD degree in 1976 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She is currently a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors. (918 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802)

