From: Eboni Townsend
To: Kelly Legier;
Subject: Region V Fall Newsletter
Date: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 1:40:30 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

National Bar Association

Region V (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and the Canal Zone) "Standing on Shoulders, Keeping the Promise"

August 2010

In This Issue

- Region V Activities
- James Graves Nominated to US Fifth Circuit
- Affiliate Chapters
- Members on the Move
- Region V Upcoming Events

Affiliate Chapters

- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Texas

Quick Links

Message from the Regional Director

The end of the 2009-2010 bar year of the National Bar Association is upon us. I have had the honor of serving as your Regional Director this year. Thanks for entrusting me to lead such an esteemed Region, and I have endeavored to keep the faith as we carried out an ambitious agenda this year. NBA President Mavis Thompson selected as our theme for the year "*Standing on Shoulders, Keeping the Promise*". In the spirit of the theme, we have striven to "keep the promise" while always remembering the bridges that have brought us over.

I would be remiss not to thank my awesome executive board that has labored with me over the course of the year to keep our region unified, cohesive, and a shining example for the other regions to emulate. I never could have made it without each of your dedication and support, and I am forever in your debt.

As you peruse this, the final newsletter, of the 2009-2010 bar year, I hope you will find that Region V did indeed keep the promise with our myriad of activities. As I prepare to pass the torch to my successor, I hope that if you remember nothing else about my year as Regional Director, you remember this. We kept the region united and together in times of unprecedented challenge and have grown all the stronger because of it. May God continue to bless each of you, our region, and the National Bar Association.

Region V Activities

- National Bar Association
- Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society
- Greater Lafayette Louis A. Martinet Legal Association
- Greater Baton Rouge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society
- Houston Lawyers Association
- African American Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas
- JL Turner Legal Association
- Magnolia Bar Association
- San Antonio Black Lawyers Association

Quick Links

- Register Now
- Newsletter Archive
- Related Topics
- More About Us

Our Sponsors

Visit Our Sponsor

Visit Our Sponsor

Join our list

Join our mailing list!

Join

Regional V members participated in the **Rocky Mountain/Southern Region Frederick Douglas Moot Court and Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competitions** January 15-16, 2010.

Judicial Conf

Region V joined with the **Statewide Louis A. Martinet Legal Society** and the **Louisiana Judicial Council** in Monroe, Louisiana, February 19 - 21, 2010. The CLE was organized as a double track CLE on Friday, February 19, 2010, with a set of seminars offered for lawyers and a separate set of seminars offered for judges. On Saturday, February 20, 2010, the CLE was a joint track with lawyers and judges attending a single set of seminars.

Region V Historian, **Arlene Knighten** joined with retired **Judge Yada Magee** of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court to host "*Spiritually and the Legal Profession*," which dealt with faith and morals in the legal profession, practitioners connection to a spiritual grounding in order to remain true to ethics and professionalism while zealously advocating for their clients, and for judges to maintain the dignity of the judiciary.

NBA President Mavis Thompson was Saturday's luncheon keynote speaker. Former **LSBA President Kim Boyle** spoke at a reception for the judges hosted by the **Monroe Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society**.

Region V hosted a **Sports Law CLE** during the National Basketball Association's All-Star Weekend CLE in Dallas, Texas February 13, 2010 at the Marriott Suites Hotel. On Friday, the first seminar, "*Let's Get Ready to Rumble! Issues Affecting the Professional Athlete at Home & in the Media*" was moderated by **Danielle Hargrove**, Region V Assistant Secretary. Presenters were the **Honorable Bobbie Edmonds**, Alternate Judge for the City of Forest Hill, Texas; Past Region V Director, **Daryl Washington**, Daryl Washington Law Firm and **Alvin Robertson**, former NBA All Star.

The second seminar, "*Making it Rain in Sports Law: Securing Legal Work from Professional Athletes & Sports Associations*" was moderated by Daryl Washington. Presenters were **Andra Farr**, Chair, Black Sports Agents Association; **Naima Stevenson**, Associate General Counsel of the NCAA and **Kate Jett**, Assistant General Counsel Texas Rangers.

Region V held its **MLK Drum Major for Justice Competition** in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 15, 2010. Leyondo Dunn represented the **Greater Baton Rouge Louis A. Martinet Society** and Chinyere Okoro represented the **San Antonio Black Lawyers Association**. Leyondo Dunn will represent Region V at the National MLK Drum Major for Justice

Competition, August 11, 2010.

James Graves Nominated to US Fifth Circuit

On June 10, 2010, **James E. Graves, Jr**. was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Justice Graves is a distinguished and experienced Mississippi jurist, who was an attorney in private practice and public service before taking the bench. The only African-American currently serving on the Mississippi Supreme Court, Justice Graves takes a keen interest in the administration of his state's court system, and has been active in national, state and local bar associations.

Justice Graves has served as a judge in the Mississippi court system since 1991, sitting for ten years on the Hinds County Circuit Court and, since 2001, on Mississippi's highest court first as an Associate Justice and currently as a Presiding Justice. Justice Graves began his legal career in 1980 as a staff attorney at Central Mississippi Legal Services. At that time he also began his 17 years of service as an Adjunct Professor at Jackson State University, teaching in the Departments of Mass Communications, Political Science, and Public Policy & Administration. After three years at Legal Services, Justice Graves entered private practice, focusing primarily on civil matters in state and federal court. From 1986 to 1990, he joined the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General, working as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Human Services and Health Law divisions. He then served in the Mississippi Department of Human Services as the Director of the Division of Child Support Enforcement until his appointment to the Hinds County Circuit Court in 1991.

In addition to his legal work and teaching career, Justice Graves has been very active in local and national bar associations. Justice Graves is currently a Fellow of the Mississippi State Bar, and has served on a variety of committees of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, working on issues of concern common to state judges. He also serves his state's court system as the current Chair of the Mississippi Supreme Court Rules Committee on Criminal Practice and Procedure. He formerly served as Chair of the Mississippi Supreme Court Committee on Administrative and Related Matters, the Supreme Court's Emergency Preparedness Committee, and Public Defender's Task Force, among others.

A Mississippi native, Justice Graves received his B.A. from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in 1975, and went on to earn his J.D. from Syracuse University in 1980, and a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse in 1981.

Affiliate Chapters

Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Greater Baton Rouge Chapter

Martinet Gala

The **Baton Rouge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society** hosted several programs this spring. On January 27, 2010, Martinet commemorated an historical event and celebrated Ms. Laura Lee Harris, whose actions led to a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court ruling to desegregate seating within the 19th Judicial District Court.

During the event, Martinet honored Ms. Laura Lee Harris and Mr. Johnnie A. Jones (Baton Rouge Civil Rights Attorney & Attorney for Ms. Laura Lee Harris). The program, which occurred at the 19th Judicial District Court, featured remarks from former LSBA President **Kim M. Boyle** , Baton Rouge Bar Association **Fred Crifasi**, Southern University Law Center **Chancellor Freddie Pitcher** as well as prominent judges and attorneys in the Baton Rouge area. More then 100 guests gathered to honor the two trailblazers in the civil rights movement.

In February 2010, Martinet hosted its first "*Am I My Brother's Keeper*" Church Seminar/CLE. An audience of attorneys, clergy and church leaders attended the Church Law seminar held at Gloryland Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. An outstanding panel of experienced lawyers and clergy discussed various aspects of church law.

The seminar discussed the basic duties, responsibilities and liabilities of church boards and the role of such boards in the church. The seminar also addressed issues regarding churches as 501 (c) 3 organizations and the required tax filings for churches as non-profit organizations. The seminar addressed many of the tax consequences faced by churches for failure to properly determine their employee's status or to document financial activities.

On March 17, 2010, Martinet hosted a seminar at the Southern University Law Center during Law Week. The seminar entitled "*Tips and Traps*" addressed topics including interviewing skills, networking techniques, balancing career and family and proper dress for the workplace.

The distinguished panel included **Elain Patin** (Louisiana Department of Justice), **Erin Wilder-Doomes** (Phelps Dunbar) and **Corrine Blache** (Rodale Parsons). The seminar was sparked with lively questions from the facilitator, Attorney **Ted James, Jr**. Over 75 law students were in attendance.

On March 18, 2010, Martinet along with the **Southern University Law Center Civil Rights Institute and National Employment Lawyer Association** sponsored a seminar on "*Recent Developments in EEOC Law*". The

featured speaker was the Regional Director of the EEOC, Attorney **Keith Hill**. The seminar was held at the Southern University Law Center. There were over 100 attorneys and law students in attendance.

On April 17, 2010, Martinet celebrated its **15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala**, themed "*Weaving our Fabric: Sewing Together the Strands of Excellence*." The event began with a greeting from **Kim M. Boyle**, former President of the Louisiana State Bar Association. Six scholarship recipients were celebrated: Nelson Allen, Jr., Jihyun Choi, Erron A. Putman, Kaila Simmons, Melody Udoinyion, and Freddie Ward.

Russell L. Jones, Associate Vice-Chancellor of Southern University Law Center, received the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society Outstanding Community Service Award. Aside from celebrating the named scholarship and award recipients, the **Honorable Judge Wilson Fields** swore-in the following 2010-2011 officers: Alejandro Perkins (President), Eboni Townsend (1st Vice President), Christopher Hebert (2nd Vice President), Michael Tyler (Treasurer) and Leticia Jackson-Mabry (Secretary). This event was chaired by **Eboni M. Townsend**, with **Lieutenant General Russel Honoré** (retired) as guest speaker.

J.L. Turner Legal Association

JL Turner Legal Association hosted various events this past spring. On November 19, 2009, JL Turner, one of the founding organizations that make up **CAAPCO** (Coalition of African-American Professional & Community Organizations) joined with American Airlines, CAAPCO and its member organizations and the Metroplex Employee Resource Groups to present the November 2009 "*Just Because*" Reception. The event was held at the Aloft Hotel, Downtown Dallas, Texas.

JL Turner hosted "*ACES HIGH*" a **Charity Spades Tournament Benefiting** AIDS Arms, Inc. on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel inDallas, Texas. Tickets to a suite for a Dallas Mavericks game, spa vouchers for the Hilton Anatole's V-Spa, and other great prizes were raffled.

JL Turner hosted its annual **Attorney Lunch and Learn** at the Belo Mansion June 3, 2010. The program entitled "*The State of the Real Estate Market*" was a timely event that included a 30 minute presentation followed by a question and answer session. Topics included the current real estate market, opportunities for purchasing investment properties, and loan options designed specifically for attorneys. The program also featured information about the Dallas foreclosure market and whether foreclosures offer values for purchasing personal and investment properties.

On May 18, 2010, JL Turner hosted a Free CLE, *Trial Advocacy Series* at the 14th Judicial District Court. The first seminar on Cross Examination was designed to instruct new and seasoned practitioners in the basic skills of Trial Advocacy.

The sessions were taught by some of JL Turner's most seasoned trial lawyers.

JL Turner conducted its first **Street Law Program** at the Marzelle C. Hill Transition Center on Thursday, July 15, 2010. Street Law provides practical legal education to high school students, young parents, youth in the juvenile justice system, youth aging out of foster care, and other vulnerable populations.

Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Greater New Orleans Chapter

Destin

On March 5, 2010, the **New Orleans Martinet** partnered with the LSBA and other specialty bars to present a full day diversity workshop entitled *The Professional Workplace: Diagnosing the Issues and Finding the Cure* for approximately 170 attendees, at the New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center. During the Conclave, highly credentialed facilitators, Hon. Wendell Griffen (Ret.) and Manny Brandt, facilitated exercises during a three-hour workshop to make participants culturally aware and skillful in cross-cultural situations. Participants learned the difference between diversity and inclusion, gained an understanding of the diversity challenge (i.e., that differences matter especially those that do not matter to you but matter to someone else), and received tools to develop a cultural competency compass.

Lt. General Russel L. Honore', USA (Ret.), the keynote speaker during the networking lunch, mesmerized participants with the impact of diversity on Louisiana history, the military, and the future of the children on "*Railroad Street*" -- where the poorest of society reside. The afternoon panel discussions addressed hot button topics (such as race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and disability) that impact the professionalism of attorneys, office dynamics, and the ability to attract and keep clients and discussed how the lack of diversity initiatives can impact an organization's productivity and financial health.

The **New Orleans Martinet** hosted a **Congressional Redistricting CLE**, titled "*New Lines, New Times, New Civil Rights: What Lawyers Should Know About Congressional Redistricting and Its Potential Impact and Legal Implications for the Community*." Martinet partnered with the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Louisiana, the Louisiana Asian Pacific Association, the LSBA Minority Involvement Section, and the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association to co-host the CLE on April 19, 2010.

Former LSBA President **Kim M. Boyle** moderated a discussion

among **Rep. Richard "Rick" Gallot, Jr.** (Louisiana House of Representatives, District 11) and Attorney **Ronald "Ron" Wilson** (of counsel, Scheuermann & Jones Law Firm).

Discussions were held on how the census data is processed to create the congressional and state districts as well as the litigation options used if the newly drawn districts dilute or exclude the minority vote. **Vanessa A. Spinazola** (employment law staff attorney, The Pro Bono Project) later offered remarks addressing the ten reasons why undocumented immigrants should be counted in the census. A networking reception immediately followed the program, which occurred in the courtroom of the **Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle** in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Magnolia Bar Association

The **Magnolia Bar Association** hosted its Annual Meeting and Reception April 29-May 3, 2010, in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Houston Lawyers Association

The Houston Lawyers Association has developed a **Young Lawyers Division**. This division is working towards providing our young lawyers with contacts, mentors, opportunities to get involved in the community as well as an opportunity to network with other Houston attorneys. This initiative began last year and is pressing forward to make sure the needs of our newly barred attorneys as well as our young attorneys are met.

HLA keeps striving to improve communication with the Houston attorneys. As we keep our members abreast of our activities as well as important issues in our community using a bi-weekly newsletter.

HLA hosted its **Scholarship Gala** May 22, 2010 in Houston, Texas. HLA will be returning to this annual tradition.

The Houston Lawyers Association anxiously anticipates a successful year with our Christmas toy drive, judicial receptions, legal redress clinic, legal lines, election protection, continual learning education classes, and the many other events which are planned for the upcoming year. HLA encourages everyone, Houston attorneys or non-Houston attorneys to come out and participate in the activities planned for this upcoming year.

Other Affiliate Chapters include the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association, the African American Section of the State Bar of Texas and the Tarrant County Bar Association.

Members on the Move

Carlton Reeves, of the Jackson, Mississippi law firm of Pigott, Reeves & Johnson, has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the **United States District Court** for the Southern District of Mississippi. Reeves is a well respected seasoned lawyer and former Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Carlton is a highly regarded lawyer with a wealth of experience. President Obama made a wise choice in selecting him for appointment as a United States District Judge. If confirmed, Reeves will become the second African American U. S. District Judge in Mississippi. Chief U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate currently is the only African American serving on the federal bench in the Southern District of Mississippi.

Former New Orleans Martinet President **James M. Williams**Partner - Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams, was named by IMPACT and the National Bar Association as one of the "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40."

Arlene Knighten, Region V Historian, was elected Vice President of the Louisiana Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Eboni Townsend, Region V Deputy Director, was re-elected First Vice President of the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society and elected Vice President of Technology for the Louisiana Association of Black Women Attorneys.

The **Louis A. Martinet Legal Society of Louisiana**, comprised of the Martinet and Black Lawyers associations around the state, was selected to receive one of the Louisiana State Bar Association's **President's Awards**. The award was presented at the LSBA Annual Meeting/Joint Summer School Conference, in Sandestin, Florida.

Region V Upcoming Events

Region V is hosting a Reception in Room 1802, Monday, August 9, 2010, from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Come join Region V as we celebrate 85 years of the National Bar Association. *New Orleans Style Cuisine* and *Spirits* will be on hand!

The Statewide Louis A. Martinet and the Louisiana Attorney General's Office is hosting a Reception Monday, August 9, 2010 from 9:00pm - 2:00am at Voila Restaurant, 300 Decatur Street, New Orleas, Louisiana 70115.

Region V and the National Law Group are co-hosting a Reception at the Marriott Tuesday, August 10, 2010 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in Room 1830.

Region V and its Affiliate Chapters are hosting a Lunch Reception, Wednesday, August 11, 2010 from Noon - 2:00pm in Room 1830.

Promotion Name

Carlos Moore

Carlos Moore
NBA Region V, Regional Director

moorelawoffice@bellsouth.net **moorelawoffice@bellsouth.net**
Web: **http://www.nationalbar.org/index.html**

Safe Unsubscribe
This email was sent to kelly.legier@lsba.org by ebonit@hotmail.com.
Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Email Marketing by

National Bar Association, Region V | Regional Director, Carlos Moore | MOORE LAW OFFICE, PLLC | 1155 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. | Grenada | MS | 38902