

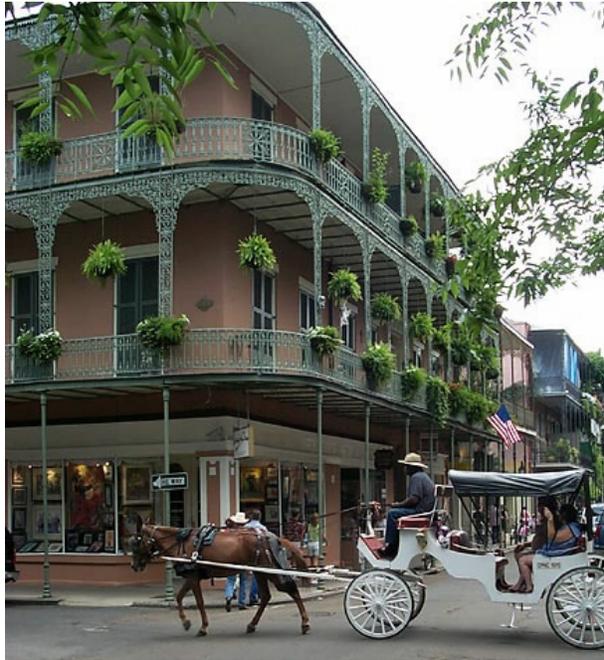
# New Orleans, Louisiana

August 4-10, 2007



## THE DOCKET

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks



By Chris Crow, LA

### Sunday... Passing a Good Time!

Sunday afternoon, we will be doing a repeat of the Clerks Silent Art Auction as a fund raising event; during the afternoon, attendees will get to bid on crafts created by clerks and lawyers from across the country to benefit the Education Fund. We are asking for your creative side to come out by donating a creation to the auction. Even if you don't personally knit, crochet, paint, draw, etc., and you know another clerk or lawyer who does, ask him/her to help! The items will be sold through a silent auction with the winners being announced one day during the morning announcements. Contact Trish Harrington, Clerk for the Virginia Supreme Court, [pharrington@courts.state.va.us](mailto:pharrington@courts.state.va.us) for more information about the Silent Art Auction.

The Sunday night reception sponsored by BNA and NCACC will be co-hosted by Louisiana Clerks of Court John T. Olivier and Danielle Schott at the Supreme Court and Fourth Circuit Courthouse Building located at 400 Royal Street in the heart of the historic French Quarter. The Chief Justice and Judges in attendance from the hosting Louisiana appellate courts will welcome the group immediately prior to the Morgan Thomas Slide Show.

### Monday ...

Thomson/West is sponsoring a terrific event at the National World War II Museum on Monday night.

President Sandra Skinner has issued the official call to attend the 2007 national Conference of Appellate Court Clerks' 34th annual educational conference. Registration materials for this year's conference in New Orleans, Louisiana August 4 through 10, 2007, at the Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place have been mailed. Tom Hall, Clerk for the Florida Supreme Court and Rory Perry, Clerk for the West Virginia Supreme Court, together with the Education Committee have put together a great educational program and vendor exhibition. You can find the complete conference schedule within this issue. The Louisiana Delegation, as co-hosts, is pleased to inform you that after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans tourism is on the rebound - there are many exciting and fun things to do in the city and you and your families are sure to pass a good time!

(Continued on page 10)

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## Getting to New Orleans

**Air Travel** -- Most of you will be flying into the Louis Armstrong New Orleans Intl. Airport located at 900 Airline Drive in Kenner, LA 70062. <http://www.flymsy.com/>

**Airport Shuttle New Orleans** is available from the airport to the hotel for \$13.00 (per person, one-way) or \$26.00 (per person, round-trip). Three bags per person. Call 1-866-596-2699 or (504) 522-3500 or visit for more details on service times or to make a reservation. Ticket booths are located on the lower level in the baggage claim area and a \$2 fuel surcharge is added to total fare.

**Taxi Cab** costs \$28.00 from the airport to the Hotel for one or two persons and \$12.00 (per passenger) for three or more passengers. Pick-up is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. There may be an additional charge for extra baggage and a \$1 fuel surcharge is added to total fare.

**Rental Cars** are available from 7 rental agencies with offices on the lower level of the airport; the list of the rental car agencies is available through the Airport website. The Airport is 16.4 miles from the New Orleans Wyndham. Barring traffic snarls, the ride from the airport is about 25 minutes to the hotel. Take and stay on I-10 East from the airport to downtown; Exit on Poydras Street; take a left on South Peters Street; and a right on Rue Iberville. (See comments about Parking with the hotel information.)

## THE DOCKET

### News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

President	Sandra Skinner (MO)
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Vice-President	Tom Hall (FL)
Immed. Past President	Terrence Lord (MO)
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	Jim Pelzner (NY)
	Colette Bruggman (ND)

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Kenneth deBlanc (LA)	LA, TX, OK, NM, AZ, CA, NV, UT, CO, HI
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Steven Lancaster (IN) Executive Committee Liaison	IN, OH, PA, NY, VT, NH, ME, MA, CT, RI
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Leslie W. Steen (AR)	Volunteer Columnist
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Diana Pratt-Wyatt (LA)	Editor
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Brenda Stephens (LA)	Assistant
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Please submit items of professional or personal news to your regional reporter. Articles, letters and other submissions may be sent or faxed to the editorial office.

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!



#### **To Remit NCACC Membership Dues:**

National Center of State Courts  
300 Newport Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

# From The President

Sandra Skinner (MO)



I haven't decided if I like daylight savings time starting several weeks early or not. I am usually a proponent of daylight savings time. However, this year I had to go back to getting up in the dark and believe me, getting up in the early, dark morning is not a skill I particularly want to develop. I'll adjust and with spring almost here, the adjustment will be made a lot easier.

The Executive Committee will have its spring meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 21. Les Steen has been a big help to me in getting all the particulars, like eating and sleeping, together. Even though I write this prior to the meeting, much work has been done by the different committees. Chris Crow and Tom Hall will be updating us on the New Orleans conference and educational program. You may have already received your registration materials by now. As I'm sure you will see, the Louisiana clerks have all worked hard to give us what will undoubtedly be a wonderful time in "The Big Easy".

*"All the general goals and aspirations we have, need to be narrowed and specifically defined."*

You might want to check our website at [www.appellatecourtclerks.org](http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org) for more information. I was fortunate to attend the midyear meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices in New Orleans this past February. So much work has been done on this city devastated by the hurricane. So much more needs to be done. Please consider attending the conference this year not only for our social events and educational offerings but in support of all the people of New Orleans rebuilding their city one brick at a time.

So many people have given so much to the conference, we want to help you if you need it. The availability of scholarships is something you absolutely need to consider if you think you just can't swing the cost of the conference this year. Lisa Matz is the Scholarship Committee chair and will be more than happy for you to send in your application.

The process continues regarding a fundraising campaign to help build the Education Fund. The Executive Committee with the addition of Diana Pratt-Wyatt, Susan Stokley-Clary and Rory Perry are all meeting Friday morning, April 20 to discuss where we go from here. We have taken many small steps in consideration of a broader fundraising campaign and how we might undertake such an endeavor. The work to develop a strategic plan and deciding to thrive not just survive has taken us to where we are today; preparing to initiate some type of fundraising campaign. But what kind of campaign? What do we want to accomplish both in our conference and out? How much money is needed to accomplish those goals? Who are the possible donors we need to contact and how do we do that? All the general goals and aspirations we have need to be narrowed and specifically defined. This can only happen by providing a forum to discuss a wide range of opinions. I think the discussions in Little Rock will move us several steps ahead. More information will be forthcoming after we meet in late April.



Have you been busy?? I don't mean at work. I mean artistically with the wonderful art creations you will be bringing with you to New Orleans. We are going to have our art auction; both secretive and silent and loud and raucous. Hope you will be a part of it.

# Welcome, Venetia!

Our newest member, Venetia Harvey Velazquez, was appointed as Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States Virgin Islands in January 2007. This appointment makes Venetia the first clerk of the newly-formed Supreme Court, which began operations in January 2007. Prior to her appointment as Clerk, Venetia served for almost five years as staff attorney for the Appellate Division of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, which served as the appellate court for the Virgin Islands prior to formation of the Supreme Court. She also served for two years as a law clerk in the trial court, the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

Venetia obtained a Bachelor's of Arts degree, with honors, from Howard University in 1985 and subsequently earned her Master's of Arts degree from the University of the Virgin Islands. Venetia later obtained her juris doctor from Howard University School of Law, where she also served as a member of the law journal.

Venetia is married to Police Lieutenant Herminio Velazquez. She has two children, Kurt and Arianne.

## In Memory Of Kevin A. Swanson

We extend our condolences to the family of Kevin Albert Swanson, who passed away on February 5, 2007.

He was appointed Clerk of the Court of Appeal, Fifth District, California in February 1974. He served in that capacity for twenty-two years until he retired. Kevin was awarded the J.O. Sentell Award in 1995 and was nationally recognized for his work in the Appeals Court.



## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW ORLEANS

If you are having trouble obtaining funding for the annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana you may be eligible for a scholarship. **Please do not hesitate to apply**, last year we had money left over. The Scholarship Assistance Guidelines and the Selection Criteria are published in the NCACC Directory. If you plan to apply for a scholarship please read the Guidelines and the Selection Criteria and the following instructions:

**DEADLINE:** Mail or Fax the completed, signed application form by **June 1, 2007** to:

Ms. Brenda Williams  
National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks  
c/o National Center for State Courts  
300 Newport Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
FAX: 757-259-1520

If you are uncertain as to whether you will receive funding from your court you may still apply for a scholarship, just note this on your application and update the scholarship committee of any changes to your funding status.

If you have questions please email the Chair of the Committee, Lisa Matz at: [lisa.matz@5thcoa.courts.state.tx.us](mailto:lisa.matz@5thcoa.courts.state.tx.us).

This year's committee members are, Lisa Matz (TX), Kelly McNeely (LA), Mike Richie (OK), and Trish Harrington (VA) is the Executive Committee liaison.



# Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

By Les Steen (AR)

As some of you have probably noticed over the years, we enjoy snide, sarcastic, and cryptic responses to questions. Here are some of the best we have read in many years. Please keep this in mind, it takes a college degree to fly a commercial airliner but only a high school diploma to repair one.

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form called a “gripe sheet,” which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problem, document the repairs on the form, and they are reviewed by the pilot before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement!  
A: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.  
A: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.  
A: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.  
A: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces 200 feet per minute descent.  
A: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.  
A: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.  
A: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.  
A: That’s what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.  
A: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.  
A: Suspect you are right.

P: Number three engine missing.  
A: Number three engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.  
A: Aircraft warned to straighten up and fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.  
A: Target radar reprogrammed with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.  
A: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding something with a hammer.  
A: Hammer taken away from midget.

By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never, ever, had a major accident.





# National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks



Annual Meeting Complete Schedule  
August 4-10, 2007  
New Orleans, Louisiana

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

- 9:00 a.m.— noon                    **Executive Committee Meeting (Breakfast)**
- 2:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.            **Registration: 3rd Floor PreFunction Area**  
*Convention Assistance Committee*
- 2:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.            **Directory Photos: 3rd Floor PreFunction Area**

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

- 10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.        **Registration: 3rd Floor PreFunction Area**  
*Convention Assistance Committee*
- 2:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.            **Silent Art Auction**
- 2:00 p.m.— 2:30 p.m.            **Welcome Meeting— New Members and First Time Attendees**  
*Sandra Skinner, President NCACC*
- 2:30 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.            **Roll Call of the States**  
**Business Meeting (Part I)**  
*Sandra Skinner, President, NCACC*  
*Host Clerks: Christine Crow, Diana Wyatt, Kelly McNeely, Kenneth deBlanc, Danielle Schott, Peter Fitzgerald, John T. Olivier, Frans Labranche Tom Hall, Program Chair*
- 3:30 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.            **Orientation for Families**  
*New Member & First Time Attendees families encouraged to attend (children welcome)*  
*Clerks and Retired Clerks of Court*  
*Louisiana Appellate Courts*
- 4:00 p.m.— 4:15 p.m.            **Break**
- 4:15 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.            **Key Note Speaker**
- 5:30 p.m.— 7:30 p.m.            **Welcome Reception at the Louisiana Supreme Court and Fourth Circuit Building**  
*Welcome by Louisiana Appellate Courts' Chief Justice and Judges (reception hosted by BNA and NCACC)*
- 7:30 p.m.— 8:15 p.m.            **Morgan Thomas Slide Show**

(Continued from page 6)

8:30 p.m. **Hospitality Suite Opens - Hotel**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 6**

7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast - Roundtable Discussions**

8:30 a.m.— 9:00 a.m. **Welcome to NCACC**  
*Sandra Skinner, President, NCACC*  
*Louisiana Welcome Speaker TBA*

9:00 a.m.— 10:45 a.m. **Emergenetics: Thinking and Behavior - A Meeting of the Minds**  
*Harold Suire, President/CEO of Education, Research and Information Services, Inc.*

10:45 a.m.— 11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:15 a.m.— 12:30 p.m. **Emergenetics, continued**

12:30 p.m.— 1:45 p.m. **Lunch**

1:45 p.m.— 3:30 p.m. **Emergenetics, continued**

3:30 p.m.— 3:45 p.m. **Break**

3:45 p.m.— 5:00 p.m. **Emergenetics, continued**

6:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m. **Reception and Buffet at National World War II Museum**  
*Hosted by Thomson West Publishing*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 7**

7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m. **Past Presidents' Breakfast (Past Presidents only)**

7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast - Roundtable Discussions**

8:30 a.m.— 8:45 a.m. **Announcements**

8:45 a.m.—10:15 a.m. **Professional Ethics**  
*Brian Spector, University of Miami, School of Law*

10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Family Medical Leave Act**  
*Deborah Brown, Stetson University College of Law*

1:30 p.m.— 6:00 p.m. **Annual Golf Tournament at TPC Louisiana**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8**

- 7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m.      **Continental Breakfast—Roundtable Discussions**
- 8:30 a.m.— 8:45 a.m.      **Announcements**
- 8:45 a.m.—10:15 a.m.      **What’s Bugging You, Tom Hall**
- 10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.      **Break**
- 10:30 a.m.—11:15 a.m.      **What’s Bugging You, continued**
- 11:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.      **Vendor Introductions**
- 12:00 p.m.— 1:30 p.m.      **Vendor Lunch**
- 12:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.      **Vendor Show**
- 1:30 p.m.— 2:35 p.m.      **Breakout Sessions and Showcase Presentations by Exhibitors**  
**Breakouts:**
- A.      **Practical Clerk’s Office Problems—Death Penalty**  
*Panel Discussion with Christi Cameron, NC*  
*Fritz Ohlrich, CA*  
*Cynthia Rapp, DC*
  - B.      **Demonstration—Oregon Case Management System**
  - C.      **Demonstration—California Case Management System**
  - D.      **Thomson West Showcase (1:30-1:55)**
  - E.      **Vendor TBD (2:05-2:30)**
- 2:40 p.m.— 3:45 p.m.      **Breakout Sessions and Showcase Presentations by Exhibitors**  
**Breakouts:**
- A.      **Clerks of Court - Discussion**
  - B.      **Demonstration - Oregon Case Management System**
  - C.      **Deputy Clerks - Discussion**
  - D.      **Vendor Showcase (2:40-3:05)**
  - E.      **Vendor Showcase (3:15-3:40)**
- 3:50 p.m.— 4:55 p.m.      **Breakout Sessions and Showcase Presentations by Exhibitors**  
**Breakouts:**
- A.      **Open**
  - B.      **Open**
  - C.      **Demonstration—California Case Management System**
  - D.      **Vendor Showcase (3:50-4:15)**
  - E.      **Vendor Showcase (4:25-4:50)**
- 7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.      **Mardi Gras Party at Blaine Kern’s Mardi Gras World**  
*Hosted by Lexis/Nexis*

## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 9**

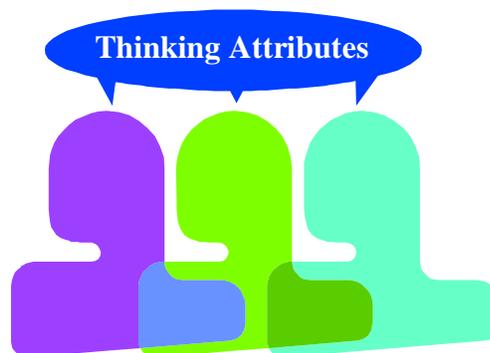
- 7:00 a.m. **NCACC Fun Run/Walk** (meet in hotel lobby)
- 7:30 a.m.— 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast—Roundtable Discussions**
- 8:30 a.m.— 8:45 a.m. **Announcement**
- 8:45 a.m.— 10:00 a.m. **Justice at Stake—Defending Your Court from Partisan Attacks**  
*Roger Warren, Chair of the Board, Justice at State*
- 10:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **E-Filing and Scanning—The New Frontier**  
*John Wilkerson, Clerk, Court of Appeals, Alabama*  
*Lane Mann, Clerk, Court of Criminal Appeals, Alabama*
- 12:00 p.m.— 1:00 p.m. **Annual Business Meeting, Part 2**
- 1:00 p.m.— 1:30 p.m. **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 6:00 p.m.— 10:00 p.m. **Banquet Reception and Annual Banquet**  
*Guest Speaker TBA*

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 10**

- 8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. **Breakfast and Critique Session**

### **What is Emergenetics?**

Emergenetics is defined as a merging of two ideas: behavior emerging from our life experiences driven by the genetics of our heritage. It reflects the fact that we all have unique talents, some of which are learned and others in-born. You can learn more about this subject by visiting [www.thebrowninggroup.com](http://www.thebrowninggroup.com) and [www.emergenetics.com](http://www.emergenetics.com). Also, you can check out the book by Geil Browning, PhD, *Tap Into The New Science of Success - Emergenetics*.



**The National World War II Museum is a national treasure.** Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official World War II Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era with moving personal stories, historic artifacts and powerful interactive displays. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of Pacific Islands and the Home Front, the Museum brings to life the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war and changed the world. <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/home.html>

### **Tuesday ...**

On Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., Peter Fitzgerald, Clerk for the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, welcomes golfers to his neck of the woods -- Jefferson Parish on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. The tournament is scheduled at the Tournament Players Club Louisiana, <http://tpc.com/daily/louisiana/index.html/>, a short drive over the Crescent City Connection to 11001 Lapalco Blvd., Avondale, Louisiana. Menus for boxed lunches are included in the packet at two levels: Players Boxed Lunch at \$20 and Club Boxed Lunch at \$14; prices include taxes and gratuity.

Non-golfers have a free afternoon to experience the exciting sites and sounds of the city!

### **Wednesday ...**

No one should go to New Orleans without a Mardi Gras fete! We anticipate Lexis hosting a night of family fun at the Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World where "Mardi Gras is made". This museum holds the history of Mardi Gras and invites a long look behind the magic of Mardi Gras in New Orleans. This showcase of carnival with thousands of sensational sculptured props and breath-taking giant figures is truly a treasure of New Orleans. Brian Kern creates exceptional party experiences with true Mardi Gras magic and we believe Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World will be an unforgettable experience for all of our attendees.

### **Thursday ...**

Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. we will have the traditional Fun Run/Walk for the fit and famous (or not so famous too), starting at Woldenberg Riverfront Park and heading north along the river toward the French Quarter; we will circle back close to Dumaine Street, returning to the hotel on St. Peters Street passing Jackson Square on the way. Google Pedometer tells us this route is between 1.5 and 2.0 miles long. Thursday evening is the closing Reception and Annual Banquet that will be held at the Wyndham Hotel. Please be sure to make your meal choice that is included in the registration packet!

### **Friday ...**

Although everyone will be heading home, please try to schedule your travel plans to give you time to attend the Friday morning Critique Breakfast which starts at 8:30 a.m. and typically ends no later than 10:00 a.m. The information gathered at this casual reflection and discussion of the preceding week's programs and events is extremely beneficial to those who will be planning future conferences. So please plan to be there.

### **NCACC Conference Website**

Please check out the website for the New Orleans conference at <http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org>. Click on Annual Conference and then select Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting. You will find interesting and detailed information about the conference, about New Orleans, about the other beautiful parts of Louisiana you may wish to visit while here, and links to related sites. You can also find these registration materials on the website. Although you can't actually register online, you can download them to edit or print them to fill out for mailing.

# The Big Easy - Forever New Orleans!



The post-Katrina theme playing on the New Orleans Convention and Visitor's Bureau Website is: "Forever New Orleans". If you haven't been to New Orleans before, you will truly enjoy one of the greatest tourist destinations in the world. If you have been to New Orleans before, we invite you back to see the rebirth of a city. Although our Louisiana world has changed dramatically post-Katrina in how we live and work, we haven't changed how we play! Our *joie de vivre* is as strong as ever and we want you to be a part of our circle for that one special week when we reunite at our annual meeting to renew friendships and make new friends.

Retired Clerk Kenneth deBlanc, Third Circuit Court of Appeal, is preparing information about his favorite New Orleans sites and activities that he plans to forward to you soon. Information and brochures on tours, attractions, and activities will be available when you arrive; however, any activity that we identify that requires pre-registration will be forwarded to you at the time we receive the information.

Finally, although we regret having to address the topic, please remember that New Orleans is vulnerable to hurricanes from June through November. You may wish to purchase travel cancellation insurance as a precaution.

We are so looking forward to seeing y'all soon...*Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!*

Sincerely,

Krewe des Greffiers du Tribunal

Christine "Chris" L. Crow, Clerk of Court  
La. First Circuit Court of Appeal  
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