

The Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association held its 15th Annual Meeting and Continuing Legal Education Seminar February 14 – 17, 2013 in Baton Rouge. The theme for the conference was “*Advancing Justice Through Public and Personal Accountability*”. Chair-Elect Judge Madeline Jasmine, presided over the conference at the request of the Chair, Judge Edwin Lombard, who was unable to attend.

Six Judges attended the *Judicial Community Outreach Program* at McKinley Middle Magnet School. Co-chair Luke Lavergne moderated the questioning of the middle school students with the assistance of Judges June Darensburg, Alvin Batiste, Yvette Alexander, Trudy M. White, and Lisa Woodruff-White. Domoine Rutledge, General Counsel for the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and Attorney Alejandro Perkins also engaged the students in a spirited dialogue.

Judge Lisa Woodruff-White chaired the seminar component for the conference, which qualified for nine hours of continuing legal education for the judges and lawyers in attendance. While there were separate seminar tracts for judges and lawyer, several of the seminars were combined.

Seminar topics included: *U.S. Supreme Court decision on Affirmative Action and Higher Education; Ethics-Recusal; Professionalism-Electronic Communication an Social Media; Recent Developments in Family and Juvenile Law; Bankruptcy Basics and Stays; Recent Developments in Civil and Criminal Law; Advanced Evidence; Judicial Sub-districts: Where do we go from here?; and, Ethics-Recent Judicial Commission Decisions and Trends*. The presenters included private and governmental attorneys, legislators, and judges from across the state.

Former Congressman and Senator Cleo Fields and his wife Debra, hosted the President’s Reception at their home on Friday evening. This affair provided an opportunity for judges and lawyers to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Food and libation was plentiful. A live band entertained local and other dignitaries.

The Saturday luncheon was very inspirational. Then Attorneys Janice Clark, Orscini Beard, Eddie Crawford and Norbert Rayford were recognized as the original plaintiffs in the *Clark vs. Edwin Edwards* federal court case that resulted in more African-American Judges elected in Louisiana on a per capital basis. The documentary entitled *Let Justice Be Done: A History of Black Judges of Louisiana* was previewed as conference participants dined.

The Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA’s Foundation hosted a Gala at the Renaissance Hotel on Saturday, February 16. Judge Pam Taylor-Johnson was the Mistress of Ceremony. This *Black Tie Dinner* honored Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of the Louisiana Supreme Court and Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Both honorees gave inspirational remarks prior to receiving crystal gavels. Special kudos should be extended to State Representative Katrina Jackson and Judge James E. Stewart, Sr. for their efforts with

organizing this event. The title sponsor was the law firm of *Gauthier, Houghtaling, & Williams*.

The culminating event was the worship service held at Living Faith Christian Center. Co-Chair Judge Trudy M. White led the processional of eighteen judges into the sanctuary. Chair-elect Madeline Jasmin brought greetings on behalf of the organization and acknowledged that after being filled physically with a lavish breakfast, the Judges anticipated being filled spiritually by Bishop Raymond W. Johnson.

The 16th Annual Conference will be held in Lafayette/Opelousas. Judge Alonzo Harris graciously agreed to organize the 2014 session that will be held the weekend following Mardi Gras.