



LACDL Presents

October 7th-9th

8 one hour virtual CLEs

Registration is required online
at LACDL.org

Thursday October 7th

1pm - 2pm

Judge Angel Harris: A View From the Bench

Inspired to become a lawyer by her personal hero, civil rights icon and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Angel recognizes the importance of equal access to justice and the power lawyers and judges have in shaping our criminal justice system. Angel began her legal career as a Public Defender in Louisiana, first in Orleans Parish then in Calcasieu Parish, where she handled hundreds of cases and became a highly-respected advocate and familiar face in the halls of the Orleans and Calcasieu Parish Criminal District Courts.

Angel has a wide array of experience litigating both civil and criminal cases. As Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Angel's advocacy focused on capital defense, juvenile life without the possibility of parole, and felon disenfranchisement. Angel also served as a Staff Attorney with the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project. Through those experiences, Angel fought to change the system through appellate and impact litigation.

Angel is a nationally recognized expert on criminal justice and civil rights issues. Her commentary has appeared in the New York Times and the Huffington Post as well as "Democracy Now!," NPR's "1A" and "The Roland Martin Show." She has written and co-authored briefs filed in state and federal courts around the country — from post-conviction release petitions to school desegregation. Angel is also the co-founder of the Black Womxn Lawyers Collective, a platform providing Continuing Legal Education courses with a comprehensive intersectional framework rooted in advocacy with and for women, children and communities of color taught by Black women lawyers. Angel graduated from Hampton University with highest honors and Georgetown University Law Center

2pm - 3pm

Professor Becki Kondkar and Professor Stas Moroz: Criminalized Intimate Partner Violence Survivors

Professor Becki Kondkar is Director of the Tulane Law School Domestic Violence Clinic, and is the founding Co-Director of the Tulane Law School Women's Prison Project. Kondkar's expertise includes gender-based violence litigation, the intersection of intimate partner violence with both civil and criminal legal systems, law enforcement responses to intimate partner violence, and the nexus of intimate partner violence and family law. Kondkar teaches trial skills and trauma-informed lawyering, while also representing survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking in a range of both civil and criminal cases.

As Clinic Director, Professor Kondkar has pioneered an innovative model for holistic client advocacy that allows students to explore issues of gender-based violence across a variety of legal forums and substantive areas of law, while also examining institutional and structural barriers to survivor safety and justice. Third-year law students working under faculty supervision provide direct representation to clients in contested civil proceedings that address survivor needs for not only protective orders and child custody, but also for a variety of other poverty law issues affecting survivor safety, economic security, and housing stability. At the same time, students also represent criminalized survivors through administrative proceedings for clemency and parole, and in appellate litigation such as criminal post-conviction cases.

In 2019, Kondkar founded the Women's Prison Project, which seeks freedom for women unjustly incarcerated for killing an abusive partner or for participating in crimes under the duress of an abusive partner. A collaboration with the Criminal Justice Clinic and Co-Director Katherine Mattes, the Project explores and challenges the institutionalized practices that prevent women's histories of abuse from being meaningfully considered in the criminal justice system. During the program's first two years of operation, WPP has already secured freedom for 5 women serving or facing life sentences for killing abusive partners in self-defense. The Project has been nationally recognized for its groundbreaking work - in 2020, the Women's Prison Project was selected by the American College of Trial Lawyers to receive the Emil Gumpert Award, the ACTL's highest honor for promoting justice. (ACTL Selects Tulane Law School Women's Prison Project As 2020 Emil Gumpert Award Recipient). In 2019, the Women's Prison Project was recognized for "Excellence in a Public Interest Project" by the Clinical Legal Education Association.

Nationally, Professor Kondkar has trained hundreds of attorneys, judges, domestic violence advocates, child welfare workers, and mental health professionals on civil and criminal legal issues affecting survivors of abuse; she has lectured frequently on the use and misuse of psychological science and expert testimony in cases involving intimate partner violence, and has authored both Louisiana and national practice manuals for lawyers representing survivors. Before joining Tulane in 2006, Kondkar handled intimate partner violence and child abuse cases in 11 states - first as a legal services lawyer representing domestic violence survivors, and later as part of a nationwide practice specializing in child abuse litigation.

Kondkar serves on the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and on numerous local and statewide taskforces and committees that work to improve systemic responses to abuse survivors. Kondkar was the state's first gubernatorial appointee to Louisiana's Domestic Violence Prevention Commission. In 2012, she was awarded LSU's "Esprit de Femme" award for her outstanding advocacy on behalf of the state's women, and in 2015 the New Orleans Association for Women Attorneys recognized her advocacy with its Wynne Professionalism Award.

Stanislav ("Stas") Moroz joined Tulane in 2020 as a Clinical Instructor with the Women's Prison Project. Prior to joining Tulane, Moroz worked as a public defender with the Orleans Public Defenders for nearly six years, serving both as a member the trial division and the special litigation division. As a member of the trial division, Moroz represented thousands of clients on charges ranging from minor municipal violations to second degree murder. As a member of the special litigation division, he led efforts to re-sentence over forty individuals serving life sentences under Louisiana's habitual offender law. He also worked to end Louisiana's pervasive practice of holding individuals in jails and prisons after their legal release dates. In addition to these two areas of focus, Moroz assisted trial attorneys with writ applications to Louisiana appellate courts and taught CLEs on sentencing and related matters.

3pm - 4pm

Will Snowden: Criminal Justice Reform in Louisiana

Will is the director of Vera's New Orleans office. In this role, he continues and strengthens Vera's existing partnerships with criminal justice actors and community leaders while identifying new collaborative relationships with government entities and community organizations. The collaborations will focus on improving criminal justice systems in the South. Prior to joining Vera, Will was a public defender for five years representing New Orleanians in all stages of a case from arraignment to trial. Will also developed a focus and specialization in advocacy around reforming the procedures, systems, and policies around jury duty in an effort to promote diversity and representativeness in the jury box. Will also launched The Juror Project—an initiative aiming to increase the diversity of jury panels while changing and challenging people's perspective of jury duty.

Will leads workshops around the country as it relates to how implicit bias, racial anxiety and stereotype threat influence actors and outcomes in the criminal justice system. He received his JD from Seton Hall University School of Law and a BS from the University of Minnesota.

Friday October 8th

9am - 10am

Katherine Mattes: Competency to Stand Trial

Katherine Mattes is Senior Professor of the Practice and Director of the Tulane Law School Criminal Justice Clinic. She specializes in criminal litigation at all levels of practice, including trial, appellate, post-conviction and federal habeas. She has particular expertise in the intersection of criminal justice and mental illness, specifically mental competency to proceed and the defense of not guilty by reason of insanity. She has been at the forefront of criminal justice reform in the state of Louisiana, and her advocacy has transformed the lives of hundreds of accused and incarcerated persons, especially those living with mental illness and juveniles sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Mattes has written practice manuals for Louisiana defense attorneys and for Louisiana judges on competency to stand trial and the insanity defense. She was lead counsel in *State v. Denson*, a landmark case that resulted in statewide changes to Louisiana's treatment of mentally ill criminal defendants who are incompetent to stand trial. Mattes has lectured throughout the state, consulted on litigation, and testified before state legislative committees on issues relating to mentally ill criminal defendants.

She has also drafted and successfully advocated for the passage of statutes dealing with mentally incompetent defendants, which aligned Louisiana law with United States Supreme Court mandates. Mattes collaborates and teaches in the Forensic Division of the Tulane Medical School Department of Psychiatry. She is a member of the Behavioral Health Criminal Justice Workgroup with the City of New Orleans Behavioral Health Council.

Professor Mattes' other work includes advocacy on the issue of juvenile defendants sentenced to life without parole. The 2012 United States Supreme Court case *Miller v. Alabama* held that it was unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile under a mandatory life without parole sentencing scheme. Mattes was counsel in the Louisiana case that held *Miller* was not retroactive; this ruling was later overturned by the United Supreme Court. Mattes was at the forefront of subsequent legislative reform to implement the Supreme Court mandate, participating in strategic planning and community education, and testifying before legislative bodies in Louisiana and Texas.

Mattes has also taught and consulted on the criminal defense of domestic violence victims. She authored "A Defense Attorney's Guide to Representing Criminal Defendants Who Are Victims of Domestic Violence."

Mattes has been recognized for her work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to rebuild the Orleans Parish criminal justice system. Mattes accepted, on behalf of the Clinic, the Clinical Legal Education Association Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Project for work identifying, locating and representing people who had been incarcerated in Orleans Parish Prison and had been displaced by the post-storm evacuation. As part of this work she exposed a backlog of defendants who had been adjudicated incompetent to proceed and yet were held in jail, rather than the forensic hospital. Many had been incarcerated in jail for more than a year after being found incompetent, in violation of their constitutional rights. Mattes partnered with the Louisiana ACLU to initiate a challenge to this due process violation that culminated in a federal consent decree. She also led a film crew into the flooded evidence rooms in the criminal courthouse and the New Orleans Police Department; subsequently she was a member of the ASPIRES Strategic Working Group, which designed and implemented new protocols for the preservation of evidence in criminal cases. Prior to joining the Tulane Law School faculty in 2002, Mattes was a deputy public defender in San Diego, a staff attorney at the Innocence Project New Orleans, and Assistant Special Counsel for the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana.

10am - 11am

Richard Bourke: Litigating Fair Cross-Section Challenges: Federal and State

Richard Bourke is the director of the LCAC. He graduated from the Melbourne University School of Law in Australia where he also gained a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology and Criminology. Richard came to New Orleans to volunteer and then worked at the LCAC after pursuing a successful career as a criminal barrister in Australia. In 2007, Richard was awarded the Sam Dalton Capital Defense Award by the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Before his legal career, Richard worked as a youth counselor and social worker with adolescent victims of physical and sexual abuse. Richard is licensed in Louisiana, Texas, federal court, and the United States Supreme Court and is certified as lead capital trial, appellate, and post-conviction counsel.

11am - 12pm *one hour Professionalism*

Richard Teissier, Judge Ivan Lemelle and the Honorable retired judge Calvin Johnson: Trials and Tribulations of Being a Criminal Defense Attorney

Rick Teissier is a graduate of LSU Law School. After graduation Rick went to work at the Orleans Indigent Defender Program (OIDP). During his tenure at OIDP, Rick tried over 75 jury trials and over a 100 Judge trials. His most important accomplishment at OIDP involved the case of State v. Peart. In Peart, Rick declared himself ineffective due to lack of funding to hire necessary experts. The Trial Court initially denied the motion and ordered Rick to trial without the necessary experts. Rick refused to proceed and was held in contempt.

After being released, The Trial Court reopened the hearing on lack of funding and declared the Public Defender system Unconstitutional. The Peart motion became nationally cited and filed in many other jurisdictions. Because of the motion: Time Magazine, the New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, to name a few publications, featured articles concerning the inadequate funding of Public Defender Systems. Additionally, Rick was featured on ABC News, CBS news and Fox News as well as all local affiliates. Finally, Peart resulted in a complete revamp of how the Public Defender System was structured and influx of millions of dollars to fund indigent defense.

After OIDP, Rick went into private practice and became a prominent criminal defense lawyer in the New Orleans Metro Area. Additionally, he headed the Southeast Conflict Death Penalty Resource Center.

Rick's stellar career came to a screeching halt due to Bipolar 1 Disorder and a heavy substance abuse problem. In the midst of his legal career, he found himself wrestling with an unholy trinity - an addiction to drugs and alcohol, coupled with a bipolar disorder diagnosis. He slid down a rabbit hole of suicide attempts, padded rooms, detox stops, rehab centers and sober living homes.

But all was not lost. Electroconvulsive (ECT) saved his sanity. A 12-step program saved his soul. His experiences inspired Quarters of Hope, a sober living facility that focuses on the basics of Recovery articulated by 12-step programs where Rick has poured his life into since 2015. Since living sober Rick has given many talks on how to avoid the dangers of drugs and alcohol in the midst of success in a high stress job, particularly too lawyers.

U.S. District Court Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle was born on June 29, 1950, in Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1971, Lemelle graduated cum laude from Xavier University with a B.S. degree. Lemelle received many scholarships in order to attend Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, where he graduated in 1974 with a J.D. degree. After graduation, he served for three years as an Assistant District Attorney in New Orleans, where he was promoted to supervisory positions within that office, including co-chief of narcotic prosecutions.

In 1977, Lemelle worked as a private practitioner with the law firm of Douglas, Nabonne & Wilkerson, the largest African American law firm in Louisiana at that time. He also served part-time as Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. From 1980 to October 2, 1984, Lemelle was the Assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice. From October 3, 1984 to 1998, he was a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. His appointment to that office made him the first African American United States Magistrate Judge in Louisiana federal courts and the sixth African American U. S. Magistrate Judge in the Nation. In 1998, President Bill Clinton appointed Lemelle to the position of United States District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans, where he currently serves as the only African American District Judge for that Court.

In addition to service in leadership positions with numerous civic, fraternal and professional organizations, Judge Lemelle has also served on the Federal Judicial Center's Advisory Committee for the Guide to Judicial Management of Cases in Alternate Dispute Resolution, President of the Loyola College of Law-Thomas More Inn of Court, Visiting Committee Board for Loyola College of Law, Amistad Research Center's Executive Board, Federal Bar Association New Orleans Chapter Board of Directors, District Judges Association for the U. S. Fifth Circuit Executive Committee, and the Board of Reconcile New Orleans, Inc.-a nonprofit committed to addressing the system of generational poverty, violence and neglect in the New Orleans area.

The Honorable Calvin Johnson, retired Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court established the first Mental Health Treatment Court in the State of Louisiana in 2002. By 2005, this Special Court was selected as one of four demonstration courts in the Country. Prior to establishing the first Mental Health Treatment Court, Judge Johnson served as Drug Court Judge from 1994 until 2002. As Chief Judge at the time Hurricane Katrina struck, Judge Johnson directed proceedings and maintained Court functions simultaneously across eight statewide locations.

Following his retirement from the bench in 2008, Judge Johnson was enlisted by the Governor to serve as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Human Service District (MHSD), an agency created by the State legislature to oversee the delivery of publicly funded, community based behavioral health services. Judge Johnson directed the agency's turnaround, leveraged new opportunities created by managed care and the Affordable Care Act, and established an effective leadership team. In six years, he moved the agency out of its dilapidated trailers, defined and enhanced its services, and strategically positioned it as a model for health care reform and behavioral health transformation.

The MHSD is now a \$30 million organization operating an array of evidence based programs across three Parishes, including Assertive and Forensic Community Treatment (ACT/FACT) teams, Multiple Systemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Positive Parenting Programs (Triple P), Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) and a 24/7 crisis response team which include crisis respite.

Judge Johnson retired from MHSD in April of 2014. Since his retirement in April he's done consulting work for Magellan Health Louisiana, Futures Education and The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse(CADA). The consulting work for CADA specifically focused on a Reentry program for those Justice involved with Behavioral Health issues. Judge Johnson is currently working with the Federal Monitors appointed by Judge Lance Africk of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana around the issue of proper care for defendants with mental health issues in the Parish prison.

Judge Johnson received his undergraduate degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1969, served four years in the United States Air Force, and then received his Jurisdoctorate from Loyola Law School in 1978. He was Professor of Law at Loyola Law School for nine years and Judge of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court for seventeen years. He has received many awards in recognition of his commitment to working with individuals involved in the criminal justice system through every aspect of their recovery, including job readiness, housing stability, and community service projects. He is the recipient of the La. Supreme Court Justice Albert Tate Award for Judicial Excellence, the Louis A. Martinet Award for Judicial Excellence, the ACLU Ben Smith Award for Community Service, the Loyola Law School Alumni of the year award, the Children's Bureau of New Orleans Hero award, the Juvenile Justice for Youth Award, and the Crime Stoppers Award.

Judge Johnson remains on the faculty of the Loyola Law School.

Saturday October 9th

9am - 10am

Jarrett Ambeau: Advanced DNA and Probabilistic Genotyping Software

Born and raised in Louisiana, I spent significant time in Tennessee and Georgia in the 90's, but returned home to go to school and have lived here since 1998. I have an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Thomas Edison State College, a leading distance learning institution located in New Jersey. I completed my undergraduate studies while deployed to Kuwait/Iraq in 2004.

Prior to deployment, I had studied at Louisiana State University for 3 ½ years. My undergraduate thesis at LSU focused on the ethics of Immanuel Kant and a formal logic analysis of his formulations of the moral law from his famous book 'Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals'. I graduated from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in the spring of 2008, where I was a two time finalist in the Ira S. Flory Moot Court competition and a member of the 2007-2008 Moot Court Board. I completed a Master of Science in Pharmacy,

Forensic DNA and Serology at the University of Florida- Graduate School in 2019.

My professional experience includes The Ambeau Law Firm, LLC starting May 2009 to the present. I am a principal of this Criminal Defense, Family Law, and Personal Injury representation/litigation law firm and have experience with more than 10 felony jury trials in private representation, including presenting/handling extensive forensic science evidence.

I was a contract public defender in the 23rd JDC from May 2009 to December 2018 where I handled more than 30 felony jury trials in public defense representation and more than 20 cases in which I presented/challenged extensive forensic science evidence, including 10 in which there was extensive forensic DNA evidence. I also was a part of the United States Army, JAG Corps from October 2001 to October 2016 where I worked as a 27D Paralegal in the Trial Defense Service (criminal defense of soldiers) of the JAG Corps and includes deployment to Iraq from May 2004 to January 2005 in support of Trail Defense Service mission.

10am - 11am

Jim Boren: Understanding Death Penalty Mitigation, Will Make You a Better Lawyer On All Your Cases

The Law Office of James E. Boren is a highly regarded, nationally known firm that practices almost exclusively in the area of criminal defense, including representation in administrative and disciplinary proceedings. In addition to its statewide law practice, the firm has successfully managed many sophisticated multijurisdictional cases and investigations.

For 40 years, Mr. Boren has successfully represented individuals and companies (and company employees) in all types of criminal cases and quasi-criminal matters. James Boren frequently lectures to other criminal defense lawyers throughout the United States on such matters as cross examination, jury selection, death penalty cases and legal ethics. For nearly 20 years he taught at LSU Law School including courses on Advanced Litigation, Capital Punishment and Wrongful Convictions.

James Boren is also a guest lecturer at the Southern Law School. His high-profile cases and work with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) has allowed him to work with some of the best criminal defense lawyers in the country. He frequently refers in-state clients to quality criminal defense lawyers in other states and is able to also refer clients to other accomplished in-state lawyers when his caseload or a conflict prevents him from personally handling the case.

James Boren works with professional investigators and some of the finest expert witnesses in the world. Lawyers throughout the country discuss cases with James Boren and refer clients to him.

He does not accept or give referral fees.

James Boren has represented more than a dozen judges who were facing discipline or being investigated by the Judiciary Commission. He has also represented numerous lawyers and health care professionals who were facing disciplinary proceedings.