

LPA News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.

February 2000

Job Bank and Salary Update

By Peggy Connick Drennan

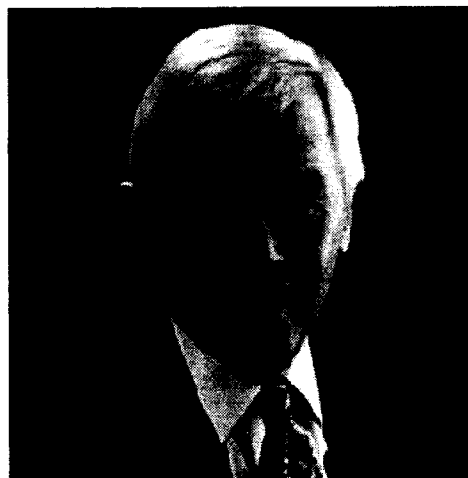
The LPA Job Bank is a service available to all LPA members. The "Bank" usually has several firms looking for Paralegals. It also contains the names of LPA members who are seeking employment. Any paralegal wishing to obtain information regarding one of these positions, or any entity seeking full-time, part-time, temporary, or contract employees, are asked to contact the Job Bank Chairperson, Peggy Drennan at 266-1152.

2000 Salary Guide

Wondering about salaries? An eye-opening survey, "The 2000 Salary Guide", conducted by a national legal staffing firm, The Affiliates, reports that salaries for Senior Paralegals (7+ years experience) range between \$40,250-\$56,500! Mid-level Paralegals (2-3 years experience) at \$36,500-44,250; Junior Paralegals (2-3 years experience) \$28,750-35,750, and Case Clerks (0-2 years experience) \$26,750-29,500. Of course, the salary ranges may vary from state to state and will depend on specific practice areas. If you care to check out their website, the address is www.affiliates.com. ❖

Want Local Salary Info?

Pick up an LPA Salary Survey for only **\$5.00** at our next meeting, or call Kaye at 266-1190



Harry Connick, Sr. to assist at Annual Meeting

New Orleans D.A. will swear in newly elected Officers and entertain attendees with colorful history

Most people, in most parts of the world, would recognize Harry Connick, Sr. first and foremost as the father of his illustrious and talented son, Harry, Jr. But if you lived in Louisiana, and more particularly in New Orleans, you would be likely to say, "Oh, that's the D.A.!" For if the senior Connick is making a big name in show business, he has already made an established one in the legal profession, most notably as the District Attorney of New Orleans.

First elected in 1973, he replaced the late Jim Garrison (who also enjoyed celebrity status as the world-famous protagonist of the Lee Harvey Oswald/John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy theory) and has been reelected ever since. To defeat an incumbent in a New Orleans election is no small task. To defeat a Jim Garrison with 100% name recognition, which Harry Connick accomplished on his second try, borders on the phenomenal and stands a tribute to Connick's ability to communicate with the public - a fact his listening audiences are well aware of.

"Harry Connick" continued on Page 3



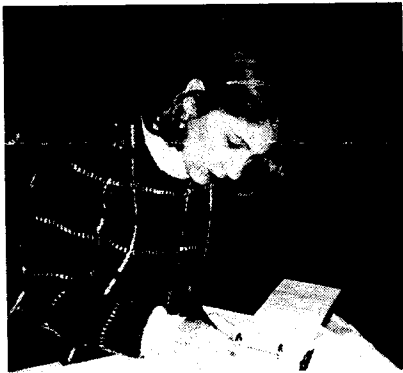
CHITIMACHA

TRIBE OF LOUISIANA



Chief Judge Cameron B. Simmons

On January 26, LPA's Seminar Series for the year 2000 was kicked off with a unique seminar at the City Club. Cameron B. Simmons, Chief Judge of the Chitimacha Tribal Court, and Tribal Court Director, Shirleen B. Fitzgerald, traveled from Charington to explain laws, rules and procedures of the Chitimacha Tribal Court. After an interesting and informative presentation, attendees learned that, under the Chitimacha Comprehensive Codes of Justice, paralegals can petition for admission and enroll to serve as "Lay Counselors" to represent tribal members in Chitimacha Indian Tribal Court. Forms to enroll as an advocate were distributed to interested members and may be obtained by calling Ms. Fitzgerald at Tribal Court. We have been invited to tour the new Court facilities in Charington. Anyone interested in taking a "Field Trip" to the Chitimacha Indian Tribal Courthouse in Charington is asked to contact Liz Guidry at 233-4424.



*Kathy Dempsey
(taking Care of Business)*



*Tribal Court Director,
Shirleen Fitzgerald,
and Liz Guidry*



Linda Moncla and Savannah Stephan visit with Judge Simmons



*Michelle Moran and Savanna Stephan
enjoying Judge Simmons' presentation*

While in high school, the young district-attorney-to-be followed the music of the big band era and its vocalists, learning the lyrics to all of the popular songs of the day by listening to the radio and records and by purchasing (at 10 cents a copy) the weekly song books which proliferated during that time. After high school, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, before returning to New Orleans and graduating from Loyola University with a degree in business administration. He then joined the U.S. Corps of Engineers where he met his wife, the late Anita Connick (an accomplished flute player) who became one of the first female judges in the City of New Orleans. (He is presently married to Londa Jean Matherne.)

When Harry and Anita Connick returned to New Orleans, they opened a record store, which became quite successful. Ultimately they owned two stores while simultaneously pursuing law degrees--one working in the store while the other was at school. The stores enabled the Connicks to pursue their musical interests while generating enough earnings to graduate with law degrees from Tulane. Along the way, they produced two remarkable children, a daughter Suzanna and Harry, Jr. At that point a career decision had to be made. The law won and show business lost, though temporarily, as history has shown.

Harry Connick, Sr. served as an attorney for the New Orleans Legal Aid Bureau and as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He was honored by the U.S. Attorney General for superior performance while an assistant U.S. attorney and by LSU for outstanding service in law enforcement training. He has served as Vice-President and President of the Criminal Bar Association.

Connick has received national recognition for his establishment of a Career Criminal Bureau to track and prosecute violent, multiple offenders, a Victim/Witness Assistance Program to guide victims of crime through the criminal justice program. His child support enforcement division collects millions of dollars from runaway parents for care of their children. One of the major accomplishments of his administration has been a drastic reduction in the plea bargaining by the DA's office. Now less than 10%, prior to Connick, nearly 80% of cases involved plea-bargaining.

Today, during his fourth term in office, Connick's goals are much the same as when he first took office. He has pledged to provide speedy, fair and equitable justice and to continue to express his deep concern, not only in the area of rehabilitation of offenders, but

also in the area of assistance to the often forgotten victims of crime.

In 1993, the Harry Connicks, Sr. and Jr., and other New Orleanians associated with the entertainment industry formed the Krewe of Orpheus, a Mardi Gras organization with emphasis on the musical talents of the city of New Orleans. In that same year, Connick helped form and was elected President of the Voter Information League, a political reform group dedicated to a much-needed upgrading of the New Orleans political scene.

In the midst of all this activity, if you happen to hear the kind of voice that the music world seldom has the good fortune to hear these days, turn around and give a listen--it might be Harry Connick, Senior. Mark your calendar and join us on February 16 at the City Club to meet this diverse gentlemen who will swear in LPA's new Officers and then share some memories with us. ❖

LPA BOARD MEMBERS 1999-2000

President - Kaye Pooler	266-1190
VP/Membership - Angella Rayon, CLA	237-1660
Secretary - Savannah Stephan, CLA	291-1212
Corrsp. Secretary - Michelle Moran, CLA	234-2355
Treasurer - Kathy Dempsey, CLA	289-9555
Parliamentarian - Lupe Acosta	237-7135
Program/Social - Cheryl Myers Hoffpauir	237-1660
Program/Social - Liz Guidry	233-4424
Job Bank - Peggy Connick Drennan	266-1152
Education - Mary Margaret Comeaux CLA	237-7135
LVL Liaison - Molly D. Fabacher	266-1166

Welcome New Members!

- Clarissa Bertrand - Active - Preis, Kraft & Roy*
- Leslie A. Hale - Active - Preis, Kraft & Roy*
- Linda Moncla, CLA - Active - Allen & Gooch*
- Janice Rochon - Active - Preis, Kraft & Roy*
- Ginger S. Swan - Active - Preis, Kraft & Roy*
- Holly N. Fontenot - Associate - Preis, Kraft & Roy*

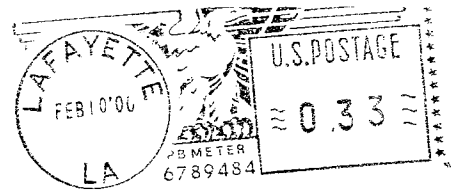
Total Membership 88!

Thanks to Sustaining Members for their continued support

- The Onebane Firm ♦ Preis, Kraft & Roy ♦ The Andrus Law Firm James Kirk*
- Piccione/Piccione & Piccione*
- Valerie Gaar-Ferrante/Scan Solutions*



Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 2775
Lafayette, LA 70502



NEXT MONTH
"SECURING THE ACCIDENT SCENE"

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc. announces its

ANNUAL MEETING

Elections of Officers for 2000-2001
Amendments to By-Laws and Standing Rules and . . .

Special presentation by

HARRY CONNICK, SR.
New Orleans District Attorney

Wednesday
February 16, 2000
12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
City Club of Lafayette

Buffet Lunch (includes Dessert, Tea & Coffee) - \$13.50

Soup & Salad (includes Coffee & Tea - No Dessert) - \$8.50

Reservations Required by Noon, Monday, February 14 - Call Kaye at 266-1190