

**The Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Presents—
The 2nd Annual Spring Seminar and Crawfish Boil
“Evidence, Disclosures and a Little Lagniappe”**

When: April 27, 2023 (Thursday)
Where: Lafayette Federal Court House – Courtroom 1
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM (Crawfish Boil from 3:15 till 5:00)
CLE: Yes, Five (5) Hours
Cost: FBA members: \$100
Non-members: \$150
Attire: “Federal Court Casual”
Polos / Golf shirts are acceptable
Suit and ties are discouraged.
No shorts

Please make plans to attend the 2nd Annual Spring Seminar and Crawfish Boil—sponsored by the Lafayette/Acadiana Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. **This year’s program is titled “Evidence, Disclosures and a Little Lagniappe,” and will include as panelists all of the United States District, Magistrate and Bankruptcy Judges from the Lafayette Division of the Western District of Louisiana, as well as one of the District Court Judges from the Middle District of Louisiana.** Please see the Schedule and Faculty listing below, which provides a description of each of the five (5) hourlong sessions being offered as part of this program. The seminar will be followed by crawfish and drinks in the parking lot adjacent to the Federal Courthouse. What’s more, one of Lafayette’s premier events is set to kick off following the crawfish boil: **Festival International.**

Schedule and Faculty

8:30 – 9:00 Arrive at the Courthouse (Coffee and Donuts Served)

I. Evidence and Disclosures

**9:00 – 10:00 A Refresher Course on Evidence
(Judge deGravelles, James Boren)**

Judge deGravelles and James Boren will focus on common issues practitioners encounter in meeting their evidentiary burden in federal cases, from admissibility and elements of proof, to dealing with relevance and hearsay objections.

**10:00 – 11:00 Rule 26 – Initial Disclosure and Discovery Plans
(Judge Whitehurst, Judge Ayo, Cliff LaCour)**

Many attorneys view the Rule 26(f) conference as a perfunctory obligation. This could prove costly, as a poorly developed and executed Rule 26(f) conference and corresponding discovery plan can lead to discovery disputes, which in turn may lead to increased costs to litigants, including the possibility of sanctions. Join Judges Whitehurst and Ayo as they lead a panel discussion on practical tips for planning and preparing for Rule 26(f) conferences and the development of an efficient discovery plan.

11:00 – 11:15 Break

**11:15 – 12:15 Rule 26 – Expert Disclosures
(Judge Joseph, Karen King, Nick Blanda)**

It has been more than 10 years since Rule 26 was amended related to the retention and use of expert witnesses. The changes left several matters open to judicial interpretation, and local customs and practices have also flavored how this rule is applied. Judge Joseph will moderate a panel of attorneys with experience handling the disclosure and use of expert reports in trial, including tips as to when disclosures are due. This session will also include a discussion of best practices for avoiding disputes with opposing counsel over the scope of disclosure, and for ensuring compliance with not only the letter of the Rule, but with the local practices and procedures in the Lafayette Division of the WDLA.

12:15 – 1:00 Light Lunch Served

II. Lagniappe

**1:00 – 2:00 The Intersection of Mass Tort MDLs with Bankruptcy Law
(Judge Summerhays, Gary Russo)**

Lafayette attorney Gary Russo has been in the center of a few multidistrict litigation cases (MDL) in the past few years. He served as a Special Master in the ACTOS MDL that was seated in Lafayette, and as a mediator in the Johnson and Johnson talc litigation. He, along with Judge Summerhays, will provide an insider's view of MDL's, beginning with a description of how certain cases become MDLs and the rules for their formation, to the criteria used by courts to establish the pretrial issues to be resolved in the MDL. This discussion will also focus on what is known nationally as the "Texas two-step" for potentially moving a mass tort MDL into bankruptcy court. The session will also discuss the Third Circuit Court of Appeal's recent dismissal of Johnson and Johnson's bankruptcy case.

**2:00 – 3:00 Help! My Client Needs to File a Claim in Bankruptcy Court
(Judge Kolwe, Madison Tucker)**

Perhaps you have been representing a client in a collection matter, and just as you are preparing to file suit, the debtor files bankruptcy. What do you do? Judge Kolwe will lead a discussion that highlights the seven steps a non-bankruptcy attorney should take when facing this situation.

3:15 – 5:00 Crawfish Boil – Please join us in the parking lot adjacent to the Federal Courthouse for crawfish and drinks.

Registration Fees:

- Current FBA member*: \$100.00
- NOT an FBA member: \$150.00

*To verify your FBA membership status, contact the FBA's Membership Department at: membership@fedbar.org or call: (571) 481-9100

Registration Submission & Payment:

- **Online:** bit.ly/FBAseminar (NOTE: the link is case sensitive)
- **Mail In:** Completed registration form and check payable to the Federal Bar Association, Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter (TIN: 22-3900233) are to be mailed to FBA Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter, P.O. Box 2034, Lafayette, LA 70501

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