

MARY NELL BENNETT

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Phone: (504) 525-2200

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Louisiana State Bar, October 2009
Notary Public, Commissioned for Life

EDUCATION

Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana (May 2009)

Juris Doctor, GPA: 3.228, Top 26%

- Recipient of the Warren E.W. Mouldoux Memorial Scholarship
- Recipient of the Joseph V. Bologna Award for Civil Law Property I
- Asterisk: Civil Law Property, Civil Law Donations & Trusts, White Collar Crimes
- Moot Court Board, Alumni Chair

The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi (December 2005)

Bachelor of Business Administration, Banking & Finance, GPA: 3.48

Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, GPA: 3.51, *Cum Laude*

- The University of Mississippi Women's Volleyball Team, Full Scholarship, 2001 – 2005
- All-State Insurance, Student Athlete of the Week, 2004
- Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll, 2002-2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Owners' Counsel of America, ALI-CLE, Co-Presenter, January 2017

LSBA/LJC Summer School, Update in Expropriation Law, Instructor, 2016-2017

NBI CLE, Eminent Domain From Start to Finish Seminar, Presenter, May 20, 2015

Moot Court Program, Legal Research & Writing Teaching Assistant, January 2008 – May 2008

LAW FIRM EXPERIENCE

Smith & Fawer, LLC

Senior Associate Attorney, April 2012 – Present

- Primarily involved in eminent domain and property litigation throughout the state
- Second chaired numerous trials in Louisiana state courts on behalf of landowners eminent domain litigation, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - *St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District v. Violet Dock Port, Inc., LLC*, 147 So.3d 1266 (La. App. 4 Cir. 8/27/2014) (eminent domain case involving the take of a private port facility by a government agency; currently pending before the Louisiana Supreme Court)
 - *Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government v. Henry J. Richard, et al.*, ---So.3d---, 2016 WL 3128258 (La. App. 1 Cir. 6/2/16) (eminent domain jury trial involving the partial taking of a restaurant supply store by a government agency)
 - *South Lafourche Levee Dist. v. Chad M. Jarreau, et al.*, 217 So.3d 298 (La. 3/31/17) (eminent domain matter involving the taking of real property and an existing dirt business by a levee district; Petition for Certiorari docketed by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Chad M. Jarreau, et al. v. South Lafourche Levee District*, Case No. 17-163, 8/2/17)
 - *Board of Sup'rs of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College v. Michael P. Villavaso*, 183 So.3d 757 (La. App. 4 Cir. 12/23/15) (eminent domain judge trial involving the taking of a parking lot; successfully obtained verdict in favor of the landowner)
 - *Board of Sup'rs of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College v. Carlo Dematteo*, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Parish of Orleans (eminent domain 4 day jury trial; successfully obtained verdict in favor of the landowner)
 - *Board of Sup'rs of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College v. Bondreaux's Tire & Auto Repair, LLC*, 133 So.3d 1262 (La. App. 4 Cir. 3/5/14) (eminent domain 5 day jury trial involving the taking of a former automobile repair shop; successfully obtained verdict in favor of landowner)

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LAW FIRM EXPERIENCE CONT'D

Smith & Fawer, LLC (Cont'd)

Senior Associate Attorney, April 2012 – Present

- Assisted in securing over \$10 million dollars in verdicts against the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on behalf of landowners related to the post-Katrina LSU/VA Hospital Project (UMC)
- Assisted in obtaining over \$1.5 million in judgments for a business against the government of Terrebonne Parish (over 7 times the amount offered)
- Participated in appellate oral arguments throughout the state, and primarily in the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Responsible for maintaining and handling heavy case file load (taking and defending depositions, attending hearings, preparing and responding to discovery requests, motion practice, mediations, arbitrations, and trial preparations)
- Trial experience examining and cross-examining expert and lay witnesses
- Other practice areas include: title work, insurance defense, professional liability litigation, complex commercial litigation, business litigation, construction defect litigation, community property litigation, white collar criminal defense

Neblett, Beard & Arsenault, Alexandria, Louisiana

Associate Attorney, September 2010 – March 2012

- Handled numerous Multidistrict litigation cases throughout the country, including, but not limited to:
 - *In re: Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices & Products Liability Litigation* (10ml2151) (C.D. CA);
 - *In re: Medtronic, Inc. Sprint Fidelis Leads Products Liability Litigation* (08-md-01905) (D. MN);
 - *In re: Nuvaring* (14-md-1964) (E.D. MO);
 - *In re: Bisphenol-A (BPA) Polycarbonate Plastic Products Liability Litigation* (10-cv-00301) (W.D. MO);
 - *In re: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon"* (10-md-02179) (E.D. LA);
 - *In re: Kaba Simplex Marketing & Sales Practice Litigation* (11-md-0222) (N.D. OH)
 - *In re: POM Wonderful LLC Marketing & Sales Practices Litigation* (10-md-02199) (C.D. CA)
- Argued on two separate occasions before the Multidistrict litigation panel (Louisville, KY; Savannah, GA);
- Participated in several Rule 30(b)(6) depositions;
- Traveled weekly throughout the country and lived in Minnesota for more than two months during the finalization of the *Medtronic Litigation, supra*, assisting with the administrative claims process

Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, New Orleans, Louisiana

Honorable Lynda Van Davis

Law Clerk, October 2009 – September 2010

United States Department of Justice, New Orleans, Louisiana

United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana

Judicial Intern, September 2008 – May 2009

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Admitted to Practice in all Districts in Louisiana
Federal Bar Association, Member
Louisiana Bar Association, Member
New Orleans Bar Association, Member
Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, Board Member
HOGS for the Cause, Advisory Board Member