

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, January 21, 2016
CONTACT: Ruth Wisher, aglandrynews@ag.state.la.us or 225-326-6780

Attorney General Jeff Landry Names Civil Transition Committee

BATON ROUGE, LA - Today, Attorney General Jeff Landry announced his Civil Division Transition Committee Members who will be interviewing existing and potential employees and will be making recommendations to improve the Department of Justice.

"As we work to build the best Department of Justice possible, we will rely on input from all the people of our great state," said General Landry. "I trust the leaders named today will help with our continued transition of the agency."

The Members are as follows:

Bernard Bagert is the former Chairman of the Louisiana House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and the former Vice-Chairman of the Louisiana State Senate Civil Law Committee. He is a practicing attorney in New Orleans with nearly five decades of legal experience. Bagert earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University and his law degree from Loyola University College of Law, where Student Body President and Member of the Law Review.

Dane Ciolino serves as the A.R. Christovich Distinguished Professor of Law at the Loyola University College of Law and is the editor of the weblog *Louisiana Legal Ethics* and the book *Louisiana Legal Ethics: Standards and Commentary*. He previously served as Chairman of a Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee and of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana Lawyer Disciplinary Committee. Ciolino earned his bachelor's degree from Rhodes College and his law degree from Tulane University Law School, where he was Editor in Chief of the Law Review.

Ellis Daigle is a retired judge from the 27th Judicial District, a position he held for nearly a decade. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney for the 27th Judicial District. Daigle earned his bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Oswald DeCuir is a retired judge from the Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, a position he held for 20 years. He previously served 17 years as a Louisiana State Senator and one year as a law clerk for the Louisiana Supreme Court. DeCuir earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Tulane University Law School.

Scott Guidry is General Counsel of Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. in Lafayette. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney for the 15th Judicial District. Guidry earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center, and is currently working towards a master's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Penya Moses-Fields is an Assistant District Attorney for the 1st Judicial District Attorney's Office. She previously served as the Chief Legal Officer for the City of New Orleans and an Assistant District Attorney for the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Office. Fields earned her bachelor's degree from Grambling State University, her law degree from Loyola University College of Law, and her master's in law from Villanova University School of Law.

Tom Fuselier is a retired judge from the 13th Judicial District, a position he held for 12 years. In addition to teaching criminal justice at Louisiana State University at Eunice, he has over three decades of experience in business and law. Fuselier earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University, his master's degree from Louisiana State University, and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Luke LaVergne is a retired judge from the East Baton Rouge Family Court, a position he held for two decades. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in East Baton Rouge. A veteran of the United States Air Force – LaVergne earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, his master's degree from Southern Illinois University, and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Art Lentini is a practicing attorney in Metairie with nearly 40 years of legal experience. He previously served 12 years in the Louisiana State Senate, serving eight years as the Senate parliamentarian. A veteran of the Army Reserve, Lentini earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Frank McGee is a retired judge from the 27th Judicial District, a position he held for 11 years. He has been practicing law in Eunice since 1964. A military veteran, McGee earned his bachelor's degree from Spring Hill College and his law degree from Tulane University Law School.

Mary Dawn Pugh is a facilitator of the Anti-Defamation League's A World of Difference Program. She was previously the Forrester Fellow and a Legal Writing Instructor at Tulane University Law School. Pugh earned her bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University, her master's degree from New York University, and her law degree from Tulane University Law School.

Gus Rantz is the President and Senior Partner of Acadiana Management Group. He is a member of the American Health Lawyer's Association. Rantz earned his bachelor's degree from Missouri Valley College and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Robert Schromm is Manager of Governmental Affairs and assistant in-house counsel for the Louisiana Chemical Association. He was previously an attorney in private practice. Schromm earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and his law degree from Loyola University College of Law.

Stephen Waguespack is the President of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. He

previously served as Executive Counsel and Chief of Staff for Governor Bobby Jindal. Waguespack earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from the Columbus School of Law.

Darrell White is a retired judge from Baton Rouge City Court, a position he held for two decades. He is the Founder and President of the American Judicial Alliance. A 29-year veteran of the Louisiana Army National Guard and recipient of the "Minuteman Award" as U.S. Army National Guard's Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year, White earned his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center.

Kenneth Michael Wright is a member of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, a position he has held since 2013. He has over three decades of experience in practicing law in Louisiana. Wright received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Loyola University College of Law.

#