

# letter from the president

BY PRESTON J. CASTILLE JR.

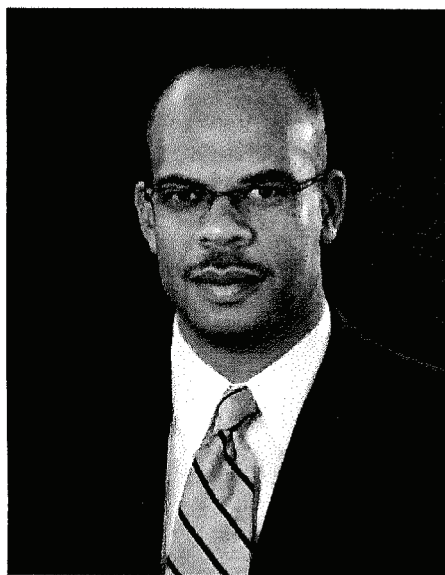
## Making sausage

Many have quipped that the legislative process is like “making sausage,” that is, although we enjoy the product, it is an unsavory process to watch.

When our bar foundation launched the Junior Partners Academy program at Dalton Elementary in January, we played a game with the third graders called SELURON. SELURON is NO RULES spelled backwards. Melanie Fields and Gail Grover started the game by having the students stand in the middle of the room and simply telling them, “PLAY!” Of course, they all looked around and began yelling, “How? You didn’t give us the instructions. You didn’t tell us the rules of the game.” Gail and Melanie responded, “You want rules?”

And so the fun began. They were told to break up into four rows of varying lengths and pass a pencil from one end to the other. Sounds simple. But, once the game started again, Judges Bill Morvant, Trudy White and Darrel White interrupted and said they were supposed to be hopping on one leg, and then the kids were told they were supposed to be twirling all the way around. Passing, hopping and twirling, the children tried to play the game. Then suddenly a winner was declared. “Hey, that’s not fair!” the kids complained.

Our little “junior partners” explained to us the game was unfair because they needed rules and the rules needed to be clear and not change so frequently. Sounds like good advice for any legislative body or any government.



Preston J. Castille Jr.

This month we celebrate the Rule of Law at our annual Law Day program, where the guest speaker will be U.S. Congressman William Cassidy. Again this year as hundreds of children observe, our federal court will naturalize several new Americans at the program. Watching would-be citizens eagerly embrace our democracy and American way of life is one of my favorite parts of the celebration. It’s a reminder that others around the world crave the freedom and system of justice that has made America the envy of so many.

As we celebrate Law Day, our Louisiana legislature will be preparing for the upcoming session. As Louisiana’s manufacturer of laws, the legislature has the privilege and responsibility of maintaining our democracy by ensuring we have laws that protect and preserve this American way of life. Our legislators are entrusted with making certain that we are governed by laws that are just. From their laws, each community of our state will experience freedom and justice. Of course, justice is oftentimes a by-product of what is manufactured in what some call the “sausage making factory.”

The local bar is fortunate to have two senators and four state representatives as members. We are thrilled they have all agreed to join us this month for our March Community Justice Symposium: “Legislating Justice,” hosted by the Public Law Practice Section. While our state struggles with education, crime and the economy, we look forward to hearing from our legislative colleagues and their solutions for enhancing our system of justice through new and amended laws.

While perhaps a little unsavory to watch, we know that our Louisiana legislature is capable of much more than just making delicious sausage, or andouille and boudin, as we prefer in my hometown. Although we expect a great product from our delegation, most south Louisianians will tell you that with the right group of friends, making sausage can actually be as much fun as the outcome. Please join us this month with our good friends at the legislature and enjoy the flavor of what’s cooking at the Capitol this session. ■