

LEGAL SECRETARIES OF
NEW ORLEANS & THE RIVER REGION

presents

AMICUS CURIAE

(“Friend of the Court”)

VOLUME 2018-2

FEBRUARY 2018

**FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOTICE**

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Bistro Orleans Metairie
3216 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002

PRICE: Order from the menu

SPEAKER: Attorney Kiana Aaron Mitchell

TOPIC: Worker’s Compensation

Join us for our February membership meeting and bring a friend.

RSVP TO [Nedra Roper,](mailto:neddiened7777@gmail.com)
neddiened7777@gmail.com by 3:00 p.m.,
Friday, February 23rd.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We’ve now made and abandoned our New Year’s resolutions and rolled through Mardi Gras! Where does the time go?

I want to thank you for attending the Planning Session in January. Your input is very much appreciated and crucial to the activities and events of LSNORR. There are still some committees that NEED YOU to serve as chairman. They are Ways & Means, Family

Outing and Christmas Luncheon/Installation of Officers. These are great opportunities to get engaged, contribute to LSNORR and have a lot of fun! If anyone is interested in chairing one of these committees or wants more information on what it entails, please email or call me.

We had a great turnout for our January membership meeting and I believe everyone thoroughly enjoyed Jim Letten being our guest speaker for the evening. He has so much experience having served as U.S. Attorney for many years and I think we’d all agree that we could listen to him for hours without ever tiring.

Details of our February meeting is shown above. Please plan to attend the meeting and bring a friend and/or co-worker with you. It’s a good way to introduce someone to our Association who may, in turn, become one of us!

Let us all work together and make 2018 the best year ever!

MEMBERSHIP

It’s not too late to renew your membership. You can send your dues of \$17 to Jennifer Taulli. New members can join for only \$12. A membership application is attached.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

There is still time for corporate members to renew their membership for \$35.00. Newsletter advertisement is still available, though optional. A corporate membership application is attached.

REMINDER

Remember to notify Jennifer Taulli of any change in your name, address, firm, telephone and fax numbers.



February 2, 2018

COURT NEWS - 22ND JDC

Judge William Burriss is now presiding over the cases for Division "G" in the 22nd JDC. Judge Gardner has been transferred to Division "E."

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS.

Meet our new member; Myrna Montiville

Self-appointed best hostess for grandchildren's 4th year birthday parties.

I am one of the very fortunate people to realize early on what is important in life and what is not. I am not a wearer of jewelry, fancy this or that, flashy car, or the newest of anything, I don't care to make the most money, but if I did I would spend it all on the most important things in my life, my children and grandchildren, and I have to admit my very picky giant white bull dogosaurus. I am blessed and happy at my job, but if offered the right money, would retire in a minute.

Throughout my life I've had a super ability to adapt which has served me well. I feel it's a gift from God. I am a very happy person with a very calm and quiet life. I do argue with my dog a bit, because he thinks he is the boss.

One of my very favorite guidelines, that is not in the Bible (I have a lot of those) is by Dr. Seuss, a very wise man indeed:

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not"



February 13, 2018



February 14, 2018

Reach for the Stars
Live for every Moment
Dance Like No One Is Watching
Sing Like No One's Listening
LOVE Like There is no Tomorrow
Follow Your Dreams
Laugh Choose with No Regret
Smile Unconditionally

Happy Valentine's Day

February 14, 2018

Wishing 'Happy Valentine's Day' to all We Love

In the beginning, Valentine's Day was associated with romantic couples only but in recent times the festival is seen in much larger perspective. Now, people take opportunity of the day to wish 'Happy Valentine's Day' to anyone they love, be it father, mother, teachers, siblings, friends, co-workers or just anyone special to them. The idea behind this tradition is to celebrate love, get love and give love to everyone around us.

During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas.

RECIPE CORNER

This month is all about romance and love, so here are some favorite to prepare on Valentine's Day. There's still time for you to impress your loved ones this month!

Red Velvet Cheesecake

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs

- 2 ounces semi-sweet baking chocolate, melted
- 1 tablespoon red food color
- 1 prepared chocolate crumb crust, (6 ounces)

PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating on low speed after each addition just until blended.
- Measure 1 cup batter into medium bowl. Stir in melted chocolate and food color. Pour into crust. Top with remaining (plain) cheesecake batter.
- Bake 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely on wire rack.
- Refrigerate 3 hours or overnight.

Surprise Raspberry Heart Cupcakes

INGREDIENTS

12 (1 cupcake) Servings

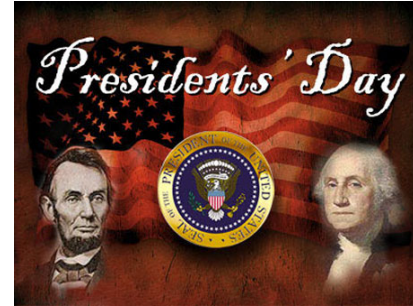
- 1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix
- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons Raspberry extract, divided
- 24 drops red food color
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 5 tablespoons heavy cream

PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare cake mix as directed on package. Remove 1 1/2 cups of the batter to medium bowl. Stir in 1 tablespoon of the raspberry flavor and red food color. Pour into greased 8-inch square baking pan. Reserve remaining batter.
- Bake 12 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Cut out 12 heart shapes with 1-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter. Set aside.
- Stir vanilla into reserved batter. Pour 1/2 off the batter evenly into 12 paper-lined muffin cups. Press 1 cake heart vertically into center of each muffin cup. Pour remaining batter over top.

Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until top of cupcake is set. Cool cupcakes on wire rack.

- Meanwhile, beat butter and remaining 2 teaspoons raspberry flavor in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually add confectioners' sugar alternately with cream, beating well after each addition and scraping sides and bottom of bowl frequently. Frost cooled cupcakes with frosting.



February 19, 2018

Be Mine Marshmallow Bars

INGREDIENTS

24 Servings

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 package (10 ounces) marshmallows
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 10 to 12 drops red food color
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal
- Valentine's Day conversation hearts, for garnish

PREPARATION

- Line 13x9-inch baking pan with foil. Lightly butter or spray foil with no stick cooking spray.
- Melt butter in large saucepan or Dutch oven on low heat. Add marshmallows; stir constantly until marshmallows are melted. Remove from heat.
- Stir in vanilla and food color until smooth. Quickly add cereal to marshmallow mixture and stir until well coated. Press into prepared pan using a buttered spatula. Sprinkle with Valentine's Day conversation hearts. Cool. Cut into bars or use heart-shaped cookie cutters.

*The Only Person
You Should Try to Be
Better than is the
Person You Were
Yesterday*

Please send in any recipes you would like to share. We also welcome any news you would like to share, births, anniversaries or accomplishments. We love your input.

2018 Elected Officers:

President:	Faye Lepre	mfl@mmpfirm.com ; mflep39@gmail.com
Vice President:	Jennifer Taulli	jtaulli@gmail.com jtaulli@joneswalker.com
Recording Secretary	Tess Bodden	tessmart@att.net
Corresponding Secretary:	Renee Goldstein	Rgoldstein@kuchlerpolk.com reneeGoldstein@cox.net
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Committees:

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Family Outing	OPEN	
Ways and Means	OPEN	
Website (www.lsnorr.org)	Jennifer Taulli	jtaulli@gmail.com ; jtaulli@joneswalker.com

LSNORR Guest Speaker Recap

Jim Letten Gives Lesson on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

Jim Letten spoke at LSNORR's membership meeting on January 30, 2018. His topic: US laws governing US persons and companies doing business internationally—in order to prevent bribery. This is a recap of what we learned.

Who is Jim Letten?

To many local residents, Jim Letten needs no introduction. He is a familiar name and face, having served as a US Attorney in New Orleans for over a decade. He has practiced law for 39 years and currently works for the law firm of Butler Snow in New Orleans.

What is FCPA?

Letten described the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) as a US law enacted in 1977 that carries criminal penalties. FCPA regulates the act of giving anything of value to any foreign official for any kind of business advantage. Examples include expediting permits or extending contracts with anyone from custom officials to heads of state.

Who Needs To Know?

Broadly, FCPA applies to any person or entity connected to anyone in a foreign country. Letten explained that this can include an actual company (whether public or private, no matter the size), its employees, or even contractors that deal with the company.

Why Was It Enacted?

The US saw that there was corruption, Letten said, and also recognized that corruption affects trades like human trafficking and counterfeiting—and even larger threats, like terrorism.

Although Letten said that the US was a "lone wolf" when it first created FCPA, over time countries worldwide began developing similar laws.

Accounting Provision

FCPA contains an accounting provision, which Letten said technically only applies to companies that issue stock, although private companies could also benefit from following it. According to the provision, the company must maintain records of ALL payments made, and the records must conform to general accounting principles.

Why should private companies care if they don't really have to comply? As

an example, Letten said that maybe a disgruntled employee blows the whistle to authorities. What happens? You get visited by federal and state investigators. Now, if you have documented every transaction—every transaction—Letten indicated the government will see you have a "culture of compliance."

And, if you've kept detailed records, you will have recorded small bribes. Wait, what? Hold that thought.

Bribes

Letten said the US knows that if you do business outside of the country, it's *when*, not *if* one of your field employees pays a bribe. "Everyone messes up," Letten said. There's a catch phrase for bribery and the culture of gift-giving: "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

He said that huge, well-known companies have been prosecuted for doing things like spending millions on cash bribes. Think of a multi-million dollar loan that you don't expect to be repaid.

Interestingly, Letten added, some use more subtle methods, like hosting a seminar. Harmless? On the surface, perhaps; but then consider that it's in a resort venue, lasts several weeks, and the attendees get treated to cars, cash, and other entertaining incentives.

Small Bribe Provision

Let's mentally go back to where we talked about recording small bribes. Letten explained that the official terms are "facilitating payments" or "greasing payments."

Interestingly, Letten explained that FCPA includes an exception for a small bribe. He detailed the requirements: the payment must be small, cover a minor, non-discretionary thing, and be logged as a facilitating payment. He said that the US government looks for accurate and honest records, and if these are provided, they know you are doing your best to abide by the law.

And when do these small bribes come up? More often than you might think. He offered an example.

One of your field employees is overseas driving a truck down a road, and it's filled with produce. Your truck gets stopped by men who are collecting fees, and they won't allow

anyone to continue on without paying. So, your driver pays.

Self-Reporting

Letten said the US created a self-reporting program for times when a company finds a huge internal violation, such as an executive creating a dummy corporation that funnels millions into bribes.

When this discovery comes to light, you have an "uh oh" moment and consider your options. He said you could take a risk and keep it quiet. But if the government finds out, then everyone who helped to hide it will probably get arrested. On top of that, the company will pay a huge fine and might even go out of business.

Letten said the other (better) option is to quickly self-report the violation, disclose any remedial actions taken, and open your books to show your culture of compliance.

Based on Letten's experience, if these steps are followed there is a presumption that no criminal action will be pursued against the company. The government knows that companies will sometimes find employees who violate the FCPA.

Importance of Compliance

Since going into private practice, Letten found that the importance of FCPA compliance pops up in mergers and acquisitions. (Side note: he really enjoys M&As.) Consider that maybe a company wants to buy your subsidiary. The buyer wants a certification that your company is compliant with FCPA. Why is this a good idea?

Letten said that a big reason is that more companies are purchased with delayed payouts. Let's say as part of the purchase, the buyer offers \$25M now and \$10M in two years. Then you find out the buyer has a deferred prosecution agreement. So if they have to spend money on attorney's fees and settlements, will you get your second payment?

- To learn more about Jim Letten and his firm, Butler Snow, please visit www.butlersnow.com.

- For more details about FCPA, visit www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/foreign-corrupt-practices-act.

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**Legal Secretaries of the New Orleans & the River Region
2018 Renewal/Membership Application**

Name: _____
If you are renewing membership and none of your information has changed since last year, please print name and return the form to the Vice-President.

Home Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Personal E-Mail: _____

Firm Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Office Phone: _____

Office E-Mail: _____

Recommended By: _____

LSNORR - Individual Membership Dues..... \$12.00 per year*

*Pursuant to the By-laws of LSNORR, dues for 2018 are \$17.00 and are due January 1, 2018. However, members paying their dues during the month of January are only required to pay \$12.00. **Any member paying dues after January 31, 2018, should pay \$17.00. New members pay \$12.00.**

Please attach a check for membership dues payable to LSNORR.

Return to: Jennifer Taulli
LSNORR Vice-President
c/o Jones Walker LLP
201 St. Charles Avenue, 49th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70170-5100
Phone: (504) 582-8197
E-Mail: jtaulli@joneswalker.com

Date of Check:

Date Received:

Amount of Check:

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Legal Secretaries of New Orleans & River Region**

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Title/Position: _____
Firm/Business: _____
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Please select the committee(s) you would like to sponsor:

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LSNORR Corporate Membership Dues.....\$35.00 per year
Newsletter Advertising (Business Card Size Ad) (Optional)\$63.75 per year

Dues should be paid by January 31, 2018.

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Jennifer Taulli
LSNORR Vice-President
c/o Jones Walker LLP
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New Orleans, LA 70170-5100
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