



State & Local

Regina Bartholomew Campaign Kick Off

Newsmaker

Fr. Raphael "I'm Not Leaving"



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June 11 - June 24, 2011

Data News Weekly Cover Story

New Orleans Rebuilds…One Business at a Time 10,000 Small Business Initiative Fuels Growth



New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu speaks to graduates.



Graduates Jason B. Horne owner of XS Martial Arts Dojo and Validictorian Kendall Washington owner of Safe Spot Pest Control

Story and Photos by Edwin Buggage

New Orleans and 10,000 Small Businesses

When you look at the New Orleans skyline it is not one of a bustling business environment consisting of Fortune 500 companies. Conversely, it is a City where small business rules. It is a place of the "mom and pop" or mid-size business that still gives you a personal touch; this is how business is done in the Crescent City. In a post-Katrina environment entrepreneurship is on the upswing increasing to 450 of every 100,000 adults starting a business compared to 320 of every 100,000 adults nationally.

New Orleans has been chosen by Goldman Sachs who has launched 10,000 Small Businesses, a five-year initiative aimed to unlock the growth and job creation potential of 10,000 small businesses across the United States through greater access to business education, financial capital and business support services. The program is currently active in New York City and the greater Los Angeles Area.

Graduation Day

Recently, the inaugural class of 30 entrepreneurs were honored in a graduation ceremony at Delgado Community College with featured speakers including New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blenkfein, co-chairs of 10,000 Small Businesses Advisory Council, Renown Harvard Business School Michael Porter and Billionaire Businessman and Philanthropist Warren Buffett, who was the keynote speaker along with class valedictorian local business owner Kendall Washington.

The event started in grand New Orleans style with the St. Augustine Marching 100 playing as people rose to their feet some waving white handkerchiefs in the New Orleans second line tradition. The ceremony began with Mayor Mitch Landrieu giving words of inspiration to the graduates. Speaking of the historical magnitude of the City and its resurrection he remarked, "This is the continuation of the rebuilding of a great American City one American at a time."

In a city where the impediments of race and class division contribute to a city limping down the road to recovery, but on this day the graduates ranged from a cross section of New Orleanians on one accord, "This diversity that is on the stage is a sign of our strength and will empower our City moving for-

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Data News Weekly

Cover Story

June 11 - June 24, 2011

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Keynote speaker Billonaire Businessman and Philanthopist Warren Buffett.



Echoing the theme of empowerment, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein spoke about the future of American prosperity being tied to the continued growth of small businesses, "The country's ability to compete centers around small businesses because they have been what has historically created wealth in this country," said Blankfein. Also at the dais Harvard Business Professor Michael Porter, an expert on small business in distressed areas spoke of the transformational impact of the 10,000 Small Business Initiative on the City of New Orleans. "With this program we are giving deserving businesses the tools to help them become more successful in what they are already doing, essentially this program is less about a handout and more a hand up for business to set new goals for their companies and get to the next level."

A Few Words of Inspiration from Warren Buffett

If someone is to be giving advice on business and finances one would go to a person with a proven record of success. One of the heads of the Advisory Board of 10,000 Small Business is non-other-than Warren Buffett, the brilliant billionaire businessman who is an investor, industrialist and philanthropist. In 2011 he is the third wealthiest person in the world and beyond his economic wealth he is a wellspring of knowledge some of which he shared with the graduates and the audience. Buffett, the octogenarian cuts an unpretentious figure and is full of anecdotes and life lessons from his eight decades of life.

During his speech he shared several stories of entrepreneurs who had the will and the drive to make their businesses successful. First he told the story of Doris Christopher, a home economics teacher who had a dream of starting a business, "She was a Home Economics teacher who borrowed 3000 dollars against a life insurance policy and built her business 'Pampered Chef' into a company we eventually purchased for one billion dollars." Continuing he said, "It is about passion, intensity and focus are



St. Aug Purple Knights Band open up graduation ceremony.

important in making a business successful."

A story that has become popular lore in the speeches of Warren Buffett is the story of Rose Blumkin; a woman who came to America with nothing and through her passion and perseverance bought many members of her family over and built several successful businesses. Recounting her story he says, "Rose Blumkin is a woman who left Russia and she could not speak English, so she moved to Omaha and started selling used clothing, spending the money to bring over her parents and siblings." While a noble undertaking Blumkin had larger dreams that included starting her own business that began with 500 dollars she opened a furniture store and by 1983 in the U.S. her business was earning 6 million dollars a year. She went and worked till she was 103."

During his speech which was more conversational than a formal presentation in his folksy way with Buffett spewing his sage like message he continued by presenting a contract he wrote when he purchased Ms. Blumkin's business in 1983, "There was a lesson in this story for the group," he said. "I brought along the contract I typed up in 1983, when I purchased her business for 60 million dollars and it is one page and the signature page."

Continuing his anecdote Buffett says, "She had never had an audit of her business, and she told me in her own unique way 'she didn't owe nobody nothing' so I offered her 60 million and she only owned 20 percent of it because she had given shares to her children and she said we're taking it." Making a point that stuck with those in attendance Buffet went on to say, "The punch line to this story is her four children signed the contract and she scratched something next to her name because she could not read or write, she did not go to school a day in her life but what she brought to her business was a passion and she brought a principle that is more important than some of the other things that goes with running a business. She wanted to leave every customer delighted, not just satisfied. And in my many years in business I have never seen a business when they've left every customer delighted that it has not been successful. "

Taking Their Businesses to the Next Level

Kendall Washington is the owner of Safe Spot Pest Control and a graduate of the program. He was the valedictorian of this inaugural class appearing on Morning Joe on MSNBC aside Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Warren Buffett discussing his business and his road to rebuilding his company. He is a passionate articulate young man who is focused on continuing to grow his business and has a great love for his City.

Speaking of the 10,000 Small Businesses Program and how it benefited him to rebuild after Katrina he says, "When I saw this program was being offered I put on a full court press, and thought this is something I needed to be part of." Continuing with passion ringing in his voice, "I formed my business over seven years ago without a formal business plan. I just jumped out on fate. And like many other businesses we took a devastating hit when Katrina hit I probably lost 90 percent of my contracting customers." Of his struggle and upward climb he says, "I came back to the City and re-established my business while staying in a hotel room and worked from there for nine months, and through diligence and hard work we have re-emerged stronger than before. I have been able to secure more contracts and grow my business as a result of some of the things I've learned in the program."

Another participant in the program is Jason Horne who is the owner of XS Martial Arts Dojo. His business is more than just a place where kids learn the art of selfdefense; he serves as a mentor and guide giving young people the tools to be successful in life. Speaking of his student he says, "What I teach my students is that I remember seeing myself at that time and when a community leader Jerome Smith introduced me to a class in the martial arts, and now I am able to reach back and show them how to grow themselves and some of the things they learn such as discipline and having character are important traits they need to be a success in whatever they pursue in life. I teach student how to be selfmotivated and driven to lead in the future."

As a City with many small businesses but sometimes without adequate infrastructure and resources to grow beyond a certain point Horne says the Goldman Sachs initiative is a much needed program as the City rebuilds, "The biggest thing is with small businesses we have are often times not given the chance or support we need and through the Goldman Sachs Program we are given a chance to grow our businesses, and I appreciate how they have reached out to help businesses in the New Orleans area. Because I believe our success lends itself to the greater success of the City as we rebuild one business and one person at a time."

Kendall Washington was fortunate enough to spend time with the great business mind that is Warren Buffett and said he was delighted to meet and tap into his formula for success. Of his encounter he says, "Mr. Buffett is a big proponent of small business and he chose New Orleans because he knew we went through a lot in the past six years." Continuing he says, "We as small businesses are the gasoline that drives this economy, and we do not have many Fortune 500 companies so it is imperative that we grow from within." Of Buffett personality he says, "Mr. Buffett is very humble gentleman and is a role model and inspiration and he is excited about our potential for success and that's what truly inspired me and moving forward I feel the sky is the limit."

The City of New Orleans continues to struggle, but this program is a step in the right direction. This program perhaps can be the impetus and template to expedite the City of New Orleans reaching its full potential of becoming a greater city. To transform itself with people working together moving in a positive direction, as Kendall Washington speaks of the City he loves he sees a bright future ahead. "We have faced many challenges and the things we are going through and continue to go through we continue to fight to rebuild and we are winners. I haven't seen people fold their tent and run I've seen so many people come back and rebuild their homes our businesses and our families and I see nothing but growth on the horizon."



Celebration New Orleans style

St. Aug. Supporters Rally - Fr. Raphael Says "I'm Not Leaving"

Data News Staff Report Photos by Ray Bonne for **Bonnefied Images**

removal of Father John Raphael,

but during a rally organized and held at the school on Wednesday, Raphael said he will honor his Last weekend, the Josephite contract with the school's board Order announced the immediate of directors.

Father Raphael said his canon

lawyer advised him that his dismissal via telephone Friday and email Saturday is unquestionably invalid and most likely subject to canonical charge of abuse of power.

Board of Directors Chairman Troy Henry said the board alone has the authority to remove the school president, not the Josephite Order. Since the board has a contract with Raphael until next

spoke out at the rally about Raphael's abrupt removal. "Many others who took the road less traveled the path of suffering to change the culture of racism. The antagonists at that time were both



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Father John Rafael

summer, Raphael said he's decided to abide by the contract and remain at the school.

"I was happy to know that the Archbishop was grateful for the service that I have rendered to New Orleans, and I heard and I read that he had nothing to do with this. I do take him at his word so if he didn't have anything to do with it and he recognizes that this is an internal Josephite thing, and

outside and inside the church. In 2011, the antagonists are inside the church," said Father Joe Campion. The former St. Aug teacher and campus minister called what happened to Raphael over the weekend an injustice to a human being and the St. Aug institution.

"When differences arise as they often do, these differences ought to be resolved in private. Sometimes, as in the case here when



Lambert Boissier Jr.

he's grateful for the work that I've been doing, then he will be glad to have me back," said Raphael.

He said the dispute between the Archdiocese and the school started after Archbishop Aymond decided to end the longtime policy of paddling at St. Aug. Raphael supports paddling, and has been very vocal about it. He stressed that a lawsuit filed against an Archdiocese consultant is about defamation, not paddling. The consultant published a report that the school had injured students in paddling, but supporters have said that report is inaccurate and that injuries were never reported to authorities.

Well-known community members and a fellow Josephite priest



Families and supporters gather to rally for Father Rafael at St. Augustine's High School

fabrication, slander and conspiratorial abuses of authority descend upon a person as John Raphael and this great institution of St. Augustine High School of which he served so well, it becomes necessary for the light of truth to come to the darkness of ecclesiastical malice," said Campion.

"I'm deeply disappointed in his excellence. He has only been on this campus one time," said Orleans Parish Civil Court Judge Kern Reese, who's also a St. Aug alum.

Henry said the board is forming a task force to determine who owns the school and the best governance structure moving forward.

Mayor Landrieu Appoints Malachi Hull As New Ground Transportation Bureau Director

Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced the appointment of Malachi Hull as Deputy Director of the Department of Safety & Permits for the Ground Transportation division (aka Taxi Cab Bureau). The Ground Transportation Bureau is housed in the City's Department of Safety & Permits. In his new role, Hull will be tasked with leading an overhaul of the Bureau and make recommendations relating to the operations and oversight of taxi cabs, pedicabs, for-hire vehicles and carriages.

"We are engaging in the complete overhaul of both the way taxi cabs are regulated and the way the Bureau works internally," said Mayor Landrieu. "Malachi Malachi Hull



is uniquely qualified to lead our city's efforts and I welcome him back to New Orleans. I am confident that he will use his entrepreneurial approach and business leadership skills to lead the Bureau."

"As a native New Orleanian, I am humbled and honored to serve as a member of Mayor Landrieu's administration," said Hull. "I look forward to the opportunity to improve New Orleans' taxi cab industry, a vital component of our tourism economy."

Hull most recently served as Director of the Taxicab Bureau and Vehicles-for-Hire for the Atlanta Police Department. In this capacity since 2002, he managed the operational and financial activities of 3,500 vehicles-for-hire for 36 companies. He oversaw a \$1.7 million annual budget and led negotiations to establish effective labor, vendor and customer relationships.

"Bringing in Malachi is in line with our efforts to improve customer service across all departments at City Hall," said Deputy CAO, Ann Duplessis, who has performed an intensive review of the Ground Transportation Bureau in past months.

that AT&T has a demonstrated

commitment to diversity in its hir-

ing and in its selection of suppli-

ers. "Minority-owned firms make

up 20 percent of the company's

suppliers," the coalition said, "and

nearly 40 percent of AT&T's em-

Joining NAACP and NNPA in

• Melanie Campbell, President

• Albert E. Dotson Jr., Chairman

of 100 Black Men of America.

• Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever, Ex-

• Gary Flowers, CEO of the Black

• Susan Taylor, of the National

Cares Mentoring Movement

• Representative Barbara Ballard,

Caucus of State Legislators.

Elected Legislative Women. • Vanessa Williams, Executive

ence of Black Mayors.

cation Association.

ficials.

President of the National Black

Broome. President of the Na-

tional Organization of Black

Director of the National Confer-

Commissioner Arlanda Wil-

liams, President of the National

Association of Black County Of-

• Dr. Valerie White, Chairwoman

of the Black College Communi-

Weston

Council of Negro Women.

ecutive Director of the National

and CEO of the National Coali-

ployees are people of color."

tion on Black Civic

Leadership Forum.

• Senator Sharon

the letter were:

Hull holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a B.S. in Business Management from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge.

Hull has previously served as board member and President of the International Association of Transportation Regulators. IATR is a professional association where by transportation regulators find solutions to issues and problems that are common in the field of commercial transportation.

NAACP, NNPA, and others urge FCC to approve AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile USA

A coalition of advocacy groups, including the NAACP and NNPA, last week, encouraged the Federal Communications Commission to approve AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile USA, saying the merger is in the best interests of millions of African-Americans.

The coalition told the FCC that the AT&T/T-Mobile deal will bring wireless Internet access to areas now lacking broadband; will save users money and will create new jobs nationwide.

"The merger of AT&T with T-Mobile USA stands to bring some much-needed relief to the African-American community by helping to close the digital divide and increasing access to vital ser-

vices in urban and rural communities," wrote Hilary Shelton, Senior Vice-President for Advocacy for the NAACP, in a letter to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski.

Joining the NAACP and NNPA in the letter were the leaders of a broad coalition of civil rights and national Black intergovernmental organizations representing 40 million African-Americans.

The coalition pointed out that although African-Americans are leaders in adopting wireless Internet access, they often must contend with poor service.

"Despite their high wireless adoption rate," the coalition members told the FCC Chairman, "African-American wireless Internet

users frequently contend with sub-standard and inconsistent access that plagues many urban and rural areas."

The AT&T/T-Mobile merger can bring significant improvements, according to the coalition, because "if the T-Mobile purchase is approved, AT&T has made commitments to substantially increase broadband access to underserved areas and invest billions in infrastructure upgrades."

The AT&T investment will provide upgrades to service, the coalition's letter said, and "will lead to shovel-ready opportunities that will put the unemployed back to work."

The coalition also pointed out



• Tommy Dortch, Chairman of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

 Ricardo Byrd, President of the National Association of Neighborhoods Participation

AT&T is one of the oldest of American communications companies, and T-Mobile USA is a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom, a German telecommunications giant. In March, AT&T offered to acquire T-Mobile USA for \$39 billion in cash and stocks.

If approved by the Federal Communications Commission, the deal will create the largest provider of wireless service in the nation, with a combined 130 million subscribers.

"This transaction represents a major commitment to strengthen and expand critical infrastructure for our nation's future," said Randall Stephenson, AT&T's Chief Executive, in a statement announcing the proposed acquisition.

At the time of the announcement in March, Analyst Charles Golvin from Forrester Research told CNN that with AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile "high-speed mobile broadband service will improve in quality and coverage, including — in the long run - those in rural communities outside the reach of terrestrial broadband today."



Data Around Town

New Orleanians celebrated friends, family and fun last week and Data was there. Images b Ray Bonne for Bonnefied Images





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R. Kelly's Love Letter Tour Stops in New Orleans



R. Kelly dazzles crowd during Love Letter Tour as it stops in New Orleans

By Edwin Buggage Photos by Leo Getz

R. Kelly is an artist who has proven to be the most prolific hit maker of the past two decades. As a singer, songwriter and producer he has penned songs, as well as, produce songs for a diverse pool of artists in many genres. He is truly as his moniker states a pied piper who has put his stamp on the music industry continuing to be a chart topping artist with his music touching people across the globe.

On this night, the Lakefront Arena was filled with the grown and sexy crowd who came to hear the man whose catalog of songs have been the soundtrack of many of their lives. On his tour the show opened with a rousing set from Marsha Ambrosius, a former member of Floetry. She performed a short set that showcased her great skill as a singer and songwriter as she sashayed across the stage performing her hits to the captive crowd.

Next to hit the stage was the fiery siren of song and reality television Keyshia Cole, giving an energetic set that kept the crowd on their feet. She is a powerful singer that puts one in the mind of a young Mary J. Blige. Cole's swagger is a great marriage of a hip round the way girl who possesses the gift of thought provoking sensitive lyrics. She kept the 'sistas' in the audience rocking with her songs that have become female anthems. She graced the crowd as they sang along during much of her amazing set as she sang her hits that included 'Heaven Sent,' 'Shoulda Let You Go,' 'Trust' and 'Let It Go.'

While both of the opening acts gave great performances, but in terms of production value and the quality of their shows they simply paled in comparison to R. Kelly, who proved he is a master showman who knows few peers. Giving a show that was a multimedia showcase incorporating film, and big band staging Kelly's show kept the crowd on their feet the entire time.

His set was an example of true showmanship as he effortlessly had the crowd in the palm of his hand throughout. As they danced, hugged, kissed and 'stepped' in unison with Kelly's vibe that went from smooth and soulful, up tempo, sensitive to sensual. Kelly gave the template and recipe for what a great show should entail. And in the world of entertainment in an age where many are self-proclaimed kings of this or that, but these are simply marketing ploys to sell records. Conversely, R. Kelly proved he is the real deal and have earned a place among the legends he pays tribute to on his most recent album entitled 'Love Letter.' He is a true master of song as he showed on this night as his fans continue to 'step in the name' of R. Kelly's addictive and timeless vibe.



R. Kelly as Humphrey Bogart in opening sequence displaying his acting skills.





R&B Diva Keyshia Cole pouring her heart out on stage.

The soulful Marsha Ambrosious giving a heartfelt performance.



Chart topper R. Kelly performing one of his many hits.

Proposed Mortgage Qualification Rule May End Homeownership As We Know It



Marc Morial President and CEO National Urban League

To Be Equal

"A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams."

Homeownership, as we know it, could be a thing of the past if a proposed Qualified Residential Mortgage Rule (QRM) takes effect. In a letter I sent last week to the heads of the six federal agencies charged with developing risk retention regulations under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, I pointed out that the proposed rule would be especially damaging to the home owner aspirations of minority and working class citizens. Here's why.

The rule would require prospective borrowers to present a 20 percent down payment, spend less than 28 percent of their monthly gross income on housing and have total monthly household debt capped at less than 36 percent. Most people can't afford to put 20 percent down. And, when coupled with an additional requirement of near pristine personal credit standards, these proposed requirements could end the standard 30-year fixed mortgage and replace it with a new class of "high risk" borrowers, formerly known as the responsible middle class borrower.

Housing industry experts agree. In April, a coalition of trade groups including the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Homebuyers and the Mortgage Bankers Association issued a joint report, saying in part that it would take 14 years for the typical American family to save enough money for a 20 percent down payment. They added, "A 20 percent down payment requirement for the QRM means that even the most creditworthy and diligent first-time homebuyer cannot qualify for the lowest rates and safest products in the market."

John Taylor, CEO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition calls this a civil rights issue. He said, "What has been proposed essentially creates a separate and unequal system of finance for people of color and for blue-collar, working-class people where regardless of your creditworthiness, of whether you're someone who has a great credit score and pays your bills on time and plays by all the rules, if you're not well-heeled enough to come up with 20% or if your household debt to income ratios are high ... you're going to go into a separate and unequal category of financing where you're going to have to pay more," We agree.

Adding high minimum down-payment requirements will only exclude hundreds of thousands of consumers – including legions of minority renters – from homeownership. And any rule or action that further stifles an already severely depressed housing market for first-time buyers, including many minorities, will also negatively suppress the entire housing industry – realtors, builders, retailers, suppliers and many others. Clearly, what is being proposed is anti-jobs, anti-growth, and in absolute contravention of the American Dream.

The American home, by definition, reflects much more than mere property. It represents the ability to build wealth for all those with a stable income and a demonstrated history of financial responsibility. It is the foundation of family and community and represents the collective promise of the chance to build prosperity that lasts through generations.

The National Urban League believes this promise must be reaffirmed and protected in whatever form the new housing finance model ultimately takes.

Marc H. Morial is the President and CEO of the National Urban League.



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Data News Weekly Data Zone

Seriously Funny…Mike Epps

By Edwin Buggage Photos by Leo Getz

Undoubtedly funny he has become one of the premiere comics of his generation. Mike Epps has conquered the stage and the big screen with his uncompromising brand of comedy. Recently, he brought his comic gifts to New Orleans headlining the Big Easy Comedy Festival.

His road to stardom has humble beginnings growing up in Indianapolis, Indiana he was a young boy with great talent and there the seeds were planted for future greatness. "In 1991 I was going through a phase in my life where I was growing into manhood. And humor was always something that was part of me whether it was in school or on jobs; I was someone people always thought was funny. So I took a leap of faith and moved to New York City to pursue a career in comedy and it has paid off for me," says Epps of his journey into the world of comedy.

Epps is one of few Black comics who have been successful doing both film and stand-up and he says that they both work hand-in-hand in sharpening his



By Edwin Buggage

skills. "I enjoy doing both, for example in stand-up it helps me with my timing when I am doing films and when I am doing films it helps me with stand-up in developing characters," says Epps.

While there is a dearth of roles for Black actors in films released by major studios Epps feels this a great time for independent filmmakers, citing Tyler Perry as a template of how African-Americans can be successful in today's marketplace. "I find someone like Tyler Perry being a template for how to make films right now." Continuing he says, "There are only a few films made by larger companies with large budgets as opposed to more Black films made with smaller budgets as was the case several years ago, so as a result there are not a lot of roles for Black actors, but Tyler Perry has shown that Black filmmakers can make independent films that can make money."

As Epps the star continues to rise he sees himself continuing to perform but extending his brand to include becoming a power player behind the scenes. "In the next five years I would like to move into other areas including producing television and film and helping to nurture young talent," says Epps.

In one of his most recent film, "Jumping the Broom" it is one that inspires, Epps while spending time in New Orleans says the people of the City are an inspiration to the nation in the power of perseverance, keeping a positive outlook despite negative circumstances. "The people of the City of New Orleans have always been a resilient people and are an example for us after going through hardships and still keep their heads up. My heart goes out to the people of this City and their will to survive."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Local Public Service Organization Celebrates 75 Years Of Public Service In New Orleans

On June 25th, the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter (NOA) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will celebrate 75 years of Public Service in our City. Beginning with 11 dedicated and visionary women in 1936, today, the membership of the New Orleans sisterhood stands strong with over 350 women!

For 75 years, NOA has been on the forefront of every social, educational, cultural, and economic change in our community. It is time New Orleans that we celebrate their commitment to usour neighborhoods, community, city and region.

Come out and join in the celebration on June 25th from 6p.m. to 10p.m. at the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel.

- General Admission Tickets: \$75.
- Ladies: Cocktails
- Men: Dark Suits

For ticket information contact: 504-218-4813, 504-782-3569, or 504-261-5130





Data News Weekly State & Local News

Regina Bartholomew Kicks Off Campaign

Regina Bartholomew kicked off her campaign for Civil Court Judge, District B on Thursday June 9th. The event, held at the Basin St. Station was well attended and provided was an opportunity for her many political and community supporters to come out and show their support for her candidacy.

Regina Bartholomew is a graduate of Southern University at New Orleans where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, with a minor in Political Science in 1994. Ms. Bartholomew earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1999, where she ranked in the top 20% of her graduating class. She was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1999.

While in law school, she was inducted into the National Order of Barristers and was featured in Who's Who Among Students in American Law Schools. She also received several awards and recognitions, including an Excellence Award for her participation in working as a student District Attorney with the Clinical Education Program, the American College of Trial Lawyers' Medal for Excellence in Advocacy, the Hannah and Herman Levy Scholarship of the Lupin Foundation, and the Association of Trial Lawyers' J. Skelly Wright Chapter Award. Upon finishing law school, she completed a judicial clerkship with Judges Becnel, Jasmine and Snowdy at the Fortieth Judicial District Court in Edgard, Louisiana.

Ms. Bartholomew is currently Of Counsel with the law firm of Boykin, Ehret & Utley, APLC. Ms. Bartholomew's prior employment was as General Counsel for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. Prior to this, Ms. Bartholomew was a Staff Attorney with McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC. Her previous work experience includes service as General Counsel for the Orleans Parish School Board, an attorney in private practice with several law firms, and with the United States Government at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor in Dallas, Texas.

In addition to the practice of law, Ms. Bartholomew has devoted her life to many civic and bar association activities. Specifically,



Regina Bartholomew. Photos By Ray Bonne For Bonnefied Images



Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Regina Bartholomew, Terry Jones, Data News Weekly Publisher



Regina Bartholomew and her Parents



Craig Mitchell, Regina Bartholomew and Kenya Smith



US Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA) and Regina Bartholomew

Committee of the Young Lawyers' Section of the New Orleans Bar Association. Moreover, she has served as a liaison for the Pro Bono Project of New Orleans and as a Judge for Teen Court of New Orleans.

Most recently, Ms. Bartholomew was inducted into the New Orleans CityBusiness' 2011 Leadership in Law Class.

can, National and New Orleans Bar Associations. She is a board member of the Early Childhood & Family Learning Foundation; she is a member of the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Louisiana Association of Black Women Attorneys, and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters of New Orleans and the Independent Women's Organization of New Orleans. She is a former member of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee and the Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association. Ms. Bartholomew has also served as a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Louisiana, AIDSLaw of Louisiana, Inc., and a board member and secretary of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Foundation and Camp Fire USA Greater New Orleans Council. Further, she served as co-chair of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Foundation's Law Camp and the CLE Programs

she is a member of the Ameri-

Data News Weekly National News

Official Notification of African American Farmers About \$1.25 Billion Class Action Settlement Begins

(Washington, DC) – The Court-ordered process of officially notifying African-American farmers and their heirs about the \$1.25 billion "Pigford II" class action settlement, In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, is underway.

Class members should visit www.BlackFarmerCase.com or call 1-877-810-8110 for complete information, including the detailed notice, key dates, and claims-filing information. Media are requested to include the tollfree number and website in articles about the Settlement.

African-American farmers around the country who tried to file a claim in the 1999 Pigford Settlement but were unable to receive a decision on the merits because their claims were late are now receiving information about their legal rights and options under the Settlement by postal mail. A comprehensive paid published notice program will complement this direct notice. The program will include a nationwide radio advertising campaign, including heavy focus on areas where large numbers of class members are believed to live. A Summary Notice will also be published in a variety of print publications including African-American newspapers, general market daily and community newspapers, and farming and ranching trade publications. Finally, online ads will appear on a variety of websites.

The plaintiffs and USDA announced the proposed settle-

ment in late 2010 and President Obama signed the bill authorizing payment of the Settlement on December 9, 2010. If approved by the Court, the settlement will resolve discrimination claims related to USDA farm loans and other benefits. The proposed settlement includes \$1.25 billion for cash payments and loan forgiveness for class members who file valid claims.

Class members eligible for the Settlement are African-Americans who farmed (or attempted to farm) between January 1, 1981 and December 31, 1996; were prevented from applying for or were denied a USDA farm loan during that period or were given a loan with unfair terms; and who filed or attempted to file a late claim between October 13, 1999 and June 18, 2008 in the original Pigford case that was never considered because they tried to submit it after the late claim deadline. Heirs or kin of people who fit this description but have since passed away may also be class members.

Class members' rights may be affected by the Settlement even if they do not act. Those who wish to object to the Settlement must do so by August 12, 2011. The deadline for filing claims under this Settlement may be as early as February 28, 2012. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will consider whether to grant final approval of the Settlement at a hearing in Washington D.C. on September



1, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Lead Class Counsel: Andrew Marks, Crowell & Moring LLP, 202-624-2500; Gregorio Francis, Morgan & Morgan, P.A., 407-420-1414; and Henry Sand-

Legal Notice

ers, Chestnut, Sanders, Sanders, Pettaway & Campbell, LLC, 334-875-9264

If You are African American and Suffered Farm Loan Discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 1996,

You may be eligible for money from a \$1.25 billion class action Settlement Fund

(Heirs/Kin may be included)

There is a proposed class action Settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) involving racial discrimination against African American farmers between 1981 and 1996. This Settlement is only for certain people who tried to file a late claim in the original *Pigford* case, or their heirs (kin) and legal representatives. The current Settlement (sometimes called *Pigford II*) provides benefits to some of those late filers.

Am I included?

- You may be included if you:
 Between 1981 and 1996, were discouraged or prevented from applying for or were denied a USDA farm loan or other benefit, or you were given a loan with unfair terms because of racial discrimination,
- Were eligible for a payment in the original *Pigford* case, **and**
- Submitted a late-filing request that was denied or never considered because it was late.

If you are the heir or kin of someone who died who fits this description, you may file a claim for a payment that would become part of the deceased person's estate. If you are not sure if you (or someone for whom you are the legal representative) are included, please call 1-877-810-8110. You are not included if you received a payment in the original *Pigford* case.

What does the Settlement provide?

You may be eligible for a substantial cash payment and USDA loan forgiveness from the Settlement. You will need to file a claim to be eligible for these benefits. The claims deadline may be as early as February 28, 2012. The Court has appointed lawyers to help you file a claim under the Settlement. You do not have to pay them or anyone else to help you with the claims process. These attorneys will ask the Court for fees and expenses of between 4.1% and 7.4% of the Settlement Fund, and the Court will decide how much they are paid. You may hire your own lawyer, if you wish, at your own expense. If you have questions or need more information, call 1-877-810-8110.

What else should I know?

The Court will hold a hearing on **September 1, 2011** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees and expenses. If you want to object to or comment on the Settlement or appear at the hearing, you need to file a letter with the Court by **August 12, 2011.** If the Court approves the Settlement, you will not be able to sue the USDA about your farm loan discrimination claims in the future.

For more information or to begin the claims filing process: Call: 1-877-810-8110 Visit: www.BlackFarmerCase.com



AUGUST 2011								
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT		
	1	2	3	4	5			
7		9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
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SAVE THE DATE