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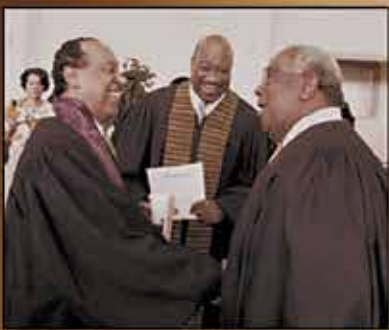
46th Annual Gala Highlights

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October 6 - October 12, 2012 47th Year Volume 21 www.ladatanews.com



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The Journey to Justice and the Color Line



This past Monday, a celebration commemorating the 1991 U.S. Supreme Court victories in Chisom v. Roemer and Clark v. Roemer, put on by the Louisiana Judiciary Council of the National Bar Association. The event had a multiracial audience that included 55 African-American Judges and Civil Rights icons and many others. The celebration was held at the historic New Zion Baptist Church.

Story by Edwin Buggage
Photos by Walt Pierce

The renowned African-American Scholar, Author and Activist W.E.B DuBois poignantly posited in his 1903 book, “The Souls of Black Folk” that the problem of the 20thCentury would be that of the Color Line. And as we

are over one decade into a new century and ironically with an African-American occupying the White House much hasn’t changed in regard to the question that a nation still struggles to solve and find an answer to the cancer that eats away at the possibility of a true democracy. While admittedly so, African-Americans have made great strides since the nation’s darkest days of racial apartheid in the name of Jim Crow and overt racial resentment and public policies that relegated to Blacks as second-class citizens. But it still

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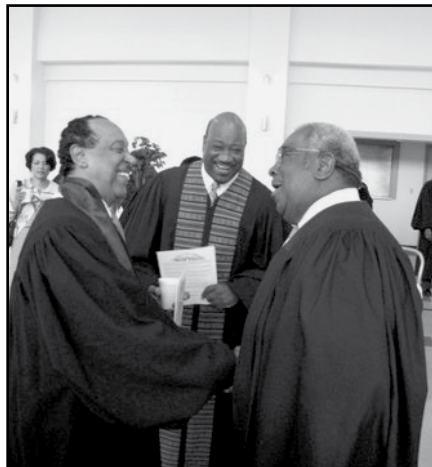
DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



finds a way to rear its ugly head as the city, state and nation continues to grapple with the thorny question of race and its significance in regard to full equality, access and power.

One of these areas was in the state judiciary, where there were few African-American Judges. Recently, there was a celebration commemorating the 1991 U.S. Supreme Court victories in *Chisom v. Roemer* and *Clark v. Roemer*, put on by the Louisiana Judiciary Council of the National Bar Association.

These two cases desegregated the Louisiana Trial, Appellate, and Supreme Courts. The program included remarks by the sponsoring organizations' Chair, Louisiana Appeal's Court Judge Edwin Lombard and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. The event had a multi-racial audience that included 55 African-American Judges and Civil Rights icons, Ruby Bridges, Jerome Smith and many others.

The celebration was held at the historic New Zion Baptist Church that was once presided over by Civil Rights pioneer Rev. A.L. Davis. "I think holding an event of this magnitude at our church is significant because of its rich legacy with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), that was led Dr. Martin Luther King and was founded inside

these church walls; and this is a place where much of the strategies of the Civil Rights Movement took place, not just for New Orleans, but for the nation. So it is befitting that in celebrating our advance representation in the judiciary and recommitting ourselves in the fight for equality and justice be held here," said the church's current Pastor C.S. Gordon who is also President of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention.

For a bit of background on the cases, they were filed after years of proposed legislation failed to reform Louisiana's judicial districts that effectively, and often intention-

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Data News 46th Anniversary Gala

Photos by Peter Nakhid

Data held its 46th Anniversary Celebration and Gala on Thursday, September 27th at The Regency Hall on Downman. It was a big success with great entertainment, good food, plenty of beverages and an array of guests

including Congressman Cedric Richmond, our Representative in Washington, our Louisiana State Senator Edwin Murray and other candidate running for local seats in the upcoming election. The event was sponsored

by Miller/Coors, WBOK, LeRoux's and JMJ Education Fund. Everyone had a great time and we all look forward to continuing to serve our community and recognizing our outstanding community leaders as trailblazers..



Pictured left to right are Glenn Jones, our host for the event, Zakenya Perry, "Trailblazer of the Year" and Publisher, Terry B. Jones



Pictured left to right are Rev. Moses Gordon (accepted the award for Rev. Chris Gordon) Glenn Jones, Harry Cantrell, and Edwin Murray



Pictured left to right are Glenn Jones, Jerrela Drummer-Sanders, Ronicka Briscoe (accepted the award for LaToya Cantrell, and Sharon Martin, our hostess for the event.



Gerod Stevens and Glenn Jones



Jerrela Drummer-Sanders and Glenn Jones



Kimberly Rivers-Roberts and Sharon Martin



Eugene Green and Glenn Jones



Sharon Martin and Sula Evans



Calvin Johnson and Glenn Jones



Zakenya Perry & Glenn Jones



Sharon Martin and Eddie Compass



Sharon Martin and Eusi Phillips



Sharon Martin and Nakina Eugene

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Gala/ Continued from previous page.



Michael Ward



Ceasar Elloie



Sharon Martin



Ed Perkins



MJ of New Orleans and girlfriend, Katie Juarez

Gala/Continued on page 7.

“Congratulations DATA NEWS WEEKLY on your 46th ANNIVERSARY and CELEBRATION.”



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The Black Press Endorses President Obama



Cloves C. Campbell, Jr.
Chairman, NNPA

A few years ago the NNPA was holding its annual board meetings in March in Washington, D. C., then, Senator Barack Obama walked into the room to welcome the Publishers to Washington. He also indicated he wanted to share some news with us. The news was that he was planning on seeking

the office of the President of the United States of America. There were some young and many older publishers in the meeting. He said if any of us would like to talk with him in the lobby, he would be happy to share his thoughts. I remember many of the publishers being very excited. Francis Page and I were especially interested in talking with Senator Obama. (During our Black Press Week events that week, then NNPA Foundation President, Brian Townsend was honoring the Senator as well.) As we listened, we too saw what many people already knew and millions more would eventually learn about this very charismatic man. There was something special about him. Something that would change the history of Black Folks in politics forever. It was

then that I and the other members of the NNPA voiced our support first for the 44th President of the United States of America. The Black Press was there FIRST.

Fast forward, to August 2012. It was then that I asked the question about the President's campaign spending. It was then, when several members of the campaign questioned my article. As I stated then and I will state again, THE NNPA, THE BLACK PRESS of AMERICA has always supported President Obama. We have encouraged Black folks to get registered to vote. We encouraged Blacks to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote. We have published hundreds of articles about President Obama, his administration and his programs. We have also on numerous occasions championed his issues on our front pages.

There is no doubt, that when other media outlets



brought unnecessary criticism on the President, it was the BLACK PRESS that was there to support

him. As we prepare to go to the polls in November, I am here to say that the National Newspaper

Publishers Association endorses President Barack Obama once again. It is our belief that the United States of America can be best served with President Obama being re-elected. We at the NNPA look forward to working with the President's administration in the formulation of strategies for the next four years. It is our hope that those plans include more opportunities for Blacks to procure business with the federal government, greater employment opportunities for Blacks in America and enhanced opportunities for all students seeking higher education. We encourage our readers to register to vote, go out and vote and be sure to take the proper identification with them to the polls on Election Day, vote to re-elect President Barack Obama November 6th!

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This program is supported in part by a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans.

Gala/ Continued from page 5.

Data Staff Members



Pictured left to right are Greta Walker, Gala Assistant, June Hazeur, Billing and Accounts Receivables, Glenn Jones, VP of Advertising & Marketing, Terry B. Jones, Publisher & CEO, Raghan Durousseau, Social Networking Editor, Edwin Buggage, Editor, Melisa Adams, Gala Assistant, and Calla Victoria, Executive Assistant (not pictured)



Pictured left to right are Congressman Cedric Richmond, Terry Jones, Data Publisher and Louisiana State Senator Edwin Murray



Pictured right to left are Katie Juarez, MJ of New Orleans (Daron Wilson - Michael Jackson impersonator) and Shaye Williams (Twinn's Rock Star Search)

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

ally, diluted the voting strength of Louisiana's large African-American communities. In striking a blow for the rule of law, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered an end to racially gerrymandered districts and directed a speedy remedy to generations of discrimination and injustice, resulting in judicial districts that were representative of their populations. Before the Clark and Chisom cases were decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of the plaintiffs, there were fewer than 10 African-American judges in all of Louisiana's courts of record. Today, Louisiana has 76 African-American judges, the largest number per capita of any state, serving on courts at every level. "This is more than just a celebration, and even with someone like Ruby Bridges attending it is a reminder of how far we've come," says Judge Lombard. Continuing he says, "In regards to some of the things that are happening in the courts and in the nation it is time to reenergize our communities into civic action to not let the hands of time tuned back where Blacks were disenfranchised."

While the judges are celebrating a two-decade triumph conversely, there is the case of LA Supreme Court Justice Bernette Johnson, whose facing a challenge by the State Governor Bobby Jindal and current State Supreme Court

Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimble over her place as determined by the federal court that she rightfully deserves as the most senior judge on the bench to become the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. This melee has turned into something with racial implications that starkly resembles the worst days of segregation. "The issue they are using to defend blocking this appointment is States' Rights, and from the Civil War to Civil Rights we feel it is a smokescreen for racism and its proponents; and is designed to block Justice Johnson's appointment based on race," says James Williams, lead attorney for Johnson. He further elaborates by saying, "During the ceremony I read a speech by then Alabama Governor George Wallace when he was trying to block desegregation in his state and much of the language that we're hearing sounds very similar."

As we look at history and the strides towards full equality, there has always been a backlash. Whether it was the end of Reconstruction that led to years of Jim Crow Segregation or the gains of the Civil Rights era fueling the flames of Reagan and the conservatism at the end of the last century; one that saw David Duke, a former KKK Leader, rise to win a seat in the Louisiana Legislature and get

into the run-off in a U.S. Senate and the Governor's race. Today in what is going on in the fight surrounding the State Supreme Court seat may be a preview of things to come; where battles that was thought won has resurfaced? "The gains we have made everybody are not happy about them," says Lombard. "These fights to gain our rights were long fought and it seems that in celebrating we have to remind ourselves as well as our young people that there are still more battles to be fought against injustice."

Hurricane Katrina exposed to the world a racial and class divide in the City of New Orleans and in its aftermath, race has become front and center in New Orleans and its rebuilding. In an alarming trend New Orleans, while still majority Black the reins of power politically and otherwise are being wrestled out the hands of Blacks. "What I see post-Katrina is the erosion of Civil Rights and an effort to silence our collective voices," says James Williams. "But it is ironic on this day as we celebrate justice of a historic court decision we are still fighting with Judge Johnson is bigger than just this one case, it is about forcing the opponents of fairness to finally have respect for our Civil Rights gains."

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