

Honorable Stephen Higginson is a federal judge sitting on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1961, and is married and has three children.

Judge Higginson graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 1983, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and English and American Literature and Language. He earned a Masters of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge in 1984, and in 1987, he received a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Review.

After law school, Judge Higginson served as law clerk to Judge Patricia Wald, Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, after which he served as law clerk for United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Byron White.

In 1989, Judge Higginson became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, then for the Eastern District of Louisiana, where he soon became Chief of Appeals. In 2004, Judge Higginson began teaching full-time at Loyola School of Law in New Orleans, Louisiana, continuing also part-time as Chief of Appeals for the United States Attorney's Office. Throughout his professional career, Judge Higginson has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: Special Achievement award from former Attorney General Janet Reno (1993), United States Department of Justice Director's Awards for Superior Performance (1996) (2003), United States Department of Justice John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement for Trial of Litigation (2003), and Outstanding Teacher Award at Loyola University (2008). Additionally, students at Loyola College of Law recognized him as Professor of the Year for 2006, 2007 and 2009.

President Barack Obama nominated Judge Higginson in May 2011 for his current seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit when Judge Jacques L. Wiener, Jr. took senior status in 2010 and created a vacancy. The Senate confirmed Judge Higginson's nomination by a vote of 88–0 on October 31, 2011. Judge Higginson commenced service on November 2, 2011.

Honorable Kurt D. Engelhardt was nominated for a seat on the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Donald J. Trump, confirmed by the Senate on May 9, 2018, and officially sworn in as a United States Circuit Judge on May 15, 2018. Judge Engelhardt is based in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the John Minor Wisdom U.S. Court of Appeals Building.

Judge Engelhardt was previously nominated for a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana by President George W. Bush, and upon confirmation, was officially sworn in as a United States District Judge on December 14, 2001. While a District Judge, Judge Engelhardt served by designation on nine different panels of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. On October 1, 2015, he became Chief United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, a position he held until joining the United States Fifth Circuit on May 15, 2018.

Judge Engelhardt attended Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, where he graduated with honors in 1978. He attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1982. In the Fall of 1982, Judge Engelhardt commenced his legal education at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University, graduating in May of 1985.

Judge Engelhardt served a two-year clerkship with Judge Charles Grisbaum, Jr. of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, located in Gretna, Louisiana. From there, he became associated with the Metairie law firm of Little, Metzger and Lamz (APLC), and worked in the downtown New Orleans office of that firm in 1988-89. He then joined the law firm of Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann & Papale, became a partner in July 1998, and practiced there until his confirmation to the federal bench in December 2001.

In 1995, Judge Engelhardt was nominated for a spot on the nine-member Louisiana Judiciary Commission, and was appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term on that body. In 1998, he was elected by his fellow commission members to serve as Chairman, in which capacity he presided over the Commission's trials of formal charges lodged against sitting state judges. His work on the Judiciary Commission has been cited for its excellence by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Judge Engelhardt is a member of the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Chapter of The Federalist Society; a past member of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction; a member of the Board of Directors (and past president) of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; a member of the American Judicature Society; and a member of the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He has served on the Fifth Circuit's Criminal Pattern Jury

Instruction Committee, charged with updating and/or drafting pattern jury instructions for district judges within the jurisdiction of the United States Fifth Circuit. Recently, he was appointed by Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Carl Stewart to chair the Circuit's Judicial Impairment Protocol Committee, established to create a framework for the judiciary to internally address disabilities of all types which may impact a judge's ability to handle his/her docket.

Judge Engelhardt is also a member of the American Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Judge Engelhardt serves on the Board of Directors of the Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans.

Ben Cooper is the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Frank Montague, Jr. Professor of Legal Studies and Professionalism at the University of Mississippi School of Law. A member of the faculty since 2007, Professor Cooper teaches Legal Profession, Civil Procedure, and an Advanced Legal Ethics seminar. He writes, speaks and consults on legal ethics and the law governing lawyers. Professor Cooper is the co-author (along with R. Michael Cassidy, John P. Sahl & Margaret C. Tarkington) of a new Wolters Kluwer casebook entitled Professional Responsibility in Focus.

Professor Cooper's scholarship has appeared in a variety of journals, including the Wake Forest Law Review, the Cardozo Law Review, the Cincinnati Law Review, the Baylor Law Review, Legal Ethics, and The Professional Lawyer.

Timothy Crooks graduated with a B.S. (summa cum laude) from Tulane University, and received his J.D. (magna cum laude) from Tulane Law School. Immediately after graduating from law school, he clerked for Associate Justice Walter F. Marcus, Jr., of the Louisiana Supreme Court. After stints in private practice and as a staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Mr. Crooks joined the office of the Federal Public Defender, Northern District of Texas, where he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 1990 to June of 2001, and the Chief of Appeals from 1993 to 2001. In July of 2001, he joined the office of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas, where he served as the Chief of the Appellate Section in Houston, Texas, until his retirement in 2017.

In 1999, Mr. Crooks was named an Outstanding Assistant Federal Public Defender. He served as the President of the National Association of Federal Defenders from 2005 until 2007. In 2014, he was awarded the Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award by the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a Governor Emeritus of the Board of Governors of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit.

Mr. Crooks briefed and argued the federal death penalty case of *Louis Jones v United States* before the United States Supreme Court in October Term 1998, and he assisted in the United States Supreme Court briefing and oral argument preparation for *AlmendarezTorres v United States* in October Term 1997. He was also lead counsel in *Reymundo Toledo-Flores v. United States*, U.S. Sup. Ct. No. 05-7664, argued before the Supreme Court in October Term 2006, and *Saul Molina-Martinez v. United States*, U.S. Sup. Ct. No. 14-8913, argued before the Supreme Court in October Term 2015.

Margaret Cupples focuses on civil appeals and commercial litigation. Her practice centers on asbestos, benzene and silica mass-tort and products liability cases, and also includes insurance sales practices, consumer finance, and general commercial litigation. She has participated in more than two dozen appeals in Mississippi's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Margaret is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the field of Appellate Law and Products Liability Litigation, and in *Benchmark Litigation* as a Litigation Star and one of the top 250 Business Women in Litigation.

Jeffery T. Green is a partner in Sidley's Washington, D.C. office and a member of the Appellate and White Collar Practice Groups. He is Firmwide Chair of Sidley's Pro Bono Practice and co-founded Sidley's pro bono Supreme Court and Appellate Practice - with a substantial boost from Lucien Campbell, the former defender in the Western District of Texas, in 1994. Lucien's efforts began a long and successful collaboration with the Federal Defenders that included Appendi, Booker and Gall. Jeff also teaches appellate advocacy as part of his duties as Co-Director of Northwestern Law School's Supreme Court Clinic, now in its 11th year. In addition to numerous court of appeals arguments at the state and federal level, Jeff has presented argument at the Supreme Court five times, including twice in one day in the October 16 Term. Most recently, Jeff was a guest lecturer at Cambridge University in the U.K.

Marcy Hogan Greer is a partner in the appellate boutique firm, Alexander Dubose Jefferson & Townsend. She is recognized for her work in federal and state trial and appellate courts throughout the country. Her practice consistently includes class action and mass tort cases, including federal and state multidistrict litigation. This experience contributed to her recognition in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in Litigation: Appellate—Texas, accreditation in *Best Lawyers in America* in Appellate, Bet-the-Company, and Commercial Litigation, and selection as the “Lawyer of the Year” in 2016 and 2012 for Austin Appellate Practice and 2015 for Austin Bet-the Company Litigation. Marcy has also been recognized as a *Texas Super Lawyer* for her appellate work since its inaugural list and has been repeatedly listed in the Top 100 Texas Lawyers, Top 50 Central Texas Lawyers, and Top 50 Women Lawyers recognized by that publication.

Marcy has been board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1997. She clerked in 1993-94 for Carolyn Dineen King, the former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Marcy currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Bar Association for the Fifth Federal Circuit, and in May 2017, Marcy was named Outstanding Federal

Practitioner by the Federal Bar Association—Austin Chapter. Marcy is also the National Editor of the first and second editions of *A PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE TO CLASS ACTIONS* (ABA 2010, 2017).

Allison A. Jones received her undergraduate degree from LSU in 1982 and Juris Doctorate from LSU School of Law in 1985. She currently practices with the law firm of Downer, Jones, Marino & Wilhite, LLC in Shreveport, Louisiana. Ms. Jones is a member of the National and Louisiana Employment Lawyers Associations and is a past Chair of the LSBA Labor and Employment Law Section. Ms. Jones has served as President of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, the Harry V. Booth and Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court and the Shreveport Bar Association.

A significant part of her practice includes representing plaintiffs in employment discrimination cases. She has successfully mediated, settled and litigated numerous employment cases. In 1995, she was counsel for plaintiff in the gender discrimination/retaliation case of *Melody Olson v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company* where she obtained a 3.2 million dollar jury verdict which was affirmed on appeal. Ms. Jones also successfully represented women seeking admittance into the Southern Trace Country Club “Mens’ Grille,” and she has handled Title IX litigation ensuring equal funding for female sports numerous parishes in the State of Louisiana. Ms. Jones does not limit her practice to civil rights work as her practice also includes commercial litigation. In this respect, Ms. Jones has served as counsel for several debtors in Chapter 11 reorganizations in the bankruptcy court for the Western District of Louisiana serving as lead counsel in prosecuting claims on behalf of the reorganized bankrupt estate of Whitaker Construction, Inc. against the City of Shreveport for work done on the Independence Stadium, resulting in a jury verdict of nearly \$800,000.00, which verdict was affirmed on appeal. Ms. Jones has also tried several jury trials involving oil and gas disputes.

Ms. Jones devotes a part of her time to community activities. She served as Alderman and Mayor Pro Temp for the Town of Blanchard from 1990-2014, was a member and Chair of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency from 2005-2012, and she is deeply committed to community building, including, but not limited to, affordable housing advocacy.

Professor Vicki Lowery, director of Advocacy at Mississippi College School of Law, teaches upper-level writing and lawyering skills courses, including appellate advocacy, trial advocacy, and deposition skills. As coordinator of the law school's

advocacy program, she advises its Moot Court Board, Advocacy Society, and Order of Barristers. Under her direction, MC Law has greatly expanded its advocacy program to include pre-trial, trial, and appellate competitions, in addition to arbitration and transactional law competitions.

Professor Lowery's experience in the advocacy arena has led to her serving on the Legal Writing Institute's National Moot Court Committee, and offering expertise as a contributing author for the Moot Court Advisor's Handbook.

Professor Lowery also serves as the Deputy Director of MC Law's Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Center and coordinates its Supreme Court Lecture Series. Additionally, she advises students pursuing Civil Litigation Certificates; and serves as a faculty instructor for NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy).

Kate Margolis practices law in the Jackson, Mississippi office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, where she focuses on resolving insurance coverage disputes for policyholders, appeals, and governmental affairs. Kate has taught legal ethics at her alma mater, the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she graduated summa cum laude and served as Executive Articles Editor of the Mississippi Law Journal. After graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Rhesa H. Barksdale. She is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a past president of the Mississippi Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Kate co-authored the recently published "RIMS Guide to Cyber Insurance: Building a Program, Procuring Coverage, Managing Claims and Litigating Disputes."

David McCarty's practice is focused on appeals and complex litigation. In the past decade, he has been counsel in over 80 state and federal appeals. He has presented oral argument over 30 times at the Mississippi Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals of Mississippi, the Fifth Circuit, and the Eighth Circuit.

He graduated *cum laude* from Mississippi College School of Law in 2004, where he was Articles Editor on the Law Review and Competition Chair of the Moot Court. Afterwards, he served as law clerk to former Presiding Justice James E. Graves, Jr., of the Mississippi Supreme Court (now a member of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals). After his clerkship with Justice Graves, David also clerked for former Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice Oliver E. Diaz, Jr.

Since 2005, David has been an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law, where he has taught courses in trial practice, evidence, pretrial practice,

appellate advocacy, and legal writing. He was honored as the Adjunct Professor of the Year for 2016-17.

David is the author of the Evidence chapter of the *Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law*, and is also a contributing author to the treatise *Mississippi Civil Procedure*. He also regularly presents CLE topics on appellate advocacy and ethics.

Cynthia Orr has attained national prominence defending citizens and entities in state and federal trial and appellate courts. She is the past-chair of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section and a member of the ABA's House of Delegates - representative for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She is a member of the Texas Board of Law Examiners and also a member of the Board of Governors for the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit.

She is also a Past President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and, Past President and Founder of the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. In the local bar, Cynthia is a chair of the San Antonio Bar Association's Federal Courts Committee - Criminal Law Subcommittee.

Cynthia is an inductee into the San Antonio Woman's Hall of Fame and a recipient of the 2016 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award. She is cofounder of the Texas Innocence Network.

Deborah Pearce practices law in New Orleans, Louisiana, focusing primarily on trial development, preservation of error, and appellate practice and procedure. She handles and consults in trial and appellate litigation involving complex commercial transactions, health care and pharmacy law, white collar crimes, contract claims, environmental issues, and oil and gas matters. Ms. Pearce also serves as a Criminal Justice Act panelist representing indigent defendants, and has written numerous *amicus curiae* briefs, including on behalf of the disabled, such as former Saints player and ALS champion, Steve Gleason, and children of same-sex marriages.

Ms. Pearce currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Fifth Circuit Bar Association and formerly served on the Board of Directors for the New Orleans Federal Bar Association. She assumed the Presidency of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association for the years 2004-2006 and served as the National Chairpersonship for the Appellate Section of the Federal Bar Association in 2002. For more than ten years, she was the Reporter of Appellate Jurisdiction and Procedure for the Fifth

Circuit Bar Association and, for almost twenty years, she has taught Appellate Law and Advocacy as an adjunct professor at Tulane Law School.

Ms. Pearce graduated *summa cum laude* from Tulane Law School and was voted the Top Civil Law Graduate by the State Bar Association. After clerking for the Honorable Henry A. Politz, Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit, she worked for Stone, Pigman, Walther, Wittmann and Hutchinson before forming her appellate firm. Ms. Pearce is admitted to practice before the Federal Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals, all Louisiana Federal District Courts, and the Federal District Courts of Colorado and Texas.

Thomas B. Plunkett, III has been the Chief Deputy for the Fifth Circuit since September 27, 2010. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University and later was awarded a Master of Science in Health Care Administration and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. Prior to joining the judiciary, Tom served for thirty years in the United States Army, including combat tours in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Combat Infantryman Badge. He is also the recipient of the Legionnaire and Centurion Award of the Order of St. Maurice (National Infantry Association) and the Order of St. George (National Armor and Cavalry Association).

Sidney Powell was a federal prosecutor in three districts under nine U.S. Attorneys from both political parties, then in private practice for more than 20 years. She is past-president of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit and of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. A veteran of 500 federal appeals, she published *Licensed To Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice*, the true inside story of the corrupted prosecutions of Ted Stevens, Arthur Andersen LLP, Merrill Lynch executives, and many others. The book focusses on abusive prosecutors—all of whom rose to very powerful positions in the government. The book continues to be relevant, as its most prominent villain now leads Robert Mueller’s task force investigation the 2106 presidential election. It has recently been discussed by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich on Cavuto, Hannity, Fox & Friends, with Bill Hemmer, on MSNBC, and on NPR. The book was also featured by John Stossel in a segment of one of his shows on Washington Overlords.

United States Senator Orrin Hatch held the book up to Loretta Lynch during her senate confirmation hearing and told her to “clean up the Department of Justice.”

Omega Advisors' Lee Cooperman encouraged all his investors to read it. Fabled trial lawyer Brendan Sullivan said it's better than any criminal law school course in schools today, and "it would be malpractice to litigate against the Department of Justice without reading it."

An accomplished federal practitioner, Sidney speaks frequently, and she has written news-breaking articles on prosecutorial and government misconduct for the New York Observer, the National Review Online, Fox News, Big League Politics, and others. She has spoken with Judge Alex Kozinski to a Harvard Law School class, and at the CATO Institute, filmed for C-SPAN Book TV, and she has appeared on NewsMax TV, Cavuto, and many stations—television and radio.

Ms. Powell is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers for which she served in 2001-2002 as President. She has long been a member of the Board of Governors of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association for which she also served as President, as Editor of the Fifth Circuit Reporter, and as program director for the annual appellate practice conference for 20 years.

Mary Largent Purvis is the Director of Legal Analysis and Communication at Mississippi College School of Law, where she has taught Legal Analysis and Communication, Criminal Law, Secured Transactions, Sales and Leasing and Advanced Legal Analysis. Mary previously served as the Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Mississippi. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Millsaps College in 1998, and she graduated *summa cum laude* from Mississippi College School of Law in 2001, where she was a member of the Law Review.

Mary serves on the Mississippi College School of Law Child Advocacy Advisory Board and the Child Welfare and Advocacy Committee of the Mississippi Bar Association. Mary also serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She is the Chair of the St. Andrew's Parents' Association, and she serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Andrew's Episcopal School. She previously served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Women Lawyers Association, the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar as the Chair of the Bar Admissions Ceremony Committee, and the Board of Directors for Operation Shoestring, the Mississippi Children's Museum and the Junior League of Jackson.

She is a member of the Capital Area Bar Association, Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Association of Academic Support Educators, where she has served as Chair of the Bar and Bar Advocacy Committee.

Raquel Wilson is the Director of the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Office of Education and Sentencing Practice, the office responsible for fulfilling the Commission's training mission. She has been in that position since November 2015, after serving as Acting Director since February 2015.

Raquel joined the Commission staff in 2009 as Deputy General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel. At the Commission, she has served on numerous policy development teams, including hate crimes, offender characteristics, and crimes of violence. She was the lead author of the Commission's 2012 *Report on the Continuing Impact of United States v. Booker on Federal Sentencing*.

Before coming to the Commission, Raquel spent ten years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, first in the Southern District of Texas (Houston), then in the Western District of North Carolina (Asheville) trying cases and arguing appeals in the Fifth and Fourth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Raquel graduated *magna cum laude* from Rice University, and received her law degree from Stanford Law School. Raquel served from 1996 to 1998 as law clerk to the Honorable Robert L. Hinkle, United States District Judge, Northern District of Florida.

Walter Woodruff is a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. Since graduating Loyola Law School in 1997, he has practiced law in the Greater New Orleans area with a focus on litigation and appellate advocacy. He has handled and argued numerous appeals before the Fifth Federal Circuit in a variety of cases involving complex legal issues. Since 2007, he has served as the editor of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit's Daily Commentary. He has participated in the Bar Association's speaker program addressing topics related to Federal appellate practice.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he has volunteered and served in a variety of leadership roles in charitable fundraising.