

Baker, Sarah

From: paulette Bailey-Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:32 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: FYI,Louisiana Supreme Court Redistricting and Information from the Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA
Attachments: HB 8 House and Governmental Information Letter to Author Mike Johnson.pdf

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

House & Governmental Committee

Please see information provided by the Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA referencing HB 8. Please include this letter as public information for the hearing today.

If you have any questions, please advise. Thanks

Paulette Bailey-Wilson, President

The Mirror Group, LLC

10191 Patriot Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

phone:(225) 925-2040 fax:(225) 924-9070

cell: (225) 978-0384

[website: http://www.themirrogroupp.org](http://www.themirrogroupp.org)

"An Independent Public Relations Governmental Affairs Consultant"

Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association
Baton Rouge Members

Contact information: pbaileywilson@bellsouth.net

January 15, 2024

Hon. Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, Chairman
House & Governmental Affairs Committee
Email: hse048@legis.la.gov

Hon. Michael T. Johnson, Speaker Pro Tempore
State Rep, Dist. 27 House & Governmental Affairs Committee
Email: hse027@legis.la.gov

Hon. Mark Wright, State Rep, Dist. 77
Email: wrightm@legis.la.gov

Re: Louisiana Supreme Court Redistricting

Dear Representatives, Gerald Beaulieu, Micheal Johnson and Mark Wright:

The mission statement of the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association seeks to facilitate the provision of justice in Louisiana by actions which include: a commitment to undertaking activities for the improvement of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice; and effecting a more diverse ethnic and cultural balance of elected and non-elected judges throughout the State of Louisiana.

In advancement of our mission, the undersigned members of Baton Rouge - Louisiana Judicial Council, find House Bill 8 to be the most favorable proposed legislation to increase minority representation on the Supreme Court. We also find House Bill 8 provides the most favorable resolution to the pending litigation in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana to address the alleged violation of the Voting Rights Act¹, which represent issues of significant interest to our members and the communities we represent.

We further note that House Bill 8, best reflects the opinion of five Justices and the majority of the Louisiana Supreme Court in their letter dated December 27, 2023² calling for the

¹ 52 U.S. Code § 10101, et. seq.

² The letter dated December 27, 2023 was addressed to Hon. Jeffery M. Landry, Hon. Cameron Henry, Hon. Phillip DeVillier and Hon. Elizabeth Murrill and signed by Justice McCallum, Justice Genovese, Justice Crain, Justice Hughes, and Justice Griffin.

adoption of the redistricting plan to create “a second majority minority (voting age population) election district, allowing that seat to be filled in the Fall of 2024.”

We appreciate the remarks of Governor Jeff Landry in his opening remarks to the Louisiana Legislature today that “Justice McCallum, Justice Genovese, Justice Crain, Justice Hughes, and Justice Griffin have conscientiously, unselfishly, and courageously stepped forward and presented us with a map that re-draws our Supreme Court districts in a manner that will comply with the Voting Rights Act, – and alleviate costly litigation.”

Our member judges have serious concerns that the alternative proposals for at large election to the Supreme Court would result in significant disenfranchisement of Louisiana’s African American population and violate the Voting Rights Act. We also have concerns about proposals that do not reflect significant enough percentages of minority representation, as voter participation and incarcerated populations might diminish actual minority representation. Lastly, the proposal for Fall 2024 elections in House Bill 8 establishes a significantly more timely resolution to the litigation pending in the Middle District and a long overdue resolution of what the majority of the Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court noted as a “malapportionment of the Supreme Court election districts.”³

We stand in agreement with Governor Landry in his request of the Legislature: “Just as we would respect, honor, and comply with any other decision reached by such a majority of our High Court; I ask that you do so now by adopting the Court’s re-districting map, and allowing the first seat to be filled this Fall.”

In furtherance of our position, we plan to have member judges at the hearings on HB 8 available to testify and answer any questions. We will also be sharing our position with members of the Baton Rouge legislative delegation.

Respectfully,

Chief Judge John Michael Guidry, Chief Judge, 1st Circuit Court of Appeal

Chief Judge Donald R. Johnson, 19th Judicial District Court

Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander, Baton Rouge City Court

Judge Wilson E. Fields, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Colette M. Greggs, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Ronald Johnson, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge William Jorden, 19th Judicial District Court

³ Ibid.

Judge Gail Horne Ray, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Eboni Johnson Rose, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Tarvald Smith, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Erika Green, The Family Court

Judge Kelli Temple, Baton Rouge City Court

Judge Kirk A. Williams, Baker City Court

Judge Gail Grover, Juvenile Court

Judge Lisa Woodruff-White (ret.)

Judge Luke A. LaVergne (ret.)

CC: House and Governmental Committee Members
LJC/NBA Baton Rouge Delegation
LJC/NBA President, Judge Lee Faulkner
Hon. William J. Crain, Justice 1st District- Supreme Court
Hon. James T. Genovese, Justice 3rd District-Supreme Court
Hon. Jay B. McCallum, Justice 4th District-Supreme Court
Hon. Jefferson Hughes, Justice 5th District. -Supreme Court
Hon. Piper D. Griffin, Justice 7th District-Supreme Court