

Getting to Know Federal Court Judge Frank Polozola

By Ed Walters

A *TB: Tell us a little bit about your background, early family, brothers, sisters, father, mother, and the like*

JFP: I was born in Baton Rouge on January 15, 1942. My father and mother had six children. I was the oldest of five boys and one girl. We all went to Sacred Heart Catholic School. My brothers and I went to Catholic High School. Following graduation, I attended L.S.U. on a baseball scholarship and played on the 1961 S.E.C. Championship team. I gave up my scholarship in my senior year to attend the L.S.U. Law School. I did not receive my undergraduate degree. I'm now working on my bachelor's degree and hope to get my bachelor's degree in the near future. I worked full time in law school. I worked for The Advocate as a sports reporter and as the Assistant Athletic Director for the Catholic Youth Organization. Linda and I were married on June 9, 1962, before I began law school.

ATB: How did you meet your wife?

JFP: Linda and I had been in the first grade together at Sacred Heart. I remained at Sacred Heart and she left because of her hearing impairment to attend public schools and later the Louisiana State School for the Deaf. Her grandmother and her first cousin

were best friends with my family, and for years they tried to get me to date her. For some reason we never did date. Then one day, during the summer of 1960, we met when I accidentally drove into her yard while looking for her cousin's house. I was totally shocked to see her that day. Our first date was at the St. Joseph Seminary in Covington on Thanksgiving Day, 1960. My brother was in the seminary then. Not many people have a picture of their first date, but we do (showing a picture on the table in his office). I was really in shape in that picture -- look at those arms.

As I stated earlier, we were married in June of 1962. Our first son, Greg, was born May 29, 1964, while I was in law school. He was one year old on the day I graduated from law school on May 29, 1965. Ironically, it was May 29, 1980 that I was sworn in as a U. S. District Judge.

ATB: Did you clerk while you were in law school?

JFP: No, I didn't clerk for anybody. I was not able to do any legal work because I had these other jobs and I just didn't have the time. It was very difficult to work eight or nine hours a day and then attend and study for law school. When I got ready to interview during my senior year, I had no prior legal experience with any law firm.

I had heard about Judge Gordon West and I really wanted to clerk for Judge West. I really didn't know how to go about getting an interview with him, so I just came up to the court and literally knocked on the door of Room 228 in the old building. In those days there was no security or monitors in the courthouse, but I didn't know you could just walk into a judge's office. So I knocked on the door, heard a voice to say come in, and walked into his reception area. I saw Frances Doyle, who was his secretary. I had known Frances for years and was relieved to see her sitting behind the desk. I told her that I would like to interview with Judge West for a clerkship. She asked if I had an appointment, and I said no, but Judge West saw me that day, anyway. That was my first contact with him. I just recall walking into his office and he never looked up and I never sat down. A couple of minutes later he asked what he could do for me, and I told him I wanted to work for him. He then told me to sit down and asked if I had recommendations from Dean McMahon and Dr. Bennett at the Law School, and I said no. After learning that he required such a recommendation, I went back to the law school and got recommendations from both of them. When I returned for a second interview, he offered me the job, and thus began a very good friendship that lasted until his death. I clerked for Judge West from August 19, 1965 to August 19, 1966.

ATB: What did you do after clerking for Judge West?

JFP: I went to work as a lawyer for Seale, Smith. I really admired A. G. Seale. All the firms with whom I interviewed were just wonderful to me. I interviewed with a number of very good firms which made me offers. I would not have had any regret with going with any of those firms. But Mr. Seale was special. So I went to his firm in 1966. He was a great person to work for. I became a partner in 1968 and left the firm in 1973 to become a U. S. Magistrate.

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ATB: *What kind of work did you do?*

JFP: I did a lot of work in Federal Court, handling RICO cases and SEC cases. I also did malpractice defense work. Toward the end of my career with the firm, I also handled a number of plaintiff tort cases.

ATB: *Did Judge West treat you nice when you were a lawyer?*

JFP: I told Judge West that I thought he was harder on his law clerks than any other lawyer in the case. I knew the reason then and I know the reason now. You always worry that someone thinks that you are partial to your former law clerks, so you almost go out of your way to make sure that you don't give that appearance. Sometimes I'm not sure that's fair to your former law clerks.

ATB: *What types of cases did you like to try?*

JFP: I liked anything in Federal Court, whether it was admiralty or whether it was a securities case. I had the good fortune of being able to try cases in a number of Federal District Courts around the country, before some really good federal judges. This was great experience and I really learned Federal practice. In those days people were really scared to go to Federal Court.

ATB: *In those days?*

JFP: In those days attorneys were more scared than they are today. And they would get someone who was aware of the rules to help them.

In State Court I liked medical malpractice cases. I became very good friends with the doctor and his family. I also developed a lot of compassion for the person that filed the suit. In a couple of cases the person was suing to recover for the death of a child. Those were very difficult cases.

ATB: *Did you have a famous case when you were a lawyer?*

JFP: I don't know if I had any famous cases. I think one of my most exciting cases occurred when I had just gotten to the law firm. I filed an appeal with the Supreme

Court, more for the practice, and the Court granted the writ. I wrote the brief and went to New Orleans with Mr. Seale, thinking he would argue the case. We were standing on Loyola Avenue, about ready to walk into the Supreme Court building, and he says, "Neighbor, why don't you argue this old case?" So there I was, 24 years old, and about to argue a case before the Louisiana Supreme Court. That case involved a defect in construction because the trees were planted too close to the house, which caused the foundation to slip and the brick house cracked. I was pleased to win that case for my client, who was the homeowner.

I guess one of my most exciting cases occurred when I represented the crane that fell through the LNB Tower. Everybody thought the crane was going to lose, but I didn't. That accident occurred in 1968, I believe, when they were constructing the first Premier Tower and the crane fell through the building. It was a terrible, terrible accident. The crane was hanging over Florida Boulevard. Several people were killed and many were injured. I was able to get the judge to grant a directed verdict. The jury later found the contractor responsible for the accident.

ATB: *Who did you like working with when you were a lawyer? Other than Mr. Seale and the lawyers in your firm?*

JFP: I thought the Bar was very close in those days. I couldn't think of a lawyer that I didn't like working with, either plaintiff or defense attorneys.

ATB: *How did you end up being a magistrate?*

JFP: Judge West and I would have lunch periodically. We would always walk down to the Piccadilly on Third Street. The conversation one day turned to, "Well, Judge, what's new in Federal Court?" He said, "We have this new system called magistrates." I asked him what that was and he told me. I said, "You know, Judge, that would really interest me." And he said, "I'm glad to hear you say that; but, of course, Mr. Hebert is the part-time magistrate." Judge West was very loyal to people working for him, and he offered Judge Hebert the job first. Judge Hebert was not interested. Later he became the Bankruptcy Judge. I was very fortunate. It was just really a lucky

break, I guess. I was a part-time magistrate for about a year and a half before becoming the full-time magistrate.

ATB: *What did you do with the rest of your time?*

JFP: For one year, I was a full-time, part-time magistrate. We were trying to get funding. It took one year, from October 1972 to October 1973, to get the funding for the full-time position. Basically, I was shutting down my law practice. And it was a real hard time for my firm, for me and for my clients, because I was practicing today and might not be practicing tomorrow.

In between, we had this huge case involving an explosion at Dow and I represented a company from Paris. I had a chance to go to Paris and a chance to go to New York, and the client really did not want me to leave, but I had made a commitment to Judge West. One of the hardest things I had to do was to tell Mr. Seale I was leaving the firm.

ATB: *So how long were you a magistrate before you got this job?*

JFP: From October 1, 1973 to May 28, 1980.

ATB: *Is that unusual for a magistrate to get a federal judgeship?*

JFP: Not in Louisiana. Several of us in Louisiana who were magistrates became district judges.

ATB: *But in general?*

JFP: Around the country, more and more magistrate judges are being appointed to district judgeships. I think it depends on the President.

ATB: *Do you enjoy this job?*

JFP: Yes.

ATB: *Is it a fun job?*

JFP: Yes, but it's stressful. It's a serious job. Everything I do affects the rights and in some cases the life or freedom of a party. It's no fun putting a person in jail. It's no fun ruling against an injured party. It's no fun rendering a financial judgment against a

defendant. On the other hand, I can't think of anything I would rather do.

Remember one year, I think after my fifth year or sixth year, Gibbs Adams, who was then the court reporter for the Morning Advocate, asked me that same question, and I told him that it's the greatest job in the world. And I still feel that way.

ATB: What has been your most rewarding experience?

JFP: I think earning the reputation of being a fair and honest judge and being known to be a very prepared judge. Gaining the respect of both plaintiffs and defendants -- in civil or criminal cases -- is very important to me. There are not a lot of things you can do as a judge that are pleasing to everyone or to the general public, particularly in the federal system. You get a lot of criticism. But you take an oath as a federal district judge to uphold the laws and constitution of the United States. It's not what you personally believe that is important; it is what the constitution and law require. Sometimes you have to issue decisions that maybe are not popular with the public. There are times you have to render opinions in cases that you may not want to do personally if you had the choice. I guess the worst part of the job is the criticism and threats you receive and the effect that it has on your family.

ATB: Are you concerned for the welfare of your family?

JFP: Yes. But I am also satisfied with the security provided by the U. S. Marshal's service when it is necessary.

ATB: What has been your decision that has had the most impact of all?

JFP: Every case that I try is the most important case on my docket on that particular day. To those litigants, it has a very big impact.

Some cases have more notoriety than others. In the environmental area, probably the PetroProcessors settlement. I think the state prison case has probably changed the way we do things in the state, hopefully for the better. People don't quite understand this case because there is very little support for the prisoners. I think some cases I've de-

cided involving oil and gas and the Tuscaloosa Trend were very important. Of course, I have had a number of high profile criminal cases and have handled two death penalty cases where the defendants were ultimately executed. I handled the first and last case involving the use of the electric chair in Louisiana.

ATB: How does it feel not to be able to respond?

JFP: It takes a lot of restraint, particularly if something goes on national television, not to be able to say something or defend yourself. This is particularly true when you know that what is being said about you is not the truth. I have to follow the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Ethics in Government Act, which restrict what a judge can do or say in those circumstances.

ATB: How do you feel about where we are going as lawyers?

JFP: A couple of years ago I was concerned about the way attorneys acted in and out of court. I think in the last few years things have greatly improved. There are a number of reasons for this, including the leadership shown by the presidents of the local bar and the desire of the general membership of the Baton Rouge Bar to improve the image of attorneys. I also think the law schools have had a positive impact. I now see a lot of civility among the lawyers. I also see the younger members of the bar taking an interest in the Inns of Court.

I guess the biggest thing that concerns me are mass tort accidents where people may be suspected of running cases or getting cases unethically.

I don't say this because you're from the Baton Rouge Bar, because I have said this many times: I can't think of a better bar than the Baton Rouge Bar. There may be incidents that may cause problems for everyone, but I would take the Baton Rouge Bar and match it against any bar association in the United States.

ATB: We'll probably have to print that quote in its entirety. Why do many lawyers view Federal Court as being an adversary to them?

“I think the biggest problem lawyers have right now is failing to realize that it is necessary to study and apply the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, the local rules of court, and the Civil Justice Reform Act Plan when they come to Federal Court.”

JFP: I don't know if the lawyers consider us to be an adversary.

I really don't think they understand how much preparation we do before we walk into court. I don't think they know how much we demand of ourselves and our law clerks and staff. When we walk into a

courtroom, we are very well prepared. When we walk into court and see other people not prepared or just reading their brief or even failing to respond to questions that I might send them in advance of oral argument, it concerns me. I see juries complain about how unprepared some lawyers are. All we're trying to do is to conduct a trial or hearing in a fair and impartial manner, making sure that everyone's rights are protected. And if the client isn't being properly represented by someone who is prepared, they tend to blame the result on the judge.

But I will say this: I think more and more lawyers are getting prepared for Federal Court. I think the biggest problem lawyers have right now is failing to realize that it is necessary to study and apply the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure, the

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Federal Rules of Evidence, the local rules of court, and the Civil Justice Reform Act Plan when they come to Federal Court.

ATB: *And the unwritten local rules of court?*

JFP: We have some unwritten procedures which each judge may follow. What a judge does at a pre-trial conference in one section may be different from what another judge may do. What we do here in Baton Rouge may be different from what judges do in another district. Judge Parker and I like to set one trial a day.

ATB: *Please never change that.*

JFP: Other judges may have different rules. We get good results in our district, and they get good results in New Orleans.

ATB: *Who were your role models or who had an impact on you as a person and as a judge? Can you separate the person from the judge?*

JFP: Yes, I can. I think my father, my mother, and my grandfather and grandmother Lucita had a tremendous personal influence on me. You have to understand that although I came from a very large family, I was the first member of the Polozola family to graduate from college. My parents made big sacrifices to get me and my brothers and sister through Catholic High, St. Anthony's and Sacred Heart. My dad's willingness, for example, to go back to school to get his high school diploma after he closed his family's corner grocery store was an inspiration to me. Having my dad go back to college with me and to see his determination was a very valuable lesson to me. My mother also had to take a job that most of us would not do. I've told people this many times. I'm never ashamed of my father and mother and the fact that he had to go to work at the maintenance department of the Highway Department because he never had the education to qualify for a good civil service job, even if he knew more accounting than anybody there. But he took the time to go back to college with me, sometimes in the same class. That's an interesting situation, to have your father go to college with you. He earned his credits, passed his civil service exams and was head of the accounts payable section of the Highway Department at the

time of his death. Just as the governor's children may feel that the fourth floor of the capitol was special to them, the sixth floor of the Highway Department where my father worked was just as important and special to me.

No one ever showed as much love to each other as my grandfather and grandmother Lucita. They were true role models and wonderful grandparents.

Professionally and personally, I think Sister Katie at Catholic High probably had as much favorable influence on me as anybody. She was my fifth grade teacher and now is one of my closest friends and is very special to me.

Judge Gordon West was like a father to me, was a role model and a very dear friend and colleague. He set a very high standard that I try to meet each day as a lawyer and judge. A lot of people may disagree with the way Judge West did things. So far as I'm concerned, he was one of the greatest judges we've ever had.

Mr. Seale and all of my partners at Seale, Smith were just wonderful people and great lawyers. I think every day I was there they added something to my professional skills. I also received a wonderful legal education from the L.S.U. Law School.

Brother Francis at Catholic High is a very close friend. My wife, Linda, has had a very positive influence on me. She has a very severe hearing impairment, yet attends functions where she has to meet the Chief Justice and Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court and attend other functions where it is very difficult for her to hear. Maybe she doesn't hear the speech or she doesn't hear anything the people are saying, but she is willing to be there. Somehow, she is always willing to listen to my concerns and to give me strength and encouragement. She is a very special part of my life.

ATB: *Do you feel isolated?*

JFP: Yes. The isolation comes from the fact that you are limited in who you go places with, what places you go and what events you may wish to attend. Also, as much as you might want to comment on things publicly, you cannot do so. I knew this was

going to happen when I decided to be a federal judge

ATB: *What do you do for fun?*

JFP: I love to cook. I love some types of hunting, like turkey hunting and dove hunting. I love to fish. Before my injury, I loved to work out. I really enjoy doing things with my four grandchildren.

ATB: *What would be a suggestion to young lawyers coming out of law school for dealing with you?*

JFP: I would first hope that they believe they will appear before a fair, honest and impartial judge who works very hard to be well prepared for their case. I would then recommend that they also be well prepared. I hope they don't feel intimidated when I walk in the courtroom. I hope they understand that whatever they may think of me personally, they also know that they should show respect for the office of United States District Judge and for the justice system in Federal Court. We may not have perfect judges or a perfect system, but there is no better justice system in the world.

ATB: *What are you so active in the Baton Rouge Bar Association?*

JFP: Because the Baton Rouge Bar Association has the finest lawyers of any bar association.

If you're going to complain about anything to these lawyers, then you ought to get involved in programs to try to help them. Being active with the Bar Association is one way I can have contact with the bar where you don't feel isolated. I think the Bar Association does so much good and it gives me an opportunity to work with people who really want to improve the administration of justice, help improve legal education, and who have pride in their profession. I get tired of lawyer bashing because I think lawyers do a lot more than people really give them credit for. I am never surprised about the amount of volunteer work that Baton Rouge lawyers perform, the amount of times that they take cases on a pro bono basis, and the interest they have in CLE Programs. I believe it is very important for the bench and bar to have a working relationship that will only improve the trust and respect they have for each other.

ATB: *How many hours a day do you work?*

JFP: Ha Ha Ha. A better question is how many hours a day do you sleep? I try to get to the office around 8:30. I leave whenever I'm through, usually around 6:00 or 6:30. I take a lot of work home. I do put in a lot of hours.

ATB: *What was your most fun case to try?*

JFP: Well, every case is a fun case, particularly when I settle it.

ATB: *How do you feel about a jury's ability to do justice?*

JFP: I've only overturned two jury verdicts since 1973. I think some of the cases we try are very complex. I think juries have a lot of difficulty in some cases, but somehow the end result, however they reached it, seems to be correct. I think the use of computers, demonstrative techniques and bench books may make it easier on juries in some cases. Jurors deserve respect from the bench and bar. We should do everything we possibly can to present the case in a clear and understanding manner. If a jury does not understand your case, it may be very difficult for the jury to return a verdict in your favor.

ATB: *Are you letting the lawyers do any voir dire?*

JFP: I do the majority of the voir dire, but to answer your question, yes. I give the lawyers limited voir dire in certain cases and circumstances. When we conduct individual voir dire in a highly publicized case, I generally let the attorneys ask some of the questions.

ATB: *You have also been charging the jury throughout the trial in some cases, haven't you?*

JFP: Yes. Not only do I charge the jury throughout the trial, but in some complex cases we have mini-opening statements and mini-closing arguments throughout the trial. For example, if you have a very complex bank case with multiple loans to consider, you try to break the trial down and have mini-openings and mini-closings when you complete the evidence on a single loan or group of loans. I think it's been very, very

helpful to the lawyers and to the jury to charge the jury throughout the trial. I also allow the jury to have a copy of my jury charge to follow when I read the charge to the jury. I don't, however, allow the typed jury charge to go to the jury deliberation room. I don't want one of the jurors interpreting the law for the other jurors. If the jurors have a question, I'd rather they send me a note so that the lawyers and I can have an opportunity to answer the question appropriately.

ATB: *What's the last book that you've read, other than the Fed 2d?*

JFP: I have been reading a lot of books lately. *The Christmas Box* is one. It's a short, beautiful book and should be mandatory reading. I'm reading Newt Gingrich's book and the Carville-Matalin book right now. I've just finished reading a book about Mother Theresa and just read the Pope's book. I also have just finished *The Chamber* by John Grisham.

ATB: *Do you regiment yourself to have time to read extra-curricular books?*

JFP: Always. I like to read early in the morning and at night.

ATB: *What time do you get up in the morning?*

JFP: Generally I get up at five. I read the newspaper and a book I may be interested in. Until my recent injury, I used to go to Our Lady of the Lake Health Center to work out before going to the office.

ATB: *What's your favorite food?*

JFP: I love Italian food, any kind.

ATB: *If you could change one of the federal rules, which one would you change?*

JFP: I think I would change Rule 26 regarding mandatory disclosure. The laws regarding remand and removal are very confusing. Supplemental jurisdiction is also very, very confusing. It would also help if these rules could be clarified and simplified.

ATB: *What would you do to Rule 26?*

JFP: I think we need to clarify it. If you're

going to have mandatory disclosure, I think some of the time limitations which are confusing need to be made clearer. For example, do you wait until all the defendants have been served to start the time periods? Do you wait until the first defendant has been served?

I think there's a problem with requiring a local treating physician known to all the lawyers to prepare the detailed expert report mandated by Rule 26. I have exempted treating physicians from the requirements of Rule 26. Other experts have to submit a long, involved report. I'm real concerned that there is nothing that stops the experts from charging the lawyers substantial fees to have their depositions taken. The lawyers are placed in a very bad position in trying to depose someone who charges an \$8,000 fee to give a deposition. If the lawyer has to run to the Court for help and are adverse to the expert, the expert may not be a friendly witness. I don't think it's fair for any witness to say, "If I come to court, it's going to cost \$8,000; if I have to give a deposition, it's going to be \$6,000, and if you have to take my deposition, it will be at 7:00 a.m." I think those are some of the things we need to clarify.

The privilege rule is also set forth in Rule 26. I don't think lawyers understand how to protect privileged material and what they have to do to maintain the privilege.

ATB: *Are you in favor of the sentencing guidelines that everyone is complaining about?*

JFP: I think the sentencing guidelines have some advantages and disadvantages. I'm concerned about some of its provisions that limit the Court's discretion. If the judge believes there should be a reduction of sentence, it should not be dependent on whether the prosecutor files a motion. I'm concerned that the rules for mandatory minimum sentences really contradict the intent of the sentencing guidelines. The rules for departure should be amended to allow the Court to take family, education, age and other personal factors into consideration. However, until the Congress changes the law on guideline sentencing, I intend to follow and apply the sentencing guidelines in criminal cases.

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ATB: What do you want to do when and if you retire?

JFP: Travel a little bit more. Maybe teach on a part-time basis. I have been on sabbatical for two years. Fish and hunt more. Do more things with my grandchildren. However, retirement is so far away for me. I can't take senior status until I am 65, and I'm only 54.

ATB: Who was your best clerk?

JFP: All of my clerks were and are outstanding clerks.

ATB: I knew you were going to waffle on that one.

JFP: I've had the most wonderful law clerks. I've had 48. Last year we had a reunion. Forty-three out of the 48 showed up. The clerks came from all parts of the United States. One of the most wonderful expressions of friendship that I have ever seen was to see all my clerks there. My clerks are like my children -- you love them, you worry about them. You want to be a role model for them, as well as a teacher. It's a very strange relationship. You work with these kids for a year or two years and you get very attached to them and then they leave to practice law. When they come back as an attorney, you can't treat them in the courtroom as you treated them while they clerked for you. I worry that I tend to be harder on former clerks than I am on other attorneys just to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

ATB: How much influence do your clerks have on your opinions?

JFP: My opinions are my opinions.

This is what I tell my law clerks: "I didn't hire you to be a 'Yes' person." For example, we have a routine here for motions. I review the briefs and put my initial opinion on the briefs. Law clerks then do independent research, go through the briefs and come up with a recommendation. We have a discussion. I may agree with them or I may not agree. But I have always had very good law clerks. They do very thorough research and I depend a lot on the product of their research.

One thing has to be understood: The opinions I render and sign are mine, and I'm responsible for them.

ATB: What do lawyers do that aggravates you?

JFP: I do not know if I am aggravated by what lawyers do. I am very concerned when lawyers show disrespect to the jury, the judge or each other. Lawyers should be prepared, should be on time and always remember that they are officers of the court.

ATB: Does being a federal judge prohibit you from doing anything you like to do, like going to a movie?

JFP: Yes. As I stated earlier, we have to follow the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Ethics in Government Act. Sometimes we are prohibited from attending an event we would very much like to attend. For example, when Senator Long retired, he was honored at a function that was held in connection with a political fund raiser. I couldn't go because it was a political function.

ATB: Will you let us take your picture on one of the horses out front?

JFP: That's only for Rule 11 violators. I had some first graders in court this morning. They asked me about the horses.

You asked me earlier what are some of the most fun things I do. I think trying the "Three Little Pigs" case for the kids not only is a lot of fun, but is a great learning tool for the children. I can't tell you what it does to me to see the children really learn about the judicial process and what we do as judges and lawyers. Presiding at naturalization ceremonies can also be an emotional experience.

ATB: Did I not ask you anything I should have?

JFP: I have two sons who are practicing law. Gordon is at Kean, Miller and Greg is at Seale, Smith. I am very proud of them. I have a daughter, Sheri, who has three children and who has begun work on her master's degree in special education. My children and their spouses and my grandchildren are very important to me. ■

LSBA HEADS FOR SEATTLE

By Paul West

If you're like me, it seems that you just received those final CLE hours for 1995 and now its time to look forward to obtaining them for 1996. This year, the LSBA has scheduled an exciting CLE program in a fantastic venue. On July 25-27, there will be a multi-topic seminar held in Seattle, Washington.

If you've never been to Seattle, you are in for quite a treat. I was fortunate to have a case which took me to Seattle a number of times and I became quite familiar with the city and its surroundings. Seattle is located on the Puget Sound and is surrounded by the Olympic and Cascade mountains. The weather in July is a delightful change from the usual baton Rouge steam machine. The seminar will be held at the Westin which is well located in downtown Seattle. It is within walking distance of a number of attractions such as the Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square, the waterfront and the majority of downtown. Downtown Seattle is filled with coffee houses, fine dining shopping and nightclubs. Seattle is an ideal vacation place for couples and families alike. There are plenty of attractions for people of all ages and interests.

Trips from Seattle offer almost endless opportunities. Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens are both located nearby. Ferry trips across the Sound or all the way up to Canada are fun excursions. An overnight trip to Victoria will take you as close to a British venue as you can get without actually visiting England. Vancouver (a ferry trip away) is a bustling metropolitan area which offers a variety of tourist venues. The Boeing factory also offers a very interesting tour of its facilities and museum.

Oh yes, there is also quality CLE offered on the areas of worker's compensation, litigation techniques (taught by your's truly), admiralty, harassment, immovable property, estate planning and, of course, ethics.

You will receive a brochure soon. I whole heartedly recommend the seminar and especially the surroundings of Seattle in the summertime. I hope to see you there