

**Study and Recommendations
Family Court for the Parish of East Baton Rouge
Senate Resolution 81 of the 2024 Regular Session**

**Submitted by the
Office of the Judicial Administrator
Louisiana Supreme Court
December 8, 2025**

INTRODUCTION

During the 2024 Regular Session, the Senate, by unanimous consent, passed Senate Resolution 81 (SR 81) by Senator Cleo Fields and Representative Kathy Edmonston. SR 81 urges and requests the Louisiana Supreme Court to study the Family Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge ("Family Court").¹ In requesting the study, SR 81 cites "the substantial increase in court calendars and the steady rise in problems within the dysfunctional families [which] mandate the necessity for consistency in rulings, equal treatment amongst the parties regardless of wealth or attorney selection, and a set of principles upon which all judicial actions, projects, or efforts can be based..." Furthermore, SR 81 states that a comprehensive family court consists of three basic elements: "(1) legal and equitable principles that guide a solid legal basis for judgments; (2) a unified case processing and management system that provides substantial screening, assignment, and monitoring of cases; and (3) the need for organizational and administration of the family court to provide the leadership necessary to ensure that it functions in accordance with established principles and standards." The resolution requests the Louisiana Supreme Court "to study and submit recommendations for the family court for the parish of East Baton Rouge."

Under our tripartite system of government, and by the authority of Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 1, the judicial power is vested in "a supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, and other courts authorized by this Article." Under Article V, Section 5, the Supreme Court has general supervisory jurisdiction over all other courts. Notwithstanding the engrained tenet of separation of powers and the Supreme Court's constitutional role to oversee the state judiciary, the Court recognizes and appreciates the concerns expressed by the Legislature in Senate Resolution 81. In a spirit of comity, corroboration and cooperation, the Court took certain actions in response to the resolution as will be outlined in this report.

At the outset, it should be noted that this report contains information and recommendations in the area of judicial administration only. This report will not, and cannot, discuss the merits of any pending cases. Reportedly, this resolution was prompted by concerns of litigants who related their unsatisfactory experiences in Family Court. To the extent those experiences arose from orders or judgments of the judges of Family Court, they are not discussed here. Under our judicial system, the appropriate action to be taken by a litigant who believes that an order or judgment

¹ SR 81 is attached as Appendix A.

was issued in error is to appeal that ruling, first to the appropriate court of appeal, and then file a writ of certiorari in the Louisiana Supreme Court. This appellate system ensures that errors made by the lower courts can be addressed by higher courts.

In Louisiana, judges are elected public officials. They take an oath to support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of Louisiana, and swear to faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties of a state judge, to the best of their ability and understanding. Judges are charged with knowledge of the law they are constitutionally obligated to follow, and to do so competently and impartially. Unlike other state public officials who can only be removed from office if impeached, judges can be removed from office by the Louisiana Supreme Court. In addition to their oath of office, judges are bound to follow the ethical dictates of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In the event a litigant, or any member of the public, believes a judge has violated the Code and has committed ethical misconduct, a complaint may be filed with the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana. The complaint will be reviewed and may result in a recommendation of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which may include a recommendation of removal. However, the action on such a complaint will not affect the underlying case, nor will it change the outcome. The judicial discipline system exists to protect the public and to educate the judiciary and is not a substitute for the appellate process through the court system. Attempts to appeal through social media and to the Legislature do not and cannot replace the due process requirements of testifying under oath in court and having such testimony be subject to cross-examination.

This report will present the actions taken by the Supreme Court in response to the resolution, including the appointment of a supernumerary judge to observe and collect data, the responses of the judges of Family Court, and the recommendations of the Office of the Judicial Administrator.

BACKGROUND

Family law cases, particularly those involving child custody and visitation, are arguably among the most difficult cases in the judicial system, and the stakes could not be higher. The breakup of a family is an extremely stressful time, and questions of custody and visitation are fraught with emotion and consequences. Daily in courts throughout the state and throughout the country, family court judges are called upon to evaluate evidence and make credibility calls in rendering

judgments; that is the job they were elected to do. Like nearly all states, Louisiana utilizes “the best interest of the child” standard in making decisions regarding child custody.² Though Louisiana law has created factors to determine the child’s best interest, many of the factors are subjective. The high-stakes and subjective nature of the hearings make family law cases stressful for all parties, including the family court judges. As noted by retired Judge Harry Powazek in an article about the increasing complexity and cost of family law cases in California:

Most family law judges are in a kind of purgatory. New judges are appointed to the family law bench and find themselves dealing with extremely difficult, soul rendering matters. They work long hours, skip lunches, take work home, and cannot wait to be moved to an easier assignment.³

Emotionally charged family court hearings are stressful and, over a period, take their toll on even the most seasoned and experienced veteran judge.⁴

The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, is the sole specialized family court in Louisiana. It was established by an amendment to the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 in 1956 as divorce, child custody, child support, and alimony became more common after World War II. The Interprofessional Commission on Marriage and Divorce Law, established through the American Bar Association by mandate of the Legal Section of the 1948 National Conference on Family Life, worked on a plan to put the focus on the interests of the family in the nation’s courts. Beginning in 1950, law review articles began discussing the myriad number of different courts within a city which could exercise jurisdiction over the exact same family’s problems. They demonstrated the need for a single family court with jurisdiction over all facets of family problems.

In July 1990 and pursuant to La. R.S. 13:1401, the Family Court was established as an exclusive jurisdiction court of record for the following matters: divorce, annulment of marriages, establishment or disavowal of the paternity of children, spousal support and child support and nonsupport, and custody and visitation of children, as well as of all matters incidental to any of the foregoing

² La. C.C. Art. 131, et seq.

³ Powazek, Harry L., “Family law crisis: Why divorce cases now take years and cost more.” Accessed October 22, 2025. <https://perma.cc/D56B-6Y4B>.

⁴ See also Chambers, Anne, “Judges and Compassion Fatigue: What is it and What to do About It.” Accessed October 24, 2025, <https://perma.cc/64HN-335S>, “Judges are expected to appear unaffected by disturbing information they see and hear. Judges face isolation due to the uniqueness of their role, make weighty decisions and are expected to keep their own counsel. Highly complex, emotionally charged cases can take a toll over time.”

proceedings, including but not restricted to the issuance of the conservatory writs for the protection of community property, the awarding of attorney fees in judgments of divorce, and rendering executory spousal and child support and attorney fees. Family Court also has jurisdiction over civil matters of protection against family/household members.

Though there are seven courts in Louisiana with a dedicated family court *section*, Family Court is the only *court* dedicated to family law in Louisiana, with the four judges hearing family law matters exclusively. The judges of East Baton Rouge Family Court are full-time family court judges. They do not ‘rotate’ to a general jurisdiction docket as do judges in many other jurisdictions. The current judges on Family Court are Chief Judge Erika L. Green (since 2021), Judge Pam Baker (since 2007), Judge Charlene Day (since 2011), and Judge Kyle Russ (since 2023).

In response to SR 81, on September 4, 2024, the Supreme Court, acting under its authority granted by Article V, Section 5(A) of the constitution, appointed Judge James E. Kuhn, retired, as supernumerary judge assigned pro tempore to the Family Court. The Order assigned Judge Kuhn to observe and collect data and information relative to the Family Court and to preside over any of the court’s divisions. Judge Kuhn was further assigned to “evaluate [the] efficiency and effectiveness” of the administration and disposition of cases. Though it granted Judge Kuhn certain powers as supernumerary judge, the Order did not “deprive the [current Family Court] judges ... of their offices, or their adjudicative, non-adjudicative, or administrative duties and responsibilities as judges....” The Order expired on March 3, 2025. A copy of the Order is attached as Appendix B.

Acting within the authority granted by the Order, Judge Kuhn conducted an independent evaluation of the Family Court over a six-month period. In that time, Judge Kuhn stated that he conducted interviews with judges and staff and personally observed court operations and proceedings.⁵ Judge Kuhn prepared a report entitled “Findings and Recommendations of Judge James E. Kuhn, Retired.” His report is attached as Appendix C. The report was forwarded to the Family Court judges for their response, which is attached as Appendix D. In its response at , the Family Court judges noted that

during the Supernumerary’s six (6) month tenure, he did not observe any of the above hearings, statuses, or the like of any division... Staff also confirmed

⁵ In accordance with the Order, Judge Kuhn also presided over a limited number of cases during his appointment. The cases are not discussed in the report as they are still pending before the Family Court.

that no meetings were arranged with them to discuss procedures or observe their tasks for that time period beyond his specific cases. ... The oversight by the Supernumerary could have been more productive with meetings, observations of court matters, review of the Local Rules, and communication with the court, judges, and staff prior to issuance of the Findings. Response pp. 2, 4..

Subsequently, the Judicial Administrator Sandra Vujnovich and Chief Deputy Judicial Administrator Brian Wiggins met with all four judges of the Family Court and discussed Judge Kuhn's report and their response. Though family law is a difficult area for judges and practitioners, the Family Court Judges, who were very cooperative and open-minded during the meeting, demonstrated their commitment to act as a neutral arbiter over intense, high-stakes disputes. The judges answered questions and provided additional information and context about the complexity of family law cases as well as the practices and procedures of the Family Court.

JUDGE KUHN'S REPORT – FINDINGS

Judge Kuhn's report contains Findings and Recommendations. Regarding Adjudicative Findings, Judge Kuhn expressed the opinion that in some highly contentious cases, interlocutory or temporary orders, as well as contempt and protective orders, are often overused. He also concluded that child support enforcement took up an inordinate amount of time and that the court lacked sufficient enforcement powers to ensure parents are paying child support.

On Administrative Findings, Judge Kuhn found that the lack of full-time minute and docket clerks created an inherent lack of checks and balances in maintaining the court's official records. Further, the court's process of assigning duty judges to address emergency orders encourages judge-shopping.

Miscellaneous Findings of Judge Kuhn include a public perception of favoritism in the Family Court based in part on the physical layout of the courthouse. Attorneys are allowed access to the hallways and rooms adjacent to the judges' chambers, including access to court staff. Further, self-represented litigants may be unintentionally disfavored by judges. Judge Kuhn also expressed concern about what he perceived as a systemic use of litigation and non-litigation tactics by attorneys that foster disrespect for the justice system and judges.

In response, the Family Court Judges note the following. Interlocutory orders are requested by the parties and serve as a temporary measure until a trial date can be set. The judges stated that attorneys typically request interlocutory orders to give the parties time to work toward settlement. The judges further stated that their dockets were current, and if requested, a trial may be scheduled anywhere from two to four months from when the request was made.⁶ Interlocutory orders give the parties certainty prior to a trial date and encourage the parties to work toward amicable settlement prior to a trial, which can be unduly expensive and burdensome on all parties.

Like interlocutory orders, the majority of contempt rulings are only rendered after a motion for contempt has been filed by a party, and are only rendered after the judge has determined that a party has not followed the court's previous orders. Further, in the event a party does not agree with the contempt finding, he/she has the option to appeal the contempt ruling. To the extent a contempt ruling may order the payment of attorney fees, the judges noted that the amount of attorney fees must be proven by the party requesting the issuance of the contempt order. Regarding the finding that the judges are overusing protective orders, again the judges noted that protective orders are requested by the parties. Further, given the seriousness of and increase in domestic violence, each petition for a protective order should be carefully reviewed and considered on its own merits.

Judge Kuhn recommended that Family Court hire a hearing officer to make recommendations in child support cases to promote consistency with child support decisions and enforcement. Currently, each division has Non-Support/Child Support dates twice a month. The Family Court judges suggested that a hearing officer would actually slow case processing and increase delays since hearing officers simply make recommendations to the judge, necessitating the parties appear in court at least twice before a final ruling is made. Furthermore, it should be noted that Family Court is the only family law-specific court in Louisiana. Other courts utilizing hearing officers either operate with a family law-dedicated judge or have general jurisdiction judges hearing family law cases as allotted. The judges note that the lack of a hearing officer actually is more efficient since only one person – the family court judge allotted to the case – hears the entire case.

Regarding Judge Kuhn's suggestion that the use of hearing officers would reduce the need for parenting coordinators, the judges note that the vast majority of

⁶ The amount of time it takes to schedule a trial varies greatly by judicial district, but generally 2-4 months is considered very reasonable nationwide.

time, parenting coordinators are only ordered when requested by the parties.⁷ Judge Kuhn recommended that the Family Court seek a more formal relationship with the Department of Children and Family Services. The Family Court responded that there is a formal relationship between the Family Court, the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for child support enforcement efforts. The Family Court also noted that DCFS no longer files contempt proceedings in child support cases in their court and instead utilizes a more collaborative approach to child support enforcement.

Regarding Judge Kuhn's findings about the lack of full-time minute clerks and docket clerks, the Family Court judges agreed that they do not have available funding for each division to have its own full-time minute and docket clerks. Rather, they have developed a system whereby court reporters assist with minute clerk duties. The Court's Judicial Administrator meets with the court reporters quarterly and monitors the minutes they produce to ensure that they are up to date. Further, all proceedings are audio-recorded to ensure accuracy.

On the issue of whether the current duty judge system enables judge-shopping, earlier this year Family Court revised its procedure for emergency matters to now allow for existing cases to have the docketed judge hear the emergency matter instead of the duty judge, in essence minimizing judge shopping.

Regarding Judge Kuhn's comments about a perception of favoritism towards certain attorneys based in part on the physical layout of the courthouse, Family Court responded that the Court is located in the Nineteenth Judicial District Courthouse on the fourth floor. There are two attorney conference rooms that are used as waiting areas for attorneys and for continued work on cases near chambers. These conference rooms are used to discuss cases, settlement agreements, and other matters prior to a hearing. There are also four smaller rooms in the hallway for litigants and attorneys for privacy of mediation of cases. The Family Court's current practice is to allow attorneys to access an inner hallway encompassing the judges' chambers that is inaccessible by the public. To gain access to the inner hallway, attorneys must be "buzzed-in" by the judges' judicial assistants. The judges' chambers are located behind closed doors and are not accessible by attorneys. The judges state that the public is not allowed into the inner hallway area because of the lack of security, other than the four bailiffs assigned to specific courtrooms. In addition, while self-represented litigants are not allowed access to the inner hallway, they do have access

⁷ Additionally, the use of parenting coordinators is provided for by state law. See R.S. 9:358.1.

to private conference rooms outside of the courtrooms where they may discuss their cases with other parties or attorneys.⁸

The Family Court is committed to providing self-represented litigants access to justice and has taken affirmative steps to ensure this access, including partnering with the Baton Rouge Bar Association to provide litigants weekly access to a Self-Help Desk with attorney and law student volunteers. Throughout the Family Court, there are materials and resources available for self-represented litigants, including but not limited to services offered by the Southern University Law Clinic, legal aid, non-profits, and the Department of Children and Family Services. The Court's website also has access to fillable forms for litigants to utilize, and the Department of Child and Family Services has provided an attorney to assist self-represented litigants with addressing noncustodial parent concerns with visitation.

JUDGE KUHN'S REPORT – RECOMMENDATIONS; COMMENTS OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR (JA) STAFF

In addition to the above Findings, Judge Kuhn also made several recommendations in his report. These are outlined below, including comments of Judicial Administrator staff.

- (1) **Additional Resources:** Judge Kuhn found that Family Court needs additional minute clerks to ensure that an accurate record of the court's actions is made and is aligned with the transcript. The court currently has two minute clerks provided by the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court. The clerks are shared between four judges and were provided by the clerk of court after being requested by the judges.

Because of the lack of minute clerks, court reporters are frequently required to both take minutes and transcribe court proceedings. This is unduly burdensome for court reporters and it is recommended that additional steps be taken to secure additional minute clerks from the clerk of court or the parish governing authority.

JA Comment: La. R.S. 13:1405 states the clerk of the 19th Judicial District Court shall be ex officio clerk of the family court. La.C.C.P. Art. 251, et seq.,

⁸ They also have access to a large area of the court that is dedicated to self-represented litigants as will be discuss later in this report.

provides that the clerk of court is the legal custodian of all the court's records. La. C.C.P. Art. 254 provides that each court shall keep "minute books." La. C.C.P. Art. 256 provides for the duties of the minute clerk of court. Considering the above, it is recommended that steps be taken to secure minute clerks from the clerk of court for every division of court.

- (2) **Child Support Enforcement:** Judge Kuhn recommended that Family Court hire a hearing officer to make findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding child support cases.

JA Comment: Considering the comments of the Family Court judges, including the manner in which child support cases are handled, we do not recommend the hiring of a hearing officer.

- (3) **Training:** Judge Kuhn recommended that, in addition to the extensive training they already receive, the Family Court judges should participate in additional training facilitated by the Louisiana Judicial College to ensure the use of best practices and uniformity to the general practice and customs of other district court judges in family and domestic matters. Judge Kuhn recommends additional training in proper caseflow management and discouraging tactics that prolong litigation.

JA Comment: We agree with Judge Kuhn's recommendation that, in addition to the 12.5 hours of annual Continuing Legal Education that is currently required of all state judges, training should be incorporated on best practices.⁹ Such best practices may include strategies for managing cases efficiently and fairly to provide a clear understanding of the principles and practices of caseflow management and triage in family courts. The Judicial Administrator's Office endeavors to identify funding through the State Justice Institute or other grants or funding for this additional training. Working with the Louisiana Judicial College, this enhanced caseflow training could be used as a model to train other Louisiana judges and courts with family court jurisdiction.

One example of this specialized training would be the requirement recently adopted by the Supreme Court that all judges must be trained in one hour of training every other year in domestic violence and trauma-informed courts. The training, to be offered by the Louisiana Judicial College and Louisiana

⁹ National Center for State Courts (NCSC), "Family Justice Initiative: Protocol Development and Appendices: Pathways Protocols and Templates. Accessed October 1, 2025, <https://perma.cc/KUV6-33AE>.

Protective Order Registry (LPOR), is intended to ensure judges have access to the latest information and best practices on domestic violence issues, including issuing protective orders, the special needs of domestic violence victims, and evidence-based practices to minimize or eliminate further trauma to children and families.

- (4) **Self-Represented Litigants:** Judge Kuhn recommended that the Family Court should “develop and implement” a plan to ensure that self-represented litigants are treated fairly and uniformly consistent with the Code of Judicial Conduct.

JA Comment: As discussed above, Family Court has taken several steps to ensure that self-represented litigants have access. Overall, it appears that the Family Court’s programs for self-represented litigants meet or exceed what other Louisiana courts currently provide.

- (5) **Duty Judges:** Judge Kuhn noted that the Family Court’s process of assigning judges to address emergency orders encourages “judge-shopping” by litigants and attorneys. In response, the Family Court adopted a new local rule whereby all emergency rules/motions are referred to the judge who is already assigned the case. If the judge is unavailable, then the emergency rule/motion is assigned to the duty judge. Each of the four Family Court Judges are assigned a weekday (Monday through Thursday) and rotate Fridays.

JA Comment: Considering the action already taken by Family Court, there is no recommendation on this matter.

- (6) **Courthouse Layout:** As discussed above, Family Court’s current practice is to allow attorneys to access an inner hallway encompassing the judges’ chambers that is inaccessible to the public. Judge Kuhn believes this creates a perception of favoritism.

JA Comment: While unintentional, attorney-only access to the inner hallway may lead to the perception that attorneys and parties that are represented by attorneys are favored over self-represented litigants. Additionally, it could lead to parties feeling that they are left out of the process altogether. While this report does not recommend changing Family Court’s current policies regarding attorney access to the inner hallway as it increases efficiency and promotes settlement, the judges should be mindful that the policy may lead to

the appearance that the court favors attorneys over self-represented litigants. To avoid this appearance of favoritism, it is recommended that Family Court adopt a rule or policy requiring attorneys to utilize the doors accessible to the public when re-entering the courtroom, rather than exiting the inner hallway area via the courtroom door utilized by the judge.

ADDITIONAL JA COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our review of Judge Kuhn's report, the response of Family Court, and our interview of the Family Court judges indicate that Family Court is operating in accordance with Louisiana law. The judges manage their dockets well with trials and hearings set within a reasonable amount of time after a party's request. Most importantly, there were no signs of unethical or illegal actions or egregious misconduct or mismanagement. Nevertheless, even in the best managed courts there is always room for improvement and growth – particularly in the area of family law where the best interests of children are sacrosanct.

In addition to the above recommendations, several other issues were raised that warrant discussion and consideration.

Discussions outside the presence of parties:

We received several comments about the practice of some judges to hold discussions, including status conference, outside of the presence of the parties. This is a standard practice in courtrooms throughout the state, and such status conferences are utilized to move cases forward, which is ultimately to the benefit of the parties. However, it should be noted that sometimes this practice can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations, especially in emotionally-charged family court proceedings.

Accordingly, it is recommended that judges take special care to have the attorneys summarize any negotiations, settlement discussions, etc. that took place outside of the presence of the parties on record in front of the parties to better their understanding and participation in the process. To the extent that this practice is already taking place in the Family Court, we encourage it to continue and that the Family Court amend its local rules or adopt a policy to ensure that new judges are continuing the practice.

Closing the Courtroom:

We received several comments regarding the legality of closing the courtroom during family proceedings, and not allowing members of the public to remain in the courtroom. While it is true that open courts are favored in our judicial system, there are times when access should be limited to protect the parties involved. In its wisdom, the Legislature enacted Civil Code article 135 which provides that “A custody hearing may be closed to the public.” Further, Rule 16 of Family Court Local Rules provides: “The Court may order a hearing closed to the public in a case involving child custody in accordance with Louisiana Civil Code article 135, or in its discretion if it finds good cause to close a hearing.” While it appears there is legal support to close a courtroom to members of the public during a family proceeding, the closure should be in compliance with CC article 135 and should be done sparingly and only with good cause.

Transcript Costs:

During our review, we received several comments regarding the cost of obtaining a transcript of Family Court proceedings. The per page charge for a transcript in Family Court is currently \$6.50 per page, plus an administrative charge of \$5.00. The cost is established by the Family Court’s Local Rules of Court.¹⁰

On its face, this current charge appears to conflict with La. R.S. 13:961(F)(1)(a), which states in pertinent part:

In all civil and criminal cases a fee not to exceed one dollar and fifty cents per thirty-one-line page and twenty-five cents per copy reported and transcribed shall be charged by and be paid to the court reporter who reported and transcribed the testimony. These fees shall be retained by him as compensation, in addition to the salary as provided in Subsection E, and shall be taxed as costs of the case in which such testimony is taken.

Recent research indicates that many court reporters in Louisiana are operating in violation of the above statute, and are charging a greater fee for a transcript. During last year’s legislative session, a bill was introduced to address this pricing issue, but was unsuccessful. In accordance with House Resolution 272 of the 2025 Regular Session, the Judicial Council of Louisiana is evaluating the per page transcription rate in criminal and civil cases, including family court and juvenile proceedings, to make a recommendation regarding a statewide

¹⁰ See Rule 39 of the Rules of Court, Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish.

standardized rate. In accordance with state law, parties that are declared indigent do not pay for transcripts. It is recommended that Family Court amend its local rule to ensure indigent parties are aware of their right to request a no-cost transcript. It is also recommended that, in lieu of statewide legislation, the Family Court should seek legislation to clarify the transcript costs.¹¹

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court takes seriously its supervisory role over the courts of this state, especially in the area of judicial administration. All courts should be accessible with judges acting as neutral arbiters deciding cases in accordance with the law and facts as presented by parties. The Supreme Court also shares the Legislature's concerns that children embroiled in contested custody disputes are not subjected to prolonged, unnecessary litigation. Research suggests that many of the issues cited in Senate Resolution 81 are not unique to the Family Court and, in fact, are occurring nationwide as case complexity grows and the costs of litigation increase. The Supreme Court and Family Court judges are committed to working together to improve family courts throughout the state by continuing to examine and implement best practices, such as family case triage/docket management, to improve caseflow, ensure all parties (represented or not) are heard, and that the best interests of children are paramount.

On behalf of the Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court, we express their thanks to the Legislature for bringing these issues to their attention. Thank you to Judge Kuhn for his thoughtful observations, comments and recommendations. Thank you as well to the Family Court judges for their cooperation, but especially for their commitment and dedication to their judicial positions and to the children and families of Louisiana.

Appendices

A: Senate Resolution 81 of the 2024 Regular Session

B: Order of Appointment

C: Findings and Recommendations of Judge James E. Kuhn, Retired

D: Family Court Judges' response to Judge Kuhn's Findings and Recommendations

¹¹ It should be noted that there is a statewide shortage of court reporters with the 19th JDC recently declaring an emergency. Immediately reducing the transcript rate to the amount listed in R.S. 13:691(F)(1) could have detrimental effects on the Family Court including but not limited to increasing case delays. It should also be noted that the Family Court attempted unsuccessfully to amend R.S. 13:691 to increase their transcript rate (as has been done in many other district courts) in 2022. See HB 653 of the 2022 Regular Session.

APPENDIX A

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR FIELDS AND REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to study the family court for the parish of East Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, the basic element of any court system is jurisdiction, and a family court must be considered in terms of both jurisdiction and function; and

WHEREAS, the family court for the parish of East Baton Rouge (family court) is a court of record with jurisdiction over actions including divorce, annulment of marriages, establishment or disavowal of the paternity of children, spousal and child support, custody and visitation of children, and matters incidental to any of these proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the family court consists of three election sections and four presiding judges; and

WHEREAS, in East Baton Rouge Parish all judicial proceedings relating to family life are initiated and resolved in the family court system; and

WHEREAS, the family court is arguably the most powerful branch of the judiciary whose power comes from many sources, including constitutional mandates, federal and state statutes, court rules and case precedents, and these equitable powers are recognized by the legislature in enabling statutes; and

WHEREAS, the substantial increase in court calendars and the steady rise in problems within dysfunctional families mandate the necessity for consistency in rulings, equal treatment amongst the parties regardless of wealth or attorney selection, and a set of principles upon which all judicial actions, projects, or efforts can be based; and

WHEREAS, the functions of a comprehensive family court should consider the following basic elements which need identification and consideration from the outset: (1) legal and equitable principles that guide a solid legal basis for judgments; (2) a unified case processing and management system that provides substantial screening, assignment, and monitoring of cases; and (3) the need for the organization and administration of the family court to provide the leadership necessary to ensure that it functions in accordance with established principles and standards; and

WHEREAS, the family court for the parish of East Baton Rouge has established local rules of court and harassment and complaint procedures, but is silent about child welfare topics such as allegations of abuse procedures or other investigatory practices; and

WHEREAS, the concept of a unified and comprehensive family court system is worthy of full consideration and implementation, and the parties to court proceedings deserve fair and equal treatment from the presiding judges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to study and submit recommendations for the family court for the parish of East Baton Rouge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPENDIX B

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 5(A), of the Constitution of 1974, and considering Senate Resolution No. 81 of the 2024 Regular Session, which urges and requests that the Louisiana Supreme Court study and submit recommendations for The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, and further considering the benefits of making observations and the collection of data relative to the administration of the judiciary, including the collecting and review of data and other information related to the efficient and effective disposition of cases and administration of justice within the dockets of the above mentioned court and to exercise any and all authority necessary to achieve said ends and, further considering the willingness of the following judge to accept said appointment:

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Retired Judge James E. Kuhn be and is hereby appointed Supernumerary Judge *pro tempore* and assigned to observe and collect data and information relative to The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge and, if deemed necessary and at his sole discretion, preside over any of the Divisions of said court. This appointment shall be effective immediately and end 180 days from the date of this order, or upon the completion of the Judge's responsibilities hereunder, whichever occurs first.

The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge will allow access to the requested data and information in a prompt fashion, including case files and records, transcripts, audio recordings, and minute entries, as well as access to the employees of The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge.

During the period of this appointment, Retired Judge Kuhn shall have the following responsibilities, duties, and authority:

- (1) To collect data and information relative to the administration and disposition of cases in The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge in an effort to evaluate efficiency and effectiveness.
- (2) To observe and, if deemed necessary by Retired Judge Kuhn for the purpose of fully understanding the administration of justice at The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, to preside over the proceedings of any of the Divisions of said court. Retired Judge Kuhn shall notify the Chief

Judge of said court if he deems it necessary to preside over a division of the court.

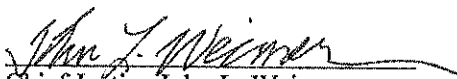
- (3) To periodically inform the Supreme Court of Louisiana and the Chief Judge of The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge and any other judges of said court the Judge deems appropriate in his sole discretion of his observations.
- (4) In the event Retired Judge Kuhn generates any written report to the Supreme Court of Louisiana related to this assignment, he shall inform the Chief Judge of The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge of its contents before the issuance of any such report.

Retired Judge Kuhn shall be compensated by the Supreme Court of Louisiana in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana for appointment of *ad hoc* or *pro tempore* judges for district courts, including compensation for mileage, lodging, and per diem.

This order shall not deprive the judges of The Family Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge of their offices or their adjudicative, nonadjudicative, or administrative duties and responsibilities as judges of said court, nor shall this Order deprive Retired Judge Kuhn of his office as judge of any other court to which he may otherwise be assigned by previous order of this court.

Given under our hands and seal this 7th day of September, 2024, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA:


Chief Justice John L. Weimer

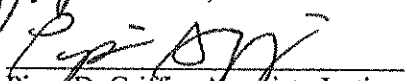

Jefferson Hughes, Associate Justice


Scott Crichton, Associate Justice


Jeannette T. Knoll, Justice Pro Tempore


William J. Crain, Associate Justice


Jay B. McCallum, Associate Justice


Piper D. Griffin, Associate Justice

APPENDIX C

Senate Resolution 81 of the 2024 Regular Session

**Findings and Recommendations of
Judge James E. Kuhn, Retired
April 2, 2025**

Please note that this preliminary draft is subject to further revisions.

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Senate Resolution 81 of the 2024 Regular Session Findings and Recommendations of Judge James E. Kuhn, Retired April 2, 2025

Please note that the observations and recommendations herein do not reflect the opinion of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

BACKGROUND

During the 2024 Regular Session, the Senate, by unanimous consent, passed Senate Resolution 81 (SR 81) by Senator Cleo Fields and Representative Kathy Edmonston. SR 81 urges and requests the Louisiana Supreme Court to study the Family Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge ("Family Court"). In requesting the study, SR 81 cites, "the substantial increase in court calendars and the steady rise in problems within the dysfunctional families [which] mandate the necessity for consistency in rulings, equal treatment amongst the parties regardless of wealth or attorney selection, and a set of principles upon which all judicial actions, projects, or efforts can be based..." Furthermore, SR 81 states that a comprehensive family court consists of three basic elements: "(1) legal and equitable principles that guide a solid legal basis for judgments; (2) a unified case processing and management system that provides substantial screening, assignment, and monitoring of cases; and (3) the need for organizational and administration of the family court to provide the leadership necessary to ensure that it functions in accordance with established principles and standards."

AUTHORIZATION AND APPOINTMENT

On September 4, 2024, the Supreme Court, acting under its authority granted by Article V, Section 5(A) of the constitution, appointed Judge James E. Kuhn, retired, as supernumerary judge assigned pro tempore to the Family Court.¹ The Order assigned Judge Kuhn to observe and collect data and information relative to the Family Court and to preside over any of the court's divisions. Judge Kuhn was further assigned to "evaluate [the] efficiency and effectiveness" of the administration and disposition of cases. Though it granted Judge Kuhn certain powers as supernumerary judge, the Order did not "deprive the [current Family Court] judges ... of their offices, or their adjudicative, nonadjudicative, or administrative duties and responsibilities as judges...." The Order expired on March 3, 2025.

¹ The Order is attached as Appendix A.

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Judge Kuhn was first elected to the Twenty-First Judicial District Court in 1990. In 1994, he was elected to First Circuit Court of Appeal. Judge Kuhn served on the First Circuit until his retirement on December 31, 2014. Prior to his 24-year judicial career, Judge Kuhn was in private practice and served as an assistant district attorney for approximately 17 years.

EVALUATION AND STUDY

Acting within the authority granted by the Order, Judge Kuhn conducted an independent evaluation of the Family Court over a six-month period. In that time, Judge Kuhn conducted interviews with judges and staff, personally observed court operations and proceedings, and presided over a limited number of cases. What follows is Judge Kuhn's findings and recommendations based on his observations and experience at the Family Court. The findings and recommendations were forwarded to the Family Court for their comments on April 2, 2025. The Family Court's response is attached to this report as Appendix B.

FINDINGS

A. Adjudicative Findings

- (1) **Case Processing and Dispositions:** Based on observations, Judge Kuhn found that some cases, particularly those that are highly contentious, are unnecessarily prolonged due to the issuance of "interlocutory" orders or judgments rather than the issuance of final judgments.² Such interlocutory or temporary orders include monitoring payments of attorney's fees, court costs, and child support. This, in turn, creates yet more costs and attorney fees for litigants. It also has the effect of denying litigants appellate review of the court's interlocutory decisions.
- (2) **Use of Contempt and Protective Orders:** In some instances, Judge Kuhn found that the court overused its contempt powers. He cites an example of a litigant who was assessed nearly \$30,000 in attorney fees for his failure to pay car and house notes.³ Likewise, Judge Kuhn found that some litigants and attorneys may be misusing the protective order process to influence custody

² See La.C.C.P. Art. 1841.

³ Note Judge Kuhn did not assert that the judges use of contempt powers violated Louisiana law or was otherwise unethical.

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proceedings. In one instance, he found a mother was kept away from her child for a period of over three years.

- (3) Child Support Enforcement: Judge Kuhn found that child support enforcement takes up an inordinate amount of time for all four judges. In addition, due to a lack of official arrangement with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the court lacks sufficient enforcement powers to ensure parents are paying child support.

B. Administrative Findings

- (1) Clerk of Court and Court Reporters: Unlike most district courts, the Family Court lacks minute and docket clerks to ensure that the record is complete and accurate as to the court's actions. Instead, court reporters, who maintain a verbatim record of court proceedings, are also responsible for maintaining court minutes. Furthermore, Judge Kuhn found that there is no formal system of verifying the accurateness of minutes as is commonplace in other courts with the Judge approving the court's minutes. Thus, there is an inherent lack of checks and balances in maintaining the court's official records.
- (2) Assignment of Judges: Judge Kuhn found the court's process of assigning duty judges to address emergency orders encourages judge-shopping by litigants and attorneys.

C. Miscellaneous Findings

- (1) Public Perception: Judge Kuhn found that there is a public perception of favoritism in the Family Court with some judges appearing to favor certain attorneys. The findings are based, in part, on the physical layout of the courthouse. Attorneys are allowed access to the hallways and rooms adjacent to the judges' chambers. With this access, attorneys are allowed to free access to staff – a privilege not granted to litigants, witnesses, or the public.
- (2) Self-Represented Litigants: Likewise, due in part to the physical layout of the court and the use of certain legal powers (such as contempt and the issuance

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of protective orders), as cited above, Judge Kuhn found that self-represented litigants may be unintentionally disfavored by judges.⁴

- (3) Attorneys: Judge Kuhn found that there is a systemic use of litigation and non-litigation tactics that fertilize disrespect for the justice system and judges. As found in C(1), attorneys freely roam the chamber of the Family Court, which allows for eavesdropping. In turn, this leads to the spread of disinformation and gossip. Furthermore, attorneys use litigation tactics as outlined in A(1) and (2), above, to the detriment of the litigants and the justice system.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JUDGE KUHN

- (1) Additional Resources: The Family Court needs additional personnel, including minute and docket clerks, to ensure that the record is complete and accurate. Because of the unique nature of the court (it is the only Family Court in Louisiana), it is unclear whether the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court is legally obligated to provide minute/docket clerks or whether it is the responsibility of the governing authority. Regardless, additional personnel are needed given the importance of the record to promote transparency and build public trust and accountability in the court. Furthermore, Family Court judges, as a part of a system of checks and balances, should verify that the court's minutes are accurate by checking and ultimately approving them.
- (2) Child Support Enforcement: It is recommended that the Family Court hire a hearing officer to make findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding child support cases. This would, in turn, relieve judges of the preliminary work involved with child support cases. It would also ensure some level of uniformity and specialization, at least regarding child support cases. The hiring and use of a hearing officer should also reduce the use of "parenting coordinators" and other experts. Furthermore, it is recommended that the court, together with the District Attorney and DCFS, develop a more robust plan to handle child support enforcement services consistent with the enforcement efforts of other jurisdictions.
- (3) Training: Relative to the use of contempt and protective orders and to the treatment of self-represented litigants, it is recommended that the Family Court participate in training facilitated by the Louisiana Judicial College to

⁴ Note that Judge Kuhn did not find that the judges were biased against or participated in unethical conduct relative to self-represented litigants.

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ensure the use of best practices and some degree of uniformity to the general practice and customs of other district court judges (in family and domestic matters). With proper caseload management and by discouraging tactics that prolong litigation, the judges may restore confidence in the Family Court's rulings specifically and in the justice system generally.⁵

(4) Self-Represented Litigants: The court, working with the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee, should develop and implement a plan to ensure that self-represented litigants are treated fairly and uniformly consistent with the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct.⁶

(5) Assignment of Judges: In consultation with other district courts, it is recommended that the court revise its court rules to discourage "judge-shopping" among attorneys and litigants especially as it relates to emergency orders and custody matters.

(6) Courthouse Layout: It is recommended that the court, along with the court's governing authority, change its physical layout to prevent attorneys from speaking to or interacting with court staff or, alternatively, allow all litigants, witnesses, and the public to interact with and speak to court staff outside of the courtroom. The latter may be accomplished by developing a walk-in window or helpdesk that is accessible by any member of the public.

RESPONSE OF THE EAST BATON ROUGE FAMILY COURT

The response of the Family Court judges is attached as an Appendix.

⁵ For example, the National Center for State Courts, in partnership with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, produced a series of online modules entitled, "Putting children and families first in dependency case management and scheduling." The curriculum helps courts assess their adherence to principles of case management and scheduling and investigate research-supported strategies for increasing effective case management in dependency cases. National Center for State Courts, <https://www.ncsc.org/consulting-and-research/areas-of-expertise/children-families-and-elders/child-welfare/caseload-management-curriculum> (last visited Mar. 31, 2025).

⁶ See Canon 3(A)(4) of the Code of Judicial Conduct: "A Judge may make reasonable efforts, consistent with the law and court rules, to facilitate the abilities of all litigants, including self-represented litigants, to be fairly heard, provided, however, that in so doing, a Judge should not give self-represented litigants an unfair advantage or create an appearance of partiality to the reasonable person."

APPENDIX D



**THE FAMILY COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

ERIKA L. GREEN
CHIEF JUDGE, DIVISION B

300 NORTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 4101
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801
TELEPHONE (225) 388-5487
FAX (225) 389-8368
egreen@familycourt.org

April 16, 2025 Attn: La Supreme Court

Appendix B- The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish – Response to Findings and Recommendations of Judge James E. Kuhn, Retired

Submitted by: Chief Judge Erika L. Green, Judge Pam Baker, Judge Kyle Russ, Judge Charlene Day

ELG

PB

KPR

CD

Court Jurisdiction /Background Information

In July 1990 and pursuant to La. R.S. 13:1401, The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish was established as an exclusive jurisdiction court of record for the following matters: divorce, annulment of marriages, establishment or disavowal of the paternity of children, spousal support and child support and nonsupport, and custody and visitation of children, as well as of all matters incidental to any of the foregoing proceedings, including but not restricted to the issuance of the conservatory writs for the protection of community property, the awarding of attorney fees in judgments of divorce, the cumulation of the rendering executory of spousal and child support and attorney fees.

In addition, La. R.S. art 46:2131 provides for The Family Court to have jurisdiction over civil matters of protection against family/household members.

This court, subsequently, established Local Rules in 2013 which were updated in 2022. Such can be accessed via our website, www.familycourt.org. These Rules provide details as to the various subject matters/issues and their scheduling/procedures. It should be noted that Rule dates are every Tuesday. The Family Court also provides pre rule statuses via zoom and in person to alleviate heavy dockets and offer case resolution. Attorneys and litigants can schedule via Calendly these statuses and rule date and divorce confirmation matters.

Each division has Non-Support/Child Support dates twice a month in which DCFS Support Enforcement and District Attorney Office attorneys are present and initiate the proceedings. These dates are ordered and mandatory by the Supreme Court. Each judge has indicated they consistently communicate with the Section Chief of Child Support and Supervising Attorney of DCFS Support Enforcement Section and the attorneys assigned to their court. As for this court's authority to enforce contempt on these dockets, we have been made aware that these offices have halted filing of Contempt Matters. Thus, enforcement of such is a moot issue. Most of the matters are complete prior to close of business each rule date.

Each division handles Domestic Violence Matters on two days each month, Each division has a designated duty day in which we sign Temporary Restraining Orders. We venture to state that we have the most cases in the state as a result. Furthermore, this court, has a unique partnership with IRIS Domestic Violence, a nonprofit, that furnishes attorneys for self-represented litigants. The in-court Domestic Violence Office, employed by the Clerk of Court, also assists litigants in completing the forms for Protective Orders. Lastly, Judge Baker serves on the Supreme Court Domestic Violence Education Committee. All judges participate in required CLE's for LPOR annually. Our staff is provided updates on security and domestic violence issues in our annual Professional Development Day.

See Attachment for the 2024 docketed events in which we provide annually to the Supreme Court.

As a specialty court, we acknowledge that the aforementioned matters are robust, complex and time consuming. However, this court has no need to abdicate its authority to a Hearing Officer. The court further, respectfully, states that during the Supernumerary's six (6) month tenure, he did not observe any of the above hearings, statuses, or the like of any division. He, however, was provided by emails in the first month weekly notices of Contempt matter in which he didn't discuss or provide in person observation. Staff also confirmed that no meetings were arranged with them to discuss procedures or observe their tasks for that time period beyond his specific cases. Our judicial administrator made accommodations for resources and space; and our court per the Order permitted staff to assist on cases as needed.

As Chief Judge, there was one meeting with the Supernumerary and the Judicial Administrator called by myself. None were noted prior to January 2025. Beyond the April 2nd Findings and his rulings, there were no additional written updates provided the court. Please see attached exhibit which was his last written ruling. This Order which rescinded his prior rulings has thrown the court in jurisprudential disarray. We recommend review of the subsequent filings after this Ruling for each the cases he oversaw.

Building Concerns / Employees

This court is located in the 19th Judicial District Court on the 4th floor. Thus, this court addresses any structural concerns with the Building Commission of the 19th Judicial District Court. It should be noted there are two attorney conference rooms that are used as waiting areas for attorneys and for continued work on cases near chambers. There are also four smaller rooms in the hallway for litigants and attorneys for privacy of mediation of cases.

The Family Court is comprised of four divisions with a Judicial Administrator, Rachel Shows, receptionist, and IT Specialist. Each division has the following full-time employees: staff attorney, judicial assistant, and court reporter. In 2015, the first part-time minute clerk was hired. The Family Court currently has two part-time minute clerks, funded by the East Baton Rouge Clerk of Court Office, who address Non-Support and Domestic Violence Matters; in addition to minute clerk duties when court reporters have scheduling conflicts. The Judicial Administrator has and will continue to meet quarterly with all judicial assistants, court reporters, and staff attorneys. She provides updates from these meetings in the judges' meetings.

Self-Represented Litigants

The Family Court is strongly concerned with litigants having access to justice. As such, this court has and continues to partner with the Baton Rouge Bar Association to provide litigants weekly access to a Self-Help Desk on our floor with attorney and law student volunteers. This service is provided Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-2pm. In 2024, we have serviced 815 litigants, per the Baton Rouge Bar Association. In addition, our website has access to fillable forms for litigants to utilize. Lastly, our judges in particular, Judge Green attended the 2024 Access to Justice Conference in New Orleans and plans to this month.

Each division handles their self-represented litigants concerns differently by phone and in person, but with all staff addressing inquiries without providing legal advice. Division A has prepared an Info Sheet for Self-Represented litigants to help with scheduling hearings. Division B handles Self Represented litigants' hearings on a separate Rule day, one Monday each month; and uses Southern University Law Center Mediation Clinic to assist. Division C also utilizes an info sheet for those litigants. Division D follows suit with the other divisions. Our court's receptionist is available daily to look up cases and assist with docket questions, warrant concerns, etc. Students from Paul M. Hebert School of Law clinic assist with mediation in all divisions.

It's important to note that Pursuant to La. R.S. 46:236.1.2 B (2) the Department of Child and Family Services provides our courts with an attorney to address noncustodial parent concerns with visitation. However, the court was recently informed that this month there has been a halt of such program due to order from Governor Landry.

Court Reporters

As indicated above, this court employs both full time and part-time court reporters and minute clerks. The court reporters have constant requests for transcripts for appellate issues. Such can be provided if needed and also transcripts take away from in court reporting and/or minutes. However, the Judicial Administrator meets quarterly with the court reporters and monitors the minutes they produce to ensure that we are up to date. It should be noted that all proceedings are audio recorded to ensure accuracy as well.

Case Processing

As indicated above, the Local Rules provide for this court's case processing. The very nature of The Family Court provides for hearings within thirty days unlike other jurisdictions. In the same vein, such expedited matters require interim/interlocutory orders to provide resolution of the cases. In addition, this court by En Banc Order Approved at the February 24, 2025 judge's meeting, to change the duty day option for emergency matters to allow for prior cases to have the docketed judge hear the matter instead of the duty judge, in essence minimizing judge shopping.

This court also provides for compliance reviews for costs in all cases but especially required by the domestic violence matters. The latter is another example of providing access to court as there is no initial costs for filing. In Contempt Matters, in contrast, attorneys provide affidavits of attorney's fees which our courts address reasonably. We have abided by First Circuit's Ruling which specifies how to address reasonable costs with multiple Contempt filings.

Miscellaneous

In conclusion, The Family Court is always open to ways to be more efficient in our processes. Each judge has indicated that they have attended Conferences each year held by State, Local, and National Bar Associations to be updated and trained on current issues of Family Law. We have served on various boards and attended meetings for the following: Task Force for Sexual Assault Investigations, Louisiana District Judges Association, First Circuit Court Association, American Judges Association and AFCC to name a few. We continue to participate in panel presentations and programs hosted by the local Bar Association, Judges in the Classroom, Mock Trials, and nonprofits: Fathers on a Mission, IRIS Domestic Violence and law schools with the goal to maintain positive public perception and educate the community of all our resources.

It was also noted in the Findings that this court encourages Parent Coordinators to be used. Though the parent coordinator could be essential in highly contentions matters, they are seldom ordered without requests filed by attorneys with the understanding that costs will be assessed to their clients. They are especially NOT used in child support matters as their role is to assist with custody.

The oversight by the Supernumerary could have been more productive with meetings, observations of court matters, review of the Local Rules, and communication with the court, judges, and staff prior to issuance of the Findings.

Divisions Docketed Events

2024 FAMILY EVENTS	Total	Percentage
State cases (Contempt, Deferred Execution, Deferred Sentencing, Miscellaneous, Modification, Payment Determination, Review, Set Arrears, State Rules, State/Support Cost Review, UIFSA)	5525	33.89%
RULE	3590	22.02%
DVC (Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Cost Review, Domestic Violence Firearm Review, Domestic Violence Rule for Contempt)	3371	20.68%
Judgment Reviews	1379	8.46%
Status Conferences (Pre-Rule Status Conference, Pre-Trial Conference, Status Conference)	1032	6.33%
Confirmations	756	4.64%
Trial	415	2.55%
Other (Adultery Hearing, Answer to Bench Warrant, Court Cost Review, Exception Hearing, Ex-Parte Hearing, Judicial Review, Ruling)	235	1.44%
	<u>16303</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

ANNE PLATTE

NO. F224,119 DIVISION D

VERSUS

THE FAMILY COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

MICHAEL PLATTE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED the appointment of James E. Kuhn as Supernumerary ad hoc Judge in the above-captioned case has terminated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any and all orders previously rendered by Supernumerary ad hoc Judge James E. Kuhn in this case, specifically those pertaining to the filing of new pleadings with the Clerk of Court, are hereby rescinded.

SO ORDERED, this 28th day of February 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



JAMES E. KUHN
Judge Supernumerary ad hoc
The Family Court

*Please send all parties/attorneys of record with
notice of the signing of the order.*

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THIS DAY A COPY OF
THE JUDGMENT/ORDER WAS MAILED BY ME WITH
SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AFFIXED.

DONE AND MAILED ON March 10, 2025

Cherise LeBlanc

DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF FAMILY COURT JUDGES

April 7, 2025

The meeting was held in the office of the court administrator on April 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Present were Judge Erika Green, Judge Kyle Russ, Judge Charlene Day, Rachel Shows and Judge Pamela Baker, via zoom.

The judges met to discuss the report, Findings and Recommendations, by Judge James Kuhn, submitted to the LASC regarding Senate Resolution 81 of the 2024 Regular Session. Judge Erika Green will draft the response and circulate it to all for comments and consideration.

The judges discussed and approved of the JA's registration and attendance of the Louisiana Institute for Administrative Assistants, LIAA, 28th Annual Spring Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, to Friday, May 9, 2025, held at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge.

The judges discussed and approved purchasing a small gift for Ann Gregorie, retiring Executive Director of the BRBA, to show the Family Court's appreciation of all the work she has contributed to and for this court.

The judges discussed and approved of a Family Court *Legislative Meet and Greet* scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025. The Family Court will seek out sponsors to host this event, however, if unable to find a sponsor, the judges approved the quote Judge Erika Green was able to negotiate with City Club.

There being no additional business, on motion by Judge Erika Green, seconded by Judge Charlene Day, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

RACHEL SHOWS
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
THE FAMILY COURT