

TIM E. KELLEY

Tim Kelley retired from the 19th Judicial District Court at the end of 2022. He served as a District Judge in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, where he held two separate terms as Chief Judge and was Senior Judge at the time of his retirement. He was first elected in 1996 and served for over 26 years. At his retirement, Judge Kelley was the longest-serving judge in Louisiana's 19th Judicial District Court.

Prior to being elected to the bench, he served as a Certified Mediator and Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association for many years, handling major cases in different areas of the U.S.

Tim graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. After obtaining his Professional Engineering License and practicing as an engineer, he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University, in 1983.

Upon graduation from LSU Law School, he served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Fred Blanche at the Louisiana Supreme Court and then joined the law firm of Phelps Dunbar as an Associate. In 1988, he became a Partner in the firm, practicing in Construction Law, Commercial Law, Anti-Trust Law, and General Civil Law as a litigator.

In 1993, Kelley left Phelps Dunbar to establish his own law firm, Kelley & Guerry, where he continued his private practice, adding Corporate Law, Succession and Probate Law, Personal Injury Law, and Products Liability to his practice areas.

- He was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to be a Commissioner on the Supreme Court's Judiciary Commission, the entity that is charged with reviewing and investigating complaints against Louisiana judges and recommending discipline to offenders to the Louisiana Supreme Court, where he served as Chairman of the Commission.
- He served on the Capital Area Law Enforcement Planning Commission for several years.
- He has been a speaker and taught courses at CLE seminars for many groups including most of the state and local bar associations throughout Louisiana.
- Along with Judge Janice Clark, he oversaw the design, construction, operation, and legislation for a new \$118 million 19th JDC courthouse.

RETIRING FROM THE BENCH IN 2022

"Baton Rouge has been lucky to have a judge as fair-minded as Judge Tim Kelley," said John Georges, a leading member of business communities in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and

throughout the state. “He really cares deeply about the law and about putting fairness ahead of politics. I wish him all the best and congratulate him on his retirement after 26 years of setting the standard for fairness and decency.”

“I absolutely loved my job, said Judge Kelley. “I took it very seriously and always kept in mind that every case, large or small, was the most important matter in the world to the parties before me. I had the best job in the world. I got to serve and help our community for 26 years, and for that, I am deeply grateful.”