



REGINALD T. BADEAUX III  
DISTRICT JUDGE  
DIVISION "I"

TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH JUSTICE CENTER  
701 NORTH COLUMBIA STREET, ROOM 2304  
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70433  
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ST. TAMMANY  
WASHINGTON  
PARISHES

March 19, 2021

Dear Members of the Bar:

It has been a year since the Court issued its first Covid-19 order for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The past year has been a challenging one, but we all have persevered through the toughest moments in the pandemic, especially during the surge in the infection rates during the 2020 holiday season. We remain confident that brighter days are ahead; and with that optimism come two announcements which signify change at the St. Tammany and Washington Parish courthouses.

First, we are pleased to announce our newest hire, Ernest "Ernie" S. Anderson who serves as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court's Domestic Violence Hearing Officer. The creation of this position is in response to the increasing number of Petitions for Protection from Abuse being filed. Mr. Anderson, who is board certified as a Family Law Specialist, will be conducting the hearings on Petitions for Protection from Abuse. The addition of Mr. Anderson allows the Court to have one Hearing Officer who is dedicated to handling the significant and growing issue of domestic violence in the jurisdiction. The Court welcomes Mr. Anderson as a valuable resource to the residents of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes.

Secondly, the Court is encouraged by a reduction in the infection rates in the community. In addition, the Supreme Court's moratorium on jury trials will be lifted at the end of this month; and recently, Governor John Bel Edwards announced that judiciary personnel are eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. After careful consideration and discussion, the Court has determined that jury trials in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes will resume beginning on May 10, 2021 in accordance with the current court calendar. The Court remains steadfast in its commitment to the communities which it serves and looks forward to the future.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reginald T. Badeaux, III".

Chief Judge Reginald T. Badeaux, III