



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Parish President John Young announced today his appointees for key staff positions in his administration. Young said he is assembling a team of executives and senior managers who demonstrate his commitment to having the best and brightest serve the citizens of Jefferson Parish.

Young selected R. Christopher "Chris" Cox III, formerly an Assistant U.S. Attorney, as his Chief Operating Officer to direct the day-to-day operations and administration of parish government. Young said Cox, a lawyer who previously worked as a CPA for Arthur Andersen & Co., would oversee the development and guide the implementation of policies that ensure the fiscally responsible delivery of parish services. "We will draw on Chris's legal and accounting backgrounds to advance innovative measures which result in greater accountability and transparency within parish government," Young said. "Chris also will play a central role in making certain our staff meets the challenge of doing better with less as we face tough financial times." Cox earned an undergraduate degree in accounting from LSU and later graduated from Tulane Law School. Employed as a tax accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. before serving a federal district court clerkship, Cox later became a felony prosecutor in the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office before moving to the United States Attorney's Office six years ago. Young said Cox's proven record of leadership and trustworthiness was essential to his decision to name Cox as the Chief Operating Officer. "I am confident Chris will be instrumental in steering parish government operations toward a well-deserved reputation for competency, honesty and innovation."

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Covington City Attorney Deborah Foshee is Young's choice for Parish Attorney. "We have identified a legal counsel with broad and significant experience in public law and litigation," Young said. "Ms. Foshee is the best candidate to fulfill the obligations set forth in the Parish Charter, and will provide solid leadership within the Law Department." A cum laude graduate of Tulane Law School, Foshee practiced as a litigator, mediator, arbitrator and legal advisor since 1983 in both local government and in the private sector where she specialized in healthcare, employment law, and ethics. She earned a Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review rating of AV Preeminent, which is a significant rating accomplishment awarded for very high general ethical standards and excellent legal ability. Foshee teaches ethics and professionalism in advocacy to lawyers and law students alike for organizations such as National Institute of Trial Advocacy, U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Oversees Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training, and Emory Law School. Young said Foshee's history of leadership in public service endeavors, civic initiatives and the legal profession demonstrates her ability to work well with others and to lead by example. "Ms. Foshee brings an exceptional reputation for integrity, professionalism and community mindedness," Young said, "and I welcome her return to Jefferson Parish."

Richard Hart will serve as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer beginning in January, 2011. Currently the Executive Director with the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Hart is a retired State Police Lieutenant who later served nine years as a department head in St. Tammany Parish government and eight years with the state Senate. Hart graduated from Loyola University with bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice and received a master of business administration degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. Young said Hart is a seasoned, results-driven public administrator who, as Cox's principal assistant, will pursue and coordinate cost-effective management practices throughout parish government. "Richard's focus will be on directing and assessing our teamwork approach to the provision of quality government services," Young said. "It is important that we continually examine our efforts, make changes whenever necessary, and review their impact on efficiency and accountability."

Having extensive knowledge of regional issues, a license to practice law and broad experience within a family-owned business, Jennifer Van Vrancken is Young's pick to be a Chief Administrative Assistant.

Van Vrancken, a local broadcast journalist and attorney whose undergraduate degree with honors and law degree are from Tulane University, will serve as a liaison with the business, educational and civic communities, Young said. She also will work to ensure regional cooperation in addressing issues related to crime, economic recovery and growth, and information technology. “Jennifer has a record of superior performance in her personal, academic and professional pursuits,” Young said, “and her drive for excellence is fundamental to our teamwork approach in exploiting opportunities and solving problems.”

Young appointed Royce Blanchard as a Chief Administrative Assistant whose assignment will include overseeing several public service departments. Prior to this appointment, Blanchard was an aide to Young when he was an at-large member of the Parish Council. “This administration will promote superior customer service throughout parish government,” Young said. “Royce’s strong ties in the commercial sector and with civic associations, service organizations and neighborhood groups will help gauge our success in delivering high quality public services to our citizens.” Born, raised, and residing on the Westbank, Blanchard holds a bachelor of science degree in finance from U.N.O., and served six years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

To further his agenda for greater transparency in government, Young will rely on Kriss Fairbairn Fortunato as his administration’s Public Information Officer. “I have asked Kriss to come in and critically assess every aspect of our effort to communicate the business of Jefferson Parish government to its citizens,” Young said. “She will develop and direct improvements to our print, video and internet capabilities so the public can without difficulty read, view and inquire about how their local government operates.” A graduate of Louisiana Tech, Fairbairn Fortunato has wide-ranging communication experience which includes serving as the media and public affairs specialist for the Louisiana office of the FBI, completing a 29-year career as a broadcast journalist, and working as a media and public relations consultant.

Young reappointed Acting Chief Operating Officer Kazem Alikhani P.E. as the Public Works Director. “Since I took office, Kazem has been the ultimate multi-tasker who capably managed all our parish departments while keeping his public works crews working at full capacity and their projects on schedule,” Young said.

“His vast institutional knowledge and proven leadership skill will prove vital to the effective and efficient operation of parish government.”

Young also reappointed Darryl Ward as a Chief Administrative Assistant over community programs. Young said Ward’s exemplary record of public service goes beyond his employment with parish government. “Darryl is a recognized and respected leader in both the workplace and the community. He earned a reputation as a consensus builder, and for collaboration on problem solving,” Young said, “and I welcome him to our management team.”

Young prohibits his appointees from having any employment outside their parish government position, and said he would require his executive staff to maintain a residence within Jefferson Parish. “Government leaders should be investors in the community where they choose to work,” Young said, “and each must have but a single employment obligation- to serve the citizens of Jefferson Parish.”

Young said he will continue to review applications and resumes for consideration of appointment or re-appointment to the remaining unclassified positions, and appropriate and necessary selections to such would be made in the weeks ahead.

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Royce J Blanchard

Education:

University of New Orleans

- B.S. Finance

Archbishop Shaw High School

- National Honor Society

Work Experience: 2009 – Present Jefferson Parish Council Gretna, LA

Administrative Assistant to Council at Large – Division A John F Young

- Resolve constituent issues
- Attend civic and government related meetings
- Research parish related issues

2004 – 2009 Hartwig Moss Insurance Agency
New Orleans, LA

1993 – 2003 American National Insurance Company
Marrero, LA

1983 – 1993 Allstate Insurance Company
Gretna, LA

Agent/Sales

- Sale of multi-line insurance products
- Responsible for servicing accounts and profitability
- Training of office staff

1980 – 1983 Gulf States Investment Company

Manager

- Developed and managed new business; insurance, marine, and real estate

1975 – 1980 Home Life Insurance Company
New Orleans, LA

Agent/Sales

- Sales and service of life, health, and disability insurance

Royce J Blanchard

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1972 – 1975 Capdeboscq Catering Marrero, LA

Manager

- Coordinated staff for wedding receptions and parties

1971 – 1972 U.S.A.F. Reserves Belle Chasse, LA

Personnel Clerk

- Updated and maintained military records

1969 – 1971 Continental Can Company Harvey, LA

Accounting Clerk

- Time cards and production reports for all departments
- Local union official

Volunteer: Coach – Aurora Gardens Academy, City of Gretna,
and Pard Playground, Jefferson Parish

Military Service 1968 - 1974 U.S.A.F. Reserves Belle Chasse, LA
Honorable Discharge

References: Upon Request

R. CHRISTOPHER COX III, JD, CPA*

EDUCATION

Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA
Juris Doctor (May 1999)

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Bachelor of Science in Accounting (December 1993)

Jesuit High School, New Orleans, LA
Magna Cum Laude (May 1989)

EXPERIENCE

Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA (January 2005 through present)

Tried 12 felony jury cases; argued 2 cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; screened felony and misdemeanor charges for sufficiency of evidence; presented cases to grand juries and successfully secured over 65 indictments charging defendants with various narcotics-related and violent crimes; elicited testimony in open court during criminal motion hearings; and served as a commissioner pursuant to a mutual legal assistance treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Assistant District Attorney, Jefferson Parish

Gretna, LA (October 2000 through June 2004)

Tried 54 felony jury cases in the 24th Judicial District Court; tried 52 felony and misdemeanor judge cases at both the District Court and Parish Court levels; elicited testimony in open court during criminal motion hearings; drafted pleadings; screened misdemeanor charges for sufficiency of evidence; and met with victims of felony and misdemeanor crimes in both a screening and pre-trial capacity.

Judicial Law Clerk, The Honorable G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA (September 1999 through September 2000)

Responsible for all aspects of one-half of the Court's docket; drafted opinions, bench memoranda, judgments, orders, and minute entries; prepared the Court for both jury and bench trials, and for oral argument on various motions; attended pre-trial status conferences and settlement negotiations; and researched specific questions of law.

Tax Accountant, Arthur Andersen LLP

New Orleans, LA (January 1994 through June 1996)

Prepared and reviewed corporate, partnership, and individual tax returns; and researched tax issues in the following areas: Family Wealth Planning, Oil & Gas, Not for Profit Organizations, Banking, and State & Local Taxation.

HONORS

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society (May 1993)

Mortar Board National Senior Honorary (May 1993)

Order of Omega National Greek Honor Society (May 1992)

Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honorary (May 1990)

Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society (May 1990)

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America (April 1986)

ACTIVITIES

Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants (October 1996 through present)

Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International (January 1997)

Bachelors' Club of New Orleans (Executive Board Member 2000 through 2003)

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Epsilon Kappa Chapter (President 1993, Treasurer 1992)

LSU Interfraternity Council Representative (August 1991 through December 1993)

* Inactive

Litigator, mediator and advisor:

Supervisory

Served as managing partner of Hemelt and Foshee, LLC, which, prior to 2005 consisted of 15 lawyers and 20 full and part time staff members in New Orleans, Covington and Shreveport. Practice Group Leader at Adams and Reese coordinating the activities of lawyers and staff in five offices in three states and the District of Columbia.

Governmental

As Covington City Attorney since 2005, my services include: keeping my clients, Mayor and City Council, advised of federal and state legislation and regulations that impact City operations; ensuring compliance with Public Bid, Public Record, Open Meeting and Code of Governmental Ethics laws; drafting, and appearing before various committees at State Legislature in support of, City sponsored legislation and negotiating to amend or reject unfavorable legislation; drafting local ordinances; reviewing all contracts with the City; representing all boards and commissions; representing City in all uninsured litigation; prosecuting civil service appeals; supervising outside counsel in all insured litigation; designing and implementing the first City Councilman Ethics Orientation program in 2007 for all newly elected officials; and, providing ethics orientation for all new City board and commission members.

In prior employment, I drafted state legislation for a medical school in connection with joint use of the Charity Hospital facility and assisted with presentation of that bill before State House and Senate committees. I also drafted state enabling legislation creating the Gene Therapy Task Force and assisted with the presentation of that bill before the same committees.

Criminal/ Civil Fraud

Drafted Federal Qui Tam litigation involving white-collar crime
Counseled healthcare clients regarding federal fraud issues
Represented “targets” and “subjects” during pre-indictment interviews
Participated in team including AUSA, DEA, City Police and Code Enforcement Officials to shut down an illegal pain clinic
Defended municipal clients, and police officers in Federal 1983 actions.
Prosecuting all Mayor’s court cases
Litigating with political subdivision alleging their fraudulent collection of ad valorem taxes

General Business

Served as Outside General Counsel for start up of healthcare company and multiple subsidiaries; subsequently served as General Counsel, assisting CEO in product development, due diligence, mergers and acquisitions.

Supervised outside counsel in the areas of intellectual property, tax, corporate securities and offshore business formation; provided general startup advice to business entities as well as corporate dissolution and reformation advice to on-going businesses; prepared and negotiated a variety of business contracts including franchise, service agreements, material acquisition, construction, public utility, public bid, commercial lease and executive compensation agreements; and audited corporate documents of take-over targets for compliance with State and Federal laws, particularly with regard to procurement and reimbursement.

Healthcare

Organized hospitals and physician groups

Served as prosecutor for physician peer review

Represented physicians before state PRO

Drafted staff bylaws and defended challenges to same

Represented national healthcare corporation in two multi-state class actions, one statewide, 5700 member class action, one defense class action and two uncertified mass plaintiff lawsuits

Employment

Defended major chemical company in wage related litigation

Defended major oil company in sexual harassment, gender bias and ethnic origin bias mediation

Defended large public accommodation in sexual harassment/quid pro quo litigation

Counsel businesses and governmental units in employment issues, including wage and hour board, civil service, ADA, FMLA, WARN, employment contracts and employee manuals

Regulatory Boards

Drafted charges against professionals on behalf of licensing board and defended professionals, elected officials and public servants before licensing and governmental ethics boards. Served six years as a lawyer member, two years as chairman, of a Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee

Working with other Agencies

Worked with a number of other governmental agencies including U.S. Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Justice Department Civil Rights Division and Voter's Rights Division, Louisiana Secretary of State, Louisiana State Police Crime Lab, St. Tammany Parish Coroner, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff, St. Tammany Parish Council, FEMA, Governor's Officer of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, National Resource Conservation Service, State Wildlife and Fisheries, Army Corp of Engineers and Louisiana Floodplain Manager

Dedicated to the profession and the community, locally and globally:

Professional

Trial Advocacy Teacher for lawyers through National Institute of Trial Advocacy and LADC Trial Academy. Trial Advocacy Teacher for law students at Loyola, LSU and Emory University School of Law. Trial Advocacy Instructor with the U.S. Department of Justice, OPDAT Program for Developing Nations - Prishtina, Kosovo 2009; Curriculum developer and Instructor at Oakland County Michigan Prosecutor's in-house Trial Advocacy Program - Detroit 2009

Mediation and Arbitration training through American Mediation Institute, American Health Lawyers Association, National Health Lawyers Association and MAPS, Inc.

Fellow, Louisiana Bar Foundation

Public Speaker/Trainer regarding Sexual Harassment and Legal Ethics

Community

Commissioner, Home Rule Charter Commission, St. Tammany Parish
Facilitator, Home Rule Charter Commission, City of Covington

Former Board member and Officer, Youth Services Bureau of St. Tammany
Former Board member and Pro Bono Legal Advisor, St. Tammany Art Association

Pro Bono Legal Advisor, Three Rivers Art Festival, LLC; Covington Farmer's Market, LLC; Covington Community Partners, LLC: and, Keep Covington Beautiful, LLC

Leadership St. Tammany class of 1996

Leadership Louisiana class of 1998

New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute class of 2005

Board Member Advanced Biofuels, U.S.A., a national non-profit that serves to educate congressmen and the public regarding renewable transportation fuels

Pro bono legal advisor, Atlantic Biomass Conversions, Inc., Maryland based biotech company working to create sustainable source of sugars for biofuels that do not displace food production

Life Member Seed Savers Exchange, a non-profit based in Iowa, committed to maintaining biodiversity in the world's food supply

High School Mock Trial Coach

Experienced:

Education:

Tulane Law School, J.D. *cum laude* 1983

Newcomb College, B.A. 1980

Current Employment:

City Attorney, Covington, Louisiana, 2005 to present

City Prosecutor, Covington, Louisiana, 2006 to present

Private practice, 2006 to present.

Employment History:

Partner, Hemelt and Foshee, LLC 2000 to 2006

General Counsel, Spirit Healthcare 2002 – 2005

Outside General Counsel, Spirit Healthcare 2001 – 2002

Partner, Practice Group Leader, Adams and Reese, LLC 1995 – 2000

Partner, Gordon Arata 1990 – 1995

Associate, Lemle Kelleher 1986 – 1990

Associate, Hammett, Leake and Hammett 1983 – 1986

Professional and Personal References available upon request

KRISS FAIRBAIRN FORTUNATO

EXPERIENCE

DRC EMERGENCY SERVICES

Assigned to Plaquemines Parish

President's Office

Media Relations Specialist

Media Consulting

Crisis Response – Gulf Oil Spill

Event Planning

FORTUNATO PRODUCTIONS, LLC

Co-Owner, President

Media and Public Relations

Media Consulting

Crisis Response

Event Planning

Film Consulting

Security Services

WDSU-TV

New Orleans, Louisiana

Anchor/Reporter/Producer

1990 - 1997, 2001 – 2010

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

LOUISIANA

Public Relations Specialist

Media Relations Specialist

Crisis Response

Assistant to Special Agent in Charge

Event Planning

1999 – 2001

OCHSNER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Ochsner Hospital, Ochsner Clinic

Louisiana

Manager, Media and Public Relations

Internal and External Communications

1997 – 1999

KTVE-TV

Monroe, Louisiana

Anchor/Reporter

1985 – 1990

KTBS-TV

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reporter

1983 - 1985

KRUS - KXKZ RADIO

Ruston, Louisiana

Reporter/News Anchor

1982 - 1984

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Campus Radio

News Director/Anchor/Reporter

1981 – 1984

EDUCATION

Louisiana Tech University

Bachelor of Arts, Communications

Journalism

Graduate, 1985

Southwood High School

Shreveport, Louisiana

Graduate, 1981

RICHARD HART

EDUCATION

SOUTHEASTERN LA UNIV., Hammond, LA	Master of Business Administration, 1990
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, New Orleans, LA	Master of Criminal Justice, 1982
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, New Orleans, LA	Bachelor of Criminal Justice, 1974

WORK EXPERIENCE

LA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY, Executive Director	1/08 to Present
LOUISIANA SENATE, Security Director / Safety Coordinator	1/00 to 1/08
ST. TAMMANY PARISH, Environmental Services Director	8/91 to 1/00
MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS, INC., Project Manager	8/88 to 8/91
LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, Trooper / Sergeant / Lieutenant	2/75 to 12/88
NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT, Police Officer / Detective	12/70 to 2/75

FACULTY EXPERIENCE

LA STATE POLICE ACADEMY, Hazardous Materials Instructor	1986 to 1988
DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Adjunct Instructor	1982 to 1984

Jennifer Van Vrancken

EDUCATION

TULANE SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor

Admitted to Louisiana Bar

New Orleans, Louisiana

May 1995

October 1995

NEWCOMB COLLEGE, TULANE

Bachelor of Arts in Communication/ Political Science

Honors: Cum Laude

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 1992

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Charlottesville, Virginia

August 1989 – May 1990

WORK EXPERIENCE

WVUE – TV

Anchor/Reporter

New Orleans, Louisiana

January-May 2006; May 2007 –

THE BALCONY

Family Reception Business

Metairie, Louisiana

June 2006- April 2007

WREG – TV

Anchor/Reporter

Memphis, Tennessee

Sept 2002– Dec 2005

WSFA – TV

Anchor/Reporter

Montgomery, Alabama

January 1998- August 2002

KPLC – TV

Reporter/Medical News Anchor

Lake Charles, Louisiana

October 1996- January 1998

WWL – TV

Desk Assistant

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 1995- October 1996

CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS MAGAZINE

Assistant Director of Seminars

Washington, DC

May 1993- August 1993

HONORABLE JAY ZAINEY

Summer Law Clerk

Metairie, Louisiana

May 1992- August 1992

INVOLVEMENTS

Medical Center of Louisiana Foundation Board

Junior League of New Orleans