

The Townsley Law Firm

March Newsletter



Staff Member of the Month

Gladys Smith has been a receptionist at The Townsley Law Firm for three years. As a receptionist, Smith answers the phone, greets people, handles notaries and manages the opening and closing of files for attorneys and paralegals.

Smith has prior experience as a receptionist, assistant to a paralegal and as a paramedic. She also has her notary and real estate licenses. Recently, Smith started her own permanent jewelry business called Forever Adorned.

At TLF, Smith appreciates the close-knit quality in the workplace. She feels like everyone is cared about from top to bottom, and she trusts that her coworkers have her back.

Originally, Smith is from Central Illinois, but moved to Louisiana in 1997. Outside of work, she loves to read and go fishing with her husband. She and her husband have two kids, four grandkids and a dog.

Townsley Tips...

Legal Malpractice - What to Know

People who have sustained significant physical injuries and costly property damages may have the option to file lawsuits. These lawsuits allow people to pursue justice and financial relief when the negligence, default or misconduct of other parties leaves them with them with verifiable economic losses.

In order to seek justice, people must hire an attorney who should be equipped to validate claims and manage legal processes.

Unfortunately, some clients have unsuccessful lawsuits or drastically diminished compensation due to legal malpractice, which could give clients grounds to pursue a legal malpractice lawsuit against the attorney.

Legal malpractice is more than failing to deliver on promises made to clients. It's the failure to conform to professional standards.

Malpractice can relate to a multitude of areas from conflict of interest to substance abuse. Typically, if a lawyer makes an error that another competent attorney could easily identify and avoid, their conduct may constitute malpractice.

Obvious and preventable are key words when observing and identifying potential malpractice cases. Malpractice cases not only provide financial relief for clients, but also serve as warnings to other prospective clients about the risk of hiring a specific attorney.

Reviewing what happened during a personal injury lawsuit with a legal malpractice professional can help frustrated plaintiffs understand their options. Legal malpractice lawsuits may be options if a client acts swiftly to hold a negligent lawyer accountable.

At The Townsley Law Firm, we have attorneys equipped to handle any malpractice case a client may have.

Recent Wins

\$40,000 - Settlement
Car Crash/Accident - (Lake Charles, 2025)

\$125,000 - Jury Verdict
MED MAL - (Calcasieu/Lake Charles, 2025)

\$297,597.16 - Jury Verdict
MED MAL - (Port Sulphur/Plaquemines, 2025)

*****Visit our website for more information about how our firm can win for you*****

Visit Our Website:

townsleylawfirm.com

Check out our Social Media:

[@townsleylaw](https://www.instagram.com/townsleylaw)



McNeese Sports:

townsleylawarena.com



Story of the Month

The Power of Women in the Workplace



Sage Thibodeaux grew up around the law. Both of her parents were successful attorneys, who instilled their hard-work ethics and dedication to their crafts.

Today, Thibodeaux is a partner at The Townsley Law Firm. She, along with four others, ensure that the firm runs efficiently and cohesively, ultimately helping to build upon the success and foundation that has been laid for over 30 years.

Thibodeaux, however, is the only female partner. She wields her own type of power and acts as an example and voice for other women in the workplace. According to a 2023 report by the NALP national survey, just 28-percent of all law firm partners were women, a number that is steadily increasing year by year.

“One of the biggest messages I got growing up was ‘You are not just as good; you are better. You are smarter. You are more capable. You are tougher,’” Thibodeaux said.

She took the lessons she got from her parents and reached for the stars, never letting herself be intimidated by working with a majority of men.

That being said, Thibodeaux recognizes that as a woman, she has to do things differently, especially in the courtroom. She explained that in trial, it’s a different experience for women, and she has had to learn to adjust herself to fit into a specific mold.

“You have to recognize that you are going to be looked at differently... what you wear is going to be looked at differently, how you talk, how you hold yourself,” Thibodeaux said. “I think awareness of all of that is huge, and you have to accommodate for it.”

Since having kids, Thibodeaux has unlocked yet another perspective on life. As a mother of two, it has become even more important to figure out a healthy balance between home and work.

“This job demands a lot of brain power, a lot of time and travel, so I feel like anything that the job is not demanding, my kids deserve,” Thibodeaux added. “I think it’s important for my kids to see me work and know what that looks like... it’s doable and it’s something I can manage, but it’s very hard.”

Thibodeaux’s mother was the first female District Attorney in Bossier Parish. Thibodeaux said that going through law school, her mom was one of about five girls, and the men always treated her differently. She explained that the adversity her mom faced taught her to be strong and taught her how to “walk that tightrope.”

Her mother inspires her everyday, and now Thibodeaux is able to be a mentor to other women in the office. Since she started at TLF in 2012, three more female attorneys have been welcomed to the firm.

“I think any time you can share experiences with people, it’s so powerful,” she said. “It’s really special, and I’m so glad they’re here.”

All of these pieces together have taught Thibodeaux the value of time. She explained that living such a demanding life trained her to delegate, manage and maximize her time in the office. Saying ‘no’ to things is a power that Thibodeaux must wield because her time is limited, and she strives to make the most of it.

“I think culturally, people are comfortable spending women’s time. I read a book that said ‘men’s time is like diamonds and women’s are sand, it’s infinite,’” Thibodeaux said. “It’s been an act of will to say ‘no, I’m not doing that’ because my time is very valuable.”



Jargon Junction

Learning the Language of the Law

Source: Legal Information Institute - Cornell Law School

bailment bail • ment

a non-ownership transfer of possession.

Firm Fun

March was another month of fun for the Townsley Law Firm.



On March 17, staff members dressed in green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The social media crew came to the firm to film some fun, upcoming content. Attorney Damon Beard learned about the McNeese band.



The firm also showed their support for the McNeese Cowboys and Cowgirls as the teams entered their post-season tournaments.

March Madness was in full swing, with staff members each filling out their brackets in hopes to win the prize pot.



In the COMMUNITY

.....McNeese NIL.....



On Tuesday, March 31, the McNeese Athletic Foundation hosted a fundraising event for the men's basketball team's NIL fund. Townsley, along with other donors across Lake Charles gathered to learn more about the importance of investing in McNeese.

The presentations began with Keifer Ackley, the assistant athletic director for NIL and student-athlete development, who spoke about the "formula" for success at McNeese. The foundation of that success starts with NIL, he explained.

The McNeese Athletic Foundation is jumping in head-first after basketball season to begin fundraising for next year. Being involved with NIL is one of the most important aspects of college athletics, so the McNeese Athletic Department and donors are jumping right in to start preparing.

McNeese men's basketball head coach Bill Armstrong also spoke about the benefits of funding NIL, explaining that McNeese has the ability to build a "true dynasty." Armstrong focused mainly on the budget required to reload the roster, having to replace at least two key players from last season.

The Townsley Law Firm is a proud sponsor of McNeese Athletics. Todd Townsley, co-founder of the firm, is one of many in the Lake Charles community who encourages and spearheads the growth of McNeese Athletics.

Townsley was just one of many sponsors at the event, and he pledged \$200,000 to the fund that will feed directly into men's basketball.

Townsley's roots run deep for McNeese, with his wife and uncle attending the university for undergrad. Despite not attending himself, Townsley believes in what McNeese can do for Lake Charles and aims to support in any way he can.

"There is no better place to invest than in McNeese Athletics," Townsley said. "Now is a great time to do so because of the momentum, and if we want to keep that going, we have to keep supporting."

"McNeese is an economic pillar in this community," Townsley said. "By investing in McNeese, is investing in the future... supporting athletics keeps that economic engine running."



Townsley Talks

Bench Bar Conference

This year marked the 21st Bench Bar Conference for the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. Held in Houston, Texas, at the Houstonian Hotel, lawyers and judges from across the state gather to participate in education panels, social events and other fun activities.

One of TLF's own, David Hanchey, is a founding member of this conference. In 2005, when Hanchey was the President Elect of the local bar association, he was tasked with putting the event together.

Hanchey and his team wanted the conference to be fun and unique, something people wanted to go to. He and his team wanted to plan an event where people were relaxed and could ask questions and talk about things they might not be able to talk about in the courtroom.

The weekend started on Thursday, March 12, with a cocktail party, where people could meet and mingle.

On Friday, lawyers and judges gathered for a three hour continuing legal education seminar to begin the day.

Judges from the 14th Judicial District Court conducted an ethics panel called "The Ethical Lessons from Our Cousin Vinny," Dr. Angela White-Bazile conducted a professionalism presentation called "What I Must Do to Stop Burning," and Honorable James David Cain spoke on his presentation called "Federal Court Practice Update."

Friday afternoon, firms participated in a golf tournament, basketball tournament, and tennis and pickleball tournaments. The evening was concluded with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Manor House.

On Saturday, everyone gathered again for another three hours of CLE. Judges from the Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal spoke on "Updates/Developments at the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, and Justice Cade Cole and Justice John Michael Guidry from the Louisiana Supreme Court spoke on "Supreme Court Practice Tips."

Every year, attorneys must acquire 12 and a half hours of CLE, including an hour of ethics and an hour of professionalism. This conference is a good way for lawyers to get some of those hours out of the way, on top of, introducing themselves to judges outside of the courtroom.

The Townsley Law Firm is a proud sponsor of the Bench Bar Conference, helping to provide a special experience for lawyers and judges across Louisiana.



Visit Our Website:

townsleylawfirm.com

Check out our Social Media:

[@townsleylaw](https://www.instagram.com/townsleylaw)



McNeese Sports:

townsleylawarena.com



March Events

Women's Basketball

- **March 2** - 6:30 p.m. **W**
vs. Stephen F. Austin

SLC Tournament

- **March 8** - 5:00 p.m.
Men's First Round
New Orleans vs. Houston Christian
- **March 8** - 7:30 p.m.
Men's First Round
Nicholls vs. Northwestern

- **March 9** - 11:00 a.m.
Women's First Round
Northwestern State vs. East Texas A&M
- **March 9** - 1:30 p.m.
Women's First Round
Incarnate Word vs. Nicholls
- **March 9** - 5:00 p.m.
Men's Quarterfinal
Texas A&M Corpus Christi vs. New Orleans
- **March 9** - 7:30 p.m.
Men's Quarterfinal
UTRGV vs. Nicholls

- **March 10** - 11:00 a.m.
Women's Quarterfinal
UTRGV vs. Northwestern State
- **March 10** - 1:30 p.m.
Women's Quarterfinal
Stephen F. Austin vs. Nicholls
- **March 10** - 6:00 p.m.
Men's Semifinal
Stephen F. Austin vs. Texas A&M Corpus Christi
- **March 10** - 8:30 p.m.
Men's Semifinal
McNeese vs. UTRGV

- **March 11** - 10:30 a.m.
Women's Semifinal
McNeese vs. UTRGV
- **March 11** - 1:00 p.m.
Women's Semifinal
Lamar vs. Stephen F. Austin
- **March 11** - 4:00 p.m.
Men's Championship Game
Stephen F. Austin vs. McNeese

- **March 12** - 4:00 p.m.
Women's Championship Game
McNeese vs. Stephen F. Austin

NJCAA Women's National Championship Tournament

- **March 24-28** - 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., & 4:45 p.m.
Preliminary Rounds
- **March 30** - 4:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.
Semifinals
- **March 31** - 5:00 p.m.
Championship Game

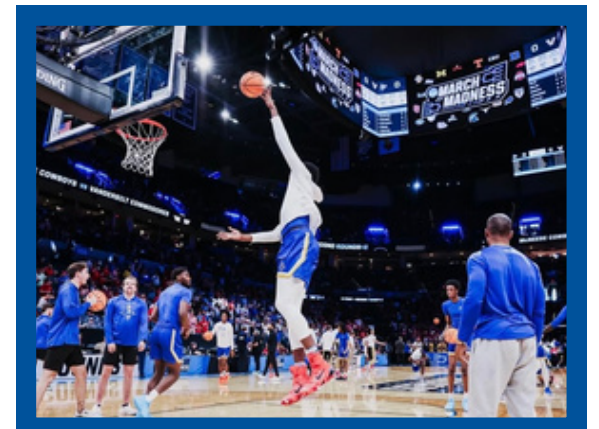
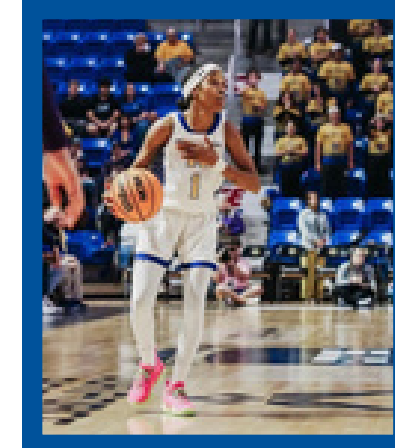
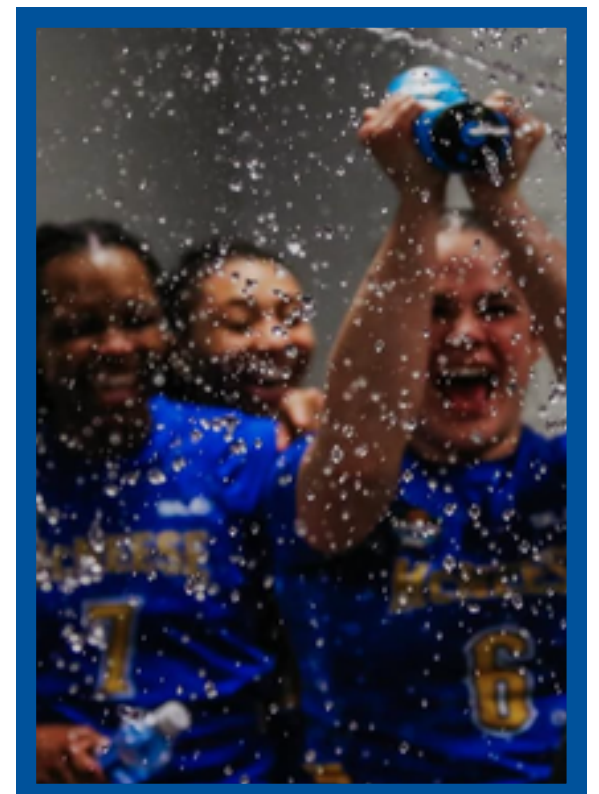
Only events in The Townsley Law Arena included – this is NOT a full game or event schedule

For full game and event schedules, visit mcneese.edu.

Visit Our Website: townsleylawfirm.com
Check out our Social Media:
[@townsleylaw](https://www.instagram.com/townsleylaw)  
McNeese Sports:
townsleylawarena.com

The Townsley Law Arena

Home of McNeese State University Cowboys and Cowgirls



March Madness was in full swing for the Cowboys and Cowgirls.

The Cowboys took home their third-straight Southland Conference Championship title after defeating Stephen F. Austin 76-59 in the final game of the tournament. This gave McNeese men's basketball their third automatic NCAA Tournament bid, sending them to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Despite losing to Vanderbilt by 10 points in the first round, the Cowboys gave the Commodores a run for their money, gaining a double-digit lead in the first half.

The Cowgirls, on the other hand, found themselves in the WBIT after falling to Stephen F. Austin in the SLC Tournament finals. In the first round of their post-season tournament, the Cowgirls played No. 1 seed Texas A&M, defeating them 68-48 to advance to the second round. In the second round, McNeese fell to San Diego State by 15 points, ultimately ending their run.

Both McNeese teams had historic seasons this year. Each team had brand new coaches and teams, who worked extremely hard to make the Lake Charles community proud.

In the months coming up, each team will begin their recruiting efforts to prepare for another season of success.

RIDE FOR THE BRAND
McNeese Athletics

