



Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center
Center of Civil Law Studies

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**The Louisiana Civil Code of 1825: Content, Influence, and Languages,
Past and Future**

March 20-21, 2025

LSU Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

General Presentation

This conference is part of the statewide commemoration of the Bicentennial of the 1825 Louisiana Civil Code, coordinated by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society. The Digest of the Civil Laws now in Force in the Territory of Orleans, adopted in 1808, marked the survival of the civil law tradition in the Territory of Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase. The adoption of the 1825 Civil Code solidified the Louisiana civil law heritage for at least two centuries. The State Constitution of 1812 consolidated the Louisiana civil law by prohibiting the adoption of the common law, or any other legal system by reference, by way of a provision that has been retained in all subsequent Louisiana constitutions, including the current 1974 Constitution. Article 1 of the Louisiana Civil Code continues to proclaim that the sources of the law are legislation and custom, upholding this constitutional mandate.

The conference will revisit the history and content of the 1825 Civil Code, examining its legal and intellectual context, the codifiers, the need for a new enactment, and whether it was intended to be a digest or a code. It will also consider the abrogation of earlier laws, extent and significance of the Code, and the combination of legislative and doctrinal elements that made it unique. The conference will explore the influence of the Civil Code of Louisiana throughout the Americas, including its impact on the Field Codes in New York and California, as well as civil code of Quebec, and the civil codes of Latin America. The Code's global influence will also be discussed, including its effects on Spain, Europe, Africa, Asia, particularly in mixed jurisdictions.

The languages of the Civil Code and issues surrounding code translation will be addressed. As the code was bilingual, language has a constitutional dimension, to promote the linguistic rights of the Louisiana population. The English translation of a code originally written in French marks the beginning of the civil law English terminology that complements the common law English terminology, allowing for proper expression of civil law concepts in English worldwide. Several contributions will focus on the future of civil codes in Louisiana, mixed jurisdictions, and globally, addressing challenges such as the development of uniform laws in the US and in Europe, constitutional interferences, the loss of centrality with the expansion of special laws, and the impact of the digital age.

Keynote Event: 44th John H. Tucker, jr., Lecture in Civil Law

- Agustín Parise (University of Maastricht, The Netherlands)
A Bicentennial Approach to an Exegetical School of Private Law in Louisiana

1. The Making of the Code and its Content

- John W. Cairns (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)
Reforming Guardianship of Children in the Civil Code of 1825
- David Gruning (Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana)
Getting Here from There: Lessons from the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825
- Jean-Louis Halpérin (École normale supérieure, Paris)
Livingston's codifications and slavery in American and European contexts (in French)
- John A. Lovett (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
The Civil Code of 1825 and the Rise of Absolute Dominion in Louisiana Property Law
- Asya Ostroukh (University of the West Indies, Barbados)
Louisiana Property Law from the Digest to the Code: A Substantive Reform?
- Warren Perrin (Lafayette, Louisiana)
Revisiting the Genesis of French Louisiana: It's no Coincidence the Civil Code was Adopted—we ain't Anglos!
- Ronald J. Scalise Jr. (Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana)
The 1825 Louisiana Civil Code: A Didactic Code and its Enduring Impact

2. The Civil Code of Louisiana in the Americas and in the World

- Carlos Amunátegui Perelló (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile)
Influence of the Louisiana Civil Code in Bello's Codification
- Alejandro M. Garro (Columbia University, USA, and Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)
The Contribution of Law Reform in Louisiana and its Worldwide Influence in Shaping Uniform Model Laws
- Milton J. Hernandez (Mississippi College, USA)
Codification in Mississippi: Nineteenth Century Efforts for a Mississippi Civil Code
- Michael McAuley (Montréal, Québec)
Civil Codes as Expressions of Social Projects
- Aniceto Masferrer & Marta Cantín-Larumbe (Universidad de Valencia, Spain)
The influence of the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825 on Spanish Marriage Law of the 19th century

- Aniceto Masferrer & Patricia Plana de Juan (Universidad de Valencia, Spain)
Law and Morality: the influences of the 1825 Civil Code of Louisiana in the 1889 Spanish Civil Code
- Asya Ostroukh (University of the West Indies, Barbados)
The influence of the Louisiana Civil Code in Saint Lucia: From one Mixed Jurisdiction to Another
- Peter L. Reich (UCLA, USA)
The Rejection and Reinvention of the Louisiana Civil Code in California
- Julie Rocheton (Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Germany)
The 19th-century US Civil Codes and their Codifiers

3. Translating the Civil Codes

- Olivier Moréteau (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Translating the Louisiana Civil Code from French into English: The Birth and Development of the Civil Law English Terminology (CIVLET)
- Markus G. Puder (Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana)
The Many Splendors of Translation: Insights from Louisiana's Law-and-Language Landscape for the Advancement of Comparative Law
- Mariano Vitetta (Universidad Austral, Argentina)
The Value of Repealed Law for Legal Translation: The Journey of Penal Clauses in the Louisiana Civil Codes Through the Years
- Michel Séjean (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, France)
What Artificial Intelligence is Doing to Legal Translation : A Case-Study of the French Civil Code's English Translation

4. The Future of Civil Codes

- Francisco J. Alterini (Universidad Austral, Argentina)
General Rules, Principles, and the Perdurability of the Civil Codes
- Ignacio E. Alterini (Universidad Austral, Argentina)
Decodification Process and Legislative Microsystems: Resignifying the Centrality of Civil Codes

- Marie-Ève Arbour (Université Laval, Québec)
Les traditions dans les codes civils : de la coutume aux droits fondamentaux
- Nathalie Blanc (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, France)
La codification face aux règles issues de l'Union européenne
- Viviane Curran (University of Pittsburg, USA)
Quel avenir pour les codes à l'aune de la mondialisation ?
- Nikolaos A. Davrados (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
The Civil Code in the Cyber Age
- Pascale Deumier (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, France) et Mathieu Devinat (Université de Sherbrooke, Québec)
L'avenir des codes civils à l'épreuve de leur réforme : regards croisés France-Québec
- Alain A. Levasseur (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
The Louisiana Civil Code of 1825: Its 'Crépuscule'?
- Melissa T. Lonegrass (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Alignment, Assimilation, and Atrophy: The Challenge of Uniform Law in Louisiana
- Mustapha Mekki (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)
La fonction de la loi dans le Code civil de 1804
- Nadia Nedzel (Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Louisiana's Civil Code: Has our Beloved Catahoula Leopard Dog Been Contaminated by Common law, and is That a Good or a Bad Thing?

5. Closing Panel

- Claire Germain (University of Florida, USA)
- Vernon Valentine Palmer (Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Mathias Reimann (University of Michigan, USA)
- John Randall Trahan (LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

Our Partners

- The Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society
- The Southern University Law Center

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