

Remembering New Orleans

By Mark P. Reynolds, Esq.



The Legal Seminar in 1989. My first trip to New Orleans. I had been invited to speak at the Legal Seminar and didn't really know what to expect. I arrived on Wednesday afternoon and spent the evening wandering the French Quarter. Wrought iron balconies everywhere dripping brightly colored flowers.



Giant plastic cups filled with anything you could possibly want. Hawkers advertising restaurants, shows, and shops. The French Quarter at night—any night—is wild! Just a little different from Nebraska in December!

Breakfast Thursday morning at the Café du Monde. Café au lait and beignets while sitting on a park bench in Jackson Square. Powdered sugar everywhere—and it was worth it! Thursday night dinner at Gallatoire's. Friday—a little tense—my first presentation for the Legal Committee was scheduled for Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. The Big Easy, however, takes care of the that. And Saturday—a real New Orleans Jazz Funeral—just like in the James Bond Movie *Live and Let Die*.

I've been to New Orleans five times since 1989. The food gets better and better every time. Dinner at Commander's Palace. Or the Palace Café. Brunch on Saturday at Brennan's. Then on August 29, 2005, something called a "Category Four Hurricane" named Katrina hits New Orleans. A city of 500,000 people appears wiped out. Then I remember a quote from the movie *The Big Easy*. "Just relax. This is the Big Easy. Folks have a certain way o' doin' things down here."

And two weeks later, the Big Easy is getting ready to make a comeback. The French Quarter, and its heart, Jackson Square are almost unscathed. It will take time—perhaps even years—but New Orleans will be back. And so will all the people who love the City! The Legal Seminar in 1989, 1993, 2000, the Public Utility Seminar in 2002, and the Prep and Trial Seminars in 2003 and 2005. ■



Photos by Mark Reynolds except ballerina by Chris Bennett