

attorney spotlight

BY CHLOE EUSTON

Interview with Belly Up Chair Victor J. Suane Jr.

Victor J. “Vic” Suane Jr. grew up in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans in a family of five. Coming from a long line of brick masons and plasterers, he never thought of going to law school when he was younger. As a teenager, he often worked as a laborer on his father’s job sites, and he always assumed he would own his own business like his father—just one that would not require heavy lifting. “It’s funny how you think you know what you want in life or out of a job, but then a different opportunity presents itself and your childhood dreams are replaced with newer, updated versions.”

Suane graduated from Rhodes College in 1998, where he studied business administration and religion. An all-conference athlete, Suane played linebacker for the football team and threw the shot put, discus and javelin for the track team. After graduation, he remained in Memphis and began a career with Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Although life was good, he felt something was missing, so he moved back to his home state, where a childhood friend and recent Southern University Law Center graduate convinced him that law school would be a good next step. Suane clerked for Kean Miller during law school at SULC, and is now an associate there. His practice areas include environmental and general litigation, toxic tort litigation and expropriation and land use.

Suane said that learning to compete as a college athlete has helped him stay on top of his game as an attorney. “As an athlete, you compete for your position every day at practice. Whether it’s through brief writing, in the courtroom or through business development efforts, as attorneys, we compete in some form or fashion on a daily basis.”

Suane is the chair of this year’s Belly Up with the Bar Committee. He said part of the reason he is involved is that BRBF projects like Easter Eggstravaganza, Holiday Star, Law Day and Mock Trial would not exist without the funds raised by Belly Up. “Once, after an Easter egg hunt I participated in during law school, a teacher thanked me



Victor J. Suane Jr.

PHOTO BY PAMELA LABBE

and mentioned that it would probably be the only Easter egg hunt several of the kids would experience,” Suane said. He grew up in a family that cherished holidays, and the thought that some children miss out on those experiences has remained with him in his volunteer work.

In addition to chairing the Belly Up with the Bar Committee, Suane is a board member for the Louisiana School for the Deaf Foundation and for Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge. Through his law firm, he volunteers with The Kean Miller Dictionary Project, a program that distributes dictionaries to third graders, and the Kean Miller Connection, a program that provides an intense overview of the law school experience to those traditionally underrepresented in law school.

Away from the office, Suane enjoys spending time with his two favorite ladies—his wife, Angela Joy Suane, who keeps him grounded and inspires him to be a better person, and his almost two-year-old daughter, Jordyn Lydia Suane, who keeps him young. In the Suane house, Saturday is “Daddy Day,” which means that Suane can be found taking his daughter out to breakfast and shopping at the toy store. “I can’t wait until she is old enough to go fishing.” ■