

Memorial for  
ERIKA GLENESE THOMAS-HYDE  
Held by the First Judicial District Court  
November 13, 2014  
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

ERIKA GLENESE THOMAS-HYDE was born on July 16, 1979 in Houston, Texas to Sallie and Glyn Thomas. She has four (4) siblings: Kimberly, Chantel, Lora and Glyn. She is the proud mother of one daughter, Ciara, who is seven (7) years old.

Erika was educated in Caddo Parish public schools and graduated in 1997 from Caddo Magnet High School. She received her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Louisiana Tech University in 2001 and earned her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center in 2004.

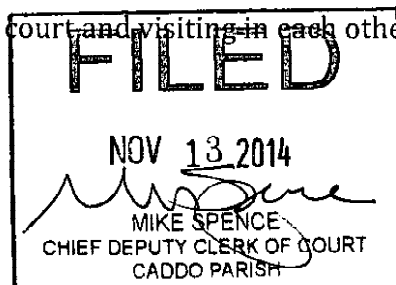
Erika began her legal career as an attorney with the Law Office of Kirby Kelly and then with Jacqueline Scott & Associates. She later established her private practice. She was active in the Shreveport Bar Association and the Black Lawyers Association during her active years of practice.

Erika passed away on May 5, 2014 at the age of 34 after a lengthy illness.

I had the opportunity to meet Erika in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Turner Middle School. We became friends instantly and were involved in several activities in school and in the community during our high school years, such as debutantes for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. From the moment we met, throughout high school, college and law school, Erika had an aura of confidence that could move any mountain. She took her education seriously and was determined to accomplish her goals.

When we think about a person dying at a young age, it is hard to understand. But God makes no mistakes. Erika blessed our lives with joy, laughter, a witty sense of humor, and a love for life, her family and for the profession of law. She undeniably was a perfectionist in every part of her life and strived each day as an attorney to competently and efficiently represent her clients.

I miss my friend. I miss our rides home together from Baton Rouge on breaks from law school and her mother, Sallie, calling and fussing at us about evacuating Baton Rouge during threats of hurricanes. I miss our lunch dates after court and visiting in each other's



offices discussing our cases. I miss her charisma and confidence whenever she entered a room. I am proud to have been blessed to call Erika "friend" and to practice law with such an outstanding, gifted person.

I am very honored to give this memorial in honor of Erika Thomas-Hyde and move that it be filed and made a permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, and that copies presented to Erika's family and the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recordation as appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

*Ree J. Casey-Jones*

REE J. CASEY-JONES