LETTER OF INTEREST

BY

EDWARD D. MARKLE

PREFACE

The first presumptive case of coronavirus disease in Louisiana was announced on March 9, 2020. Since the first confirmed case, the outbreak has grown particularly fast relative to other states and countries, with 3,315 confirmed cases and 151 deaths as of March 29, 2020. Governor Edwards closed schools statewide, restricted most restaurants to takeout and delivery only, postponed presidential primaries, closed businesses and placed limitations on large gatherings. On March 23, Edwards enacted a statewide stay-at-home order to encourage social distancing, and President Trump issued a major disaster declaration for Louisiana, the fourth state to receive one. These nationwide actions will cause loss of employment, reduced family incomes and strained family units.

As the state has increased its capacity for testing, a University of Louisiana at Lafayette study estimated the virus growth rate in Louisiana was among the highest in the world, prompting serious concerns about the state’s healthcare capacity to care for the sick. On March 24, only 29% of ICU beds were vacant statewide, and Edwards announced coronavirus patients would likely overwhelm hospitals in New Orleans by April 4th.

There is an urgent need to flatten the curve of infection while continuing core missions of developing scholars and pursuing research. Measures must be taken to level the infection curve by operationalizing distance learning when possible, and providing technical support to faculty and students during and after the transition to digital instruction. In instances where distance learning is not an option, such as lab-based courses, elevated sanitation and social distancing should be encouraged and closely monitored. Innovative and alternative methods of course delivery must be devised to accomplish the education goals while at the same time assuring social distancing.

These are trying times. A steady, calm but strong hand is needed to guide ULM through these murky waters. ULM’s leader must be focused on the present dilemma, but poised to spring into action. These are traits that a commercial pilot and an engineer possess.

The face of education will change dramatically. A strong leader with entrepreneurship qualities will be needed to recover the lost revenues associated with the School’s recent reduced operations, to understand that distance education may become more challenging and to recognize the need to “sell” the continued necessity for higher education. There is little doubt that the

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1 Department of Health, State of Louisiana.
present crisis has not only affected our daily lives, but has changed the way the World will do business. This has been a wakeup call. That is why I have emphasized the need to concentrate on the medical and allied health professions. ULM must offer different alternatives than the other local universities. It must “sell” its new ideas to young adults and to the working adults who are seeking to better themselves.

Student enrollment will probably be reduced because of the catastrophic changes in the World. We must endeavor to increase the enrollment through persuasion and enticement, even if the face of education changes to a digital format. Inducing students into the expanded allied medical fields will help guarantee ULM’s continued leadership role. Only a visionary can move ULM dramatically forward in these unique times. Exceptional times require an exceptional person. The old ways must yield to new and pioneering methods of thought. We learn from the past, but progress forward with innovative thinking. Imagination must be the norm, not the exception.

Higher education in Louisiana has been plagued with a decade of disinvestment, reduced financial support from state government and a devastating shift of the funding burden directly to students and their parents. This shifting of financial responsibility has created a tremendous burden on a generation of students that may never be able to recover because of the transitional environment controlling our future.

Despite uncertain times, I believe that the goals of the Board of Regents (“Board”) should not be overlooked or overwhelmed. The Board has established a goal that calls for 60% of all working-age adults in Louisiana to hold a degree or high-value credential by 2030. It would be easy to lose sight of this goal under pressure from current events. We should not allow this to happen. The resolve must be strengthened. The stated goal must set the foundation for increased opportunity and prosperity for all. A steady, calm but strong hand is needed to assure that the goals are achieved, despite trying times.

Louisiana continues to struggle with high poverty, low educational attainment, uneven access to higher education and a need for increased and diverse high-wage employment opportunities. The present crisis will not help resolve these problems. We, as leaders and educators, must aggressively seek solutions, despite the adversity. We must demand expanded access to our universities, eliminate equity gaps and significantly increase the education level of adults. We can and will stop the virus. While we are fighting this war, we should focus on the needs of our students.

As we engage in the war, it is possible that business and education will suffer from a reduced economy. How long that reduction lasts is entirely up to us. We can help finance education by expanding the transfer of technology from college labs directly to business applications. We should go from the college labs where knowledge is achieved to the application
of that knowledge to a meaningful social application. ULM’s intellectual property rights can be a meaningful source of revenue. A licensed Patent Attorney can aid in this endeavor.

ULM’s next President can be one that walks in place. Or, he or she can be a progressive thinker that will transfer ULM into an institution that propels its students to prominence.

BACKGROUND

I am very much interested in becoming a team member of the family known as the University of Louisiana Monroe ("ULM"). After graduation from Bastrop High, Gloria matriculated at ULM (known in those days as “Northeast”) to study pharmacy, while I relocated to Tucson, Arizona to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Obviously, this was quite a move for a young eighteen year old from Bastrop, Louisiana. But, if one considers my high school endeavors, it becomes clearer why such a move was inevitable.

At the age of twelve, my father, a World War II fighter pilot and flight instructor, sat me in the front seat of a 1947 Piper J-3 Cub on the top of numerous books and magazines and explained that he was going to teach me how to fly. Naturally, I was very excited. He later explained that I took to the challenge like “a duck to water”. As time progressed, I became more confident and looked forward to my daily lessons. By the time I reached fourteen, I was more than ready to “solo” and the word “cocky” had a different meaning from my prospective. I was ready, but my Dad seemed most reluctant to release me to the unknown of the “wild blue”, especially when I could barely see over the instrument panel, even with the aid of the books and magazines.

On the afternoon of my fifteenth birthday, panic immediately set in when my Dad asked me to pull from the runway to a nearby taxiway. He proceeded to exit the airplane and told me to make three “touch n’ go’s” and to taxi back to the hanger. I was frozen in my seat that no longer contained the books and magazines. I screamed at him to “get back into the airplane”. I could not understand why he did not hear me. Maybe it was the roar of the engine or the wind stream that was affecting his ability to hear my pleas. He closed the door and waved me forward. I sat on the taxiway pondering my fate. I then moved the throttle forward with my left hand and gripped the control stick so hard that I can feel the pain to this day. The sky was crystal clear, the sun shining bright and the air cool and crisp. “Full Power”, a little right rudder, stick forward and I was airborne. Wow, an amazing feeling. The plane was much lighter and flew like a dream. It was surreal. I turned downwind, lined up on final approach and waited for the airspeed to diminish along with the altitude. The runway was approaching too fast. My altitude was diminishing too rapidly. Then, I heard the tires hit the runway with a loud screech. The plane bounced into the air. It hit the ground again. It bounced again. I think I made four landings in that one approach. I unknowingly applied the brakes and the craft, which I thought had to be
crumbling to pieces, came to a stop. I looked around, the engine was running, the wings were still intact and everything appeared to be normal. Wow! What just happened?

The throttle moved to full forward, the stick moved rearward and the plane floated into the air. I was airborne again. This time, I was scared and concerned. “Am I going to survive this?” I did. I made two more landings without a bounce and have been flying ever sense. I gained notoriety as the nation’s youngest instrument rated pilot. I became a flight instructor before I graduated from high school in 1968 and have been teaching people how to fly since. I was fascinated with aviation and because of the push to land on the moon in the 60’s, I became more charmed with space flight. Hence, my desire to study aerospace engineering.

I chose the University of Arizona as my primary institution because of its connection with Hughes Aircraft and the fact that there were not many “aerospace engineering” colleges around in 1968. Remember, space exploration was just beginning. I started classes and immediately began flight instructing at a local fixed base operator. While I was honored with a small academic scholarship. I had to work to pay for my living expenses. I accepted part time work at Hughes Aircraft programing Digital Equipment computers. During my last two years at the University, I became a teaching assistant for several computer courses.

I graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1972 and accepted a job with Combustion Engineering located in Windsor Connecticut. In 1972, the aviation and space business had slowed and the industry was not hiring. So, I became a “trouble shooter” tackling problems with large fossil fuel and nuclear power plants throughout the country. I was then asked to get involved with designing and placing into operation environmental equipment attached to the discharge stacks of the power plants that I had been trouble shooting. I designed Combustion’s first “wet scrubber” which operated for years at 98% efficiency.

After two years with Combustion, I became tired of traveling and sought to learn more about financial matters. I decided to pursue a master’s degree in business at Tulane University in New Orleans. I enrolled in Tulane’s two year MBA program in 1975. During this period, I worked part time for my Dad who had earlier started a small airline that serviced New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Gulfport and Houston. The company was known as “Gulf Coast Airlines.” I organized the daily business activities and computerized the accounting records and reservation systems. I flew when they were short of pilots.

In the fall of 1977, I decided to move from Tulane’s business school to begin law school at Loyola University. There was an attempt at that time to combine an MBA with a law school degree at Loyola. I desired to gain both degrees and made the change. Unfortunately, the joint programs never materialized. I graduated with a law degree from Loyola in 1978 and immediately sat for the U.S. Patent Bar and the Louisiana Bar Exam. I received both licenses in 1978. I then passed the bar exams in Mississippi and Texas and became licensed in those states.
In 1995 I became a member of the Colorado bar and licensed to practice law there. I have been practicing law for over forty years.

I have been a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents where I served as the Vice-Chair and the Chair of the Finance Committee.\textsuperscript{2} I have been a member of the New Orleans Convention Center Board where I served as Chairman of the Finance Committee and many other committees during its growth through Hurricane Katrina. I have taught ad hoc environmental courses at Tulane University and at the University of Florida. In conjunction with the FAA, I recently taught a drone (UAS) course at LSU law school.

I was chief legal counsel to Mayor Sidney Barthelemy when the New Orleans arena was first envisioned with the economic complex at the foot of Canal Street developed. I was parish attorney for President Benny Rouselle for eight years and organized and implemented Plaquemine’s Parish Coastal Zone Management Systems. Obviously, being involved in City, Parish and State Government kept me highly involved with the Louisiana Legislature and political activities and discussions.

So, during my life, I have gained extensive experience in engineering, computers, finance, accounting, teaching, research, education, entrepreneurship, management, aviation, construction, government, politics, private resources, fundraising, and have been a leader in business and in the community. I am a licensed contractor in the State of Louisiana operating under the name “North American Development and Construction, LLC”. My friends and business associates have dubbed me with the nick name of “Renaissance Man”. I am truly a well-rounded individual with vision, leadership and unmatched managerial skills. My colleagues on the Board of Regents will be able to address my abilities and my commitment to education, economic development, community relations and the advancement of all for the betterment of the community. The listed references can add additional insight into my abilities. My accomplishments are self-evident with demonstrated performance of exceptional quality. My attached resume provides a sketch of my life long accomplishments. I not only seek to improve and advance ULM, but endeavor to make it the best it can be. I have the education, ability, desire, vision, imagination and commitment to do great things for and on behalf of ULM. It is a great university, but it can be greater. No single individual can move ULM forward to greatness. However, the right leader can work with and collaborate with faculty, students and the community to pave the way to greatness.

My wife and I grew up in families where education was paramount in our lives. Northeast (ULM) was always part of discussions around the dinner table. Higher education was not only expected but demanded. While on the Board of Regents, I visited the campus many times and have always been a strong supporter of ULM. I

\textsuperscript{2} I was asked by my colleagues to accept the position of Chairman, but declined because my law practice had become too demanding. Chairman Richard Lipsey can address this comment further.
supported and voted to implement the plans for the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Regent Charles McDonald and Robert Levy can provide additional information about my involvement in this matter. I supported and voted to increase the funding for ULM’s School of Pharmacy and the Nursing School. While on the Board of Regents, I took action to maintain proper accreditation, staffing and funding for the various ULM colleges. I was the Chair of the Foundations Committee. I created and implemented many policies that moved badly needed funding from various foundations directly to University campuses. President Bruno is able to speak to my involvement in higher education and should be able to provide valuable information that may help the Committee’s evaluation process.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

A. Maintain a Steady Course

The following is a sketch of some thoughts that I would like to present for discussion and debate. Many of my comments have evolved from my six year participation with the Board of Regents. During this time, I was involved in the creation of several Master Plans for Louisiana’s educational programs. I met numerous times with state and local officials, including BESE representatives. I lobbied the Legislature on many occasions, begging for more funding. I know education in Louisiana. I know ULM. I know Monroe and the region. I know the community. I have imaginative and provocative ideas that should be openly discussed within the community. Some of my ideas may seem to be aggressive and maybe a little idealistic. They are. But valued and meaningful change is never easy. Change will always be hard. **The goal is to better educate our young and working adults so that their lives turn out better than ours.**

1. Maintain and Nourish ULM’s Present Pillars of Success

**Pharmacy:**

In order to set a plan for the future, one must know and understand the past. I know ULM’s past and have watched its growth through the years. ULM’s past is quite impressive with service to the local community second to none. ULM is the home to the only state-supported College of Pharmacy. Seventy-five percent of all pharmacists in Louisiana are ULM graduates. The College of Pharmacy is accredited by the American Council on Pharmacy Education, including one of seven Toxicology programs in the United States. The Pharmacy program encompasses the Asbestos and Mold Analysis Laboratory where testing of various materials compliments the Toxicology platform. Various community industries have access to environmental testing and Occupational Health and Safety programs. Pharmacy is a well-rounded educational endeavor.

So, we should keep pharmacy at the top of ULM’s master plan. This program is essential to ULM’s future and to the advancement of the community. It should never be under-funded, under staffed or forgotten. However, I would suggest a few aggressive moves. Expand and
support a wider range of research that is directly coupled with the medical industry and the environmental engineering prospects. The labs may be underutilized. They should become a profitable endeavor supporting private industry. By way of example, the College of Pharmacy and its assets could have been used to design and develop “in-home” test kits or other supporting devices needed to fight the recent Coronavirus. The Universities’ role should include basic and applied research focused on commercialization. The University should own patents and intellectual property rights stemming from the research and application of the knowledge. The purpose of university research is not to create knowledge for its internal use, but to serve its environment and transform lives through the knowledge and innovation it generates. Our institutions should improve not only the education, but also the health, well-being and social mobility of people in the community and the state. ULM should advertise, sell and promote the Toxicology knowledge to private industry and to governments in need of such information. This knowledge can be used to help fund our education goals.

**Osteopathic Medicine Teaching Institution:**

ULM is the home of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. “The MISSION of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) is to prepare globally minded, community-focused physicians to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved populations and promote research to improve human health. The VCOM curriculum is directed toward the development of a primary care physician. The VCOM faculty believes whether a student chooses primary care or a medical specialty, he or she will benefit from broad based primary care knowledge and a whole patient approach to medical care.”

This facility is and will be of paramount importance to the future of ULM. It is a new idea, with new concepts, and a new outreach for innovative health care options. ULM’s present medical related colleges can easily combine with VCOM to foster research and training. Collaboration, sharing of knowledge and bidirectional support should expand ULM’s future prospects. VCOM should be encouraged to continue its plans.

**Kitty Degree School of Nursing**

ULM is also home to the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing. The College has a long history of excellence. The School was founded in 1960 and graduated the first class of baccalaureate nurses in 1964. The primary mission of the Nursing School is to offer a specialized program of study of the art and science of nursing. ULM has been ranked in the top 10 of nursing schools in the U.S. according to CollegeAtlas.org. The online Bachelor of Science in Nursing was ranked #1 in the nation by collegestart.org.

ULM’s Nursing school should complement, support and collaborate with VCOM. Nurses are in short supply, especially with the Coronavirus pandemic. The school should consider

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3 Taken from VCOM website
expanding along with the other medical institutions. Additionally, the School should consider becoming more active with the governmental public health institutions in support of cutting edge methods of nursing.

Expansion of the School will naturally require the addition of more professors which will require more funding. This vicious circle is always a problem. It was a major problem during my tenure with the Board of Regents. However, I believe that expansion goals are achievable through the adoption, creation and support of profit centers within each college. Yes, ULM is in the business of educating. Academics are important. But, there cannot be teaching without the appropriate funding. Education and funding are both achievable. It will just take vision, forethought, immigration, and a keen desire to make ULM a great institution. It is time to make a change from ordinary thinking to extraordinary thinking.

**ULM’s Business School**

ULM’s Business School is and has been one of the Universities most popular majors. In my opinion, all disciplines previously discussed should have exposure to business concepts and application. A nurse should know and understand business entrepreneurship, basic economics and accounting. The same is true for a pharmacist and a doctor. The Business School should conduct an outreach and networking program to include these professions and to encourage students to seek appropriate knowledge of business to support their expansion into the world of free enterprise.

Economic research is essential to understanding the communities’ business needs and development. Such research can become a profit center not only for the Monroe area but can be expanded to include the entire state and the nation as a whole. The School might consider collaboration with the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) so that students can enjoy a “hands-on” experience with loans, notes, commercial paper, mortgages, etc. ULM should continue its programs where students become apprentices in local business establishments such as CenturyLink, St. Francis General Hospital, Vantage Health, and Entergy Louisiana, just to name a few. In my opinion, hands-on experience is the best teaching tool.

**B. General Philosophy**

1. **Innovative and Inclusive Thinking**

Reaching the Board’s goal of an educational attainment level of 60% will require Louisiana to more than double the number of annual credential recipients from approximately 40,000 in 2018 to 85,000 by 2030. ULM can help attain this goal by focusing on the allied medical fields with transfer of knowledge to business. In order to achieve the goals, we must expand our thought pattern to new concepts of talent and application. ULM should consider new approaches, transform the status quo, implement new strategies, enable all students to participate,
and encourage working-age adults to re-engage in learning. There must be a significant growth in student participation across all student populations.

2. **Expanded Talent Search**

Working parents in need of training/retraining, adults in rural communities, and returning veterans, must be re-engaged. ULM should consider an out-reach program focused specifically on increasing this sector of the population. Including this segment will provide greater attainment levels, and improve individual lives and boost standards of living across the state.

3. **Universal Access to Education**

Intelligent people with little to no opportunity for higher education will find it difficult to help advance our society. Although there is a desire to contribute, their inability to participate in the American Dream is limited by their social/economic status. These conditions perpetuate the cycle of poverty that can lead to future generations of undereducated, underemployed and underestimated segments of our population. To address these problems, all colleges and universities should be accessible by all. This accessibility must start at the PK-12 levels.

While on the Board of Regents, I became concerned about the amount of remediation our students required. The need for remediation discourages the re-entry of young adults, reduces access, drives up costs, and can be a barrier for adult students wanting to enroll in or return to college. ULM can help address this major problem by creating out-reach programs designed to penetrate the high school level class rooms. Identify those students early in the process and help them along by providing them with supplemental instruction and direction. After all, this is all about learning, regardless of the time, place or manner.

The benefits to the early identification of students that need help and providing that help are numerous. The benefits including reduced time to graduation, reduced costs, destruction of barriers, the building of bridges and higher attainment of actual graduates. It simply makes sense to provide help as soon as an issue is discovered.

4. **Investment in the Future**

Postsecondary education is fundamentally an investment in our future with long-term benefits to the individual and to our communities. There is no better investment than the investment in knowledge. Strategic funding, with resources carefully aligned to well-defined priorities supporting the allied medical professions will be an avenue of success for ULM.

A campaign should be considered to focus on the retention of our professors and supporting faculty. The campaign may outline new methods of recruiting professors Research is truly an investment in the future, especially when coupled with business entrepreneurship.
Talent comes in all shapes and forms. Talent should never be overlooked. Learning through life’s hard knocks is a degree in and of itself. However, postsecondary credentials are necessary for securing a good job, and financial status should never prevent a talented person from access to learning and knowledge. A better educated population will lead to a better Louisiana. Better education will lead to a higher quality of life, expanded opportunities, more social mobility and stronger communities.

5. New Roads to Education

New and innovative ways of thinking must pave the roads to new and novel approaches to the way education is offered. Research universities and special purpose institutions are needed to advance knowledge and the application of that knowledge to business opportunities. Work-based learning should become an integral part of the development process. Apprenticeships, job shadowing, internships and cooperative endeavors will complement the allied medical education offered at ULM. Linking education with the business environment will not only help students in connecting the relevance of their education to employment, it will also forge stronger and more meaningful partnerships between PK-12 postsecondary education and the private sector.

The laboratories situated within our Universities are the birth place of invention, imagination, innovation, and entrepreneurship. In the labs, technology is transferred from the spark of thought to realism. The universities’ role in the innovative process is broad and critical. The management and oversight provided by the professor in the lab and in the classroom translates ideas into commercial enterprises. ULM may consider expanding its research capabilities within the four (4) pillars of success in order to achieve future prominence. Research universities are essential contributors to the quality of life. Research initiated in our universities will save us from deadly viruses. ULM should play a major role in the allied medical research disciplines.

6. Communication, Networking and Collaboration

Relationships established across universities and business is critical to ULM’s future. Economic development can begin in the university lab and be transferred to a business environment. To provide opportunity, we should maintain strong links at all points of the education stream with business enterprises. The world has recognized the need for universities to act as a liaison between the student population and business and industry. Education and Business networking will position the community as a hub for industry-based innovation, in turn bringing more and better opportunities to the region. Collaboration established between business and education can allow employers to provide internships, and support academic programs. Universities can partner with employers to develop work-based learning that may be transferred into learning models that allow students to receive credit for and build on what they know. These partnerships are investments in our future.
Educators should build and illuminate pathways to higher education. Universities must be accessible, affordable, and attainable to all people with no gaps.

C. Recap Summary

I believe that we should continue to support the four major pillars of education at ULM. The medical industry is ULM’s future and business niche. Education should be a stepping stone to entrepreneurship. ULM’s pillars of education should be expanded to include income producing activities that support local businesses and the community at large. By way of example, the pharmacy school could be expanded to include more research and public/private partnerships with various pharmaceutical companies. In such an arrangement, ULM should retain the intellectual property rights to new drugs, processes and methodologies, thus creating future income. The nursing school could be expanded to provide for more graduates in these days of uncertain medical environments. The new Osteopathic Medicine Institution could be aggressively marketed to seek international student enrollment and international recognition. The business school could be expanded to include public/private partnerships with not only local businesses but with international companies seeking to expand their footprint in the United States. The Kinesiology and Exercise Science program could aggressively be united with the nursing and pharmacy schools and the new Hospital so that a well-rounded education may be pursued by the students. Such a combination can also be a profit center if properly aligned with the national and international medical markets. Education can and should be united with industry to gain badly needed funding and hands on training for the students.

As previously noted, I am of the opinion that the medical and allied health industries are ULM’s future. The Louisiana Medical Translational Research Center (“MRO”) can be further expanded to better serve industry and should become more of an income producing center. The Center for Molecular Imaging and Therapy could be aggressively marketed not only to encourage industry participation but to encourage professors and researchers to relocate to ULM. A University’s standing is established by its professors. We need to aggressively seek out and retain good and qualified professors. We must also take good care of the professors that presently carry the education burden.

The alumni are the backbone of the University. My family and I are proud to have been associated with ULM. It provided opportunities that otherwise would not have been available. ULM is and has been a ways and means for all people to advance their self-worth and standing in the community. ULM has embodied the concept of “opportunity”. Alumni can and should be honored for their contributions to the advancement of education. Major support should be expected from ULM’s graduates. ULM should aggressively seek out and include the alumni in all aspects of college life.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Edward D. Markle
Edward Markle was graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1972. Upon graduation, Mr. Markle accepted an engineering position with Combustion Engineering domiciled in Windsor Connecticut designing nuclear and fossil fuel power plants. He was also involved in the design and testing of wet environmental scrubbers for coal fired boilers at the Louisville Power and Light plant in Louisville, Ky. Mr. Markle was also the chief engineer for Combustion during the power plant installation in Page Arizona which involved the startup and troubleshooting of one of the world’s largest supercritical power plants at the time.

After working for Combustion Engineering for a period of two and a half years, Mr. Markle enrolled in the MBA program at Tulane University. He completed a year and a half of the two year program and then transferred to Loyola University Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1978. Mr. Markle is licensed to practice law and maintains offices in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Colorado and Texas. Mr. Markle holds an “AV” rating from Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory, the highest rating granted by that national legal directory. Mr. Markle has also been honored by being named as “Top Lawyers in New Orleans” five years in a row.

Mr. Markle’s legal practice has consisted of commercial litigation, insurance, aviation, governmental relations, insurance coverage, errors and omission, director’s and officer’s liability, products liability, aviation litigation, environmental and toxic tort litigation, and professional liability process. He has counseled many corporate clients on intellectual property requirements involving patents, trademarks and copyrights and is presently representing major league baseball players in federal trademark infringement matters. Mr. Markle has extensive trial experience at every state and federal court level in Louisiana, Mississippi, Colorado and Texas. He also has broad experience in handling multiparty complex litigation, which routinely involves multimillion-dollar claims as well as broad experience in large real estate development projects. Mr. Markle is also a member of the Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and American Bar Associations. He is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and various other federal and state courts throughout the nation.

In addition to his years of general litigation and business practice, Mr. Markle has been registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since 1978. He has been involved in complex copyright and trademark infringement litigation throughout the country. As a registered Patent Attorney, Mr. Markle has been successful in prosecuting numerous patents involving mechanical, electrical and computer inventions. He has also been successful in prosecuting many copyright and trademark applications to completion.

Mr. Markle has served as an ad hoc teacher and instructor at Tulane University and the University of Florida, lecturing on environmental law relating to asbestos and other associated environmental
matters. Mr. Markle recently taught an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) law class at LSU law school. The FAA joined with Mr. Markle on the legal and practical aspects of the use of UAV. Mr. Markle also started a company dedicated to the commercial use of drones in farming and agriculture. The company, Sky Eye, LLC, conducts drone operations in Louisiana and Mississippi.

While Mr. Markle was still in high school, he became a licensed FAA Flight Instructor and taught many farmers and local residents of Bastrop, LA how to fly prior to departing to earn his engineering degree at the University of Arizona. Just prior to graduating from Bastrop High School, Mr. Markle received national notoriety as the youngest instrument rated pilot in the United States. While in college, Mr. Markle continued his flight instruction career and has been successful in securing flying licenses for over 58 individuals. From 1967-1969, Mr. Markle assisted his father in creating a commuter airline service in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. It operated under the name of Gulf Coast Airlines. Mr. Markle was the chief pilot and company flight director until he enrolled in engineering school at the University of Arizona.

In 1991, the Mayor of the City of New Orleans (Sidney Barthelemy) appointed Mr. Markle to act as the City’s chief legal negotiator and advisor on all issues involving economic development. As the chief legal counsel to the Mayor and the City of New Orleans, Mr. Markle negotiated and drafted the lease agreement, real estate agreements, financial documents and other contractual documents that led to the establishment and development of a multi-purpose economic complex located in New Orleans. This complex located at the foot of Canal Street includes hotels, restaurants, retail space and a casino. He was also responsible for monitoring and coordinating all financial matters of the economic project including issues concerning debt, equity, trusts and bonding. Mr. Markle was further responsible for monitoring the legislative process during the initial stages of the legislation. Mr. Markle organized, developed and incorporated the Rivergate Development Corporation, the public benefit corporation charged with overseeing the operation of the project. Mr. Markle was also in charge of all real estate leases, and real estate development. Mr. Markle has also represented governments in Michigan, Massachusetts, and Indiana as well as Mexico and Bermuda on economic matters similar to those associated with the New Orleans complex.

In 1999, Mr. Markle created the Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee (“CZM”), under President Rousselle and became one of its first members, having been appointed by the Plaquemines Parish Council and President. The CZM was charged with the responsibility of reviewing costal restoration plans for Plaquemines Parish and providing recommendations to the Parish Council. Mr. Markle also acted as the Committee’s legal counsel. For eight (8) years, Mr. Markle was the chief executive counsel to Parish President, Benny Rousselle.

In 2004, Mr. Markle was retained by the Commissioner of Insurance (Jim Donelon) to rewrite and recodify the Louisiana Insurance Code. The proposed legislation was introduced in the spring of 2009 and passed the legislature without any major changes or modifications. Mr. Markle continues to provide update services to the Commissioner and the Legislature.

In 2005, Mr. Markle was considered by President Bush to become the NASA Administrator and was fully supported by Louisiana’s Congressional Delegation. While he was not finally chosen for the position, it was an honor to have been considered and to have received the support of Louisiana’s political establishment.
In 2008, Mr. Markle was appointed to the New Orleans Convention Center Board of Directors. He devoted six (6) years to the Board. During his service on the board, the Convention Center progressed into a facility with over 1.1 million square feet of convention and meeting space with a strong budget of over 500 million dollars.

In 2013, Mr. Markle was appointed to serve on the Louisiana Board of Regents. Mr. Markle was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Board and was also the chairman of the Finance Committee for two (2) years. Mr. Markle’s term expired at the end of 2017.

In 2016, Mr. Markle was appointed to the Algiers Development District which was responsible for the development and operation of the Federal City Project in Algiers, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans.

Mr. Markle became a PADI licensed scuba diver in 1996. He is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator ("HAM Radio"). Mr. Markle is also a licensed General Contractor in the State of Louisiana and operates under the name of “North American Development and Construction.”

Mr. Markle’s finest accomplishment was convincing a very young ULM (a/k/a Northeast) pharmacy student, Gloria Bell from Bastrop, to marry him in 1975. Two fantastic sons have been born of the marriage, Ryan and John, both graduates of ULM’s Construction Management College. Gloria graduated with her pharmacy degree in three years under ULM’s five year program.

Mr. Markle has been a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Transportation Safety Board Association. He is also very active with a variety of civil groups and was chosen “Man of the Year” in 1989 by the Algiers Community Network in New Orleans.
REFERENCES

1.

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3.

4.

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6.
7. State Senator Lambert Bossiere
1418 Cabrini Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
Tel: (504) 415-9923
Email: Lambertcjr@bellsouth.net

8. Senator William Cassidy
Tel: (225) 802-0194
Email: Williamcassidy@gmail.com

9. Congressman Ralph Abraham
Tel: (318) 355-4609

10. Meryl Kennedy Farr
Mer Rouge, LA
Tel: (318) 372-2519
Email: WEK@Krdllc.com
EDWARD D. MARKLE

Born: 
Wife: 
Children: 

Telephone: ( )

EDUCATION
University of Arizona - B.S. Aerospace Engineering, 1972; minor, Mechanical Engineering
Tulane University - M.B.A. program 1975 - 1976; minor, Financial Accounting and Economics
Loyola School of Law - Juris Doctor 1978 - Louisiana Bar Number: 8919
Patent and Trademark Institute - 1978
Licensed Patent and Trademark Attorney – 1978 – Bar No. 28,967

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Commercial Aircraft Pilot since 1968
Commercial Flight Instructor CFI-1770895
Instrument Flight Instructor CFI-AI-1770895
Multi-engine and Single engine
Basic, Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor
Total Flying Time: 5,500 hours
  Received notoriety as youngest instrument rated pilot in the U.S. in 1968
U.S. Patent and Trademark attorney - Admitted to bar 1978
  Patent Bar Registration Number: 28,967
Licensed PADI scuba diver
Licensed General Contractor in State of Louisiana – North American Development and Construction, LLC

U.S. Licensed HAM operator

**NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT**


**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Admitted to practice law in Louisiana, 1978
Partner and general owner in the law firm of Markle and Associates – general trial and business practice
Admitted to practice law in Colorado, 1989
Teacher and Instructor at Tulane University, 1988  environmental Law ad hoc courses.
Admitted to practice law in Texas, 1995
Admitted to practice law in Mississippi, 1997
Experienced in city and state licenses and ordinances
Representation of the Government of Mexico on financial and real estate transactions
Representation of the Government of Bermuda on financial and real estate transactions including the redesign of the port facilities and hotel complex development
In 1999, Mr. Markle was appointed to the Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee, in charge of coastal restoration and protection. He also acted as the committee’s legal counsel.
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of:

American Bar Association
Louisiana Bar Association
New Orleans Bar Association
New Orleans Association of Defense Counsel
Colorado Bar Association
Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
National Transportation Safety Board Association
Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association
Texas Bar Association
Mississippi Bar Association

Admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana, Colorado and Texas. Admitted to all State and Federal Courts in Texas, Colorado and Mississippi.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

1989 “Man of the Year”, chosen by Algiers Community Network in New Orleans

Member of the Chamber of Commerce:

(1) Aviation Committee - Chairman 1984 -1985
(2) Committee for the Development of a Heliport for the City of New Orleans
(3) Committee for the Promotion of Civilian Use of Alvin Callendar Field

Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association Safety Foundation
National Association of Mechanical Engineers
AREAS OF PRACTICE

BANKING, FINANCING, COMMERCIAL AND SECURED LENDING
- Loan Negotiations and Loan Closings
- Accounts Receivable Financing
- Working Capital Loans
- Asset-Based Loans
- Mortgage Loans
- Issuances of Bond Indebtedness
- Small Business Administration Guaranteed Loans
- Loan Restructuring and Workouts
- Vessel Financing and Documentation
- Financial Planning and Commercial Financing of Projects
- Trust Organization and Management

CORPORATE, BUSINESS AND PARTNERSHIP LAW
- Professional Corporations
- Rights and Responsibilities of Officers, Directors, Shareholders and Partners
- Independent Contractor Relationships
- Employment Contracts
- Shareholder Agreements
- Partnership Agreements
- Maintenance of Corporate and Partnership Records

INSURANCE
- Coverage Issues
- Defense Litigation
- Policy Interpretation
- Insurance Regulation

LITIGATION
- State and Federal Courts
- Aviation
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Commercial
- Corporate
Partnership  
Insurance Defense  
Real Estate  
Tax Disputes  
Professional Liability and Malpractice  
Trademark, Copyright and Patent  
Aviation  
Construction  
Products Liability  
General Casualty  
Engineering  
Transportation  
Worker Compensation  

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
Licensure Proceedings & Adjudications  
Professional Disciplinary Proceedings  
Professional Rule-Making  
Drafting, Introduction and Monitoring of Legislation  

PATENTS  
Patents  
Copyrights  
Trademarks