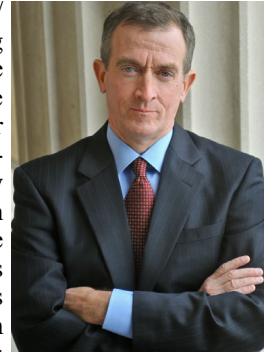


CAMILLE F. GRAVEL, JR. PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This year's recipient of the Camille Gravel Pro Bono/ Public Service Award is Claude J. Kelly, III, honoring his lifetime commitment to public service. Claude received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983 from the College of the Holy Cross. He received a Juris Doctor in 1987 from Tulane University Law School. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney with the New Orleans District Attorney's Office, from 1987 to 1990. He interrupted his legal career to serve as General Manager of his family's restaurant, Kolb's German Restaurant, from 1990 to 1992. He served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of Louisiana, from 1992 to 2000. He served as the Director of International Sales for Optimal Healthcare in Miami, Florida, from 2000 to 2002 and as a consultant for the International Exchange Group in Washington, D.C., from 2002 to 2006. From 2006 to 2014, he was in private practice as a solo practitioner, concentrating on criminal defense. He has also worked at the Capital Defense Project of Southeast Louisiana and as a panel attorney of both the Criminal Justice Act in the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Fraternal Order of Police. Since 2014, he has served as the Chief Federal Defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana.



In 2016, Claude was nominated by President Barack Obama to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. While the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved him, his nomination expired with the end of the 114 Congress. Claude is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was the inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Holy Cross Lawyers Association.

When informed of Claude's nomination, Judge Kurt Engelhardt had the following to say, "I was appointed by Chief Judge Richman to chair the Fifth Circuit Committee to consider Claude's reappointment as EDLA FPD. I prepared the final Report and submitted it. While that Report to the Circuit is confidential, I will tell you that every single person I spoke to – district judges, magistrate judges, attorneys on both sides, court unit personnel like Clerk's Office, Probation, U.S. Marshal, etc. – all praised Claude, without exception. Not a single person had a critical comment, and all were effusive in their praise for the professional job he is doing."

Fellow FBA board member and criminal defense lawyer Sara A. Johnson said in her nomination, "In addition to being a great lawyer who is committed to his clients, he's an excellent boss and runs the FPD's office incredibly well. I've noticed he hires a variety of personalities which makes the difficult job of matching clients to attorneys much easier. He empowers his staff to manage their cases and grow, but also provides them with adequate support. I've been especially impressed with his support and promotion of younger female attorneys. He always goes above and beyond. I don't think 'that's not my job' is something he has ever uttered."