

Chancellor's Report to Diocesan Convention 2017

The past year has been a busy year for the Vice Chancellors and me. Marsha Wade continues to advise on canonical matters and head the Constitution and Canons Committee. Susan Talley continues to handle real estate matters and advised on the sale of the property in Donaldsonville (including some very challenging issues with respect to the historical title and the church corporation), the review for the Diocese of leases on properties that benefit St. Martin's Episcopal School, and the listing and negotiations regarding the former Grace Church property on Canal Street in New Orleans. Clyde Jacob advises on labor and employment matters, and Mark Mercante advises on construction and some contract matters.

The most significant matter I have been involved in over the past year and more has been the handling of disputes with the property owner regarding the former Walgreens store in the Lower Ninth Ward that was subleased by the Diocese for All Souls Episcopal Church and Community Center. Throughout the matter, the Walgreens has continued to be generous in its cooperation with the Diocese. The landlord challenged the legality of the sublease, and after a few years of litigation, that dispute has been resolved. I am handling an ongoing dispute with the landlord regarding the condition of the property. I have also advised the Diocese over some of the financial obligations of All Souls.

In addition, I have advised regarding two disciplinary matters; two personal injury suits in which I have monitored the handling of the litigation by our outside counsel retained by Church Insurance Company; advised the Bishop regarding Episcopal High and St. Martin's High; advised regarding the Gaudet Fund; advised regarding financial matters at a parish; advised regarding a claim for a sinking building and an insurance claim brought by a parish; and advised regarding a matter involving the protection of children.

Working with Bishop Thomson, Canon Manning and their talented team continues to be one of the great pleasures of my professional life. I regret that I will miss the Diocesan Convention as we will be away at parents' weekend at our son's college, and I deeply appreciate the generosity of my counterpart from the Diocese of Mississippi, Granville Tate, in agreeing to serving as the Parliamentarian during our Convention.