

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 2012-C-2182

COLLETTE JOSEY COVINGTON AND JADE COVINGTON
Plaintiffs

Versus

**McNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**
Defendants

CIVIL PROCEEDING

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE *AMICUS CURIE* BRIEF OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL FEE ANALYSIS (NALFA)
IN SUPPORT OF COLLETTE JOSEY COVINGTON AND JADE COVINGTON'S
REQUESTED ATTORNEY'S FEES**

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NOW INTO COURT, comes the National Association of Legal Fee Analysis (NALFA), who, pursuant to Rule VII of this Honorable Court, respectfully moves to for leave to file an *Amicus Curie* Brief in this case.

The National Association of Legal Fee Analysis (NALFA) is a 501(c)(6) professional association for the attorney fee and legal billing community. We are listed as an A.M. Best's 2012 Recommended Expert Service Provider for legal fee disputes and we specialize in analyzing and resolving high-stakes fee disputes nationwide. We employ proven methodologies which adhere to the ethical and best practices of all 50 states, federal courts, and the American Bar Association as well as accepted and best practices in the legal community to assure consistency, quality, and reliability in analyzing the reasonableness of fees. We maintain one of the largest proprietary databases devoted to attorney fee cases and standards and our members testify frequently both in support of and against fee requests in substantial cases.

Our Association and its members analyze the reasonableness of hours billed, the prevailing hourly rate in a given community, customary law firm billing practices, billing judgment, the results obtained in a case verses the amount spent, factors affecting whether a case is novel and complex, and other issues which would affect a fee award. We are familiar with the nation's most state-of-the-art litigation management practices and have extensive familiarity with the best practices in evaluating fees since *Perdue v. Kenny A.*, 130 S.Ct. 1662 (2010).

Our Association files *Amicus* Briefs only in rare and exceptional cases where our analysis may assist courts in rendering fee awards using established precedent and standards and in the interest of fairness and consistency within the legal profession. We have reviewed Louisiana Supreme Court Rule VII and file this brief based on two of the three criteria set forth by this rule:

- (1) As the nation's only non-profit professional association devoted to assuring reasonable and consistent nationwide standards for the award of attorney's fees, we have an interest in numerous cases involving similar questions throughout the United States; and
- (2) As the nation's only non-profit professional association devoted exclusively to assuring reasonable and consistent nationwide standards for the award of attorney's fees, we are aware of matters of fact and law that might otherwise escape the court's attention.

WHEREFORE, the National Association of Legal Fee Analysis respectfully requests that this Honorable Court grant their Motion for Leave to file the enclosed *Amicus Curie* brief on behalf of Collette Covington and Jade Covington.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing Brief of Amicus Curiae was sent by United States mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed to all counsel of record:

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on this, the _____ day of January, 2013.

TERRY JESSE