

T. 12/8/67

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

John Dear
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

JB:OMF:claw
171-32-4
117-675-154

Richard E. Sobel, et al. v.
Leander M. Peren, Jr., et al.
Eastern District of Louisiana
Civil Action No. 67-243

The Department has filed a motion to intervene in the case of Richard E. Sobel, et al. v. Leander M. Peren, Jr., et al., Civil Action No. 67-243, Section 1 in the Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, which motion was granted on November 1, 1967. The original complaint was based upon the arrest of Mr. Sobel by the Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, authorities charging him with the unauthorized practice of law. This charge against Sobel was made in connection with his professional activities as an attorney representing Negroes and civil rights workers in the State and Federal Courts in Louisiana for the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee. Mr. Sobel is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and New York and was and is associated with attorneys licensed to practice law in Louisiana while practicing in Louisiana.

The Government's complaint in intervention alleges that Negroes in Plaquemines Parish are less able than white persons, because of their race, to secure in the local courts of Plaquemines Parish adequate legal representation by counsel licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana in civil and constitutional rights cases. In support of this complaint, we will attempt to show, among other things, that Negroes have been discriminated against in applying for admission to the Louisiana Bar, and that the class of attorneys who are most likely to represent Negroes fully have thereby been artificially restricted.

cc: Records	Fleischer
Chrono	Knight
Dear	Trial File, Southern Sec.
Fiss	USA, New Orleans
Dunbaugh	

In connection with the preparation of the Government's case, a Departmental attorney interviewed a Negro lawyer in Alexandria, Louisiana, a Mr. Louis Barry, on November 22, 1947. In the course of the interview Mr. Barry stated that he knew a Negro, a Mr. Archie LaCasse, who had several times unsuccessfully applied for admission to the Louisiana Bar during the 1940's and who is now living in Chicago. Please locate Mr. LaCasse in Chicago and, by interviewing him, obtain the following information for the purpose of determining whether he was excluded from the Louisiana bar because of his race:

- (a) Age and address;
- (b) Which schools he attended, when and where were the schools located;
- (c) Whether he was refused admission to any law school in Louisiana and, if so, which ones and when;
- (d) Where he ranked in his law school class
- (e) When he applied for admission to the Louisiana bar and whether he belonged to any other bars at the time of his application;
- (f) What types of examinations did he take in connection with his application for admission to the bar and whether he passed or failed those examinations;
- (g) Whether his application for admission to the Louisiana bar required that his race be indicated in any way, whether pictures were to be attached to his application or personal interviews were conducted;
- (h) What state and federal bars, if any, he is now a member of;
- (i) Whether he presently practices law and, if not, his present occupation.

Please obtain copies of my correspondence and other documents LaCasse might have relating to his application to the Louisiana bar.