

NOLA * Defender Times-Picayune Loses Legal Notices for Civil District Court (7.10.12)

Following the announcement that it will scale back publication to three days a week, The Times-Picayune is losing its role as New Orleans' Official Journal for legal notices for at least one local public body. Today, the local Clerk of Civil District Court Dale Atkins announced that Gambit will replace Da Paper as the official journal where the state-required notifications of all matters in Civil District Court are made. The cost to place ads will be \$.93 cents per agate line, according to a memo from Atkins. The change will be effective August 1.

According to The Lens, the legal notices overall brought in \$7 million a year in advertising. It is known how big of a percentage of that advertising came from Civil District Court.

The decision follows the passage of a law during this year's legislative session that changed the law governing legal notices in Orleans Parish. The new law erased a requirement that legal notices be published in a daily newspaper. Now, the notices are required only to run in newspapers with a circulation of more than 30,000.

According to The Lens, Gambit hired Baton Rouge lobbyist Thomas Jay Spradley two days before the bill went before the legislature.

The memo said the legal notices will run both in the weekly print edition of Gambit and online. There will be no charge for online publication. According to Atkins, the auxiliary journal for legal notices in Orleans Parish will remain Louisiana Weekly.

Mayoral spokesman Ryan Berni said he wasn't aware of any plans for the City to switch their legal notices to another publication.