

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA COMMISSION SELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

April 15, 2005

The Port of South Louisiana's Commission unanimously elected retired Judge Joel T. Chaisson as its new Executive Director. Mr. Chaisson signed a three-year contract



effective April 15, 2005. He previously served as the port's legal counsel for the past five (5) years. He succeeds Mr. Joseph Accardo, Jr., who served as Executive Director of the Port since February 2000 and as General Counsel from 1997 to 2000.

Mr. P. Joey Murray, III, was elected President for 2005-06. Mr. Murray is Governor Kathleen Blanco's at-large appointment to the Commission. He succeeds Mr. Gregory Gravois, who served as Commission President for the past two years.

The seven-member Commission is comprised of representatives serving four-year terms from the parishes of St. Charles, St. John, and St. James. Three of its members are appointed by each parish; four of the members are appointed by the Governor to represent each parish, including an at-large position.

Elections were also held to fill the remaining positions on the Port's governing panel during its March meeting. The Commissioners elected the following members to serve these offices: Executive Vice-President Sheila Bonnette, Governor's appointment representing St. Charles Parish; Vice-President Gregory Gravois, Governor's appointment representing St. James Parish; Vice-President Louis Joseph, Governor's appointment representing St. John Parish; Vice-President Jay Roberts, representing St. Charles Parish; Treasurer Bill Hubbard, representing St. John Parish; and Secretary Lawrence Jackson, representing St. James Parish. All office positions are elected for one-year terms.

Mr. Chaisson and Mr. Murray each commented that they "...look forward to their new leadership role at the Port of South Louisiana." The gentlemen stressed their desire to continue the successful working relationship among the Port Commission and staff in its mission to generate new economic development opportunities for residents of the river parishes.