

## **WITNESS BIOGRAPHY**

### **RYAN S. MONTEGUT**

Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

New Iberia, Louisiana

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## **CURRENT POSITION**

### **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries

January 2024 – Present

Serve as Louisiana's State Fisheries Director and a senior executive reporting directly to the Secretary. Responsible for executive oversight of all commercial and recreational fisheries, including management and conservation of marine and inland aquatic resources. Direct statewide programs involving fisheries habitat protection, stock enhancement, fisheries research, and the Artificial Reef Program. Oversee offshore, nearshore, and inshore artificial reef development and coordinate with federal agencies, interstate commissions, and state partners on fisheries management, habitat conservation, and restoration initiatives.

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## **PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

### **Louisiana Department of Justice**

Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division

Environmental, Lands and Natural Resources Section

January 2020 – December 2024

Litigated complex civil and appellate matters of statewide significance involving land, mineral resources, wildlife and fisheries, state property, and governmental litigation. Represented the State of Louisiana in state versus federal government matters. Authored formal Attorney General opinions and served as the Attorney General's designee on boards and commissions involving environmental and natural resource oversight.

### **Iberia Parish Sheriff's Department**

General Counsel

New Iberia, Louisiana

April 2006 – July 2008

Served as chief in-house legal advisor to an elected constitutional officer. Advised on constitutional, statutory, and regulatory compliance; negotiated intergovernmental agreements; managed civil rights, ADA, USERRA, workers' compensation, and tort litigation; and addressed public-sector risk management.

### **16th Judicial District Office of the Public Defender**

Trial Attorney

Louisiana

July 2008 – February 2012

Represented indigent defendants in felony and misdemeanor proceedings across multiple parishes. Conducted jury trials, evidentiary hearings, and constitutional motion practice. Developed substantial experience in criminal procedure, due process, and constitutional protections.

### **Louisiana Supreme Court**

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable John L. Weimer  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
August 2003 – May 2004

Conducted legal research and analysis of civil and criminal writ applications. Assisted the Court with statutory interpretation and constitutional review. Drafted memoranda supporting judicial recommendations and case disposition.

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### **POLICY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE**

Served as a Commissioner on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration and Conservation, advising on coastal and wetlands restoration policy and federal funding prioritization. Previously worked as a biologist and project manager on large-scale wetland restoration projects, including federally influenced initiatives.

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### **EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (Class Rank: Top 33%)  
Bachelor of Science, Zoology, Louisiana State University  
Graduate Coursework, Environmental Biology / Wetlands Ecology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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### **RELEVANCE TO HEARING SUBJECT**

Mr. Montegut administers one of the most extensive state artificial reef programs in the United States and has direct experience with fisheries habitat management, artificial reef development, state-federal coordination, environmental law, and liability transfer frameworks relevant to the Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act.