

Bob Burvant

Title: King, Krebs and Jurgens member

Age: 52

Family: wife, Nancy; children, Ben, 26, Bobby, 19, James, 18

Education: bachelor's degree in English, Louisiana State University; juris doctor, Tulane University Law School

Mentoring attorneys has been an important role in the legal career of Robert Burvant, associate coordinator and member at King, Krebs and Jurgens. He has developed a hands-on approach for guiding new lawyers who want to carve out a future with the firm.

Burvant designed and implemented the associate development program to put rookie attorneys in the spotlight. It calls for new associates to present specific legal topics to their peers.

"I think it is empowering to the older associate attorneys who put (on the presentations) and empowering for the newer associate attorneys because they see they are not that far from their counterparts," Burvant said. "They get to spend some time showing some of the skills or knowledge they have developed in a certain area."

Burvant is also a commercial litigator, primarily focused on protecting the interests of clients who have business disputes with other entities. He represents the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and its affiliated entities with regard to the investigations and litigation involving failed banks.

Regardless of the size or complexity of the case or client, Burvant said he treats each one with the utmost care and consideration.

"I think it's very important to make sure you are communicating with the client... (so) the client really understands what is going on with the case," he said. "The worst thing is to have a client who is surprised at the end of the case."

Burvant also uses his legal skills through his community involvement. He said he's most proud of his recent service as board chairman of the Sojourner Truth Academy Charter School, which has led to his overall endorsement of the charter school movement in New Orleans.

"It is a real initiative that will leave an incredible mark here in the city," Burvant said. "What I've learned from being a lawyer and dealing with people and difficult situations is very helpful in being chairman of the board of a charter high school in New Orleans. ... I thought that this was an area where I could affect change for the positive in a very dramatic fashion."

When the nonprofit New Schools for New Orleans put out a call to see who would like to help, Burvant said he was one of a number of people who answered the call. He has been involved with Sojourner Truth Academy for three years.

"I wasn't just interested in putting something on a resume," Burvant said. "I wanted to do something where I could really be in it and be in it for the long haul, and be able to say, directly or indirectly, I was in the success of this."•

— Whitney Pierce Santora

