

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT**

CHRISTINE BRASHER

NO. 2018 CW 0271

VERSUS

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT  
LAFAYETTE AND JERRY LUKE  
LEBLANC, IN HIS CAPACITY AS  
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

**MAY 29 2018**

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In Re: Christine Brasher, applying for supervisory writs,  
19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton  
Rouge, No. 658462.

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**BEFORE: WHIPPLE, C.J., McDONALD AND CHUTZ, JJ.**

**WRIT GRANTED WITH ORDER.** East Baton Rouge Parish is a proper venue for this litigation. See La. R.S. 13:5104(A). Where proper venue can be established in more than one parish, "plaintiffs may choose any venue available." **Cacamo v. Liberty Mut. Fire Ins. Co.**, 99-3479 (La. 6/30/00), 764 So.2d 41, 44. The burden is on the party seeking a transfer to show why the motion should be granted because the plaintiff's initial choice of forum is entitled to deference. **Holland v. Lincoln General Hosp.**, 2010-0038 (La. 10/19/10), 48 So.3d 1050, 1055, citing **Lamb v. Highlines Construction Co.**, 541 So.2d 269, 271 (La. App. 4th Cir. 1989) and **Piper Aircraft Co. v. Reyno**, 454 U.S. 235, 255, 102 S.Ct. 252, 70 L.Ed.2d 419 (1981). The distance between East Baton Rouge Parish and Lafayette Parish is minimal, and therefore, not determinative. On the showing made, we do not find that defendants have established that Lafayette is a more convenient forum. Accordingly, we reverse the ruling of the trial court transferring these proceedings to the 15th Judicial District Court in the Parish of Lafayette, and **ORDER** that the matter be transferred back to the 19th Judicial District Court for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

**JMM  
WRC  
VGW**

COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT

  
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT  
FOR THE COURT