

A Law Library of Louisiana FREE CLE

**Co-sponsored by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical
Society**

LOUISIANA'S ROAD TO DIVORCE: FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY



Presented by Dr. Julie Rocheton

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 ♦ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Louisiana Supreme Court 4th Floor Courtroom

400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA

1.0 Hour CLE credit

Dr. Julie Rocheton will bring attendees on a journey through the law and the case law of marital dissolution in Louisiana, from the founding of the colony to the close of the nineteenth century. The session follows the question of how a marriage could be undone across three successive legal regimes, French, Spanish, and American, and through the courts that heard those claims, from the Conseil Supérieur to the Louisiana Supreme Court. It draws on colonial separation proceedings and on the divorce jurisprudence of the state's highest court, alongside the Digest of 1808 and the Civil Codes of 1825 and 1870. This was the formative period of Louisiana family law, and the session closes by connecting it to the provisions in force today.

Speaker

Dr. Jule Rocheton is Assistant Professor of Civil Law at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where she teaches and writes on comparative legal history, codification, and family law. She holds a doctorate from the University of Valencia and completed her legal education in France. From 2022 to 2025 she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory in Frankfurt. She is the author of *The Genesis of Nineteenth-Century Civil Codes in the United States* (Brill, 2024) and of a continuing series of articles on nineteenth century codification and family law, including a study of divorce and the American civil codes published in *Glossae: European Journal of Legal History*. Her current research examines marriage separation in French colonial Louisiana on the basis of the Superior Council records.