On Tuesday February 11th, Louisiana's 62 year old Sunday closing law was successfully contested for the first time in its long, controversial history—in a case presented by a Lafayette lawyer for a Lafayette client.

J. Minos Simon, local attorney, acting in behalf of Adam Trahan, a Lafayette restaurant operator, presented the case in which the state's highest court declared one clause of Act No. 18 of 1886 unconstitutional.

The famed "Sunday Closing Law", as it is called, provided that restaurants could not serve wine on Sunday, but hotels and boarding houses could. As a result of Trahan's case, the Supreme Court ruled the clause discriminatory.

If the entire act does become dead, it will also kill many of the Sunday closing laws which have been enacted by parish and city governments in the state, due to the fact many used the state law as a model in wording their own legislation.

Trahan's case was an appeal from a decision in Lafayette's 15th Judicial District court, which had found Trahan guilty of violating the wine clause, and which had upheld the clause as being legal.

Simon now has an appeal before the Supreme Court, in behalf of Trahan, which contests the entire act—not just the one clause. The case is now on the state supreme court's docket and is scheduled for hearing in the near future.

The Supreme Court's decision was not unanimous. The opinion written by Justice Bond said, in part:

"It is obvious from the restriction of the privilege of selling wine for table use on Sunday to hotels and boarding houses and the denial of the privilege to restaurants, that this legislation has no relation to the health, morals or safety of the public or of the operators of restaurants. There can be no reason of public policy for preventing proprietors of restaurants from selling wine with meals on Sunday, while the operators of hotels and boarding houses are allowed to do that very act."

J. Minos Simon, local attorney, represented Adam Trahan, Lafayette restaurant operator, before the State Supreme Court in the case that resulted in Louisiana's highest court declaring the wine clause of the "Sunday Closing Law" unconstitutional, because it is discriminatory. It was the first time in its 62 year old, turbulent history that the "Sunday Closing Law" has been successfully contested.