

## **EXHIBIT 23**

### **CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (Nos. 333-127496, 33-44663, 33-26726 and 33-10169) of Cleco Corporation of our report dated June 20, 2011 relating to the financial statements of Cleco Power LLC 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan, which appears in this Form 11-K.

/s/ McElroy, Quirk & Burch  
Lake Charles, Louisiana  
June 20, 2011