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Barry H. Grodsky Installed as 78th President of the Louisiana State Bar Association

NEW ORLEANS—Barry H. Grodsky, a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Taggart Morton, L.L.C., was installed June 7 as the 78th president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) during the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla. Administering his oath of office was Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.

Grodsky has set several goals for his year as president, balancing the long-term best practices needed to keep the statewide association of 22,000+ members effective, efficient and viable with the immediate needs of individual members and the general public.

Chief among the first goal is beginning the work on the LSBA's next Long-Term Strategic Plan. As all goals in the previous Strategic Plan were achieved, "we must have another plan to cover the LSBA's next 0-2 years, 2-4 years and beyond. This will become a road map for those who come after to steer the organization," he said.

Bolstering access to justice initiatives statewide is also a high priority for Grodsky. "Louisiana is one of only three states which does not fund access to justice programs, and, although Congress does provide resources, these programs are still underfunded. This is not about criminal representation. For the criminal system, there are constitutional protections to obtain legal representation. But there are no guarantees in the civil litigation area. We are blessed to have a great staff that deals with access to justice issues. Citizens need to communicate with the Association about their problems and concerns," he said.

Several access to justice initiatives are already in place and will continue. "We work closely with the Louisiana Bar Foundation, which does a magnificent job of getting money in and allocating it to the various legal services agencies throughout the state," Grodsky said. "We have partnered with the American Bar Association in its online *FreeLegalAnswers.org* program and we have recently established the online Modest Means Directory which connects lawyers with citizens needing legal help who can pay something. It's a win-win for everyone."

Assisting law students — the LSBA's future lawyers — is also one of Grodsky's priorities. While the LSBA will continue to offer its highly popular Law School Professionalism Orientation Program for first-year law students and its professionalism program for third-year law students, Grodsky wants to help law students with

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their other concerns, including handling student loan debt and, particularly, assistance with the Character and Fitness portion of the Bar Admissions process.

“Working with the Committee on Bar Admissions, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, we provide law students with hundreds of pages of information on how to answer specific questions on the 32-page Character and Fitness self-assessment,” Grodsky said. “This Character and Fitness program was the first of its kind in the country and the LSBA was recognized for the program in 2009 with the prestigious American Bar Association’s Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award. Now, the students are getting the help they need to become productive lawyers.”

Grodsky also said he wants “to improve outreach to our members and the public to educate them about the LSBA’s many available resources.”

Grodsky, a partner in the New Orleans firm of Taggart Morton, L.L.C., received a BBA degree, with honors, in 1979 from the University of Texas-Austin and his Juris Doctor degree in 1982 from Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1982. His law practice involves business and bankruptcy litigation and property management law.

Grodsky served as LSBA president-elect in 2017-18 and as secretary and editor of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* from 2013-15. He represented the First Board District on the LSBA’s Board of Governors. For many years, he chaired the Committee on the Profession and coordinated law school professionalism programs. He has served on the Budget Committee, the Bar Governance Committee, the Continuing Legal Education Committee and the LSBA Fee Arbitration Panel. He received the LSBA President’s Award in 2008 and 2010 and the award for Outstanding Service to the Bar in 2013-14.

He is an instructor at Tulane University and received the Tulane University Teacher Recognition Award in 1993. He was a Tulane University Faculty Fellow from 2000-02 and received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2016.

A photo of Mr. Grodsky is available for download at:
<https://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/PressPhotos.aspx?PRPA=58>.

The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 22,000 members in the practice of law. The statewide association, as part of its multi-faceted mission, promotes and maintains access to justice initiatives for the state’s residents, assists the Louisiana Supreme Court in its regulation of the practice of law, upholds the honor of the courts and the profession, and supports programs that increase public understanding of and respect for the law.