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LSBA Members, Local Bar Associations, Specialty Bar, Law Firm Honored with 2018 Young Lawyers Division Awards

NEW ORLEANS—Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members, two local bar associations, a specialty bar organization and a Baton Rouge law firm received 2018 LSBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) awards, presented by 2018-19 YLD Chair Dylan T. Thriffiley during the inaugural Young Lawyers Conference on Jan. 18, held in conjunction with the LSBA’s Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge.

Francisca M. Comeaux of Baton Rouge received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.
Jeremy A. Bazile of Lafayette received the Hon. Michalle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.
Jesse C. Stewart of New Orleans received the Pro Bono Award.
The Baton Rouge Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section received the Outstanding Local Affiliate Award.
The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. received the Outstanding Program of the Year Award for its Pathways and Pipelines to Success Program.

Finalists were selected in each category. Profiles of award recipients and finalists are listed below.

• Recipient, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Francisca M. Comeaux, Baton Rouge
Francisca M. Comeaux received her JD degree in 2011 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She clerked for 19th Judicial District Court Judge Timothy E. Kelley. In 2012, she joined Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P., as a member of the firm’s Governmental Relations team. In 2017, she joined the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and is currently handling development work. Comeaux is a former chair of the Baton Rouge Bar Association’s (BRBA) Young Lawyers Section Council and a member of the BRBA Volunteer Committee. She served on the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Public Utility Section Council and is a Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow. She is a graduate of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) Community Leaders Program and was selected as a Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2016 and 2017. She volunteers with and serves on the boards and host committees for numerous non-profits.

• Finalist, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Joseph P. Briggett, New Orleans
Joseph P. Briggett, a shareholder with Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard in New Orleans, focuses his practice in commercial litigation; bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors’ rights; admiralty and maritime; intellectual property; corporate and commercial law; and international and crossborder law. Briggett is secretary of the Tulane
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Chapter of the American Inn of Court and serves as a board member and program chair for the Louisiana Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, which focuses on distressed businesses and reorganization. He is a member of the Louisiana Bankers Association’s Bank Counsel Section. He volunteers for the H.E.L.P. Program (Homeless Experience Legal Protection) assisting homeless veterans at the Community Resource and Referral Center. He serves on the board of Girls on the Run New Orleans, an organization encouraging third through eighth grade girls to improve their life skills and confidence through an after-school program focused on running. He is a member of the National World War II Museum’s Young Benefactors Committee.

• Finalist, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Mekisha S. Creal, Shreveport
Mekisha S. Creal, a native of Shreveport, received her JD degree, cum laude, from Southern University Law Center. She served as editor-in-chief of the Southern University Law Review where her note, “Mama Didn’t Raise No Fool: A Fit Mother’s Right to Manage Grandparent Visitation,” was published in spring 2010. She was admitted to practice law in Louisiana in 2011. She worked as a prosecutor for nearly seven years and is currently the city attorney for the City of Shreveport. Creal serves on the Executive Board of the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission and is a member of the American Inn of Court, the Shreveport Bar Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

• Finalist, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Micah J. Fincher, New Orleans
Micah J. Fincher, a special counsel in the New Orleans office of Jones Walker LLP, focuses his practice on intellectual property and technology matters. Fincher serves as chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Intellectual Property Section and has served as a member of the Diversity Committee, Bar Governance Committee and Outreach Committee. He was a member of the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class. He is a board member of Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response and a founding volunteer and instructor for COP NOLA, a project of the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation. An alumnus of Louisiana State University, he volunteers with the LSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering to build playgrounds for underserved schools. He also serves on LSU’s National Diversity Advisory Board. In 2018, the LSU Women’s Center recognized him with the “Men Who Champion Women” Award and the Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans recognized him as a 2018 “Alumni of the Year.”

• Finalist, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
Rachel I. Silvers, New Orleans
Rachel I. Silvers is founding member of Silvers Law Firm, L.L.C., in New Orleans. She also is a licensed realtor and co-owner of Galiano Realty. She received her JD degree from Loyola University College of Law and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 2013. Silvers is committed to supporting her community through public service and pro bono work. She has been recognized by the Pro Bono Project for 100+ hours of pro bono service and she received the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Pro Bono Century Club Award in 2017. She is a member of the Jefferson Bar Association and the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors.

• Recipient, The Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award
Jeremy A. Bazile, Lafayette
Jeremy A. Bazile, an associate with The Glenn Armentor Law Corporation in Lafayette, focuses his practice on personal injury and workers’ compensation litigation. A native of Alexandria, he graduated with honors from Louisiana State University and Southern University Law Center. Bazile serves on the boards of several legal and philanthropic organizations in the Acadiana area, including the Lafayette Bar Association where he plays a key role on the Community Service and Outreach Committee. In 2018, he was nominated for the Personal Injury Rising Star Award by the American Institute of Legal Advocates. His favorite legal quote is, “Act that your principle of action might safely be made a law for the whole world” by German philosopher Immanuel Kant.

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• Finalist, The Hon. Michaeille Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award
Brittany O. Rosenbloom, Metairie
Brittany O. Rosenbloom is a senior manager in the One Firm Risk Organization of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP. She earned a JD/MBA degree from Tulane University and Tulane Law School. Her primary practice is in commercial and corporate law. She also was an associate in the Metairie law firm of Richard Kutcher Tygier & Luminais, L.L.P., and in-house counsel for two corporations. She has experience negotiating a range of contracts, from distribution and supply agreements to data and software licensing agreements. She has worked with clients to ensure protection of intellectual property through trademarking, franchising and licensing programs. Rosenbloom was a member (2016-17) and co-chair (2017-18) of the Leadership LSBA Class.

• Finalist, The Hon. Michaeille Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award
Erin S. Kenny, Baton Rouge
Erin S. Kenny is a partner at Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, L.L.P., in Baton Rouge where she maintains a varied state and federal civil litigation and appellate practice, with an emphasis in commercial and tort litigation. She also regularly represents national and local restaurants, hotels and retail stores in alcoholic beverage licensing, compliance and enforcement issues. Kenny graduated cum laude from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she was an issue editor and junior associate of the Louisiana Law Review. She is chair-elect of the Baton Rouge Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section Council. She is a board member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and a member of the LADC Young Lawyers Committee. She also is a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge.

• Recipient, Pro Bono Award
Jesse C. Stewart, New Orleans
Jesse C. Stewart is a litigation associate at Fishman Haygood, L.L.P.’s New Orleans office. His practice consists of commercial, securities and environmental litigation, balanced by court-appointed criminal defense and pro bono matters. He handles cases from start to finish and has served as lead trial and appellate counsel in federal and state court. Outside his practice, Stewart teaches First Amendment and media law at Tulane University. He is a published author, with articles appearing in the PIABA Bar Journal and the Virginia Law Review. He volunteers time as secretary of the Choice Foundation, the governing board of three public charter schools in New Orleans. He rides in the Irish Channel Parade and, on Sundays, he plays soccer for his pub team at Lafreniere Park.

• Finalist, Pro Bono Award
Phillip M. Smith, Lafayette
Phillip M. Smith, an associate at NeunerPate in Lafayette, focuses his practice primarily on maritime law and commercial litigation. A native of New Iberia, he earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and his JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where he was executive senior editor of the Louisiana Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. Smith is actively involved in pro bono work through the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Program and he regularly represents victims of domestic abuse in both preliminary hearings and trials to obtain protective orders. He also is a volunteer coach for the LSU Law Admiralty Moot Court Team. His team won the national championship in 2018.

• Finalist, Pro Bono Award
Jennifer G. Prescott, Prairieville
Jennifer G. Prescott, a partner at Abbott Prescott in Prairieville, maintains a general practice, representing clients in various matters. She received her JD degree, cum laude, in 2011 from Southern University Law Center and was admitted to practice in Louisiana in October of that year. Prescott is an active member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association (BRBA), the Louisiana Association for Justice and the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has volunteered her time every month with the BRBA’s Pro Bono Project Self-Help Desk.
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• Recipient, Outstanding Local Affiliate
**Baton Rouge Bar Association Young Lawyers Section**
The Baton Rouge Bar Association (BRBA) has been an integral part of the Baton Rouge community since 1929. Currently, its membership includes more than 2,500 attorneys or about 75 percent of all lawyers practicing in the Baton Rouge area. The work of the BRBA is conducted through its committees and sections. Each one strives to advance the rule of law, promote the administration of justice, uphold the honor of the courts, advance the legal profession and, most importantly, serve the greater Baton Rouge community. The BRBA’s Young Lawyers Section, with a membership of more than 800 attorneys, is active with events throughout the year. Annually, the Section sponsors the Holiday Star Project, a program providing gifts to needy children during the holiday season; Belly Up with the Bar, a cook-off contest with proceeds assisting youth education projects; and the Easter Eggtravaganza Project, a program providing Easter egg baskets and hunts for low-income and at-risk children. Many of the BRBA’s programs have been recognized for their excellence by the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Association of Bar Executives, the National Association of Bar Presidents and Volunteer Baton Rouge.

• Finalist, Outstanding Local Affiliate
**Lafayette Bar Association Young Lawyers Section**
The Lafayette Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is dedicated to professional development among its members and service to the Lafayette community. The YLS sponsors many beneficial programs, including the Law Signature School which promotes legal skills for high school students; the Regional Mock Trial Competition; and the Holiday Giving Program supporting local charities. The YLS’ golf tournament, clay shoot and tennis tournament give back to the bar association and community. The YLS promotes the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers, the H.E.L.P. Program (Homeless Experience Legal Protection) and the Protective Order Panel. The YLS’ social events, CLEs and athletic activities provide opportunities for its members to develop their careers and network with colleagues.

• Finalist, Outstanding Local Affiliate
**Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.**
The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. was established to encourage interchange of ideas, promote legal scholarship, advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, uphold the order and ethics of the courts and the profession of law, and promote the welfare of the legal profession in Louisiana. These goals are in keeping with the vision of the people with the courage and foresight to found the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society of Louisiana, the precursor to this organization — Earl J. Amedee, Israel M. Augustine, Louis Berry, Lionel Collins, Robert F. Collins, Nils R. Douglas, Norman C. Francis, Benjamin J. Johnson, Alvin Jones, Vanue B. LaCour, Ernest N. Morial, Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr., J.T. Powell, James Smith, A.P. Tureaud, Freddie Warren and Lawrence Wheeler.

• Recipient, Outstanding Program of the Year
**Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.**
**Pathways and Pipelines to Success**
The Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. was founded during the Jim Crow Era. The founders of the Martinet Society were instrumental in diversifying the Louisiana legal community. The Greater New Orleans Chapter remains dedicated to diversifying the legal profession through Martinet’s Pathways and Pipelines to Success Program, a full-day professional development program assisting minority law students from the state’s four law schools in building their networking and career-building skills. In 2018, the Chapter held its third annual program which included speed networking sessions, résumé and cover letter review, and several panels on paths to careers in the public and private arenas, as well as alternatives to the traditional practice of law.
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• Finalist, Outstanding Program of the Year
  McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, Baton Rouge

Women’s Initiative Network
McGlinchey Stafford, P.L.L.C.’s Women’s Initiative Network (WIN) offers female attorneys opportunities for networking, personal and career growth. Founded in Baton Rouge in 2014, WIN began as a series of young professional events at a local museum, providing networking opportunities while supporting local nonprofit endeavors. BR WIN now hosts its own substantive events, affording younger female attorneys opportunities to develop presentation skills and strengthening the firm’s brand. BR WIN hosted panels concerning Women in Leadership in Business and Community and Powerful Women Disrupters. Guided by senior BR WIN attorneys, young attorneys hosted a 2017 CLE seminar, “Negotiation Ethics and Professionalism.” Building on BR WIN’s success, other McGlinchey offices hope to replicate its programming in cities nationwide.

• Finalist, Outstanding Program of the Year
  New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Younger Lawyers Division

Landmark Cases Project
The Younger Lawyers Division of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (NOFBA-YLD) is in its third year of presenting the Landmark Cases Project. Members of the NOFBA-YLD designed a curriculum of landmark Supreme Court cases to complement the civics curriculum at the International High School of New Orleans. During this year-long program, young attorneys engage with students to discuss important cases in American history and practical skills such as conflict resolution. The program culminates in a writing competition about the meaning of equal protection and a mock argument at the New Orleans federal courthouse, where participants argue a student’s Fourth Amendment rights at school before a federal judge. The Landmark Cases Project is ongoing at the International High School of New Orleans.

Photos of award recipients are located online at:

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.