

Breakout Session

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Salon 3

*Good Associates Make Good Partners:
Climbing the Ladder at Your Firm*

Moderator:

Graham H. Ryan
Jones Walker, LLP
New Orleans

Panelists:

Kellen J. Mathews
Adams and Reese, LLP
Baton Rouge

Jeffrey K. Coreil
Neuner Pate
Lafayette

Lauren L. Gardner
Onebane Law Firm
Lafayette

Graham H. Ryan

Graham H. Ryan is a business litigation associate in the New Orleans office of Jones Walker LLP, where he represents businesses and individuals in all phases of litigation and appellate practice. He graduated *summa cum laude* in finance from Louisiana State University and received his JD/DCL degree in 2011 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center (*Louisiana Law Review*). Ryan serves on the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Committee's Disaster Leadership Team and chairs the Barristers for Boards Project. He was a member of the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class. He received the 2016 LSBA Young Lawyers Division Chair's Award. He was named a 2017 Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow and has served as a council member of the Louisiana State Law Institute. He was a board member of Young Lawyers Divisions of the American Bar Association and the Jefferson Bar Association. He is an active member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He served a three-year term overseeing the American Bar Association-FEMA partnership providing free legal services to low-income Louisiana residents following a presidentially declared disaster. In his community, he is past chair of HandsOn New Orleans, a nonprofit volunteer center founded after Hurricane Katrina that has engaged more than 60,000 volunteers to rebuild south Louisiana. He also is an attorney volunteer to the homeless and veterans at the Father Harry Thompson Rebuild Center in New Orleans. Ryan and his wife Erin are the parents of one child.

Kellen Mathews

Kellen Mathews is currently the Partner in Charge of Adams and Reese LLP's Baton Rouge office. His practice includes representing clients in complex litigation, products liability, administrative matters, and procurement protests. Kellen has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* each year since 2016, and has been listed in *Best Lawyers* for his commercial litigation practice for the past two years. Kellen was an at-large member of the LSBA YLD Council and Chair of the YLD's Diversity Committee from 2012-2017.

Jeffrey K. Coreil

Jeffrey K. Coreil is a 2009 graduate of the LSU Law Center and a partner at the NeunerPate law firm in Lafayette. His primary areas of practice include Admiralty and Maritime, Aviation, Toxic Tort, Environmental Litigation, and Employment Law.



Lauren Gardner maintains a diverse legal practice advising a broad range of clients on oil and gas title and transactional matters, employment law issues, and other corporate and business matters.

Lauren's oil and gas practice is primarily focused on the preparation of oil and gas title opinions on the ownership of the surface, minerals, and royalty, including for drilling, division order, and leasehold acquisition purposes. Lauren also routinely advises clients on various complex immovable property issues, such as the ownership of roads and imprescriptible mineral servitudes. Lauren's practice also includes the drafting and interpretation of contractual provisions contained in oil and gas leases, operating agreements, purchase and sale agreements, right of ways, surface agreements, and other surface and subsurface agreements. She also assists with various aspects of oil and gas litigation.

In the area of employment law, Lauren advises businesses on a wide variety of issues related to the governance and structure of employment relationships. Her areas of practice include employee training, drafting of employee handbooks and policies, issues arising in employee hiring and firing, drafting of, and review of employment contracts, compliance with wage and hour standards, compliance with family and medical leave, advising on workplace discrimination issues, EEOC investigations and defense, affirmative action, and advising on whistleblower protection issues.

Lauren graduated cum laude from Louisiana State University in 2003, with a Bachelor's of Arts in History and a minor in Political Science. In 2006, she earned her Juris Doctor and Bachelor's of Civil Law from the Paul M. Hebert Law School at Louisiana State University. Lauren is licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana and the State of Texas. She is also admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Louisiana, as well as the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lauren is originally from Cut Off, Louisiana, graduating from South Lafourche High School in 1999. She lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, with her husband Paul and two daughters, Jillian and Libby. She is actively involved in the community and sits on the board of directors for the Lafayette Education Foundation.

1. **Partner as client**
 - Priority #1: your work quality
 - Importance of first “work product” impression
 - attitude
 - work ethic
2. **Time Management**
 - billing hours; time keeping
 - importance of deadlines
3. **Importance of a Mentor/Sponsor/Champion**
 - finding a path; “branding yourself” within the firm
 - firm resources, firm politics
4. **Evolving from Junior to Senior Associate**
 - what to expect; how your responsibilities evolve
5. **Work-Life Balance**
 - stress management
6. **Community/Civic/Bar Involvement**
 - business devolvement
7. **War stories: Dos and Don'ts**