



2024-25
LOUISIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG
LAWYERS
DIVISION
DIRECTORY

www.lsba.org/YLD



2024-2025 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Officers and Council

YLD Officers 2024-25

Kristen D. Amond **Chair**

Kristen D. Amond is an attorney in New Orleans (Kristen Amond, LLC), practicing in federal and state courts in Louisiana. She represents businesses of all sizes in all forms of business disputes and is outside general counsel to small businesses and start-ups. She has represented bankruptcy trustees, plan administrators, receivers in complex litigation and investors in securities fraud lawsuits. She also is a trained mediator. She is a member of the civil pro bono panels for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana and volunteers her professional time to represent plaintiffs in civil rights cases.

She served as a clerk to Judge Susie Morgan of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Louisiana. In law school, she served as an intern for Judge Brian A. Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Amond received her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2016 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Law Review*, chaired the SBA's Ethics Board and was the 3L representative of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Before law school, she taught second and third grades in New Orleans charter schools.

She served as the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division chair-elect in 2023-24 and as secretary in 2022-23. She was elected to two terms as the District 1 representative on the Young Lawyers Division Council.

She also serves on the board of the New Orleans Federal Bar Association Younger Lawyers Division and is an alumna of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute and a Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership Louisiana program.

She was an adjunct professor at Tulane University teaching "The Media and the First Amendment" and teaches a course at LSU Law's Apprenticeship Week each year with Judge Susie Morgan.

She was named as one of the American Bar Association's Top 40 Young Lawyers in America in 2022 and has been recognized in the 2021-2024 editions of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* and 2022-2024 editions of *Louisiana Super Lawyers: Rising Stars*.

Amond looks forward to traveling the world with her wife, Nancia Sterling.

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Kristen D. Amond



Collin R. Melancon

Collin R. Melancon **Chair-Elect**

Collin R. Melancon is a partner/owner at Mansfield Melancon Personal Injury Lawyers in New Orleans. He represents injured clients throughout Louisiana and focuses his work on representing crime victims who were sexually abused. He received a bachelor's degree in international studies in 2011 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2015 from Loyola University College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015.

During his law school years, he was a member of the *Loyola Law Review* and was nominated to the *Loyola Law Review* Editorial Board. He received Loyola's highest honor given to a graduating law student, the Spirit of St. Ignatius Award for Outstanding Law Graduate. He also received the LSBA Civil Code Award for graduating first in his class in the Louisiana civil law division.

Melancon previously served as secretary and as the District 1 representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council. He is the YLD representative on the Louisiana Judicial Council. He has been a speaker for several conferences and CLEs, including the Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference and the LSBA Professionalism CLE program.

He is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the Louisiana Association for Justice and helped plan the Pro Bono Project's Justice for All Ball in 2019. He has been named a *Louisiana Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" from 2020 to 2024 in personal injury law.

Melancon and his wife, Jillian Melancon, have been married for five years and have one son.

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**Christopher J. Sellers, Jr.
Secretary**

Christopher J. Sellers Jr., associate general counsel for Ochsner Health, serves as the 2024-25 secretary of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD). As secretary, he also serves on the Editorial Board of the Louisiana Bar Journal. Prior to being elected as secretary, he served as a District One representative on the YLD Council. He received his undergraduate degree in 2011 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2014 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014.

Sellers serves as vice chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Health Law Section and is a member of the Bar Governance Committee and the Medical/Legal Interprofessional Committee. He is board certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization as a health law specialist and is chair of the Health Law Advisory Commission. He was a member of the 2017-18 Leadership LSBA Class and served as co-chair the following year.

In his community, he is the run club director for Stonewall Sports New Orleans and is a member of the Krewe of Endymion.

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**Christopher J. (Chris)
Sellers, Jr.**



Senae D. Hall

**Senae D. Hall
Immediate Past Chair**

Senae D. Hall is an assistant district attorney in the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office in Shreveport. She is the Human Trafficking Victims Diversion coordinator. She also works with the STAR Court Program in Caddo Parish Juvenile Court to combat human trafficking issues. She received a BA degree in mass communications in 2008 from Dillard University and her JD degree in 2011 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011.

Hall is currently serving as the Eighth District representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors. She served as the 2023-24 chair, the 2022-23 chair-elect, the 2021-22 secretary and an at-large representative on the LSBA's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council. She was a member of the 2018-19 Leadership LSBA Class and served on the LSBA YLD Awards Committee for two years. She also volunteered as a mock trial competition judge from 2017-21.

She is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association (SBA), the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court. She is currently the at-large member for the SBA's Young Lawyers Section. She served as the Social Media chair from 2021-23 and the Law Week Chair for 2023 for the SBA's Young Lawyers Section and the treasurer for the SBA's Women's Section in 2022.

Hall was recognized as a 2021-2024 "Top Attorney" by *SB Magazine* and was selected for the 2020-21 Dillard University's "40 Under 40" list. She also was selected for the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's 2021 "40 Under 40" Class. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

In her community, she is a judge for the Volunteers for Youth Justice's Teen Court Program and volunteers for various community service projects. Every year, she organizes a service project or fundraiser for her birthday to give back to her community.

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Jennifer Gordon Lampton
District One Representative

Jennifer Gordon Lampton is the research attorney for Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott with the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, Division A, in New Orleans. Previously, she was senior law clerk for Judge Ervin-Knott at Orleans Parish Civil District Court. She received a BS degree in management in 2009, with a focus on legal studies in business and political science, from the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University and her JD degree (Civil Law Division, Common Law Certificate) in 2012 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014.

Lampton is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Diversity Committee and Outreach Committee and was a member of the 2019-20 Leadership LSBA Class.

She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association (current Young Lawyers Section vice chair; 2022-23 YLS secretary; and 2021-22 YLS treasurer), the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court (current board member).

Lampton and her husband Kevin have been married for 10 years and are the parents of one child.

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Margaret L. Manning
District One Representative

Margaret L. Manning is an associate attorney with Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul, LLC, in New Orleans. She received her BA degree in mass communication, cum laude, with Honors College Distinction, in 2017 from Louisiana State University. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 2020.

While attending Notre Dame, she competed as a member of the Notre Dame Law School Barrister's Mock Trial Team and was an active member of the Notre Dame Law Student Bar Association, serving as 1L representative, communications director and Executive Board secretary. Upon graduation, she received the faculty-elected Kyle D. Smith Mock Trial Award and the King Williams Memorial Award.

Following law school, she clerked for Chief Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. She is a former member of the Leadership LSBA Class. She presently serves on the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Executive Council and the Association of Women Attorneys of New Orleans Board. She is also a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Committee on the Profession, the New Orleans Bar Association Inn of Court and the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

In her community, Manning attends Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in New Orleans.

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Jennifer Gordon
Lampton



Margaret L. Manning



Rachal Cox Cassagne



Christina K. (Cristy)
Guzman

Rachal Cox Cassagne
District Two Representative

Rachal Cox Cassagne is an assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, she worked as a commercial litigation associate in a defense firm and as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Greg G. Guidry.

She received a BA degree in English in 2011 from Louisiana State University-Shreveport, a MA degree in literary studies in 2013 from Universiteit van Amsterdam and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2016 from Southern University Law Center. She studied at the Universiteit van Amsterdam as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and gave presentations to various Rotary Clubs throughout the country. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016.

Cassagne is a volunteer for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Disaster Recovery Hotline. She is an active member of the Jefferson Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She previously served as an observer with the Louisiana State Law Institute for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She participated in Forum 35's John W. Barton, Sr. Community Leadership Program in 2018.

In her community, she attends St. Joseph Church in Gretna. She and her husband, Craig Cassagne, Jr., have been married for five years and they have two daughters.

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Christina K. Guzman
District Two Representative

Christina K. (Cristy) Guzman is an associate attorney at Jeffrey Hufft, Attorney at Law, LLC, in Metairie. She focuses her practice on criminal defense work and expungements. She received a BA degree in criminal justice and a minor in forensic science in 2016 from Loyola University New Orleans and her JD degree in December 2019 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in May 2020.

During law school, her team placed first in the Trial Advocacy Intramural Competition in 2019. She was a Rule XX student practitioner and later a law clerk for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. She also was the Gillis Long intern at the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (2017) and at the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana (2019). Following law school graduation, she worked as a staff attorney at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in the Veterans and Innovative Projects Unit.

Guzman was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Conference Committee and is a board member at large for the Jefferson Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She is a volunteer for Expungement Clinics offered by the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana.

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Jared E. Nelson

District Three Representative

Jared E. Nelson is an associate in the Lafayette office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, LLP. He received a BA degree in government in 2008 from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville; a master's degree in public administration in 2010 from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge; and his JD degree, *cum laude*, in 2018 from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2018.

Prior to joining the law firm, he served as an assistant attorney general for the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, handling tort and civil rights litigation for the state of Louisiana. Prior to practicing law, he served as a probation and parole officer for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections for seven years.

Nelson is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) House of Delegates, representing the 15th Judicial District. He is a member of the LSBA's Criminal Justice and Diversity committees. He was a member of the 2019-20 Leadership LSBA Class and co-chair of the 2020-21 Leadership LSBA Class.

He is a member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (Young Lawyers Committee as a Third Board District representative, secretary and Young Lawyer liaison to the Environmental and Energy Law Practice Group), Institute of Energy Law (Young Energy Professionals' Committee as Program Subcommittee vice co-chair, member of the 2022-23 Institute of Energy Law Leadership Class and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee member) and the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

He was recognized by National Black Lawyers as a "Top 40 Under 40" Lawyer in Louisiana in 2020-2023 and was a member in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's Pathfinders Program in 2021-22. He was awarded the 2022 Frank L. Maraist Award by the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and its Young Lawyers Committee. He was selected as a "Top Lawyer" by the *Acadiana Profile Magazine* for 2023.

In his community, he is a lector at St. Benedict DeMoor Church in Duson. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He and his wife, Joelle Mary Nixon, have been married for 11 years and are the parents of one child.

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Brooke A. Roach

District Four Representative

Brooke A. Roach is an attorney in The Roach Law Firm, APLC, in Lake Charles. She received a BA degree in human resources in 2016 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2019 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019. She clerked for Chief Judge Ulysses G. Thibodeaux, Louisiana 3rd Circuit



Jared E. Nelson



Brooke A. Roach



Brad W. Cranmer

Court of Appeal, from 2019-21.

Roach followed in her father's and grandfather's footsteps, becoming the third generation to practice law at The Roach Law Firm. Her practice focuses on personal injury litigation and first-party bad faith property damage litigation. She is admitted in all Louisiana state courts; the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of Louisiana; and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is a member of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association (SWLBA) and its Young Lawyers Section, currently serving as president of the SWLBA's Young Lawyers Section.

She and her husband, Landan, are the parents of one son.

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Brad W. Cranmer

District Five Representative

Brad W. Cranmer is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Mansfield, Melancon, Cranmer & Dick, LLC. He received a bachelor's degree in political science, with a minor in criminology, from Louisiana State University and his JD/DCL degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. In law school, he served on LSU Law's Trial Advocacy Board as a member, competitor and coach and in Student Government. He attained the highest grade in his law school class for White Collar Crime and Insurance Law.

Following law school graduation, he opened his own law practice. He also honed his skills as a prosecutor for the City of Baton Rouge, prosecuting cases ranging from DWI to domestic abuse battery.

Since co-founding Mansfield, Melancon, Cranmer & Dick in 2018, he has focused his practice on family law and personal injury. He is admitted to practice in all Louisiana state courts, the U.S. District Courts for the Middle and Eastern Districts of Louisiana, and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Cranmer chairs the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Council and serves as chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's High School Mock Trial Committee. He has presented CLE programs on various practice area issues.

He received the Avvo Clients' Choice Award in 2017. He also been distinguished as a top lawyer by the Expert Network, American Law Society and the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys. He has been honored as a *Louisiana Super Lawyers* Rising Star from 2020-2024.

In his community, he volunteers his time with Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge, Club Blue, St. Vincent DePaul and the Louisiana Association of Justice. He has his wife Chloe are the parents of two children.

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Josef P. Ventulan
District Five Representative

Josef P. Ventulan is a staff attorney with the Louisiana State Law Institute (LSLI). Prior to joining the LSLI, he clerked for Judge Lisa M. Woodruff-White (Ret.). He also served as a board attorney for the Louisiana Board of Tax Appeals and as an adjunct professor at Southern University Law Center. His professional interests include the synergies of technology and law, economic and tax policy, and local economic development.

He received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Southern University Law Center, where he graduated first in his class and received a certification in tax law. He also served as the editor-in-chief of the *Southern University Law Review*. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2020.

Ventulan is an active member of the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division, previously serving as a council member. He is a member of both the Affiliates and Membership Committees and the Long-Range Planning Board. He is a member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Gavel Awards.

He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee and the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Council, Publications Committee and Pro Bono Committee. He formerly served as a junior council member of the LSLI.

In his community, he serves on the board of directors of Forum 225, a Baton Rouge nonprofit focused on creating opportunities for young professionals to grow philanthropically, professionally and civically, and Power Pump Girls, Inc., a nonprofit aiming to serve and empower women. He is a Future Leaders Council member of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.

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Ashley U. Johnson-Firven
District Six Representative

Ashley U. Johnson-Firven is an associate in the Baton Rouge office of Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP. Her practice is focused on civil litigation defense, employment law and insurance defense. She received a BA degree in 2014 from the University of California-Santa Barbara and her JD degree in 2019 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019.

Johnson-Firven was a member of the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class and a member of the Young Lawyers Division's Awards Committee. She also has been involved with the Access to Justice Disaster Relief Hotline and the Lawyers in Libraries project.

She is a member of the National Bar Association, the Baton Rouge chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and the Baton Rouge Bar Association.



Josef P. Ventulan



Ashley U.
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Jana Robinson Tuma



Audrius M. Reed

In her community, Johnson-Firven is a member of Grace Community Baptist Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She and her husband, Leon Firven, have been married for two years.

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Jana Robinson Tuma
District Seven Representative

Jana Robinson Tuma is the legal counsel of U.S. Operations at Drax, based in Monroe. She received a BA degree in 2014 from the University of Louisiana-Monroe and her JD degree in 2017 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017.

In her community, she is a member of the Junior League of Monroe and is a United Way volunteer. She and her husband Scott have been married for four years and are the parents of two children.

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Audrius M. Reed
District Eight Representative

Audrius M. Reed, with Audrius M. Reed, Attorney at Law, LLC, in Shreveport, is a graduate of Southern University Law Center and a solo practitioner in the areas of family law, criminal defense, personal injury and estate planning.

She serves as a staff attorney for the LRVDV (Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence) Program of the Shreveport Bar Foundation. She also provides legal assistance to victims of domestic violence through the North Louisiana Family Justice Center in Caddo and Bossier District Courts. She volunteers with the Shreveport Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Project and serves as a member of the Shreveport Redevelopment and Implementation Authority Board and various sections and committees of her local bar association.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court. She is the vice president of membership for the Shreveport Chapter of the Southern University Alumni Federation.

She has been recognized as a Louisiana State Bar Association Top 40 Young Lawyer, a Southern University 40 Under 40-Cohort Trois, and 2022 YPI of Shreveport Bossier 40 Under 40. She is the mother of two children.

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Jasmine C. Cooper
At-Large Representative

Jasmine C. Cooper is an assistant district attorney for the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office in Shreveport. She received her BA degree in political science in 2017 from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge and her JD degree in 2020 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2021.

Cooper was a member of the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class. She also is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court. She was named to the Top Lawyers 2023 Shreveport/Bossier list by *SB Magazine*.

In her community, she is a member of the League of Women Voters, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the NAACP.

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Joseph T.D. Tran
ABA YLD Representative

Joseph T.D. Tran, CIPP/US, is an associate general counsel for LAMMICO, where he provides support in corporate legal affairs and focuses in intellectual property, health and insurance law, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. He received a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016. He also is admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on patent matters.

Tran is a current member of the *Louisiana Bar Journal's* Editorial Board and 2024 chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Minority Involvement Section. He served as co-chair of the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class and was a member of the 2021-22 Leadership LSBA Class. He also served as a Young Lawyers Division delegate to the American Bar Association.

He is a board member for the Jefferson Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. He serves on the Executive Boards of the Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Vietnamese American Bar Association. He is an active member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, the Association of Corporate Counsel and the Medical Professional Liability Association.

In his community, he volunteers with the Kiwanis Club of Algiers and serves on the board of directors for the Algiers Economic Development Foundation.

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Jasmine C. Cooper



Joseph T.D. Tran



Taylor B. Ashworth

Taylor B. Ashworth
Young Lawyer Member/ABA House of Delegates

Taylor B. Ashworth is an associate in the Baton Rouge office of Kean Miller, LLP. She practices in the offshore energy and marine litigation and the casualty and mass tort groups. She received a BS degree in mass communication, *cum laude*, in 2017 from McNeese State University and her JD/DCL degree, *cum laude*, in 2020 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2020.

Ashworth was a member of the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class and is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Outreach Committee. She has volunteered as a mock trial competition judge for the LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Mock Trial Competition.

She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and a former chair of the Membership and Mentor Committee. She also is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and the Women's Energy Network South Louisiana Chapter (former Lafayette Program Director).

In law school, she was a junior and senior associate on the *Louisiana Law Review*. She was the Robert Lee Tullis Moot Court Competition finalist, winning best brief and an oralist award. She was a member of four external advocacy teams and won a best oralist award at the National Pretrial Competition. She won the LSU Law Opening Statement Competition during her 1L year. She was selected as an academic tutor to her peers in torts and obligations and served as a research assistant to Professor William R. Corbett. She also served as an extern for Judge Shelly D. Dick, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Ashworth is a member of the recruiting committee and is a summer associate mentor at her firm. In her community, she regularly volunteers her time as a judge for the various LSU Law advocacy program competitions and external team practices.

She is married to Baton Rouge attorney Peyton Gascon.

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