

Bar Briefs

January 2015

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 30, No. 1

House approves 9 resolutions, seats committee members

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) House of Delegates approved nine resolutions at its Jan. 17 meeting in New Orleans. (Ten resolutions were originally submitted but one was withdrawn prior to consideration.) The House also elected three delegates to committee seats.

The House approved three resolutions from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization — 1) amending the Plan of Legal Specialization; 2) amending the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization; and 3) amending the standards for Bankruptcy Law, Family Law, Tax Law, and Estate Planning and Administration.

The LSBA Immigration Law Section's resolution to amend its bylaws was

approved.

The House approved two resolutions from the LSBA Bar Governance Committee — 1) removing the limit on the number of members of the Committee on Diversity and clarifying existing language and practices with regard to the committee; and 2) eliminating all references to law student membership, thereby eliminating this membership category.

The LSBA Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee's resolution was approved, with the House offering its support and endorsement of legislation which would provide certain parties with standing to enjoin the unauthorized practice of law or pursue a civil action for damages in connection with the

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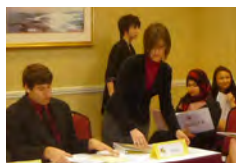
Online runoff voting open through Feb. 2; one runoff race on ballot

Online runoff voting will remain open through Monday, Feb. 2, for one runoff race. Carrie LeBlanc Jones and Victor R. Loras III are seeking the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council Fifth District seat.

American Bar Association House of Delegates candidate Joseph M. (Joe) Bruno has withdrawn from that race, and candidate Richard K. Leefe has been certified elected.

Members eligible to vote in this runoff race received an email with their E-ballot. The sender address was "LSBA_Election_Admin@vres.us" and the Subject Line referenced "Louisiana State Bar Association E-ballot." The email includes the member's PIN number and a link to the voting website.

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On the voting website, the member must type in the PIN number to access the ballot. Ballots will only include races for which the member may cast a vote.

Members who do not have an email address, or members preferring to vote from the LSBA website, will be able to log-in from the LSBA website to a special log-in page that will ask for additional information (Bar roll number, birth date, zip code). To access this special page, members may click on the "Vote Online Now" icon on the elections page.

Certified Elected

Following first-round voting, several other LSBA members were certified elected for their positions.

LSBA Board of Governors

► Eighth Board District: Marjorie L. (Meg) Frazier

Nominating Committee

► District 1A: Brent B. Barriere, Lawrence J. Centola III, H. Minor Pipes III and Phillip A. Wittmann

► District 3A: Steven G. (Buzz) Durio

► District 3C: Robert G. Levy

► District 3D: John M. Frazier

► District 3E: Thomas G. Zentner, Jr.

LSBA House of Delegates

► Twenty-Third Judicial District: Christopher J. Bridges, Lana O. Chaney, Rusty M. Messer, Michael Poirrier and Timothy E. Pujol

► Forty-First Judicial District: Donald R. Abaunza, Glenn B. Adams, Francis J. Barry, Jr., Ashley L. Belleau, Jack C. Benjamin, Jr., Joseph M. Bruno, Thomas A. Casey, Jr., Lawrence J. Centola III, Justin M. Chopin, Richard B. Eason, William R. Forrester, Darryl J. Foster, Judith A. Gainsburgh, James C. Gulotta, Jr., Phillip K. Jones, Jr., Mark D. Latham, Andrew R. Lee, Ryan M. McCabe, Andre J. Mouledoux, John H. Musser V, H. Minor Pipes III, Brian P. Quirk, Christopher K. Ralston, Louis G. Schott, Karen B. Sher, Ronald J. Sholes, John A. Stassi II, Deborah M. Sulzer, Irving J. Warshauer, Edward D. Wegmann, Phillip A. Wittmann and Jay C. Zainey, Jr.


Young Lawyers Division Council

► First Board District: Scott L. Sternberg

► Second Board District: Jeffrey D. Hufft

American Bar Association House of Delegates

► Richard K. Leefe

To review all voting results, or to access the "Vote Online Now" button, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/elections. 

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unauthorized practice of law.


The House approved two resolutions from the LSBA Criminal Justice Committee — 1) offering its support to the study of a statewide general fund for criminal justice in an effort to ensure the most effective and efficient administration of justice in the state and to ask the Louisiana Legislature to authorize and direct a Legislative Task Force comprised of various stakeholders to develop recommendations to be used as the basis for legislative and administrative action in 2016; and 2) offering its support to the study of Louisiana's marijuana laws and related Habitual Offender laws and to ask the Louisiana Legislature to authorize and direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the laws regarding marijuana through a working group comprised of various stakeholders, with recommendations of this group to be used as the basis for legislative and administrative action in 2016.

Prior to House consideration, House of Delegates member Steven G. (Buzz) Durio (representing the 15th Judicial District) withdrew his resolution asking the House to recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court adoption of South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.19 as Louisiana's RPC Rule 1.19 to address succession plans for lawyers in the event of death or disability.

Also on the agenda, the House elected Julie J. Baxter (19th Judicial District) as a member of the House of Delegates Liaison Committee for a three-year term (2015-18). Her term begins at the conclusion of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

From the three Liaison Committee members, the House elected S. Jacob Braud (25th Judicial District) to serve as chair of the House of Delegates Liaison Committee for 2015-16. His term begins at the conclusion of the 2015 Annual Meeting. The chair is a voting member of the Board of Governors.

The House also elected Dona K. Renegar (15th Judicial District) to serve on the Budget Committee. Her term begins July 1, 2015, and ends on June 30, 2017.

To review the resolutions, go to: www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/HouseofDelegates.aspx. 

Bar Briefs

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Announcements and news contributions are welcome and should be mailed, faxed or emailed by the first of the month before publication to Darlene M. LaBranche.

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LSBA lists Legislation Committee contacts, calendars pertinent 2015 dates

In preparation for the 2015 Louisiana legislative session, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is reminding members that timely input will be accepted on proposed legislation which falls within the LSBA's purview. Fewer potentially relevant bills are expected because the upcoming session is dedicated primarily to fiscal issues.

For information on the process — as well as contact links for Legislation Committee Chair Keenan K. Kelly, members of the Legislation Committee, LSBA Legislation Committee liaison Shawn L. Holahan, the LSBA Board of Governors and LSBA Executive Director Loretta Larsen — go to: www.lsba.org/legislation.

The LSBA also wants to inform members of several important dates in relation to the 2015 Louisiana legislative session and the LSBA Legislation Committee:

► **Friday, April 3:** Bill prefilng deadline for nonfiscal bills for Louisiana legislators. Note that because this is a fiscal session, fewer nonfiscal bills will be filed.

► **Saturday, April 11:** LSBA Legislation Committee's first meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Baton Rouge.

► **Monday, April 13:** Louisiana legislative session begins.

► **Wednesday, April 22:** "Five Bill" deadline for Louisiana legislators.

► **Saturday, April 25:** LSBA Legislation Committee's second meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Baton Rouge (open to the membership and public).

► **Saturday, April 25:** LSBA's Board of Governors meeting, immediately following second meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Baton Rouge.

► **Thursday, June 11:** Louisiana legislative session adjourns. 📅

"Early-bird" registration for Solo and Small Firm Conference open

The early-bird registration rate of \$250 is available through Feb. 17 for the eighth annual Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Solo and Small Firm Conference, set for Thursday and Friday, March 19-20, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, 2 Poydras St., New Orleans. Conference organizers have applied for up to 15 hours of CLE (the entire CLE requirement for the year, with 2.5 hours of carryover credit for the following year). The LSBA has not organized a hotel room block for this conference; contact the Hilton directly at (504)561-0500. To register online, to download a registration form or for more information, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/2015solo. 📅

IRS sets 2015 mileage rate for business purposes

The Internal Revenue Service has set the 2015 mileage rate for business purposes at 57.5 cents per mile. This rate became effective Jan. 1. 📅

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Nomination deadline is Feb. 13 for Young Lawyers Division Awards

The nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 13, for five 2015 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (YLD) awards.

► The Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award recognizes a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to upholding the quality and integrity of the legal profession and consideration towards peers and the general public.

► The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recognizes a young lawyer who has made outstanding contributions to the legal profession and his/her community.

► The Service to the Public Award recognizes a young lawyer local affiliate for implementing a program or providing a service that assists the general public in the local community. (The program or service must be sponsored by the young

lawyer local affiliate.)

► The Service to the Bar Award recognizes a young lawyer local affiliate for implementing a program or providing a service that has benefited and/or enhanced the attorney community. (The program or service must be sponsored by the young lawyer local affiliate.)

► The YLD Pro Bono Award recognizes a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to providing pro bono services in his/her community.

To review submission procedures and to download a nomination form, go to: www.lsba.org/yld. To submit nominations online, go to: <https://apps.lsba.org/nominations>.

For more information, contact YLD Awards Committee Chair Jennifer Z. Rosenbach, (504)368-1020 or email jrosenbach@jpda.us.

Volunteers needed to judge Feb. 28 High School Mock Trial Competition

Organizers of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Region 4 High School Mock Trial Competition are seeking attorneys and law students to serve as presiding and scoring judges. The competition is Saturday, Feb. 28, at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans. Coffee, lunch and complimentary trial lessons from high school students will be provided. Morning and afternoon volunteer opportunities are available. Region 4 covers high schools in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes. For more information or to volunteer, email Co-Chair Graham Ryan at gryan@joneswalker.com.

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Pilot Mentoring Program underway: Calling more mentors!

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and its Committee on the Profession are encouraging more mentors to participate in the Transition Into Practice (TIP) pilot mentoring program, which began Jan. 1, in the Baton Rouge, Shreveport and greater New Orleans areas. Through the program, approved by the Louisiana Supreme Court and sponsored by CNA/Gilsbar, new lawyers admitted into practice in 2014 will be paired with mentors.

Mentors must be in good standing, have no disciplinary history and must have at least 10 years of experience. Mentors can receive up to 6 hours of free CLE credit by volunteering.

For more information, to register as a mentor and to view video messages from Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson and LSBA Committee on the Profession Chair Barry H. Grodsky, go to: www.lsba.org/mentoring/. 

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SIGN UP TODAY

to be a
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- *Help shape the future of the profession*
- *Earn CLE credits*
- *Give back to the profession*

VISIT WWW.LSBA.ORG/MENTORING

SOLACE: Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel — All Concern Encouraged

The Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Foundation's Community Action Committee supports the SOLACE program. Through the program, the state's legal community is able to reach out in small, but meaningful and compassionate ways to judges, lawyers, court personnel, paralegals, legal secretaries and their families who experience a death or catastrophic illness, sickness or injury, or other catastrophic event. For assistance, contact a coordinator.

Area	Coordinator	Contact Info	Cell	Email Address
Alexandria Area	Richard J. Arsenault	(318)487-9874	Cell (318)452-5700	rarsenault@nbalawfirm.com
Baton Rouge Area	Ann K. Gregorie	(225)214-5563		ann@brba.org
Covington/ Mandeville Area	Suzanne E. Bayle	(504)524-3781		sebayle@bellsouth.net
Denham Springs Area	Mary E. Heck Barrios	(225)664-9508		mary@barrioslaw.com
Houma/Thibodaux Area	Danna Schwab	(985)868-1342		dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com
Jefferson Parish Area	Pat M. Franz	(504)455-1986		patfranz@bellsouth.net
Lafayette Area	Josette Abshire	(337)237-4700		director@lafayettebar.org
Lake Charles Area	Melissa St. Mary	(337)942-1900		melissa@pitrelawfirm.com
Monroe Area	John C. Roa	(318)387-2422		roa@hhsclaw.com
Natchitoches Area	Peyton Cunningham, Jr.	(318)352-6314	Cell (318)332-7294	peytonc1@suddenlink.net
New Orleans Area	Helena N. Henderson	(504)525-7453		hhenderson@neworleansbar.org
Opelousas/Ville Platte/	John L. Olivier	(337)662-5242 (337)232-0874	(337)942-9836	johnolivier@centurytel.net
River Parishes Area	Judge Jude G. Gravois	(225)265-3923 (225)265-9828	Cell (225)270-7705	judegravois@bellsouth.net
Shreveport Area	M'Lissa Peters	(318)222-3643		mpeters@shreveportbar.com

For more information, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/solace.

La. Board of Legal Specialization accepting requests for applications in 5 areas

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) is accepting requests for applications for Jan. 1, 2016, certification in five areas — bankruptcy law (business and consumer), estate planning and administration, family law and tax law. The deadline to submit applications for consideration for estate planning and administration, family law and tax law certification is March 31, 2015. Applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law certification will be accepted through Sept. 30, 2015.

With the expanding complexity of the law, specialization has become a means of improving competence in the legal profession and thereby protecting the public. An increasing number of attorneys are choosing to be recognized as having special knowledge and experience by becoming certified specialists. As a matter of practical necessity, most lawyers specialize to some degree by limiting the range of matters they handle. Legal specialization helps the general public locate a lawyer who has demonstrated

ability and experience in a certain field of law.

In accordance with the Plan of Legal Specialization, a Louisiana State Bar Association member in good standing who has been engaged in the practice of law on a full-time basis for a minimum of five years may apply for certification. Further requirements are that each year a minimum of 35 percent of the attorney's practice must be devoted to the area of certification sought, passing a written examination applied uniformly to all applicants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills and proficiency in the area for which certification is sought, and five favorable references. Peer review shall be used to determine that an applicant has achieved recognition as having a level of competence indicating proficient performance handling the usual matters in the specialty field.

In addition to the above, applicants must meet a minimum CLE requirement for the year in which application is made and the examination is administered:


- Estate Planning and Administration Law — 18 hours of estate planning law.

- Family Law — 18 hours of family law.

- Tax Law — 20 hours of tax law.

- Bankruptcy Law — CLE is regulated by the American Board of Certification, the testing agency.

Regarding applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law certification, although the written test(s) is administered by the American Board of Certification, attorneys should apply for approval of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization simultaneously with the testing agency in order to avoid delay of board certification by the LBLS. Information concerning the American Board of Certification will be provided with the application form(s).

Applications are mailed. Anyone interested in applying for certification should contact LBLS Executive Director Barbara M. Shafranski, email barbara.shafranski@lsba.org or call (504)619-0128. For more information, go to the LBLS website at: www.lascmcle.org/specialization. 

Reminder: CLE compliance for board-certified specialists

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS), as set forth in the individual Specialty Standards for each field of legal specialization, board-certified attorneys in a specific field of law must meet a minimum CLE requirement for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2014. The requirement for each area of specialty is as follows:

- Estate Planning and Administration Law — 18 hours of estate planning law.

- Family Law — 18 hours of family law.

- Tax Law — 20 hours of tax law.


- Bankruptcy Law — CLE is regulated by the American Board of Certification.

CLE credits will be computed on a calendar year basis and all attendance information must be delivered to the Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continu-

ing Legal Education (MCLE) no later than Jan. 31, 2015. Failure to earn and/or timely report specialization CLE hours will result in a penalty assessment.


Preliminary specialization transcripts were mailed in November to all specialists who are delinquent in their specialization CLE hours. The specialization CLE requirement must be satisfied by Dec. 31, 2014.

If you have any questions, contact Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization Executive Director Barbara M. Shafranski, (504)619-0128 or email barbara.shafranski@lsba.org.

For more information or to obtain a copy of your specialization transcript, go to the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization's website at: www.lascmcle.org/specialization. 

LBLS mails 2015 Annual Dues Notices; return deadline is Feb. 27

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) 2015 Annual Dues Notices have been mailed to all qualified LBLS specialists. The dues notice, along with proof of professional liability insurance and the appropriate fee, should be mailed to the LBLS office, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130, no later than Feb. 27, 2015, to avoid a penalty assessment.

For more information, contact LBLS Executive Director Barbara Shafranski at (504)619-0128 or email barbara.shafranski@lsba.org. 


Fastcase webinars in 2015: Earn three free CLE credits

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members may earn up to three free CLE credits in 2015 with Fastcase's three-session live webinar Internet course. New courses offered include "Introduction to Legal Research on Fastcase (2015)," "Advanced Tips for Enhanced Legal Research on Fastcase (2015)" and "Introduction to Boolean (Keyword) Searches (2015)."

Several sessions are being offered throughout 2015. The schedule can be accessed at: <https://www.lsba.org/Members/fastcasewebinars.aspx?loginvisible=true>. To access the registration area, members should first log in to their LSBA Member Accounts at the top of the web page.

Members must register for the Fastcase sessions through the LSBA website



or CLE credit will not be issued. Only the Fastcase webinars listed on the LSBA website are CLE-approved for Louisiana lawyers. Members must remain online with properly working audio AND visual functions for the entire hour to obtain CLE approval for the webinar (audio-only attendance or visual-only attendance is insufficient). The CLE credit will be processed after the webinar and after confirmation of attendance is received. 

Save the dates: LBF Regional Fellows Events

The Louisiana Bar Foundation has set several Regional Fellows Events. For more information, call (504)561-1046 or go to: www.raisingthebar.org.

► Monday, Jan. 26: Northeast Annual Fellows Reception.

► Wednesday, May 13: Northwest Annual Fellows Breakfast.

► Wednesday, May 13: Central Annual Fellows Luncheon.


► Wednesday, May 20: Southwest Annual Fellows Luncheon.

► Thursday, May 21: Acadiana Annual Fellows Breakfast.

► Thursday, May 21: Capital Area Annual Fellows Luncheon.

► Wednesday, May 27: Bayou Region Annual Fellows Luncheon.

► Thursday, May 28: North Shore Annual Fellows Luncheon.

► Thursday, May 28: Greater Orleans Annual Fellows Reception. 

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LBF Annual Fellows Membership Meeting is May 1

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Annual Fellows Membership Meeting, in conjunction with the 29th Annual Fellows Gala, is Friday, May 1, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. A meeting notice will be sent to Fellows in good standing in early March. The lunch meeting is an opportunity for Fellows to be updated on LBF activities and to elect new board members. For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email laura@raisingthebar.org. 


LBF Kids' Chance scholarship applications available

The deadline to submit an application for the 2015-16 Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Kids' Chance scholarship is Friday, Feb. 20. The Kids' Chance Program provides scholarships to children of Louisiana workers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident compensable under a state or federal Workers' Compensation Act or law. Since 2004, the program has awarded 218 scholarships totaling \$407,100.

The application process is handled online at: www.raisingthebar.org/ProgramsAndProjects/kidschanceapp.asp.

For more information, contact Dee Jones at (504)561-1046 or email dee@raisingthebar.org. 

Judicial Interest Rate Calculator online!

Need to calculate judicial interest? Check out the Judicial Interest Rate Calculator (courtesy of Alexandria attorney Charles D. Elliott) on the Louisiana State Bar Association's website. Go to: www.lsba.org/Members/JudicialInterestRate.aspx. Then, click on "Louisiana Judicial Interest Calculator." 


LBF seeking nominations for 2015 Boisfontaine Award

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is seeking nominations for the 2015 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Nominations must be received in the LBF office by Friday, Feb. 6.

Nominations should include nominee's name, contact information, a brief written statement on the background of the nominee, as well as reasons why the nominee is proposed as the award recipient. Nominations should be mailed to Dennette Young, Communications Director, Louisiana Bar Foundation, Ste. 1000, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, or emailed to dennette@raisingthebar.org.

The award will be presented at the Louisiana State Bar Association's Annual Meet-

ing in Destin, Fla., in June. The recipient will receive a plaque and \$1,000 will be donated in the recipient's name to a non-profit, law-related program or association (recipient's choice) providing services in Louisiana.

The award, recognizing a Louisiana attorney who exhibits longstanding devotion to and excellence in trial practice and upholds the standards of ethics and consideration for the court, litigants and all counsel, was established through an endowment to the Louisiana Bar Foundation in memory of Curtis R. Boisfontaine, who served as president of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. Donations from Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel, L.L.P., the Boisfontaine family and friends established the fund. 

LBF seeking sponsors for 29th Annual Fellows Gala

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) will celebrate the 29th Annual Fellows Gala on Friday, May 1. The gala and live auction will be held at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave.

Sponsorships are available at several levels: Pinnacle, \$6,500; Benefactor, \$5,000; Cornerstone, \$3,500; Capital, \$2,000; Pillar, \$1,200; and Foundation, \$400. Individual tickets are \$150. Young lawyer individual tickets are \$100.

To further review sponsorship levels or to purchase individual tickets, go to: www.raisingthebar.org.

[raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org).

Discounted rooms at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans are available for \$289/night for Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1. Reservations must be made with the Hyatt before Monday, April 6, to get the discounted rate. Call the hotel directly at 1-888-421-1442 and reference "Louisiana Bar Foundation" to make a reservation, or go to: <http://resweb.passkey.com/go/LABFannualgala2015>.

For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email laura@raisingthebar.org. 


LBF receives Cy Pres awards

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) recently received two Cy Pres awards totaling \$65,000. Unused funds from two class action cases were directed to the LBF by Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Piper D. Griffin.

In 2012, the Louisiana Supreme Court adopted Rule XLIII, which names the Louisiana Bar Foundation as a permissible recipient of Cy Pres funds. The LBF is the only organization specifically identified in the rule.

Because of the tremendous need for

civil legal services for low-income people in Louisiana, Cy Pres awards go a long way toward meeting this need. The LBF supports nonprofit organizations that provide free, civil legal representation to the indigent, law-related education to the public, and administration of justice projects.

In class action matters where the claims process has been exhausted and Cy Pres funds remain, the trial court is allowed to disburse the remaining funds to nonprofit or governmental entities which support projects that benefit the class or similarly situated people. 

Procrastination,
file stagnation &
neglect, inability to
meet professional or
personal obligations
or deadlines

Inability to open mail
or answer phones,
"emotional paralysis"

Feelings of bafflement,
confusion, loneliness,
isolation, desolation
and being overwhelmed

Persistent
apathy or
"empty" feeling

Drug or
alcohol
abuse

Changes
in energy,
eating or
sleep habits

Loss of interest
or pleasure,
dropping
hobbies

Trouble
concentrating
or remembering
things

Guilt, feelings of
hopelessness,
helplessness,
worthlessness, or
low self-esteem

A Johns Hopkins study found that
lawyers suffer from depression
at a rate 3.6 times higher than the
general employed population.

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Volunteers needed for “We the People” state simulated congressional hearings

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) is seeking volunteers to judge the state high school “We the People” simulated congressional hearings.

“We the People” is a nationally acclaimed high school civics curriculum that focuses on the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Judges will sit on a panel of three and will be provided with the hearing questions and optional follow-up questions.

The state competition is Friday, Feb. 6, in Baton Rouge. Competitions are three to four hours and are generally concluded by noon.

Volunteers from the legal and academic



Former state competitors in the “We the People” program prepare to testify before the panel of judges.

communities are integral to the success of this program. The winner of the state competition will represent Louisiana at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

To volunteer or for more information on the program, contact LCLCE Executive Director Peggy Cotogno at (504)619-0134 or email peggy.cotogno@lsba.org.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hotline

Director J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell III, 1(866)354-9334

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The Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. provides confidential assistance with problems such as alcoholism, substance abuse, mental health issues, gambling and all other addictions.

2015 Judicial Interest Rate is 4%

Pursuant to authority granted by La. R.S. 13:4202(B)(1), as amended by Acts 2001, No. 841, the Louisiana Commissioner of Financial Institutions has determined that the judicial rate of interest for calendar year 2015 will be four (4.0%) percent per annum.

“Dazzling Disney!” CLE: Registration still open

Registration is still open for the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) “Dazzling Disney!” multi-topic CLE, scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 16-18 (during Mardi Gras), at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The CLE has been approved for up to 13 hours of credit, including ethics and professionalism. The LSBA hotel room block expired on Jan. 23; participants should contact the resort to determine space availability. As this is the week of Mardi Gras, members are encouraged to register and book hotel rooms, airfare and rental cars as soon as possible. Online registration is not available for this seminar. To download a registration form and for more information, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/CLEDisney2015.

Children's Law Committee releases educational video for children in CINC cases

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Children's Law Committee released a new educational video to assist children entering the court system because of allegations of neglect and/or abuse. The film, titled "Who's Looking Out for Me? An Introduction to the Court System," provides a summary of the legal process and an explanation of each individual the child will encounter during the proceedings, such as a judge, lawyer, bailiff and case worker.

The film is designed specifically for children entering "Child in Need of Care" proceedings, which are initiated following

an allegation of abuse or neglect against the child's parent or caregiver.

"Once 'Child in Need of Care' proceedings are initiated, it is the court's responsibility to determine what is in the best interest of each child," said Orleans Parish Assistant District Attorney Cherrilynn W. Thomas, who co-chairs the Children's Law Committee. "That process can be frustrating and confusing, especially for young children. This video will help parents and attorneys explain the procedure to kids, and also encourage young people to make their voices heard in the process."

In addition to legal concepts, the film

includes a tour of an actual courtroom and interviews and valuable insight from young adults who experienced this process when they were younger. "Obviously these issues are sensitive, and we are particularly grateful to the young adults in the film who were willing to share their personal stories and provide both encouragement and practical advice," said 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Sandra Cabrera Jenkins, who co-chairs the Children's Law Committee.

The film is available in both English and Spanish at www.lsba.org/childrenslaw/. For more information, email nicole.louque@lsba.org.

2015 Pro Bono, Children's Law Awards nomination process open online

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Committee's online nomination process is active for several 2015 pro bono awards, including the Friend of Pro Bono Award, the Pro Bono Publico Award, the Career Public Interest Award, the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, the Law Student Award and the Century Club Award.

Also, the LSBA's Children's Law Committee is accepting nominations for the Children's Law Award.

Nominations must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. For more information on the award categories and submission information, go to: <https://apps.lsba.org/nominations>. Once there, log in as an LSBA member or guest.

Self-Help Resource Centers are "trending" in the state: Sign up to volunteer!

In what's becoming a trend both nationally and in Louisiana, "Self-Help Resource Centers" are now active in the 22nd and 24th Judicial Districts. The centers for self-represented litigants offer legal information, referrals to local bar associations and legal aid organizations, and additional resources depending on a litigant's legal issue.

In the 22nd Judicial District, services are available at 1005 Cleveland St. in Franklinton (directly across from the courthouse) from 9 a.m.-noon on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. This service is coordinated by the 22nd Judicial District Court and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

In the 24th Judicial District in Jefferson Parish, assistance is available on the second floor of the courthouse at 200 Derbigny St. in Gretna from 10 a.m.-noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This service is coordinated by the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (www.laciviljustice.org). Attorneys interested in volunteering may sign up online: <http://vols.pt/9MLhhd>.

The Louisiana Civil Justice Center also coordinates a Self-Help Resource Center at Orleans Parish Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Ave., on the fourth floor. Services are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Attorneys interested in volunteering may sign up online: <http://vols.pt/SXYeQt>.

For more information on self-help resources in the state, including assistance in your jurisdiction, email Louisiana State Bar Association Self-Represented Litigation Counsel Michael W. Schachtman at michael.schachtman@lsba.org or go to www.lsba.org/atj/atjselfrepresentedlitigants.aspx.

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Michael Rubin delivers "must see" presentations which will leave you energized and informed. A man of many talents, he heads the Appellate Practice Team of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, and is a past president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Bar Association of the U.S. 5th Circuit. He is the author, co-author and/or contributing writer of more than a dozen legal books and more than 40 articles. He has written his first novel (a legal thriller) titled "The Cottoncrest Curse."



Catherine Sanders Reach, Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL. A seasoned speaker and a prolific author on legal technology matters, Catherine is the Director, Law Practice Management and Technology, Chicago Bar Association. She is on the Editorial Advisory Board for Law Technology News, Law.com's LegalTechnology and Law Practice Today. Armed with a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, she was selected to be one of the inaugural Fastcase 50, celebrating 50 innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders in the field of law.



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Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit www.lsba.org/diversity.

Registration open for 2015 Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

Registration is now open for the eighth annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession, set for Friday, March 6, at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal St., New Orleans. The early registration price of \$65 will be in place through Feb. 16.

Highlighting this year's conclave, "Celebrating 50 Years of Civil Rights: Moving the Pendulum Forward," will be keynote speaker Kim M. Keenan, president and CEO of Minority Media & Telecom Council (MMTC), and the "Freedom Riders," a traveling exhibition developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in partnership with American Experience and funded through the

National Endowment for the Humanities.

CLE highlights include breakout sessions on substantive legal issues in the areas of LGBT and immigration; a diversity interactive facilitated workshop; and plenary sessions with moderated panel discussions in the areas of criminal law and civil rights/voting rights.

Panel members in the civil rights/voting rights session include A.P. Tureaud, Jr., the first African-American to enroll as an undergraduate student at Louisiana State University; Henry (Hank) James Thomas, one of the original 13 Freedom Riders; and Judge Bernice B. Donald of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court

of Appeals.

Other conclave speakers include: Judge Wendell L. Griffen, Angela A. Allen-Bell, Graham Bateman, Judge Roland L. Belsome, Jr., Kevin V. Boshea, Prof. Kareem U. Crayton, Prof. Gilda R. Daniels, Kathleen C. Gasparian, Ivan Torres Hidalgo Gato, Cathy Harris, Nicholas J. Hite, Prof. Hiroko Kusuda, Melanie C. Lockett, Sen. Edward R. Murray, Sheriff Newell D. Normand, Judge Kern A. Reese, Scott J. Spivey, Emily C. Trostle and Julie Wilensky.

To register online, to download a registration form, or for more information and sponsorship options, go to: www.lsba.org/diversity/diversityconclaveevent.aspx.

Nomination deadlines set for 2015 diversity-related awards

Nomination deadlines are set for three 2015 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) diversity-related awards. The nomination deadline is Feb. 6 for the Guardian of Diversity Award. The nomination deadline is March 10 for the Human Rights Award and the Trailblazer Award.

To review award guidelines and to access nomination forms, go to: www.lsba.org/diversity/. For more information, email LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity Director Tricia R. Pierre at tricia.pierre@lsba.org.

U.S. Attorneys to speak at free Feb. 19 CLE in Baton Rouge; online registration open

Three U.S. Attorneys — J. Walter Green with the Middle District of Louisiana, Stephanie A. Finley with the Western District of Louisiana and Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. with the Eastern District of Louisiana — are the featured speakers at a free diversity-related CLE program scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19, in Baton Rouge.

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Diversity Committee and the LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Diversity Committee are hosting the CLE, "Inspiring a New

Generation of Civil Rights Leaders," from 3-4 p.m. in the Baton Rouge office of Adams and Reese, L.L.P., Chase North Tower, Ste. 1900, 450 Laurel St., Baton Rouge. A networking reception will follow the CLE.

Adams and Reese, L.L.P., is sponsoring the program. Organizers are applying for 1 hour of CLE credit.

For more information go to: www.lsba.org/CLE. Or email LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity Executive Secretary Eve Goudeau at eve.goudeau@lsba.org.

Mark your calendars!

Check the LSBA's Diversity webpage for more information on the following events:

- **March 6, 2015 • Diversity Conclave**
Celebrating 50 years of Civil Rights:
Moving the Pendulum Forward
- **Friday, April 17, 2015**
Disability "Lunch & Learn" CLE

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Two Legal Incubator Programs Assist in Matching Attorneys with Clients Most Needing Legal Help

Louisiana Civil Justice Center's Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) Program

By Amy E. Duncan

The Louisiana Civil Justice Center,¹ in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), has created and developed the Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) legal incubator program. The program provides new attorneys with the resources and educational tools they need to build viable and sustainable solo and small law practices that offer affordable legal services to those with unmet legal needs who may not otherwise qualify for free legal aid. The participating attorneys are supported in reaching these goals through resources such as mentoring, CLEs, practice management training, networking and referrals.

Launched in April 2014, this two-year program is currently comprised of four active Fellows — James Graham, Robin Griffin, Nicholas Hite and Betty Maury — as well as eight practitioner network participants. Each of the LIFT Fellows has a solo practice focused on innovative methods for delivering legal services to at-need populations.

Graham's law firm focuses on building medical-legal partnerships with health service providers to address health-harming legal needs that disproportionately affect people living in poverty. Griffin's firm works closely with medical providers and educators to ensure that every child with a mental or physical disability has the resources he/she needs to lead a happy and healthy life. Hite opened Hite Law Group in May 2014 and is focused on serving the unique needs of the LGBTQ community. Maury opened a family law practice and works closely with her clients to provide flat fees and reasonable repayment plans, ensuring that families in Greater New Orleans and surrounding areas can obtain the legal representation and services they need.

"[B]eing a LIFT Fellow has meant

going from zero to sixty in a matter of months. As a Fellow, I've had the support, encouragement and resources to hang my shingle, acquire clients, and become known as a valuable resource within my community," Hite said.

"I've expanded my network and met other like-minded attorneys — all newly-admitted, all going solo from scratch, and all who see the benefit of public interest work. I can ask them for help or offer them help," Maury said.

The LIFT program has impacted the practices of the attorneys, and, through them, the community as a whole. In taking countless pro bono cases, conducting free legal seminars open to the public, and staffing legal information booths at major New Orleans events, the LIFT Fellows and network participants have had a direct impact on improving access to justice. The LIFT program strives to form partnerships with other community organizations and legal services providers to increase the program's impact on the community. For instance, LIFT recently formed a partnership with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and the New Orleans Family Justice Center, in which three LIFT participants receive reduced-rate office space, resources and extensive training to provide pro bono representation to survivors of domestic violence.

The attorneys also have been actively involved in LSBA events and committees that work to serve the profession and the public. In addition to attending LSBA training and educational seminars, the participants have volunteered to work on subcommittees, including those within the Diversity Committee² and the Access to Justice Self-Represented Litigant Subcommittee.³ Within these groups, the LIFT Fellows assist in finding ways to serve the public and break down barriers

in the legal system for persons of diverse backgrounds as well as those unable to afford legal representation.

Jonathan Rhodes, executive director of the Louisiana Civil Justice Center and projects counsel for the LSBA Access to Justice Department, explained, "The LIFT program is not only about helping young attorneys gain the resources and experience they need to build sustainable solo practices, but mainly to provide access to affordable legal services to those who are most in need of such." Although the program is currently based in New Orleans, Rhodes said the plan is to launch similar legal incubator projects statewide.

For more information on the program, go to www.laciviljustice.org or email Amy E. Duncan at amy.duncan@laciviljustice.org.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides legal services to low-income, elderly and disaster-affected people in Louisiana. Go to: www.laciviljustice.org.

2. The goal of the Diversity Committee is to identify barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation in the legal profession by people of diverse backgrounds. *Diversity Committee*, Louisiana State Bar Association (last visited Dec. 15, 2014), <https://www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityCommittee.aspx>.

3. The goal of the Self-Represented Litigant Subcommittee is to foster support for self-represented litigants by working with the judiciary, justice community stakeholders, the pro bono community, clerks of court, statewide technology personnel and other interested parties on implementation of locally appropriate initiatives. *Access to Justice Subcommittees*, Louisiana State Bar Association (last visited Dec. 15, 2014), www.lsba.org/ATJ/ATJSubcommittees.aspx.

Amy E. Duncan is program director/staff attorney for the Louisiana Civil Justice Center. She can be reached by email at amy.duncan@laciviljustice.org.

More on next page



Two Legal Incubator Programs Assist in Matching Attorneys with Clients Most Needing Legal Help

Loyola University College of Law Incubator Program

By Davida Finger

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law has launched a new initiative — the Incubator Program for recent Loyola law graduates working in a social justice-oriented, solo practice in the Greater New Orleans area. The program supports self-employed Loyola Law School graduates (zero-three years in practice) while addressing, through a pro bono requirement, the need for increased affordable legal services for low-income and moderate-means people.

Incubator program participants receive free office space in the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice to independently operate their own law firms. The first year of the two-year pilot program runs from January 2015 through December 2015 and the following participants were selected — Lori Noto Alphonso, class of 2012; Jonah A. Freedman, class of 2014; Anna Lellelid, class of 2013; Nadia G. Madary, class of 2013; and Peter D. Russell, class of 2014.

A key component of Loyola's incubator program is training new attorneys who are committed to addressing the unmet legal needs of low-income and moderate-means people while building law practices that will continue to serve those populations over time. The program includes a requirement that at least a quarter of participants' time be spent on cases that fall into the "justice gap," those who are at or below 200 percent of the poverty line. Participants receive a modest stipend to support the year of pro bono work.

With law faculty experience and a strong alumni base from which to draw mentors and advisors, Loyola Law School is well placed to provide best practices training to new lawyers. In partnership with the Office of Skills and Experiential

Learning, the incubator program will provide regular skills courses to participants to support development of the solo practice/social justice path including instruction in law practice management, ethics and professionalism. Other program features include pro bono case referrals, mentorship, and access to a variety of resources including research and case management tools.

Loyola's incubator program is part of a growing trend among law schools to offer new opportunities to graduates.¹ The College of Law was one of just seven programs from around the country to receive a grant for the incubator program from the American Bar Association's Legal Access Job Corp initiative for "innovative ways to address the legal needs of poor or moderate-income individuals."²

The demand from graduates is great; an increasing number of law graduates are interested in combining social justice and solo practice especially in the context of challenging employment rates. The

incubator program will go a long way toward teaching law graduates while providing a critical service in the local community for low- and middle-income people who cannot otherwise afford attorneys and access to justice.

For more information, go to: www.loyno.edu/lawclinic/incubator-program.

FOOTNOTES

1. See generally, Luz Herrera, "Training Lawyer-Entrepreneurs," 89 Denver Univ. Law Rev. 887 (2012); see also, Fred Rooney and Justin Steele, "Exporting the Legal Incubator: A Conversation with Fred Rooney," 9 U. Mass. L. Rev. 108 (2014).

2. American Bar Association, "ABA Announces Catalyst Grant Recipients for Its Legal Access Job Corp," www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/abanews-archives/2014/07/aba_announces_catalyst.html?sc8cid=14DCA347, July 14, 2014. For a directory of Incubator/Residency Programs, see ABA, www.americanbar.org/groups/delivery_legal_services/initiatives_awards/program_main.html.

Davida Finger is an associate clinical professor and Incubator Program director at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She can be contacted at (504)861-5596 or by email at dfinger@loyno.edu.

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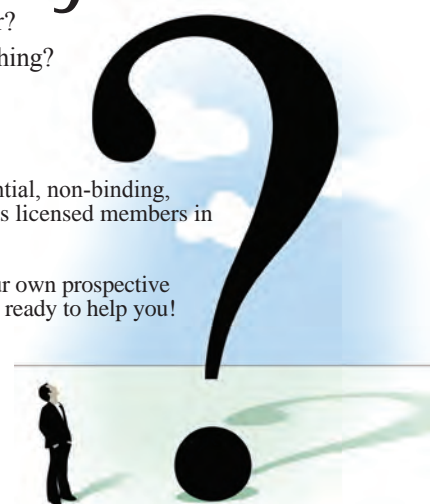
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