

# Bar Briefs

January 2020

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 35, No. 1

## House of Delegates to consider 11 resolutions at Jan. 18 meeting

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) House of Delegates will consider 11 resolutions and other business items at its Midyear Meeting scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel.

The House will consider the following resolutions.

1) Resolution from the Young Lawyers Division asking the House of Delegates to direct the Board of Governors to encourage all Louisiana federal, state, local, territorial and tribal legislatures and court systems, in conjunction with state and local bar associations, to support and assist with the establishment and maintenance of lactation areas in courthouses.

2) Resolution from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization to amend Appellate Practice Standards.

3) Resolution from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization to amend Bankruptcy Law Standards.

4) Resolution from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization to amend Estate

Planning and Administration Standards.

5) Resolution from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization to amend Family Law Standards.

6) Resolution from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization to amend Tax Law Standards.

7) Resolution from the Transitioning Lawyers Committee to amend the previously approved amendments to the LSBA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws regarding "emeritus status" to reflect changes as recommended by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

8) Resolution from the Executive Committee to amend the Bylaws to waive dues for the year of admission only for those members admitted between Jan. 1 and June 30 of the fiscal year.

9) Resolution from the Special Committee to Review House of Delegates' Policies to immediately sunset and repeal all policy positions previously adopted by the House of Delegates.

## Election: LSBA members certified elected; 5 runoffs set; amendment approved

More Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members were certified elected for leadership positions following the close of first-round voting on Dec. 16.

Runoff elections are needed to fill positions on the LSBA Board of Governors and the LSBA Nominating Committee. Runoff balloting (online only) will begin Jan. 27 and continue through Feb. 19.

Listed below are candidates who have been **Certified Elected** for their races and the **Runoff Races**.

Also, the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation requiring a 75% super majority to pass House resolutions was approved.

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# Interested in an appointed LSBA House of Delegates position? Respond ASAP

Several Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) House of Delegates seats received no qualifiers by the Oct. 21 qualifying deadline and will be filled by presidential appointment. Members interested in being considered for appointment to these positions should email LSBA Executive Assistant Jennifer France at [jen.france@lsba.org](mailto:jen.france@lsba.org) as soon as possible. Available positions are listed below.

## LSBA House of Delegates (June 2020-June 2022 term)

- ▶ Second Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Third Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Fifth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.

▶ Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

▶ Thirteenth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.

## LSBA House of Delegates (June 2019-June 2021 term)

▶ Twenty-Seventh Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

▶ Thirtieth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.

▶ Thirty-Fifth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

▶ Thirty-Sixth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.

▶ Thirty-Seventh Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

▶ Thirty-Ninth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

## HOD continued from page 1

10) Resolution from the Special Committee to Review House of Delegates' Policies to amend the Bylaws to require all policy positions adopted by the House to adhere to and agree with Article XI, Section 1 of the Bylaws, which sets forth scope and limitations for positions adopted by the Legislation Committee.

11) Resolution from delegate Shayna Beevers Morvant, 24th Judicial District, seeking to suspend the Legislation Committee and its related activities until

the June 2020 Annual Meeting.

In other business, the House will elect:

▶ one member (representing the 20th through 42nd Judicial Districts) to serve a three-year term on the House of Delegates Liaison Committee (2020-23);

▶ and the chair of the House of Delegates Liaison Committee for the 2020-21 term (elected from the three Liaison Committee members). The chair is a voting member of the Board of Governors.

To review the resolutions and the House agenda, go to: [www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/HouseofDelegates.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/HouseofDelegates.aspx).

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## Certified Elected

### Nominating Committee

▶ District 1A: Lawrence J. Centola III, Barry H. Grodsky and Phillip A. Wittmann.

▶ District 2B: Shayna Beevers Morvant and Raymond S. Steib.

▶ District 2C: Nicholas J. Zeringue.

▶ District 3A: Blake R. David.

▶ District 3B: J. Lee Hoffoss, Jr.

▶ District 3C: Robert G. Levy.

▶ District 3E: Thomas M. Hayes III.

### Young Lawyers Division Council

▶ First District: Collin R. Melancon.

▶ Second District: Betty A. Maury.

▶ Third District: Megan E. Reaux.

▶ Fifth District: Loren D. Shanklin Fleshman.

### American Bar Association House of Delegates

▶ Jacqueline M. Epstein and Richard K. Leeffe.

## Runoff Races

### Board of Governors (three-year term)

#### First Board District (1 position)

Scott L. Sternberg

Cory J. Vidal

#### Second Board District (1 position)

Erin O. Braud

Sandra K. Cosby

#### Fifth Board District (1 position)

Adrian G. Nadeau

Jack K. Whitehead, Jr.

### Nominating Committee (1-year term)

#### District 1A (1 position)

Scott L. Sternberg

Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

#### District 1B (1 position)

Clayton J. Borne IV

Kelly M. Rabalais

For more information on the election procedures and the schedule, go to: [www.lsba.org/goto/elections](http://www.lsba.org/goto/elections).

## IRS sets 2020 mileage rate for business purposes

The Internal Revenue Service has set the 2020 mileage rate for business purposes at 57.5 cents per mile. This rate became effective Jan. 1.

## 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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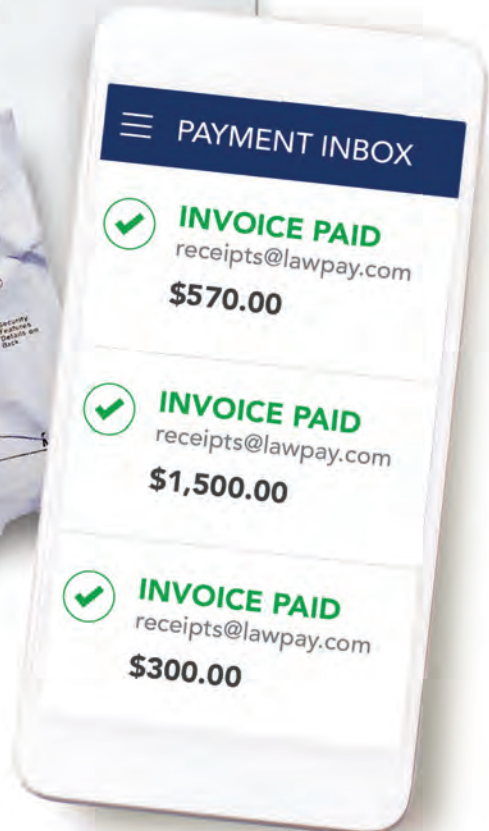
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# MCLE: Deadline is Jan. 31 for reporting CLE hours

Louisiana State Bar Association members are reminded that all CLE hours must be reported no later than Jan. 31, 2020, or late penalties will apply. Those hours must have been earned by Dec. 31, 2019.

Preliminary transcripts were mailed to the membership on Nov. 27, 2019.

The annual requirement for attorneys is 12.5 hours, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism credit.


Attorneys admitted in 2018 are also required to earn a total of 12.5 hours but must have 8 hours of ethics, professionalism or law office management credits included

within that total. Hours earned in the calendar years 2018 and 2019 are counted together for this initial compliance period.

In-house counsel admitted to practice under LASC 12, Section 14, must earn 12.5 hours annually, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism, and must follow the same reporting requirements as all other attorneys. They do not qualify for the MCLE exemption.

The form for attorneys who do qualify for an MCLE exemption is available online. Attorneys may mail or email the exemption form to the MCLE Department, and it is recommended that attorneys keep

a copy of any documentation related to that exemption on file. Attorneys who were impacted by this past year's severe weather events will again have the option to claim a disaster exemption. Exemption forms must be reported by Jan. 31, 2020.

Information regarding attorney requirements and pre-approved courses can be found on the website at: [www.lsba.org/MCLE](http://www.lsba.org/MCLE). Click "MCLE" on the header for information on the calendar, rules, forms and transcript information. Access a "how-to" flyer on transcripts: [www.lsba.org/documents/Members/MCLETranscriptHowTo.pdf](http://www.lsba.org/documents/Members/MCLETranscriptHowTo.pdf). 

## CLE compliance reporting for specialists is Jan. 31

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBSL), 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, 2019, and must report those CLE hours to the Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) no later than Jan. 31, 2020. Failure to earn and/or timely report specialization CLE hours will result in a penalty assessment.


The requirement for each area of specialty is as follows:

- ▶ Appellate Practice — 15 hours of approved appellate practice.
- ▶ Estate Planning and Administration — 18 hours of approved estate planning and administration.
- ▶ Family Law — 18 hours of approved family law.
- ▶ Health Law — 15 hours of approved health law.
- ▶ Tax Law — 18 hours of approved tax law.
- ▶ Bankruptcy Law — CLE is regulated

by the American Board of Certification.

CLE credits are computed on a calendar year basis.

For more information, contact LBSL Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann, email [maryann.wegmann@lsba.org](mailto:maryann.wegmann@lsba.org), or call (504)619-0128.

Obtain a copy of your specialization transcript online at: [www.lsba.org/specialization/](http://www.lsba.org/specialization/). Specialization transcripts may be accessed directly at: [www.lsba.org/Specialization/SpecializationTranscripts.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Specialization/SpecializationTranscripts.aspx). 

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## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### PLENARY

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### MARKETING POWER HOUR

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### ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Your Brand: **Developing  
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Goal Setting:  
**Developing A Five-Year Career Plan**

#### **Tech Talk**

**The Benefits of Pro Bono  
and Community Service**

**Social Media Marketing**

### **Presentation of YLD Awards and Lunch**

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session A: **#firmlife: Advancing at Your Firm**

Session B: Solo and Small Firm Success:  
**Tips and Tricks for Building Your Practice**

### SPRINT SESSIONS

Session A: **Transactions 101**

Session B: **Law Clerk Insider**

Session C:  
**Criminal Law for the Uninitiated**

Session D: **Show me the Money**  
Managing Student Loan and Financial Literacy

**For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/YLD](http://www.lsba.org/YLD)**

*\*The conference is open to the first 150 young lawyers who register for a cost of \$50. Online registration will close at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, however on-site registration will be available if there are spots available. The conference has applied for 4.5 hours of CLE credit (including 1 hour of ethics, 1 hour of professionalism and 1 hour of law office management).*

# Supreme Court amends Rule XIX regarding JLAP

The Louisiana Supreme Court issued an order on Nov. 21, 2019, amending Rule XIX, Section 24E3, to specify that, in lawyer disciplinary matters, the Louisiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP) is the path through which respondents must pass to be reinstated or readmitted in cases wherein substance use disorders are a causative factor in misconduct.

The amendment reflects recommendations made by the national experts in the 2015 JLAP

Performance Audit. It is also a straightforward codification of 30 years of Louisiana Supreme Court jurisprudence endorsing JLAP, beginning with the watershed case *Louisiana State Bar Association v. Arthur F. Dumaine*, 550 So.2d 1197 (La. 1989), wherein the Court ordered JLAP to provide the Court with expert, independent, objective and reliable data regarding the diagnosis, treatment and recovery of respondents in substance abuse cases.

JLAP is recognized nationally as

a leading program and it continues to generate an excellent no-relapse success rate. The Court's amendment of Rule XIX, Section 24E3, will not only ensure that the public is appropriately protected from the harm that an impaired lawyer can cause, it will also save more lives and careers among those attorneys who have fallen victim to the diseases of alcoholism and addiction.

Read the Supreme Court order at: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/News/LSBANews/RULEXIX.pdf>. 📄

## Online registration open for 2020 Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge

Online registration is open for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Midyear Meeting, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 16-18, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd.

Registration for the Midyear Meeting is free, with a minimal charge assessed for the 2020 Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference on Friday, Jan. 17. Pre-registration is required for the Young Lawyers Conference and for the free CLEs scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16.

During the three-day event, the Board of Governors, the House of Delegates and several committees and sections will conduct meetings. The LSBA Young Lawyers Division will present several awards at the Young Lawyers Conference luncheon and a Friday night reception will recognize the 50-, 60- and 70-year LSBA members.

Review the Midyear Meeting schedule or register online at: [www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting/](http://www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting/).

### Meeting Highlights

All events are at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., unless otherwise noted.

► **Free CLE seminars.** The LSBA Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee is offering free CLE seminars on Thursday, Jan. 16. Topics include "LSBA: Who We Are and How We



Serve Our Members," "Women's Personal and Professional Development Workshop Series: Take Command, Be Empowered and Own Your Future" and "What Non-Immigration Practitioners Need to Know about Immigration Law." To register for these seminars, participants must first complete the free Midyear Meeting registration. For more information, contact Lora Ghawaly at (504)619-0115 or email [diversity@lsba.org](mailto:diversity@lsba.org).

► **More CLEs Scheduled.** Also on Thursday, Jan. 16, CLE programs are scheduled on "Clients and Capacity," "Navigating the MSP: Tools, Tips & Trends" and "Negotiations and Settlement: Can a Mediator Help?" Register online at: [www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting/](http://www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting/).

► **Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference.** The LSBA's Young Lawyers Division will present its second annual conference, "Your Practice, Your Future," on Friday, Jan. 17. The conference is

open to the first 150 young lawyers who register. Online registration will close at 3 p.m. on Jan. 13; on-site registration will be available, space permitting. For conference details and to register, go to: [www.lsba.org/YLD/YLDConference.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/YLD/YLDConference.aspx).

► **Reception.** The LSBA's 50-, 60- and 70-year members will be recognized at a reception on Jan. 17.

### Sponsors Sought for Reception

The LSBA is seeking sponsors for the 50-, 60- and 70-Year Members' Reception on Friday, Jan. 17, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. For information on sponsorship levels, contact LSBA Program Coordinator/Marketing and Sections Christine A. Richard at (504)619-0105, email [crichard@lsba.org](mailto:crichard@lsba.org). 📄

## Annual LBF Fellows Membership Meeting set for April 3

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Annual Fellows Membership Meeting will begin at noon on Friday, April 3, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. This luncheon meeting is an opportunity for Fellows to be updated on LBF activities and to elect new board members. The President's Award will be presented and recognition will be given to the Distinguished Honorees and the Calogero Justice Award recipient.

All LBF Fellows in good standing will receive an official meeting notice with the board slate and a committee selection form in early March. For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email [laura@raisingthebar.org](mailto:laura@raisingthebar.org).

## 2020 Judicial Interest Rate is 5.75%

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 2020 will be five and three quarters (5.75%) percent per annum.

## LSBA Section membership: Renew or sign up by April 15

The 2020-21 membership application for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) 30 sections will be mailed in mid-February. Members are encouraged to sign up for the sections by returning the application and payment by April 15 to: Section Membership, Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404.

The Section application and brochure also will be available online

by mid-February at: [www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/Sections.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/Sections.aspx). Members needing an additional copy should follow the link to download and print the application or brochure. Note: Members should select the correct application based on the fiscal year in which they would like to join.

For more information, contact the Membership Department, (504)566-1600, (800)421-5722, or email [processing@lsba.org](mailto:processing@lsba.org).

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## Scholarship applications available online for LBF Kids' Chance Program

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Kids' Chance Scholarship Program is the state chapter of a national organization that awards scholarships to the 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. This year, the LBF awarded \$55,500 to 16 students to help with their education. Since 2004, the program has awarded 306


scholarships totaling \$719,000.

Scholarship applications for the 2020-21 school year are available online on the LBF's website, [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org). Application deadline is Feb. 17.

Students who may qualify for a Kids' Chance Scholarship but who are not of college age should register with Kids' Chance of America: Planning for the Future online at: <https://www.kidschance.org/planning-for-the-future/>. 

## Available 24/7: LSBA expands selection of eBooks



The Louisiana State Bar Association has expanded its selection of eBooks related to various aspects of the practice of law. The newest addition is *Hanging Out Your Shingle: Louisiana Style*. This e-publication joins *Practice Transition Handbook: Shutting Down a Law Practice in Louisiana*, *Disaster Planning: It's Not Just for Hurricanes, Are You Ready?*, and *Practice Aid Guide: The Essentials of Law Office Management*. Access all e-books online, 24/7, at: [www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/eBooks.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/eBooks.aspx). 

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## LBF seeking nominations for 2020 Boisfontaine Award

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is seeking nominations for the 2020 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Nominations must be received in the LBF office by Monday, Feb. 10. The award will be presented at the Louisiana State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla., in June. The recipient will receive a plaque. The recipient also will choose a non-profit, law-related program or association providing services in Louisiana for a \$1,000 donation in his/her name.

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 forwarded to Dennette Young, Communications Director, Louisiana Bar Foundation, Ste. 1000, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, or email [dennette@raisingthebar.org](mailto:dennette@raisingthebar.org).

This trial advocacy award 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. The award is presented to 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. 📧

## Hotel room block available for LBF's 34th Annual Fellows Gala

The Louisiana Bar Foundation will celebrate the 34th Annual Fellows Gala Friday, April 3, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave., New Orleans.

Discounted rooms are available at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans for Thursday, April 2, and Friday, April 3, at \$259 a night. To make a reservation, call the Hyatt at 1(800)233-1234 and reference the "Louisiana Bar Foundation" or go to: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/MSYRN/G-LGAL>. Reservations must be made before Friday, March 13.

For more information, go to [www.raisingthebar.org/gala](http://www.raisingthebar.org/gala). 📧

## 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	<a href="mailto:rarsenault@nbalawfirm.com">rarsenault@nbalawfirm.com</a>
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Houma/Thibodaux Area	Danna Schwab	(985)868-1342		<a href="mailto:dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com">dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com</a>
Jefferson Parish Area	Pat M. Franz	(504)455-1986		<a href="mailto:patfranz@bellsouth.net">patfranz@bellsouth.net</a>
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Opelousas/Ville Platte/ Sunset Area	John L. Olivier	(337)662-5242	(337)942-9836 (337)232-0874	<a href="mailto:johnolivier@centurytel.net">johnolivier@centurytel.net</a>
River Parishes Area	Judge Jude G. Gravois	(225)265-3923 (225)265-9828	Cell (225)270-7705	<a href="mailto:judegravois@bellsouth.net">judegravois@bellsouth.net</a>
Shreveport Area	Dana M. Southern	(318)222-3643		<a href="mailto:dsouthern@shreveportbar.com">dsouthern@shreveportbar.com</a>

For more information, go to: [www.lsb.org/goto/solace](http://www.lsb.org/goto/solace).

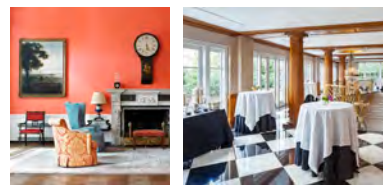
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# LBSL accepting requests for certification applications

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBSL) is accepting applications for certification in five specializations — appellate practice, estate planning and administration, family law, health law and tax law — from now through Feb. 28, 2020.

Also, the LBSL will accept applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law certification from now through Sept. 30, 2020.

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 percentage of the attorney's practice must be devoted to the area of certification sought, and the attorney must pass a written examination to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills and proficiency in the area for which certification is sought and provide

five favorable references. Peer review is 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. Refer to the LBSL Rules and Regulations and standards for the applicable specialty for a detailed description of the requirements for application: [www.lbsa.org/specialization](http://www.lbsa.org/specialization).


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:

- ▶ Appellate Practice — 15 hours of approved appellate practice.
- ▶ Estate Planning and Administration — 18 hours of approved estate planning and administration.
- ▶ Family Law — 18 hours of approved family law.
- ▶ Health Law — 15 hours of approved health law.
- ▶ Tax Law — 18 hours of approved tax law.

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

Approved specialization CLE courses can be viewed on the LBSL Approved Course Calendar at: [www.lbsa.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S](http://www.lbsa.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S).

With regard to 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 LBSL simultaneously with the testing agency to avoid delay of board certification by the LBSL. Information concerning the American Board of Certification will be provided with the application form(s).

Anyone interested in applying for certification should contact LBSL Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann to request an application packet, email [maryann.wegmann@lbsa.org](mailto:maryann.wegmann@lbsa.org), or call (504)619-0128. 

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Presented By:  


# Committee Preferences: Get Involved in Your Bar!

*Committee assignment requests are now being accepted for the 2020-21 Bar year. Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President-Elect Alainna R. Mire will make all committee appointments. Widespread participation is encouraged in all Bar programs and activities. Appointments to committees are not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to accommodate members' interests. When making selections, members should consider the time commitment associated with committee assignments and their availability to participate. Also, members are asked to list experience relevant to service on the chosen committees. The deadline for committee assignment requests is Wednesday, April 15. The current committees are listed below.*

## **Access to Justice Committee**

The committee works to ensure that every Louisiana citizen has access to competent civil legal representation by promoting and supporting a broad-based and effective justice community through collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Louisiana law schools, private practitioners, local bar associations, pro bono programs and legal aid providers.

## **Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

The committee protects the public by assisting, on a confidential basis, lawyers and judges who have alcohol, drug, gambling and other addictions. The committee works with the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. to counsel, conduct interventions and locate treatment facilities for impaired lawyers, and to monitor recovering attorneys and attorneys referred by the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board or Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

## **Bar Governance Committee**

The committee ensures effective and equitable governance of the association by conducting an ongoing evaluation of relevant procedures and making recommendations to the House of Delegates regarding warranted amendments to the association's Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws.

## **Children's Law Committee**

The committee provides a forum for attorneys and judges working with children to promote improvements and changes in the legal system to benefit children, parents and the professionals who serve these families.

## **Client Assistance Fund Committee**

The committee protects the public and maintains the integrity of the legal profession by reimbursing, to the extent deemed appropriate, losses caused by the dishonest conduct of any licensed Louisiana lawyer practicing in the state.

## **Community Action Committee**

The committee serves as a catalyst statewide for lawyer community involvement through charitable and other public service projects.

## **Continuing Legal Education Program Committee**

The committee fulfills the Louisiana Supreme Court mandate of making quality and diverse continuing legal education opportunities available at an affordable price to LSBA members.

## **Criminal Justice Committee**

The committee develops programs and methods which allow the Bar to work with the courts, other branches of government and the public to ensure that the constitutionally mandated right to counsel is afforded to all who appear before the courts.

## **Diversity Committee**

The committee assesses the level of racial, ethnic, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability diversity within all components of the legal profession in Louisiana, identifies barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation in the legal profession by persons of diverse backgrounds, and proposes programs and methods to effectively remove barriers and achieve greater diversity.

## **Ethics Advisory Service Committee**

The committee encourages ethical lawyer conduct by supporting the LSBA's Ethics Counsel in his/her provision of informal, non-binding ethics opinions to members of the Bar.

## **Legal Malpractice Insurance Committee**

The committee ensures the most favorable rates, coverage and service for Louisiana lawyers insured under the Bar-endorsed legal malpractice plan by overseeing the relationship between the LSBA, its carrier and its third-party administrator, and considers on an ongoing basis the feasibility and advisability of forming a captive malpractice carrier.

## **Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee**

The committee provides members of the bench, Bar and general public with a greater understanding of the legal needs and rights of persons with disabilities, and helps persons with disabilities meet their legal needs and understand their rights and resources.

## **Legislation Committee**

The committee informs the membership of legislation or proposed legislation of interest to the legal profession; assists the state Legislature by providing information on substantive and procedural developments in the law; disseminates information to the membership; identifies resources available to the Legislature; provides other appropriate non-partisan assistance; and advocates for the legal profession and the public on issues affecting the profession, the administration of justice and the delivery of legal services.

Continued next page

### **Medical/Legal Interprofessional Committee**

The committee works with the joint committee of the Louisiana State Medical Society to promote collegiality between members of the legal and medical professions by receiving and making recommendations on complaints relative to physician/lawyer relationships and/or problems.

### **Outreach Committee**

The committee develops and implements sustained outreach to local and specialty bars throughout the state and increases awareness of the member services and benefits provided by the LSBA. The committee encourages member participation in all aspects of the LSBA and facilitates participation through the use of technology and other feasible alternatives.

### **Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee**

The committee serves the Bar and the public in furtherance of the association's goals of prevention and correction of lawyer misconduct and assistance to victims of lawyer misconduct by evaluating, developing and providing effective alternatives to discipline programs for minor offenses, educational and practice assistance programs, and programs to resolve minor complaints and lawyer/client disputes.

### **Committee on the Profession**

The committee encourages lawyers to exercise the highest standards of integrity, ethics and professionalism in their conduct; examines systemic issues in the legal system arising out of the lawyer's relationship and duties to his/her clients, other lawyers, the courts, the judicial system and the public good; provides the impetus and means to positively impact those relationships and duties; improves access to the legal system; and improves the quality of life and work/life balance for lawyers.

### **Rules of Professional Conduct Committee**

The committee monitors and evaluates developments in legal ethics and, when appropriate, recommends changes to the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct; acts as liaison to the Louisiana Supreme Court on matters concerning the Rules of Professional Conduct; reviews issues of legal ethics and makes recommendations to the LSBA House of Delegates regarding modifications to the existing ethical rules; oversees the work of the Ethics Advisory Service and its Advertising Committee, Publications Subcommittee and other subcommittees; and promotes the highest professional standards of ethics in the practice of law.

### **Transitioning Lawyers Committee**

The committee safeguards the public by educating members of the legal profession about age-related disabilities. The committee also helps attorneys suffering from impairments that prevent them from practicing law competently to transition out of the practice of law with dignity.

### **Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee**

The committee protects the public from incompetent or fraudulent activities by those who are unauthorized to practice law or who are otherwise misleading those in need of legal services.

*Indicate below your committee preference(s). If you are interested in more than one committee, list in 1-2-3 preference order. On this form or on a separate sheet, list experience relevant to service on your chosen committee(s).*

#### **Print or Type**

- Access to Justice
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Bar Governance
- Children's Law
- Client Assistance Fund
- Community Action
- Continuing Legal Education Program
- Criminal Justice
- Diversity
- Ethics Advisory Service
- Legal Malpractice Insurance
- Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Legislation
- Medical/Legal Interprofessional
- Outreach
- Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee on the Profession
- Rules of Professional Conduct
- Transitioning Lawyers
- Unauthorized Practice of Law

**Response Deadline: April 15, 2020**

**Mail, email or fax your completed form to:**

**Christine A. Richard, Program  
Coordinator/Marketing & Sections  
Louisiana State Bar Association  
601 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3404  
Fax (504)566-0930  
Email: [crichard@lsba.org](mailto:crichard@lsba.org)**

LSBA Bar Roll Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
List (on separate sheet) experience relevant to service on the chosen committee(s).

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee organizes Special Education Workshop

Families often experience challenges related to educating their children with disabilities and ensuring that their children receive appropriate educational support, resources and services. Many parents are unaware of the positive obligations placed upon schools to assist children with disabilities. Often, these families turn to Louisiana attorneys for help in understanding and enforcing their children's educational rights. To support the education of both attorneys and members of the public on these issues, the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee organized a Special Education Workshop on Oct. 19, 2019.

The free program hosted by Southern University Law Center gave attendees training on different areas of special education law, including rights and administrative processes, accessing mental health services, dispute resolution and IEPs (Individualized Education



The panelists participating in the Special Education Workshop, organized by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee and hosted by Southern University Law Center, were, from left, Debra J. Weinberg from the Advocacy Center/Disability Rights Louisiana; Wayne T. Stewart from Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice, L.L.C.; Cynthia Chesterfield from Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge; Victor M. Jones from Southern Poverty Law Center; and Parris A. Taylor from the Louisiana Department of Education.

Programs). The five panelists — Cynthia Chesterfield from Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge; Victor M. Jones from Southern Poverty Law Center; Parris A. Taylor from the Louisiana Department of Education; Wayne T. Stewart from Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice, L.L.C.; and Debra J. Weinberg from

the Advocacy Center/Disability Rights Louisiana — provided highly informative and engaging presentations. The workshop also afforded the opportunity for questions and robust discussion, which helped attorneys and members of the public to better understand special education laws, policies and procedures. 📺

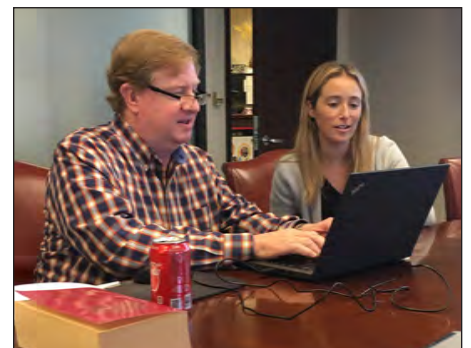
## Entergy hosts second Free Legal Answers clinic

Entergy L.L.C.'s New Orleans office hosted its second [LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org) (FLA) clinic on Oct. 22, 2019. At the clinic, corporate counsel volunteers answered civil legal questions submitted to the site by low-income Louisiana residents.

The online pro bono site, [La.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://La.FreeLegalAnswers.org), allows qualifying users to submit civil legal questions that are then answered by attorney volunteers. FLA is an additional mechanism to assist individuals with civil legal needs while also conveniently providing pro bono opportunities for volunteer attorneys.

The impact on FLA site users can be profound, and Entergy multiplied that impact by hosting Free Legal Answers clinics in Louisiana and Mississippi and supporting their attorneys to volunteer in Free Legal Answers events in Texas and Arkansas. The impact of Entergy attorneys on Oct. 22 was made even more significant in that these events were held in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week.

For more information about volunteering with [LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org), contact Rachael Mills at (504)619-0104 or email [Rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:Rachael.mills@lsba.org). 📺



Entergy's New Orleans office hosted its second [LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org](http://LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org) (FLA) clinic on Oct. 22, 2019. From left, Mark G. Otts, Entergy assistant general counsel; and Joanna S. Laidler, Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice projects counsel.

# LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee hosts educational seminar

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (LSPD) Committee hosted a seminar on Nov. 22, 2019, to educate attorneys on how to best represent clients with disabilities and to provide greater understanding of the legal needs and rights of people with disabilities. The seminar was supported by Judge Jay C. Zainey and conducted at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

Organizers said most, if not all, Louisiana attorneys will represent a client with a disability. However, attorneys who do so infrequently may not recognize that a person's disability can impact all aspects of the case — from obtaining instructions, to advising on outcomes and drafting settlement documents. Special training can ensure that attorneys provide appropriate representation for clients with disabilities.

The seminar, titled "Representing Clients with Disabilities: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You," dealt with issues including attorney obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, capacity



Gwynne K. Mashon and Steven D. Reed from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services were two of the presenters for the "Representing Clients with Disabilities" seminar.

issues and public benefits.

Seminar presenters included Garret S. DeReus of Bizer & DeReus, L.L.C.; Dayna M. Ryan of Theus, Grisham, Davis & Leigh, L.L.C.; Gwynne K. Mashon and Steven D. Reed from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Sean M. Morrison from the Sean Morrison Law Offices, L.L.C.; and Christopher H. Sherwood from the Law Offices of Warren A. Forstall Jr., L.L.C.

Because of significant interest in the event from attorneys, the LSPD Committee will host a follow-up seminar in 2020. 📺



Dayna M. Ryan of Theus, Grisham, Davis & Leigh, L.L.C., was one of the presenters for the "Representing Clients with Disabilities" seminar.

## Support civil legal aid training: Sponsor the 2020 Louisiana Justice Community Conference

Every October for nearly two decades, civil legal aid attorneys from all corners of the state meet in Baton Rouge for the annual Louisiana Justice Community Conference. For two days, conference attendees hear from speakers on best practices and updates to the law, network with others in the field, convene substantive law task forces, and more. The educational opportunities offered ensures that civil legal aid attorneys remain well-equipped to tackle pertinent legal challenges faced by those most in need.

To provide the most relevant and cutting-edge poverty law-related trainings, conference sponsors are being sought. Download the sponsorship form at: <https://bit.ly/38DhASW>. The deadline for submission is March 31. Any questions can be directed to Access to Justice Administrative Assistant Jordan Maier at [jordan.maier@lsba.org](mailto:jordan.maier@lsba.org). 📺

## Recognize an unsung hero with a 2020 Pro Bono Award

Facing a legal problem without any means to afford assistance in solving it can be stressful or even life-shattering. Pro bono attorney volunteers and law firms often help guide their clients out of some of these most trying times, with no expectation of compensation. This year, help recognize these unsung heroes with a 2020 Pro Bono or Children's Law Award.

Awards recognize outstanding achievement in several categories — Children's Law Award, Law Student Award, Friend of Pro Bono Award, Pro Bono Publico Award, Career Public Interest Award and the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, attorneys who have provided more than 100 hours of volunteer services are recognized with the LSBA Century Club Award.

Nominations can be made online at [www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoAwards.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoAwards.aspx) and must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Award recipients will be honored at a May 5 reception hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

For additional assistance, email Access to Justice Administrative Assistant Jordan Maier at [jordan.maier@lsba.org](mailto:jordan.maier@lsba.org). 📺

# Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit [www.lsba.org/diversity](http://www.lsba.org/diversity).

## Nomination deadline Feb. 28 for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nomination deadlines are Feb. 28, 2020, for both awards.

For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go online: [www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx). Click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." Or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at [diversity@lsba.org](mailto:diversity@lsba.org).

### LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards — the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period runs from October through February.

This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the first African-American chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current member of the LSBA's

Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential;
- ▶ ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach;
- ▶ commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession; and
- ▶ participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

### Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes non-profit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period is October through February.

Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including non-profits and public interest organizations).

Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts:

- ▶ creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion in society;
- ▶ making a significant impact on

diversity issues in the legal profession;

- ▶ enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities;
- ▶ advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity;
- ▶ dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups; and
- ▶ proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion. 📌



### Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Hosted by the LSBA Diversity Committee

**January 16, 2020**

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel  
7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge  
**Sessions:** "LSBA: Who We Are and How We Serve Our Members," "Women's Personal and Professional Development Workshop Series: Take Command, Be Empowered and Own Your Future" and "What Non-Immigration Practitioners Need to Know about Immigration."

Register online at  
[www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting](http://www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting)

### 13th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession: "Celebrating 55 Years of Civil Rights: Moving from Why to How"

Hosted by the LSBA Diversity Committee

**March 27, 2020**

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel  
500 Canal St., New Orleans

For more information on all Member Outreach and Diversity Department events, go to:  
[www.lsba.org/diversity](http://www.lsba.org/diversity).



# Celebrating 55 Years of CIVIL RIGHTS

## Moving from WHY to HOW

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13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONCLAVE ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The Conclave will encourage discussion among judges and attorneys, primarily hiring and managing attorneys with law firms and law departments, about the importance of diversity and inclusion within the legal profession and how to improve diversity and inclusion within the profession in Louisiana.

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Greater New Orleans Chapter

Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Lake Charles Chapter

Louisiana Association for Justice

Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association

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Kutcher Tygier & Luminais, LLP

Louisiana Association for Justice

Louisiana Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Manning Gross + Massenburg LLP

McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC

Meditation Arbitration Professional Systems Inc.

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For up-to-date information or to register, please visit [www.lsba.org/goto/conclave](http://www.lsba.org/goto/conclave)



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***For more info, call (504)619-0153, or to register online or via mail-in form, visit [www.lsba.org/goto/SoloConf](http://www.lsba.org/goto/SoloConf)***

# Classified Advertisements

Standard classified advertising in our regular typeface and format may now be placed in "Bar Briefs" and on the LSBA Web site, *LSBA.org*. All requests for classified notices must be submitted in writing and are subject to approval. Copy must be typewritten and payment must accompany request. Our low rates for placement in both are as follows:

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### Non-members of LSBA

\$85 per insertion of 50 words or less  
\$1 per each additional word  
\$20 for a C-Box number

### Members of the LSBA

\$60 per insertion for 50 words or less  
\$1 per each additional word  
No additional charge for a C-Box

Screens: \$25

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## Deadline

Payment and copy must be received by the first of the month before publication.

## Send to:

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Louisiana State Bar Association  
601 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, La. 70130

## Responses

To respond to a box number, address your envelope to:

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c/o Louisiana State Bar Association  
601 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, La. 70130

## Positions Offered

**The growing office of Riess LeMieux, L.L.C.**, has an opening for a motivated and talented associate with five-plus years of civil, commercial litigation, real estate or insurance experience. Construction and labor law experience preferred. Email résumé, along with salary requirements, to [nmartin@RLLaw.com](mailto:nmartin@RLLaw.com).

**Associate attorney.** MG+M Law Firm is currently searching for an associate attorney for its New Orleans office. This is an excellent opportunity for someone with defense litigation experience in product liability, toxic tort or asbestos who is specifically looking to further his/her career by taking on an important role as part of a growing office of a national law firm. MG+M is a national litigation firm with deep expertise in a wide range of practice areas. We approach litigation as a unified team, integrating our efforts with those of our clients to advance their interests wherever they do business. Our goal is always to deliver optimal results at the best possible value. We are committed to cultivating an environment that embraces and promotes diversity as a fundamental value. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer; minorities and women are encouraged to apply. To apply online, visit: [mgmlaw.com/careers](http://mgmlaw.com/careers).

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Contact Krystal Bellanger-Rodriguez  
at (504)619-0131 or email  
[kbellanger@lsba.org](mailto:kbellanger@lsba.org)

## Services

### Briefs/Legal Research/ Analysis of Unusual or Problem Cases

**JD with honors**, federal judicial clerk, graduate of top 10 law school, 25 years' experience federal and state litigation, creative legal thinker. Available for briefs, research, court appearances, analysis of unusual or problem cases. References on request. Catherine Leary, (504)436-9648, statewide services, registered office Jefferson Parish. Email [CatherineLeary2020@gmail.com](mailto:CatherineLeary2020@gmail.com).

## For Rent - New Orleans

**Three second-floor** and three first-floor offices available at 829 Baronne St. Share office space with 35 lawyers from varied disciplines. Tenants include an engineer, CPA, Legal Wings Courier Service. This offers a rare opportunity to joint venture cases and bounce ideas off of experienced professionals. Call Cliff Cardone at (504)522-3333.

## For Sale

**For sale.** 12-by-18-foot log cabin with loft, siding, 400 square feet. 15 acres. 50978 Hwy 82, Talihina, OK 74571. Southeast Oklahoma, Kiamiche Mountains. Amenities: septic tank, propane tank, RV electrical hook, carport, pole barn, 18-inch steel I-beams supported with cement and metal poles for future construction. \$65,000. Contact Bethany, ReMax, (928)245-7066; property owner Suzan Hackerson, (918)861-1304. [www.landbrokermls.com/Property/267084/15-Acres-With-Cabin](http://www.landbrokermls.com/Property/267084/15-Acres-With-Cabin).

# LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. The LSBA offers many worthwhile programs and services designed to complement your career, the legal profession and the community.



In the past several years, the legal profession has experienced many changes. The LSBA has kept up with those changes by maturing in structure and stature and becoming more diverse and competitive.

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org](http://www.lsba.org)

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Fulfill your pro bono obligation of 50 hours without ever leaving your office or seeing a client. *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org* offers attorneys a quick, easy way to help low-income, elderly, and disabled Louisiana residents.

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- Log in whenever/wherever
- Choose the question you answer and respond anonymously
- Receive training and access to resources
- Be covered by malpractice insurance

To volunteer, contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, by emailing [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org) or calling 504.619.0104.

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