Bar Briefs

March 2015

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 30, No. 2

LSBA announces electronic billing for FY 2015-16 dues, assessment collections

Bar Louisiana State Association (LSBA) will once again utilize electronic billing for the collection of LSBA dues and Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB) assessments. The collection method will continue to allow payment of fees either by an ACH electronic check or credit card, and will also include a component whereby members will be able to download their Attorney Registration Statements and mail checks for the payment of fees. Members are still encouraged to pay and file electronically, as this access will be available 24/7, including times when the Bar Center is closed or if mail service is disrupted due to inclement weather. Further, electronic payment gives members more control over their information in the database and allows for more timely updates to their member records.

"There were some growing pains with last year's transition to electronic billing and we have modified our procedures which we hope will make the entire process more user friendly," said LSBA President Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr. "We encourage members to pay and file electronically if at all possible, but are incorporating options which will allow payment by check for those who are more comfortable with that approach."

Filing electronically should be a quick and simple process, utilizing the online member accounts that participants have relied on for years to register for CLE seminars and to access Fastcase. If an attorney has not yet set up a member account, one can easily be created at: www. lsba.org/Members/memberaccts.aspx. This webpage also allows members to edit their existing accounts and to reset a lost or forgotten account password.

After member data is confirmed but before the payment/filing process begins, members will be advised that they

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RUNOFF ELECTION:

Jones and Leefe are certified elected

arrie LeBlanc Jones of Baton Rouge was certified elected for the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Council Fifth District seat, following the close of runoff voting and the certification of results.

Richard K. Leefe of Metairie was certified elected for the American Bar Association House of Delegates seat.

LOUISIANA RISING: Early registration by March 31 for Annual Meeting/Summer School

harter registration prices will remain in place through March 31 for the combined 74th LSBA Annual Meeting and LSBA/Louisiana Judicial College Joint Summer School. The

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also need to go to www.LADB.org to complete the Louisiana Supreme Court Trust Account Disclosure and Overdraft Notification Authorization Form and will be asked to confirm that they understand this requirement.

The collection schedule will be the same as in prior years. In lieu of mailing a statement to each member, in mid-May, the LSBA will mail to each member a 4x6 postcard, which will provide instructions to go online to www.LSBA.org to complete the registration process and also to go online to www.LADB.org to complete the Trust Account Form. This is the only mailing members will receive prior to the July 1, 2015, due date; attorney registration statements will NOT be mailed.

Once they have electronically filed their Attorney Registration Statements (including any necessary changes and/or updates) and made the required payments, members will receive email confirmations. The filing and payment deadline will remain July 1. The LSBA will continue to mail delinquency and ineligibility notices to those who fail to meet the deadlines.

Members who elect to pay by electronic check will continue to pay the following fees:

- ► LSBA dues (practicing more than three years): \$200;
- ► LSBA dues (practicing three years or less): \$80;
- ► LADB assessment (practicing more than three years): \$235; and
- ► LADB assessment (practicing three years or less): \$170.

Those who are planning to pay by electronic check should contact their financial institutions to confirm that their accounts allow payment by this method.

As was the case last year, processing fees of 3 percent plus a .20 transaction fee will be passed along to those choosing to pay by credit card. Total amounts including credit card processing fees are as follows:

- ► LSBA dues (practicing more than three years): \$206.20;
- ► LSBA dues (practicing three years or less): \$82.60;
- ► LADB assessment (practicing more than three years): \$242.25; and
- ► LADB assessment (practicing three years or less): \$175.30.

Bar staff members will be available to answer questions and provide assistance to members. All questions and concerns should be directed to:

- ► Email processing@LSBA.org
- ► Telephone (504)566-1600 or (800)421-LSBA; ask for Payment Processing.

Bar Briefs

LSBA President

Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr.

Executive Director

Loretta Larsen, CAE

Communications Director Kelly Wells Ponder

Editor/Publications

Darlene M. LaBranche

Communications Coordinator Barbara D. Baldwin

Communications Assistant

Krystal L. Bellanger Rodriguez

Advertising

Krystal L. Bellanger Rodriguez (504)619-0131

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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.

601 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, La. 70130-3404
(504)566-1600 • (800)421-LSBA
Fax: (504)566-0930
dlabranche@lsba.org
Web site: LSBA.org

RISING continued from page 1

events, with the theme of "Louisiana Rising: Lessons in Leadership, Innovation and Balance," are scheduled for Sunday through Friday, June 7-12, at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Fla.

Event participants will be able to enjoy six days of substantive programming, social events and fascinating speakers for one great price.

Pricing discounts are available for judges; lawyers employed full-time by local, state or federal government; lawyers employed full-time by legal aid agencies or indigent defense agencies; lawyers employed in academic institutions; and new lawyers (those admitted to practice on or after June 1, 2011).

In addition to a full slate of meetings (LSBA Board of Governors, House of Delegates, Young Lawyers Division, Senior Lawyers Division, committees and sections) and several award and networking receptions, there are many CLE opportunities for all participants.

Among the other offerings are nationally renowned keynote speakers; dynamic, interactive panels; multiple substantive law tracks; networking opportunities with leading judges and lawyers; business development/practice management tracks; evening receptions; law school gatherings; and supervised children's activities during evening social events.

Also, the golf tournament is back again! Download a tournament registration form at the web link below.

The Sandestin resort offers several housing options. Housing Request Forms must be mailed or faxed directly to Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort by Thursday, May 14. The LSBA does not accept housing forms.

To review all programming, to register online, to download a registration form or to review housing information, go to: www.lsba. org/annualmeeting.

Nomination deadline is April 6 for Kimball Award

he nomination deadline is Monday, April 6, for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice. The award, established to honor Catherine D. Kimball, the first woman to serve as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, is open to both attorneys and judges who have conducted exceptional outreach activities that support the goals and purposes of the judicial branch.

For more information on the award and to download a nomination form, go to: www.lsba. org/NewsArticle.aspx?Article=a111bb2d-4fad-4810-a46c-d3eb1d8bb217.

LSBA lists Legislation Committee contacts, calendars pertinent 2015 dates

n 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 prefiling dead-

line 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, Renaisssance Hotel, Baton Rouge.
- ► Thursday, June 11: Louisiana legislative session adjourns.

Fastcase webinars in 2015: Earn 3 free CLE credits

ouisiana 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/fastcasewe-binars.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.

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LBLS accepting requests for certification applications

he Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) is accepting application requests for January 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.

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LSC: Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2016

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2016.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available from www.grants.lsc.gov during the week of April 6, 2015.

In accordance with LSC's multi-year funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. To review the service areas for which competitive grants are available, by state, go to: www.grants.lsc.gov/about-grants/where-we-fund and click on the name of the state. A full list of all service areas in competition also will be

posted on that page.

Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) through the online application system in order to participate in the competitive grants process. Information about LSC grants funding, the application process, eligibility to apply for a grant, and how to file a NIC is available at: www. grants.lsc.gov/about-grants.

Complete instructions will be available in the Request for Proposals Narrative Instruction. Refer to www.grants.lsc.gov for filing dates and submission requirements.

Email inquiries pertaining to the LSC competitive grants process to competition@lsc.gov.

Nomination deadline is March 27 for Civics in Action Award

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) is accepting nominations for its Civics in Action Award through March 27. The award recognizes a middle or high school student who exemplifies what it means to be an engaged citizen and who has made a difference or an improvement of the quality of life in his/her school, home or community through the use of civic engagement.

There are no restrictions on who can make a nomination. For more information and to access a nomination form, go to: www.lalce.org/awards.html.

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 Alexandria Area | Coordinator Richard J. Arsenault | Contact Info (318)487-9874 | Cell Cell (318)452-5700 | Email Address 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.

Louisiana Bar Foundation hosting annual Fellows events



The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Northeast Community Partnership Panel annual Fellows reception was Jan. 26 in Monroe. Attending, from left, Panel Chair A. Carter Mills IV, LBF board member W. Michael Street and LBF President Hon. C. Wendell Manning.

he Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) has scheduled more Fellows events in cooperation with its Community Partnership Panels. The panels are comprised of Fellows who work to foster collaboration, respond to arising community needs, and assist with the designation of LBF grant funding in the region.

Scheduled events include:

- ► Wednesday, May 13, 8 a.m., Northwest Annual Fellows Breakfast, Shreveport Bar Center, 625 Texas St., Shreveport.
- ► Wednesday, May 13, noon, Central Annual Fellows Luncheon, Cajun Landing, 2728 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria.
- ▶ Wednesday, May 20, noon, Southwest Annual Fellows Luncheon, Lake Charles Racquet Club, 870 West Bayou Pines Dr., Lake Charles.

- ► Thursday, May 21, 8 a.m., Acadiana Annual Fellows Breakfast, Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd., Lafayette.
- ► Thursday, May 21, noon, Capital Area Annual Fellows Luncheon, Zolia's Bistro, 400 Convention St., Baton Rouge.
- ► Wednesday, May 27, noon, Bayou Region Annual Fellows Luncheon, Bayou Country Club, 900 Country Club Blvd., Thibodaux.
- ► Thursday, May 28, noon, North Shore Annual Fellows Luncheon, Gallagher's, 509 South Tyler St., Covington.
- ► Thursday, May 28, 4 p.m., Greater Orleans Annual Fellows Reception, Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans.

To attend an event, contact Danielle Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email danielle@raisingthebar.org.

LBF offering raffle for Saints season tickets

he Louisiana Bar Foundation is offering a raffle for 2015 New Orleans Saints season tickets. The package includes two tickets to all pre-season and regular season home games, 50-yard line, Plaza Level with access to the Bunker Club. Raffle tickets

are \$100 each. Only 500 raffle tickets will be sold.

To purchase a raffle ticket, go to: https://www.raisingthebar.org/saintsraffle.

Formoreinformation,goto:https://www.raisingthebar.org/files/saintsraffleflyer.pdf.

Online survey active through March 29: LSBA members' input requested on Future of Legal Education

n collaboration with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), the Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Initiative of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver is conducting an online survey on the skills, characteristics and competencies that the profession requires of new lawyers.

The study is part of the national Foundations for Practice project—an ambitious effort to determine what law graduates need to launch successful careers in the legal profession, create models of legal education to better fulfill those needs, and identify tools legal employers can use to make better hiring decisions.

LSBA members are encouraged to provide their input via the online survey at the web link below. The online survey will remain open through March 29.

The survey questions can be answered all at once or in multiple sessions from the same device. It will take about 20 minutes. The survey is longer than one might typically see because it is a research study gathering robust information on a complex and important topic; it is not a marketing effort. The data collected will inform recommendations for legal education reform. The survey input is anonymous and confidential.

To access the survey, go to: https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 9RAxsb2LTBrNQQl.

Note: If you are a member of the bar in more than one state, you may receive more than one request to participate in this project. Only one survey should be completed per person. To protect the integrity of the survey results, do not share this survey with others. For any questions, contact kevin.keyes@du.edu. Members who prefer a paper version of the survey should email a request and mailing address to kevin.keyes@du.edu.

House resolution deadline is May 12 for Annual Meeting

he deadline for submitting resolutions for the next Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) House of Delegates meeting is Tuesday, May 12.

The House will meet on Thursday, June 11, in conjunction with the LSBA's Annual Meeting at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Fla.

Resolutions by House members and com-

mittee and section chairs should be mailed to LSBA Secretary Barry H. Grodsky, c/o Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404. All resolutions proposed to be considered at the meeting *must be received* on or before May 12. Resolutions must be signed by the author. Also, copies of all resolutions should be emailed (in MS Word format) to LSBA Executive Assistant Mindi Hunter at mindi.hunter@lsba.org.

LBF acknowledges sponsors of 29th annual Fellows Gala

he 29th annual Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Fellows Gala is Friday, May 1, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. The Gala is in honor of the Distinguished Jurist John W. Greene, Distinguished Attorney Allen L. Smith, Jr. (posthumously), Distinguished Professor Gail S. Stephenson and Calogero Justice Award recipient Marta-Ann Schnabel.

The LBF acknowledges its sponsors:

- ► Cornerstone: Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C.; Louisiana State Bar Association; Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.; and Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert, L.L.C.
- ▶ Capital: Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P.; Chaffe McCall, L.L.P.; Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles, L.L.P.; Fowler Rodriguez; Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, L.L.C.; Herman Herman & Katz, L.L.C.; Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, L.L.C.; Jones Walker, L.L.P.; Kean Miller, L.L.P.; Liskow & Lewis, P.L.C.; Mouledoux Bland Legrand & Brackett; Plauché, Smith & Nieset, L.L.C.; Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, L.L.P.; Smith Stag, L.L.C.; Southern University Law Center; Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C.; Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, L.L.P.; and Whitney Bank.
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& Helm, L.L.C.; Judge and Mrs. C. Wendell Manning; and Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, L.L.C.

► Foundation: Abrams & Lafargue, L.L.C.; Ates Law Firm, A.P.L.C.; Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea, L.L.C.; Curry & Friend, P.L.C.; Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.; Keogh, Cox & Wilson, Ltd.; Law Offices of Rolando R. Urbina and Associates: Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Greater Baton Rouge Chapter, L.L.C.; Monique Lafontaine; Judge Page McClendon; Rob McCorquodale; Michael J. Mestayer, A.P.L.C.; Suzanne and Robert Myers; O'Bryon & Schnabel; Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson, L.L.P.; Ranier Law Firm; Dr. Stephen L. and E. Jane Sherman; Judge Sheva Sims; Judge and Mrs. Glynn F. Voisin; and Watson, McMillin & Harrison.

Individual tickets to the gala are \$150. Young lawyer individual gala tickets are \$100. To become a sponsor or purchase individual tickets, go to: www.raisingthebar. org.

Discounted rooms at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans are available for \$289 a 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.

LBLS recertification applications mailed

he Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization mailed recertification applications to specialists whose certification will expire on Dec. 31, 2015. The completed application, along with a \$100 check payable to the "Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization," should be forwarded to the LBLS office c/o Barbara Shafranski, Executive Director, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130 no later than April 15, 2015, to avoid revocation of certification. For more information, contact Shafranski at (504)619-0128 or email barbara.shafranski@lsba.org.

New name and new format for your e-newsletter!

s of March 3, the "Louisiana Bar Today" has become "Inside the LSBA." Rather than being e-blasted every other Tuesday, "Inside the LSBA" will be e-blasted on the first three Tuesdays of each month in targeted packages. The aim is twofold: 1) keeping members up-to-date on all LSBA news and 2) reducing the number of LSBA-generated emails to members each month. No action is required for members already receiving Louisiana Bar Today and CLE e-blasts; the email lists will simply be transferred to the new publications. The e-blast on the first Tuesday of each month will be "CLE Offerings;" the second Tuesday, "Headlines;" and the third Tuesday, "Member Benefits" and other volunteer opportunities.

Supreme Court Historical Society launches website

he Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society has launched its new website: www.SCLAHS. org. The site features information on programs, services and membership opportunities, as well as news coverage and event photos.



We Can Help.

The signs of depression aren't easy to read. No one is completely immune. If you or a colleague experiences signs of depression, please call.



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Committee Preferences: Get Involved in Your Bar!

Committee assignment requests are now being accepted for the 2015-16 Bar year. Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President-Elect Mark A. Cunningham 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 Friday, April 17. The current committees are listed below.

Access to Justice Committee

The committee works to assure 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.

Access to Justice Policy Committee

The committee works to assure continuity of policy, purpose and programming in the collaboration between the private bar and the civil justice community so as to further the goal of assuring that Louisianians, regardless of their economic circumstance, have access to equal justice under the law.

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 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 le-

gal 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.

Group Insurance Committee

The committee ensures the most favorable rates and benefits for LSBA members and their employees and dependents for Bar-endorsed health, life and disability insurance programs.

Lawyers in Transition Committee

The committee studies rules and practices regarding curatorships of lawyers' practices; studies methods for preserving the practice of lawyers and protecting clients for lawyers unable to temporarily practice, either voluntarily or involuntarily, as a result of disability due to health, or arising out of the disciplinary process; studies voluntary methods of designating a successor or other transitioning process for a lawyer's practice in advance of any disability or death; and provides a method of involuntary intervention for lawyers suffering a severe age-related impairment to protect the clients and to deliver assistance to the age-impaired attorney.

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.

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.

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.

Public Information Committee

The committee promotes a better understanding of the law, legal profession, individual lawyers and the LSBA through a variety of public outreach efforts.

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.

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.

Louisiana State Bar Association 2015-16 Committee Preference Form

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).

| chosen committee(s). | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Print or Type | | | | |
| Access to Justice | | | | |
| Access to Justice Policy | | | | |
| Alcohol and Drug Abuse | | | | |
| Bar Governance | | | | |
| Children's Law | | | | |
| Client Assistance Fund | | | | |
| Community Action | | | | |
| Continuing Legal Education Program | | | | |
| Criminal Justice | | | | |
| Diversity | | | | |
| Group Insurance | | | | |
| Lawyers in Transition | | | | |
| Legal Malpractice Insurance | | | | |
| Legal Services for Persons | | | | |
| with Disabilities | | | | |
| Legislation | | | | |
| Medical/Legal Interprofessional | | | | |
| Practice Assistance and Improvement | | | | |
| Committee on the Profession | | | | |
| Public Information | | | | |
| Rules of Professional Conduct | | | | |
| Unauthorized Practice of Law | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Response Deadline: April 17, 2015 | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| LSBA Bar Roll Number | | | | |
| Name | | | | |
| A 11 | | | | |

City/State/Zip

Email Address

Fax

Telephone _____

to service on the chosen committee(s).

List (on a separate sheet) experience relevant

Focus on Access to Justice For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

Leadership LSBA class presenting first legal aid hackathon, "Hackcess to Justice Louisiana"

he Leadership LSBA class has partnered with the *ABA Journal* to present the state's first legal aid hackathon, "Hackcess to Justice Louisiana." The March 21-22 event will be conducted at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. The hackathon presents an opportunity for participants to use their legal, entrepreneurial, coding and other skills to help create a technology-enabled solution for the numerous challenges faced by citizens who cannot afford a lawyer and the lawyers trying to serve them.

"Hackcess to Justice Louisiana" will bring together legal professionals and the tech community to address specific problems faced by legal aid providers. Programmers and developers will be asked to create technological solutions to increase and streamline access to justice. These solutions could be in the form of code, software, mobile applications, websites, blogs, etc.

Representatives from legal aid organizations throughout Louisiana will be on site to discuss the unique issues that they and their clients face and the types of solutions they seek. Anyone who has an idea on how to help legal aid lawyers and their clients can attend the hackathon and pitch their ideas to interested programmers. The judges will award three prizes to the winning teams: \$1,500 to the first place submission; \$1,000 to the second place submission; and \$500 to the third place submission.

Knowing the basics of coding is an in-

credibly valuable skill for any business professional, so the hackathon will also include a bonus session for those not competing.

R. Judson Mitchell, chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Tech Committee, will present a free "How to Code" session on March 22 for anyone interested in learning more about how to program websites, games and apps.

The public is invited to watch the pitch competition and judging beginning at 4:30 p.m. on March 22.

More information on "Hackcess to Justice Louisiana," including a full description of the rules and a space to register online, can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/oa2uwf5.

ATJ Program announces launch of LEAP

he Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Program has announced the launch of the Legal Education & Assistance Program (LEAP). In partnership with public libraries across the state, LEAP will provide legal information and resources to the public via local libraries, training for library staff on how to respond to legal questions, and opportunities for attorneys to help their communities through "Lawyers in Libraries" events.

LEAP is a partnership of the LSBA, the Louisiana Library Association, the Law Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana State University Law Library, among others.

Librarians have always fielded legal questions from the public, but their ability to assist has been limited due to concerns of potential liability or cautions against providing legal advice — the unauthorized practice of law. Through regional training of public librarians, LEAP expands the ca-



pacity of librarians to identify reliable and free resources and their ability to connect the public to the private bar, legal aid and helpful materials.

Attorneys are encouraged to participate in local "Lawyers in Libraries" events, an important component of LEAP. This generally entails taking part in "Ask-a-Lawyer" sessions or giving presentations on a specific legal topic.

For more information, including pro bono resources, visit: www.LouisianaLaw-yersinLibraries.org.

To offer services for "Lawyers in Libraries" events, contact Michael Schachtman in the Access to Justice Department at michael.schachtman@lsba.org.



Registration open for April 17 Social Security disability CLE

egistration is still open for the Friday, April 17, CLE program, "Social Security Disability: Opportunities for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners." This third part of the Disabilities-Related Legal Series will be conducted at the Shreveport Bar Center, 625 Texas St., Shreveport.

The seminar is presented by the Shreveport Bar Association, in conjunction with the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee and the LSBA's Diversity Committee.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSD or SSDI) is vital to the well-being of disabled individuals who are unable to work. Lawyers play a vital role in this

process by advocating for clients' rights to awards and ensuring that cases are adjudicated properly. The demand for counsel in this area has risen in recent years, particularly in north Louisiana, as the median age of the state continues to rise and fewer attorneys enter this field.

This session will provide an overview of Social Security appeals and include practical tips for ensuring high-quality representation and soliciting immediate business. The information and resources provided are particularly pertinent to relatively new practitioners and/or those looking to expand their practice into this area.

Speakers include Hon. John Antonowicz, administrative law judge, Office

of Disability Adjudication and Review, Shreveport; Margherita McWilliams, Legal Services of North Louisiana, Shreveport; and attorney John Ratcliff, Shreveport.

Cost is \$100 for Shreveport Bar Association members; \$120, non-members of the Shreveport Bar; free to public interest attorneys; and free to attorneys who agree to accept a pro bono case on the seminar topic. Lunch will be served and is included in the fee.

Organizers have applied for 2 hours of CLE credit.

To register online, go to: www. lsba.org/CLE/CLESeminar. aspx?CLESeminar=b2dabd5d-e209-4380-acf2-577688cda269. ■



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

Deadline is April 13 for 2015 Suit Up for the Future High School Program

he Louisiana State Bar Association, in partnership with the Just the Beginning Foundation and the Louisiana Bar Foundation, once again will host the 2015 Suit Up for the Future High School Internship Program this summer.

This program is available to incoming high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates interested in the legal profession. Students participate in a three-week legal institute, during which they attend an abridged law school session, field trips to law schools and

courts, and an internship consisting of shadowing at area law offices and courts.

Eligible students (students entering the 11th or 12th grade in the fall of 2015, or entering their first year of college) interested in attending the 2015 session should complete the online application at the web link below.

The application deadline is April 13. Students will receive notification of class acceptance by May 15.

For more information, go to: https://www.lsba.org/diversity/hsinternapp.aspx.

"Freedom Riders" exhibit at Louisiana Bar Center

The Louisiana State Bar Association is hosting "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. The exhibit can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 27 at the Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, in the conference room hallway. To view the online exhibition, go to: https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/swf/freedomRiders/index.html. To listen to the audio file, go to: www.gilderlehrman.org/freedomriders/audio.



In honor of Black History Month, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Diversity Committee and the Young Lawyers Division's Diversity Committee hosted a free CLE, "Inspiring a New Generation of Civil Rights Leaders," on Feb. 19 at the Baton Rouge offices of Adams and Reese, L.L.P. A reception sponsored by Adams and Reese followed the seminar. Seminar speakers included, from left, U.S. Attorney J. Walter Green, Middle District of Louisiana; U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley, Western District of Louisiana; and U.S. Attorney Kenneth A. Polite, Jr., Eastern District of Louisiana. They engaged young lawyers in a thoughtful discussion involving their role in civil rights cases.



Third in the Disability-Related Series!
Session 3: SSI/SSDI Law
& the Solo Practictioner

Friday, April 17, 2015 Shreveport Bar Center www.lsba.org/CLE

Louisiana attorney is recipient of 2015 Herman Sweatt Award

Tames M. Williams, a partner in the Metairie law firm of Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams, is one of the recipients of the 2015 Herman Sweatt Award, presented by the National Bar Association (NBA).

The award, which recognizes legal and social activist pioneers, will be presented at the NBA's Midyear Conference and the 35th annual Gertrude E. Rush Awards Dinner. The conference is March 26-29 in St. Louis, Mo.

Williams practices in the area of civil litigation with a concentration in the areas of catastrophic personal injury and business litigation.

The Sweatt Award celebrates the legacy of Heman M. Sweatt. Award recipients must demonstrate the courageous spirit embodied by Sweatt, show leadership in the community/profession and a commitment to human and civil rights, be a model of excellence in legal education and show perseverance in the law, public policy and social activism.

March 2015 Bar Briefs Focus on Diversity

SPOT LIGHT

Transcendent Legal

trong advocates for diversity and change in the legal community, Michelle D. Craig and Jade B. Russell live by the quote, "To whom much is given, much is required." Both agree that their paths to the opening of their new law firm, Transcendent Legal, was not serendipitous, but instead was destined.

Craig and Russell met in 2002 while clerking at Jones Walker, L.L.P., in the summer of their 2L year. They became fast friends and, while their paths would lead them in different directions in the early part of their careers, they reunited years later to eventually launch Transcendent Legal, the first legal tech startup in this region.

After their 2L clerkship, Craig became an associate at Jones Walker. While there, she worked with the recruiting committee and championed diversity-related issues. At the same time, Russell joined Sidley Austin in Chicago and also devoted her time to diversity-related matters. In February 2007, both Craig and Russell returned to New Orleans to join Adams and Reese, L.L.P. While there, they both worked closely and tirelessly to recruit, retain and support the population of minority candidates in the legal profession. In 2010, Russell became the general counsel at Harrah's Hotel and Casino, and Craig became the first black female partner in the Adams and Reese New Orleans office.

Both attorneys advocated to not only improve diversity in the legal profession but also to achieve a more inclusive and diverse workforce in the community. As founding members of the Urban League Young Professionals, they helped fill the need for a pipeline of young professionals in New Orleans. In their spare time, they spoke on panels, wrote articles and arranged events that gave a voice to young professionals, particularly minorities, whose numbers were dwindling in their respective fields.

In 2011, Craig and Russell co-founded Diversitea Divas, an organization that provides an intimate forum for professional women to network with and mentor college-aged young women. In that forum, the professionals are encouraged to tell their mentees the "truth" about their respective professions. They discuss the good and the bad and the triumphs and struggles of their professions and their lives. The goal is to provide meaningful connections from one generation to the next. The organization has grown to more than 100 members and continues to impact the lives of the mentees in significant ways.

In October 2014, Craig and Russell partnered to form their newest endeavor, Transcendent Legal. Headquartered in New Orleans, Transcendent Legal is the first model of its kind to innovate the practice of law in the Gulf South region. That innovation arises from three key components: 1) a focus on the client-lawyer partnership, 2) an efficient state-of-the-art web platform, and 3) a diverse legal team that analyzes the legal and business needs of the client from their unique perspectives. Russell's experience as in-house counsel and Craig's experience as outside counsel convinced them that these tools used collaboratively create a stronger. more solid client-lawyer relationship and provide much better legal outcomes.

"Diverse legal professionals offer unique perspectives to solve challenging problems and the new technology offers a more efficient way to solve those problems. It just makes sense to combine the two," Craig said.

For Craig and Russell, it is exciting because as lawyers they are no longer working to change a system that already exists. Instead, they are doing what they do best—creating a new paradigm that focuses on making efficiency, excellence and inclusiveness the drivers for success.

For information about Transcendent Legal, go to: www.transcendentlegal.com. For more information about Diversitea Divas, go to: www.Diversiteadivas.org.

The "In the Spotlight" section highlights diversity achievements and ground-breaking diversity accomplishments, primarily of signatories of the LSBA's Statement of Diversity Principles. If you have recommendations for attorneys, judges or legal organizations that should be considered for future articles, call or email Tricia Pierre, (504)619-0129, tricia.pierre@lsba.org.



Martinet Society Baton Rouge Chapter receives 2015 Guardian of Diversity Award

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. is the recipient of the 2015 Guardian of Diversity Award.

The Martinet Society is founded on principles of diversity and the promotion of legal scholarship in Louisiana. Named after Louis André Martinet, the first African-American graduate of Straight University Law School, now Dillard University, in 1876, Martinet's objectives were to encourage interchange of ideas, promote legal scholarship, advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, and uphold the order and ethics of the courts and the profession of law. The Martinet Society is an all-encompassing diverse society composed of men and women attorneys and attorneys of varying religions, creeds, ages and national origins.

In an effort to extend its reach in the community, the Baton Rouge Chapter frequently collaborates with other bar associations, local law schools, high schools and elementary schools. In so doing, the Chapter is able to promote diversity in the Baton Rouge community and has been recognized nationally for its efforts.

In 2011 and 2012, the National Bar Association (NBA) awarded the Baton Rouge Chapter with the Affiliate Chapter of the Year Award. This award is presented to NBA affiliates who champion diversity and scholarship in their local community. In keeping with its founder's original creed, the Chapter continues to pursue diversity and collaborate with various organizations for the betterment of the Baton Rouge community and to promote diversity in the legal profession.

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Focus on Diversity March 2015 Bar Briefs

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:

Rates

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

Headings: \$15 for initial headings in

large type

Deadline

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

Send to:

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

Responses

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

Bar Briefs C-Box No.

c/o Louisiana State Bar Association

601 St. Charles Ave.

New Orleans, La. 70130

Positions Offered

Lafayette healthcare defense firm interviewing for an associate position to handle medical malpractice defense files. Applicants should have a minimum of three years' experience in litigation, or a background in nursing in lieu of legal experience. Registered nurse attorney preferred, but not required. Email résumés to hope.marks@gachassin.com.

Mid-sized, AV-rated downtown New Orleans firm is seeking an associate with two-three years' experience in insurance defense and casualty litigation. Email résumés to jbrennan@degan.com or fnash@degan.com.

Mid-sized law firm looking for an experienced paralegal to work in its New Orleans office on a broad range of general commercial litigation matters. Competitive salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Email Rhonda Vizzini at rvizzini@blandpartners.com.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hotline

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

1405 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70471 • email lap@louisianalap.com

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|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Alexandria | Steven Cook | (318)448-0082 | | | |
| Baton Rouge | Steven Adams | (225)921-6690 | | | |
| | | (225)926-4333 | | | |
| | David E. Cooley | (225)753-3407 | | | |
| | John A. Gutierrez | (225)715-5438 | | | |
| | | (225)744-3555 | | | |
| Lafayette | Alfred "Smitty" Landry | (337)364-5408 | | | |
| | | (337)364-7626 | | | |
| | Thomas E. Guilbeau | (337)232-7240 | | | |
| | James Lambert | (337)233-8695 | | | |
| | | (337)235-1825 | | | |
| Lake Charles | Thomas M. Bergstedt | (337)558-5032 | | | |
| Monroe | Robert A. Lee | (318)387-3872 | | | |
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| New Orleans | Deborah Faust | (504)304-1500 | | | |
| | Donald Massey | (504)585-0290 | | | |
| | Dian Tooley | * * | | | |
| | | (504)831-1838 | | | |
| Shreveport | Michelle AndrePont | (318)347-8532 | | | |
| | Nancy Carol Snow | (318)272-7547 | | | |
| | William Kendig, Jr. | | | | |
| | | (318)572-8260 (cell) | | | |
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| The Lawyere Assistance Program Inc. provides confidential assistance with problems such | | | | | |

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Jennifer C. Deasy New Orleans



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Members of the Louisiana Bar Foundation are referred to as Fellows. Fellowship consists of judges, lawyers, and law professors whose professional, public and private careers demonstrate their dedication to the improvement of the administration of justice.

Benefits of Fellowship are recognition of one's contribution to the profession, alliance with the Foundation's mission, association with an organization directly impacting the legal profession, committee participation and leadership, professional development and networking, invitations to special events and meetings, and participation in annual nominations for Louisiana's distinguished jurist, attorney, and professor awards.

It's Time to Book a Listing in 'Who's Who in ADR 2015' ≥

The print version of the directory for arbitrators and mediators will be mailed with the October/November 2015 Louisiana Bar Journal.

For the one low price of \$125, your listing is first published in the print directory, then the directory is uploaded to the LSBA website in interactive PDF format (email addresses and website URLs are activated and instantly accessible).

The Web version of the directory remains active for one full year!



The special Arbitrators and Mediators Directory will feature brief articles and photographs of arbitrators and mediators (INDIVIDUALS ONLY).

The articles should be 150 words MAXIMUM. Provide your address, phone, fax, email address and website information at the end of the listing (not part of the word count).

Submit either original photos or digital photos. Digital photos should be submitted separately from the article, in either .tif, .jpg or .eps format (the order of preference). DO NOT submit digital photographs embedded in word processing programs; send the photograph as a separate file. High-resolution digital photos work best (at least 300 DPI/dots per inch).

DEADLINE IS JULY 31 FOR ALL LISTINGS AND PHOTOS! DIRECTORY/WEB COMBO PRICE IS \$125.

Articles and photographs must be for individuals only. No group articles or group photographs will be used. But, as an **ADDED BONUS**, firms which have three or more arbitrators/mediators purchasing individual listings will receive a free **firm** listing in the section. (Firms are responsible for submitting the additional information, 150 words maximum.)

If you would like to repeat a prior listing and photo, you may send us a photocopy of that listing along with your check; please provide the year the listing appeared. (Digital photos appearing in ADR directories are archived back to 2000.)

It's EASY TO RESERVE SPACE IN THE DIRECTORY!

- Email your listing and photo to Publications Coordinator Darlene M. LaBranche (email: dlabranche@lsba.org). Then mail your check for \$125 (payable to *Louisiana State Bar Association*) to: Publications Coordinator Darlene M. LaBranche, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130-3404.
- Or, mail your listing, photo, disk and check to the above address.

For more information, contact

Darlene M. LaBranche (504)619-0112 or (800)421-5722, ext. 112.