**May 2020** 

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 35, No. 3

## **COVID-19 Response** Access the LSBA's Website for Latest Information on COVID-19 Response

For the most up-to-date information on the LSBA's response to COVID-19, including office closures, Bar program cancellations/postponements, and links to court, state and additional resources, go to: www.lsba.org.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Updates and Information www.lsba.org

## Deadline extended to Aug. 1 for payment of 2020-21 LSBA dues and LADB assessment, filing statements

ue to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact, the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) have extended the deadline for payment of the 2020-21 LSBA dues and the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB) assessment and filing of the Attorney Registration Statement and the Louisiana Supreme Court Trust Account Disclosure and Overdraft Notification Authorization Form. The new deadline is Aug. 1, 2020. Postcards will be mailed to all Louisiana lawyers in mid-May and will reflect the due date of Aug. 1 rather than the usual July 1.

New for this year's dues cycle is the category of Emeritus Status for lawyers who only handle pro bono work or uncompensated work for family members (both subject to certain guidelines and restrictions) and who meet age and practice criteria. Prior to

making the dues and assessment payments, lawyers should review the Emeritus Status guidelines and restrictions for possible election. Review the "Emeritus Status Guidelines and Restrictions and Notice of Application" at: www.lsba.org/Members/ EmeritusStatus.aspx.

LSBA members have the option to pay their LSBA dues and LADB assessment by ACH electronic check, credit card, or download and mail their Attorney Registration Statement and checks for the payment of fees. Members are 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. To complete and file

Attorney Registration Statements and pay annual dues and the assessment online, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/MemberDues.

Filing electronically can 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 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 also need to go to www.LADB.org to complete the Louisiana Supreme Court Trust Account Disclosure and Overdraft Notification Authorization

#### **DUES continued on page 2**

#### Inside...

Emeritus Membership Status	3
LSBA Lawsuit update	4
Louisiana Bar Foundation	8
Committee Preferences	)-11
Focus on Access to Justice	2-13
Focus on Diversity	l-15
Classifieds	16

#### **DUES** continued from page 1

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 postcard, which will provide instructions to go online to *https:// www.LSBA.org* to complete the registration process, and to go online to *https://www. LADB.org* to complete the Trust Account Form. *This is the only mailing members will receive prior to the Aug. 1, 2020, extended due date; attorney registration statements will NOT be mailed.* 

With the email address, compliance@ lsbamembership.com, the LSBA will email reminders throughout the dues collection period. Members are encouraged to add this email address to their contact list to avoid missing important communications. Members should not reply to this email address, but rather direct questions to processing@lsba.org.

Once members have electronically filed their Attorney Registration Statements (including any necessary changes and/or updates) and made the required payments, they will receive email confirmations. The filing and payment deadline has been extended to Aug. 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 (Emeritus Status): \$100; and

► LSBA dues (practicing three years or less): \$80;

► LADB assessment (practicing more than three years): \$235;

► LADB assessment (Emeritus Status): \$117.50; 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. If your account is Positive Pay Protected, update the Company ID 1016207445.

As was the case last year, processing fees of 3%, 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 (Emeritus Status): \$103.20; and

► LSBA dues (practicing three years or less): \$82.60;

► LADB assessment (practicing more than three years): \$242.25;

► LADB assessment (Emeritus Status): \$121.23; 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**

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Advertising Krystal L. Bellanger Rodriguez (504)619-0131 "Bar Briefs" is published online, in January, March, May, July, September and November, by the Louisiana State Bar Association. 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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#### Check-off boxes for donations

Using either the online payment/filing procedure, or via the downloadable form, LSBA members may make voluntary, taxdeductible contributions to the Louisiana Bar Foundation Access to Justice Fund, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc.

► Louisiana Bar Foundation Access to Justice Fund. Donations benefit Louisiana's justice community efforts in statewide technology, intake and referral, and disaster response. Include a separate check made payable to the "Louisiana Bar Foundation Access to Justice Fund."

► Louisiana Bar Foundation. Funding civil legal aid and promoting access to justice. Help the LBF ensure justice is a reality for everyone. Donations support a network of nonprofit organizations providing free civil legal aid services for the poor. Include a separate check made payable to "Louisiana Bar Foundation."

► Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE). As the public education partner of the LSBA, the LCLCE's mission is to assist people to develop an understanding of, and respect for, the law and legal system. Donations will be used to fund operations and support programs that bring lawyers and judges into the classroom and provide free professional development for social studies teachers and free civics education for adults. Include a separate check made payable to the "Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education." For more information, contact the LCLCE at (504)619-0134 or email peggy.cotogno@lsba.org.

► Judges and Lawyers Assistance **Program, Inc. (JLAP).** JLAP is a nonprofit corporation that cannot effectively operate without generous contributions from outside sources. Donations will directly further JLAP's mission of providing confidential life-saving assistance to lawyers, judges and their family members who suffer from alcohol/drug abuse, depression, gambling addiction, or any other mental impairments. JLAP's efforts also help attenuate or prevent the harm that impaired lawyers and judges may cause to both the public and the reputation of the legal profession. Include a separate check made payable to "JLAP, Inc."

## Supreme Court amends Rule XVIII to create emeritus status, effective FY 2020/2021

he Louisiana Supreme Court on April 9 issued an order amending Rule XVIII to allow for emeritus status for lawyers meeting the following criteria - an active member of the Louisiana State Bar Association in good standing; 50 years of age or older; and actively practiced law in Louisiana for a minimum of 10 years.

Lawyers electing emeritus status shall pay 50 percent of the annual bar dues and disciplinary fee for lawyers practicing three years or more. A lawyer electing emeritus status will restrict his/her activities to the following:

▶ engage in pro bono practice of law through a program established, sponsored or recognized by the LSBA's Access to Justice Program, www.lsba.org/ATJ;

▶ participate in any mentoring program established by the LSBA, www.lsba.org/ mentoring;

▶ engage in the uncompensated representation of immediate family members, as defined in La. R.S. 42:1102;

► serve on LSBA committees, *www.lsba*. org/BarGovernance/Committees.aspx; and

► serve on receivership team panels, www.lsba.org/Transitioning.

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) House of Delegates approved a resolution in January 2020 to amend the LSBA's Bylaws to create emeritus status and to recommend to the membership that it approve corresponding amendments to the Association's Articles of Incorporation. The members approved the Articles amendments in February.

Attorneys will be able to elect emeritus status and pay the reduced fees beginning with Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Prior to making the dues and assessment payments, lawyers should review the Emeritus Status guidelines and restrictions for possible election. Review the "Emeritus Status Guidelines and Restrictions and Notice of Application" at: www.lsba.org/ Members/EmeritusStatus.aspx.

## 2020 Regular Legislative **Session: Board** of Governors adopts positions on bills

Louisiana State Bar he Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors on April 27 adopted positions on several bills pending before the Louisiana Legislature, based on recommendations from the LSBA's Legislation Committee.

Review the bills and positions online 24/7 at: www.lsba.org/documents/Le gislation/2020RLSBABOGPositions. pdf. Or, go to the LSBA's Legislative Advocacy web page: www.lsba.org/ Legislation/. Click on "Current and Past Bill Positions," then "2020 Regular Session."



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# LSBA files brief in response to challenger's appeal

he Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) legal team on May 1 filed the appellee's brief with the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in response to the plaintiff's appeal in his challenge to the Bar's mandatory status (*Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Supreme Court et al*).

On Jan. 13, Judge Lance M. Africk of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana dismissed the lawsuit against the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Justices of the Court. On Feb. 10, the plaintiff filed a Notice of Appeal. The appeal was filed on April 1.

"The LSBA will continue to focus primarily on our regulatory functions, as well as the myriad services and programs we provide to both our members and the public," commented LSBA President Robert A. Kutcher. "We have closely monitored litigation in other states, and Judge Africk's well-reasoned decision is consistent with other district and appellate court results," he added.

Mandatory membership in a state bar and payment of compulsory fees were held constitutional in Keller v. State Bar of California, 496 U.S. 1 (1990) and Lathrop v. Donohue, 367 U.S. 820 (1961) and the LSBA operates in accordance with these decisions. The LSBA's legislative advocacy is subject to a number of provisions set forth in the Association's Bylaws. These activities are limited to matters involving issues affecting the profession, the regulation of attorneys and the practice of law, the administration of justice, the availability and delivery of legal services to society, the improvement of the courts and the legal profession, and such other matters consistent with the mission and purposes of the Association.

To review the brief and for more information on the case, go to: *www.lsba. org/Challenge/Louisiana.aspx.* 

### LSBA continuing webinar series for COVID-19-related practice issues through early June

he COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly and lawyers have to adapt quickly. To that end, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) created a series of free, timely CLE webinars on practice-related topics. Thousands of lawyers are participating in these CLEs. The free webinars will continue through early June.

The webinars qualify for 1.0 hour of CLE credit. The free programs are presented live through GoToWebinar. After a member registers, he/she will receive an email from GoToWebinar with a unique link to click to open the session.

To review the current schedule and to register, go to: *www.lsba.org/goto/covid19webinars*.

Some of the previous webinars are available for free on-demand viewing via the InReach catalog. Go to: *https://lsba. inreachce.com/.* 



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## Application deadline is June 26 for Leadership LSBA 2020-21 Class

ouisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President-Elect Alainna R. Mire is currently seeking applications from young lawyers for the Leadership LSBA 2020-21 Class. Deadline for return of applications, along with a CV or résumé, is Friday, June 26.

The program, created in 2002 by then-LSBAPresidentLarryFeldman,Jr., provides exposure on how the LSBA functions as well as on the pressing issues facing the association and the legal profession. Participants also receive information on the responsibilities of volunteer leaders. Through at least one class project, the program further develops young attorneys' leadership skills and provides them with opportunities for statewide networking. (Previous projects included a 5K benefiting the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc., a legal aid hackathon and a special issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*.)

Mire's goal is to appoint 14 members.

By conclusion of FY 2020-21 (ends in June 2021), participants will be required to:

► attend one meeting of the Board of Governors;

► attend one meeting of the House of Delegates;

► attend one meeting of the Young Lawyers Division Council;

► attend one Budget Committee meeting;

► attend one meeting of the Access to Justice Committee;

► attend one meeting of an LSBA committee of their choice;

► work with the class to develop and implement a class project with the help of staff; and

► commit to serve on an LSBA committee for 2021-22.

Expenses for attendance at meetings and activities will be reimbursed in accordance with LSBA policies.

Interested candidates should submit applications, along with a CV or résumé, by the June 26 deadline to: Danielle E. Boveland, LSBA Communications Coordinator/Online Media, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130; fax (504)566-0930; or email danielle. boveland@lsba.org. To download an application, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/ classapplication2020.

# **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	<b>Contact Info</b>	Cell	Email Address		
Alexandria Area	Richard J. Arsenault	(318)487-9874	Cell (318)452-5700	rarsenault@nbalawfirm.com		
Baton Rouge Area	Ann K. Gregorie	(225)214-5563		ann@brba.org		
Covington/ Mandeville Area	Suzanne E. Bayle	(504)524-3781		sebayle@bellsouth.net		
Denham Springs Area	Mary E. Heck Barrios	(225)664-9508		mary@barrioslaw.com		
Houma/Thibodaux Area	Danna Schwab	(985)868-1342		dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com		
Jefferson Parish Area	Pat M. Franz	(504)455-1986		patfranz@bellsouth.net		
Lafayette Area	Pam Landaiche	(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	wpcjrra@gmail.com		
New Orleans Area	Helena N. Henderson	(504)525-7453		hhenderson@neworleansbar.org		
River Parishes Area	Judge Jude G. Gravois	(225)265-3923 (225)265-9828	Cell (225)270-7705	judegravois@bellsouth.net		
Shreveport Area	Dana M. Southern	(318)222-3643		dsouthern@shreveportbar.com		
For more information, go to: www.lsha.org/goto/solace						

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

# 2020 LSBA Annual Meeting & Joint Summer School cancelled

ue to the ongoing public health and safety issues related to COVID-19, the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors, in conjunction with the Louisiana Judicial College (LJC), made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 LSBA Annual Meeting and Joint LJC/ LSBA Summer School.

The LSBA will immediately issue full refunds (in the original form of payment) to all who have registered for this meeting. All individuals who have made reservations within the LSBA room block at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort (*www. sandestin.com*) should cancel immediately. In accordance with the LSBA's contract with the resort, there is no penalty for reservations cancelled at least 14 days prior to arrival.

The LSBA leadership is looking forward to resuming business as usual for the 2021 Annual Meeting and Joint Summer School, Sunday through Friday, June 6-11, 2021.

# LBLS accepting certification applications in bankruptcy law

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) is accepting applications for certification in business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law 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 LBLS Rules and Regulations and standards for the applicable specialty for a detailed description of the requirements for application: www.lsba.org/specialization.

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

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

## Supreme Court lifts online CLE limit for 2020

he Louisiana Supreme Court on April 28 issued an order lifting the cap on self-study mandatory continuing legal education credits for calendar year 2020. Review the order at: http://files.lsba.org/documents/ News/LSBANews/OrderSelfStudyLimit. pdf.

For more information on mandatory CLE, go to: *www.lsba.org/mcle*.

# LBLS lifts approved self-study CLE credit limit to 12.5 hours for 2020

n compliance with the April 28 Louisiana Supreme Court order and in accordance with Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) Rules 7.4 and 7.9, the LBLS has amended its rules for specialty education for selfstudy credits for 2020 only, increasing the limit from 4 hours to 12.5 hours. All specialists may earn up to 12.5 hours of approved specialization self-study credits on or before Dec. 31, 2020. Learn more: *www.lsba.org/specialization/.* 



## LBF seeking donations to Emergency Legal Aid Fund

he Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is seeking donations to the Emergency Legal Aid Fund to support civil legal aid needs. The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 has resulted in many Louisiana residents needing support as they face life-changing challenges caused by business closures and illness. The fund will help civil legal aid providers resolve issues such as:

▶ missed rent payments leading to eviction notices;

► disputes over medical and consumer debt;

▶ people being wrongly denied public benefits that can keep their families afloat;

► increased incidents of domestic violence due to quarantines; and

► stay-at-home orders resulting in

custody issues for minor children and an increase in abuse and neglect cases.

The LBF's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program is a significant funding source for the Louisiana civil legal aid network. The efforts by the Federal Reserve to ease other economic uncertainty works in opposition to the IOLTA Program, which directly assists the impoverished and the working poor. As the number of Louisiana citizens eligible for civil legal aid increases, this funding will diminish.

The LBF has a robust network of wellestablished partnerships with more than 70 legal aid providers across the state's 64 parishes.

To learn more and donate, go to: www. raisingthebar.org/about-us/newsroom.

# LBF Annual Fellows Gala rescheduled to spring 2021

The Louisiana Bar Foundation has rescheduled its annual Fellows Gala to spring 2021. The Gala, originally planned for April 3, had been moved to May 15. But, continued concerns for public health in light of the coronavirus, as well as stay-at-home orders in New Orleans until May 16 and a prohibition against large public and private gatherings through the remainder of 2020, led to the decision to reschedule the event.

The 2019 Distinguished honorees will

be recognized at the 2021 event, including Distinguished Jurist Robert H. Morrison III, 21st Judicial District Court; Distinguished Attorney Marcus V. Brown, Entergy Corp.; Distinguished Attorney Mary Terrell Joseph, McGlinchey Stafford, P.L.L.C.; Distinguished Professor John M. Church, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and Calogero Justice Award recipient, Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court.

## Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program offers resources

he Louisiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP) has compiled a list of COVID-19 resources. Go to: https://louisianajlap.com/covid-19/.

### LSBA Tech Center offers resources for remote operation

he Louisiana State Bar Association's online Tech Center has myriad resources, many of which are relevant in this time of working remotely and relying more than ever on technology-focused business tools. Take advantage of these resources at: www.lsba.org/ PracticeManagement/TechCenter.aspx.

# LSBA expands selection of eBooks

he 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, 2/47, at: www.lsba. org/NewsAndPublications/eBooks.aspx.



# 2021 EXPERT WITNESS, CONSULTANT AND LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

The Louisiana State Bar Association is publishing its Expert Witness, Consultant and Legal Services Directory. The supplement to the *Louisiana Bar Journal* will be printed separately and shrinkwrapped for mailing with the December 2020/January 2021 *Louisiana Bar Journal*. The directory is published annually, guaranteeing a year's worth of exposure in print and on the LSBA Web site.

- Reach 21,000+ practicing attorneys
- Listings indexed THREE ways: alphabetical, geographical & by category
- View last year's publication at www.lsba.org/expertwitness

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To reserve space in the directory, mail and/or e-mail your display ad or text listing/photo, contact Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez via email at kbellanger@lsba.org and mail check (payable to the Louisiana State Bar Association) to: Communications Assistant Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez

Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404

If you prefer to charge your listing (Visa, Mastercard or Discover only), please call (504)619-0131 or (800)421-5722, ext. 131.

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# **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 May 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.

#### 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 incompetent or fraudulent from activities by those who are unauthorized to practice law or who are otherwise misleading those in need of legal services.

#### ouisiana State Bar Association 2020-21 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).* 

#### **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: May 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

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).



# Attorney volunteers: Sign up to offer free legal assistance via *LA.FreeLegalAnswers*

he Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) online program, accessible at *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org*, allows attorneys to volunteer their legal experience, virtually, to low-income users who post civil legal questions to the site.

Through the website, attorney volunteers are able to log in whenever and wherever they like to anonymously respond to legal questions submitted by individuals who could not otherwise afford to consult an attorney. Volunteers will be covered by malpractice insurance provided by the American Bar Association for any legal advice given through the site.

An added bonus is that volunteers earn one hour of CLE credit for every five hours of service (three-hour maximum).

*La.FreeLegalAnswers.org* is not only an incredibly convenient way for attorneys to do pro bono, but also it will



The Modest Means Online Legal Directory connects attorneys offering affordable legal services with moderate-income families who do not qualify for free legal aid, yet can afford to pay for legal services at a reduced rate.

The Directory is open to all active Louisiana attorneys in good standing who offer reduced-fee legal services to people falling at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line. Many attorneys already offer reduced fees by way of a sliding scale based on the client's income, flat fees, or limited scope representation.

**FIND OUT MORE! CONTACT** Amy Duncan, LSBA Access to Justice Training & Projects Counsel, at amy.duncan@lsba.org with any questions. Or for more information online, visit *www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx* 



help expand pro bono access throughout Louisiana, especially to those in rural areas where few pro bono resources are currently available.

For more information, contact LSBA Access to Justice Projects Counsel Rachael Mills at (504)619-0104 or email rachael.mills@lsba.org.

## Volunteer opportunities available during coronavirus crisis

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department is compiling a developing list of pro bono opportunities statewide arising from the coronavirus pandemic. View the current list of opportunities and contact the organizations directly. The LSBA will continue to update the list as more information and needs are obtained. Review the list at: *https://bit.ly/2UUK7P7*.

Legal aid organizations offering volunteer opportunities should email LSBA Access to Justice Administrative Assistant Jordan Maier, jordan.maier@lsba.org.



Find out more at www.lsba.org/mentoring/ spotmentoring.aspx



Although, we have all been asked to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19, you can still help those in need with their legal issues. *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org* offers a quick, easy way to help low-income, elderly and those affected by COVID-19 during these difficult times.

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org allows volunteers to:

- 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 or calling 504.619.0104.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LSBA.ORG/ATJ OR CALL (504)619-0104





# 2020 Diversity Conclave cancelled; 2021 program set for March

ue to continuing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) has cancelled its 2020 Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The program was originally scheduled for March 2020 and postponed until August. However, amid ongoing concerns and the New Orleans Mayor's suggestion that no large gatherings be held, the LSBA has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 program.

The 2021 Conclave, which will be held March 5 in New Orleans, will feature the same exciting format and sessions with highly credentialed speakers that will provoke discussions regarding the scope and meaning of inclusion, the state of the profession, and the case for a diverse and inclusive legal profession. Registrants and sponsors will be notified. Registrants will have the option of transferring registration. Sponsors will be provided an opportunity to support the conference in 2021.

For more information, email the team in the LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

## LSBA cancels 2020 Suit Up Program

he Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee has made the difficult decision to cancel the Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program scheduled for June 15-26 and July 6-10 at the Louisiana Bar Center. Applicants will be notified and all applications submitted for the 2020 program will be deferred to June 2021 (with no further action needed from the applicant). For more information, email the team in the LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

## Thanks to the 2019-20 LSBA Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession

he Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) would like to thank the 2019-20 members of the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and its Subcommittees. Your service was greatly appreciated.

The mission of the Committee on Diversity is to assess the level of racial, ethnic, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability diversity within all components of the legal profession in Louisiana; to identify barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation in the legal profession by persons of diverse backgrounds; and to propose programs and methods by which the LSBA can most effectively work to remove the barriers and achieve greater diversity.

Committee members included: Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Co-Chair Kenneth R. Barnes Rashida D. Barringer Troy N. Bell Roland L. Belsome Katia D. Bowman William C. Bradford Dominique R. Bright-Wheeler George W. Britton Christine T.C. Bruneau I.J. Clark-Sam J. Tyler Clemons J. Dalton Courson, Co-Chair Ashley A. Chandler Sandra Diggs-Miller John C. Enochs Dean Thomas C. Galligan, Jr. Lauren E. Godshall Demarcus J. Gordon Lezlie Griffin Scherri N. Guidry Senae D. Hall Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker Joseph H. Hart Nicholas J. Hite Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson Adria N. Kimbrough Arlene D. Knighten Robert E. Lancaster Dean Madeleine M. Landrieu Jeffrey M. Landry Susan R. Laporte Quintillis K. Lawrence Wayne J. Lee Luis A. Leitzelar Misha M. Logan Lynn Luker Sowmya Mandava

Janell M. McFarland-Forges Dean David D. Mever Ne'Shira D. Millender Pamela S. Moran Jared E.A. Nelson Barbara B. Ormsby Courtney H. Payton Ezra Pettis, Jr. Chancellor John K. Pierre Deidre D. Robert Andrea L. Rubin Rachel M. Scarafia Ronald J. Sholes Kimberly Silas Chantell M. Smith Scott J. Spivey Justin W. Stephens Hon. Karelia R. Stewart Heidi H. Thompson Hon. Max N. Tobias, Jr. Dan L. Tran James T. Tran Joseph D. Tran Monica M. Vela-Vick Michael B. Victorian Angela White-Bazile Sharonda R. Williams John A. Womble, Co-Chair Micah C. Zeno

# Nominations accepted through June 30 for Citizen Lawyer Award

Citizen Lawyer Award, a service award that recognizes individual attorneys and judges who have performed public services out of a sense of duty, responsibility and professionalism.

In 2001, the LSBA instituted the Crystal Gavel Awards. This award program was updated in 2014 and renamed the Citizen Lawyer Awards.

To be nominated, the lawyer must be admitted to practice in Louisiana, and the judge must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana. Nominees must have made a difference in their local communities, in local organizations, or in the life of one person, and have served the public in a number of areas, including:

► Aiding the administration of justice.

► Assisting groups or individuals on a volunteer basis in a non-legal capacity.

► Educating the public or individuals or students about legal matters.

▶ Providing pro bono legal services in a matter of a significant nature, or in a significant number of cases, or in a way that significantly changed the life of a person or group. ► Working in conjunction with the court system to make it more welcoming, inviting and understandable for jurors, witnesses or victims of crime.

Awards are presented in local communities throughout the state. There is no limit to the number of awards which will be presented, as the LSBA wishes to recognize all deserving individuals.

For more information about the award or to submit a nomination, go to: *https://www. surveymonkey.com/r/CitizenLawyerAward.* Or email the LSBA's Member Outreach and Diversity Department at outreach@ lsba.org.

Protecting Those Who Protect Us



Police, firefighters, paramedics and other first responders risk their lives every day to make sure our communities are safe. Some die in the line of duty, leaving grieving families behind.

The Louisiana Wills for Heroes program is a way for lawyers to support and salute the important work of first responders. Lawyers provide free wills and other estate documents to first responders and also to their spouses or domestic partners.

Louisiana has provided hundreds of first responders with wills, thanks to the efforts of the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.



For more information about the Louisiana Wills for Heroes program, view upcoming program event dates or to register as a volunteer, please visit *www.lsba.org/yld/willsforheroes.aspx* or contact Louisiana Wills for Heroes committee chairs **Betty Ann Maury** or **Loren Shanklin Fleshman**.

www.lsba.org/YLD/willsforheroes.aspx

## **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**

Seeking Assistant District Attorney. Civil Division in the 22nd Judicial District, Mandeville, La. This position requires significant experience in defense civil litigation, including defense of personal injury cases, vehicular of accidents, workers' compensation and contract disputes. Minimum three years' specific experience in defense of civil lawsuits. For further details, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/ADA22nd; or go to the website:

http://damontgomery.org/careers/open\_jobs/.

#### For Rent - New Orleans

Executive office suites. Just steps away from the courthouse and Federal Building. Includes receptionist/switchboard services, mail, cleaning, conference rooms, library, kitchen. Additional services for a small fee include copy/postage/fax/Internet. From \$675/month. Owner-broker email: srettke@titlestream.com.

## ADVERTISE YOUR LEGAL SERVICE OR **CLASSIFIED AD HERE!**

Any questions? Contact **Krystal Bellanger-Rodriguez** at (504)619-0131 or via email kbellanger@lsba.org

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It's Time to Book a Listing in 'Who's Who in ADR 2020'

The print version of the directory for arbitrators and mediators will be mailed with the October/November 2020 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! One price gets you in the print directory and on the Web!

> View the 2019 directory at

www.lsba.org/goto/ adrdirectory

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 as a high-resolution .jpg (at least 300 DPI at 4 inches wide). DO NOT submit digital photographs embedded in word processing programs; send the photograph as a separate file. High-resolution digital photos work best.

# DEADLINE IS JULY 24 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.

# 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 dlabranche@lsba.org (504)619-0112 or (800)421-5722, ext. 112.