## Bar Briefs

September 2015

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 30, No. 5

## Renegar, Pipes, Tate, Thriffiley nominated for LSBA, YLD leadership positions

ona K. Renegar of Lafayette and H. Minor Pipes III of New Orleans have been nominated for the positions of 2016-17 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) president-elect and 2016-18 LSBA treasurer, respectively. The LSBA's Nominating Committee formulated these recommendations on Aug. 21 and presented its report to the Board of Governors on Aug. 22.

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council nominated Bradley J. Tate of Lafayette for 2016-17 YLD chair-elect and Dylan T. Thriffiley of New Orleans for 2016-17 YLD secretary.

Renegar is a member in the Lafayette office of Huval, Veazey, Felder & Renegar, L.L.C.







H. Minor Pipes III



Bradley J. Tate



Dylan T. Thriffiley

Pipes is a member in the New Orleans firm of Barrasso, Usdin, Kupperman, Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C.

Tate is an attorney with the firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C., CPAs and Advisors.

Thriffiley is an assistant general counsel with the Ochsner Health System in Harahan.

## Self-Qualifying Deadline is Oct. 19

Several leadership positions are open in the 2015-16 LSBA election cycle.

On Monday, Sept. 21, notice of the action of the Nominating Committee and

**ELECTIONS continued on page 2** 



## Inside...

Elections
Red Mass.         3
Specialization            5
Louisiana Bar Foundation
<i>SOLACE</i>
2016 Expert Witness, Consultant and Legal Services Directory
Focus on Access to Justice
Secret Santa Sign-up
Focus on Diversity
Classifieds

## **ELECTIONS** continued from page 1

self-qualification forms for positions on the Board of Governors, LSBA House of Delegates, Nominating Committee, Young Lawyers Division and American Bar Association House of Delegates will be provided to the membership.

Deadline for return of nominations by petition and qualification forms is Monday, Oct. 19. First election ballots will be available to members on Monday, Nov. 16. Deadline for electronically casting votes is Monday, Dec. 14.

The LSBA president-elect will automatically assume the presidency in 2017-18.

According to the president-elect rotation, the nominee must have his/her preferred mailing address in Nominating Committee District 3 (parishes of Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Caldwell. Catahoula. Claiborne. Concordia, DeSoto, Carroll, East Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tensas, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll and Winn).

According to the treasurer rotation, the nominee must have his/her preferred mailing address in Nominating Committee District 1 (parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany.)

For the 2015-16 election cycle, balloting will be conducted electronically only, as approved by the LSBA Board of Governors. No paper ballots will be provided.

## Other Positions Open

Other positions to be filled in the 2015-16 elections are:

**Board of Governors** (three-year terms beginning at the adjournment of the 2016 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the 2019 LSBA Annual Meeting) — one member each from the First, Fourth and Fifth Board districts.

LSBA House of Delegates (two-year terms beginning at the commencement of the 2016 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the commencement of the 2018 LSBA Annual Meeting) — one delegate from each of the 1st through 19th Judicial Districts, plus one additional delegate for every additional district judge in each district.

Nominating Committee (15 members, one-year terms beginning at the adjournment of the 2016 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the 2017 LSBA Annual Meeting) — District 1A, Orleans Parish, four members; District 1B, parishes of Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany, one member; District 2A, East Baton Rouge Parish, two members; District 2B, Jefferson Parish,

two members; District 2C, parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana, one member; District 3A, Lafayette Parish, one member; District 3B, parishes of Acadia, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion, one member; District 3C, parishes of Allen, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry and Vernon, one member; District 3D, parishes of Bossier and Caddo, one member; and District 3E, parishes of Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll and Winn, one member.

Young Lawyers Division. Chair-elect (2016-17 term), nominee shall not be a resident of or actively practicing law in the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard or Plaquemines, based on preferred mailing address. Secretary (2016-17 term), nominee shall be a resident of or actively practicing law in the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard or Plaquemines, based on preferred mailing address. Petitions for nomination must be signed by 15 members of the Young Lawyers Division. Also to be elected, one representative each from the First, Second, Third, Fifth and Seventh districts (two-year terms).

American Bar Association House of Delegates (must be members of the American Bar Association) — two delegates from the membership at large and one delegate from that portion of the membership not having reached their 35th birthday by Aug. 9, 2016, that delegate being the "Young Lawyer Delegate," as required by the rules of the American Bar Association. All LSBA members may vote for both sets of candidates. The delegates will serve two-year terms, beginning with the adjournment of the 2016 ABA Annual Meeting and expiring at the adjournment of the 2018 ABA Annual Meeting, as provided in Paragraph 6.4(e) of the ABA Constitution.

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

## Bar Briefs

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"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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## Comments sought on proposed amendments to La. District Court Rules

he Louisiana Supreme Court's Court Rules Committee is seeking comments on its latest proposed amendments to the Louisiana District Court Rules. The proposed amendments, as well as a summary of the proposed amendments, are available for review online at: www.lasc.org.

The proposed amendments will be posted on the website for 30 days, which began on Sept. 4.

Interested parties wanting to comment on the proposed changes during the 30-day period may do so by email to distctrules@ lasc.org; by facsimile to the Court Rules Committee, (504)310-2606; or by mail to: Court Rules Committee, Louisiana Supreme Court, Ste. 1190, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130.

Once the 30-day period has expired, the Court Rules Committee will review all comments, make any changes it deems appropriate, and then submit a final draft to the Louisiana Supreme Court for review and approval.



Participants in the annual Red Mass fill the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

## Red Mass scheduled for Oct. 5 in New Orleans; LSBA's Memorial Exercises to follow

he St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association and the Catholic Bishops of Louisiana are coordinating the 63rd annual Red Mass, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. A reception will follow at the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Assembly for the Red Mass begins at 9:15 a.m. Judges are to assemble at the Supreme Court Building. St. Thomas More

Catholic Lawyers Association members and guests are to assemble at the St. Louis Cathedral for the ecclesiastical, judicial and legal procession.

The Louisiana State Bar Association has scheduled its annual Memorial Exercises to honor deceased members of the Bench and Bar following the Red Mass, beginning about 11:45 a.m. at the Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans.

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n the legal community the more you know, the faster you'll get ahead. That's why the Louisiana State Bar Association offers a variety of seminars on a wide range of legal topics. Enrolling in them will help you stay competitive and keep up with the ever-changing laws. The Continuing Legal Education Program Committee sponsors more than 20 programs each year, ranging from 15-hour credit seminars to one-hour ethics classes. Check online for the most up-to-date list of upcoming seminars at www.lsba.org/CLE.

## oming LSBA CLE Seminars

## 22nd Annual Admiralty

Symposium
Co-Sponsored w/ Insurance,
Tort, Workers Compensation and
Admiralty Law Section

Sept. 18, 2015 **Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans** 

## **Ethics & Professionalism**

Sept. 25, 2015 **Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans** 

## **Energy & Environmental** Law Summit

Oct. 1 & 2, 2015

Hyatt French Quarter Hotel • New Orleans

## **Dispute Resolution with** the Masters

Co-Sponsored w/ ADR Section Oct. 16. 2015 Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel

#### **Motion Practice** Co-Sponsorship w/ Civil Law &

Litigation Section Oct. 23, 2015 **Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans** 

### **Voodoo Fest CLE**

October 30, 2015 **Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans** 

#### **Ethics & Professionalism**

Nov. 6, 2015 Horseshoe Bossier City • Bossier City

## **Appellate Practice** Co-Sponsorship w/ Appellate Law Section

Nov. 6, 2015

Westin Canal Place Hotel • New Orleans

## **CLE** with the Pelicans (Pelicans vs Dallas Mavericks)

Nov. 10, 2015 **New Orleans Arena** 

### **Personal Injury**

Nov. 10, 2015 Hyatt French Quarter Hotel • New Orleans

## 15th Annual Class Action/ **Complex Litigation** Symposium Section Co-Sponsorship

Nov. 13, 2015 **Hyatt French Quarter • New Orleans** 

## **Workers' Comp CLE**

Nov. 13, 2015 Embassy Suites • Baton Rouge

#### DWI

Nov. 20, 2015 Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans

## **New York, New York CLE**

Nov. 21-23, 2015 Millennium Broadway Hotel **New York, NY** 

#### **CLE** with the Pelicans

(Pelicans vs Memphis Grizzlies) Dec. 1, 2015 **New Orleans Arena** 

## **Ethics & Professionalism:** Watch Your P's & Q's

Dec. 4, 2015 Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans

## **27th Summer School** Revisited

Dec. 10-11, 2015 Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans

Trial Practice CLE
-Sponsorship w/ Civil Law &
Litigation Section

Dec. 15, 2015 Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans

## **Quality of Life CLE**

Dec. 15, 2015 **Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans** 

Bankruptcy Law Co-Sponsorship w/ Bankruptcy Law Section Dec. 17, 2015

Sheraton Hotel • New Orleans

## **CLE in the Wine Country**

Feb. 29-March 2, 2016 Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa Sonoma, CA

## Notice: CLE compliance for board-certified specialists

n accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS), as set forth in the individual Specialty Standards for each field of legal specialization, board-certified attorneys in a specific field of law must meet a minimum CLE requirement for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2015.

The requirement for each area of specialty is as follows:

- ► Estate Planning and Administration Law 18 hours of estate planning law.
- ► Family Law 18 hours of family law.
  - ► Tax Law 20 hours of tax law.
- ▶ Bankruptcy Law CLE is regulated by the American Board of Certification.

CLE credits will be computed on a calendar-year basis and all attendance

information must be delivered to the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) no later than Jan. 31, 2016. Failure to earn and/or timely report specialization CLE hours will result in a penalty assessment.

Preliminary specialization transcripts will be mailed in November to all specialists who are delinquent in their specialization CLE hours. The specialization CLE requirement must be satisfied by Dec. 31, 2015.

If you have questions, contact LBLS Executive Director Barbara M. Shafranski at (504)619-0128 or email barbara. shafranski@lsba.org.

For more information or to obtain a copy of specialization transcripts, go to the LBLS's website at: www.lascmcle. org/specialization.

## LBLS accepting applications for bankruptcy law certification through September

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) is accepting applications for 2016 certification in business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law through Sept. 30, 2015.

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 LBLS simultaneously with the testing agency in order to avoid delay of board certification by the LBLS.

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

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## LBF participating in National Kids' Chance Awareness Week

he Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is participating in the first National Kids' Chance Awareness Week from Nov. 2-6. The LBF offers some activity suggestions on its website, www.raisingthebar.org/kidschance.

The LBF's Kids' Chance Scholarship Program provides scholarships to the children of Louisiana workers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident compensable under a state or federal Workers' Compensation Act or law.

Scholarship applications for the 2016-17 school year will be available on the LBF's website on Dec. 1.

For more information about the Kids' Chance Scholarship Program or Awareness Week activities, contact LBF Com-



munications Director Dennette Young at (504)561-1046 or email dennette@raisingthebar.org.

## Community Action Committee & **'WEEN DREAM Partnering for Halloween Costume Donations** he Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Foundation's Community Action Committee is again assisting the 'WEEN DREAM program in the collection of new and/or slightly used Halloween costumes for children in need. Law firms, attorneys and legal professionals wishing to donate should drop off costumes at the Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, on Monday through Friday, Nov. 2-6, during business hours (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). Costumes may simply be placed in bags. There is no labeling or sorting process required. 'WEEN DREAM volunteers will handle the sorting process and match the costumes to children for Halloween 2016. (Costumes that were donated after Halloween 2014 are being distributed to children for 2015.) For more information, contact LSBA Communications Assistant Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez, (504)619-0131 or email kbellanger@lsba.org.

# Public comment period open on proposed amendments to Federal Rules

he Judicial Conference Advisory Committees on Bankruptcy and Evidence Rules published proposed amendments to their respective rules on Aug. 14 and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar and public for comment.

The public comment period is open for proposed amendments to Bankruptcy Rules 1001 and 1006, and Evidence Rules 803 and 902.

The proposed amendments, rules committee reports explaining the proposed changes, and instructions on how to submit comments are posted on www.uscourts.

The public comment period ends Feb. 16, 2016.

## LBF sets grant application deadlines

he Louisiana Bar Foundation's grant application for 2016-17 funding will be available online beginning Oct. 1. The deadline for submitting grant applications is Dec. 1, 2015.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) application for 2016-17 funding will be available online beginning Oct. 1. The deadline for submitting LRAP applications is Feb. 12, 2016.

For more information, go online to: www. raisingthebar.org.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

## Louisiana Bar Foundation's 30th Anniversary Fellows Gala

Friday, April 8, 2016 Hyatt Regency New Orleans

For more Gala information, contact Danielle J. Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email danielle@raisingthebar.org.

## Save the date: 2016 Solo & Small Firm Conference

he Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) ninth annual Solo & Small Firm Conference is scheduled for Feb. 25-26, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. The conference, dedicated to the small-office practitioner, will feature 50 national and regional speakers with four tracks of relevant topics, earning upwards of 14.5 hours of CLE credit at a low cost. Interested in presenting a topic? Suggestions for a topic? Want to be an exhibitor? Contact LSBA Practice Management Counsel Shawn L. Holahan at (504)619-0153, toll free (800)421-5722, ext. 153, or email shawn.holahan@lsba.org.

## District court rules in effect: Title IV rules and appendices for family law proceedings

ollowing a 30-day public comment period, the Louisiana Supreme Court approved the new Title IV Rules and Appendices for family law proceedings on April 30. These new Rules and their Appendices took effect on July 1 and may be found on the Supreme Court's website, www.lasc.org/rules/dist.ct/TitleIV.asp, and in West's 2015 Louisiana Rules of Court, Volume I, State book.

Anyone with questions or comments concerning the new Title IV Rules and Appendices should email them to the Supreme Court's Court Rules Committee at distctrules@lasc.org or mail them to: Court Rules Committee, Ste. 1190, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130.

## Nomination deadline for first Judge Jones Award

Nominations are currently being accepted by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) for the first "Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award." The nomination deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Members of the judiciary who have contributed to the law-related education of Louisiana's youth, whether it be in a classroom, courtroom or any other environment conducive to learning, are eligible for the nomination.

The award is named in honor of Judge Benjamin Jones, a 4th Judicial District Court judge for more than 22 years. He was the driving force in creating the "Judges in the Classroom" program.

To download the nomination form, go to: form: http://tinyurl.com/nv8xh2x.

The completed nomination form may be mailed to the LCLCE, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130. Scanned copies of the nomination form may be emailed to peggy.cotogno@lsba.org.

## **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	<b>Contact Info</b> (318)487-9874	<b>Cell</b> 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
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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
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For more information, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/solace.



## Registration Fees, Cancellations and Refund

(Voodoo Fest tickets NOT included

 ▶ Seminar Registration
 \$320\*\*

 ▶ After Oct. 23 & On-Site
 \$345

\*\* Advance Registration Fee includes.

lectronic course materials via a link

Important Note: This program is Paper-Free! The LSBA is working on ways to reduce the amount of paper we use at seminars and symposia. This is an effort both to be responsible toward our environment and to increase the quality and timeliness of the resources provided through this learning experience. Electronic program materials are accessible via a link where attendees can download/save OR download/print the seminar materials. The link will be sent to the email address of record you provided to the LSBA, prior to the seminar. We suggest you print the materials in advance and bring them with you. If you choose to review the materials from your laptop, we strongly suggest you charge your laptop battery, as electrical outlets may be limited. Internet access will not be available in the meeting room.

A printed manual can be purchased for an additional \$40 and seminar materials on a flash drive can be purchased for \$25. Be sure to make your selection by checking the appropriate box on the Registration Form.

- seminar attendance
- ▶ coffee/refreshment breaks

#### CANCELLATION

Cancellation of registration must be received in writing by the LSBA no later than October 23. Cancellations will receive a full refund, less a \$25 administrative charge. Absolutely no refunds will be made after October 23.

REGISTER EARLY



## LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES October 29, 2015



Louisiana lawyers are proud to partner with Louisiana libraries to help address the legal needs of our communities.

On **October 29, 2015,** the **Louisiana Library Association** and the **Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA)** will sponsor "Lawyers in Libraries" events across the state in support of the National Pro Bono Celebration. Attorney volunteers will provide "Ask-a-Lawyer" sessions, or educational presentations, free of charge to library patrons.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP to be the Lawyer in your local Library.

Volunteers are still being sought in Bossier, Beauregard, Caldwell, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Jackson, La Salle, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Martin, Tensas, Webster and Winn Parishes.

To participate in a "Lawyers in Libraries" event, contact the LSBA Access to Justice Department at (504)619-0106 or (800)421-5722, ext. 106, or email Nicole.Louque@lsba.org. More info on the project can be found at: www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org

Special thanks to all the participating attorneys helping to make this project a success.

## 2016 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 shrink-wrapped for mailing with the December 2015/January 2016 *Louisiana Bar Journal*. The directory is published annually, guaranteeing a year's worth of exposure in print and on the LSBA Web site.

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Communications Assistant Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez
Louisiana State Bar Association
601 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130-3404

e-mail: kbellanger@lsba.org

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

 Early Bird Deadline
 Final Deadline

 Sept. 11, 2015
 Oct. 16, 2015

 ½-page
 \$400
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 Full-page
 \$725
 \$850

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.lsba.org/expertwitness

Note to Lawyer/Law Firm Advertisers: Per Rule 7.7 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, all lawyer advertisements — unless specifically exempt under Rule 7.8 — are required to be filed for a compliance review by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Ethics Counsel prior to first publication. This process could take up to 30 days, so advertisers should consider that time window in relation to the publication's ad placement deadline. For more information on compliance with the Rules, contact LSBA Ethics Counsel and/or go online: <a href="https://www.lsba.org/LawyerAdvertising">www.lsba.org/LawyerAdvertising</a>. Communications Department staff cannot discuss Rules compliance issues.



 $Serving\ the\ Public.\ Serving\ the\ Profession.$ 

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

## "Day of Service" legal programs at parish libraries: 15 parishes need attorney volunteers

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent by participating in the LS-BA's "Lawyers in Libraries" Day of Service program on Thursday, Oct. 29, being conducted at local libraries statewide.

Attorneys have the option to present "Ask-a-Lawyer" programs or other legal presentations on relevant topics, such as divorce, housing and wills. Attorneys volunteering their services will be matched with a library nearest to their practices.

Events can be scheduled throughout the

year, but the LSBA wants to provide at least one attorney in every parish on the Day of Service. Volunteers are still being sought in 15 parishes: Bossier, Beauregard, Caldwell, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Jackson, La Salle, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Martin, Tensas, Webster and Winn.

Attorneys interested in volunteering their services for the "Lawyers in Libraries" program should respond by Sept. 18; contact LSBA Access to Justice Administrative Assistant Nicole Louque at (504)619-0106 or email nicole.louque@lsba.org.

"The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) is thrilled to be collaborating with the Louisiana State Bar Association and the legal community to provide much needed services to public library patrons," said Vivian McCain, past president of LLA. "We believe this partnership will enable librarians to answer many legal questions that were previously not possible. We appreciate the dedicated attorneys who have given their time to make this collaboration a reality," she added.

For more information, go online to: www. LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org.

## ATJ program offers free CLE on domestic violence

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice (ATJ) Department, in partnership with the Family Justice Center of New Orleans, hosted a free CLE program in August on "Effective Representation of Domestic Violence Victims." The program was offered to Fellows of the Legal Innovators For Tomorrow (LIFT) legal incubator and accelerator program and civil legal aid attorneys who represent victims of domestic violence.

The CLE, presented by Professor Tania C. Tetlow of Tulane Law School, provided information on everything from best practices in litigating protective orders to ethical considerations for custody cases that involve domestic violence. Kim S. Sport, an attorney who assisted in drafting the new domestic violence laws in 2014 and 2015 that increased protections for domestic violence victims, discussed the new legislation.

Through a partnership with the New Orleans Family Justice Center and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, attorney participants of LIFT receive office space, mentorship and resources to build viable sustainable solo practices that serve critical unmet legal needs. Additionally, the LIFT Fellows agree to provide extensive hours of pro bono



The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department, in partnership with the Family Justice Center of New Orleans, hosted a free CLE program in August on "Effective Representation of Domestic Violence Victims." Participating in the program were, from left, Amy E. Duncan, representing the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department; Professor Tania C. Tetlow, Tulane Law School; Kim S. Sport, chair of United Way of Southeast Louisiana Public Policy Committee; Mary Claire Landry, executive director of the Family Justice Center; and Erica L. Andrews, a Fellow of the Legal Innovators For Tomorrow legal incubator and accelerator program.

representation to clients in cases involving survivors of domestic violence.

The ATJ Department is working to coordinate future seminars relevant to attorneys and advocates in the justice community. To monitor future events, go to: <a href="https://www.lsba.org/ati/ati/Training.aspx">www.lsba.org/ati/ati/Training.aspx</a>.

## Elder Law Task Force Boot Camp reaches 175 seniors in Thibodaux

The Louisiana Elder Law Task Force provided an extensive "boot camp" program to 175 senior citizens in Thibodaux in July.

The Southeast Louisiana Elder Law Boot Camp, hosted by the Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parish Councils on Aging, featured attorney volunteers from organizations across the state discussing topics relevant to seniors.

Betty A. Raglin explained powers of attorney and related documents. Maria Alvarez discussed Social Security and spousal benefits. Linda S. Melancon presented information on the veterans' aid and attendance pension. Salyria L. Gumms and Krystal L. Talghani warned attendees about senior scams. Lisa R. Pinho outlined the crime of financial exploitation.

Other attorneys participating in the program were Jane Arieux Thomas, moderator on behalf of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs; Marilyn G. Pepper, Carrie H. Pailet and Jonathan M. Rhodes.

The Task Force's next "boot camp" will be held in Terrebonne Parish. For more information about the event, go to: www.probono.net/la/civillaw/groups/.



## Brightening the holidays for needy children

The Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Foundation's Community Action Committee is inviting Bar members and other professionals to brighten the holidays for needy children by participating in the 19th annual Secret Santa Project.

- Sponsors will shop with inspiration from the child's "Wish List."
- Informational packets will be distributed in November.
  - No required minimum or maximum amount on gifts.
    - Gift collection will run from Tuesday, Dec. 1 through Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015.
      - More details about gift-wrapping, drop-off, etc., will be included in the informational packet.

in November!

The Secret Santa Project also welcomes monetary donations to help buy gifts for children not adopted. For more information, visit www.lsba.org/goto/SecretSanta.

For more information or questions about the Project, contact Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez at (504)619-0131 or secretsanta@lsba.org.

Name:	·
Firm/Company:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
	Preferred age range (not guaranteed)

To participate, fax this form to Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez at (504)566-0930.

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



Lafayette attorney Travis J. Broussard, left, and New Orleans attorney Lynn Luker presented the fourth CLE in the diversity series in July in Lafayette.



New Orleans attorneys Cherrilynne Washington Thomas, left, and Lynn Luker presented the third CLE in the diversity series in June in Kenner.

## Final CLE in statewide diversity series set for Sept. 30 in Alexandria; online registration open

he final CLE program in the statewide five-part diversity series is set for Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the Parc England Hotel in Alexandria. Online registration opened on Sept. 9.

In partnership with the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB), the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Diversity Committee's Diversity Integration Subcommittee coordinated the series of one-hour diversity seminars. New Orleans attorney Lynn Luker, with the Law Offices of Lynn Luker, L.L.C., and a frequent presenter of LSBA diversity seminars, gathered the team of LSBA facilitators to bring the seminar to more than 1,400 attorneys in five locations across Louisiana.

The fourth CLE in the series was July

14 in Lafayette. Luker and Travis J. Broussard, an attorney in the Lafayette firm of Durio, McGoffin, Stagg & Ackermann, facilitated the presentation on "Minimizing the Impact of Unconscious Bias in Decision Making."

The first program in the series was in April in Shreveport, facilitated by attorney I.J. Clark-Sam. In May, Administrative Law Judge Kelly McNeil Legier and attorney Chauntis T. Jenkins spoke about generational differences to the attendees in Baton Rouge. In June in Kenner, attorneys Cherrilynne Washington Thomas and Luker discussed the impact of unconscious bias.

For more information and to register online, go to: www.ladb.org.

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## Smith serving as first African-American LYLA president

By L. Bianca Chretien

Dwazendra J. Smith believes that diversity is an ongoing struggle. She recently was named the first African-American president of the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association (LYLA). She has been a member of the organization since 2009 and has previously served in various capacities within LYLA.

"I think being the first African-American president of LYLA is a true testament to how far we have come in the legal community with regards to diversity," Smith said. "Conversely, it's also a testament as to how far we need to go and the strides we need to make."

Smith, a 2009 graduate of Southern University Law Center, is an associate in the Lafayette firm of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott, Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards, L.L.P. She received the Lafayette Bar Association's Outstanding Attorney Award every year from 2010 to



Dwazendra J. Smith

2013. In 2014, she received the Lafayette Bar's Top LVL (Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers) Award. She also is the recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Pro Bono Century Award in 2011, 2013 and 2014, and the LSBA's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2012 and 2015.

Smith said her goal as LYLA president is to continue the successful work that LYLA has already accomplished through its service programs, such as "Wills for Heroes." She also plans to continue to help diversify LYLA, efforts she began prior to her presidency. She's done so by reaching out to young lawyers who may fly under the radar. especially those not in a traditional firm set-

"I made it my mission to get people involved in order to diversify," Smith said. "As incoming president, I've informed a lot of young lawyers, especially African-American lawyers, about the board because they didn't know about it. I encourage people to get involved."

### Upcoming LSBA Diversity Events **DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • PROFESSIONALISM**

Check the LSBA's Diversity webpage for more information www.lsba.org/diversity.

### ► THURSDAY, SEPT. 24 • CLE "Introduction to Special Needs Planning"

A three-part CLE series focusing on disabilities-related legal issues. This program is for those interested in best serving clients with special needs and their families. Presenter is Carole Cukell Neff. Sponsored by the LSBA Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee and the LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee.

Registration fee: \$25 (lunch included). Event times: Registration, 11:30 a.m.noon; program, noon-1 p.m.

CLE credit(s): 1.0 hour professionalism credit (pending approval).

Location: Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans.

Online registration: www.lsba.org/cle.

#### ► THURSDAY, OCT. 8 • CLE

### "The Impact of Obergefell v. Hodges: What Does the Future Hold?"

Discussion on issues resulting from the Supreme Court ruling on Obergefell v. Hodges, adoption, divorce, estate planning and employer benefits. Presenters are Ryan P. Delaney, Scott J. Spivey and

Rachel W. Wisdom. Sponsored by the LSBA Diversity Committee's LGBT Diversity Subcommittee.

Registration fee: Free.

**Event times:** Registration, 2-2:30 p.m.; program, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; reception immediately following.

CLE credit(s): 2.0 hours professionalism credit (pending approval).

Location: Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans.

Online registration: www.lsba.org/cle.

#### ► FRIDAY, NOV. 6 • RECEPTION

#### Reception in honor of American Bar **Association President Paulette Brown**

Presented by GNO Martinet, LSBA, AWA, Baton Rouge Martinet and the Louisiana Judicial Council.

**Event time:** 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, 4th Floor Courtroom.

For more information, email Dana M. Douglas, dmdouglas@liskow.com.

### ► FRIDAY, NOV. 6 • CLE

### "Navigating the Troubled Waters of Immigration"

Addressing the challenges of immigration at the national and state level, the problems related to Unaccompanied

Alien Children, the detention of foreign nationals and how to effectively represent foreign nationals, and the intersection of immigration and litigation. Presenters are Graham Bateman, Kathleen C. Gasparian and Emily C. Trostle.

**Registration fee: \$35.** 

Event times: Registration, 9:30-10 a.m.; program, 10 a.m.-noon.

CLE credit(s): 2.0 hours professionalism credit (pending approval).

Location: Cook Hotel and Conference Center, 3848 West Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge.

Online registration: www.lsba.org/cle.

#### ► Thursday, Nov. 12 • Reception

Reception for New Orleans area **New Admittees** 

**Event time:** 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans.

RSVP by Nov. 5 to outreach@lsba.org.

#### ► FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016 • CONCLAVE

"Diversity and Inclusion: Moving from a "Foot in the Door" to a "Voice at the Table"

The ninth annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

Location: Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, Baton Rouge.



Stay tuned for more information!

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