The 2009-10 Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Governors was installed during the Annual Meeting. Board members attending the event included, seated from left, Charles D. Elliott, Sixth District; Ronald J. Miciotto, Eighth District; Immediate Past President Elizabeth Erny Foote; President Kim M. Boyle; President-Elect Michael A. Patterson; Treasurer Jack K. Whitehead, Jr.; Beth E. Abramson, First District; James E. Boren, Fifth District; and Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., at-large member. Standing from left, C. Kevin Hayes, House of Delegates Liaison Committee; John David Ziober, Louisiana State Law Institute; John F. (Jack) Robichaux, Fourth District; Charles L. Kincade, Seventh District; Dana M. Douglas, at-large member; Richard K. Leefe, Second District; Young Lawyers Section Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy; and John H. Musser IV, First District. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.
Three attorneys and two judges are the recipients of 2009 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President’s Awards. The awards were presented June 12 by 2008-09 LSBA President Elizabeth Erny Foote during the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Florida.


Dana M. Douglas was recognized for her work on the Leadership LSBA Program. A shareholder in the firm of Liskow & Lewis, P.L.C., in New Orleans, Douglas received a bachelor’s degree in 1997 from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and her law degree in 2000 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2000. Douglas currently serves as an at-large member on the LSBA’s Board of Governors. She was the 2002-04 chair (and a current member) of the LSBA Minority Involvement Section. She also is a member of the LSBA’s Intellectual Property Law Section. She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, serving as president of its Young Lawyers Section in 2006-07. She is a member of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. She received the Louis A. Martinet Award in 2003 and is an American Bar Association Minorities in the Profession Scholar.

Hon. Madeleine M. Landrieu was recognized for her work in the area of judicial and lawyer education. Judge Landrieu has served as an Orleans Parish Civil District Court judge since 2001. She is a 1987 graduate of Loyola University Law School. In 1996, she served as chair of the New Orleans Pro Bono Project where she assisted in the development of a model child advocacy program serving children in Child in Need of Care cases. She serves as treasurer of the Louisiana District Judges Association, also chairing the group’s Disaster Recovery Committee. She is a member of the LSBA Bench Bar Committee, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Judicial Liaison Committee of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Civil District Court Legislative Committee.

Top to bottom, President’s Award recipients Hon. Madeleine M. Landrieu, Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux and H. Minor Pipes III with 2009-10 LSBA President Kim M. Boyle. Photos by Matthew Hinton Photography.

President’s Award recipients Dona K. Renegar, left, and Dana M. Douglas, right, with 2009-10 LSBA President Kim M. Boyle. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.
► H. Minor Pipes III was recognized for his work with the Continuing Legal Education Program Committee. Pipes is a founding member of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C., in New Orleans. Prior to establishing his new firm, he was a partner at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C., in New Orleans. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Pennsylvania State University and his law degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, graduating second in his class. At LSU, he was a member of the Order of Coif and the Louisiana Law Review. He serves on the Justice For All Ball Committee for The Pro Bono Project in New Orleans. He was a member of the inaugural class of Leadership LSBA.

► Dona K. Renegar was recognized for her work on the Leadership LSBA Program. A partner in the Lafayette office of Huval, Veazey, Felder, Aertker & Renegar, L.L.C., Renegar was chosen as Louisiana’s 1999 Outstanding Young Lawyer and was selected to be a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) in 2000. She continues to serve as a member of the LBF’s IOLTA Grants Committee. She served as the LSBA’s Young Lawyers Section chair in 2005-06, also serving on the LSBA Board of Governors in that capacity. She currently represents the 15th Judicial District on the LSBA’s House of Delegates. She also serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Bar Association.

► Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux was recognized for his work in the area of judicial and lawyer education. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Tulane Law School, where he was an Earl Warren Scholar, Judge Thibodeaux is the chief judge of Louisiana’s 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal. He is president of the National Council of Chief Judges and chair of the Conference of Appellate Court Judges in Louisiana. He chaired the Task Force on Judicial Independence and co-chaired the Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. He is active on several LSBA committees, including the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Summer School CLE Subcommittee, the Bench Bar Committee and the Committee to Revitalize the Annual Meeting and Summer School. He is also an active member of the LSBA Minority Involvement, Appellate and Francophone sections.

E. Phelps Gay Receives Victory Award for Bar Journal Article

E. Phelps Gay, a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Christovich & Kearney, L.L.P., is the 2009 recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award. The annual award is presented to the author of the Louisiana Bar Journal article deemed the most outstanding in the previous volume year.

Gay received the award for his article, “The Best Article of All Time,” published in the February/March 2009 Louisiana Bar Journal.

A former LSBA president, Gay is a graduate of Princeton University and Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 1979. He also is a mediator with the statewide arbitration-mediation firm of ADR Incorporated. He also has served as chair of the LSBA Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee.

New Orleans Attorney Receives 2009 Distinguished Service Award

New Orleans attorney Richard C. Stanley is the recipient of the 2009 Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Distinguished Service to the Profession Award. The award was presented June 12 by 2008-09 LSBA President Elizabeth Erny Foote during the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Florida.

Stanley is recognized for his work as chair of the LSBA Rules of Professional Conduct Committee. A member of Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C., in New Orleans, he received his bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He is a law professor on the Tulane Law School faculty.

He also chairs the LSBA’s Committee on Codes of Lawyer and Judicial Conduct. He is a member of the LSBA Ethics 2000 Committee, the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Rules Regarding Financial Assistance to Clients and the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Advertising Rules.
Four attorneys and two local bar associations are the recipients of 2009 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (LSBA YLS) awards. The awards were presented by 2008-09 YLS Chair Valerie Briggs Bargas during a June 11 awards reception, held in conjunction with the LSBA Annual Meeting in Florida.

Blake R. David, a founding partner in the firm of Broussard & David, L.L.C., in Lafayette, received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker, a staff attorney for the Acadiana Legal Service Corp. in Lafayette, received the Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair’s Award. She was recognized for her work in coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts through her service with the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Young Lawyers Division.

Alona R. Croteau, claims counsel for The Gray Casualty & Surety Company in Metairie, received the Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.

Olita Magee Domingue, a solo practitioner in the Law Firm of Olita Magee Domingue, L.L.C., in Lafayette, received the Pro Bono Award.

The New Orleans Bar Association received the Service to the Public Award for its Charity Poker Tournament.

The Baton Rouge Bar Association received the Service to the Bar Award for its handbook “The New (and not-so-new) Lawyers’ Survival Guide.”

Profiles of the award winners are available online at www.lsba.org. Click on “News Resources,” then follow the link to “Press Releases.”
The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Young Lawyers Section’s (YLS) 2009-10 officers and Council members were installed June 11, in conjunction with the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Florida.

Melanie Mabile Mulcahy, an associate with The Derbes Law Firm, L.L.C., in Metairie, was installed as 2009-10 Section chair by the Hon. Vanessa Guidry Whipple with Louisiana’s 1st Circuit Court of Appeal.

Joining Mulcahy as officers are Chair-Elect Alainna R. Mire, an assistant attorney for the city of Alexandria, who will assume the chair’s position in 2010-11; Secretary Shayna L. Sonnier, an associate in the Lake Charles firm of Hunter & Blazier, A.P.L.C.; and Immediate Past Chair Valerie Briggs Bargas, a senior associate in the Baton Rouge firm of Seale, Smith, Zuber & Barnette.

Judge Whipple also installed members of the 2009-10 Council:

**District One:** Eve Sarco Reardon and Justin M. Chopin, both from New Orleans.

**District Two:** Ryan E. Beasley, Sr. of New Orleans and Brad J. Gegenheimer of Gretna.

**District Three:** Maggie Trahan Simar, St. Martinville.

**District Four:** Claude P. Devall, Jr., Lake Charles.

**District Five:** Kyle A. Ferachi and Christopher K. Jones, both of Baton Rouge.

**District Six:** Barbara Bell Melton, Alexandria.

**District Seven:** Jefferson B. Joyce, Monroe.

**District Eight:** Karelia R. Stewart, Shreveport.

**At-Large Representative:** Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker, Lafayette.

**ABA YLD Representative:** Maurice C. Ruffin, New Orleans.

**YLS Representative/ABA House of Delegates:** Lawrence J. Centola III, New Orleans.
Shreveport Attorney Receives 2009 McKay Award

McKay Award recipient Sheva M. Sims, right, with 2009-10 LSBA President Kim M. Boyle. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

Shreveport attorney Sheva M. Sims is the 2009 recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. The award was presented June 12 by 2008-09 LSBA President Elizabeth Erny Foote during the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Florida.

The award is in memory of Leah Hipple McKay, LSBA member and wife of former LSBA President Michael W. McKay of Baton Rouge. The award recognizes a Louisiana lawyer who has made significant long-term contributions in volunteerism in his/her state or local community.

Sims is the owner of Sims Law Firm. She is the president of the board of directors for the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana. Prior to becoming an attorney, she was a high school mathematics teacher. She tutors in mathematics and is a frequent speaker on educational issues. She is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association and the National Bar Association.
LBF Installs Officers, Presents Award at Fellows Meeting

Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) 2008-09 President Marc T. Amy presented the President’s Award and Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball swore in newly elected officers during the June 11 Annual Fellows Meeting at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Florida. Drew Ranier of Lake Charles was sworn in as 2009-10 president. Herschel E. Richard, Jr. of Shreveport is vice president, Mathile W. Abramson of Baton Rouge is treasurer, and Patricia A. Krebs of New Orleans is secretary.

2009 President’s Award

Elwood F. Cahill, Jr., a founding partner of the law firm Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert in New Orleans, is the recipient of the LBF President’s Award. He was recognized for his support, volunteer service and dedication to the mission and goals of the LBF.

Cahill, a Fellow since 1987, has served as chair the IOLTA Banking Committee, the Budget/Investment Committee, the Grants Committee and as president in 2007-08. He also served as the attorney representing the Foundation on a pro bono basis in the original acquisition, financing and renovation of the Louisiana Bar Center in 1987-89. He serves on the Governing Council of the American Bar Association Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, on the Executive Committee (as third vice president) of the New Orleans Bar Association, and in the Louisiana State Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

2009 Boisfontaine Award

J. Michael Small, an attorney in Alexandria, is the recipient of the LBF’s 2009 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. He was awarded a plaque and $1,000 will be donated in his name to Rapides Children’s Advocacy Center, Inc.

Small is a 1969 graduate of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center (Louisiana Law Review and the Order of the Coif). He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University.

He is a past president of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, receiving the association’s Sam Dalton Capital Defense Advocacy Award in 2006. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, International Academy of Trial Lawyers, International Society of Barristers, American College of Trial Lawyers and Litigation Counsel of America.

The 2009-10 officers of the Louisiana Bar Foundation were sworn in by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. (Kitty) Kimball, left. From left, President Drew Ranier, Vice President Herschel E. Richard, Jr., Treasurer Mathile W. Abramson and Secretary Patricia A. Krebs. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.
LCLCE Officers Sworn In; Civics in Action Award Presented

The 2009-10 officers of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE), the educational partner of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), were sworn in by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine D. (Kitty) Kimball at a reception in conjunction with the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in June.

Hon. C. Wendell Manning is the 2009-10 president. John A. Hernandez III is vice president and Loretta Larsen is secretary.

Also during the reception, Judge Manning recognized Matthew L. Brandeburg of Shreveport, the Caddo Parish Magnet High School student who received the LCLCE’s 2009 Civics in Action Award. He received a plaque commemorating his honor at the LSBA’s House of Delegates meeting.

Brandeburg, who graduated as valedictorian (tied) of his class, was chosen as a district finalist for Caddo Parish Student of the Year and is a National Merit Commended Student. He was an outstanding member of the Youth Legislation Club and the Model United Nations, both which he re-founded after many years of dormancy. He was a member of the Mock Trial team and Caddo’s nationally recognized Debate Team, as well as the National Honor Society, the Key Club and the French Club. He will attend Tulane University this fall.

The LCLCE promotes the practical understanding and respect for the law across Louisiana. Its mission is to pursue ways to further the understanding and respect for the law by creating good citizenship among the youth of today through quality educational programs. The LCLCE is financially assisted, in part, by the Center for Civic Education and the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program through the Louisiana Bar Foundation.
Attorneys, Bar, Law Students Recognized for Pro Bono Achievements

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in conjunction with the Louisiana Supreme Court, recognized the pro bono accomplishments of 14 public interest legal professionals and law students and the New Orleans Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section during the 23rd annual Pro Bono and Children’s Law Awards Ceremony May 19 at the Louisiana Supreme Court Building in New Orleans.

The 2009 awards were presented in several categories.

► Friend of Pro Bono Award: Jean A. Hill, Lafayette; Christopher K. Ralston, New Orleans; and the New Orleans Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section. Hill is a staff attorney with the 15th Judicial District Court (Family Division) in Lafayette. Ralston is a partner in the New Orleans office of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. The New Orleans Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section was recognized for providing direct pro bono services and for funding local organizations dedicated to providing legal services to the poor.

► Career Public Interest Award: Michael B. Thomas of Baton Rouge has served at Capital Area Legal Services Corporation (CALSC) since 1991. Currently deputy director, he supervises all legal staff at CALSC’s main and branch offices and has direct supervision of all supervising and managing attorneys. A primary focus for Thomas is the oversight and supervision of the Elderly Protective Services Unit, which protects elderly citizens in the community from abuse and neglect.


► David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award: Professor Luz M. Molina is a 1979 graduate of Tulane University and is the Jack Nelson Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans. Over the past 30 years, she has served the needs of the poor and disenfranchised in the areas of domestic and juvenile law, civil rights under Title VII and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and immigration law. She currently works with student practitioners in a labor and employment law practice as part of the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic’s Workplace Justice Project.

► Children’s Law Award: Kathy Lynn Cook, a supervising attorney with the Mental Health Advocacy Service in Baton Rouge, has been with the agency since 1995.

► Law Student Pro Bono Award: Leslie K. Ziober, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Alison McCrary, Loyola University College of Law; Shelly E. Alexander, Southern University Law Center; and Holmes Rackleff, Tulane University Law School.

Full profiles of all recipients, as well as descriptions of all awards, are available online at www.lsba.org/atj.