



Annual Meeting 2010 is a Wrap!

Michael A. Patterson of Baton Rouge, left, was sworn in as the 70th president of the Louisiana State Bar Association by Southern University Law Center Chancellor Freddie Pitcher, Jr. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*

The 2010-11 Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Governors was installed during the Annual Meeting. Board members attending the event included, seated from left, Young Lawyers Section Chair Alainna R. Mire; Karelia R. Stewart, at-large member; Immediate Past President Kim M. Boyle; President Michael A. Patterson; President-Elect James J. Davidson III; Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker, at-large member; Richard K. Leefe, Second District; and Barry H. Grodsky, First District. Standing from left, Treasurer Mark A. Cunningham; Lawrence P. Simon, Jr., Third District; Darrel J. Papillion, Fifth District; Robert A. Kutcher, House of Delegates Liaison Committee chair; John H. Musser IV, First District; Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., at-large member; John David Ziober, Louisiana State Law Institute; Charles L. Kincade, Seventh District; and Winfield E. Little, Fourth District. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*



2010-11 LSBA Officers, Board of Governors Installed at Annual Meeting

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) 2010-11 officers and members of the Board of Governors were installed June 11, in conjunction with the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Florida.

Michael A. Patterson, a partner with Long Law Firm, L.L.P., in its Baton Rouge office, was installed as 2010-11 president by Hon. Freddie Pitcher, Jr., chancellor of Southern University Law Center.

James J. Davidson III, senior partner in the Lafayette firm of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier & McElligott, L.L.P., was installed as 2010-11 president-elect. He will assume the presidency in 2011-12.

Mark A. Cunningham, a partner in the New Orleans office of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., was installed as 2010-12 treasurer.

Carrick B. Inabnett, vice president, assistant general counsel and chief privacy officer for Century Link in Monroe, will continue his service as secretary and editor of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*, the LSBA's bimonthly magazine, for one more year.

Kim M. Boyle, a partner in the Employment Law Group of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P., in New Orleans, was installed as 2010-11 immediate past president.

Alainna R. Mire, an assistant attorney for the city of Alexandria, was installed as 2010-11 chair of the Young Lawyers Section.

Members of the 2010-11 Board of Governors also were installed.

First District

► **John H. Musser IV**, owner of the Law Office of John H. Musser IV in New Orleans, "of counsel" to the Law Office of Leon A. Aucoin and Toledano and Herrin, and a mediator for ADR inc.

► **Barry H. Grodsky**, a partner in the New Orleans firm of Taggart Morton, L.L.C.

Second District: Richard K. Leefe, a partner in the Metairie firm of Leefe Gibbs Sullivan Dupre & Aldous.

Third District: Lawrence P. Simon, Jr., a partner in the Lafayette office of Liskow & Lewis.

Fourth District: Winfield E. Little, Jr., a sole practitioner in Lake Charles.

Fifth District: Darrel J. Papillion, a partner in the Baton Rouge firm of Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, L.L.C.

Sixth District: Charles D. Elliott, a partner in the Alexandria firm of Vilar & Elliott, L.L.C.

Seventh District: Charles L. Kincade, a sole practitioner in Monroe.

Eighth District: Ronald J. Miciotto, a sole practitioner in Shreveport.

At-Large Members

► **Cloyd Benjamin, Jr.**, owner of the Law Offices of Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., L.L.C., in Natchitoches and an assistant district attorney for the 10th Judicial District (Natchitoches Parish).

► **Karelia R. Stewart**, Shreveport, a prosecutor in the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office.

► **Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker**,

managing attorney for the Acadiana Legal Service Corp. in Lafayette (CINC Unit).

Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center: John M. Church, Baton Rouge, the Harry S. Redmon, Jr. Professor of Law at Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Tulane University Law School: Tania C. Tetlow, New Orleans, an associate professor at Tulane Law School.

Louisiana State Law Institute: John David Ziober, of-counsel to the law firm of Guglielmo, Marks, Schutte, Terhoeve & Love in Baton Rouge.

House of Delegates Liaison Committee

► Chair **Robert A. Kutcher**, a partner in the firm of Chopin, Wagar, Richard & Kutcher, L.L.P., in Metairie.

► Member **Michael B. Holmes**, a partner in the firm of Hebert, Holmes & Bertrand in Kinder.

► Member **George B. Recile**, a partner in the firm of Chehardy, Sherman, Ellis, Murray, Recile, Griffith, Stakelum & Hayes, L.L.P., in Metairie.



Southern University Law Center Chancellor Freddie Pitcher, Jr. installed the 2010-11 Louisiana State Bar Association's officers and Board of Governors during the Annual Meeting. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Attorneys, Judges, Law Firms, Legal Society Receive 2010 LSBA's President's Awards

Five Louisiana attorneys, two judges, two law firms and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. are the recipients of 2010 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President's Awards. The awards were presented June 11 by 2009-10 LSBA President Kim M. Boyle during the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Florida.

The 2010 award recipients are attorney **Julie J. Baxter** of Baton Rouge; **Hon. Tiffany Gautier Chase** of New Orleans; attorney **Barry H. Grodsky** of New Orleans; attorney **Chauntis T. Jenkins** of New Orleans; attorney **Wayne J. Lee** of New Orleans; attorney **Marta-Ann Schnabel** of New Orleans; **Hon. Fredericka Homberg Wicker** of Gretna; the law firm of **Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P.**, with special recognition to **R. Christian Johnsen** in the Washington, D.C., office; the law firm of **Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C.**, with special recognition to **Richard C.**

Stanley in the New Orleans office; and the Louisiana-based **Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.**

Recipients' profiles follow.

► Julie J. Baxter

Julie J. Baxter was recognized for her exemplary work as chair of the LSBA's Public Information Committee. She practices law at the Rhorer Law Firm in Baton Rouge, handling a variety of trial work and civil litigation, ranging from plaintiffs' personal injury, products liability, legal and medical malpractice claims to defending business contract disputes and ethics complaints. She received her law degree in 2005 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, first earning her BA degree in broadcast journalism.

Growing up in South Africa, she spent more than a decade as a journalist reporting radio and television news in Louisiana — covering the Louisiana Legislature, statewide politics, elections and high-profile Louisiana criminal trials. In 2001, she was awarded the regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting in Television while at WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge, where she anchored the city's top-rated weekend newscasts and where she still appears as a legal and political analyst.

Baxter has chaired the Public Information Committee for the past two years and serves on the LSBA's Legislation Committee. She taught several semesters as an adjunct media law professor at the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication.

► Hon. Tiffany Gautier Chase

Hon. Tiffany Gautier Chase was recognized for her exemplary work as co-chair of the LSBA's Summer School for Lawyers. She was elected to Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division A, in 2007. She received her BA degree in philosophy from Loyola University and her JD degree from Loyola University College of Law. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Chet D. Traylor. She also worked as an associate with the law firm Martzell & Bickford, practicing primarily in asbestos litigation and oil and gas.

Judge Chase is a member of the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee and was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve on the Court Security Committee. She also is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Judges' Association, the National Conference for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and



President's Award recipient Julie J. Baxter, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



President's Award recipient Hon. Tiffany Gautier Chase, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



President's Award recipient Barry H. Grodsky, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

the New Orleans Bar Association. She is a former member of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* Editorial Board and the Loyola University Alumni Board.

► **Barry H. Grodsky**

Barry H. Grodsky was recognized for his exemplary work as chair of the LSBA's Committee on the Profession. He is a partner with the Taggart Morton, L.L.C., law firm, practicing in the areas of banking law, bankruptcy and creditor's rights. He received a degree in business administration from the University of Texas and his law degree from Tulane University Law School. Before entering practice, he served internships with U.S. Congressman Billy Tauzin and federal Judge Morey L. Sear and a judicial clerkship for state Judge Steven R. Plotkin.

He has served on the Committee on the Profession for several years, chairing the committee since 2008. He has actively participated in all four of the law school professionalism orientation programs and in the new mentoring program. He assisted in creating and implementing the law school bar admission and education program; this program received a 2009 American Bar Association E. Smythe Gambrell Award for Professionalism.

Grodsky has served on the LSBA's Continuing Legal Education Committee and participates on the fee arbitration panel. He is currently a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Perception of the Judiciary. He was elected to the LSBA's Board of Governors for a three-year term, beginning in June



President's Award recipient Chauntis T. Jenkins, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

2010, and was a recipient of the 2008 LSBA President's Award.

► **Chauntis T. Jenkins**

Chauntis T. Jenkins was recognized for her exemplary work as chair of the LSBA's third annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession. She is a partner in the law firm of Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson, L.L.P. She has developed an extensive litigation practice in insurance law, with an emphasis in insurance defense, coverage disputes, first-party extra contractual claims, and special investigation litigation in state and federal court. She is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education and professional development seminars organized by the American Bar Association throughout the country.

Jenkins is a graduate of Southern University Law Center, where she was a member of the *Law Review*. She received her undergraduate degree from Loyola University in New Orleans. She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., the Defense Research Institute, the National Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Black Women Attorneys.

► **Wayne J. Lee**

Wayne J. Lee was recognized for his exemplary work as co-chair of the LSBA's Diversity Committee. He is a member in the firm of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C., chairing the Man-



President's Award recipient Wayne J. Lee, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

agement Committee. His practice focuses on insurance and insurance class-action lawsuits. He has experience handling coverage issues, bad faith claims, mold claims, regulatory issues and class-action claims.

He was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1974. He received his law degree in 1974 from Tulane University Law School (Order of the Coif and a member of the *Tulane Law Review* board of editors, 1972-74). He received his undergraduate degree from Tulane in 1971.

Lee served as LSBA president in 2003-04. He has held several positions within the LSBA and received two prior President's Awards. He was a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates in 2003-05 and is a former member of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

He currently serves on the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund. In 1994, he was selected as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America* (business litigation) and to *Chambers U.S.A. America's Leading Lawyers for Business* (general commercial litigation). He received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Distinguished Attorney Award in 2006.

Continued next page



President's Award recipient Marta-Ann Schnabel, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*

► **Marta-Ann Schnabel**

Marta-Ann Schnabel was recognized for her overall service to the LSBA. She is a member of the firm O'Bryon & Schnabel,

P.L.C. In her 25-plus years of practice, she has represented clients in business and commercial insurance litigation involving issues such as construction, products liability, professional malpractice and employment matters.

She served as LSBA president in 2006-07 and as New Orleans Bar Association president in 1995. Her contributions to the LSBA's Access to Justice (ATJ) program span her entire legal career and include efforts at the local, state and national levels. She has served on the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services and as an officer and board member of the New Orleans Legal Aid Bureau for nearly 10 years. She also served as treasurer and a board member of the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation.

From 1996-98, Schnabel served as a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Legal Services. A longtime member and current chair of the LSBA's ATJ Committee,



President's Award recipient Hon. Fredericka Homberg Wicker, right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*

she formed an ATJ Executive Committee to examine how the LSBA can best facilitate delivery of legal services to the indigent.

She serves as president of the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, a consumer legal assistance hotline formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Her efforts on behalf of ATJ in 2004 merited her second President's Award.

► **Hon. Fredericka Homberg Wicker**

Hon. Fredericka Homberg Wicker was recognized for her exemplary work as co-chair of the LSBA's Diversity Committee. She is a 1977 graduate of Tulane Law School. After practicing law for 20 years as both a state and federal prosecutor and as a civil litigator, she joined the 24th Judicial District Court (JDC) in 1997. She served as a member of the 24th JDC's management team and administered the I CAN Drug Court and the Domestic Early Intervention Triage Program. She also served as president of the Louisiana District Judges Association.

In 2006, Judge Wicker joined the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeal.

She is a member of the LSBA's Continuing Legal Education Committee and is a co-chair of the Summer School for Lawyers and Judges as well as the Criminal Justice Summit. She is a member of the Louisiana



2009-10 LSBA President Kim M. Boyle, left, with 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson and his wife, Christine Lipsey, during the President's Reception. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*



Mark A. Cunningham, left, accepted the President's Award for Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., and R. Christian Johnsen. Presenting the award was 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

Judicial College Board of Governors and coaches the Louise S. McGehee School mock trial team. She is currently enrolled in the National Judicial College Masters Program, where she is actively pursuing a Master of Judicial Studies degree.

► **Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., and R. Christian Johnsen**

The firm of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., and R. Christian Johnsen, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office, were recognized for their assistance with the American Bar Association Day in Washington, D.C.

Jones Walker serves local, regional, national and international business interests with nearly 300 attorneys in Alabama, Arizona, the District of Columbia, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. Jones Walker's attorneys dedicate time, talent and financial resources to civic, charitable and professional organizations, and provide a broad range of pro bono services to individuals and organizations.

Johnsen, a partner in the firm's Government Relations Practice Group and a member of its board of directors, received his BS degree in commerce from the University of Virginia in 1982 and his JD degree, *cum laude*, from Tulane University Law School in 1985. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1985 and has worked with Jones Walker since entering practice.



President's Award recipient Richard C. Stanley, on behalf of Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C., right, and 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

► **Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C., and Richard C. Stanley**

The firm of Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C., and member Richard C. Stanley were recognized for their ongoing assistance to the LSBA.

The firm, with offices in New Orleans and Alexandria, has a diverse practice, with attorneys handling cases in commercial litigation, the representation of attorneys and law firms in disciplinary and organizational matters, appellate advocacy, intellectual property litigation, construction law and other areas.

Stanley, a member in the firm's New Orleans office, received his BA degree, *summa cum laude*, from Louisiana State University in 1980 and his JD degree, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School in 1983. He currently serves as an adjunct professor of law on the faculty of Tulane University Law School.

He is the chair of both the LSBA's Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and the Committee on Codes of Lawyer and Judicial Conduct. He also is a member of the LSBA Ethics 2000 Committee and the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Rules Regarding Financial Assistance to Clients.



Alejandro R. Perkins, right, accepted the President's Award on behalf of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. Presenting the award was 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

► **Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.**

The Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and its many chapters statewide were recognized for years of service to the legal profession.

The Society was founded on May 13, 1957, by Earl J. Amedee, Israel M. Augustine, Louis Berry, Lionel Collins, Robert F. Collins, Nils R. Douglas, Norman C. Francis, Benjamin J. Johnson, Alvin Jones, Vanue B. LaCour, Ernest N. Morial, Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr., J.T. Powell, James Smith, A.P. Tureaud (the first Society president), Freddie Warren and Lawrence Wheeler to combat the racial injustices and inequalities that existed in the 1950s.

The Society is named in honor of Louis André Martinet, the first African-American graduate of Straight University Law School (now Dillard University) in 1876. A politician, lawyer, educator, activist, journalist, medical doctor and notary, Martinet was a key figure in the civil rights activities surrounding the end of Reconstruction. In 1889, he began publishing the *Daily Crusader*, a newspaper chronicling the struggle for civil rights.



William R. Leary, center, is the recipient of the first LSBA Edwin L. Blewer, Jr. Memorial Award. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

Leary Receives First Edwin L. Blewer, Jr. Memorial Award

Houma attorney William R. “Bill” Leary is the recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) first Edwin L. Blewer, Jr. Memorial Award, presented June 11 at the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Florida.

Leary is currently the executive director of the LSBA’s Louisiana Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (LAP), a position he has held for 25 years. He will retire on Dec. 31, 2010, but will continue to assist with the transition through March 31, 2011. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1966 from Loyola University Law School. He is a Louisiana board-certified licensed addiction counselor.

LAP was founded in 1985 and is a confidential service providing assistance with alcoholism, drug addiction, stress, compulsive disorders, depression, anxiety and other issues that affect a lawyer’s ability to function.

A past advisory board member of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Lawyers Assistance Programs (CoLAP), Leary served as chair of the

CoLAP Evaluation Committee for 10 years, a committee that reviews LAP programs and makes recommendations for expansion and increased effectiveness of lawyer assistance programs in the United States and Canada. Currently, he is a member of the American Bar Association’s Judicial Assistance Task Force, the CoLAP Directors Life Balance Task Force and the Evaluation Committee.

He was recognized by the American Bar Association president for his outstanding assistance to all Louisiana lawyers with post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, depression and other illnesses following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He also received the 2006 LSBA President’s Award for these efforts.

The award’s namesake, Shreveport attorney Edwin Laurine Blewer, Jr., died Jan. 27, 2009, at the age of 75. Graduating first in his class at Louisiana State University Law School, he was a member of the law firm of Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway for 50 years. Mr. Blewer and four other attorneys were the founding

members of the LSBA’s Impaired Lawyers Committee, which evolved into the Lawyers Assistance Program; Mr. Blewer served as its chair for six years and continued to serve on the committee until his death. He also served on the American Bar Association’s CoLAP and chaired the group from 1998-2001.



Kim M. Boyle, left, 2009-10 LSBA president, presented the Edwin L. Blewer, Jr. Memorial Award to William R. Leary. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

McMurray Receives 2010 McKay Award for Outstanding Volunteerism

Baton Rouge attorney Patricia B. McMurray is the 2010 recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. The award was presented June 11 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.

McMurray is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Adams and Reese, L.L.P. Her practice focuses on commercial transactions, forestry, real estate and education law.

She has made a lasting impact on her community through her work with the Pro Bono Project in Baton Rouge. She first became active with the Project and committee in 1987, serving as its chair



Patricia B. McMurray, right, received the 2010 Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism presented by Kim M. Boyle, 2009-10 LSBA president. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

in 1993 and 1997. During her first term, the Project produced its first volunteer manual, providing information on the steps involved in handling a pro bono case. In 1994, she organized the first

volunteer recognition event for pro bono panel members. She also served on the Filing Fees Committee and helped draft legislation that secured the availability of filing fees on a statewide basis for pro bono and legal services entities. She currently serves as the pro bono partner at her firm, allocating projects among the firm's attorneys and creating a positive pro bono culture.

McMurray also works with several schools on education matters. For many years, she served on the board of the Children's Charter School, an elementary school serving an at-risk population where 97 percent of the students are at or below the federal poverty level. Through her efforts over three years, she helped establish a school library with books donated by members of Adams and Reese, other Baton Rouge law firms, the Louisiana 5th Circuit of Appeal and her personal clients. She also is a member of the board of directors of Boys Hope/Girls Hope of Baton Rouge and is a former Big Buddy.

Durio Receives 2010 Victory Award for Journal Article

Lafayette attorney Steven G. "Buzz" Durio is the recipient of the 2010 Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award. The award, presented June 11 at the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Florida by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey P. Victory, brother of the award's namesake, recognizes the author of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* article deemed the most outstanding in the past volume year.

Durio received the award for his article "Discounts in Business Valuations After *Cannon v. Bertrand*," published in the June/July 2009 issue.

Member of the firm of Durio, McGoffin, Stagg & Ackermann in Lafayette, Durio has served on the LSBA's Board of Governors and is a former chair of the LSBA's Public Access and Consumer Protection Committee. He has served in the LSBA's House of Delegates since 1980



Steven G. "Buzz" Durio, left, received the 2010 Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award, presented by 2010-11 LSBA President Michael A. Patterson. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

and on the LSBA's Legislation Committee since the committee's inception.

He served as trial and appellate counsel for the

plaintiff in *Cannon v. Bertrand*, 08-1073 (La. 1/21/09), 2 So.3d 393, which reversed the underlying decisions of the 3rd Circuit and district courts at 07-1278 (La. App. 3 Cir. 4/16/09), 981 So.2d 169.

Durio has been a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation since 1987. Prior to this article, he has written two other *Journal* articles, both on issues of public adjusting and unauthorized practice of law, in 2005 and 2007.

The award's namesake, Stephen T. Victory, was a partner in the firm of Liskow & Lewis in New Orleans. He served as LSBA secretary-treasurer and editor of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* from 1983-85. He died on Dec. 6, 1985.

69th Annual Meeting Awards



Four Attorneys, Two Bar Associations Receive 2010 LSBA Young Lawyers Section Awards

Four Louisiana attorneys and two local bar associations are the recipients of 2010 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (LSBA YLS) awards. The awards were presented by 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy and other YLS Council members during a June 10 awards reception, held in conjunction with the LSBA Annual Meeting in Florida.

Allison Leigh Becknell of Metairie received the Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award.

Karli Glascock Wilson of Baton Rouge received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Mimi Flowers Plauche of Baton Rouge received the Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.

Lindsay Meador DeBlois of Lafayette received the Pro Bono Award.

The **Lafayette Young Lawyers Association** received the Service to the Public Award for its months-long assistance in helping develop the courtroom project at Northside High School.

The **New Orleans Bar Association's**

Young Lawyers Section received the Service to the Bar Award for several projects aimed at educating and improving the quality of life and practice for its members and the Bar in general.

Award recipients' profiles follow.

► **Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award**

Allison Leigh Becknell, an associate in the Metairie office of The Becknell Law Firm, P.L.C., was recognized for her work with the Local Affiliates Outreach Committee.

She received a BS degree in 2001 from Washington & Lee University and her JD degree in 2005 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2006. She is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the American Bar Association.

► **Outstanding Young Lawyer Award**

Karli Glascock Wilson is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Kean, Miller,

Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman, L.L.P. She joined the firm in 1999 and practices in the commercial litigation, toxic tort defense and environmental groups. She earned her BA degree in 1995 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 1999 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1999.

Wilson is a member of the Baton Rouge and American Bar Associations and co-authored "Expert Depositions in the Era of *Daubert* and Its Progeny," with Leonard L. Kilgore, ABA Environmental Litigation Section, 2001. She served as volunteer coach in the LSBA YLS's high school mock trial program. She is a member of the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, as well as serving on its Volunteer Panel, Mock Trial Committee, Holiday Star Committee and Belly Up to the Bar Committee.

► **Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award**

Mimi Flowers Plauche is a contract attorney in the employment law group in



Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient Karli Glascock Wilson, left, and YLS Council member Kyle A. Ferachi. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award recipient Allison Leigh Becknell, right, and 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award recipient Mimi Flowers Plauche, left, and YLS Council member Lawrence J. Centola III. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Christopher K. Ralston, right, accepted the Service to the Bar Award on behalf of the New Orleans Bar Association. With him is 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Maggie Trahan Simar, right, accepted the Service to the Public Award on behalf of the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association. With her is 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



Pro Bono Award recipient Lindsay M. DeBlois, right, and 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

the Baton Rouge office of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. She practices in the areas of labor and employment law, employment litigation, insurance coverage and litigation, and civil litigation.

She received a BA degree in political science, *magna cum laude*, in 1997 from Louisiana State University (Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Leadership LSU). She received her JD degree, with honors, in 2000 from the University of Texas. She is admitted to practice in the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals; United States District Courts for the Middle, Eastern and Western Districts of Louisiana; and all state courts in Louisiana.

Plauche served on the LSBA YLS's Council from 2005-08 and was the 2008 recipient of the YLS's Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

► **Pro Bono Award**

Lindsay Meador DeBlois, with the Lafayette firm of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier & McElligott, L.L.P., received her BA degree in political science in 2004 from Loyola University and her JD degree in 2007 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2007. She is licensed to practice in all Louisiana state courts, in all United States district courts in Louisiana, and before the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is currently a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the

Federal Bar Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and the American Bar Association. She serves on the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers board and the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association board. She received the 2008 and 2009 Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Outstanding Attorney Award and the 2009 Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Top Protective Order Award. In 2009, she donated more than 120 hours of time helping the economically disadvantaged in a myriad of family law cases and voluntarily took on 12 protective order cases.

After Hurricane Katrina and while still in law school, she worked as a Rule XX attorney in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office over 40 hours a week and tried 15 cases on a volunteer basis.

► **Service to the Public Award**

The Lafayette Young Lawyers Association (LYLA) is recognized for its months-long assistance in helping develop the courtroom project at Northside High School.

Several years ago, the LYLA adopted a policy to support Northside High School's Law Signature School, a designation originating from the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. The comprehensive program offers multiple elective and non-elective courses at each grade level, concentrating on the law and legal processes. In support of the school, the LYLA has provided speakers for the students, coaches for the mock trial teams, Law Week activities and other school requests.

In 2008, Brandon Letulier, LYLA chair of the Law Signature School Committee, worked with the Louisiana Bar Foundation to create and construct an actual courtroom in a Northside classroom. The courtroom is fully functioning, fitted with judge and jury and advocate seating, and used for mock trial competitions, speaker functions and role-playing court proceedings. Project completion took about nine months, and the LYLA and the Louisiana Bar Foundation held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 4, 2009.

► **Service to the Bar Award**

The New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is recognized for several projects aimed at educating and improving the quality of life and practice for its members and the Bar in general.

The YLS hosts seminars to teach law students about office and social etiquette; organizes the annual Bench Bar Conference, with CLE programs and social events; coordinates the annual New Orleans Mayoral Luncheon; organizes an annual CLE and reception for new admittees (the "Big Easy Bootcamp: Basic Training for Lawyering in New Orleans" on Oct. 16, 2009); and organizes a series of one-hour "Approach the Bench" CLEs, informal and open forums for lawyers and judges to discuss current legal issues and courtroom procedures.



Members of the 2010-11 Young Lawyers Section Council were installed during the LSBA's Annual Meeting. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

Young Lawyers Section's 2010-11 Officers and Council Members Installed

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Young Lawyers Section's (YLS) 2010-11 officers and Council members were installed June 10, in conjunction with the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Florida.

Alainna R. Mire of Alexandria was installed as 2010-11 Section chair by the Hon. John C. Davidson, 9th Judicial District Court. Joining Mire as officers are Chair-Elect **Shayna L. Sonnier** of Lake Charles, who will assume the chair's position in 2011-12; Secretary **Lawrence J. Centola III** of New Orleans; and Immediate Past Chair **Melanie Mabile Mulcahy** of Metairie.

Mire is assistant attorney for the city of Alexandria. Sonnier is an associate in the

Lake Charles firm of Hunter & Blazier, A.P.L.C. Centola is an associate in the New Orleans firm of Martzell & Bickford. Mulcahy is an associate with The Derbes Law Firm, L.L.C., in Metairie.

Judge Davidson also installed members of the 2010-11 Council. Members include:

District One: Eve Sarco Reardon, Slidell; and Justin M. Chopin, Metairie.

District Two: Allison L. Becknell and Erin O. Braud, both of Metairie.

District Three: Maggie Trahan Simar, St. Martinville.

District Four: Claude "T-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: Jennifer H. Johnson, Monroe.

District Eight: Karelia R. Stewart, Shreveport.

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

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

Young Lawyer Representative/ABA House of Delegates: Chauntis T. Jenkins, New Orleans.



The 2010 Pro Bono and Children's Law Award recipients include, seated from left, Monica C. Sanchez, Donna D. Fraiche, Caroline McSherry "Sherry" Dolan, Mathile W. Abramson, Marianna Broussard, Clifton R. Jackson, Jr. and Nikki D. Thanos. Second row from left, Lynn Austin, Kären A. Hallstrom, Catherine Elena Lasky, Lauren B. McKnight, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, Homero López, Jr., Kerry Ann Murphy, Cynthia N. Reed, Marta-Ann Schnabel and Christy Kane. Back row from left, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John L. Weimer, Don K. Haycraft, Roy C. Cheatwood, William G. Cherbonnier, Jr., Ebony N. Williams, Kim M. Boyle, Evans L. Roberts, Jr., Harry S. Hardin III and Malcolm A. Meyer. *Photo by J.F. Bergeron Studio and Gallery.*

Legal Professionals, Law Students, Law Firm and Public-Interest Group Recognized for Pro Bono Achievements

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in conjunction with the Louisiana Supreme Court, recognized the outstanding pro bono accomplishments of 13 legal professionals, four law students, a law firm and a public-interest legal organization at the 25th annual Pro Bono and Children's Law Awards Ceremony on May 25 at the Louisiana Supreme Court Building in New Orleans.

Louisiana Department of Labor Chief Judge Sheral C. Kellar and LSBA Access to Justice Committee Vice Chair Sachida R. Raman presented the awards to the 2010 award recipients.

The 2010 awards were presented in several categories.

► **Friend of Pro Bono Award:** Mathile W. Abramson, Baton Rouge; Donna D. Fraiche, New Orleans; the late JoEdna P. Roberts, Baton Rouge; and Louisiana Appleseed.

► **Pro Bono Publico Award:** Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C., New Orleans office; Marianna Broussard, Lafayette;

Caroline McSherry "Sherry" Dolan, New Orleans; Don K. Haycraft, New Orleans; Lauren B. McKnight, New Orleans; Malcolm A. Meyer, New Orleans; Cynthia N. Reed, Baton Rouge; and Monica C. Sanchez, Metairie.

► **Career Public Interest Award:** Clifton "Cliff" R. Jackson, Jr., Lafayette.

► **David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award:** Marta-Ann Schnabel, New Orleans.

► **Children's Law Award:** Kären A. Hallstrom, River Ridge.

► **Law Student Pro Bono Award:** Lynn Austin, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Nikki D. Thanos, Loyola University College of Law; Ebony N. Williams, Southern University Law Center; and Homero López, Jr., Tulane University Law School.

New to this year's awards ceremony was the presentation of the **Pro Bono Century Award**,

recognizing attorneys who have shown consummate pro bono leadership by completing 100 hours of service from January 2009 through December 2009. The 2010 recipients are: Suzanne Ecuyer Bayle, New Orleans; William G. Cherbonnier, Jr., Gretna; Mark A. Cunningham, New Orleans; Caroline McSherry "Sherry" Dolan, New Orleans; Don K. Haycraft, New Orleans; Kindall Chauffe James, New Orleans; Catherine Elena Lasky, New Orleans; Simone Manuel, New Orleans; Lauren B. McKnight, New Orleans; Malcolm A. Meyer, New Orleans; Kerry Ann Murphy, New Orleans; and Mark C. Surprenant, New Orleans.

For profiles of 2010 award recipients, go to: www.lsba.org/2007atj/ProBonoAwardsNomination.asp.

69th Annual Meeting Awards



LBF Installs Officers, Presents Awards at Fellows Meeting

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) 2009-10 President Drew Ranier presented the President's Award and Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson administered the oath of office to newly elected officers during the June 10 Annual Fellows Meeting in Florida. Herschel E. Richard, Jr. of Shreveport was sworn in as 2010-11 president. Mathile W. Abramson of Baton Rouge is vice president, Patricia A. Krebs of New Orleans is treasurer, and Leo C. Hamilton of Baton Rouge is secretary.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, left, installed the 2010-11 officers of the Louisiana Bar Foundation, from left, President Herschel E. Richard, Jr., Vice President Mathile W. Abramson, Treasurer Patricia A. Krebs and Secretary Leo C. Hamilton. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

2010 President's Award

Mathile W. Abramson, a partner of Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Armond McCowan & Jarman, L.L.P., in Baton Rouge, is the recipient of the LBF President's Award. Abramson was selected by Ranier in recognition of her outstanding support, volunteer service and dedication to the mission and goals of the LBF. This past year, she served on the LBF's board of directors as treasurer and as the board liaison and chair of the Budget/Investment Committee and the Grants Committee.

Abramson attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. and earned her BA degree from Sophie Newcomb College at Tulane University and her JD degree from



Mathile W. Abramson, right, received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's President's Award from 2009-10 President Drew Ranier. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She works with clients in a variety of litigation and mediation matters, including gaming, asbestos, toxic tort, municipal, personal injury, contract, commercial and construction litigation. She has served as judge pro tempore of Division D, 23rd Judicial District Court.

2010 Boisfontaine Award

John M. McCollam, a founding partner of Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, L.L.P., in New Orleans, received the LBF's Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. He was selected for his long-standing devotion to excellence in trial practice and for upholding the standards of ethics and consideration for the courts, litigants and all counsel in his practice of the law. He received a plaque and \$1,000 will be donated in his name to the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

McCollam is a graduate of Tulane Law School. His practice ranges from complex commercial and energy transactions and litigation to energy regulatory matters, products liability, toxic tort and environmental cases, telecommunications and intellectual property law. He has extensive

experience litigating all types of oil and gas disputes, regularly appears before the Louisiana State Mineral Board, the Louisiana Office of Conservation and the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and has represented clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Minerals Management Service

He is a member of several professional associations, is professor emeritus of Tulane Law School, and has published numerous articles on oil and gas matters, including a comprehensive review of basic Louisiana mineral law, "A Primer for the Practice of Mineral Law Under the New Louisiana Mineral Code," 50 Tul. L. Rev. 729 (1976).



John M. McCollam, right, received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award from 2009-10 President Drew Ranier. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

2010-11 LCLCE Officers Sworn In at Annual Meeting

Brian J. Engeron was sworn in as the 2010-11 president of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE). Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey P. Victory administered the oath of office to Engeron and the other officers at the LCLCE reception in conjunction with the Louisiana State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Florida.

Also sworn in were John A. Hernandez III, vice president; Mark A. Cunningham, treasurer; Loretta Larsen, secretary; and Hon. C. Wendell Manning, immediate past president.

During the reception, Engeron presented a plaque to Judge Manning, recognizing him for his untiring efforts, leadership and commitment to the organization during his 2008-10 tenure as president.



Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education President Brian J. Engeron, right, presented a plaque to Hon. C. Wendell Manning, recognizing him for his untiring efforts, leadership and commitment during his 2008-10 tenure as LCLCE president. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*



The 2010-11 officers of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) were installed in June. LCLCE officers and board members are, from left, board member Hon. Randall L. Bethancourt; board member Val P. Exnicios; Secretary Loretta Larsen; Immediate Past President Hon. C. Wendell Manning; President Brian J. Engeron; Vice President John A. Hernandez III; and 2009-10 LCLCE board member Brad J. Gegenheimer. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*

Mandeville High Student Receives 2010 Civics in Action Award

Mandeville High School student Samuel Curtis Ingalls is the recipient of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education's (LCLCE) 2010 Civics in Action Award.

Ingalls, a transfer student from Chicago, began school at Mandeville High in St. Tammany Parish this past year. He has a grade point average of 4.7 and was elected president of his sophomore class. He is a member of Hi-Y, the football team, the jazz band, the wrestling team, the Student Council and the Life on Purpose Club. As a

member of Hi-Y, Ingalls was elected to the position of Speaker of the House of the Louisiana Youth Legislators Board and won the Monice Oliphant Award for Best Legislator and Delegate at the 2010 Louisiana Legislature Conference. He was selected to be the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) ambassador from Mandeville High School and was chosen to be a representative from Louisiana at the YMCA Conference for National Affairs.

This summer, he is serving as a page in the United States Senate Page Program, nominated by Sen. David Vitter.

The Civics in Action award is presented annually to a Louisiana middle or high school student committed to making a difference through the use of government or his/her school environment.

69th Annual Meeting Awards