

Focus on Diversity

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

New signatories to LSBA Statement of Diversity Principles listed

Several more attorneys, law firms and businesses have added their signatures to the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Statement of Diversity Principles.

The LSBA's Committee on Diversity asks all Louisiana law firms, law departments and courts to execute the voluntary Statement of Diversity Principles. By executing the Statement, the leaders of a legal organization or court agree to use their best efforts to increase the diversity in their hiring, retention and promotion of attorneys and the elevation of attorneys to leadership positions within their organizations. They also agree to promote and participate in appropriate diversity awareness training programs as well as programs to measure their progress in the pursuit of the stated diversity principles.

To access the Statement online, go to: www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityPrinciples.aspx. Signed forms may be returned to Director of Member Outreach and Diver-

sity Tricia R. Pierre by email at tricia.pierre@lsba.org, by fax (504)566-0930, or by mail: 601 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130-3404.

Among the recent signatories are:

Attorneys

D. August-Gilmore
Marcus V. Brown
Katharine Byrd
Desiree C. Calvin
Laura L. Catlett
Joy C. Daussin
Wanda Anderson Davis
Anthony Dunbar
Ariyal Fabre
Amanda C. Foster
George M. Gates IV
Jennifer Gaubert
Kristina M. Kent
Don Paul Landry, P.L.C.
Venus R. Masakowski
Melissa Mendoza
Charles K. Middleton

Rokeya J. Morris
Gayle Speed Ringo
Tina Suggs
Cherrilynne W. Thomas
Katherine W. Trotter
Sherry Watters
Jacquelyn Watts
Harold (Sonny) Wheelahan

Law Firms/Business

The Bradley Law Firm
Beusa Energy, L.L.C.
Christovich & Kearney, L.L.P.
Crest Industries, L.L.C.
Davenport & Kim, A.P.L.C.
Law Office of Edward Larvadain III
Law Office of Williard J. Brown, Sr.
LaCour Law Firm, L.L.C.
Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association
NASA Stennis Space Center
Turner Industries

Sponsors thanked for 7th Annual Conclave on Diversity

About 320 people attended the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) seventh annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession March 21 in New Orleans — the highest attendance in Conclave history and a clear demonstration of the legal

Platinum Plus

Jones Walker, L.L.P.
Kean Miller, L.L.P.

Platinum

Adams and Reese, L.L.P.

Gold

Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C.
Blue Williams, L.L.P.
Curry & Friend, P.L.C.
Entergy
Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, A.P.L.C.
Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, L.L.C.
Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, L.L.C.

profession's interest in diversity and inclusion issues. The Conclave, with the theme "Inclusive Professionalism: Harnessing the Power of Our Differences," was accessible to attorneys statewide, for viewing at their desks or on cell phones, via a live feed court-

King, Krebs & Jurgens, P.L.L.C.
Liskow & Lewis, A.P.L.C.
LSBA Civil Law and Litigation Section
McCranie Sistrunk Anzelmo Hardy
McDaniel & Welch, L.L.C.
Montgomery Barnett, L.L.P.
New Orleans Chapter Federal Bar Association
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C.

Silver

Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, P.L.C.
Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy, L.L.P.
Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.
Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, L.L.P.

tesy of Southern University Law Center. For the first time, viewers at a satellite location at Southern University Law Center received CLE credit for offsite viewing.

The organizers would like to thank several sponsors of the 2014 conclave.

Bronze

Chopin, Wagar, Richard and Kutcher, L.L.P.
Christovich & Kearney, L.L.P.
Committee to Re-elect Attorney General Buddy Caldwell
Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice, L.L.P.
Krebs, Farley & Pelleteri, P.L.L.C.
Minority Corporate Counsel Association
Neuner Pate
Whitehead Law Firm

Coffee Service Sponsor

Louisiana District Judges Association
LSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
Northwestern State University



Was It Something I Said Wore? The Impact of Diversity on Attire in the Legal Profession

By Omar K. Mason

“On TV people look at your hair and then they look at your skin, and then they look at your clothes, and by the time they’re listening to what you’re saying, you’re off the screen.”

—Douglas Coupland, Novelist

In today’s fast-paced technologically advanced society, the above quote about actors in a television show is also true of lawyers in a courtroom. Be it a jury or sometimes even a judge, it appears to be part of a factfinder’s human nature to be easily distracted by the seemingly superficial. We, as a society, are becoming more and more visual. “Show me, don’t tell me!” is the mantra ringing in many of our minds.

So, when your “less-than-sexy case” is being presented before a factfinder, and attention is diverted from the technical intricacies of your theory, you better be certain that you didn’t put on those slacks you forgot were partially devoured by moths in your closet because that fashion faux pas

may very well negatively affect the impact of your presentation. Like it or not, fair or unfair, we are often judged by our outward appearance. Therefore, what you wear can be very important in our noble profession.

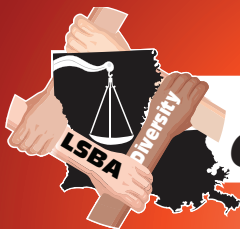
To read the full article, go to: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/Diversity/somethingiwore.pdf>.

Omar K. Mason is an associate in the New Orleans office of Montgomery Barnett, L.L.P. He received his BA degree in English in 1996 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 1999 from Loyola University College of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Louisiana and Texas.

CODE OF PROFESSIONALISM

- ▶ My word is my bond. I will never intentionally mislead the court or other counsel. I will not knowingly make statements of fact or law that are untrue.
- ▶ I will clearly identify for other counsel changes I have made in documents submitted to me.
- ▶ I will conduct myself with dignity, civility, courtesy and a sense of fair play.
- ▶ I will not abuse or misuse the law, its procedures or the participants in the judicial process.
- ▶ I will consult with other counsel whenever scheduling procedures are required and will be cooperative in scheduling discovery, hearings, the testimony of witnesses and in the handling of the entire course of any legal matter.
- ▶ I will not file or oppose pleadings, conduct discovery or utilize any course of conduct for the purpose of undue delay or harassment of any other counsel or party. I will allow counsel fair opportunity to respond and will grant reasonable requests for extensions of time.
- ▶ I will not engage in personal attacks on other counsel or the court. I will support my profession’s efforts to enforce its disciplinary rules and will not make unfounded allegations of unethical conduct about other counsel.
- ▶ I will not use the threat of sanctions as a litigation tactic.
- ▶ I will cooperate with counsel and the court to reduce the cost of litigation and will readily stipulate to all matters not in dispute.
- ▶ I will be punctual in my communication with clients, other counsel and the court, and in honoring scheduled appearances.

Following approval by the Louisiana State Bar Association House of Delegates and the Board of Governors at the Midyear Meeting, and approval by the Supreme Court of Louisiana on Jan. 10, 1992, the Code of Professionalism was adopted for the membership. The Code originated from the Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee.



LSBA DIVERSITY OUTREACH & INCLUSION

DIVERSITY • INCLUSION PROFESSIONALISM

For latest news on diversity and inclusion in the profession, visit www.lsba.org/diversity