

# Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit [www.lsba.org/diversity](http://www.lsba.org/diversity).

## Nomination procedures listed, forms online for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nomination deadlines are Feb. 28, 2022, for both awards.

For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go online: [www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx). Click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." Or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at [diversity@lsba.org](mailto:diversity@lsba.org).

### LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards — the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period runs from October through February.

This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the first African-American

chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current member of the LSBA's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential;
- ▶ ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach;
- ▶ commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession; and
- ▶ participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

### LSBA Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes non-profit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period is October through February.

Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including non-profits and public interest organizations).

Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts:

- ▶ creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion in society;
- ▶ making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession;
- ▶ enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities;
- ▶ advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity;
- ▶ dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups; and
- ▶ proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion. 

Become a Signatory

to the LSBA Statement of Diversity Principles

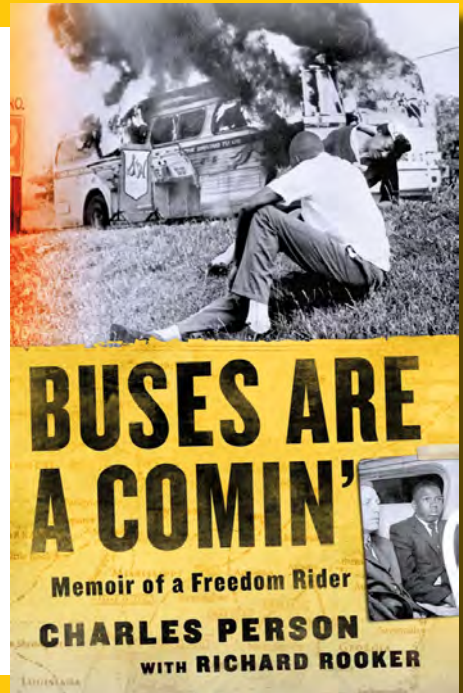
For more information or to view the statement online, visit [www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityPrinciples.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityPrinciples.aspx)

**“LOOK AROUND... WHAT CHANGE NEEDS TO HAPPEN?  
GET ON THE BUS. MAKE IT HAPPEN.”** – CHARLES PERSON

A firsthand exploration of the cost of boarding the bus of change to move America forward – written by one of the Civil Rights Movement’s pioneers.

At 18, Charles Person was the youngest of the original Freedom Riders. This mix of activists – including future Congressman John Lewis, Congress of Racial Equality Director James Farmer, Reverend Benjamin Elton Cox, journalist and pacifist James Peck, and CORE field secretary Genevieve Hughes – set out by bus in 1961 to discover whether America would abide by a Supreme Court decision that ruled segregation unconstitutional in bus depots, waiting areas, restaurants and restrooms nationwide. They were met with violent opposition in the Southern states. One bus was burned to a shell; the second, which Person rode, was set upon by a mob that beat the Riders nearly to death.

*Buses Are a Comin’* provides a front-row view of the struggle to belong in America, as Person leads his colleagues off the bus, into the station, into the mob, and into history to help defeat segregation’s violent grip on African American lives. The book is also a call to action from a teenager of a previous era to the young people of today: become agents of transformation. Stand firm. Create a more just and moral country where students have a voice, youth can make a difference, and everyone belongs.



Find out more about the book:

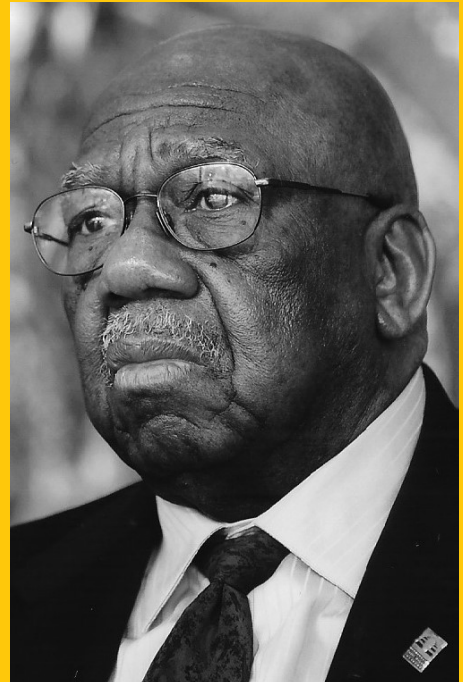
[www.lsba.org/goto/2021ConclaveBook](http://www.lsba.org/goto/2021ConclaveBook)

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## CHARLES A. PERSON

Charles A. Person is a veteran of the Vietnam War and of the Civil Rights Movement. He saw action in Da Nang, Vietnam; Chu Lai, Okinawa; Washington, D.C.; Charlotte, NC; New Orleans, LA; and Atlanta, GA. During his days in the Civil Rights Movement, the Klu Klux Klan savagely beat him in Anniston, AL and again in Birmingham. Numerous medals and ribbons have been awarded to Person for his hard work and dedication. He retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1981 and remained at Guantanamo Bay Navy Base for three years, where he managed an electronic maintenance company. He then continued his career with the Atlanta Public School System as an electronic technician. Today, Person and his wife reside in his hometown of Atlanta and are the parents of five children. He is an activist within the community and the NAACP.



Since 2008, the LSBA has convened a Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The LSBA chose to host a “conclave” rather than a “meeting” because a conclave signifies “an assembly or gathering, especially one that has special authority, power, or influence.” The Conclave is designed to encourage a discussion among judges and attorneys (primarily hiring and managing attorneys within law firms and agencies) about diversity and inclusion issues arising within the profession, and the tools they can use to effectively manage diversity/inclusion issues arising in their offices and in their practices.