

Focus on Diversity


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

Shadowing opportunities available for 2021 Suit Up for the Future Program

The Louisiana State Bar Association, in partnership with Just the Beginning, is again hosting the Suit Up for the Future program this summer, a free three-week legal institute for high school students and recent graduates interested in pursuing careers in the legal profession.

The 2021 program is set for June 14 through July 2. During the program, students attend an abridged law school session, take field trips to law schools and courts, and participate in an internship consisting of job shadowing at area law offices and courts.

Legal professionals are being asked to participate in job shadowing opportunities. During the program's second week (June 21-25), students will be assigned to "shadow" attorneys at firms, courts and organizations. This is an opportunity for the students to observe what attorneys do on a daily basis and to spend one-on-one time with attorneys in the workforce. New Orleans area attorneys, firms and organizations interested in providing a shadowing opportunity for one or more students should email diversity@lsba.org.

The program application deadline is May 10 for high school juniors, seniors and students entering their first year of college in fall 2021. Students may apply online at: www.lsba.org/goto/suitup. 

Nominations accepted through June 30 for Citizen Lawyer Award

Nominations will be accepted through June 30 for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) *Citizen Lawyer Award*, a service award that recognizes individual attorneys and judges who have performed public services out of a sense of duty, responsibility and professionalism.

In 2001, the LSBA instituted the Crystal Gavel Awards. This award program was updated in 2014 and renamed the Citizen Lawyer Awards.

To be nominated, the lawyer must be admitted to practice in Louisiana, and the judge must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana. Nominees must have made a difference in their local communities, in local organizations, or in the life of one person, and have served the public in a number of areas, including:

- ▶ Aiding the administration of justice.
- ▶ Assisting groups or individuals on a volunteer basis in a non-legal


capacity.

▶ Educating the public or individuals or students about legal matters.

▶ Providing pro bono legal services in a matter of a significant nature, or in a significant number of cases, or in a way that significantly changed the life of a person or group.

▶ Working in conjunction with the court system to make it more welcoming, inviting and understandable for jurors, witnesses or victims of crime.

Awards are presented in local communities throughout the state. There is no limit to the number of awards which will be presented, as the LSBA wishes to recognize all deserving individuals.

For more information about the award or to submit a nomination, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitizenLawyerAward>. Or email the LSBA's Member Outreach and Diversity Department at outreach@lsba.org. 

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

Lafayette Bar and LSBA Diversity Committee host series of diversity-related Webinars

The Lafayette Bar Association, in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, hosted three diversity-related webinars.

The webinars explored a range of topics such as: generational differences in the workplace, defining equity and diversity, and understanding bias.

On Dec. 10, 2020, attorney Cynthia Simon Spadoni, with 16th Judicial District Attorney's Office, presented the seminar "Equity and Diversity."

On Dec. 14, 2020, attorney Claire Bergeron Edwards presented the seminar



Cynthia S. Spadoni



Claire Bergeron Edwards



Dwazendra J. Smith



Quincy L. Mouton

"Diversity in Practice."

On April 8, 2021, attorney Dwazendra J. Smith, with Doran & Cawthorne,

PLLC, and attorney Quincy L. Mouton, with Neuner Pate, presented the seminar "Equity and Diversity." 📺

LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. To this end, the LSBA offers many worthwhile programs and services designed to complement your career, the legal profession and the community. In the past several years, the legal profession has experienced many changes. The LSBA has kept up with those changes by maturing in structure and stature and becoming more diverse and competitive. As the premier organization serving Louisiana's legal profession, the LSBA is working to advance its members' goals and interests through unparalleled programming and a comprehensive benefits package. Listed below are a few benefits of membership:

Discount Business Services

www.lsba.org/goto/memberbenefits

The LSBA works with many businesses and service providers to offer a variety of discounted services to our members. For a list of the latest providers and discounts, visit www.lsba.org/goto/memberbenefits.

Judicial Interest Rates & Calculator

<https://www.lsba.org/Members/JudicialInterestRate.aspx>

View information regarding judicial interest rates, both current and past rates. Calculate interest using the free web Judicial Interest Rate Calculator created by Charles D. Elliott.

LSBA Professional Programs Department Services

Legal Library

<https://www.lsba.org/Members/LegalLibrary.aspx>

The Louisiana State Bar Association collects and maintains an extensive amount of resources for both our members and the public alike. The Legal Library provides you with the most current guidelines, court rules, court orders and provisions.

Lawyer Advertising Filing and Evaluation • rlemmler@lsba.org

This program provides screening of proposed lawyer advertising to confirm compliance with the Supreme Court's advertising rules. For information/inquiries, contact LSBA Ethics Counsel Richard P. Lemmler, Jr. at rlemmler@lsba.org or (504)619-0144.

Practice Assistance and Improvement

bking@lsba.org

As mandated by the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Bar's Practice Assistance and Improvement Program offers alternatives to discipline via its Attorney-Client Assistance Program and the Diversion Program. For more information, contact Professional Programs Counsel for Practice Assistance William N. King at bking@lsba.org or (504)619-0109.

Opinions Service

www.lsba.org/Members/OpinionsService.aspx

The LSBA Opinions Service allows members to obtain the latest opinions released from Louisiana appellate courts (First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth circuits) and the Louisiana Supreme Court. By subscribing to this service, LSBA members can automatically receive appellate court opinions via automatic e-mail notifications.



Louisiana
State Bar
Association

Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

For more information,
visit www.lsba.org