

Focus on Diversity

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

Volunteer opportunities open for 2019 Suit Up for the Future Program

The Louisiana State Bar Association, in partnership with the Louisiana Bar Foundation and 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 2019 program is set for June 10-28.

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 shadowing at

area law offices and courts.


Legal professionals may participate in one of two ways.

► **Volunteer for one hour.** Attorneys are invited to volunteer their time from noon-1 p.m. to talk to the students about legal careers. Anyone interested in participating should email the Member Outreach and Diversity team at diversity@lsba.org.

► **Shadowing opportunities.** During the program's second week (June 17-21), students will be assigned to "shadow" attorneys at firms, courts and organizations. This is an opportunity for the students to see

for themselves what attorneys do on a daily basis and to spend one-on-one time with attorneys in the workforce. Attorneys and firms 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 2019. Students may apply online at: www.lsba.org/diversity/hsinternapp.aspx.

For more information on the Suit Up For the Future Program, go to: www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityStudentResources.aspx. 

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. 



DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • PROFESSIONALISM

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

Tulane University Black Law Students Association hosts BLSA Ball

The Tulane University Black Law Students Association hosted the BLSA Ball on Feb. 9 at the New Orleans Jazz Market. The ball was an opportunity to celebrate diversity and its impact on Tulane University and beyond. The ball was held in conjunction with the Black Alumni Reunion Weekend.



Attending the Tulane University Black Law Students Association BLSA Ball were, from left, David A. Durand, Jr., Firstline Schools; Kesana B. Durand, grants administrator, Tulane University Law School; and Atia M. Moore Durand, attorney at law.



Attending the Tulane University Black Law Students Association BLSA Ball were, from left, Claris Smith, Cooper Law Firm LLC; Lezlie A. Griffin, assistant dean for career development and diversity initiatives, Tulane University Law School; Natalie Paul, Tulane University Law School (3L); and Courtney Fontaine, Tulane University Law School (1L).



Law students attending the Tulane University Black Law Students Association BLSA Ball included, bottom row from left, Tanisha Manning (2L) and Arielle Sims (1L). Second row, seated from left, Natalie Paul (3L), AsheLee Singleton (1L) and Amanda Taylor (2L). Third row, standing from left, Jordan Rice (2L), Marissa Etter (2L), Summer Roberson (1L), Sydney Tonic (1L), Tiarra Riggins (1L), Maya Rex (1L), Karli Wells (1L), Kai Johnson (1L) and Courtney Fontaine (1L). Back row, standing from left, Shane Thomas (1L), Chris Williams-Lopez (1L), Andrea Ewalefo (1L), Emma Connor (2L), Randolph McKinnie (2L), Kelli Slater (1L), Sydney Cunningham (2L) and Maseo Brown (2L).

LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. 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.



For more information, visit www.lsba.org

Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

