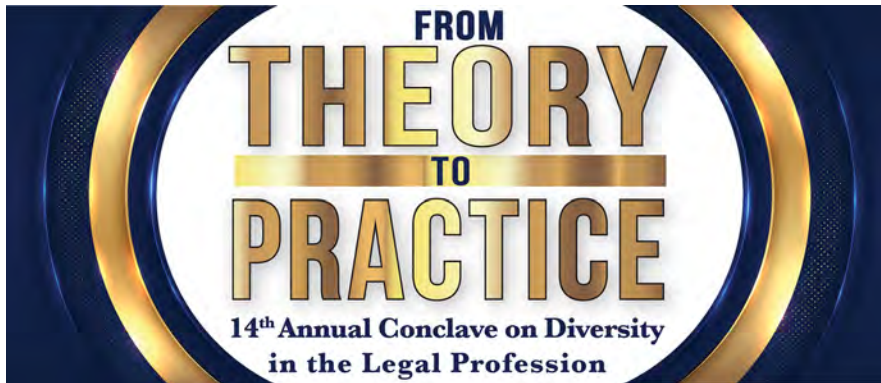


# Focus on Diversity

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



**LaToya C. Merritt**  
Phelps Dunbar LLP  
Jackson, MS

LaToya C. Merritt is a partner in the regional Labor and Employment Practice of Phelps Dunbar LLP, chairing Phelps' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and serving as the practice coordinator for the Jackson, MS, Labor and Employment Practice Group. She represents public and private entities in all areas of civil rights and Title VII litigation. An experienced litigator, she has handled some of Mississippi's high-profile employment and constitutional law cases. Her practice also involves training, planning and providing employment advice, specifically providing management and corporate counsel advice on performance evaluation/appraisal systems and the development and implementation of employment policies and practices. She conducts diversity training, management training and educational programs for companies nationwide. In her community, she is vice chair of the Grambling State University Foundation and serves on the board of Canopy Children's Solutions.

## CONCLAVE SPEAKERS



**Nicole A. Eichberger**  
Proskauer  
New Orleans, LA

Nicole A. Eichberger is a partner in the Labor and Employment Law Department and head of the New Orleans office for Proskauer. She is a member of the Class & Collective Actions and Wage and Hour Groups. An experienced trial lawyer, she represents clients in employment-related matters, from single-plaintiff and complex employment to large, complex class and collective actions alleging discrimination, non-compete violations, and wage and hour disputes. She assists in conducting workplace investigations and audits related to discrimination, managerial training, non-competes and employee classification. She is a member of the firm's eDiscovery Group and advises clients on eDiscovery matters, including day-to-day preservation, investigations and litigation strategies. She recently completed a three-year term on the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service and serves as the pro bono co-coordinator for Proskauer's New Orleans office. She is a contributor to Proskauer's "Law and the Workplace" blog. She received her BA degree in 1997 from the University of Virginia and her JD degree in 2002 from Tulane University Law School.



**Robert J. Grey, Jr.**  
President, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity  
Richmond, VA

Robert J. Grey, Jr., elected president of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity in 2012, has presided over the rapid growth of this non-profit organization led by more than 350 of the nation's top legal professionals. He was a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, where he served as vice chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee and represented businesses in administrative, regulatory and legislative matters. He has served on the board of the Legal Services Corporation since 2010, appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. From 1998-2002, he chaired the American Bar Association's (ABA) House of Delegates. He was elected ABA president in 2004, the second African-American to hold the position. During his ABA term, he launched the America Jury Project, which led to the adoption of the ABA Principles for Juries and Jury Trials. He received his BS degree in 1973 from Virginia Commonwealth University and his law degree in 1976 from Washington and Lee University.



**Sukhsimranjit Singh**  
Pepperdine Caruso School of Law  
Malibu, CA

Sukhsimranjit Singh is the Judge Danny Weinstein Managing Director of the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and associate professor of law and practice at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. A speaker and author on advanced mediation and cross-cultural dispute resolution, he has published numerous articles in that field and delivered TEDx talks in India and the United States. He has mediated intercultural and commercial cases in the United States, India, Canada and New Zealand. He has trained lawyers and law students in 45 countries. An Honorary Fellow with the International Academy of Mediators, he served as a council member of the Section of Dispute Resolution of the American Bar Association and currently serves as a board member at Weinstein International Foundation and an Executive Committee member of AALS Section of Dispute Resolution. He serves on the AAA-ICDR panel of international mediators and was featured in “Prominent Sikh Scholars and Educationalists.” He has a doctorate and a master’s in laws in dispute resolution.



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**Prof. Kimberly J. Norwood**  
Washington University School of Law  
St. Louis, MO

Kimberly Jade Norwood is the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law at Washington University School of Law. She completed her undergraduate work at Fordham University and received her JD degree in 1985 from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She practiced with Bryan Cave, LLP, in St. Louis, Mo., before joining the Washington University School of Law faculty in 1990. She is the principal partner in her consulting company, KJN Equity Consultants, LLC, and conducts implicit bias and cultural competency workshops and DEI assessments. She was among the group of national experts advising Starbucks on the company’s implicit bias programming. Her first book, *Color Matters: Skin Tone Bias & the Myth of a Post-Racial America*, was published in 2014. Her second book, *Ferguson’s Fault Lines: The Race Quake that Rocked a Nation*, was published in 2016. She is currently a commissioner on the Missouri Supreme Court’s Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness and is a member of the Monitoring Team for the *U.S v. Ferguson* Consent Decree. She has served as a commissioner on the American Bar Association’s Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession and the ABA Commission on Diversity and Inclusion 360.

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**Victor J. Suane, Jr.**  
Kean Miller LLP  
Baton Rouge, LA

Victor J. Suane, Jr. is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Kean Miller LLP and chair of the firm’s Diversity Council. He joined the firm in 2007 and practices in the environmental and litigation groups. He is a counselor and litigator for local, regional and national clients in a variety of oil and gas, regulatory, lost leasing opportunity, soil and groundwater contamination, wetlands loss, pipeline right-of-way negotiation and expropriation, toxic tort, commercial, environmental, and general litigation matters. He was recognized as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana in 2014 by Louisiana State Bar Association and was a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. He is an active member of the National Bar Association’s Commercial Law Section, currently serving on its CLE Committee, and has served on the Federal Bar Association’s Professional Ethics Committee since 2018. He received a BA degree in 1998 from Rhodes College and his JD degree, *cum laude*, in 2007 from Southern University Law Center.



**Julia Mercier**  
Mercier Talent Solutions LLC  
Brooklyn, NY

Julia Mercier is the principal of Mercier Talent Solutions LLC. A skilled executive coach and facilitator, she designs and delivers tailored training and coaching programs focused on leadership, communication and collaboration skills. Her coaching style is engaging, results-oriented and informed by her seven years spent as a litigator at a large law firm and her 10+ years leading professional development strategy at global law firms. She received her law degree from the University of Montreal and a coaching certification from New York University.



**Denia S. Aiyegbusi**  
**Conclave Co-chair**  
 Deutsch Kerrigan LLP  
*New Orleans, LA*

Denia S. Aiyegbusi is a partner in the New Orleans office of Deutsch Kerrigan LLP. As part of the firm’s civil litigation department, she works on cases ranging from small property subrogation claims to multi-million-dollar, traumatic, brain injury, personal injury cases. She has successfully argued motions in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana. As an appellate lawyer, she has successfully argued in the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal and briefed to the Louisiana Supreme Court. She graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2007. She currently serves as co-chair on Louisiana State Bar Association’s Diversity Committee and is involved with the Minority Involvement Section.



**J. Dalton Courson**  
**Conclave Co-chair**  
 Disability Rights Louisiana  
*New Orleans, LA*

J. Dalton Courson is Litigation Director with Disability Rights Louisiana, a nonprofit agency that protects and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities of all ages across Louisiana. Before joining Disability Rights Louisiana earlier this year, Courson was a member of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann LLC in New Orleans, where his practice focused on commercial litigation. He also serves as a co-chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Diversity Committee and of the Access to Justice Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation. He is an adjunct professor at Loyola University College of Law, where he teaches a constitutional law seminar focusing on LGBTQ legal issues. Courson was awarded the 2013 Human Rights Award and the 2015 Trailblazer Award from the LSBA for his efforts in promoting diversity in the legal profession.



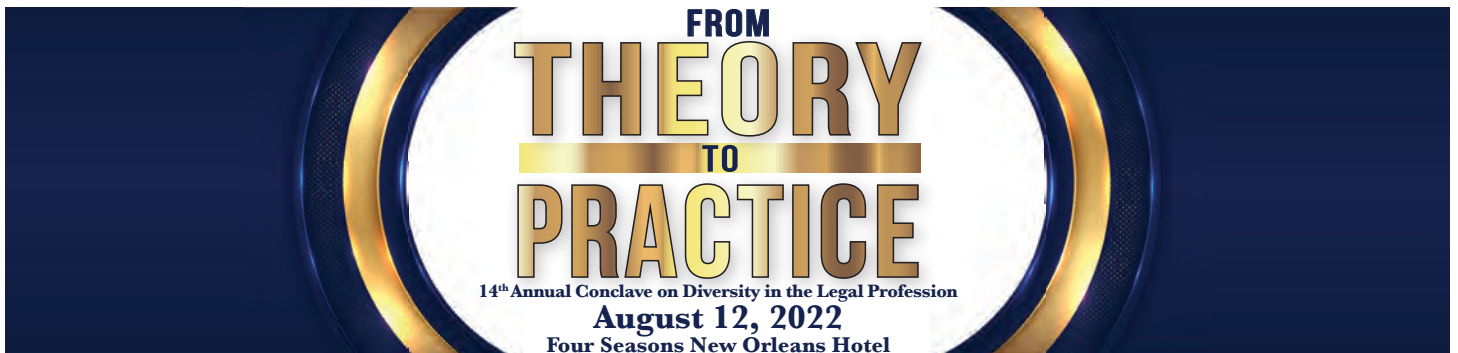
**Four Seasons New Orleans Hotel**



**John A. Womble**  
**Conclave Chair**  
 Frederick A. Miller & Associates  
*Metairie, LA*

John A. Womble is an attorney with Frederick A. Miller & Associates in Metairie, which is State Farm’s claims litigation counsel for the Greater New Orleans region. As part of the firm’s litigation division, he works on insurance-related cases including personal injury, property damage and subrogation. Prior to working with State Farm, he worked with various insurance defense firms in the New Orleans area. He is involved in diversity and inclusion with State Farm and has been a liaison and member for the office with both the State Farm Claims Department’s and the Corporate Legal Department’s Diversity & Inclusion Committees since 2004. He currently serves as the co-chair on the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee, previously serving in various capacities since 2013. He attended the University of Texas in Austin initially for his undergraduate schooling and completed his studies at Louisiana State University, earning a BA degree in economics in 1993. He graduated from Tulane University Law School in 1996.

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## CONCLAVE CORPORATE BREAKFAST BY INVITATION ONLY FOR SPONSORS

Four Seasons New Orleans Hotel  
August 12, 2022



**Demarcus J. Gordon**  
*Moderator*  
Kelly Hart & Pitre  
New Orleans, LA

Demarcus J. Gordon is a partner in the oil and gas and environmental litigation sections for Kelly Hart & Pitre in New Orleans. His practice includes general litigation, environmental litigation, environmental due diligence, crisis management, oil and gas litigation, premises liability litigation, and mass tort and class action lawsuits. He represents clients in premises liability cases and in personal injury cases involving alleged chemical exposures. He defends oil and gas exploration and production companies in legacy litigation by landowners and public entities alleging environmental damage arising from oil and gas exploration and production operations. He is involved with the immediate response to crisis or other emergency situations. He received a BS degree in 1991 from the University of Illinois and his JD degree in 1997 from St. Louis University.



**Angela N. Frazier**  
Cox Communications  
Atlanta, GA

Angela N. Frazier is assistant general counsel for Cox Communications, a company providing digital cable television, telecommunications, Internet and home automation services. Her responsibilities include resolving complaints and disputes with residential customers, business customers and vendors. She provides guidance on matters related to antitrust, e-discovery, consumer laws, bankruptcy and credit and collections. She also manages a team of subpoena coordinators. Prior to assuming her role at Cox in 2012, she spent eight years as a litigation associate at Kilpatrick Townsend law firm. Before attending law school, she worked for 15 years in various capacities at AT&T. She received a BA degree in 1986 from Loyola University in New Orleans and her JD degree in 2004 from Loyola University College of Law.



**Elizabeth Tranchina**  
Louisiana Lottery  
Corporation  
Baton Rouge, LA

Elizabeth Tranchina is vice president of sports wagering and deputy general counsel for the Louisiana Lottery Corporation. With more than 20 years of experience in the gaming industry, she began her legal career as an assistant attorney general with the Louisiana Department of Justice, Gaming Division, providing legal counsel to the Louisiana State Police Casino Gaming Division and the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. Prior to joining the Louisiana Lottery, she served as director of compliance for an operator of retail and regulated online sports wagering and icasino sites. She is a member of the American Gaming Association's Bank Secrecy Act working group that was responsible for the development of the American Gaming Association's "Best Practices for Anti-Money Laundering Compliance." She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the International Association of Gaming Advisors.

## SOLACE: Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel – All Concern Encouraged

The Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Foundation's Community Action Committee supports the SOLACE program. Through the program, the state's legal community is able to reach out in small, but meaningful and compassionate ways to judges, lawyers, court personnel, paralegals, legal secretaries and their families who experience a death or catastrophic illness, sickness or injury, or other catastrophic event. For assistance, contact a coordinator.

Area	Coordinator	Contact Info	Area	Coordinator	Contact Info
Alexandria/Sunset Area	Richard J. Arsenault rarsenault@nbawfirm.com	(318)487-9874 Cell (318)452-5700	Lake Charles Area	Melissa A. St. Mary melissa@pitrelawfirm.com	(337)942-1900
Baton Rouge Area	Ann K. Gregorie ann@brba.org	(225)214-5563	Monroe Area	John C. Roa roa@hhsclaw.com	(318)387-2422
Covington/ Mandeville Area	Suzanne E. Bayle sebayle@bellsouth.net	(504)524-3781	Natchitoches Area	Peyton Cunningham, Jr. wpcjrra@gmail.com	Cell (318)332-7294
Denham Springs Area	Mary E. Heck Barrios mary@barrioslaw.com	(225)664-9508	New Orleans Area	Helena N. Henderson hhenderson@neworleansbar.org	(504)525-7453
Houma/Thibodaux Area	Danna Schwab dschwab@theschwablawfirm.com	(985)868-1342	River Parishes Area	Judge Jude G. Gravois judegravois@bellsouth.net	(225)265-3923 (225)265-9828
Jefferson Parish Area	Pat M. Franz patfranz@bellsouth.net	(504)455-1986	Shreveport Area	Dana M. Southern dsouthern@shreveportbar.com	Cell (225)270-7705 (318)222-3643
Lafayette Area	Pam Landaiche director@lafayettebar.org	(337)237-4700			

For more information, go to: [www.lsba.org/goto/solace](http://www.lsba.org/goto/solace).