



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 11, 2010

## **Michael A. Patterson Installed as 70th President of the Louisiana State Bar Association**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Michael A. Patterson, a partner with Long Law Firm, L.L.P., in its Baton Rouge office, was installed June 11 as the 70th president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in conjunction with the LSBA's Annual Meeting in Florida. Administering Patterson's oath of office was Hon. Freddie Pitcher, Jr., chancellor of Southern University Law Center.

Patterson's focus for his year-long term as president is fully explained by the LSBA's newly launched logo and tagline: *Serving the Public. Serving the Profession*. "It is going to be one of my primary missions to take that message and bring meaning to it — both to our members and to the public at large," he said, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the current economic situation.

"We need to continue our targeted efforts to obtain adequate funding for Louisiana's Legal Services Corporations so the state's neediest citizens have an outlet to obtain civil legal services. We also will be encouraging our members to provide more legal services *pro bono*," Patterson said.

"But we are also very aware that some of our members themselves are experiencing tough economic times, so we will also focus on ways to assist our members through these challenges. These are scary times in the law business. Lots of firms have closed and gone out of existence. There have been layoffs and many new law graduates are not finding jobs. Changes are coming from everywhere. Many attorney jobs are disappearing as technology zooms ahead," Patterson said. "In the context of delivering legal services in a worldwide setting, achieving racial and gender diversity continues to be a big challenge."

Patterson is an adjunct professor of trial advocacy and evidence at Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. His devotion in practicing law is matched by his passion for teaching the next group of lawyers. "I teach my law students the things they need to know in an active trial practice. The founder of my firm, Senator Russell Long, strongly supported the importance of teaching those that follow you. I look forward to going to work every day and the opportunity to work with capable young people. Seeing them grow in their careers is very rewarding," he said.

"I've always operated on a simple premise: as lawyers, we're given a special privilege and with any privilege comes the obligation to give back. I see my service as president of the Louisiana State Bar Association as a continuation of that obligation."

Patterson received a bachelor of arts degree in 1968 and his Juris Doctor degree in 1971 from Louisiana State University and Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He received a certificate in dispute resolution and a master of laws degree in dispute resolution in 2008 from Pepperdine University. He was admitted to practice law in Louisiana in 1971 and in Washington, D.C., in 1988.

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## **Patterson**

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His practice is focused in business litigation, professional liability, discipline, mediation and settlement counsel. He has been mediating cases for more than 20 years and has handled cases in virtually every area of law. He is a panel member of the United States District Court Middle District Register of Neutrals, a panelist on the LSBA's Fee Dispute Resolution Program and a mediation panel member of the American Arbitration Association.

He served as judge *pro tempore* on the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal in 2002. He was the 2007 recipient of the California Dispute Resolution Council "Excellence in Dispute Resolution" Scholarship.

Very active in the LSBA, Patterson served as president-elect in 2009-10 and has chaired the Lawyers in Transition Committee since 2007. He chaired the Legislation Committee from 2003-05, chaired the Bar Governance Committee from 1997-99, chaired the Bench and Bar Section in 1993-94, and served on the Board of Governors from 1987-89 and in the House of Delegates from 1978-82. He received the LSBA President's Award in 1999.

He worked with the Committee on Bar Admissions in several capacities —chair, 1997-2000; secretary/director of character and fitness, 1992-97; bar examiner, 1990-94; and assistant grader, 1978-90. He is a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and served on the board of directors from 1997-2000, chairing the IOLTA Administrative Committee in 1997 and serving on the IOLTA Grants Committee.

He has held every elected position in the Baton Rouge Bar Association, serving as president in 1984-85. During his tenure as president, he obtained a grant from the American Bar Association to establish the first pro bono plan in Louisiana and hired the first full-time executive director. He was named Lawyer of the Year in 1989. He served as the original director of the Baton Rouge Lawyer Referral Service, and chaired the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the BBB/Baton Rouge Bar Consumer Arbitration Panel and the Law School Liaison and Civil Courts Committee. He is a Lifetime Fellow of the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation and chaired the board of trustees in 1991-92.

Patterson served as chair and vice chair of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center Chancellor's Council. Additionally, he is a member of the American Bar Association (Section on Litigation, Subcommittee on State Evidence Rules); the Bars of the United States Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th and 11th Circuits and the 5th Federal Circuit; the American Inn of Court; and the Louisiana Association for Justice. He also serves on the American Arbitration Association's Construction Panel and Mediation Panel.

He has authored and co-authored legal articles, authored a chapter in Woodard's *Louisiana Trial Procedure*, and is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars.

*The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 21,000 members in the practice of law. The statewide association, as part of its multi-faceted mission, promotes and maintains access to justice initiatives for the state's residents, assists the Louisiana Supreme Court in its regulation of the practice of law, upholds the honor of the courts and the profession, and supports programs that increase public understanding of and respect for the law.*