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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 11, 2010

### **Four Attorneys, Two Bar Associations Receive 2010 LSBA Young Lawyers Section Awards**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Four Louisiana attorneys and two local bar associations are the recipients of 2010 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (LSBA YLS) awards. The awards were presented by 2009-10 YLS Chair Melanie Mabile Mulcahy and other YLS Council members during a June 10 awards reception, held in conjunction with the LSBA Annual Meeting in Florida.

**Allison Leigh Becknell** of Metairie received the Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award.

**Karli Glascock Wilson** of Baton Rouge received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

**Mimi Flowers Plauche** of Baton Rouge received the Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.

**Lindsay Meador DeBlois** of Lafayette received the Pro Bono Award.

The **Lafayette Young Lawyers Association** received the Service to the Public Award for its months-long assistance in helping develop the courtroom project at Northside High School.

The **New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section** received the Service to the Bar Award for several projects aimed at educating and improving the quality of life and practice for its members and the Bar in general.

Award recipients' profiles follow.

#### **• Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award**

Allison Leigh Becknell, an associate in the Metairie office of The Becknell Law Firm, P.L.C., is recognized for her work with the Local Affiliates Outreach Committee.

She received a BS degree in 2001 from Washington & Lee University and her JD degree in 2005 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2006.

She is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the American Bar Association.

#### **• Outstanding Young Lawyer Award**

Karli Glascock Wilson is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman, L.L.P. She joined the firm in 1999 and practices in the commercial litigation, toxic tort defense and environmental groups. She has experience in the Louisiana chemical industry and assists clients with regard to litigation strategy and litigation management.

She earned her BA degree in 1995 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 1999 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1999.

Wilson is a member of the Baton Rouge and American Bar Associations and co-authored "Expert Depositions in the Era of *Daubert* and Its Progeny," with Leonard L. Kilgore, ABA Environmental Litigation Section, 2001.

more

## YLS Awards

### Add 1

She served as volunteer coach in the LSBA YLS's high school mock trial program. She is a member of the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, as well as serving on its Volunteer Panel, Mock Trial Committee, Holiday Star Committee and Belly Up to the Bar Committee.

Wilson also is a member of the board of directors of Capital Area YMCA/Lamar Branch.

- **Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award**

Mimi Flowers Plauche is a contract attorney in the employment law group in the Baton Rouge office of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. She practices in the areas of labor and employment law, employment litigation, insurance coverage and litigation, and civil litigation. Her employment litigation practice involves representation of employers in all aspects of litigation and administrative proceedings involving claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, family and medical leave, wage and hour, and workers' compensation. She also advises clients on human resources issues and conducts supervisor training.

She received a BA degree in political science, *magna cum laude*, in 1997 from Louisiana State University (Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Leadership LSU). She received her JD degree, with honors, in 2000 from the University of Texas. She is admitted to practice in the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals; United States District Courts for the Middle, Eastern and Western Districts of Louisiana; and all state courts in Louisiana.

She served on the LSBA YLS's Council from 2005-08 and was the 2008 recipient of the YLS's Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award.

Plauche is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (secretary, 2008; chair, Younger Lawyers Division, 2005 and 2006), the Baton Rouge Bar Association (Easter Eggstravaganza Committee, 2006; Volunteer Committee co-chair, 2003), and the American Bar Association.

- **Pro Bono Award**

Lindsay Meador DeBlois, with the Lafayette firm of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier & McElligott, L.L.P., received her BA degree in political science in 2004 from Loyola University and her JD degree in 2007 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2007. She is licensed to practice in all Louisiana state courts, in all United States district courts in Louisiana, and before the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is currently a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and the American Bar Association.

DeBlois serves on the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers board and the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association board. She received the 2008 and 2009 Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Outstanding Attorney Award and the 2009 Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Top Protective Order Award. In 2009, she donated more than 120 hours of time helping the economically disadvantaged in a myriad of family law cases and voluntarily took on 12 protective order cases.

After Hurricane Katrina and while still in law school, she worked as a Rule XX attorney in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office over 40 hours a week and tried 15 cases on a volunteer basis.

## **YLS Awards**

### **Add 2**

- **Service to the Public Award**

The Lafayette Young Lawyers Association (LYLA) is recognized for its months-long assistance in helping develop the courtroom project at Northside High School.

Several years ago, the LYLA adopted a policy to support Northside High School's Law Signature School, a designation originating from the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. The comprehensive program offers multiple elective and non-elective courses at each grade level, concentrating on the law and legal processes. In support of the school, the LYLA has provided speakers for the students, coaches for the mock trial teams, Law Week activities and other school requests.

In 2008, Brandon Letulier, LYLA chair of the Law Signature School Committee, worked with the Louisiana Bar Foundation to create and construct an actual courtroom in a Northside classroom. The courtroom is fully functioning, fitted with judge and jury and advocate seating, and used for mock trial competitions, speaker functions and role-playing court proceedings. Project completion took about nine months, and the LYLA and the Louisiana Bar Foundation held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 4, 2009.

To date, this is the only classroom in Louisiana constructed solely for high school students to become educated in the intricacies of the legal profession.

- **Service to the Bar Award**

The New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is recognized for several projects aimed at educating and improving the quality of life and practice for its members and the Bar in general.

The YLS hosts seminars to teach law students about office and social etiquette; organizes the annual Bench Bar Conference, with CLE programs and social events; coordinates the annual New Orleans Mayoral Luncheon; organizes an annual CLE and reception for new admittees (the "Big Easy Bootcamp: Basic Training for Lawyering in New Orleans" on Oct. 16, 2009); and organizes a series of one-hour "Approach the Bench" CLEs, informal and open forums for lawyers and judges to discuss current legal issues and courtroom procedures.

*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.*

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