

Attorneys, Judges Receive 2009 LSBA Awards at Annual Meeting

NEW ORLEANS—

Six Louisiana attorneys and two judges received 2009 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) awards, presented June 12 during the LSBA's Annual Meeting. The awards were presented by 2008-09 LSBA President Elizabeth Erny Foote.

2009 President's Awards

The 2009 President's Award recipients are attorney **Dana M. Douglas** of New Orleans, **Hon. Madeleine M. Landrieu** of New Orleans, attorney **H. Minor Pipes III** of New Orleans, attorney **Dona K. Renegar** of Lafayette and **Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux** of Lake Charles.

Dana M. Douglas was recognized for her exemplary work on the Leadership LSBA Program. A shareholder in the firm of Liskow & Lewis, P.L.C., in New Orleans, Douglas received a bachelor's degree in 1997 from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and her law degree in 2000 from Loyola University College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2000. Douglas currently serves as an at-large member on the LSBA's Board of Governors. She was the 2002-04 chair (and a current member) of the LSBA Minority Involvement Section. She also is a member of the LSBA's Intellectual Property Law Section. She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, serving as president of its Young Lawyers Section in 2006-07. She is a member of the Women's Energy Network, the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 2007, she was named to *City Business*' list of "Top 50 Leaders in Law." She received the Louis A. Martinet Award in 2003 and is an American Bar Association Minorities in the Profession Scholar.

Hon. Madeleine M. Landrieu was recognized for her exemplary work in the area of judicial and lawyer education. Judge Landrieu has served as an Orleans Parish Civil District Court judge since 2001. She is a 1987 graduate of Loyola University Law School where she was a member of the *Law Review* and Moot Court Board. She joined the firm of Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer and became a partner in 1992. In 1996, she served as chair of the New Orleans Pro Bono Project where she assisted in the development of a model child advocacy program serving children in Child in Need of Care cases. She is a charter Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and served on its IOLTA Grants Committee. In 1998, she received the LSBA's Pro Bono Publico Award and the Young Lawyers Section's Pro Bono Award. In 2002, she received the Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award from the Association of Women Attorneys and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center's Public Service Award. Judge Landrieu serves as treasurer of the Louisiana District Judges Association, also chairing the group's Disaster Recovery Committee. She is a member of the LSBA Bench Bar Committee, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Judicial Liaison Committee of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Civil District Court Legislative Committee.

H. Minor Pipes III was recognized for his exemplary work with the Continuing Legal Education Program Committee. Pipes is a founding member of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C., in New Orleans. Prior to establishing his new firm, he was a partner at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C., in New Orleans. He earned his bachelor's degree

from Pennsylvania State University and his law degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, graduating second in his class. At LSU, he was a member of the Order of Coif and the *Louisiana Law Review* and was the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships. Pipes serves on the Justice For All Ball Committee for The Pro Bono Project in New Orleans and actively participates in LSBA activities. He was a member of the inaugural class of Leadership LSBA, working on numerous projects to improve the legal profession today and in the future.

Dona K. Renegar was recognized for her exemplary work on the Leadership LSBA Program. A partner in the Lafayette office of Huval, Veazey, Felder, Aertker & Renegar, L.L.C., Renegar's primary practice is defending Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act and Longshore and Harborworkers' Compensation Act claims representing some employers statewide. She also practices in the areas of premises liability, automobile liability and family law. She is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, all federal district courts and all state courts in Louisiana. Renegar was chosen as Louisiana's 1999 Outstanding Young Lawyer and was selected to be a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) in 2000. She continues to serve as a member of the LBF's IOLTA Grants Committee. She served as the LSBA's Young Lawyers Section chair in 2005-06, also serving on the LSBA Board of Governors in that capacity. She currently represents the 15th Judicial District on the LSBA's House of Delegates. She also serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Bar Association.

Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux was recognized for his exemplary work in the area of judicial and lawyer education. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Tulane Law School, where he was an Earl Warren Scholar, Judge Thibodeaux is the chief judge of Louisiana's 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal. He is the president of the National Council of Chief Judges, an organization consisting of chief judges of the intermediate appellate courts in the United States and its territories. He is also the chair of the Conference of Appellate Court Judges in Louisiana. He practiced law for 17 years in New York City and Lake Charles, Louisiana, before his election to the 3rd Circuit in 1992. Judge Thibodeaux chaired the Task Force on Judicial Independence and co-chaired the Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. He is active on several LSBA committees, including the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Summer School CLE Subcommittee, the Bench Bar Committee and the Committee to Revitalize the Annual Meeting and Summer School. He is also an active member of the LSBA Minority Involvement, Appellate and Francophone sections.

2009 Distinguished Service to the Profession Award

New Orleans attorney **Richard C. Stanley** is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Service to the Profession Award.

Stanley was recognized for his exemplary work as chair of the LSBA Rules of Professional Conduct Committee. Stanley, a member of Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C., in New Orleans, received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Harvard Law School. Prior to working with his current firm, he was a partner at Stone, Pigman, Walther, Wittmann & Hutchinson from 1984-97. He currently serves as a professor of law on the faculty of Tulane University Law School.

He is the chair of both the LSBA's Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and the Committee on Codes of Lawyer and Judicial Conduct. He also is a member of the LSBA Ethics 2000 Committee, the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Rules Regarding Financial Assistance to Clients and the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Advertising Rules. He also serves on the board of directors of Metairie Bank & Trust Co.

2009 Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award

E. Phelps Gay, a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Christovich & Kearney, L.L.P., is the 2009 recipient of the Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award. The annual award is presented to the author of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* article deemed the most outstanding in the previous volume year.

Gay received the award for his article, "The Best Article of All Time," published in the February/March 2009 *Louisiana Bar Journal*.

A former president of the LSBA, Gay is a graduate of Princeton University and Tulane University Law School. Admitted to the Bar in 1979, he practices in the areas of professional liability, ethics defense, admiralty and general casualty. He is also a mediator with the statewide arbitration-mediation firm of ADR Incorporated. Interested in promoting professionalism in the practice of law, Gay has served as chair of the LSBA Professionalism and Quality of Life Committee.

2009 Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism

Shreveport attorney Sheva M. Sims is the 2009 recipient of the Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. The award is in memory of Leah Hipple McKay, LSBA member and wife of former LSBA President Michael W. McKay of Baton Rouge. The award recognizes a Louisiana lawyer who has made significant long-term contributions in volunteerism in his/her state or local community.

Sims is the owner of Sims Law Firm. Her primary practice is in the areas of personal injury, civil and criminal law, and domestic litigation. She has supported her community in various aspects for numerous years. Currently, Sims is the president of the board of directors for the YWCA of Northwest Louisiana.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Sims was a high school mathematics teacher. Presently, she tutors in mathematics and she has been a frequent speaker on a myriad of issues surrounding education. She is a member of many professional organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Shreveport Bar Association and the National Bar Association. Sims was featured by *SB Magazine*, April 2009, as a Top Attorney. She also is the minister of music at Evergreen Baptist Church.

High-resolution photos of award recipients are available for download at <http://www.lsba.org/2007NewsResources/pressphotos.asp?Photos=17>.

The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 20,000 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.

###