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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2011

**James J. Davidson III Installed as 71st President
of the Louisiana State Bar Association**

NEW ORLEANS—James J. Davidson III, senior partner in the Lafayette firm of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott, Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards, L.L.P., was installed June 30 as the 71st president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in conjunction with the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev. Administering Davidson’s oath of office was Hon. Elizabeth Erny Foote, judge for the United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana.

Davidson follows in the footsteps of his father, J.J. Davidson, Jr., who served as LSBA president in 1957-58 — a rare occurrence in the history of the LSBA to have both a father and his son elected to the presidency.

For his year-long term, Davidson said one of his main goals will focus on integrity in the legal profession. “Lawyers are the protectors of the public and the guardians of the individuals’ constitutional rights to equal justice under law, and that must be the public’s perception of us,” he said. To meet that goal, he said, all the state’s attorneys are stakeholders and all must assist in developing “a strategy that will produce a permanent atmosphere and prudent perception that lawyers are persons of integrity and should be respected.”

Davidson received a bachelor of arts degree in 1963 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and his Juris Doctor degree in 1964 from Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana in 1964.

He served as president-elect and is a past member of the LSBA’s House of Delegates, the LSBA’s Board of Governors (serving as the Louisiana State Law Institute representative) and the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

He is a charter member of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Electric Cooperative Bar Association, and a life member of the American Bar Foundation. He is a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Council, the American Board of Trial Advocates (advocate), the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, the American Counsel Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, the International Association of Defense Counsel and the Lafayette Bar Association. He was selected for the 2011 *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.

In his community, he is chair of the board of trustees of First Baptist Church of Lafayette. He is a past president and current member of the board of trustees of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (ULL) Foundation, past secretary-treasurer of the Rotary Club of Lafayette and past board member of the Evangeline Area Council

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of the Boy Scouts of America. For nearly a decade, he served as coach for the ULL's four-time National Champion water ski team.

Davidson and his wife, Kay C. Holloway Davidson, have been married for 48 years and are the parents of four children.

A high-resolution photo of Mr. Davidson is available for download at <http://www.lsba.org/2007NewsResources/pressphotos.asp?Photos=30>.

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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