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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LSBA Members, Local and Specialty Bars Honored with Young Lawyers Division Awards;
Inaugural Top 40 List Recognized**

NEW ORLEANS—Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members, local bar associations and a specialty bar association received LSBA Young Lawyers Division awards, including the inaugural Top 40 List, presented to the state’s top young lawyers who have made exceptional contributions to the legal profession and their communities. All awards were presented during the Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference on March 31, with the theme “Empowered to Lead.”

Award winners, award finalists and the Top 40 List are included below. Bios of all recipients follow the lists.

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award & Top 40 List

Presented to a young lawyer who has made exceptional contributions to the legal profession and his/her community.

Award Winner: Chloé M. Chetta, New Orleans (also recognized as a Top 40 honoree)

Award Finalists: *See Top 40 List below.*

Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award

Presented to a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to upholding the quality and integrity of the legal profession and consideration towards peers and the general public.

Award Winner: Jami L. Ishee, Lafayette

Award Finalists: Audrius M. Reed, Shreveport; and Andrew M. Albritton, New Orleans

Pro Bono Award

Presented to a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to providing pro bono services in his/her community or the state at large.

Award Winners: Remington M. Angelle, Baton Rouge; and Hayley M. Landry, New Orleans

Award Finalist: Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, Zachary

Program of the Year Award

Presented to an organization that has implemented an outstanding program or service that serves the public or the profession.

Award Winner: New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, “Approach the Bench”

Award Finalists: Shreveport Bar Association Young Lawyers’ Section, “Bike Giveaway for Children;” and Southwest Louisiana Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Council, “OktoBARfest”

Outstanding Local Affiliate Award

Presented to a local affiliate that has impacted the lives of young lawyers in an outstanding way.

Award Winner: Shreveport Bar Association Young Lawyers’ Section

Award Finalists: Southwest Louisiana Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Council; and Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.

Below is information on award recipients and finalists, by category, including the Top 40 List.

• **Winner, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award: Chloé M. Chetta, New Orleans**

Chloé M. Chetta, a member in the New Orleans office of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC, is licensed in both Louisiana and Texas and practices in the areas of complex and commercial litigation, with a special emphasis on appellate issues. She regularly presents on issues of federal jurisdiction and procedure. Before private practice, she served as a law clerk to for Judge Sarah S. Vance of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation and for Judge Stephen A. Higginson of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

• **Winner, Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award: Jami L. Ishee, Lafayette**

Jami L. Ishee is a partner of Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott, Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards, LLP, in Lafayette, with a civil defense practice focusing on the representation of railroads and businesses in premises liability, products liability, general insurance defense, FELA and grade crossing claims. She is a board member of the Lafayette Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and serves on the national steering committee for the Defense Research Institute’s Young Lawyers Section.

• **Finalist, Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award: Audrius M. Reed, Shreveport**

Audrius M. Reed, with Audrius M. Reed, Attorney at Law, LLC, in Shreveport, is a graduate of Southern University Law Center and a solo practitioner in the areas of family law, criminal defense, personal injury and estate planning. She serves as the program attorney for the LRVDV (Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence) Program of the Shreveport Bar Foundation and the Northwest Louisiana Family Justice Center.

• **Finalist, Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award: Andrew M. Albritton, New Orleans**

Andrew M. Albritton is a New Orleans-based, second-year associate with McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, working on matters ranging from labor and employment and immigration to enterprise litigation and government investigations. He chairs the McGlinchey PRIDE LGBTQ+ resource group. As a law student, he clerked with McGlinchey on three occasions, including as the firm’s LCLD 1L Scholar; interned with the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC; was a summer extern for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Louisiana; and clerked with the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program.

• **Winner, Pro Bono Award: Remington M. Angelle, Baton Rouge**

Remington M. Angelle, a Baton Rouge associate on McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC's Financial Services and Enterprise Litigation teams, represents clients in matters related to state and federal consumer protection laws, insurance, cannabis and other complex issues. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and Southern University Law Center. He has assisted Southern University Law Center's team at expungement events and other initiatives statewide.

• **Winner, Pro Bono Award: Hayley M. Landry, New Orleans**

Hayley M. Landry is a member of the Energy Litigation practice group in the New Orleans office of Liskow & Lewis, APLC. She serves as an advisory board member of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and public service co-chair for the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyer Section.

• **Finalist, Pro Bono Award: Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, Zachary**

Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, an attorney with the Louisiana Department of Health, grew up in Slaughter, La. She is fueled by her passion to be a voice for the voiceless and helping others combat the vicissitudes of life. She has demonstrated what a woman of intellect and commitment can accomplish through her professional endeavors and as an advocate for change in the legal profession.

• **Winner, Program of the Year: New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, "Approach the Bench"**

The Approach the Bench program provides a forum for lawyers to get to know the local, state and federal court judges.

• **Finalist, Program of the Year: Shreveport Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section, "Bike Giveaway for Children"**

The bike giveaway was organized for children in underserved communities in Shreveport. YLS members coordinated with Shreveport schools to deliver 100 bicycles to children aged 3-11.

• **Finalist, Program of the Year: Southwest Louisiana Bar Association's Young Lawyers Council, "OktoBARfest"**

The yearly OktoBARfest is an inter-firm gumbo and chili cookoff, with proceeds benefiting the association's Holiday Helping Hands program.

• **Winner, Outstanding Local Affiliate: Shreveport Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section**

The Shreveport Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section finds ways for young lawyers to develop their skillsets and integrate themselves in the legal community in the Shreveport-Bossier area. Through events such as monthly networking happy hour events and fundraising and service for underserved individuals, the Section helps young lawyers learn about their profession and build the foundation for their practices.

• **Finalist, Outstanding Local Affiliate: Southwest Louisiana Bar Association's Young Lawyers Council**

The Southwest Louisiana Bar Association's Young Lawyers Council hosts social and philanthropy events for young lawyers, including two to four socials a year involving members of the judiciary. The Law Day program is organized by the Young Lawyers Council in conjunction with the SWLBA, including the essay and poster contest for school children.

• **Finalist, Outstanding Local Affiliate: Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.**

The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. encourages engagement of the African-American lawyer and issues relevant to the African-American community in New Orleans. The Society was established to encourage interchange of ideas, promote legal scholarship, advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, uphold the order and ethics of the courts and the profession of law and promote the welfare of the legal profession in Louisiana.

Top 40 List Honorees

Whitney M. Antoine, New Orleans. Whitney M. Antoine practices in the areas of commercial litigation and insurance coverage and bad faith at Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC. After receiving her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, from Southern University Law Center and before joining the firm, she served as a law clerk to Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Brittany Bass Arvie, Shreveport. Brittany Bass Arvie is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College and Southern University Law Center. She is employed as an assistant district attorney in Caddo Parish for the 1st Judicial District Court.

Katelyn E. Bayhi, Lafayette. Katelyn E. Bayhi is an associate at the NeunerPate law firm in Lafayette. Her primary practice areas include commercial litigation, toxic torts, environmental litigation, admiralty and maritime, and property disputes. She is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2017) and Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center (2020).

Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, Zachary. Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, an attorney with the Louisiana Department of Health, grew up in Slaughter, La. She is fueled by her passion to be a voice for the voiceless and helping others combat the vicissitudes of life. She has demonstrated what a woman of intellect and commitment can accomplish through her professional endeavors and as an advocate for change in the legal profession.

Emily E. Booth, New Orleans. Emily E. Booth, an associate in the firm of Wanek Kirsch Davies, LLC, in New Orleans, is a seasoned litigator whose practice focuses on all aspects of insurance law, including coverage litigation and defense of first-party claims. She is currently chair-elect of the Jefferson Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division board and will serve as 2024 chair. She also serves on the board of directors of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center.

Roya S. Boustany, Lafayette. Roya S. Boustany is employed as one of the chief felony prosecutors for the Lafayette Parish District Attorney's Office. She serves as president of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and president-elect of the Junior League of Lafayette.

Camille R. Bryant, New Orleans. Camille R. Bryant, as a member (partner) on the Labor and Employment team for McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, guides employers through litigation and investigations. She has served as president of the New Orleans Association for Women

Attorneys and the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and in board or committee leadership of other legal and community organizations.

Ashley M. Caruso, Baton Rouge. Ashley M. Caruso is an attorney with Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC, based in Baton Rouge. She primarily handles general personal and business litigation and representation, along with handling bankruptcies for businesses and bankruptcy adversary proceedings. She recently obtained her MBA from Mississippi State University.

Joseph J. Cefalu III, Baton Rouge. Joseph J. (Joe) Cefalu III is a partner practicing in the Casualty Litigation section of the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, where he is also on the firm's recruiting, technology, and diversity and inclusion committees. He has served in various roles with the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the most recent being the editor-in-chief of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*.

Chloé M. Chetta, New Orleans

Chloé M. Chetta, a member in the New Orleans office of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC, is licensed in both Louisiana and Texas and practices in the areas of complex and commercial litigation, with a special emphasis on appellate issues. She regularly presents on issues of federal jurisdiction and procedure. Before private practice, she served as a law clerk to for Judge Sarah S. Vance of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation and for Judge Stephen A. Higginson of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Casey C. DeReus, New Orleans. Casey C. DeReus is a New Orleans attorney who recently accepted a position at a national class action firm, Bragar, Eigel & Squire. Her work includes initiating a class action against TikTok for privacy violations, which resulted in a \$92 million settlement. She founded and runs a local meetup group called Lady Lawyers to connect local lawyers and provide a space for open dialogue and networking.

Reed K. Ellis, Lafayette. Reed K. Ellis is an attorney in the firm of Broussard & David in Lafayette. Her practice focuses on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases involving 18-wheeler and automobile accidents, premises liability, and general injury law. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and obtained her JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice and the American Inn of Court of Acadiana.

Valerie E. Fontenot, New Orleans. Valerie E. Fontenot is a partner at Frilot, LLC, and practices in the firm's medical malpractice and healthcare section. She is the firm's first black female partner. She serves on the board of DRI, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, the New Orleans Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. (current president).

Amber Barlow Garcia, New Orleans. Amber Barlow Garcia is a partner with Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP's Toxic Tort and Environmental Group in New Orleans. She represents manufacturers, retailers, distributors and premise owners in complex litigation matters, including environmental litigation, toxic tort litigation, and premises and products liability.

Eugene G. Gouaux III, Lockport. Eugene G. (Gene) Gouaux III is an assistant professor of business law at Nicholls State University, teaching the Legal Environment of Business, Commercial Law, International Business Law and Intellectual Property. He was selected by the U.S. Department of State to the Fulbright Specialist Roster and has taught undergraduate and law students in Austria, China and Vietnam. He is a third-generation attorney practicing with his family's law firm in Lockport, La.

Kenneth P. Hebert, Lafayette. Kenneth P. Hebert is a founding partner at Beal & Hebert, LLC, in Lafayette. His practice focuses on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases involving 18-wheeler and automobile accidents, premises liability, general injury and a variety of civil litigation. He earned his JD degree in 2011 from Southern University Law Center. He serves on the board of directors for the Lafayette Bar Association and the LBA's Young Lawyers Section. He is a member of the Acadiana Inn of Court.

Jimmie C. Herring, Jr., Monroe. Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. is a permanent attorney advisor for the Houston, Texas, Immigration Court for the U.S. Department of Justice and Executive Office for Immigration Review. He previously served as an attorney advisor and judicial law clerk for the Oakdale, La., Immigration Court through the Department of Justice's Attorney General's Honors Program, as well as a judicial law clerk for the 1st Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish in Shreveport. He obtained his BA degree in political science, with honors, from Southern University and A&M College; his master's in public administration degree, with a concentration in public policy, from Louisiana State University; and his JD degree, with honors, from Southern University Law Center.

Derek G. Hoffman, Lake Charles. Derek G. Hoffman, an associate attorney at Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, LLP, in Lake Charles, completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Utah (2010) and graduated from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2018. His civil practice includes estate planning, succession and probate, and real estate transactions.

Rachael A. Jeanfreau, New Orleans. Rachael A. Jeanfreau, a partner in the New Orleans office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, practices in the areas of labor and employment law and commercial litigation. She received her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2011 from Tulane University Law School (member of the *Tulane Law Review*). She was a member of the Leadership Jefferson 2018 class and graduated with the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute's 2022 Class.

Adam P. Johnson, Lake Charles. Adam P. Johnson, with his brother, Jonathan, owns The Johnson Firm in Lake Charles and focuses in family law, criminal defense and personal injury law. He received a BS degree in business management in 2006 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2009 from Southern University Law Center. He represents the Fourth Board District on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors. He was a member of the 2013-14 Leadership LSBA Class and co-chaired the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class.

Shermin S. Khan, New Orleans. Shermin S. Khan is a managing attorney in The Khan Law Firm, LLC, in New Orleans. She represents individual and corporate clients in complex civil litigation in the areas of property law, contractual obligations and personal injury. She received her JD degree in 2015 from Southern University Law Center. She is a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice and serves as in-house counsel for the non-profit BMANA: La. Chapter. She is co-chair for the Leadership LSBA Class of 2022-23.

Hayden A. Moore, Baton Rouge. Hayden A. Moore is an attorney at Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC, and a graduate of Southern University Law Center. She serves on the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and is involved with its Bench Bar Conference and Gavel Gala events.

Ebony S. Morris, New Orleans. Ebony S. Morris is an associate attorney in the New Orleans litigation group of Phelps Dunbar LLP. She has extensive experience in insurance defense and general casualty matters. She is the immediate past president of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., chair of the Defense Research Institute's (DRI) first Women of Color Subcommittee and Steering Committee member of DRI's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Keith J. Naccari, New Orleans. Keith J. Naccari is the co-managing partner and co-founder of Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC. His practice primarily centers around mergers and acquisitions and tax law.

Rachel M. Naquin, New Orleans. Rachel M. Naquin, a partner at Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, LLC, focuses her practice on plaintiff's personal injury litigation. She is a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) and a board member of its Younger Lawyers Division. She helped organize Justice Camp, an academic program designed to impart civics education and advocacy skills to local high school students.

Sandra James Page, Baton Rouge. Sandra James Page is managing attorney for The Law Offices of Sandra James Page, LLC, in Baton Rouge. A solo practitioner from Shreveport, she practices in the areas of personal injury and criminal defense. She is a Trial Lawyers College graduate, a member of the American Association of Justice and is recognized as a *Louisiana Super Lawyers'* Rising Star for personal injury and criminal defense.

Marcus J. Plaisance, Baton Rouge. Marcus J. Plaisance is an appellate and trial attorney in his 13th year of practice. He provides legal research and writing services and regularly handles appeals and writs before each of Louisiana's appellate courts, especially the 1st Circuit and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Courtney N. Ray, Shreveport. Courtney N. Ray received her BS degree from Northwestern State University and her JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. As an assistant district attorney in Caddo Parish, she handles felony crimes from charging through jury trial.

Audrius M. Reed, Shreveport. Audrius M. Reed, with Audrius M. Reed, Attorney at Law, LLC, in Shreveport, is a graduate of Southern University Law Center and is a solo practitioner in the areas of family law, criminal defense, personal injury and estate planning. She serves as the program attorney for the LRVDV (Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence) Program of the Shreveport Bar Foundation and the Northwest Louisiana Family Justice Center.

Eric W. Sella, New Orleans. Eric W. Sella attended Tulane University and Tulane University Law School. He currently maintains a broad insurance practice as senior counsel at Plauche Maselli Parkerson, LLP. He serves on the boards of the New Orleans Bar Association (previously served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section).

Phillip M. Smith, Lafayette. Phillip M. Smith is a partner at NeunerPate in Lafayette. His practice is focused on maritime law and personal injury litigation. He graduated Order of the Coif from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and served as executive senior editor of the *Louisiana Law Review*. He volunteers as a coach for his law school's admiralty moot court team and provides pro bono legal representation to survivors of domestic violence and unaccompanied immigrant children.

Z. Ambrose Stearns, Jr., Lafayette. Z. Ambrose Stearns, Jr. is an associate in the Lafayette office of Kean Miller, LLP, focusing his practice on offshore energy and marine litigation, general casualty litigation, business and corporate law, and food and beverage law. He is an active member of the Lafayette Bar Association.

Scott L. Sternberg, New Orleans. Scott L. Sternberg is the managing partner of Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC, with offices in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, where he focuses on business, general litigation and media matters. He received his journalism and law degrees from Louisiana State University. He is currently serving on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors and was the 2019-20 LSBA Young Lawyers Division chair. He founded and chaired the first Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference in 2019.

Reshonda W. Thompson, New Orleans. Reshonda W. Thompson is an associate attorney with Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP. She practices casualty litigation representing trucking companies and large retailers. She is a board member of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and the DRI Young Lawyers Committee.

Joseph T.D. Tran, Metairie. Joseph T.D. Tran is associate general counsel for LAMMICO, where he focuses on insurance, corporate law, data privacy, healthcare risk management, intellectual property and contracts. He is a registered patent attorney and is certified by the IAPP as a certified information privacy professional. He is co-chair for the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class.

Vincent V. (Trey) Tumminello III, Baton Rouge. Vincent V. (Trey) Tumminello III, a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Taylor Porter, LLP, practices in the areas of commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions, sports law and real estate. He received a BA degree from the University of Notre Dame and his JD degree in 2013 from Vanderbilt University Law

School. He serves on the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and has received the Baton Rouge Bar's President's Award.

Dr. Derek A. Warden, New Orleans. Dr. Derek A. Warden is a career law clerk to Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Piper D. Griffin. He graduated with his JD and GDCL degrees from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2016 and his LL.M. and SJD degrees from Tulane University Law School in 2020 and 2022, respectfully.

Victoria T. Washington, Shreveport. Victoria T. Washington graduated from Southern University Law Center and clerked for Judge John D. Mosely and Judge Ramon Lafitte at the 1st Judicial District Court. She is employed by the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office.

Elizabeth E. Williams, Marksville. Elizabeth E. Williams is a juvenile prosecutor in Avoyelles Parish and a LIFT Fellow. She handles civil legal work for the Family Justice Center of Central Louisiana. She spearheaded the establishment of the Avoyelles Parish Juvenile Diversion Program this year.

Graham H. Williams, New Orleans. Graham H. Williams is a thoughtful and tenacious litigator. In addition to his commercial and business litigation practice, he enjoys working on real estate matters, from construction disputes to nuanced land use, and has built a practice focused on helping clients cut through red tape and get results.

Lauren A. Williams, Mandeville. Lauren A. Williams is a graduate of Louisiana State University Paul H. Hebert Law Center and an associate in the Greater New Orleans office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC. She is a strategic and creative litigator who focuses her practice on personal injury and property insurance matters.

Thanks to Sponsors: The 2023 Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference was funded in part by the American Bar Association on behalf of its Young Lawyers Division through the Fund for Justice and Education. Also sponsoring the conference were Liskow & Lewis, APLC; McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC; Joshua K. Williams; Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC; Blue Williams, LLC; Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP; Lafayette Bar Association and LBA Young Lawyers Section; Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP; and Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Group photos of award winners and finalists (categorized by award) are located online at: <https://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/PressPhotos.aspx?PRPA=108>.

The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 23,000 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.