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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NEW ORLEANS—Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members, a local bar association and a specialty bar association received LSBA Young Lawyers Division awards, including the 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 April 12, with the theme “Saved by the Bar.”

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

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

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

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

Hon. Michaele 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: Jimmie C. Herring, Jr., Monroe

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 Winner: Phillip M. Smith, Lafayette

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 Chapter of the Federal Bar Association’s Justice Camp

Outstanding Local Affiliate Award

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

Award Winner: New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section

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

• **Winner, Outstanding Young Lawyer Award: Victor M. Jones, New Orleans**

Victor M. Jones is senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where he litigates school desegregation cases in federal courts. He has helped thousands of schoolchildren in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama obtain the equal educational opportunities they are constitutionally entitled to receive as recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*. He received a BA degree in literature in 2007 from Xavier University of Louisiana, a master of education degree in 2008 from Harvard University and his JD degree in 2012 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Children's Law Committee, a constitutional law examiner for the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Bar Admissions, president-elect of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and a member of the 2022 Class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program.

• **Winner, Hon. Michaele Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award: Jimmie C. Herring, Jr., Monroe**

Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. is a federal judicial law clerk for U.S. District Judge Jerry Edwards, Jr. of the Western District of Louisiana. He previously served as a permanent attorney advisor for the Oakdale, La. Immigration Court and Executive Office for Immigration Review, entering duty through the U.S. Department of Justice's Attorney General's Honors Program. He received a BA degree, with honors, in political science in 2013 from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge; his master's degree in public administration, with a concentration in public policy, in 2015 from Louisiana State University; and his JD degree, with honors, in 2019 from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019 and approved for admission to practice in Washington, DC (2024). He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Committee, the National Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

• **Winner, Pro Bono Award: Phillip M. Smith, Lafayette**

Phillip M. Smith is a partner at NeunerPate in Lafayette. His practice is focused primarily on maritime law and personal injury litigation. He received a bachelor's degree in political science in 2012 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and his JD degree in 2016 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016. He volunteers as a coach for the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center's Admiralty Moot Court Team and works with the Lafayette Bar Foundation to represent survivors of domestic abuse in obtaining protective orders. He also volunteers to assist unaccompanied immigrant children in obtaining legal protection in the United States from abuse, abandonment and violence in their home countries. He is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and the Maritime Law Association of the United States.

• **Winner, Program of the Year: New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Justice Camp**

Since the summer of 2018, the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has taken the concept of summer camp into the Eastern District of Louisiana Courthouse, imparting civics education and advocacy skills that prepare students for college, careers and civic engagement. The program encourages rising ninth and 10th graders to learn about the legal system, including careers within that system, and to develop basic advocacy skills. After visits to the Louisiana Supreme Court, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the World War II Museum, along with presentations by professionals in the legal world, the camp concludes in a mock trial.

• Winner, Outstanding Local Affiliate: New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Section

The New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS) offers new lawyers the opportunity to network with experienced professionals and others in the legal community and to offer valuable community service in the New Orleans area, particularly with programs benefiting Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and The Pro Bono Project. The YLS programs are diverse and underscore a commitment to professional development and service.

Top 40 List Honorees

ReAzalia Z. Allen, Baton Rouge. ReAzalia Z. Allen is managing partner of The Allen Law Firm, LLC, in Baton Rouge. She is an adjunct professor at Southern University Law Center. She received a BA degree in English from Louisiana State University, a master of science degree in organizational development from Abilene Christian University and her JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015. She was co-chair of the Leadership LSBA 2021-22 Class and was a member of the Leadership LSBA 2020-21 Class. She is vice president of the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Hailey A. Barnett, Lake Charles. Hailey A. Barnett is the managing attorney of the Disaster Unit at Acadiana Legal Service Corp. She focuses her practice on assisting low-income survivors with legal issues stemming from Louisiana's 2020-21 disasters. She conducts presentations and outreach in 42 parishes. She received her BA degree in communication in 2017 from Texas A&M University and her JD degree in 2020 from Tulane University Law School. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2020. She is a co-chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Disaster Response Task Force and the vice president of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association's Women's Section.

Brandi A. Barze, Baton Rouge. Brandi A. Barze is an associate at Keogh, Cox & Wilson, Ltd., in Baton Rouge. She represents local and national clients in merchant and premises liability, complex automobile liability, general liability and other commercial litigation. She received a BA degree in political science in 2015 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law in 2018 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2018. She serves in the Louisiana State Bar Association's House of Delegates, is an assistant examiner for the Committee on Bar Admissions and a member of the LSBA Young Lawyers Division's High School Mock Trial Committee. She is a

member of the Dean Henry George McMahon American Inn of Court and the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.

Emily Edwards Bertholl, Marksville. Emily Edwards Bertholl is an attorney in the Salario Law Firm in Marksville, an assistant district attorney for the 12th Judicial District and an attorney for the Family Justice Center. She received a BA degree in criminal justice in 2014 from Northwestern State University and her JD degree in 2017 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017. She is a member of the Avoyelles Parish Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Benjamin J. Biller, Metairie. Benjamin J. Biller is a trial attorney with LAMMICO's in-house law firm, Schroeder & Trahan, where he practices medical malpractice defense litigation. Previously, he defended health care providers as a partner in the New Orleans office of Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea, LLC. He received an undergraduate degree in 2009 from the University of Notre Dame and his JD degree in 2012 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2012. He is a board member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and a member of the Federalist Society, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Medical/Legal Interprofessional Committee and the Medical Professional Liability Association.

Ani H. Boudreaux, Lafayette. Ani H. Boudreaux is an associate at NeunerPate in Lafayette, focusing on government entity liability defense and personal injury defense. She received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and her JD degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2021. She has volunteered for the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and co-chair of the Region 2 Richard M. Ware Memorial High School Mock Trial Competition this year. She is involved with pro bono programs, including obtaining protective orders for those facing hardships with intimate relationships. She is a member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and a 2023 nominee for LADC's Frank L. Maraist Award. She is a member of the John Duhe American Inn of Court.

Taylor M. Burnham, New Orleans. Taylor M. Burnham is owner of the Burnham Law Firm in New Orleans. He received a BBA degree in marketing in 2011 from the University of Georgia and his JD degree in 2014 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014, in Georgia in 2016 and in Texas in 2023. He has volunteered for the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program and is a member of the LSBA's Solo and Small Firms Section. He is executive treasurer of the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and is a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice and the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court.

Catherine Smith Carrier, Lafayette. Catherine Smith Carrier is an associate in the Lafayette office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC. She received a BS degree in general business in 2018 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 2021 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2021. She is a member of the Leadership LSBA 2023-24 Class, a member of the Louisiana State Bar

Association's Public Utility Section and has volunteered for the LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

M. Rebecca Cooper, New Orleans. M. Rebecca Cooper is an associate in the New Orleans office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC. She represents clients in employment and labor matters. She defends clients in litigation involving claims of race, sex, disability, age and national origin discrimination. She counsels employers on the best practices to stay compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, Title VII, the Fair Labor Standards Act and other regulations. She received a BA degree in 2009 from Yale University, a master's degree in 2011 from Xavier University of Louisiana and her JD degree in 2016 from Duke University School of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016. She is vice chair of the Federal Bar Association New Orleans Chapter's Younger Lawyers Division and an assistant bar examiner for federal civil procedure (Louisiana Bar Exam).

Samuel S. Crichton, Shreveport. Samuel S. Crichton is Section 3 chief of the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office. He received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and his JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Shreveport Bar Association.

Kennard Davis, Baltimore, MD. Kennard Davis is an associate at Beveridge & Diamond, PC, in Baltimore, MD. A dedicated defense lawyer, he practices in environmental and commercial litigation. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans and his JD degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2018 and is admitted to the DC Bar. He is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court. He serves on the Defense Research Institute's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is a member of the Leadership Academy for the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association.

Monette M. Davis, New Orleans. Monette M. Davis is an associate in the New Orleans office of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, LLC. She concentrates her practice on insurance defense and commercial litigation matters. She received a BA degree in sociology and criminal justice in 2013 from Dillard University and her JD degree in 2019 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019. She was a member of the Leadership LSBA 2022-23 Class and is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Diversity Committee and Pipeline Subcommittee. She is a member of the American Bar Association's Pretrial Practice and Discovery Committee and the co-chair of the Young Lawyer Committee of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association American Inn of Court.

Karly Kyzar Dorr, Lafayette. Karly Kyzar Dorr is an associate at NeunerPate in Lafayette. Her primary practice areas are commercial and business transactions, corporate advice, mergers and acquisitions, successions and probate, estate planning, and commercial litigation. She completed her undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University in 2019 with degrees in political science, criminology and history. She received her JD degree (Order of the Coif) in 2022 from LSU Paul

M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2022. She is involved with the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program and is a member of the LSBA's Corporate and Business Law Section and Trusts, Estate, Probate & Immovable Property Law Section. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (CLE chair), the production editor of the *Journal of Energy Law and Resources* Vol. X, and a pro bono lawyer volunteer for the Lafayette Bar Foundation.

Kristina F. Douglas, Shreveport. Kristina F. Douglas is the assistant city attorney for the City of Shreveport. She also is a special assistant district attorney and a hearing officer for the Electronic Traffic Enforcement Program. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Louisiana State University and her JD degree from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2020. She was a judicial law clerk at the 1st Judicial District Court for Judge John D. Mosely, Jr. and Judge Ramon Lafitte. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Louisiana City Attorneys Association and is a member of the Leadership LSBA 2023-24 Class. She is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court.

Marianna Knister Downer, New Orleans. Marianna Knister Downer is an associate in the New Orleans office of Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC. She practices in the areas of complex litigation, appeals, civil procedure, commercial litigation and risk management. She received a BA degree in mass communications in 2012 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law in 2019 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019. Prior to law school, she spent four years in Washington, D.C., working with former Sen. Mary L. Landrieu. She is involved with the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program.

Daniel J. Dysart, New Orleans. Daniel J. Dysart is a partner at Fishman Haygood, LLP, in New Orleans, where he represents clients in mass tort, environmental and other complex civil litigation matters. He also is an assistant district attorney in the 34th Judicial District (St. Bernard Parish). He received a BS degree in 2008 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2011 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Class Action, Mass Tort and Complex Litigation Section. He is the current president of the St. Bernard Bar Association and a member of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

Brittany R. Wolf Freedman, New Orleans. Brittany R. Wolf Freedman is a member in the New Orleans office of Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, LLC, where she focuses in medical malpractice, personal injury, advocacy for survivors of sexual abuse, and appellate litigation. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and her JD degree, *cum laude*, in 2015 from Tulane University Law School. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015. She has served as a staff attorney in the Central Staff Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court and as a law clerk to Judge John W. deGravelles in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Appellate Section, the Federal Bar Association's New Orleans Chapter and the

Anti-Defamation League. She is an advisory board member for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

Cassie Preston Gailmor, New Orleans. Cassie Preston Gailmor is the managing partner and owner of the personal injury firm, Gailmor Law Group, LLC, in New Orleans, founded in 2024 with the goal of providing injured clients with a unique, personalized and results-driven approach to their cases. She received a BS degree in political science from Louisiana State University and her JD degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2010. She is serving on the Board of Governors for the Louisiana Association for Justice, is the chair of the New Orleans Bar Association's Personal Injury Section and is a barrister in the St. Thomas More American Inn of Court. She is a top-rated civil litigation attorney by *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.

Camille E. Gauthier, New Orleans. Camille E. Gauthier is a partner at Flanagan Partners, LLP, in New Orleans. Her practice focuses on appeals and commercial litigation. She received a BA degree, *summa cum laude*, in 2009 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and her JD degree, *summa cum laude*, in 2012 from Tulane University Law School. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2012. Before joining Flanagan Partners, she clerked for Judge W. Eugene Davis on the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. She serves on the *Tulane Law Review* Board of Advisory Editors and on the board of directors of the Younger Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association New Orleans Chapter. She is an adjunct faculty member for Tulane University Law School's Civil Litigation Bootcamp.

John Philip (J.P.) Graf, Lafayette. John Philip (J.P.) Graf is an associate in the Lafayette office of Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC. He received a BA degree in political science/pre-law in 2013 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and his JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law in 2017 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017. He is a volunteer for the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes Program and has served as a judge for the Mock Trial program. He is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and is the treasurer of the Lafayette Young Lawyers Section. He is a member of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms and was recognized as a "Top 40 Under 40" by the National Trial Lawyers.

Bradley C. Guin, Baton Rouge. Bradley C. Guin is a shareholder in the Baton Rouge office of Roedel Parsons Blache Fontana Piontek & Pisano, ALC. His practice focuses on appellate and complex commercial litigation. He handles appeals, writ applications, amicus briefs and dispositive motions before Louisiana state and federal courts. He received a BA degree in political science in 2015 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law, *cum laude*, in 2019 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019 and is admitted to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Appellate Section, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Scribes: The American Society of Legal Writers.

Madeline Smith Hebert, New Orleans. Madeline Smith Hebert is an associate in the New Orleans office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC. Her practice focuses on the defense of automobile accidents, slip and fall, products liability, EEOC, Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act and Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. She received a BA degree in energy commerce in 2015 from Texas Tech University and her JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law in 2018 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2018. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association, the Federal Bar Association and the New Orleans Bar Association.

Jami Lacour Ishee, Lafayette. Jami Lacour Ishee is a partner with Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott, Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards, LLP, in Lafayette and has a litigation defense practice focused in premises liability, products liability, general insurance defense, and the defense of railroads in personal injury, property damage, derailment and FELA claims. She received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and her JD degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014 and is also admitted in Texas. She was the 2023 recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award and was a two-time Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (LADC) Frank L. Maraist Award finalist. She currently serves as president of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section, on the board of directors for the LADC and as chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Defense Research Institute.

Michael H. Ishee, Lafayette. Michael H. Ishee is a shareholder in the Lafayette office of Liskow & Lewis, APLC. He maintains a diverse litigation practice and has experience litigating disputes related to oil and gas operations, disputes arising out of the organization and management of closely held companies, and disputes involving trusts, estates and successions. He also advises oil and gas companies on best practices and pre-litigation matters. He received a BS degree in economics in 2011 from Louisiana State University, a master of business administration degree in 2015 from LSU and his JD degree in 2015 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015. He is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and the Institute for Energy Law.

Deanna C. Johnson, Baton Rouge. Deanna C. Johnson is the owner-operator of Magnolia Law, LLC, a family law firm in Baton Rouge. She received a BA degree in mass communications in 2012 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 2017 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017. Her greatest fulfillment is collaborating with her team to devise effective litigation approaches and ensuring the firm caters to all, including those seeking assistance through the Louisiana State Bar Association's Modest Means Program and the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Pro Bono Project. She is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and its Family Law Section.

Victor M. Jones, New Orleans. Victor M. Jones is senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where he litigates school desegregation cases in federal courts. He has helped thousands of schoolchildren in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama obtain the equal educational opportunities they are constitutionally entitled to receive as recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v.*

Board of Education. He received a BA degree in literature in 2007 from Xavier University of Louisiana, a master of education degree in 2008 from Harvard University and his JD degree in 2012 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Children's Law Committee, a constitutional law examiner for the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Bar Admissions, president-elect of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and a member of the 2022 Class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program.

Bianca N. Moore, Gretna. Bianca N. Moore is a solo practitioner and operates her own law firm, The BMoore Law Firm, LLC, in Gretna, focusing in criminal defense, estate planning and commercial litigation. She received a BA degree in political science and Spanish language and literature in 2016 from Xavier University of Louisiana and her JD degree and certificate in social justice in 2019 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019 and in the District of Columbia in 2023. She was a member of the Leadership LSBA 2022-23 Class and volunteers for the Wills for Heroes Program, the Lawyers in Libraries Program and the Modest Means Program. She currently serves as president of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and Foundation and is a board member for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and Leaders of Color.

Trevor C. Mosby, New Orleans. Trevor C. Mosby is an associate in the New Orleans office of Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, advising national and regional financial institutions on resolving distressed commercial lending relationships. He advocates for financial institutions in bankruptcy proceedings, and in state and federal cases involving claims of lender liability and breach of contract. He received his undergraduate degree in finance and economics in 2009 from Lamar University, a degree in higher education administration in 2013 from Sam Houston State University and his JD degree in 2018 from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019. He is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Bar Association and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Megan E. Réaux, Lafayette. Megan E. Réaux is an associate at Hill & Beyer, APLC, in Lafayette. She practices primarily in civil litigation and represents clients on both sides of the aisle from intake through trial and appeal. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and her JD degree in 2011 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011. She serves in the Louisiana State Bar Association's House of Delegates, represented District 3 on the LSBA Young Lawyers Division Council from 2018-22 and chaired the YLD High School Mock Trial Committee in 2019-22. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and the Bar Association of the Federal 5th Circuit.

Scott M. Richard, Lafayette. Scott M. Richard is an attorney at Broussard, David & Moroux in Lafayette. His practice is exclusively devoted to helping those who have been seriously injured. He received a BA degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2011 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and his JD degree, *cum laude*, in 2015 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015. He is the Lafayette Bar Association (LBA) Young Lawyers Section's historian and served as a Law Day panelist and guest mock trial judge. He is a

member of the Order of the Barristers, the Louisiana Association for Justice and the Federal Bar Association.

Ross F. Roubion, Lafayette. Ross F. Roubion is an associate in the Lafayette office of Kean Miller, LLP, where his practice includes a variety of casualty defense litigation. He received a BA degree in history in 2010 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2014 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014. In 2023, he was awarded the Frank L. Maraist Award by the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (LADC). He is a board member of the LADC, the Federal Bar Association's Acadiana Chapter and the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Committee. He was recognized as a "Top Lawyer" by *Acadiana Profile Magazine* and is listed in *Best Lawyers in America 2024* (One to Watch) in energy law and in *Louisiana Super Lawyers 2024* (Rising Star) in transportation/maritime.

Jose R. Ruiz, New Orleans. Jose R. Ruiz is a partner in the civil litigation department in the New Orleans office of Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP. He practices in Louisiana state and federal courts in trucking and transportation, energy, retail and hospitality, and insurance. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his JD degree from Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017. He is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section's Executive Committee and serves on the board of directors of the Younger Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association's New Orleans Chapter.

Grant R. Schexnailder, Lafayette. Grant R. Schexnailder is an associate at Borne, Wilkes & Rabalais, LLC, in Lafayette, where he focuses in municipal defense litigation. He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2021. He is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

E. Blair Schilling, New Orleans. E. Blair Schilling is a partner at Fishman Haygood, LLP, in New Orleans, where she represents clients in coastal land loss and restoration, land and groundwater contamination, land use, clean water, brownfield sites and other regulatory and permitting issues in federal and state court. She received a BA degree in integrated strategic marketing in 2007 from the University of Kentucky and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2013 from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013 and is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. She currently serves as vice chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division's Environment, Energy & Resources Committee, and is a member of the ABA Disaster Legal Services Team. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Matthew R. Slaughter, New Orleans. Matthew R. Slaughter is senior counsel at Flanagan Partners, LLP, in New Orleans. He practices in the areas of complex and commercial litigation. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his JD degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2017 and in Alabama in 2015. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Intellectual

Property Section. He currently serves on the board of directors for The Pro Bono Project and as treasurer for the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. He is a member of the Younger Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association's New Orleans Chapter.

Sarah Simmons Sonnier, Lafayette. Sarah Simmons Sonnier is an associate at NeunerPate in Lafayette, handling primarily insurance defense. She received a BA degree in political science in 2016 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree and graduate diploma in comparative law, *cum laude*, in 2020 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2020. She received the Lafayette Bar Association's Outstanding Attorney Award in 2021 and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2022, both in recognition of her pro bono domestic violence volunteer work. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

Yasha L. Clark Walker, New Orleans. Yasha L. Clark Walker is of counsel with Talbot, Carmouche & Marcello. Her practice is focused on auto collisions, personal injury and 18-wheeler accidents. She received a BS degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston-Downtown and her JD degree in 2018 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019 and in Washington, DC, in 2019. She was a 2023 Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference speaker and a 2022 volunteer for the Lawyers in Libraries Program. She is the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award presented by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.

Allison Morrow Weaver, Lafayette. Allison Morrow Weaver is an associate in The Law Offices of Blaine J. Barrilleaux, LLC, in Lafayette. She practices in the areas of workers' compensation and personal injury claims. She received her undergraduate degree in 2012 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2015 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015. She began her legal career as a judicial law clerk for Judge James P. Doherty, 27th Judicial District Court. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association (Community Outreach chair, Young Lawyers Division) and the Louisiana Association for Justice.

Brittany McKeel Young, Shreveport. Brittany McKeel Young is managing attorney of her firm, The Law Office of Brittany M. Young in Shreveport, opened in 2023. She represents clients in personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death and products liability cases. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana-Monroe and her JD degree in 2015 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016 and is admitted in the U.S. District Courts in the Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana. She is a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice and the American Inn of Court.

Rashid A. Young, Homer. Rashid A. Young is an attorney at Young Law Firm, PLLC, in Homer. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation, personal injury, and property and government law. He received his undergraduate degree from Arkansas Baptist College and his JD degree from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2022 and is admitted in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Louisiana. He is an elected member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, serving as a freshman member of the House

Ways and Means Committee. He is a member of the National Bar Association and the Community of Legal Innovators.

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Photos (headshots) of the recipients of the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, the Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award and the Pro Bono Award are located online at: <https://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/PressPhotos.aspx?PRPA=113>.

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