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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Awards Presented to Members at LSBA Annual Meeting; Hall of Fame Inductee Recognized**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Several Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members received awards June 8 during the association's 2023 Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla. Also recognized was an inductee into the LSBA Hall of Fame.

*All award recipients are listed below. Photos of award recipients are available online at:  
<https://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/PressPhotos.aspx?PRPA=110>.*

#### **LSBA Hall of Fame**

**Judge Eldon E. Fallon** of New Orleans was inducted into the LSBA Hall of Fame for his myriad contributions to the LSBA and his commitment to both the legal profession and the public in the state.

He received his BA degree in 1960 from Tulane University and his JD degree in 1962 from Tulane Law School. He earned his LL.M. degree in 1963 from Yale Law School. He was a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Kierr, Gainsburgh, Benjamin, Fallon & David from 1968-95. He was an adjunct professor at Tulane University Law School from 1975-93 and 2000-03.

In 1995, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton as a judge for the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. He has been nationally recognized as the leader in multi-district litigation, speaking at national conferences training judges on how to handle this complex litigation. For his efforts, he received the Multi-District Litigation Spirit Award in 2016.

Under his leadership as LSBA president from 1985-86, he was successful in establishing several innovative programs which are still a major part of the legal profession, including the Lawyers Assistance Program (now the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, JLAP); the Louisiana Bar Foundation (of which he served as president in 1995) and which was instrumental in purchasing the building where the LSBA is housed; and mandatory CLE which has been instrumental in educating Bar members. He also initiated, developed and coordinated IOLTA funding.

Among his many awards, Judge Fallon received the LSBA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987 and the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Distinguished Jurist Award in 2012. He was inducted into the National Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame in 2013 and into the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame in 2018.

He is the author of several books, including the *Trial Handbook for Louisiana Lawyers*, as well as numerous law review articles.

## **President's Awards**

Four LSBA members received 2023 President's Awards. Recipients were chosen by 2022-23 LSBA President Stephen I. Dwyer and were recognized for services to the association. Recognized were **Judge Jay C. Zainey**, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans; LSBA Access to Justice Director **Monte T. Mollere**, New Orleans; attorney **Darrel J. Papillion**, Baton Rouge; and attorney **Richard C. Stanley**, New Orleans.

**Judge Jay C. Zainey** of New Orleans was recognized for his ongoing commitment to and leadership of the SOLACE Program and overall commitment to the profession.

Judge Zainey was appointed in 2002 to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana by President George W. Bush. He is a former president of the LSBA and, during his term, he created the Community Action Committee and the Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee.

He is co-founder of the SOLACE Program (Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel, All Concern Encouraged). More than 20,000 Louisiana attorney volunteers participate in the SOLACE Program. To date, SOLACE programs have been developed in 27 states and Puerto Rico.

In 2004, Judge Zainey organized the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (H.E.L.P.) Program. Through this program, more than 450 attorneys provide legal consultation and notary services at homeless centers. To date, H.E.L.P. Programs are now in 37 cities throughout the country. He also assisted in developing a Homeless Court in New Orleans and is assisting in developing Veterans Courts in Jefferson Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish and in Federal Court.

He has worked with the LSBA's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee in providing pro bono legal services to people with disabilities and their families and has assisted Tulane Law School in developing its Disability Law Society.

In 2011, Judge Zainey was appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to serve on the Judiciary Commission's Codes of Conduct Committee. He is a former member of the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Ethics.

**Monte T. Mollere** of New Orleans was recognized for his ongoing commitment to the LSBA and his exemplary performance as director of the LSBA's Access to Justice Department.

Mollere has led the LSBA's Access to Justice Department for more than 25 years, working to fulfill the goals in the LSBA tagline: "Serving the Public, Serving the Profession." Working with Louisiana's justice community providers, he has been instrumental in helping to expand the resources for individuals with legal needs in Louisiana. He assisted in the creation of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission, a Louisiana Supreme Court-established entity bringing prominent, experienced individuals together to examine and undertake the task of addressing the challenges of providing justice for all. He works with a variety of civil and criminal legal services stakeholders through associated LSBA committees and statewide initiatives.

He received his BA degree in accounting from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Loyola University College of Law. Prior to joining the LSBA staff as Access to Justice director, he practiced with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in Hammond in the areas of domestic, bankruptcy and consumer law. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association and the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals.

**Darrel J. Papillion** of Baton Rouge was recognized for his ongoing commitment to the profession and his exemplary support of the LSBA.

Papillion was a partner in the Baton Rouge firm Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University. He served as a judicial clerk in 1994 and 1995 for Hon. Catherine D. Kimball, associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who would later become Louisiana's first female Chief Justice.

He is a former president of the LSBA and the Baton Rouge Bar Association. He served two stints on the LSBA's Board of Governors. He co-chaired the LSBA's Continuing Legal Education Committee (2009-16), chaired the Ethics Advisory Service Committee (2002-04) and was a member of the Federal Bench-Bar Liaison Committee (2000-06). He served several terms in the House of Delegates and has served as chair of the Bar Governance Committee and as a member of the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee. He received the 2005 LSBA Young Lawyers Section's Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.

On March 21, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. nominated him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment by a vote of 59-31 on May 30, 2023. He received his judicial commission on June 1, 2023.

**Richard C. Stanley** of New Orleans was recognized for his ongoing commitment to the LSBA as chair of the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and as lead counsel in the mandatory bar challenge case.

Stanley, a member of the New Orleans law firm Stanley Reuter Thornton Alford, LLC, represents clients in complex commercial litigation and in the representation of lawyers and law firms in connection with issues of ethics and professional liability. He handles cases in both state and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels. His clients include two of Louisiana's largest electric utilities (Entergy and Cleco), as well as numerous out-of-state clients with litigation in Louisiana.

He graduated *summa cum laude* from Louisiana State University and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. After graduation, he served as law clerk for the late Judge Albert A. Tate, Jr. on the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In addition to serving as chair of the LSBA's Rules of Professional Conduct Committee, he is a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Class Actions and MDL Procedures and a member of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization's Appellate Practice Advisory Commission.

Since 1985, he has been a member of the adjunct faculty of Tulane Law School and has taught Criminal Process and Practice, Trial Advocacy, Legal Ethics and a Professional Responsibility Seminar.

### **Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice**

**Judge Marilyn C. Castle** of Lafayette and **Judge June Berry Darensburg** of Gretna both received the 2023 Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice.

**Judge Marilyn C. Castle** of Lafayette received her JD degree in 1976 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She served as an assistant district attorney from 1976-79. From 1979 until her election to the 15th Judicial District Court bench in 1998, she was engaged in a litigation practice, primarily in business and commercial litigation.

Judge Castle served as chief judge of the 15th JDC for several terms and is a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee for Lafayette Parish.

She served on the LSBA's Board of Governors and in the House of Delegates and was a member of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Summit on Justice Reform. She is a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and served on its board of directors and Grants Committee.

Judge Castle was a member of the inaugural class of the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute. She is a former president of the Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA) and a member of its Department of Corrections Liaison Committee and Clerk's Liaison Committee. She co-authored the LDJA Criminal Best Practices Manual. She is an active participant in the Judges in the Classroom Program and is a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Council.

She was the first woman to serve as president of the Lafayette Bar Association and was a Founding Master of the John M. Duhe Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

She was a 2008 recipient of the *Times of Acadiana* "Women Who Mean Business" Award and was a founding board member for the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic which, prior to the expansion of Medicaid, provided health care to employed individuals unable to afford health insurance.

**Judge June Berry Darensburg** of Gretna was elected as judge for the 24th Judicial District Court, Division C, Jefferson Parish, in 2006. She is the first African-American female elected as judge in the 24th JDC. She presides over civil and criminal cases and volunteers as an Intensive Probation Drug Court judge. She is chair of the 24th JDC Specialty Treatment Court Committee. She was chief judge in 2014 and 2015.

Judge Darensburg received her BS degree in pharmacy from Xavier University in 1985 and her JD degree in 1994 from Loyola University College of Law. She worked in private practice and was employed by the Jefferson Parish Indigent Defender Board. She also was employed by the LeBlanc Butler Law Firm.

She is a member of the National Bar Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Association of Women Judges, the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Judicial Council-NBA, the Louisiana District Judges Association, the 5th Circuit Judges Association, the 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and the Louisiana Pharmacy Association.

### **Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award**

**Kim M. Boyle** of New Orleans received the 2023 Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award.

Boyle is the vice managing partner in the New Orleans office of the law firm Phelps Dunbar, LLP. A member of the firm's Labor and Employment Practice Group for more than 20 years, she has successfully defended clients in federal court against claims of discrimination based on race, age, disability and pregnancy.

She is a member of the board and Executive Committee of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; a member of the board and Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League; a member of the advisory board of the United Negro College Fund; a former board member of the ACLU of Louisiana; and other organizations advancing the rights and inclusion of black Louisianians and Americans.

In 2019, she launched the Ernest and Connie Boyle Scholarship Endowed Fund to help foster diversity at Tulane University and support those who have overcome socioeconomic or educational hardships. Previously, she started the Ernest and Connie Boyle Scholarship Fund at Dillard University. She focuses on the intersection between higher education and the impact of the legal system on African-American students through her previous work on the Board of Trustees of Princeton University and her current work on the boards and executive committees of Tulane University and Dillard University.

Much like the award's namesake, Boyle is a person of firsts. She served as the first female African-American president of the LSBA and the first African-American president of the New Orleans

Bar Association. She has devoted significant time to mentoring and obtaining inclusion for young, underrepresented attorneys and students of color. She directly impacted aspiring attorneys' lives during her time as an assistant law professor at Loyola University in the early 1990s.

### **Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award**

**Judge Roger P. Hamilton, Jr.** of New Iberia received the 2023 Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award.

Judge Hamilton was elected as a judge for the 16th Judicial District Court, Division H, in 2020.

Judge Hamilton was born and raised in St. Martin Parish, with his family later moving to Iberia Parish. He graduated from New Iberia Senior High School in 1994. He received his undergraduate degree, *cum laude*, in 1998 from Nicholls State University. He was inducted into the Nicholls State University Hall of Fame in 1998. He earned his JD degree in 2001 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

He began his legal career in 2001 as a judicial law clerk for Judge Paul J. deMahy. He worked as an assistant district attorney from 2002-20. He also served as general counsel to the Lafayette Parish School Board and the City of Jeanerette.

He was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's House of Delegates. He served as an adjunct professor at South Louisiana Community College and at Nicholls State University and as president of the Louisiana 4-H Foundation.

### **Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award**

**Eric M. Schorr** of New Orleans received the 2023 Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the *Louisiana Bar Journal*, the LSBA's bimonthly magazine. He was recognized for his article, "Oh, What a Tangled Web We Weave: Usufruct Untangled," published in the February/March 2023 issue of the magazine.

Schorr is a managing partner of the New Orleans law firm Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, LLC, and practices primarily in the areas of Trusts, Estate Planning and Probate. He is certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Estate Planning and Estate Administration and advises clients in all aspects of estate planning and estate administration. He is recognized as an authority in the fields of Special Needs Trusts and Medicaid Planning. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He is a member of the Special Needs Alliance, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Academy of Special Needs Planners and the New Orleans Estate Planning Council. He is a co-chair of the New Orleans Bar Association's Committee on Wills, Trusts and Successions. He is a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute, the official advisory law-revision commission, law-reform agency and legal-research agency of the state of Louisiana, where he serves on the Committee for Disabled Adult Children.

### **John A. "T-Jean" Hernandez III Memorial Award**

**Dr. Vernon V. Palmer** of New Orleans and **Alain A. Levasseur** of Baton Rouge both received the 2023 John A. "T-Jean" Hernandez III Memorial Award, presented for achievements in Francophone leadership.

**Dr. Vernon V. Palmer** is the Thomas Pickles Professor of Law at Tulane University Law School. He received a Doctor of Philosophy, 1985, Pembroke College, Oxford University; LL.M., 1966, Yale University (Sterling Fellow); LL.B., 1965, Tulane University (*Law Review* honors); BA, 1962, Tulane University; and Diploma in Spanish, Instituto Mexicano-Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales, Mexico City. He received the *Docteur en Droit, honoris causa*, Paris/Dauphine 2013; *Chevalier*, Légion d'Honneur, Paris 2007; and *Chevalier, Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, Paris 1994.

Palmer is president and founder of the World Society of Mixed Jurisdiction Jurists; *membre titulaire*, International Academy of Comparative Law; hailed as “Great Comparatist” (one of five worldwide) by the International Academy of Comparative Law (Paris 2022); director, Tulane Paris Institute of European Legal Studies; editor-in-chief, Tulane European and Civil Law Forum; and co-director, Eason Weinmann Center for International and Comparative Law, Tulane University.

He is a member of the Association Henri Capitant and the Société de Législation Comparée. He serves on the Board of Contributing Editors for the *South African Law Journal* and the *Edinburgh Law Review*; on the Board of Scientific Directors for the Interdisciplinary Association for Comparative Law and Private International Law; and on the International Editorial Advisory Board for the *Journal of International and Comparative Law*.

Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center Professor **Alain A. Levasseur** of Baton Rouge obtained an MCL degree in 1966 from Tulane University where he returned to teach in 1968. In 1969, he was an associate with the Paris firm of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie & Alexander. He later became a technical assistant at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. In 1970, he resumed teaching at Tulane until 1977. He joined the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center faculty in 1977.

In 1998, the Université d'Aix Marseille Paul Cézanne bestowed on him the degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa. In 2010, he received a second Doctorate Honoris Causa, this one from the Université de Paris Panthéon Assas.

He is a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, the American Association for the Comparative Study of Law, the Société de Législation Comparée, the Association Henri Capitant and the International Association of Legal Methodology. He also is a member of several boards, including the Fondation pour le Droit Continental, the Revue Internationale de Droit Comparé, E-Competition, the Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Civil, El Foro de Derecho Mercantil, the American Journal of Comparative Law and the LSU Center for French and Francophone Studies.

### **LSBA Young Lawyers Division Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award**

**Elizabeth P. (Liza Beth) Grozinger** of Shreveport received the 2023 LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award. She is recognized for her work with the Young Lawyers Division's (YLD) Wills for Heroes Program.

Grozinger, who recently completed a term as the District Eight representative on the YLD Council, is an assistant attorney general with the Louisiana Department of Justice, based in the Shreveport office. She received a BS degree in psychology in 2005 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 2012 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013.

She is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court.

### **Louisiana Bar Foundation's Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award**

**Henry C. (Hank) Perret, Jr.** of Lafayette received the 2023 Louisiana Bar Foundation's Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award.

Perret has engaged in the private practice of law in Lafayette (Perret Doise, LLC) for more than 40 years, with a concentration on commercial litigation and general business matters. He has guided clients in the purchase and sale of hundreds of companies in numerous industries and has represented numerous law firms in their business and litigation concerns. His trial experience includes lawsuits involving contractual rights, corporate, banking, unfair trade practices, environmental, trusts, employment and insurance issues.

Perret was a founding member of the Community Foundation of Acadiana, Miles Perret Cancer Services and the Crossroads Catholic Bookstore. He has chaired the boards of the Louisiana State Board of Ethics, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, Ascension Day School and St. Mary Mother of the Church Parish Council.

*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.*