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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Shayna L. Sonnier Installed as 83rd President of the Louisiana State Bar Association**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Shayna L. Sonnier, an attorney in the Lake Charles law firm of Veron Bice, LLC, was installed June 8 as the 83rd president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) during a ceremony at the LSBA’s Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla. Administering her oath of office was Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer.

Sonnier is the sixth female president of the LSBA. For her one-year term in office, she said her plans are to continue aiming for the successful completion of the LSBA’s overall goals, with a focus on both the members and the general public, succinctly represented by the LSBA’s tagline, “Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.”

“I want to make sure that all members are receiving as much benefit from the Bar as they possibly can. That’s the goal of every president who has come before me. This leadership position is so much bigger than the one person holding it for a year. I will build on and add to the framework of those who have come before and help keep moving the ball forward for those who will come after me,” she said.

“With a consistent focus on the needs of the general public, our many and varied Access to Justice initiatives will always be front and center. The need for these services continues to grow throughout the state and the legal profession will continue to develop and implement ways to increase the availability of free and modestly-priced legal services for the state’s residents,” she added.

As a “people person,” she said she is looking forward to meeting more Louisiana residents as she travels across the state, attending court openings and other public-centric legal events. “I want to make those personal connections and interactions. I want to work with other people and see where we can improve. I’m all about constructive feedback and doing what we can with it.”

Sonnier, an attorney in the Lake Charles law firm of Veron Bice, LLC, received a bachelor’s degree in 2000 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and her law degree in 2003 from Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University. She was admitted to practice in Texas in 2003 and in Louisiana in 2005.

She served as 2022-23 president-elect and 2018-20 treasurer for the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). She also served as the Fourth District representative on the LSBA's Board of Governors. She served as chair, immediate past chair, chair-elect, secretary and District 4 representative on the LSBA's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council. She also co-chaired the YLD's Wills for Heroes Committee.

She currently serves on the boards for the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education.

Sonnier has served as secretary, treasurer, president-elect, president and past president of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association (SWLBA) and is a past president of the SWLBA's Young Lawyers Section.

A photo of Ms. Sonnier is available for download at:

<https://www.lsba.org/NewsAndPublications/PressPhotos.aspx?PRPA=111>.

*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.*