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June 6, 2014

*Contact: Kelly Wells Ponder, LSBA Communications Director  
(504)619-0118 • email: [kelly.ponder@lsba.org](mailto:kelly.ponder@lsba.org)*

## **2014 LSBA Awards Presented to Legal Professionals, Law Firm, Professor and Student**

**NEW ORLEANS**—Several Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members, a law firm, a professor and a student received 2014 awards during the Association's Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla. The awards were presented on June 5.

### **• President's Awards**

Three LSBA members (one recognized posthumously) received 2014 President's Awards. All recipients were chosen by 2013-14 LSBA President Richard K. Leefe and were recognized for various services to the Association. Recognized were **Timothy F. Averill**, Mandeville; **Leo C. Hamilton**, Baton Rouge; and **Mark A. Moreau** (posthumously), New Orleans.

**Timothy F. Averill** of Mandeville was recognized for his years of service to the Louisiana Supreme Court and the state's justice system. From 2011 through February 2014, he served as the Supreme Court's judicial administrator and chief executive officer of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana. From 1989-2008, he was deputy judicial administrator/general counsel of the Supreme Court. He was involved in several initiatives of importance to the LSBA, including the adoption of the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement and significant changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Bar Admission Rules.

Averill received a bachelor of arts degree in 1979 from James Madison University, a master of public administration degree in 1980 from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctor degree in 1985 from Loyola University College of Law.

He was named a Fellow in the U.S. Supreme Court Fellows Program in 2008, serving until 2010. In 1994, he was admitted as a Fellow in the Institute of Court Management of the National Center for State Courts, receiving an award for his analysis of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court Pilot Mediation Program.

**Leo C. Hamilton** of Baton Rouge was recognized for his years of service to Louisiana's legal community and justice system. He is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson,

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L.L.P., practicing in labor and employment law, administrative law, constitutional law and governmental relations. He represents the City of Alexandria and Pointe Coupee Parish and is general counsel for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

He received his bachelor of arts degree and his Juris Doctor degree from Louisiana State University and its Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Hamilton was the 2013-14 president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He is chair of the LSBA's Bill of Rights Section and a member of the LSBA's House of Delegates and Bench Bar Committee. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the American Association of Bar Presidents and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. He is a past president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and a past member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. He serves as a council member of the Louisiana State Law Institute and is a member of the Louisiana Indigent Defender Assistance Board.

**Mark A. Moreau** of New Orleans was recognized for his years of service as a public interest advocate. From 1988-2003, he was executive director of the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corp. When that program merged with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) in 2003, he became co-executive director, serving until 2013. He received a bachelor's degree from Brown University and his law degree from Buffalo University. In 1982, he earned his master in law degree in taxation.

His public interest legal career began in 1975 when he came to New Orleans as a participant in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program. His Hurricane Katrina-related housing work earned him and the SLLS staff an award in 2009 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Moreau was counsel in a case that established the right of poor people to care in hospitals and another that resulted in refunds to tenants who had been under paid in utility assistance. He recently co-authored the "2013 Louisiana Legal Services and Pro Bono Desk Manual." He served on the boards of the New Orleans Pro Bono Project, the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, the Family Justice Center and the Multi-Service Center for the Homeless. He was a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force for Self-Represented Litigants, the American Bar Association President's Caucus on the Recession and the Legal Profession, the New Orleans Mayor's Police-Civilian Review Task Force and the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee.

#### • Distinguished Service to the Profession Award

**Barry H. Grodsky** of New Orleans received the Distinguished Service to the Profession Award for his years of service as chair of the LSBA's Committee on the Profession. He is a partner in the New Orleans firm of Taggart Morton, L.L.C. He received a bachelor of business administration degree, with honors, in 1979 from the University of Texas-Austin and his Juris Doctor degree in 1982 from Tulane Law School.

Grodsky is the 2013-15 LSBA secretary and editor of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. He represented the First Board District on the LSBA's Board of Governors and chairs the LSBA's Committee on the Profession. He has coordinated several law school professionalism programs for the Bar. In 2009, he accepted the American Bar Association's Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award on behalf of the Committee on the Profession. He is a member of the Bar Governance Committee and serves on the LSBA Fee Arbitration Panel. He also served on the Continuing Legal Education Committee. He received the LSBA's President's Award in 2008 and 2010.

He is an instructor at Tulane University and received the Tulane University Teacher Recognition Award in 1993. He was a Tulane University Faculty Fellow from 2000-02.

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

**Hon. Jules D. Edwards III** of Lafayette received the 2014 Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice. Judge Edwards presides over Division B of the 15th Judicial District Court in Lafayette. He received his bachelor of arts and Juris Doctor degrees from Loyola University, a master of public administration degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and a master of strategic studies degree from the U.S. Army War College.

Judge Edwards has served as chief judge and is a pioneer in the Drug Treatment Court movement. He is vice chair of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, works with the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, is first vice president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, and has served as an indigent defender attorney, assistant district attorney, and counsel to the Senate's Select Committee on Crime and Drugs. He is a partner in the law firm of Edwards and Edwards.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1977 and served in the Louisiana Army National Guard until 2007, retiring as colonel of the Louisiana National Guard and recognized as the best Staff Judge Advocate in the United States.

#### • Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award

**Scott T. Whittaker** of New Orleans and **Dona K. Renegar** of Lafayette received the 2014 Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the *Louisiana Bar Journal*, the LSBA's bimonthly magazine. Their article, "The Cause and Effect of Recent Changes to the Louisiana Bar Examination," was published in the August/September 2013 issue.

**Whittaker**, a member of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C., in New Orleans, received the LSBA's President's Award in 2011 for his service as chair of the two LSBA special committees seated to study the proposed changes to the Louisiana Bar Exam. He received his undergraduate degree, *cum laude*, in 1982 from Tulane University and his Juris Doctor degree, *magna cum laude*, in 1984 from Tulane Law School. He is a former chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Bar Admissions.

**Renegar**, a member in the Lafayette office of Huval, Veazey, Felder & Renegar, L.L.C., served as the Third District representative on the LSBA's Board of Governors. She also served in the LSBA's House of Delegates and as chair of the LSBA's Young Lawyers Division. She received two bachelor of arts degrees in 1988 in English and French, both from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and her Juris Doctor degree in 1992 from Tulane Law School. She served on the two LSBA special committees seated to study the proposed changes to the Louisiana Bar Exam.

#### • Human Rights Award

New Orleans attorney **Lynn Luker** and the New Orleans office of **Adams and Reese, L.L.P.**, received 2014 Human Rights Awards.

**Lynn Luker**, owner of Lynn Luker & Associates, L.L.C., in New Orleans, is committed to working toward inclusion within the legal profession. After graduation from Tulane Law School, she systematically built trial teams that included women attorneys and has mentored those inside and outside her firm. A trained LSBA diversity speaker, she conducts diversity and inclusion training across Louisiana. She is chair of the

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National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms. In the 1980s, she co-founded the “Mommy Malpractice Avoidance Club,” a diverse group of women who supported each other’s efforts to balance the demands of being a good mother and being a good lawyer.

In 2015, Luker will celebrate 30 years of teaching at Tulane Law School as co-director of Trial Ad and the Civil Pre-Trial Litigation Boot Camp. She has been instrumental in fundraising for Tulane’s Black Law Students Association’s Moot Court team. She has been trained on “undoing racism” by The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond. She also has been trained by the Industrial Areas Foundation, a faith-based organization working for racial reconciliation.

The **Adams and Reese, L.L.P.**, Diversity Committee is comprised of the Diversity Committee chair, the recruiting partner, the partner for associates, an Executive Committee appointee, three Practice Group leaders, the chief marketing officer and additional representatives throughout the firm. The Minority Attorney Committee develops and promotes diversity through events targeted to minority attorneys, clients and the community. The committee has coordinated minority receptions in conjunction with the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Bayou Classic and the Essence Music Festival, as well as sponsorships including the Urban League, Diversity Summits, Black Business Networks, Minority Bar Association events, National Minority AIDS Council efforts, and endowed professorships and scholarships at historically black universities.

#### • Leah Hipple McKay Award for Outstanding Volunteerism

**Brian D. Lenard** of Hammond received the 2014 Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. He served as executive director of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services for 36 years, retiring in May 2014.

In 1982, he joined the board of the Southeast Spouse Abuse Program, a non-profit domestic violence prevention and intervention program serving four parishes. He worked with the program for nearly three decades, also serving as the president and treasurer.

Also in 1982, he joined the Tangipahoa Social Services Council, serving in various leadership capacities for nearly 25 years, including as board chair and secretary. He also chaired the agency’s United Way Committee and Resource Directory Committee.

Lenard was appointed to the board of the National Center for Survivor Agencies and Justice (CSAJ) in 2009. He currently serves as board president. CSAJ provides technical assistance to the national network of more than 200 legal agencies receiving funding from the Office of Violence Against Women and the U.S. Department of Justice.

#### • John Ashby Hernandez III Memorial Award for Francophone Leadership

**Professor Olivier Moréteau** of Baton Rouge received the 2014 John Ashby Hernandez III Memorial Award for Francophone Leadership. He joined the Louisiana State University faculty in 2005, when he was named the first holder of the Russell B. Long Eminent Scholars Academic Chair. He is the director of the Center of Civil Law Studies, the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Civil Law Studies* and the associate vice chancellor for international programs.

He received his Ph.D., *summa cum laude*, at the Université Jean Moulin in 1990. He has authored and edited books in French and English, and written articles in various languages on the civil law, common law,

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comparative law, law and languages, tort law, the law of obligations and legal education. He is a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, the European Group on Tort Law, the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law, the Société de Législation comparée, the American Law Institute, the Louisiana Bar Equivalency Panel and the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

#### • Civics in Action Award

**C. Jefferson Manning III** of Monroe received the 2014 Civics in Action Award, presented by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. Manning is a 2014-15 senior at St. Frederick Catholic High School in Monroe. His school activities include the National Honor Society, class president for ninth, 10th and 11th grades, Interact Club, state officer of the Future Business Leaders of America and varsity basketball and golf teams. He has won several awards for public speaking.

He was a state finalist for the Richard D. Clanton Scholarship, served on the Congressional Youth Leadership Council in Washington, D.C., was the Louisiana delegate for the National Young Leaders Southern Regional Conference, and is a member of the Louisiana All-District Academic Basketball Team.

Manning is a council member for the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory. He is the creator and chair of “Louisiana’s Largest King Cake Fundraisers,” which raised funds for a homeless shelter and food pantry. He also chairs the Senior Citizen Pneumonia Awareness Campaign Community Service Project.

#### • Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award

**Charles F. Gay, Jr.** of New Orleans received the Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award, presented by the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He is a partner in the New Orleans office of Adams and Reese, L.L.P., currently serving as a member of the firm’s Pharmaceuticals and Products Liability Team of the Litigation Practice Group. He also works with the Healthcare Litigation Group.

He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He is a former chair of the International Association of Defense Counsel’s Pharmaceutical-Medical Device Committee. Gay has served as chair of the LSBA’s Legal Malpractice Insurance Committee and has co-chaired the LSBA’s Medical-Legal Interprofessional Committee.

*The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 22,000 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.*