

## **Hon. Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr.'s portrait was unveiled at the Louisiana Bar Center**

The LSBA and the Ortique Family unveiled a portrait of the Honorable Justice Revius O. Ortique, Jr. during a reception at the Louisiana Bar Center on October 4, 2009 to an audience of about 75. Justice Ortique, the first African American justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court and the first African American elected to the LSBA House of Delegates, contributed much to the legal profession in Louisiana.

The program included Hon. Catherine D. Kimball, Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson, Monique G. Morial (on behalf of Marc H. Morial), Kim M. Boyle, Michael A. Patterson, Miriam V. Ortique, Rhesa M. McDonald, and Jimmie Thorns, Jr.

Mrs. McDonald, Justice Ortique's daughter, relayed that she did not know what her father did when she was a little girl; however, she quickly learned the importance of the work that her father did for those who could not speak for themselves. Reflecting on Justice Ortique's life and legacy, Mrs. McDonald said, "I consider him a giant." Justice Kimball fondly shared personal stories from her time on the bench with Justice Ortique, who started at the Louisiana Supreme Court on the same day with her. She recounted how the other justices made adjustments to traditions and policies, such as having the junior justices hold open the door for the other justices, to avoid offending them. President Kim Boyle articulated the historical significance of the portrait unveiling as well as Justice Ortique's countless contributions to the legal profession and civil rights. "We stand on the shoulders of giants," Boyle reminded the audience, referring to Justice Ortique as one of those giants.

In addition to a host of judges, friends, relatives, and professionals, local dignitaries attending the event included Sheriff Marlon N. Gusman and New Orleans City Councilperson Jackie Clarkson.

Artist Jimmie Thorns, Jr. donated the portrait, and Liberty Bank & Trust Company sponsored the reception.