

22nd Annual Minority Involvement Section Job Fair a Success!

By: Donovan K. Hudson

LSBA Minority Involvement Section hosted its 22nd Annual Job Fair on August 21st at the Southern University Law Center. Approximately 26 employers interviewed and networked with about 75 student participants. Several other employers collected resumes of student participants even though they were unable to attend the Fair in person. The free Fair gave employers the opportunity to compress into a single day statewide interviewing of talented students and recent graduates with diverse backgrounds from area law schools.

Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts sent representatives from Shreveport to interview at the Fair. M. Thomas (Tom) Arceneaux expressed his appreciation for the Fair, for which his firm has participated for several years. "What an inspiring day!" Arceneaux remarked. "The Fair assembled an impressive group of young people who left me inspired and encouraged. It was a great way for our firm to be exposed to students we likely would not see through our normal recruiting channels." Arceneaux noted that Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts would return as a sponsor for next year's Fair.

During the Diversity Networking Lunch portion of the Fair, two very highly regarded legal practitioners shared their insights regarding traits and practices essential to building a successful legal career. Mrs. Sandra Diggs-Miller, Senior Counsel with the Entergy Services, Inc., Legal Services Department, inspired attendees with stories of personal triumph and dedication. She challenged the students to identify a goal, create a plan, stick to the plan each day, and maintain a positive attitude in the process. "You and you alone must make the decision to possess a positive attitude as you strive toward your goal." Diggs-Miller explained. "The only way to achieve your purpose is to take small actions toward that end result every day. In the end, they all add up to success. "

Ms. Diggs-Miller's spirited and energetic delivery was followed by an informative and professorial sharing of information by retired Judge Luke A. LaVergne, District Judge of the Family Court Division "B", Parish of East Baton Rouge. "Remember, you belong to a 'profession' as opposed to a trade or occupation," Judge LaVergne advised. "It is a 'Calling'. There are only three Professions: Law, Medicine and the Ministry. What distinguishes a Profession from a trade or occupation is that a Profession must use the training, skills and experience for the good of the public regardless of remuneration." With vintage judicial verve, His Honor outlined basic concepts of professionalism in the practice of law, spicing the basic legal information with personal anecdotes to illustrate points and issues.

The luncheon allowed Job Fair Co-Chairs Luis A. Leitzelar and Donovan K. Hudson to acknowledge the support of the event's sponsors and thank all participants before ending the job-fair with wishes of continued success and safe travels to all. "We hope the employers and students as well as the volunteers, sponsors and all others in attendance enjoyed this year's Fair," said Mr. Leitzelar. "The Minority Involvement Section sponsors events such as these to address and spotlight worthy and timeless themes of inclusiveness, community and professionalism."

The following sponsored the event: (Note: The individual listed is the contact person for the listing.)

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Special thanks to the members of the job fair planning committee for their hard work.

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Donovan K. Hudson

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For information about the Spring Internship Fair (which is scheduled to occur at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center) or next year's Fair, please contact Kelly McNeil Legier (Kelly.Legier@lsba.org; (504)619-0129).