

Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this special section, contact Louisiana State Bar Association Director of Member Outreach and Diversity Kelly McNeil Legier, (504)619-0129, (800)421-5722, ext. 129, or email kelly.legier@lsba.org.

LSBA, Just the Beginning Foundation present second Legal Internship Program for high school students

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) partnered with the Just the Beginning Foundation for the second “Suit Up for the Future” High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program. This year, 13 New Orleans and Baton Rouge area high school juniors and seniors participated in the three-week program (June 11-29), which included lectures, field trips to New Orleans area courts and law schools, shadowing attorneys in area law firms, and mock oral arguments.

Week one programming included a series of lectures at the Louisiana Bar Center in New Orleans, presented by area judges, lawyers and law school professors. Topics included Torts, Legal Research and Writing, Contracts and Criminal Law. LSBA President John H. Musser IV addressed the students on the first day and the last day of the program.

Programming for the next two weeks included discussions about ethics, field trips to the courts (including Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Orleans Parish Municipal Court and the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana), field trips to law schools, and several Law Firm Internship days.

The program ended on June 29 with mock oral arguments in the courtroom of Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby in New Orleans.

“The summer internship program provides students with practical hands-on experience of what it takes to get into law school and what it is like to be a law student and lawyer. As they assess their career options in high school, no other opportunity in any other profession can be found,” said Judge Roby, a coordinator of the internship program and a member of both sponsoring organizations.

“The effect of the Suit Up program in the community is unparalleled. It provides students with a realist preview of the legal profession and a pathway to accomplish their goal of becoming a lawyer,” said Chauntis



Among the participants in the second “Suit Up for the Future” High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program were interns Journee Berry, Arielle Brooks, Zenavie Crier, Theodore Davis IV, Romeo Ejiaga, Calli Farrell, Megan Gallo, Abigail Hanemann, William Hauser, Patrick LaBorde, Ashley Ramirez, Angelica Simmons and Jenny Wang. LSBA interns are Phillip L. Washington and Erica A. Ballard. Photo by LSBA staff.

T. Jenkins, co-chair of the LSBA’s Diversity Committee.

“How can you know what you want to do if you don’t know what you don’t want to do?” said Judge Max N. Tobias, co-chair of the LSBA’s Diversity Committee and a program organizer. “The Suit Up program gives high school students real-life exposure to what the law is and what lawyers and judges do, in order to be able to make an informed decision about what he or she wants to do to make a living.”

Participating 11th and 12th graders attend the following schools: St. Mary’s Dominican High School, International High School of

New Orleans, West Salem High School, Edna Karr High School, Sophie B. Wright Charter School, Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies, Mandeville High School, New Orleans Charter of Science and Mathematics, St. Thomas Aquinas, Northshore High School and Baton Rouge Magnet High School.

Program organizers acknowledged the participation of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Southern University Law Center and Tulane University Law School. The law schools collaborated on the program and contributed organizers, professors and speakers.

24th Annual Minority Job Fair: Employers and sponsors can still get involved

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Minority Involvement Section is presenting its 24th annual Minority Job Fair from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge.

Employers wanting to informally visit with students at an information table or to collect résumés without attending the fair have until Aug. 13 to register.

The fair offers employers the opportunity to compress into a single day statewide interviewing of talented students and recent graduates with diverse backgrounds from area law schools. The event also includes a Diversity Networking Lunch.

To register, call Sonjanita Jordan at

(504)619-0115 or log onto: <https://law-lsba-csm.symplicity.com/employers>.

The fair includes sponsorship opportunities at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500) and Silver (\$250) level. Sponsors will be acknowledged on the LSBA website and in publications, including the Louisiana Bar Journal, Louisiana Bar Today and Bar Briefs. Signs at the fair will identify sponsors by level.

For information on sponsorship levels, contact Christine A. Richard, crichard@lsba.org, (504)619-0105; or Kelly McNeil Legier, kelly.legier@lsba.org, (504)619-0129. To ensure proper recognition on signage and in publications, sponsors should respond with commitments by July 15.

Share experiences anonymously for use in future professionalism CLE discussions

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is developing a bank of hypotheticals/vignettes for use in future CLE discussions. The LSBA will facilitate interactive workshops and discussions to evaluate actual race, age, ethnic, cultural, gender, sexual orientation, generational and disability experiences of attorneys and judges. The LSBA hopes to generate frank discussion of the issues and delve into the hard, not-so-politically-correct conversations to advance cultural competency and become

more inclusive and professional.

If you have experienced a cultural competency misstep or witnessed one, consider submitting the scenarios to the LSBA for incorporation (anonymously) into future CLE discussions. Submit stories on the expandable form available at the following link: www.lsba.org/lbadocuments/568.pdf. For more information, contact LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity Director Kelly McNeil Legier, (504)619-0129, email kelly.legier@lsba.org.



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DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • PROFESSIONALISM

www.lsba.org/diversity



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SAVE THE DATES!

Check the LSBA's Diversity webpage for more information on the following events:

- ▶ Oct. 11 - Disabilities Summit, Baton Rouge
- ▶ Nov. 16 - Superwomen CLE, Baton Rouge
- ▶ March 1, 2013 - Sixth Annual Conclave on Diversity, Baton Rouge

Ethics Advisory Service



www.lsba.org/ethicsadvisory

For assistance with dilemmas and decisions involving legal ethics, take full advantage of the LSBA's Ethics Advisory Service, offering - at no charge - confidential, informal, non-binding advice and opinions regarding a member's own prospective conduct.

Eric K. Barefield, Ethics Counsel

LSBA Ethics Advisory Service, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404
(504)566-1600, ext. 122 • (504)619-0122 • toll-free: (800)421-5722, ext. 122 • Fax: (504)598-6753
E-mail: ebarefield@lsba.org