

Focus on Diversity

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24th Annual Minority Involvement Section's Job Fair a "win-win"

By Lannette M. Richardson

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Minority Involvement Section hosted its 24th annual Job Fair on Aug. 18 at Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge. About 20 employers interviewed and networked with more than 50 law students. The job fair was a "win-win" experience for both the law students and the employers. The fair provided law students with an opportunity to gain direct, in-person access to statewide employers for interviewing, informational and networking purposes. Employers also had a huge win by obtaining immediate access to a diverse pool of accomplished law students via information booths, on-the-spot interviewing and résumé collections.

The workshop included a free networking lunch. Luncheon speaker Joseph K. West, president and CEO of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, gave participants sound advice on the benefits of networking.

The job fair successfully included a "speed-networking" exercise which many found to be the highlight of the day's events. "I enjoyed the session as much or more than the students. Speed-networking is serious, yet fun. It is a great way for students to build relationships and to sharpen their social skills," said Judge Trudy M. White, 19th Judicial District Court.

The speed-networking exercise gave



A speed-networking exercise was one of the highlights of the Minority Job Fair. Among the participants were Marcus V. Brown with Entergy Corp. and Judge Nannette V. Jolivet Brown with U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

law students an opportunity to meet, learn and potentially acquire mentors from the attorneys and judges present. The attorneys and judges were placed among several tables. The students were divided into groups and were given seven to 10 minutes to network with each table during the round-robin-style exercise.

"The future lawyers who participated in the speed-networking event impressed me most with their earnestness in learning the more productive paths to employment that would be satisfying to them and at the

same time of substantial benefit to their employer. They were not all focused only on themselves but also on the needs of prospective employers and how those skills serve those needs," said Judge Paul A. Bonin, Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal.

Judge Max N. Tobias, Jr., Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, spoke about the benefits to both the student and the interviewer. "The speed-networking portion of the job fair gave each participant — student and interviewer — a first opportunity to, so to speak, size one another up and for the student to experience very briefly the different techniques of interviewers and get tips on how to deal with an interview," he said.

Also participating in the speed-networking event were Judge Regina H. Bartholomew, Orleans Parish Civil District Court; Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana; and Judge Nannette V. Jolivet Brown, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

The job fair further cultivated the LSBA's Statement of Diversity Principles: "We



Among the law students participating in the Minority Job Fair were, from left, Deontrine Green, Susan Nelson, Lesley Muse-Vincent and Bernetta Bryant.

pledge to make our best efforts to increase the diversity in our hiring, retention and promotion of attorneys . . . We pledge to promote and participate in appropriate diversity awareness training programs.”

“The job fair is a perfect chance to have meaningful access to a quality number of employers that we would not otherwise have the opportunity to encounter. We were able to give the employers more than just a résumé with numbers (GPA/ranking), but our face and personality to go with it,” said Kelly A. Foster, third-year law student at Southern University Law Center.

Sponsoring this year’s job fair were:

► **Platinum Level:** Entergy Services, Inc.; Kean Miller, L.L.P.; Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P.; and Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.

► **Gold Level:** Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C.; Blanchard, Walker, O’Quinn & Roberts; Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles, L.L.P.; and McCraine, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch, L.L.C.

► **Silver Level:** Laborde & Neuner; Liskow & Lewis, L.L.C.; Office of the Louisiana Attorney General, James D. (Buddy) Caldwell; and Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C.

Lannette M. Richardson, who served as a volunteer for the 2012 Job Fair, is a master of public administration candidate at Louisiana State University.



Minority Job Fair luncheon speaker was Joseph K. West, left, president and CEO of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. With him is Louisiana State Bar Association Member Outreach and Diversity Director Kelly McNeil Legier.



Several judges participated in Minority Job Fair events, including, from left, Judge Max N. Tobias, Jr., Judge Trudy M. White, Judge Regina H. Bartholomew, Judge Nannette V. Jolivet Brown, Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center Prof. Raymond T. Diamond and Judge Paul A. Bonin.



“Lawyer Depression is Contagious!”

By Michael D. Yapko, Ph.D.

The article was originally published in the March 2012 issue of The Alabama Lawyer. Referenced with permission from the publication and the author.

Can you catch a depressed mood the way you catch a cold? Not exactly . . . but similar. Can other people really be a source of the rising rate of depression in the United States? The scientific evidence suggests the answer is yes. Our social lives play a huge role in how we think and feel. After all, none of us are immune to the influence of others, for better or worse. How we react to others, and vice-versa, even has a measurable biological impact on our brain chemistry, as our newest brain research shows us. The evidence is rapidly mounting that depression is about much more than just an individual’s “bad

chemistry.” Thinking of depression as a brain disease is proving to be too one-dimensional a perspective.

For attorneys, appreciating the social connection to depression is vital if the person is to be viewed — and responded to — realistically. Why are attorneys depressed?

To read the full article, go to: www.alabar.org/publications/al-lawyer-full/march2012/index.html. On the flipbook, access pages 54-55.

Michael D. Yapko, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist based in Fallbrook, CA.

Mark Your Calendars!

Registration Open for 2 CLE Programs

► **Oct. 11, Disabilities Summit.** Registration is open for “The Dawn of An Enabled Era: Unraveling the Myths of Attorneys with Disabilities,” set for Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4728 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge. The CLE has been approved for 3 CLE hours. For more information on the schedule and speakers, or to download a registration form, go to: <http://www.lsba.org/GoTo/2012Disabilities>.

► **Nov. 16, Superwomen.** Registration is open for “Superwomen: Female Attorneys Mastering the Game and the Strategies That Rule,” set for Friday, Nov. 16, at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, 201 Lafayette St., Baton Rouge. The CLE has been approved for 3.75 CLE hours, including professionalism and law practice management. For more information on the schedule and speakers, or to download a registration form, go to: <http://www.lsba.org/GoTo/2012SuperwomenCLE>.