

Focus on Diversity

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2017 Suit Up for the Future Program welcomes 12 high school students

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in partnership with the Louisiana Bar Foundation and Just the Beginning (JTB), welcomed 12 high school students on June 12 for the start of the 2017 Suit Up for the Future Program.

Presentations were made by LSBA President-Elect Barry H. Grodsky; U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby, Eastern District of Louisiana, JTB coordinator; and LSBA Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Co-Chairs Scherri N. Guidry, 15th JDC Public Defenders Office, and Monique M. Edwards, The Edwards Law Group, L.L.C.

Professor Emily A. Bishop, West-erfield Fellow at Loyola University College of Law, provided the students with their first introduction to a law school abridged course, "Legal Writing."

Suit Up for the Future (a pipeline program) is a three-week legal institute that offers high school students the opportunity to experience abridged law courses, shadow attorneys and attend field trips to law schools and courts. Over the course of the program, students will be introduced to legal documents, lawyers and the legal system, all designed to assist them in pondering the important question, "Do I really want to be a lawyer?"

The program will continue through June 30. In the Suit Up classroom, students will experience the Socratic teaching method and gain exposure to specified law school courses, including criminal law and legal research and writing. Students also will receive a mock trial problem, which will serve



Just the Beginning Coordinator Hon. Karen Wells Roby with the high school students participating in the 2017 Suit Up for the Future Program. Also in the group are Louisiana State Bar Association Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Co-Chairs Scherri N. Guidry and Monique M. Edwards.

as the basis for the legal writing assignment and oral argument that the students will present to a panel of judges at the end of the program.

The Suit Up students will attend several field trips, including touring two area law schools, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Court museum and federal court buildings. During the tours, students will hear from guest speakers and may have the opportunity to view proceedings at several state and federal courts.

To view the 2017 Suit Up program in action, go to the Suit Up Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Suit-UpForTheFuture/>. ■



Louisiana State Bar Association President-Elect Barry H. Grodsky and U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby, Eastern District of Louisiana, and Just the Beginning coordinator, presented opening comments to the high school students participating in the 2017 Suit Up for the Future Program.

Thanks to members of 2016-17 LSBA Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and its subcommittees

On behalf of the Louisiana State Bar Association, we would like to thank the 2016-17 members of the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and its Subcommittees. Your service was greatly appreciated.

The mission of the Committee on Diversity is:

► to assess the level of racial, ethnic, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability diversity within all components of the legal profession in Louisiana;

► to identify barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation in the legal profession by persons of diverse backgrounds; and

► to propose programs and methods by which the LSBA can most effectively work to remove those barriers and achieve greater diversity.

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