

Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit www.lsba.org/diversity.

Nomination procedures listed, forms online for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nomination deadlines are Feb. 28, 2022, for both awards.

For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go online: www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx. Click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." Or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards — the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period runs from October through February.

This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the first African-American

chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current member of the LSBA's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential;
- ▶ ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach;
- ▶ commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession; and
- ▶ participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

LSBA Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes non-profit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period is October through February.

Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including non-profits and public interest organizations).

Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts:

- ▶ creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion in society;
- ▶ making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession;
- ▶ enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities;
- ▶ advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity;
- ▶ dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups; and
- ▶ proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion. 

Become a Signatory

to the LSBA Statement of Diversity Principles

For more information or to view the statement online, visit www.lsba.org/Diversity/DiversityPrinciples.aspx

14 Students Complete 2021 “Suit Up for the Future” Program

The Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program had another successful year, with 14 students completing the three-week program. The program (June 7 through July 2) included abridged law school sessions; shadowing opportunities at law firms, courts and agencies; and field trips to courts and agencies.



Students with “Federal Court Presentation” presenter Maurice Lightfoot, third from left, deputy U.S. marshal, U.S. Marshals Service, Eastern District of Louisiana.



“College Admission Preparation Workshop” presenters, from left, Juwaun Walker, admissions counselor, Southeastern Louisiana University; Dejonique Carter, pre-law advisor and Jaelaun Cavalier, admissions counselor, Dillard University.



Students with “Career Path Session” presenter John Collins, third from left, Law Fellow, Innocence Project.



Suit Up students visited the Louisiana Supreme Court. Front row from left, Thomas A. Massey, Lauren A. Langley, Isabella M. Lancaster, Jaden S. Armond, Malcolm X. Ferrouillet, Emma R. Graff and Veronica E. Camenzuli. Back row from left, Jackie B. Breckenridge III, Zoe K. Stamps, Sage J. Allen, Aleia B. Johnson, Kori L. Dupree and Lauren S. Benn.

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Students with “College Admission Preparation Workshop” presenter Candice Dazet, third from left, admissions recruiter, New Orleans Area, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Students with “College Admission Preparation Workshop” presenter Jami Becnel, third from left, regional admission recruiter, Louisiana Tech University.



Suit Up interns. Seated from left, Adrija Bhattacharjee, University of Rochester (2018 Suit Up alumni); Ally Flakes, Loyola University New Orleans (2018 Suit Up alumni); and Christian Lacoste, Louisiana State University (2018 Suit Up alumni). Standing from left, Michael Ledet, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and Tracey Gant, Tulane Law School, summer extern to Judge Karen Wells Roby.



LSBA Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chairs, from left, Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, and Sherri N. Guidry, 15th Judicial District Public Defender’s Office, addressed the students.