



## SPEAKER BIOS

as of 2/8/2017

**Rachel Thyre Anderson**, a law school graduate of University of California at Davis, was headed to municipal law when the California economy took a hit. So she took a position with a bankruptcy firm and returned to her native Louisiana. Except for a criminal law clerkship year at the Louisiana Supreme Court, she has represented bankruptcy clients since. She quotes her first bankruptcy mentor: "Bankruptcy is the quintessential 'general practice' area of law, involving federal and state law, and touching on family law, tax law, contract law, and pretty much every other area you can think of." Rachel recently obtained her first student loan discharge in a bankruptcy case, relieving her client of more than \$150,000 in what is normally non-dischargeable debt.

**Ellen Artopoeus** is a member of Barrett Title, LLC and Ellen Barrett Artopoeus, LLC, both in Metairie, La. Her experiences with Ozanam Inn, Strive, Inc. which places disabled adults into employment and the pro bono project rounds out her long career as a solo practitioner. An avid sailor, she was the vice commander of the New Orleans Yacht Club. With an undergraduate degree from Tulane and her JD from LSU, she is also an active member of the LSBA's solo and small firm section.

**Craig Ball** hails from Texas but now happily calls the Big Easy his new home. A board certified trial attorney in Texas and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas School of Law teaching Electronic Evidence and Digital Discovery, Craig is an expert in digital forensics, emerging technologies, visual persuasion, electronic discovery, and trial tactics, limiting his practice to service as a court-appointed Special Master in Electronically-Stored Information. An energetic speaker at CLE programs for the bench and the bar throughout the world, Craig is also an instructor in computer forensics and electronic evidence to multiple law enforcement and security agencies. Craig's articles frequently appear in the national media. For nine years, he wrote the award winning column on computer forensics and e-discovery for American Lawyer Media called "Ball in your Court," and still pens a popular blog of the same name at [ballinyourcourt.com](http://ballinyourcourt.com).

**Eric K. Barefield** is Ethics Counsel for the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). A 1995 graduate of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Barefield began his professional career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish (1995-98). From 1998-2005, he served as Deputy Disciplinary Counsel with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and was responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. He joined the LSBA staff in 2005, working first with the Practice Assistance Program's alternatives to discipline. Barefield coordinated the launch of the LSBA's Law Office Management Assistance Program and the Solo and Small Firm Conference before accepting his current position focusing on the Ethics Advisory Service.

**Austin Benton** is an attorney at the firm of Benton, Benton & Benton. Austin primarily practices in the areas of family and personal injury. In addition to practicing law, Austin is the owner of Ayla, which is a legal software company that Louisiana judges and attorneys have chosen to automate their petitions, letters, and judgments.

**Erica Birstler** is the Manager of Client Services at CosmoLex, an all-in-one cloud-based legal practice management system specifically designed for solo and small law firms. Erica has given numerous presentations across the country on legal technologies such as law practice technology management, cloud computing, and legal billing & trust accounting compliance.

**Loyd J. Bourgeois, Jr.** is a solo attorney practicing in Luling, Louisiana. He has a general practice but focuses on representing individuals fighting for disability benefits - SSDI, SSI, Long-Term Disability and Short-Term Disability. He is a graduate of Tulane Law School and holds an engineering degree from LSU. His website is [www.LouisianaDisabilityLaw.com](http://www.LouisianaDisabilityLaw.com).

**Dane C. Ciolino** is a law professor at Loyola University College of Law, and the editor of the weblog [Louisiana Legal Ethics](#) and the book [Louisiana Legal Ethics: Standards and Commentary \(2015\)](#). He is also engaged in a limited law practice and in law-related consulting, principally in the areas of legal ethics, lawyer discipline, judicial discipline, and federal criminal law. His practice includes handling disciplinary matters before the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, and the Louisiana Judiciary Commission, legal malpractice cases, lawyer disqualification matters, and legal fee disputes. He also consults and serves as an expert witness in the fields of legal ethics, legal fees, and the standards of conduct governing lawyers.

**Carolyn Cooper**, a West Coast native with a BA in Social Welfare from the University of Washington, came south to earn her JD from Tulane. Way back when, serendipity and her interest in the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program, caused her to meet and work with solo attorney Frederick J. King, Jr. who later offered her a clerkship. She never left. In 2013, King and Cooper, LLC was formed.

**Keith M. Couture**, a NOLA native transplanted to Madisonville, La. and founder of Couture Law LLC, earned his undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and his JD at Loyola. Admitted to practice law in Louisiana and Georgia, Keith and his firm represent businesses, individuals, and governmental entities throughout Louisiana and Georgia in a broad spectrum of practice areas. Self-described as “actively altruistic,” he also furthers his firm’s goals by accepting cases through the Orleans Indigent Defenders Conflict panel.

**Albert J. Derbes, IV**, a member of [the Derbes Law Firm, LLC](#), has practiced for more than 25 years, with a heavy emphasis on commercial matters. His areas of practice include contracts, commercial bankruptcy, real estate, succession litigation, wills, and entity law. [A graduate of Tulane Law School](#) [he](#) is licensed to practice in Louisiana and Texas. [He is](#) a frequent CLE speaker and active in various bar organizations. He has also taught the Louisiana Notary Public Preparation course for Delgado Community College.

**Davidson S. Ehle, III**, is an experienced criminal defense litigator with numerous “not guilty” verdicts in Jefferson, St. Tammany, and Orleans criminal courts, state and federal. A former assistant district attorney for the Parish of Jefferson, he was also the director of the Louisiana Crime Laboratory Study which analyzed comprehensively every crime laboratory in Louisiana, Virginia, and Florida, including the FBI's as well. His undergraduate degree is from LSU and law degree is from Mississippi College School of Law. In 2007, he started his solo practice and in 2017, joined forces with Joe Marino to form Marino & Ehle LLC where he now practices.

**Ashley Flick** is Professional Liability Loss Prevention Counsel for the Louisiana State Bar Association and is employed by Gilsbar, LLC, in Covington, Louisiana. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University College of Law. Prior to joining Gilsbar in October 2015, she practiced law for an insurance defense law firm in Covington, La. She lectures often on ethics as part of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education requirements for attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana.

**Megan Hargroder** is the founder and lead strategist of Conversations, LLC. She helps solo and small firm lawyers boost their business through social media and search engine optimization. She has spoken several times at CLE Seminars, Tech Tuesdays and Marketing Mondays hosted by the Louisiana Bar Association and at Small Firm Bootcamp hosted by Paperless Chase.

**Shawn L. Holahan** is the Practice Management Counsel and Legislative Committee Liaison for the LSBA, and administers the LSBA's fee dispute arbitration program. A former member of the ABA LP Division's Publishing Board, she is a member of the ABA LP's State and Local Outreach Committee and served two years as a member of the ABA's TECHSHOW Planning Board. She is also the current Chair of the Practice Management Advisors of North America. Prior to her position at the bar, she was a partner with a medium sized law firm in New Orleans (labor and employment matters primarily) and had completed two federal clerkships in the USDC. (E.D. La.). Understanding that lawyers just want to get back to practicing law without tech getting in the way, she seeks to demystify the process of choosing tech that is appropriate for the particular lawyer and practice.

**Abid Hussain** is a solo lawyer in New Orleans who has practiced corporate law for more than nine years in Texas and Louisiana. A seasoned speaker on legal technology matters, he also provides practical legal and corporate counsel, including intellectual property and asset protection, to entrepreneurs, small business owners, real estate investors, and musicians. Prior to practice, he worked eight years with technology and software companies, including start-ups as well as giants such as Texas Instruments and Microsoft, in marketing and management positions. He now uses that business experience to help his clients as an attorney. Abid is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Oregon, School of Law.

**Rick Kabra** is the CEO of CosmoLex Cloud, a web based law practice management system designed for small law firms. With a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, he has over 10 years of experience in the legal software industry catering to the specialized technology needs of small law firms. Rick is a frequent speaker and author on legal technologies related to law office management, cloud computing, and legal billing, business & trust accounting compliance issues. Rick's focus is to help attorneys use technology to simplify their law firm operations. Under his watch, the CosmoLex product has grown to include practice management, billing, business accounting and trust accounting functions and is being used by small law firms in all 50 states.

**Raymond P. Ladouceur**, JD, MBA, CPA, CFF is a licensed CPA and attorney. The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization has certified him as tax specialist, and estate planning and administration specialist, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants has certified him in financial forensics. A practitioner highly regarded for his estate planning expertise, he is a frequent speaker at numerous continuing education seminars. He is the author of *Estate and Gift Taxation (A Louisiana Perspective)*, 2016 Edition and is co-author of *Planning for Marriage, Separation, and Divorce (A Louisiana Perspective)*, 2016 Edition. Mr. Ladouceur is the only person to be named the Louisiana Society of CPA's Outstanding Discussion Leader six times. He is the Past-President of the SLCPA, and of the Louisiana Chapter of Attorney-CPAs.

**Richard P. Lemmler, Jr.** has been Ethics Counsel for the LSBA since May 2002 and has been responsible for the development and day-to-day administration of the LSBA's lawyer advertising filing and evaluation process since its inception. He frequently presents CLE on legal ethics and lawyer advertising; he has written several articles for the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. Before joining the LSBA staff, he practiced law in New Orleans for 14 years as a solo general practitioner. He also served two consecutive three-year appointments to the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, first as a lawyer member of a hearing committee and then as chair of a hearing committee.

**Chuck Lowry** is a sales representative with Fastcase, the member benefit for research offered by the LSBA to its members as the member benefit for research. The Fastcase database is designed to permit users to find cases and statutes, run searches and sort, share and organize their results effectively. Prior to coming to Fastcase, Chuck held editorial, sales, marketing and product development positions at Matthew Bender, Lexis, Kluwer Law International and American Lawyer Media. He lives in New York City.

**Joseph A. Marino, III** is a Louisiana State Representative and a former Gretna City Councilman. He was the President of the Jefferson Bar Association in 2006 and 2007. He is a past board member of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Lawyers who has been practicing criminal defense in Jefferson Parish since 1992. He is a graduate of LSU and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is currently a partner with Marino & Ehle LLC and is an instructor for the Gretna and Kenner Police Academies.

**Jerome Matthews**, a native of the New Orleans area, joined the United States Marine Corps as a helicopter technician where he served honorably as a Corporal from 2001-2006. His service included a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After his service, he received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Philosophy from Tulane University. He then received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. After graduating from law school, Mr. Matthews was an associate at Liskow and Lewis in the firm's New Orleans office. He then established his own solo law office, and practices criminal defense.

**Elizabeth Meneray** is the founding member of the New Orleans based firm, Meneray Family Law, LLC. A true New Orleans born and bred native, she is a woman with many interests (WWOZ radio program host; member of the Muff-o-lottas Mardi Gras marching krewe; Executive Committee Member for the NOLA Project, and a founding member of the Muses women's carnival group, to name a few). Liz's practice is dedicated to family law, including divorce, child custody and support, spousal support and community property division. A family law mediator and trained in collaborative divorce practice, she is a regular speaker on professionalism topics for the LSBA; has been elected by her peers for the past two years as a top family law attorney in New Orleans Magazine; and in 2017 was noted as a "rising star" by Super Lawyers Magazine.

**Craig Mordock** is a criminal defense attorney and trial lawyer in New Orleans. He was a former senior felony prosecutor at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office where he obtained the first conviction for human trafficking in the State of Louisiana. He has defended several high profile clients including former American League Cy Young Award winner Denny McClain. He is also the legal for the ABC affiliate in New Orleans, WGNO and regularly comments to the media on criminal justice issues in New Orleans. His twitter handle is @CJMordock.

**Gayle O'Connor** is a legal technology consultant with 20+ years' experience. Currently working as the Marketing Manager at Social Evidence, a cloud-based application designed to collect, organize, and analyze information from specific social media sites, Gayle was with Degan, Blanchard and Nash, an insurance defense firm in New Orleans, Gayle has been a former trial technician for federal public defenders, a marketing director for legal software providers and has taught legal research at law schools. She has been a featured speaker at American Lawyer Media LegalTech Events, ABA TECHSHOW, Online World, Special Libraries Association, Glasser LegalWorks, Washington State Paralegal Association, National Business Institute, ABA Litigation Section Meetings, local Bar Associations throughout the U.S. and international organizations such as the Law Society of British Columbia and the New Zealand Law Society.

**Tom O'Connor** is the Senior ESI Consultant at Advanced Discovery, an international e-discovery company. A recognized speaker and writer in the area of computerized litigation support systems and electronic discovery, he is the author of several books in the field, most recently *EDiscovery for Small Cases*, published by the ABA. He graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a BA in Political Science and later earned a J.D. degree from a small non-descript evening program in the Boston area. He currently resides in New Orleans.

**Darrel J. Papillion** is a partner at Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC in Baton Rouge. He handles complicated wrongful death and personal injury cases. He has been an adjunct law professor at the Paul M. Herbert Law Center, Louisiana State University for 15 years. He served as the 2014 President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and is currently President of the Louisiana State Bar Association for 2016-2017. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University (B.A., 1990) and the Paul M. Herbert Law Center, Louisiana State University (J.D., 1994). He served as a Judicial Clerk to Justice Catherine D. Kimball, former Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, in 1994-1995.

**Sarah Pfeiffer** is a family attorney, mediator, collaborative practitioner and [Wevorce](#) affiliate, whose solo practice serves the Greater New Orleans area and focuses on bringing high quality legal services to modest means clients and reaching favorable settlements without court. With over 300 training hours in alternative dispute resolution, she is a board member of the Collaborative Divorce Alliance of Greater New Orleans and a member the International Academy of Collaborative Practitioners (IACP). She subscribes to the philosophy of Abraham Lincoln who said, "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. As a peacemaker, the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough."

**Charles B. Plattsmier** is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State of Louisiana, and the Chief Counsel under the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB). The author of amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Supreme Court Rule 19, he was a member of the Ethics 2000 Committee which updated and amended Louisiana's ethics rules. A prolific speaker, he lectures on ethics and professionalism nationally and across the state. Prior to LADB, he was a partner of Hunter and Plattsmier, which focused on maritime litigation. He also practiced solo with offices in Morgan City and Baton Rouge. He is the former President of the St. Mary Parish Bar Association and a former member of the LSBA's House of Delegates.

**Paul Rabalais** has been a Louisiana estate planning attorney since 1991. Mr. Rabalais has his Finance and Law degrees from LSU, and his LL.M. in Taxation from Boston University School of Law (1991). He is certified by the Louisiana State Bar Association as a Specialist in Estate Planning and Estate Administration. He is the author of the popular book, *"Estate Planning in Louisiana, A Layman's Guide to Understanding Wills, Trusts, Probate, Power of Attorney, Medicaid, Living Wills & Taxes,"* which is currently in its 3rd Edition.

**Catherine Sanders Reach**, a seasoned speaker and a prolific author on legal tech, is returning to the Big Easy and to this conference with her informative and easy-to-understand technology presentations. She is the Director, Law Practice Management and Technology for the Chicago Bar Association, and was previously the Director at the American Bar Association's Legal Technology Resource Center for over ten years. She is a current member the ABA TECHSHOW Planning Board (and also served in this capacity from 2007-2009) and is on the Editorial Advisory Board for Law Technology News, Law.com's LegalTechnology and Law Practice Today. Armed with a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, she was selected to be an inaugural Fastcase 50, celebrating 50 innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders in the field of law.

**Todd Slack** is an attorney with the Huber, Slack, Thomas & Marcelle law firm. He has a general litigation practice with an emphasis in business, technology and personal injury. He has an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and worked in that field before he graduated from Loyola Law School in 1996. He's currently finishing up a Master's Degree in Digital Forensic Science, studying the interplay between law and technology. He serves on several boards, including the Bar Association's Technology Task Force.

**Kevin S. Vogeltanz** litigates civil and criminal cases in New Orleans. A solo practitioner who forgoes a support staff, Kevin handles each aspect of every case from engagement agreement to trial. By using technology and streamlined practices, Kevin not only provides his clients with excellent representation, but does so at a fraction of the overhead most firms incur. A *cum laude* graduate from the University of Arkansas, School of Law, Kevin was recruited by one of New Orleans's top firms where he litigated maritime, oil & gas, and white-collar matters until 2012 when he left to start his own practice.