



SPEAKER BIOS

as of 12/20/2017

Rachel Anderson, a graduate of the University of California at Davis School of Law, didn't plan on being a bankruptcy lawyer, but the economy landed her in a boutique bankruptcy firm where she hit the ground running, with consumer and Chapter 11 work. Except for a criminal law clerkship year at the Louisiana Supreme Court, she has represented bankruptcy clients ever since. She is a member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and the National Association of Consumer Advocates. Rachel feels fortunate every day to be able to help consumers who are struggling under the weight of unaffordable debt. 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. She also assists clients with student loan and other debt defense in state court.

Ellen Artopoeus is a member of Barrett Title, LLC and Ellen Barrett Artopoeus, LLC, both in Metairie, La. Her experiences with Ozanam Inn, and Strive, Inc. which places disabled adults into employment and the Pro Bono Project round 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.

Eric K. Barefield is Ethics Counsel for the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). A graduate of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Barefield began his professional career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish. He later 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. Eric is responsible for the LSBA's Ethics Advisory Service which is comprised of attorneys across the state along with Ethics Counsel and provides confidential non-binding ethics opinions to Louisiana licensed attorneys.

Craig Bayer is the founder of [Optiable](#), a company which assists law firms in choosing and setting up document management software. For over 15 years, Craig has provided law-related technology consulting, and has worked with hundreds of law firms, small and large (one user to over 50 users). Craig, with his thorough knowledge of technology matched with his straight forward manner, is invited often to deliver presentations to bar associations around the state. His mantra: Provide advice based always on what's best for the client, even if it winds up being a solution that he doesn't provide.

Ryan Beasley, a solo practitioner in New Orleans, practices business law, personal injury and bankruptcy. Lean and mean, he office shares at LaunchPad, and has optimized his practice into a humming machine with technology and streamlined processes. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, he obtained his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston and his law degree from Tulane Law School. He is licensed in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana.

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 (aylalegal.com), which is a legal software company that Louisiana judges and attorneys have chosen to automate their petitions, letters, and judgments.

Gary M. Carter, Jr. is a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and serves on the Appropriations, Judiciary, and House & Governmental Affairs Committees. A graduate of Xavier University and law graduate of Tulane University Law School, Gary is also a trial lawyer, concentrating on commercial and casualty litigation. He is also a consultant with Connect Strategies which helps to bridge diverse business relationships. Prior to the Legislature, Gary was Senior Counsel on the Entergy Corporation's trial team. Gary is a frequent speaker on trial tactics and case management, including the use of wireless technology in the courtroom. He was listed "One to Watch" by New Orleans City Business in 2015, and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association named him a "Rising Star" in 2013. In recognition of his community service efforts, the Louisiana State Bar Association awarded him a Friend of Pro Bono Award in 2014.

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.

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.

Kenneth L. (Ken) Fletcher is founder of the Fletcher Financial Group, an independent financial advisory firm. He guides clients through financial roadmaps to and through retirement. His particular area of expertise is advising families how to preserve family wealth in the event of a long-term care event such as, e.g., a long-term nursing home stay. He assists clients in obtaining qualification for assistance in a nursing home – primarily those in crisis with no pre-planning.

Marcus T. Foote, a founding partner at Kuehne & Foote, APLC, is board-certified in the area of family law by the Louisiana Board of Specialization. His exclusive focus areas are community property divisions, military divorces, & Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs). His firm also offers its considerable QDRO drafting expertise to other lawyers as an adjunct to their family law representation. Marcus is a former Chairman of the LSBA's Family Law Council and current board member, as well as past president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Family Law section. He earned his B.A. degree, with honors, from the Louisiana Scholars' College Regents Program, Northwestern State University, and his J.D. from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University.

Ariel Gross is a trainer with PracticePanther, a case management software which offers time tracking, at-a-glance financing, calendar, file syncing and automation for small and medium sized firms through an easy to use dashboard. A native of south Florida, Ariel majored in the biological sciences and loves technology. Fun fact: he enjoys discussing cryptocurrencies and can't wait to see what the future holds.

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. A frequent speaker on social media, she has presented frequently at CLE seminars throughout the state, at the LSBA's Management Mondays and Tech Tuesdays series and its Solo and Small Firm Conferences. She is also a regular presenter at the Small Firm Bootcamp hosted by Paperless Chase.

Shawn L. Holahan is the Practice Management Counsel 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 a former 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.). A frequent speaker on law office management and technology, she has also written related articles in the Louisiana Bar Journal and other publications. She is the author of *Hanging Out Your Shingle, Louisiana Style*.

Abid Hussain is a solo lawyer in New Orleans who has practiced corporate law for more than a decade 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, and real estate investors. 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 leverages 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.

Eric Johnson was an insurance defense attorney from 1995 through 2016, the last thirteen years of which he was a partner with Porteous, Hainkel & Johnson in Baton Rouge. Eric left the practice to manage his startup research and media service, InCode Research, L.L.C., developer of CompQuantum.com. Eric obtained a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and his J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law. He is married to Bridget Alexander Johnson of Donaldsonville, LA, has a marvelous son, Shea Johnson who will graduate from ULL in 2018 and two beautiful step-daughters, Laney King of Baton Rouge and Morgan Joffrion of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Chelsey Lambert is the founder of Lex Tech Review, a legal technology blog and learning center. Her mission is to help attorneys, and legal professionals understand the technology that is available to them, how to use it, and the positive impacts it can have on their business. A former Practice Management Advisor for the Chicago Bar Association, and Vice President of Marketing for a leading case management provider she is an expert in small law firm processes, marketing, technology, and law practice management topics. She recently published the nearly 200 page 2017 Legal Technology Buyers Guide, which has been downloaded by thousands of law firms around the world. Chelsey regularly writes and teaches on law practice management and technology on her blog LexTechReview.com. She will be a featured speaker at the 2018 ABA TECHSHOW. You can connect with her there, or follow her on Twitter @ChelseyLambert and @LexTechReview.

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.

Andrew Lilly is a solo practitioner and litigator in New Orleans. An LSU law graduate, he started his practice in a medium sized law firm, handling commercial, bankruptcy, and oil & gas litigation. In 2012, he opened his own office and continues to represent and advise a diverse base of business clients. He has been a board member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the (National Board) Younger Lawyers Division of the FBA, and he is a former member of the LSBA's Legislation Committee.

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.

Lucas Morehouse is a solo practicing attorney concentrating on criminal defense and civil litigation. With an undergraduate and a law degree from LSU, Lucas is based in New Orleans. He shares his legal expertise in the community as well. He is the current Executive President of Silence is Violence, a non-profit organization focused on aiding victims and the families of victims of violent crime in the New Orleans area.

Lisa Montgomery has thirty years' experience practicing in state and federal court. As a fellow solo practitioner, she handles a wide range of disputes, including contracts, successions, fraud, insurance coverage, and disputes involving art. Her particular focus is representing lawyers in ethics complaints. A graduate of Tulane Law School, she serves as a Hearing Committee Member of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board.

Tammy Pruet Northrup serves as a Deputy Disciplinary Counsel for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB). Prior to the LADB, she was counsel to the Louisiana State Police while also maintaining a private practice. She also served as a judicial law clerk for the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal. She hails from Baton Rouge and earned her undergraduate degree in accounting from LSU and her JD from Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Taylor M. Norton is a registered patent attorney with a comprehensive Intellectual Property practice, focusing on patents, trademarks, domain names, branding, copyrights, trade secrets, and proprietary data. His patent drafting and technology licensing experience encompasses a wide range of technologies. He assists clients in the building, protection and monetizing of corporate images, names, brands, products, and business lines. He handles domestic and international trademark registration and enforcement of domain name and trademark rights. He also represents clients before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and advises them in the protection of IP rights in government contracts. He also provides counsel on corporate structuring and business entity formation, including special purpose entities, and joint ventures. He is the author of *Louisiana Limited Liability Company: Forms and Practice Manual*, published by Data Trace Publishing Company.

Gayle O'Connor, a legal technology consultant with 30 years' experience, is currently the Marketing Manager for Social Evidence, a cloud-based application to discover, organize, analyze, and authenticate specific social media evidence. She was recently named as an Honoree in the 5,000 strong membership of Women in eDiscovery. Previously the marketing manager at Degan, Blanchard and Nash, she is also a former trial technician for the federal public defenders, a marketing director for numerous legal software providers and has taught legal research at law schools. Additionally, she has been a featured speaker at American Lawyer Media LegalTech Events, ABA TECHSHOW, Special Libraries Association, Washington State Paralegal Association, National Business Institute, ABA Litigation Section Meetings, local Bar Associations throughout the U.S., and international organizations. She can be reached at gayle.oconnor@social-evidence.com.

Tom O'Connor is a nationally known expert and consultant, speaker and writer on computerized litigation support systems. A New England native (now New Orleans "native") with an undergraduate degree in political science from The Johns Hopkins University and a JD degree, he began his career supporting complex litigation and offered his expertise on technology issues. He has been appointed by various federal and state courts on cases involving large amounts of electronic evidence. His expertise is also sought for negotiating ESI exchange protocols. A co-author of the award winning article, "In Katrina's Wake," he is also the author *The Automated Law Firm: A Guide to Computer Systems and Software* (currently in its 4th edition by Aspen Law & Business) and *The Lawyers Guide to Summation and EDiscovery for Small Cases*, both published by the ABA. Tom's professional accolades include the inaugural Betsy Ann Reynolds Award for Excellence in Litigation Support from the Litigation Support Leaders Conference and the inaugural Scarpitti Award for Professional Achievement from the Masters Conference.

Lexlee Overton, a trial lawyer for over 20 years, focuses on personal injury matters at her law firm which she founded. During her career, she has expanded her interests to include the study of human behavior, at first to better understand how juries think, and then to discover how to be better as a lawyer and in life. Drawing from the fields of psychology, neuroscience and eastern medicine practices, Lexlee is now using scientifically proven techniques to help lawyers train their minds to release stress, anxiety and fear to be powerful in and out of the courtroom, and to love what they do – all at the same time. She is also the founder and President of the Board of Lexlee's Kids, one of Louisiana's foremost non-profit organizations dedicated to injury prevention of children. Website: www.mindoverlaw.com

Madeline C. Rice is a member of the Contracts and Compliance department of Gilsbar, Inc. in Covington, Louisiana. Prior to joining Contracts and Compliance, she was an underwriter in the Professional Liability department for GilsbarPRO. Ms. Rice received her undergraduate degree and juris doctor from Loyola University New Orleans. She can be reached at mrice@gilsbar.com.

Dona Renegar is the current president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and a member of Huval Veazey Felder & Renegar, L.L.C of Lafayette, Louisiana. Her practice is focused on Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act claims, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act claims, automobile liability and premises liability. Originally from Alexandria, Louisiana, Dona obtained her undergraduate degrees (*magna cum laude*) from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and her law degree from Tulane University School of Law. After graduating from law school, she worked for the Legal Services Corporation in New Orleans, and represented victims of domestic abuse. Thereafter, she returned to Lafayette, and resumed a family law practice and later an insurance defense practice.

Jordan Smith directs LEGACY, a division of Fletcher Financial Group. He provides advice to clients who want to preserve wealth at the end of life notwithstanding long term a care and medical needs. His ability to do so has been strengthened through ongoing relationships that he maintains with owners of nursing homes, CPAs and qualified attorneys. Jordan counsels those in the latter stages of life, and also baby boomer children on how to pre-plan.

Ernest Svenson practiced commercial litigation for 20 years in a big law firm, and then for 6 years as a solo lawyer. He eased the transition to small office by using the right technology tools effectively. He is now full time teaching lawyers to do the same thing: that is, to choose and use the right technology. His first weblog: "Ernie the Attorney" was chosen by the ABA Journal as one of the top 100 law weblogs. Since then, he started PDFforlawyers.com to help lawyers use PDFs in the practice of law. His ABA published book, *Acrobat in One Hour for Lawyers*, explains PDF use in detail. His PaperlessChase.com site assists lawyers to shed paper, and to be more mobile and productive. A frequent speaker, he continues to spread the message that lawyers can do a better job, while saving time, money and agony - if they use technology properly.

Peggy Gonsoulin Vallejo is a family law attorney practicing in Covington where she has lived for the past 30 years. Peggy is from the "Parish" having graduated from Holy Angels, and later worked as a paralegal for the Mull & Mull law firm in Covington. She at the age of 44 attended Tulane Law School graduating in 1999. She is the senior partner of Vallejo & Karr in Covington, Louisiana. She also serves as Board President of Safe Harbor, a domestic violence program serving St. Tammany and Washington Parishes.

Chuck Vann who hails from Spanish Fort, Alabama, employed his MBA for over 25 years helping law firms and in-house legal department manage the business end of their practices while meeting clients' legal needs and financial and income expectations. He now owns a consulting business in 2010 concentrating on single practitioners and small to medium sized firms. His areas of expertise include practice and client profitability analyses, associate and staff compensation plans, business development strategies including implementation tactics and return-on-investment measuring, financial planning and tracking, administrative operational efficiencies, policies and procedures, and office space design and build-out.

J. Michael Veron is a member of Veron, Bice, Palermo & Wilson, LLC of Lake Charles, Louisiana. He obtained his undergraduate education and law degree from Tulane University where he served as an editor of the Tulane Law Review and was elected to The Order of the Coif. After clerking for Justice Walter Marcus on the Louisiana Supreme Court, he received his LL.M. degree from Harvard University. Mike is a litigator, having tried a variety of civil and criminal cases involving such diverse matters as personal injuries, securities fraud, toxic torts, breaches of trust, construction disputes, school board elections, and civil rights claims. In so doing, he has represented plaintiffs and defendants, including members of the Bench and Bar. In recognition of his extensive jury trial experience, Mike was elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates, an invitation-only organization of attorneys who have completed at least 20 jury trials as lead counsel. To prove that there is life outside of law, Mike has cultivated a passion for the art of golf. So much so, he has written three well-received books on the subject: *The Greatest Player Who Never Lived*, *The Greatest Course that Never Was*, and *The Caddie*. His most recent book, also well-received, *Shell Game*, resulted from his experience as lead counsel in the landmark case of *Corbello v. Iowa Production*, 850 So.2d 686 (La. 2003), where he obtained a \$76 million judgment on behalf of his mother's family for the contamination of his great-grandfather's farm by Shell Oil Company.

Kevin S. Vogeltanz is a solo practitioner who specializes in employment discrimination law, criminal defense, and cases intersecting the two, and Kevin represents clients in both federal and state courts across Louisiana. A *cum laude* graduate from the University of Arkansas School of Law, Kevin has practiced in the New Orleans and North Shore markets for more than 8 years, and has been recognized for his lawyering by groups such as Top Lawyers, New Orleans Magazine, the New Orleans Pro Bono Project, and more. In his employment discrimination practice, Kevin has represented clients against federal agencies, the state of Louisiana, and multi-national corporations, bringing claims from race, sex, and pregnancy discrimination to age and disability claims, and nearly everything in between.