



LSBA'S 17TH SOLO, SMALL FIRM & TECH CONFERENCE
SHERATON NEW ORLEANS
JUNE 24, 2024

SPEAKER BIOS

Sarah W. Anderson is the owner/founder of SWA Law LLC and LegallyCyber.com. She is the chief legal counsel for the State of Louisiana's Emergency Support Function-17, responding to cyber incidents and conducting cyber law training across Louisiana. Prior to SWA Law, Sarah was of counsel with Alexander Sides Law Firm, in-house counsel with the Cyber Innovation Center (a technology innovation non-profit), and a former partner with a multi-state law firm, representing several fortune 500 companies in toxic tort litigation and property disputes. She also serves as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserves and has served Brigade Judge Advocate for an Infantry Brigade Combat Team in theater, as well as a Cyber Law Judge Advocate for Louisiana and legal liaison for the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission while with the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Eric K. Barefield is Ethics Counsel for the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). A law graduate of LSU, Eric 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.

Jack C. Benjamin, Jr., armed with an MBA and JD from Tulane University and thirty years of litigation experience, went solo recently as a legal advisor, mediator, and business consultant. Licensed in Louisiana and Texas, he obtained his mediation and arbitration experience not only from the numerous cases that he has handled in practice, but also from Pepperdine University and the Mediation Institute. Jack focuses on organizations and companies without in-house counsel which need responsive and personalized legal advice. He provides tailored analysis and evaluation of current operations, growth strategy and risk assessment. Having worked in Chicago, Dallas, New York and Tokyo, Jack is at ease with differing approaches to business and lifestyle while providing a unique perspective for a successful business.

Austin Benton is a practicing attorney at the law firm of Benton, Benton & Benton and focuses on domestic and civil litigation. He is also the owner of the legal technology company, Ayla, LLC. Ayla designs and builds document automation systems for practitioners of personal injury, family, successions, criminal, foreclosure, and commercial defense work. Ayla is utilized by firms located in Louisiana (including McGlinchey Stafford), New York, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, California, and Ohio. Austin works with over 100 law firms to assist in increasing productivity and decreasing the time required to generate simple and complex legal and administrative documents. Austin is also a member of the Access to Justice Technology Subcommittee.

Honorable Susan M. Chehardy is the Chief Judge of the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeal. She was elected to the appellate bench in 1998 as the court's first woman judge (and reelected in 2012). Prior to the appellate bench, she served as judge for the 24th JDC, after an active general litigation personal injury practice with the firm of Chehardy, Sherman, Ellis and Breslin; and later with her own litigation firm, Chehardy & Nielsen. She also recently served as justice *pro tempore* for the Louisiana Supreme Court. A law graduate of Loyola University, she is a member of the Fifth Circuit Judges Association, the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, the Association of Women Judges and the American Judicature Society, among other organizations. A frequent lecturer for the Louisiana Judicial College and the LSBA, she serves several committees and boards by appointment of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Anderson O. "Andy" Dotson III is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State of Louisiana. A native of Monroe, Louisiana, he received his JD, *magna cum laude*, from Southern University Law Center in 2000. Previously associated with Phelps Dunbar, LLP, he later served as the Parish Attorney for Baton Rouge while maintaining a private practice. He is a former member of the Louisiana Supreme Court's MCLE Committee, has served a two-year term on the Council of the Louisiana Law Institute, and is also a Past President of the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society among other local, civic, and bar association committees. He has also served as Chair of the Louisiana Disciplinary Board.

Davidson Ehle, founder of Marino and Ehle, focuses on federal and state trial and appellate criminal practice and on personal injury and family law. In 2023, he was named President-Elect of the Jefferson Bar Association and is a certified instructor for the Gretna Police Academy. His early legal career was as an assistant district attorney for the Parish of Jefferson and later as a director and author of the Louisiana Crime Laboratory Study, a comprehensive and comparative analysis of crime laboratories in Louisiana, Virginia, and Florida. He hails from LSU for his undergraduate degree and from Mississippi College School of Law for his JD. He is also a board member of the Westbank Boys & Girls Club.

Barron K. Henley is one of the founding partners of Affinity Consulting Group, a legal technology consulting firm focused on automating and streamlining law firms and legal departments. He earned his B.S./B.A. (marketing and economics) and J.D. from The Ohio State University and is a member of the American, Ohio and Columbus Bar Associations, and the Worthington Estate Planning Council. He is a Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Technology and the Courts, and a member of both the ABA Law Practice Management and the Real Property Trust and Estate Law ("RPTE") Sections, Co-Chair of the Joint Law Practice Management Group, a Board Member for the ABA TECHSHOW, and a Director on the Columbus Bar Services Board. Barron heads Affinity's document assembly/automation and software training departments. He is also an expert in launching new law firms, overhauling existing firms, and documenting and re-engineering law firm processes. Finally, Barron teaches continuing legal education (CLE) classes throughout the U.S. and Canada covering a wide variety of topics related to law practice management, technology and ethics.

Shawn L. Holahan is the LSBA's Practice Management Counsel and administers its fee dispute arbitration program. A former member of the ABA's LP Publishing Board, TECHSHOW Planning Board, LP State and Local Outreach Committee, she serves as an editor for the ABA's Law Practice Today e-magazine. 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*.

Joseph A. Marino III, a founder of Marino and Ehle, has focused most of his more than 30 years in legal practice on criminal defense in Gretna, La. He was also elected to two terms as a Louisiana State Representative for District 85, serving the Judiciary Committee and the Civil Law Committee, and chairing the Administration of Criminal Justice Committee. He is also a former Gretna City Councilman and former president of the Jefferson Bar Association and a certified instructor for the Gretna, Kenner and Westwego Police Academies. Last year, the Supreme Court of Louisiana appointed him, ad hoc, to Division "D" of the 24th Judicial District Court through December 2023. He holds a journalism degree from LSU and a JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law (and is proud alumni of Holy Cross school in New Orleans).

Honorable John J. Molaison, Jr. has served the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal since 2018, after having served as district court judge of the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson. While a district judge, he supported specialty courts and helped create the D.W.I. Treatment Court, the Veterans Treatment Court, the Re-entry Court, and the Swift and Certain Intensive Probation Court. Judge Molaison also established the court's supervised misdemeanor probation program. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Molaison was the managing partner of Molaison & LeBlanc and an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish for approximately 20 years until his election. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Loyola. He is on the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans.