



2025 SEVEN POINTS LA FACULTY

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Eric K. Barefield (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) is Ethics Counsel for the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). After obtaining his JD from LSU, he began his professional career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish. He also 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 is responsible for the LSBA's Ethics Advisory Service, a confidential service for LSBA members to field ethical concerns.

David Bienvenu (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) is a partner with the New Orleans' Firm, Simon, Peragine, Smith and Redfearn. He has extensive litigation experience in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana, representing clients in general casualty, insurance and commercial litigation. He is also a mediator on the Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions mediation panel and completed formal mediation training at the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law. An active bar leader throughout his career, he is a former president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), the Louisiana Bar Foundation and The Historical Society of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is also active in the American Bar Association (ABA), serving as the Louisiana Delegate in its House of Delegates and as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Education. He previously served on the ABA's Board of Governors.

Austin Benton (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) is a practicing attorney at the law firm of Benton, Benton & Benton and focuses on domestic and civil litigation. He is the owner of the legal technology company, Ayla, LLC, which designs document automation systems for practitioners of personal injury, family, successions, criminal, foreclosure, and commercial defense work. Ayla is utilized by firms throughout Louisiana, New York, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, California, and Ohio. He 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.

Michelle Cumberland (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) practices in the Mississippi office of the law firm of Dunlap Fiore, LLC. Licensed in Mississippi, Louisiana, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C., she has extensive federal and state litigation experience representing clients in various legal matters in all phases of civil litigation. Her current practice includes construction, surety, commercial contract disputes, environmental compliance-related issues, cyber contracts and incident response. She is also a Captain in the Louisiana Army National Guard serving as a Judge Advocate and senior advisor to the Commander of the 61st Troop Command. Her portfolio includes Cyber Operations, Administrative Law and Military Justice. In 2018 she deployed to Iraq where she advised the U.S. Garrison Commander. She is also a trained civil mediator for Louisiana and Mississippi.

Shawn L. Holahan (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) is Practice Management Counsel/Loss Prevention Counsel for the LSBA and also administers the LSBA's fee dispute arbitration program. An active member of the ABA LP Division, she is an editor and contributing author of its monthly e-publication, Law Practice Today (LPT), columns editor of the Law Practice Magazine and vice chair of the Professional Development Board and a former member of the TECHSHOW Planning Board. She is also the former Chair of the Practice Management Advisors of North America and columnist of the ABA GP Solo Magazine. Prior to her position at the bar, she was a partner with a medium-sized law firm in New Orleans (labor and employment primarily) and had completed two federal clerkships in the USDC (E.D. La.). She assists lawyers with law office management issues and with choosing technology.

Patrick Talley (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA) is the president of the LSBA and is a partner with Phelps, Dunbar, LLP, in New Orleans. He practices primarily in the areas of commercial litigation and personal injury defense, with a focus in transportation and environmental law. He has worked extensively within the railroad industry and serves as an officer and member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel. Pat also represents companies in litigation and compliance matters and toxic tort exposure claims, particularly benzene and other chemical exposures. He also represents companies in general business litigation, contract disputes and other commercial litigation matters.

Dr. Angela White-Bazile (BR, C, H, LAF, NOLA, WM, SP) is the executive director of the LSBA's Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP). She is an advocate for enhancing overall health and wellness for judges, lawyers, and law students. She emphasizes that JLAP is a confidential safe haven of healing, and you are not alone if you suffer with addiction, substance abuse/dependence, depression, or other mental, emotional, or physical health concerns.

Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court:

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