

17 Students, Graduates Complete 2015 Suit Up Program

Seventeen New Orleans area high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates participated in the 2015 three-week, pre-law “Suit Up for the Future” High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program (June 15-26 and July 6-10). The program concluded with mock oral arguments before two judges’ panels at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, in New Orleans.

South Plaquemines High School junior Kayla C. Barthelemy won the award in the morning session for Best Oral Argument for the Prosecution. The Defense Award went to Holy Cross High School junior Gerald A. Aviles. In the afternoon session, Treslyn E. Davenport, a St. Mary’s Dominican High School senior, won the Best Oral Argument award for the Prosecution. Lusher High School senior Kyree M. Magee was awarded Best Oral Argument for the Defense.

Awards also were presented to students who submitted exceptional written memoranda. The award for the Best Written Memorandum went to South Plaquemines High School junior Kayla C. Barthelemy for the Prosecution and Haynes Academy graduate Emily R. Lema for the Defense.

Each year, the Louisiana State Bar Association partners with the Just the Beginning Foundation and the Louisiana Bar



2015 Suit Up for the Future class with Hon. Karen Wells Roby during a field trip to the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. Front Row, from left, Amara D. Stokes, Courtney J. Conerly, Victoria S. Suazo, Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Victoria Turner and Treslyn E. Davenport. Second row, from left, Elizabeth Whitfield, Karina Shareen, Emily R. Lema, Alexis M. Turner, DeChanda A. Martin, Taylor E. Austin, Kayla C. Barthelemy and Ann Bondoc. Third row, from left, Miles Edwin Ballard, Gerald A. Aviles, Galatia E. Jones and Kyree M. Magee. Back row, from left, Derrick F. Ransom, Borjius J. Guient and Desmond C. LeBlanc. Not in photo Michaela S. Roussell. Photo by LSBA staff.

Foundation to present the program, an award-winning Diversity Pipeline Program and a 2013 American Bar Association Partnership Program recipient.

High school students are selected to participate based on their academic performance and application essays. The program includes abridged law school

sessions, shadowing opportunities at local firms, courts and agencies, and field trips to courts and law schools.

Several attorneys, professors and law schools’ staff members volunteered for the 2015 program, teaching courses, talking to the students one-on-one or offering “shadowing” opportunities.

CONCLAVE ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION:

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