

# 2023 Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program

June 12, 2023 – June 30, 2023

*Award-Winning Diversity Pipeline Program*

2013 ABA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT



*Strengthening diversity in the legal profession  
A partnership of the Louisiana State Bar Association,  
Just the Beginning, and Louisiana Bar Foundation  
A Diversity Pipeline Program  
New Orleans, Louisiana*



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*



## Table of Contents

<b>Welcome Address .....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>About Us .....</b>	<b>Pages 3 - 4</b>
<b>Summer Legal Scholars.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Program Agenda – Week One.....</b>	<b>Pages 6 - 9</b>
<b>Program Agenda – Week Two .....</b>	<b>Pages 9 - 11</b>
<b>Program Agenda – Week Three .....</b>	<b>Pages 12 - 14</b>
<b>Federal Firsts.....</b>	<b>Pages 15 – 16</b>
<b>Judges in Louisiana.....</b>	<b>Pages 17 - 19</b>
<b>Speaker Biographies.....</b>	<b>Pages 20 - 48</b>
<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>Pages 49– 52</b>
<b>Congratulations to Student Winners .....</b>	<b>Page 52</b>

## WELCOME ADDRESS

The Louisiana State Bar Association and Just the Beginning are pleased to welcome you to their Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program. Through this program, we hope to encourage your interest in the law as a profession and inform you about trailblazers in the law who have paved the way to make it easier for you to become a lawyer. We aim to lead you to work hard, experience life as a law student, and stimulate your interest and knowledge of the legal profession.



### About Us

#### WHAT IS THE “LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION”?



*We hope to nurture  
your interest in law  
as a profession.*

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law, assure access to and aid in the administration of justice, assist the Supreme Court in the regulation of the practice of law, uphold the honor of the courts and the profession, promote the professional competence of attorneys, increase public understanding of and respect for the law, and encourage collegiality among its members.

Through its Diversity Committee, the LSBA is working to assess the level of racial, ethnic, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability diversity within all components of the legal profession in Louisiana; identify barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation in the legal profession by persons of diverse backgrounds; and propose programs and methods by which the LSBA can most effectively work to remove those barriers and achieve greater diversity.



## WHAT IS “JUST THE BEGINNING”?



Just the Beginning (JTB), a diversity pipeline organization, is a multiracial, nonprofit organization comprised of lawyers, judges, and other citizens. It is dedicated to developing and nurturing interest in the law among young persons from various socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds who are underrepresented in the legal profession and supporting their continued advancement. JTB’s long-term goal is to increase racial diversity in the legal profession and on the bench.

Just the Beginning began as a celebration of the integration of the Federal Judiciary on September 19, 1992, in Chicago, Illinois. The celebratory event, titled "Just The Beginning - A Celebration of Integration of the Federal Judiciary," honored Judge James Parsons, the first African-American United States District Court Judge, on his retirement after he devoted thirty-one years on the federal bench.

Building on that celebration, Just the Beginning offers pipeline programs aimed at introducing, cultivating and supporting underrepresented students as they travel the path towards the legal profession. JTB’s programs include its Middle School Law Camp, Summer Legal Institutes for high school students and judicial externship programs for law school students. JTB tracks and supports its students from middle school to high school, college, law school, and beyond. JTB partners with a broad and diverse coalition of bar associations, law firms and law schools to host these programs around the country and to sponsor national conferences held every two years in different cities.



*“Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose, they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.”*

## 2023 SUMMER LEGAL INSTITUTE

### SCHOLARS

Name	Grade	School
Brooke P. Arcement	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
Keithen C. Batiste	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	St. Augustine High School
Alysa T. Blackwell	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	St. Mary's Academy
William T. David	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Fontainebleau High School
Jermyn C. Kendrick	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	St. Mary's Academy
Jasmin N. Kumar	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
Aidan C. Macaluso	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Episcopal School of Acadiana
Jordana R. Montegut	First-Year College	Grace King
Holly H. Phan	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Aima N. Shahid	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Iyanna M. Snaer	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
Benjamin B.H. So	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Eryn A. Vance	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
Carissa M. Washington	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	St. Mary's Academy
Amaya M. Windham	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
William P. Xi	First-Year College	The Willow School
Sophie M. L. Yeon	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

# 2023 Suit Up for the Future Program Agenda

## Week One

Monday, June 12, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<p><b>Arrival and Check-in</b></p> <p><b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b></p>
9:00 am – 9:15 am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Steven I. "Steve" Dwyer, LSBA President 2022-2023</p>
9:15 am – 9:45 am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Choose Law Video (American Young Lawyers Division)</b></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB) Coordinator (Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana)</p>
9:45 am – 10:30 am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Orientation/Program Overview</b></p> <p><b>Introduction of Interns</b></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Co-chair(s) Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Judicial Program Attorney, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial College; Suit Up Interns</p>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<p><b>Break</b></p> <p><b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b></p>
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<p><b>Icebreaker</b></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Co-chair(s) Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Judicial Program Attorney, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial College; Suit Up Interns</p>
11:00 am – 11:30 am	<p><b>Introduction of Mock Problem for Oral Argument</b></p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Co-chair(s) Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Judicial Program Attorney, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial College</p>

11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b> <b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b>
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Legal Research and Writing</b> Presenter: Professor Emily A. Bishop, Westerfield Fellow, Writing Instructor & Lawyering Program Co-Director, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Break</b>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Mock Legal Problem/Questions; Mock Legal Argument Team Assignments; Suit Up Evaluation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Tuesday, June 13, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Outline Preparation</b> <b>Discussion of Mock Problem and Case Law</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Criminal Law</b> Presenter: Professor Russell L. Jones, Retired, Southern University Law Center
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 14, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Memorandum and Oral Argument Preparation</b> <b>Viewing of Past Oral Arguments</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Resume Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Travel to field trip: Orleans Public Defenders Office</b> <b>2601 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA</b>
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Orleans Public Defenders Office Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Daniel L. “Danny” Engelberg, Chief District Defender, Orleans Public Defenders Office
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Outline Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

#### Thursday, June 15, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>MEMO OUTLINE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Travel to field trip and Security Check: Orleans Parish Criminal District Court</b> <b>2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>
9:30 am – 11:30 am	<b>Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Honorable Tracey E. Flemings-Davillier, Section B, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Resume Preparation</b>
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Workshop: How to Deliver an Oral Argument</b> Presenter: Professor Jeffrey C. Brooks, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>



**Friday, June 16, 2023**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>DRAFT OF RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Memorandum Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Statutory Interpretation Presentation</b> Presenter: Presenter: Kristen A. Lee, City of New Orleans Law Department; Bianca N. Moore, The BMoore Law Firm, LLC; Micah C. Zeno, Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 1:20 pm	<b>Career Path Session</b> Presenter: Dominique Bright-Wheeler, Associate General Counsel, Chief Legal Office, USAA
1:20 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

**Week Two**

**Monday, June 19, 2023**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>DRAFT OF MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Matthew R. Slaughter, Phelps Dunbar LLP
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Resume Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Tuesday, June 20, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Job Shadowing Lunch, Louisiana State Bar Center</b> <b>(Invitation to attorneys, firms, courts, and agencies providing a shadowing opportunity)</b>
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Travel to field trip: Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office</b> <b>619 S. White St., New Orleans, LA</b>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>District Attorney Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Jason R. Williams, District Attorney, Orleans Parish
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 21, 2023

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<b>Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT report to the Louisiana Bar Center!)</b> <b>Go directly to assigned locations.</b>
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### Thursday, June 22, 2023

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<b>Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT report to the Louisiana Bar Center!)</b> <b>Go directly to assigned locations.</b>
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### Friday, June 23, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>FINAL RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 9:45 am	<b>Travel to field trip: Loyola University New Orleans College of Law</b> <b>7214 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA</b>

9:45 am – 10:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>Loyola University New Orleans College of Law</b>
10:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Kimberly Jones, JD, Associate Dean of Admissions, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
11:15 am – 11:30 am	<b>Travel to field trip: Tulane University Law School</b> <b>6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA</b>
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	<b>Lunch at Tulane University Law School</b> Pizza, Sponsored by Tulane University Law School
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Tulane University Law School Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Tracie N. Ransom, J.D., Assistant Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Tulane University Law School; Julia M. Spencer, J.D., Assistant Director of Admission, Tulane University Law School
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	<b>Travel to United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, and Security Check &amp; Welcome</b> <b>(NOTE: STUDENT ID REQUIRED / MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED)</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., Courtroom B437, New Orleans, LA</b> Presenter: Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Chief Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
2:10 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Federal Court Tour</b> Presenter: Rebecca Coman, Director of Training, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>U.S. Marshal Presentation with K-9</b> Presenter: Maurice Lightfoot, Deputy U.S. Marshal, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Assistant United States Attorney Presentation</b> Presenter: Jordan Ginsberg, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Week Three

Monday, June 26, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>FINAL MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
9:00 am – 10:45 am	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>Travel to Lunch - Shake Shack</b> <b>333 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130</b>
11:00 am – 12:15 pm	<b>Lunch - Shake Shack, 333 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70130</b> Presenter: Shake Shack - Canal, Lunch Sponsor
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Tuesday, June 27, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Travel to field trip and Security Check: Louisiana Supreme Court</b> <b>400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Tour of Louisiana Supreme Court, Library, and Museum</b> Presenter: Miriam D. Childs, Director, Louisiana Supreme Court Library; Robert Gunn, Louisiana Supreme Court, Deputy Judicial Administrator/Community Relations
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 28, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Suit Up Jeopardy - Defense versus Prosecution</b> <b>What is ...How well do you know the Mock Legal Problem?</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns
1:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

#### Thursday, June 29, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b> <b>Individual Video Rehearsal</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

#### Friday, June 30, 2023

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Final Oral Argument Preparation</b>
9:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>Travel to United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>
10:00 am – 11:50 am	<b>Oral Arguments Presentation</b> <b>United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b>
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:00 pm – 12:35 pm	<b>Lunch and Suit Up Evaluation, Louisiana Bar Center</b> <b>Deliberation by Judges</b>
12:35 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>Travel to United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> <b>Security Check</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Oral Arguments Presentation</b> <b>United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b>
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Deliberation by Judges</b> <b>Awards Ceremony (Judges' Overall Impressions of Oral Argument Presentations, Oral Argument Award(s), Memorandum Award(s), and Certificates of Completion)</b>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

## FEDERAL FIRSTS

### *FEMALE JUDGES*

In 1934, **Florence Allen (Deceased)** became the first woman to serve on a U.S. Court of Appeals. She was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit in 1934.

In 1949, **Burnita Shelton Matthews (Deceased)** became the first woman to serve on a U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

In 1981, **Sandra Day O'Connor** became the first female justice of the United States Supreme Court.

### *AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUDGES*

In 1950, **William Henry Hastie (Deceased)** became the first African American to serve as an Article III judge and was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

In 1961, **James B. Parsons (Deceased)** became the first African American to serve on a U.S. District Court, appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

In 1966, **Constance Baker Motley (Deceased)** became the first African American woman to serve on a U.S. District Court, when she was appointed to the Southern District of New York.

In 1967, **Thurgood Marshall (Deceased)**, was appointed as the first African American justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 2022, **Kentaji Brown Jackson**, was appointed as the first African American woman justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

### *ASIAN JUDGES*

In 1971, **Herbert Choy (Deceased)** became the first Asian American to serve as a U.S. Court of Appeals judge when he was appointed to the Ninth Circuit.

In 1975, **Dick Wong (Deceased)** became the first Asian American to serve on a U.S. District Court when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii.

In 1998, **Susan Oki Mollway** became the first Asian American woman to serve on a U.S. District Court when she was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii.

### *LATINO JUDGES*

In 1961, **Reynaldo G. Garza (Deceased)** became the first Latino federal judge, appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, and the first Latino Court of Appeals

judge, appointed to the Fifth Circuit in 1979.

In 1980, **Carmen C. Cerezo**, became the first Latina Article III judge appointed to the U.S. District Court for Puerto Rico.

In 2009, **Sonia Sotomayor** became the first Latino American justice to be appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

### ***NATIVE AMERICAN JUDGES***

In 1979, **Frank Howell Seay** became the first Native American federal judge when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

In 2014, **Diane Humetewa** became the first female Native American federal judge when she was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.



## JTBF MEMBER JUDGES IN LOUISIANA- BIOGRAPHIES

### CARL E. STEWART, U.S. FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS



Carl E. Stewart, born in 1950, is a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994, Judge Stewart previously sat on Louisiana's Second Court of Appeal and served as an accomplished judge, attorney, prosecutor, and professor. Judge Stewart, who has been honored multiple times for his commitment to community service, is the first African-American ever to serve on the Fifth Circuit as it is currently constituted.

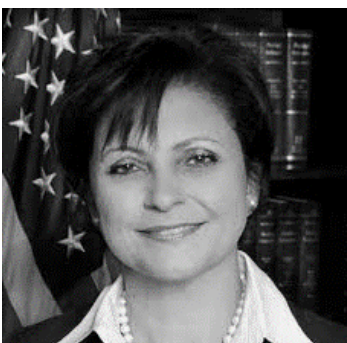
### IVAN L. R. LEMELLE, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE - RETIRED



On May 13, 1998, President Clinton appointed Judge Ivan L. R. Lemelle to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Immediately prior to his appointment as a United States District judge, Judge Lemelle served for more than a decade as a United States Magistrate Judge (1984-1998). His appointment in 1984 made him the first African-American United States Magistrate Judge in the Louisiana Federal Courts.

Judge Lemelle was educated at Xavier University of Louisiana, where he received his Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*, in 1971. He received numerous scholarships to attend Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans, where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1974.

### NANNETTE JOLIVETTE BROWN, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE



Nannette Jolivette Brown is a United States District Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She served as City Attorney for the City of New Orleans until becoming a Federal Judge in 2011. As City Attorney, Judge Brown had been responsible for all city contracts and oversaw all legal matters for the city.

Judge Brown received a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1985 and later attended Tulane Law School, where she received a Juris Doctorate degree in 1988 and a Master of Laws in Energy and Environment in 1998.

On March 2, 2011, Judge Brown was nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the seat of Judge Stanwood Duval. The United States Senate confirmed her appointment by unanimous consent on October 3, 2011. She received her judicial commission the following day. Judge Brown is the first African American female to serve as a District Judge on the court.

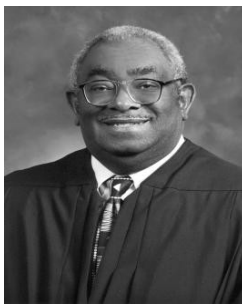
### **KAREN WELLS ROBY, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE**



Judge Karen Wells Roby is a Federal Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Karen Wells Roby was appointed to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana on October 16, 1998; she took her oath of office on February 22, 1999, and began her service as a Federal Magistrate Judge.

Judge Roby is the Immediate Past President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, a 600-member organization of United States federal judges, and the first African American Woman to serve in this leadership capacity. Judge Roby is also the First African American female to serve on the federal bench in Louisiana. Judge Roby, in addition to helping to coordinate this program, is a speaker and mock trial judge of the Law School Summer School and Intern Program and a Professor at Tulane Law School. She also has traveled to Kenya as a part of the Lawyers Without Borders program and brought U.S. Case Management Best Practices to Magistrates in Kenya.

### **LOUIS MOORE JR., U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE - RETIRED**



Judge Louis Moore, Jr. served as a federal magistrate judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He was appointed as a federal magistrate judge in 1985. Formerly, Judge Moore was an assistant U.S. attorney and a federal public defender in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Moore also served as an assistant district attorney and an assistant public defender in Orleans Parish.

A native of Bogalusa, Judge Moore earned a B.A. degree from Southern University and a J.D. degree from Southern University Law Center. Judge Moore was inducted into the SULC Hall of Fame in 2006. His portrait was among the first unveiled for the SULC's Judicial Wall of Fame in 2011.

Judge Louis Moore, Jr. retired after twenty-seven years of service.

### **RALPH E. TYSON, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE - DECEASED**



Ralph E. Tyson served as a United States federal judge. Born in 1948, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Judge Tyson received a B.A. from Louisiana State University in 1970 and a J.D. from Louisiana State University Law Center in 1973. He was in private practice from 1973 to 1988. He served as an Adjunct Professor at Louisiana State University Law School from 1989 to 1991. He served as a Professor in the Sociology/Law Enforcement Department at Southern University from 1989 to 1998. He was a judge on the Baton Rouge City Court from 1988 to 1993. He was a judge on the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, East Baton Rouge Parish from 1993 to 1998. In late 1998 he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. There he served as chief judge from 2005 to 2011.

## **BRIAN A. JACKSON, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE - MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**



Judge Brian A. Jackson received his J.D. from Southern University School of Law, where he served as the editor-in-chief of the Southern University Law Review, and his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. Judge Jackson was a member of the U.S. Department of Justice for over sixteen years, during which he practiced law as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, an Associate Deputy Attorney General, and as the court-appointed United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana. In 2002, he entered private practice as a partner at the law firm of Liskow & Lewis, where he practiced in the firm's Commercial Litigation section. He also served as chair of Liskow's White-Collar Defense Practice Group and a member of the firm's Board of Directors.

On October 29, 2009, President Barack Obama formally nominated Jackson as District Judge and the Senate confirmed Judge Jackson on June 15, 2010. On July 25, 2011, upon the death of Chief Judge Ralph E. Tyson, he became Chief Judge of the court. In 2013, Judge Jackson was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Jackson is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the National Association of Former United States Attorneys, and a member of the Federal Judges Association. He previously served on the Admissions Committee for the Louisiana Supreme Court and wrote the examination on Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Evidence during this time.

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*"It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive."*  
Earl Warren

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## PROGRAM SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Denia S. Aiyegbusi** is a Partner in Deutsch Kerrigan’s civil litigation department and works on cases ranging from small property subrogation claims, all the way to multi-million dollar traumatic brain injury personal injury cases. She also defends claims of bad faith/extra-contractual litigation, premises liability, products liability and trucking and transportation defense. Denia received her J.D. from Loyola University in 2007.



As a young lawyer **Troy N. Bell** began his career in his quest for equality by volunteering in Orleans Juvenile Court in Child in Need of Care cases that overwhelmingly affected the lives of black and brown people, and by participating as a frequent speaker in Orleans Parish Public Schools serving as a bridge between the legal profession and diverse students. Troy later put his effort and energy in presenting job opportunities for diverse attorneys and professionals working on complex litigation. Always eager to engage with young professionals in the legal community, particularly diverse attorneys, Troy readily listens to and shares some of his legal life experiences and offers advice through one-on-one discussions and through group presentations. He has been a frequent speaker for LSBA Professionalism at Southern University Law Center’s New Student Orientation, and he regularly presents at CLEs on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. In addition to his involvement with the LSBA Diversity Committee and the Minority Involvement Section, Troy serves on the Claims Litigation Management Alliance’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.



**Professor Emily Bishop** earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from New York University School of Law and her undergraduate degree, *summa cum laude*, in American Studies from Georgetown University. While in law school, Professor Bishop interned for The Honorable Ricardo Urbina on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She served as the Senior Notes Editor of the *New York University Law Review*, and her student Note, “A Child’s Expertise: Establishing Statutory Protection for Intersexed Children Who Reject Their Gender of Assignment,” was published in May 2007.

After graduation, Professor Bishop clerked for The Honorable Shirley Wohl Kram on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. She then practiced for three years at the Washington, DC office of WilmerHale LLP in the areas of Securities Litigation and Securities Enforcement. Her pro bono work focused on reproductive rights litigation.

Professor Bishop has been teaching at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law since 2013. She is currently the Co-Director of the Lawyering program and teaches courses on legal research, objective legal writing, persuasive legal writing, and oral advocacy. Since 2018, Professor Bishop has served as the faculty advisor for Loyola's ABA Moot Court Team. Her article, "Avoiding 'Ally Theater' in Legal Writing Assignments," was published in 2018 in the legal writing journal *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*. Currently, Professor Bishop serves as a Managing Editor for *The Second Draft*, a publication of the Legal Writing Institute.



**Blair R. Boles** is the Assistant Director of Admissions for the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She first joined the LSU Law staff in March 2022 as the Admissions Coordinator and Recruiter before assuming her current position in July 2023.

Boles recruits prospective students and advises them on the admissions process, curriculum, and scholarships at LSU Law. Prior to her role in the admissions office, she practiced law for nearly four years. She is an accomplished professional and dedicated member of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center community, having earned her Juris Doctor degree from the very institution she now serves.

Boles is also a published author and co-owner of an independent bookstore/wine bar in Lafayette, Louisiana. She co-owns the bookstore with four close friends, two of which were her former law school classmates.

She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from The University of Louisiana at Monroe and is a 2018 graduate of LSU Law. In her free time, she enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with her family and beloved dog Birdie.



**Dominique R. Bright-Wheeler** is a practicing attorney, mentor, strategic advisor, diversity and inclusion leader and strong advocate for women, children, and the underprivileged. Dominique is a proud native of New Orleans, LA. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of New Orleans and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans.

Dominique serves as Associate General Counsel for USAA, where she primarily practices in the area of financial services and banking with a focus on consumer protection.

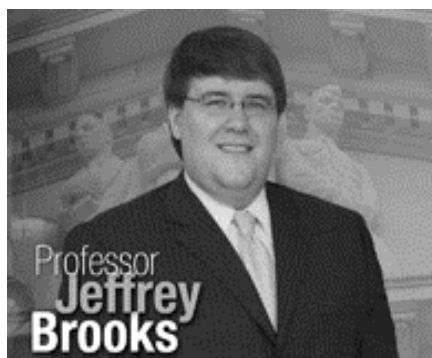
Dominique was not always a legal eagle, she actually began her professional career in the non-profit world where she worked 13 years as a social worker with



the Archdiocese of New Orleans eventually becoming the youngest Director of St. Philip Community Center, an inner-city Community Center that at that time served one of the largest housing developments in New Orleans, LA.

Dominique continues to follow her passion to help others by maintaining a community and civic presence in the local, state and national community. She is currently a committee member on the Louisiana State Bar Diversity Committee. She practices as a pro bono attorney as time allows. She currently serves as an Alumni leader for her beloved High School, John F. Kennedy. She is also a member of Corporate Counsel Women of Color, the New Orleans Louis Martinet Legal Society and The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Mardi Gras Krewe. She has previously served as a board member for the Southeast Louisiana Pro Bono Project.

Dominique has been recognized for her professional and civic accomplishments. She has been honored as one of the top 50 New Orleans City Business Women of the Year (2011), and was recognized as an outstanding Alumnus by the Black Law Student Association of Loyola School of Law New Orleans. Dominique is a member of the Louisiana and Texas State Bar Associations and is licensed to practice law both Texas and Louisiana.

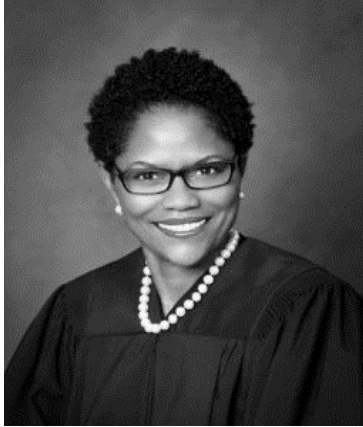


**Professor Jeffrey Brooks** joined the LSU Law Center faculty in 2010. He is the faculty director of the Law Center's Field Placement Program and of its moot court, mock trial, and alternative dispute resolution program (the Advocacy Program).

Prior to joining the Law Center faculty, Professor Brooks practiced law as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Special Federal Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department.

Professor Brooks is a 2006 graduate of Tulane University Law School, where he was named to the Order of the Barristers. While at Tulane, he was the Senior Notes and Comments Editor of the *Journal of Law and Sexuality*, a Senior Justice on Tulane's Moot Court Board, the President of its Public Interest Law Society, and a member of Tulane's Jessup International Law Moot Court Team and National Environmental Law Moot Court Team. Professor Brooks received a B.A. in Geography-Anthropology from Vassar College in 2003.

Professor Brooks is highly active in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the world's largest moot court competition, as a judge and administrator. He is the author of the 2017 Jessup Problem, the *Case Concerning the Sisters of the Sun*, and was the recipient of the competition's 2016 Pamela Young Award and 2015 Steven M. Schneebaum Award. Professor Brooks is an active licensed member of the New York State Bar.



**Honorable Paula A. Brown** was elected to the State of Louisiana, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal on March 25, 2017. She was formally a judge at Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, where she served for 7 years. A native of Oceans Springs, Mississippi, Judge Brown attended Tulane University on a basketball scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Management from the A.B. Freeman School of Business. She went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In 1993, as a young lawyer, Judge Brown began to hone her skills by serving as a judicial law clerk for the current Chief Justice of the State of Louisiana, Bernette J. Johnson, in Civil District Court and again at the Louisiana Supreme Court. Her vast experience led her to an appointment as Judge *Pro Tempore* for Orleans Civil District Court in 2004.

Judge Brown is a Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow, Class of 2011. In 2005, she was a recipient of the City Business Leadership in Law Award. Judge Brown was awarded the 2015 Susan G. Komen Survivor of the Year. She was also the 2015 recipient of the Forum for Equality Leadership Award. Judge Brown is a former YWCA Role Model and a 2010 recipient of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s Award for Exemplary Community Service.



**Miriam Childs** has been the Director of the Law Library of Louisiana in New Orleans since May 2016. She started with the Law Library in 2003 as an assistant librarian responsible for serials and acquisitions. In 2006, Ms. Childs was promoted to Head of Technical Services, and then to Associate Director in 2013. During her tenure at the Law Library, Ms. Childs has been responsible for or provided support to all areas of library operations, including staff management and training; cataloging; database maintenance; reference and research services; government documents; and preservation. She came to the library with a strong technical services background. Her previous positions include serials librarian at the University of New Orleans, reference and collection management librarian at Jefferson Parish Public Library, and assistant librarian at Exxon Chemical Baton Rouge. She received her B.A. in History from Louisiana State University in 1992 and her M.L.I.S. from Louisiana State University in 1993.



**Rebecca Coman** is the Director of Education and Training for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She coordinates and facilitates training, continuing legal education, educational outreach, and naturalization programs for the Court and serves as the Court's employment dispute resolution coordinator. Prior to her employment at the Eastern District of Louisiana, she practiced personal injury law at the Law Office of Robert Angelle, The Young Firm, and Morris Bart, LLC. She also clerked for the Honorable Ross P. Ladart at the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson. She received her law degree from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she was

named to the Chancellor's List, and her bachelor's degree in International Trade and Finance with a minor in Economics from LSU's E. J. Ourso College of Business, where she was named Outstanding Student by the Economics Department. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and taking aerial arts and pole fitness classes.



**Christopher A. D'Amour** defends insurance companies and commercial entities in casualty, coverage, bad faith, property, cargo and transportation, products liability, class action, multidistrict litigation, commercial, construction, E&O and professional liability litigation, handling matters out of every office in the firm's footprint. Chris led a small team of minority attorneys to develop business, diversify the firm and recruit other minority attorneys. As a mentor, Chris shows young litigation associates the ropes.

Chris has a long history of pro bono work and community involvement. In his first year of practice he started a program to give children who are wards of the state private counsel. That same year, the New Orleans Bar Association recognized him as pro bono attorney of the year. Chris recently completed serving four years as the Board Chair of the Urban League of Louisiana. He now serves as the Board Chair of the Justices Accountability Center for Louisiana that recently create a re-entry program to assist incarcerated individuals when they are released. He founded When the Bell Rings, a nonprofit organization aimed at improving New Orleans public schools, and in the aftermath of Katrina started a charter school for inner city kids. He previously served as the Board President of The Priestly Charter School for Architecture Construction and on the Boys Hope/Girls Hope Board of Directors.





On April 1, 2006, the **Honorable June Berry Darensburg** was elected Judge to the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division C, for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana. She was re-elected without opposition in July 2008, August 2014, and July 2020. Judge Darensburg is the first African-American female elected to a judgeship in Jefferson Parish. Judge Darensburg is a 1980 graduate of Grace King High School. Pursuing her first career ambition, she enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana where she majored in Pharmacy. She received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Xavier in 1985.

While working as a Pharmacist, Judge Darensburg developed an interest in the law. She attended Loyola University College of Law full time, while working part time as a Pharmacist. In December 1994, Judge Darensburg graduated from Loyola. She worked in private practice, and was employed by the Jefferson Parish Indigent Defender Board providing legal services to those unable to afford representation. She was also employed as an Associate Attorney by The LeBlancButler Law Firm where she was a litigator in the areas of Products Liability and Insurance Defense.

Judge Darensburg is a member of the National Bar Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Association of Women Judges, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council-NBA, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Jefferson Bar Association, Louis A. Martinet Society and Louisiana Pharmacy Association.

She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Westwego Rotary Club, the Xavier University Investigational Review Board, Leadership Jefferson Task Force and Loyola Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Judge Darensburg presides over civil, criminal and domestic cases, and volunteers as an Intensive Probation Drug Court Judge. She currently serves as Chairwoman of the LJC/NBA and Treasurer of LJC/NBA. She served as Chief Judge of the 24th Judicial District Court from January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2015.



**Monette M. Davis** concentrates her practice on insurance defense and commercial litigation matters. Monette dedicates time to the legal community by serving in leadership positions with the American Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society where she mentors minority young lawyers and law students. She is also responsible for planning award-winning training programs to help law students navigate their journey through law school and then becoming a lawyer.

Monette is one of four lawyers in the country to be chosen for the 2022-2024 Young Lawyer Leadership Program with the American Bar Association. She received the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society's President's Award in 2022 and named "Member of the Month" in 2021 and 2020. She was also recognized by the National Bar Association in 2022 as "Young Lawyer of the Week."



**Endya E. Delpit** is a New Orleans native, and for nearly 30 years, she has practiced law and developed expertise in the energy and utility industries. She was a shareholder at Liskow & Lewis in Houston before joining Exxon Mobil Corporation where she supported both downstream and upstream business units in a broad range of multi-million dollar domestic and international commercial transactions. She currently serves as Assistant General Counsel at Entergy Services, Inc. where she negotiates and manages commercial transactions, including asset transfers, vendor contracts, and joint venture and customer agreements. Endya also serves as primary legal contact on issues related to political activity throughout the

Entergy system. She co-chairs the Diversity Council for Legal and is an active member of the Women's Leadership Advisory Committee. Endya graduated from Howard University in 1992, with honors, and she is a 1995 Southern University Law Center (SULC) *magna cum laude* graduate.



**M. Claire Durio** has been practicing law for more than 28 years. She practices primarily in the area of commercial real estate, representing developers, property owners, buyers, sellers, landlords, tenants, investors, lenders and property management companies in connection with the acquisition, development, leasing, financing and divestiture of retail facilities, condominiums, restaurants hotels and other commercial properties. Claire also has significant experience representing individual and corporate clients in contract and commercial litigation in the state and federal courts of Louisiana.



**Stephen I. (Steve) Dwyer** is a founding member and managing partner of Dwyer, Cambre & Suffern, APLC, in Metairie. He received a BA degree in 1970 from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass.; an MA degree, with distinction, in 1972 from the University of New Orleans; and his JD degree, magna cum laude, in 1976 from Loyola University College of Law (editor-in-chief, Loyola Law Review).

Dwyer served as 2022-23 President and 2021-22 President-Elect of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and as the Second District representative on the LSBA's Board of Governors from 2011-14 and 2017-20. He served on the Louisiana Bar Journal's Editorial Board. He is a

member of the Committee on the Profession, the Bar Governance Committee and the Audit Committee. He served as an adjunct faculty member for Loyola University College of Law and as a lecturer for various CLE programs.

He has been recognized by New Orleans City Business “Leadership in Law,” “Who’s Who Among American Lawyers,” Best Lawyers in America and Louisiana Super Lawyers. He is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society.

Dwyer chaired the award-winning St. Tammany Recreation District #14 (Coquille Parks and Recreation) and led the financing and development of the 150-acre sports, recreation and park complex in western St. Tammany Parish. He chairs the Miracle League Northshore for special needs children, serves as president of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, is a long-time member of the Loyola University College of Law Visiting Committee, and serves on the Holy Cross College President’s Council and on the boards of directors of the Holy Cross Lawyers’ Association and the Holy Cross Alumni Association. He has served as president of the Loyola Law School Alumni Association and on the Loyola Alumni Association’s Board of Directors.

He is married to Jennifer Van Vrancken, an attorney and Jefferson Parish Councilwoman, and is the father of five children. He has six grandchildren.



**Daniel L. (Danny) Engelberg** is the Chief Defender of the Orleans Public Defenders (OPD). Prior to his appointment as Chief Defender, Mr. Engelberg served as the Deputy Chief Defender and previously the Chief of Trials. He has been integral in the evolution of OPD post-Katrina and the elevation of public defense in New Orleans over the last two decades. He has dedicated his career to public interest. OPD has since grown from an office of a few attorneys and administrators, to one that is a full visualization of a community-based, client-centered public defender office. Throughout his tenure at OPD, Mr. Engelberg has been part of innovative programming. Additionally, he has been integral in securing funding equity between OPD and the district attorney.



The Honorable **Lee V. Faulkner, Jr.**, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and is a life long resident of Jefferson Parish. He is a graduate of West Jefferson High School, Xavier University of Louisiana and the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Following law school, Judge Faulkner entered into private practice. His practice consisted of personal injury, criminal, domestic and civil litigation. He also served as an Assistant Public Defender for the Jefferson Parish Public Defender’s Office.

Prior to being elected as Judge, he was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve as Judge Pro Tempore for Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson. He also served as a Traffic Hearing Officer for Second Parish Court.

He was elected as a District Judge, Division "P" in 2008, following the retirement of the Honorable Melvin C. Zeno.

He is a member of numerous social, judicial and legal organizations, including but not limited to the Louisiana State Bar Association, National Bar Association, American Judges Association, Board Member of the Louisiana Judicial College, New Judgeship Committee Chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Council, Board Member of the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Past President of the Jefferson Bar Association, Past President of the Fifth Circuit Judges Association. He is proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Vice-Basileus of the Gamma Rho Chapter, New Orleans, Louisiana. He also serves as the President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Playground Booster Club and previously served as the Legal Advisor of the Old Harvey Canal Civic Association.



**Mary Kate Fernandez's** litigation practice spans many areas, including commercial litigation, civil litigation, and labor and employment disputes. She has represented clients across a variety of industries, including hospitality, manufacturing, insurance, transportation, and maritime. In her labor and employment practice, Mary Kate has represented clients in administrative actions in front of the NLRB and EEOC.

Mary Kate also concentrates her practice on immigration, assisting clients in navigating all aspects of the business immigration process. Her practice focuses on advising clients on U.S. immigration laws and regulatory issues and helping clients through the visa petition process, including obtaining and transferring employment-based non-immigrant visas, as well as sponsoring employment-based and family-based immigrant visa petitions. She has experience preparing all types of visa petitions and responding to RFEs. She has represented large corporations, small businesses, startups, and individuals across a variety of industries.



**Catherine R. (Catt) Filippi** is an Associate in the firm's New Orleans office. She is part of the civil litigation department handling insurance defense matters for a broad range of clients. Catt received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Houston, and her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law.

Prior to joining Deutsch Kerrigan, Catherine was the Knowledge Manager at a large local firm. In that role, she had responsibilities

ranging from firm growth initiatives to business development.

While she was still in law school, Catherine had the unique opportunity to become a “certified legal intern” in the Miami-Dade Public defenders office. During her time in Miami, Catherine second-chaired several felony and misdemeanor jury trials as well as arguing motions, communicating with incarcerated clients, and assisting in voir dire. Catherine credits her time in Miami for her patience and love of the fast-paced nature of litigation.



**Alexandrea (Ally) Flakes** is a graduate of Ben Franklin and most recently, graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelors in History Pre-Law with a minor in Ancient Civilizations. Her next steps are to take a gap year, get a job, and spend most of her free time studying for the LSAT as she plans to apply to Loyola Law. While she has no current desire to specialize in any particular kind of law, civil rights and criminal law interest her most. She has lived in New Orleans for most of her life and plans to make her life here in the city in the hopes of doing some good for the people that look and live like she does who most often come under fire in the legal world.



**Honorable Tracey Flemings-Davillier** has served as a Louisiana State Court Judge since March 2010. She currently serves as Deputy Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. Previously, she served as Judge in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. Judge Flemings-Davillier also serves as the Judicial Liaison over Court Intervention Services.

Judge Flemings-Davillier serves as a member on the Federal Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the City of New Orleans Blueprint for Safety Committee and the City of New Orleans Criminal Justice Council and Ethnic and Racial Disparities Working Group. She is a graduate of Loyola University’s Women’s Leadership Academy, Cohort 3.

As a member of the National Association of Women Judges, Judge Flemings-Davillier previously served as Co-Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee. She has served on various criminal justice reform and judicial/legal related panels. Prior to her election to the Judiciary, Judge Flemings-Davillier’s professional career spanned 15 years as a practicing attorney at Phelps Dunbar, LLP. While practicing at Phelps Dunbar, she volunteered to provide legal services via The Pro Bono Project and represented foster children in Child in Need of Care cases in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.



She served as a Federal Judicial Law Clerk to United States District Court Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has been awarded the City Business Leadership in Law Award; Crystal Gavel Award (Louisiana State Bar Association); Gillis Long Poverty Law Center Award (Loyola University School of Law); Woman of the Year, Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women; Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, New Orleans Chapter Mother of the Year Award; Distinguished Service as a Pro Bono Volunteer Award (2003, 2004 and 2006); and Young Leadership Award (Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.).



**Jordan Ginsberg** is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Louisiana and Chief of the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Mr. Ginsberg specializes in the prosecution of complex white-collar and cybercrimes, including public corruption, computer intrusion, health care fraud, and child exploitation and trafficking. Mr. Ginsberg has successfully tried ten federal jury trials, including several highly publicized corruption, white-collar fraud, and juvenile sex trafficking matters. He has also argued before the Fifth and Seventh Circuit Courts of Appeals. Mr. Ginsberg has been a frequent speaker on various topics at national and international conferences and serves as an Associate Professor at Tulane University Law School and an Adjunct Professor at Tulane's A.B. Freeman School of Business. He graduated summa cum laude from Washington and Lee University in 2001 and from the University of Chicago Law School with honors in 2004. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Jordan served as a law clerk in the Northern District of Illinois for the Honorable Mark Filip and an associate at Sidley Austin LLP.



**Kelly A. Gismondi** is an Associate at Simon Peragine Smith & Redfearn and focuses her practice on construction and commercial litigation. She has significant experience in formal and informal court advocacy through plea and sentencing negotiations with judges and district attorneys. After her first year in law school, Ms. Gismondi served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable John Marshall Kest of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. She received her J.D., cum laude, from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; a Master of Education from Lipscomb University; and her B.A. from the University of Central Florida.



**Demarcus J. Gordon** is a partner at Kelly Hart and Pitre Attorneys at Law in the oil and gas and environmental litigation sections. He represents clients in general litigation, environmental litigation, environmental due diligence, crisis management, oil and gas litigation, premises liability litigation, and mass tort and class action lawsuits.

Mr. Gordon has particular experience representing clients in cases involving premises liability and personal injury. He works closely with clients to develop litigation and trial plans. He is actively involved in identifying key expert and fact witnesses and preparing them for deposition and trial testimony.

Mr. Gordon has also been involved with the immediate response to crisis or other emergency situations. He has collected initial witness statements, identified potential hazards, collected and preserved evidence, regularly communicated with all potentially interested regulatory agencies, and implemented damage control measures.

He earned his J.D. at St. Louis University in 1997 and graduated from the University of Illinois, B.S., in 1991.



**Robert Gunn** serves as Deputy Judicial Administrator/Community Relations for the Louisiana Supreme Court. In this role, Mr. Gunn is responsible for managing the operations of the Community Relations Department to further its mission of promoting public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

Mr. Gunn previously served as Community Relations Project Coordinator/Website Coordinator for the Supreme Court and was part of the web team which spearheaded the redesign and relaunch of the Supreme Court's website.

Mr. Gunn is a member of the Conference of Court Public Information Officers (CCPIO) and serves on the CCPIO Website Committee; and is a member of the National Association for Court Management (NACM), where he serves on the NACM CORE© Public Relations Curriculum Revision Committee.

Mr. Gunn holds a BA in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations, and a minor in Psychology.



**Galen M. Hair** is licensed in multiple states and boasts clients from around the world. He has gained a reputation for getting the job done both inside and outside the court room early on in his career.

He focuses not only on the litigation in front of the client, but the long term personal and business effects that his clients' issues will cause. His clients are family to him, and it shows.

He has received numerous accolades and awards including Super Lawyer Rising Star, Top Lawyer by New Orleans Magazine, Pro Bono Publico Award, Martindale Hubbel AV Rating (the highest rating possible), AVVO Client Choice and 10.0 ratings, National Trial Lawyers 40 Under 40, Top 10 Bad Faith Insurance Lawyers, and more.

Mr. Hair is frequently consulted by the media with interviews and articles with nearly every major media outlet. Recently, Inman, the number one real estate publication in the world, picked up an article by Mr. Hair to assist real estate agents in navigating real estate transactions where the building has been affected by a disaster.

Mr. Hair also stays active in non-profits and the community at large. He also is an Assistant Examiner for the Louisiana Bar Exam in Constitutional Law.



**Jaclyn E. Hickman** is a trial lawyer whose significant litigation experience includes representing global energy companies in business disputes and against claims brought by private individuals.

Jackie has served as first and second chair trial counsel in matters involving multi-million-dollar claims. She has managed all aspects of complex litigation, from initial pleadings and discovery to delivering closing statements at trial. In addition to her energy practice, Jackie has brought her litigation savvy to a broad range of cases, including securities fraud, mass torts, civil rights litigation, media law/defamation claims, and employment discrimination.

Jackie also has experience at the appellate level, researching and writing successful briefs to Louisiana appellate courts and the U.S. Fifth Circuit.

Before law school, Jackie was a middle school science and social studies teacher for six years and helped found one of the most successful public charter schools in New Orleans. Jackie brings her classroom experience to the courtroom – from making complex issues easy to understand to commanding and engaging her audience. Jackie received her bachelor's degree in Government from Dartmouth College in 2005.





**Micah R. Ince** is Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant District Attorney at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. Prior to this role she served as Legislative Director with the New Orleans City Council, where she worked on a number of justice reform and quality of life initiatives. Having spent the majority of her career in public service, she is committed to helping government agencies build public trust and deliver positive change in the community. Ms. Ince received her Master of Public Administration from Ball State University and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.



**Andrew Jones** recently joined Division M as Judge Beevers Morvant's Administrative Assistant. A veteran of the United States Navy's Submarine Force, Mr. Jones came to the Division after graduating from Loyola University New Orleans with a B.A. in Political Science. His experiences on various ships developed in him a thorough understanding that each facet of daily life is served through collective efforts. As such, he believes all roles within the justice system require the same amount of zeal, prompt professionalism, and attention to detail that are required when returning a ship to port. Whether leading a division through deployments or acting as a liaison between the court and our communities' attorneys, Mr. Jones believes that, at every scale, to build a better team one must aim to be a better teammate. He and his wife MaryJane are the proud parents of one son.



**Kimberly Jones** joined Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in March 2016 and currently serves as the Associate Dean of Law Admissions. She leads all aspects of the recruitment, admissions, and yield processes for the College's JD, MA, and LLM programs. Prior to joining Loyola University New Orleans, Ms. Jones was the Director of Admissions and Multicultural Affairs at her alma mater, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

After law school, Ms. Jones practiced law in the area of creditors' rights and served on the State Bar of Michigan's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is a first-generation college and law school graduate and is licensed to practice law in Michigan and Louisiana.

A native of Detroit, Ms. Jones is happy to call New Orleans home. At her church, she serves as a youth bible study leader, Youth Advisory Board member, and Personnel Committee member. Ms. Jones is a member of the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale.



**Professor Russell L. Jones**, the retired Professor Emeritus Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Endowed Professor, was named Southern University Law Center (SULC) vice chancellor of academic affairs in 2007 and he served nine years in that position. He received a BA degree in 1974 from Northeast Louisiana University, his JD degree, magna cum laude, in 1982 from Southern University Law Center, and a LL.M. degree in 1992 from Georgetown University School of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1982. He has taught in summer programs at several law schools over this academy career. He also spent a year teaching Evidence and developing an academic support program at Shepard Broad College of Law - Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida.

Professor Jones was recognized as the 2010 Louisiana Bar Foundation Distinguished Professor. He also received the 2001 Louisiana Bar Journal Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award for best featured article. During his career as a professor at Southern University Law Center, he was voted by the student body as professor of the year on numerous occasions. Professor Jones established the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at SULC in 2009.

Professor Jones is also on the board of Russell L. Jones Educational Foundation. A Foundation established by former students and his family to provide scholarships to students entering college or law school.

Professor Jones is a member of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Louisiana Bar Foundation. He has served as an ABA site evaluator for law school accreditation on four occasions. Professor Jones is also the attorney coach for the Southern University Laboratory School mock trial team. The team represented the Louisiana State Bar Association Region VII in the State competition on three occasions.

In the community, Professor Jones is a member of Greater New Guide Baptist Church where he is chair of Christian education department and a Sunday school teacher.



**Christian Lacoste** is a New Orleans native and graduate of Jesuit High School. Mr. Lacoste studied History with minors in Business Administration and Classical Civilizations at Louisiana State University. He participated in the 2018 Suit Up for the Future Program, during which he won best oral argument. He currently attends LSU Paul M. Hebert Law School.



**Luke G. LaHaye** focuses his practice on litigation. He counsels clients in various areas of law, including commercial litigation, labor and employment and real estate.

Luke graduated from Tulane University Law School. While in law school, Luke was Senior Managing Editor of the Tulane Law Review and received the Class of 2000 Law Review Award. He also served as a legal research and writing senior fellow. In addition, Luke worked as a judicial extern for both the

Honorable Sarah S. Vance and the Honorable Jane Triche Milazzo of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Prior to law school, Luke earned his Master of Science in Finance and Bachelor of Science in Finance from Louisiana State University. With this background, Luke brings a keen understanding of finance and business to his law practice.



**Kristen A. Lee**, a native of New Orleans, is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. She practices general litigation in both state and federal court and civil service appeals. For the previous five years, she served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Regina Bartholomew-Woods at the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

In 2015, Ms. Lee earned a Juris Doctor and Certificate in International Legal Studies from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. As a law student, she served three terms on the Honor Board. In 2012, Ms. Lee graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from

Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. In 2018, she received the Loyola University New Orleans Young Alumna of the Year Award.

Her professional affiliations include the Louisiana Bar Association, St. Thomas More American Inn of Court, New Orleans Bar Association, and Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. Ms. Lee serves on the Board of Directors at St. Mary's Dominican High School as well as the Loyola University New Orleans Young Alumni Board. She is driven by Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change that you wish to see in the world."



**Sowmya Mandava** is the Judicial Staff Attorney for the Honorable June Berry Darensburg at the Twenty Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana.

Mrs. Mandava is an active member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, where she serves as a member on the House of Delegates for the 24th District. Mrs. Mandava also serves as a co-chair on the LSBA Outreach Committee and as a member on the LSBA Diversity Committee, the LSBA Children’s Law Committee, and the LSBA Continuing Legal Education Committee. She was a member of the 2019-2020 Leadership LSBA class. In addition to LSBA activities, Mrs. Mandava currently serves as the chair of the Jefferson Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division and is an active member of the New Orleans Bar Association and St. Thomas More-Loyola Inn of Court.

Mrs. Mandava started her career as an interim law clerk for the Honorable June Berry Darensburg. She then served as a law clerk for the Honorable Bernadette D’Souza at Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans before returning to the Honorable June Berry Darensburg’s chambers in August 2017 as the Judicial Staff Attorney.

Mrs. Mandava earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. and She also holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and Bachelor of Science in Psychology. During law school she served as the President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and a Rule XX Student Practitioner in the Family Law Clinic. She interned for the Honorable Lee V. Faulkner, Jr. at the Twenty Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana; the Honorable Fredericka Homberg Wicker at the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal; and CASA New Orleans. Prior to attending law school, Sowmya was a litigation assistant at Fishman Haygood, LLP in New Orleans.

Mrs. Mandava is married to Sree Harsha Mandava, an attorney at Caraway Leblanc, LLC. They are the proud parents of two rambunctious children Saheli (5) and Veer (1).



**Betty A. Maury** is law clerk to the Honorable Lee V. Faulkner, Jr. at the 24th JDC in Jefferson Parish since 2014. She received her Bachelor’s degree *Summa Cum Laude* from Concordia University of Wisconsin and her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law. She is a 2017-18 Loyola Institute of Politics Fellow.

Betty served the LSBA as a Representative of the YLD Council, Co-Chair of the Wills for Heroes Program, and a member of the House of Delegates. She was a member of the 2017-18 Leadership LSBA Class and Co-Chaired the 2018-19 Leadership LSBA Class. She also served as a Board Member on the Louisiana Center for Law and

Civic Education. Betty is the CLE Director, Website Manager, and a past Chair of the Young Lawyers Division for the Jefferson Bar Association.

Betty is a recipient of the 2022 JBA Outstanding Member Award, 2020 Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award, a 2018 Trees for Life Recipient by the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center for her work with CASA Jefferson, the 2017 recipient of the LSBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, a 2016 recipient of the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center Public Service Award, and was named the 2013 Outstanding Loyola Family Law Clinic Student by the New Orleans Association of Women Attorneys.



**Janell M. McFarland-Forges** is the Judicial Program Attorney at Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial College. She is co-chair of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society's Continuing Legal Education Subcommittee. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, she served as a research attorney at the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and an associate attorney at O'Bryon & Schnabel, PLC. For several years, she also served as an advocate for plaintiff clients at Hearin Law Offices, LLC.

After graduating from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Janell attended Southern University Law Center, earning a Juris Doctor degree. While at Southern, she was a student practitioner in the Civil and Administrative Law Clinic. Prior to graduation, she was a judicial extern at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. After law school, she served as a teaching assistant and researcher at Xavier University of Louisiana to the Honorable Sandra C. Jenkins of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Janell is admitted to practice before all Louisiana state and federal courts. She is an active member of the American Bar Association, Louisiana Bar Association, and New Orleans Bar Association.



**Bianca N. Moore** is a New Orleans transplant from Chesapeake, Virginia, who owns and operates her own law firm, The BMoore Law Firm. She received a B.A. from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2016 and a Juris Doctor and certificate in Social Justice from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2019. Prior to owning a solo practice, Bianca served as a public defender, ABA Bond advocacy fellow, and judicial law clerk for the Honorable Nandi F. Campbell in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. Outside of the courtroom, Bianca is very active in her community. Bianca currently serves as President-elect of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Foundation and Legal Society, Mentorship Program Coordinator for Dillard University's L.E.A.D pre-law program, L.E.A.D Trainer for New Leaders Council, Board member for Southeastern Louisiana Legal Services, Practitioner Advisor for Tulane University's Black Law Student Association Mock trial team, and a mentor/ presenter for various organizations



and fellowships. In her very little free time, she also provides educational consulting services to law students through her consulting firm, BMoore Consulting, and dances in Mardi Gras parades and competitions with her dance team, Silhouette Dance Company.



**Trinity A. Morale's** practice involves representing global exploration and production companies and general commercial clients in a range of matters, including "legacy"/environmental, royalty, and personal injury matters, as well as contractual disputes. Trinity's litigation experience includes trial and appellate work, and she has represented a range of clients before state and federal appellate courts. She has been recognized for her practice by The National Black Lawyers' organization as a National Black Lawyer Top 40 Under 40.

Trinity received her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, and her Bachelor of Arts from Duke University, *cum laude*. She was a member of the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic and the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project at Yale Law School and a Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholar and a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow at Duke University.



**Honorable Shayna Beevers Morvant** was elected to the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court and took office in October 2020. Prior to her election, she was managing partner of the Gretna law firm of Beevers & Beevers, L.L.P. She received a B.S.M. degree in 2009 from Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business and her J.D. degree in 2012 from Tulane Law School.

During her time as a general practitioner, she gained extensive class action and civil litigation experience. Her practice areas included personal injury, criminal defense, family law, and representation of local law enforcement agencies. She is a member of the adjunct faculty at Tulane University Law School, teaching litigation skills for the Boot Camp and Trial Advocacy Programs.

Judge Beevers Morvant makes time to promote the interest of her community. She is a leader in Tulane's American Inn of Court, a national association that promotes ethics and professionalism in law. Additionally, she believes in promoting respect for law; as such she is currently the President of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and working on Chief Justice Weimer's Judges Imparting Knowledge, Education, & Skills Task Force.

A passion prior to assuming her duties on the bench was working with the Wills for Heroes Program where she prepared wills and trusts for first responders at no charge. She was a member of Bridging the Gap Legal Education Committee which assisted students transitioning into the practice of law. She was elected for two terms on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council as the District 2 Representative. She served on the LSBA's House of Delegates and was elected to the Nominating Committee for the years 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021. For several years she was the secretary of the Civil Law and Litigation Section and a regular contributor to the Louisiana Bar Journal. Additionally, she was a member of the 2015-2016 Leadership LSBA Class.

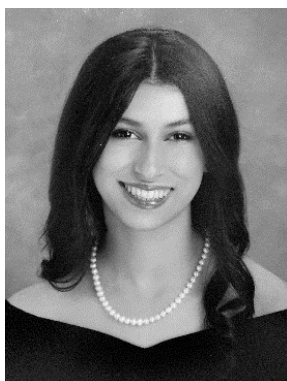
Judge Beevers Morvant has frequently been selected as instructor of continuing education since 2013, with a focus on social media, professionalism, and trial litigation. She has also presented CLE programs for the New Orleans Bar Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, and Tulane University Law School.

Apart from her legal related activities, she is a former chair of legislative affairs for the Junior League of New Orleans, and a Louisiana Children's Museum campaign leader. Judge Beevers Morvant and her husband, Wesley, are the proud parents of two children.



**Jared E. A. Nelson** is an energy litigator practicing in the Liskow & Lewis' Lafayette office. He has experience in multiple facets of litigation, including drafting motions, exceptions, demand and settlement letters, discovery requests and responses and direct and cross examination questions.

Prior to practicing law, Jared served as a Probation and Parole Officer for the State of Louisiana, Department of Public Safety and Corrections for seven years. Prior to joining the firm, Jared served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General handling tort and civil rights litigation for the State of Louisiana. Jared received his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Southern University Law Center in 2018.



**Brinley B. Pethe** recently graduated as Valedictorian from Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies and will be attending Tulane University in the fall to study psychology. She participated in the Suit Up Program last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. Passionate about law and government, she plans on going to law school and eventually pursuing a career in politics.



**Morgan Pollock** is currently a first year Law Student at Tulane University. She recently finished a one-year position as a Paralegal Assistant at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C. In May 2021, Morgan earned a Bachelor of Arts from the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Georgia.



**Denise C. Puente** serves Simon Peragine Smith & Redfearn's Managing Partner and is a commercial litigator practicing primarily in the areas of construction and surety law. She also represents contractors and property owners in the preparation and negotiation of construction contracts for condominiums, hotels, apartment buildings, parking garages, industrial facilities, mixed use facilities and other projects. Denise has litigated numerous public bid disputes cases, represented many contractors before the Louisiana Licensing Board of Contractors, and appeared before various other board and agencies throughout Louisiana on behalf of the firm's clients. Denise also represents plaintiffs and defendants in commercial litigation involving redhibition, employment, copyright and trademark matters in state and federal court.

Denise is a frequent lecturer on construction and surety-related matters and has conducted numerous in-house training seminars for companies and public bodies on Title VII employment issues. In 1997, Denise received the Sam Dalton Capital Defense Award from the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Counsel. She is fluent in Spanish.



**Tracie N. Ransom** serves as the Assistant Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Tulane Law School. She leverages nearly two decades of experience in the practice of law and the advancement of equity, diversity and inclusion within the legal profession, higher education and society more broadly to assist the law school in building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community.

Dean Ransom practiced complex litigation for just under a decade with AmLaw 200-firm Porter Wright in Columbus, Ohio, first as an associate and later as the first Black woman to be elected partner. She then left private practice to go in-house as Associate General Counsel and Director of Complaints for Edward Jones.

In 2019, she founded her own firm, Ransom Strategies Group, specializing in providing EDI consulting, coaching and training nationally for law firms, corporations and academic



institutions. She has been retained by major law firms nationwide to advise firm leaders regarding the development and advancement of EDI goals, facilitate seminars and training, and provide career coaching and professional development support for attorneys of color. She also brings substantial experience and familiarity with higher education, leading intensive workshops as a Strategic Inclusive Leadership Instructor for the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University and as a former Adjunct Professor at Washburn University.

An honors graduate of the University of Alabama and the University of Illinois College of Law, Dean Ransom clerked for the Honorable Jeffrey S. Sutton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Honorable James L. Graham of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.



**M. Davis Ready** represents businesses in a variety of litigation, business, and employment matters. His clients include several Fortune 500 companies; large self-insureds; and excess insurers for retail, transportation, product liability and other claims. He also serves as regional counsel for several large companies for matters throughout Louisiana and neighboring jurisdictions.

Davis's practice involves the defense and tendering of contractual defense and indemnification. He provides rapid response assistance for catastrophic losses, understanding that clients and claim departments manage operations and claims 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

Prior to joining Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in 2000, Davis served as a law clerk to the Honorable Walter J. Rothschild in the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District for the Parish of Jefferson. Davis conducts client seminars and presents at industry events annually, and he has spoken at events for the American Bar Association, Transportation Law Association and DRI – Lawyers Representing Business.



**Honorable Karen Wells Roby** is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana with twenty-three years of service. Formerly, she served as the Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge from 2017- 2021. She has been active in the American Bar Association serving in various leadership roles and was responsible for the success of the three-day gathering of diverse leaders who trained future leaders in the areas of marketing, branding and networking; Diverse Leaders Academy and the

Professional Success Summit "PSS".

Additionally, Judge Roby served as the President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association ("FMJA") in 2012, a national organization of over 600 U.S. Magistrate Judges across the country. As President of the Association, she worked to secure pay raises for all active and

recently retired federal magistrate judges. She is a graduate of Tulane Law School and Xavier University. Currently, she is enrolled in the Duke Law Masters of Judicial Studies Program where she will receive a Masters' Degree in Judicial Studies.

Judge Roby serves as an advisor to the Dean of Tulane Law School as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board. She is an Adjunct Professor at Tulane.

Judge Roby's commitment to the community is unsurpassed. She was integral in saving her high school, has served as the coordinating judge over the Suit Up program in New Orleans for the last eleven years. She also serves as a mentor to area young female lawyers where she hosts round tables to discuss issues of interest and dispense sage advice on career goals and challenges.



**Hunter J. Schoen's** legal experience encompasses several areas of law with a focus on regulatory law, employment and labor, and commercial litigation. In particular, Hunter works closely with businesses, from start-ups to international companies, to provide advice and legal solutions that are proactive and account for a business' overall goals. This business practice extends to regulatory advice, navigating employment issues, drafting and reviewing agreements, and representing businesses in disputes and before regulatory bodies.

In his practice, Hunter has appeared before the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission, Louisiana Tax Commission, Louisiana Racing Commission, Louisiana Board of Tax Appeals, Small Business Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and federal and state courts across Louisiana.

In keeping with Adams and Reese's commitment to community service, Hunter devotes time to philanthropic and charitable organizations and events, including Odyssey House Louisiana, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Secret Santa Project, and the firm's annual St. Michael's basketball tournament. Hunter also previously served the Louisiana legal community through an appointment to the Louisiana State Bar Association Ethics Advisory Service Committee, which works to encourage ethical conduct and provides advisory opinions regarding novel issues. He also serves as an ambassador for Schoen Funeral Home, which has been serving the greater New Orleans area since 1874.



**Honorable D. Nicole Sheppard** was elected to the Orleans Parish Civil District Court in November of 2017 and reelected without opposition in July of 2020. She is an alumna of Southern University of New Orleans and the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Judge Sheppard serves as a board member with the National Bar Association Judicial Council and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Judges Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association and A.P. Tureaud American Inns of Court. In addition to presiding over civil cases full time, and drawing upon her diverse experience in the private sector, she has also dedicated herself to the advancement of education and the improvement of the social justice system. Judge Sheppard teaches multiple CLE seminars yearly. She has also served as an adjunct professor of various local universities for more than 12 years.



**Gabriel G. Silva** joined Stone Pigman in 2022, bringing experience in litigation and transactional work, representing clients in maritime cases, international trade deals and commercial business matters.

A native of Brazil, Gabe is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, and has applied his multilingual capabilities throughout his law practice, particularly in international trade cases. Throughout his academic years, he served as an exchange student in the United States, Chile and Hong Kong. He also interned with the Brazilian Consulate in Paraguay and with the Paraguayan Stock Exchange.

Gabe's accomplishments include assisting in the representation of a Louisiana business to collect a multimillion-dollar debt from a Mexican energy company by engaging in negotiations with representatives from Mexico and Brazil.



**Matthew R. Slaughter** handles complex business litigation matters, including non-compete and breach-of-contract cases; trade secret, trademark, and copyright infringement litigation; data breaches and other business disputes. He also frequently represents clients opposing and responding to third-party subpoenas, manages complex electronic discovery efforts, and secures and defends against time-sensitive injunctive proceedings. He represents a variety of industries, including insurance, construction, tech, non-profits and real estate. Matt previously served as a law clerk for the Hon. Robert G. James and Karen L. Hayes of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. He also maintains a robust pro bono practice that includes handling matters in federal court under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.



As Assistant Director of Admission, **Julia M. Spencer** counsels prospective law students throughout the application process, plans and implements post-acceptance recruiting activities, and travels to off-campus events throughout the United States. Born and raised in New Orleans, Julia received her B.A. in Asian Studies from Vassar College in 2014, and her J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 2019.



**Cherrell S. Taplin** is Liskow & Lewis' Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and a trial lawyer who assists commercial clients, non-profit organizations, public entities, maritime companies, and major energy clients in all areas of litigation. She represents companies in matters related to construction disputes, contract and quasi-contracts, director and officer liability, tort liability, insurance coverage disputes, labor and employment matters, tax litigation, unfair trade practice/business torts, and unjust enrichment claims. She regularly handles construction matters for clients, including compliance with the Louisiana Public Works Act, Construction Management at Risk procurements, and public bids, zoning, and variances. She is also qualified as a mediator and arbitrator through the Mediations Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. ("maps") on its prestigious Panel of Neutrals.

Prior to joining the firm, Cherrell worked as a partner in private practice, served as Judge Pro Tempore in state court, and served as the Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. In 2011, she became the first Black woman partner at a major law firm in New Orleans. There, she represented insurance companies, businesses, and corporate clients in both federal and state courts throughout Louisiana. In 2013, Cherrell was appointed Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. Her role was as second-in-command to the City Attorney and included the position – Chief of Litigation. As Chief of Litigation for the City of New Orleans, Cherrell managed over 1000 cases that involved litigation in state, federal, and municipal and traffic courts. The matters that she handled were diverse and included: personal injury, contract, construction, land use, public bid, employment, code enforcement, public records, administrative appeals, and civil rights litigation. She also represented the City of New Orleans in several high-profile cases.





**Jonathan M. Walsh** is a partner at Deutsch Kerrigan. He received his juris doctor from Tulane University's School of Law and a Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame. While most of his practice is dedicated to achieving the best-possible result for his clients in litigation, Jonathan works with clients in Louisiana and around the country to develop training and investigation protocols to reduce accidents and to effectively investigate the ones that happen. By developing claim and case-handling protocols, for example, he was able to significantly reduce a client's exposure in high-value personal injury across multiple jurisdictions.

Jonathan is proud to call New Orleans home. He has never forgotten his roots in New Jersey or his collegiate and graduate experience, in French Literature, at the University of Notre Dame, where he fondly recalls starting at left-tackle on his dorm's undefeated, inter-hall football team. "We played the final in Notre Dame Stadium, the day after the Irish lost to Boston College in 1993. Despite that loss, the football players who lived in the dorm, including the quarterback, came to watch us, a bunch of goof-balls, and cheer for us." Jonathan remains connected to his alma mater, by blogging about Notre Dame sports and serving as the game watch coordinator for the Notre Dame Alumni Club of New Orleans.

Jonathan is proud to have served his country. He joined the Coast Guard Reserve in 1997 and participated in many major contingency operations. He was called to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004, deployed to Kuwait, and was awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his service with Port Security Unit 308. He also deployed to Gulfport, Mississippi, and Galveston, Texas, in support of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ike relief operations.



**Lori A. Waters** is the Managing Attorney with Hair Shunnarah Trial Attorneys. Ms. Waters currently practices in the areas of First Party Property Casualty, Personal Injury, Products and Premises Liability, and General Civil Litigation. She has also worked extensively in matters involving catastrophic injuries as well as asbestos exposure, and chemical release incidents.

Ms. Waters has written and lectured on legal professionalism and ethics topics. She is a member of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, an Assistant Bar Examiner for the Louisiana Committee on Bar Admissions, a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, American Bar

Association, National Bar Association, The National Trial Lawyers, and the A.P. Tureaud Inn of Court. Ms. Waters is an AV Preeminent rated attorney and has been recognized as a “Top Lawyer” in New Orleans Magazine.

Ms. Waters earned her J.D. in 2004 from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans, her B.A. in History from The Ohio State University, and her B.A. in English from Seton Hall University. She is admitted to practice before all state courts in Louisiana, all United States District Courts of Louisiana, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



**Nicholas J. Wehlen** focuses his practice on appellate and business litigation matters. He has significant experience assisting individuals and businesses in filing and opposing supervisory writ applications in Louisiana's appellate courts and petitions for certiorari in the Louisiana Supreme Court. Nick has been engaged by clients to serve as their appellate counsel before trial in the district court, in order to assist trial counsel in preserving arguments and improving the chance of success on appeal. Nick has successfully argued to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and in Louisiana appellate court, and guides clients through all aspects of the appellate process.

Nick also routinely represents clients in complex business disputes, many of which involve claims of unfair trade practices, breach of contract, and fraud. He notably obtained a dismissal on summary judgment of a \$100 million securities claim in federal court, and he has successfully defended law firms and attorneys in cases involving allegations of legal malpractice.

Nick currently sits on the New Orleans Bar Association's Board of Directors, serves on the firm's Management Committee, and is co-chair of the firm's Appellate Practice Group.



**Lacrosha D. Wilkerson** is a Senior Regulatory Counsel in Entergy's New Orleans office. Lacrosha was previously in private practice, where she worked in the commercial litigation section of Simon Peragine Smith & Redfearn, LLP. Lacrosha currently serves as the Vice President of Membership for the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society, Inc. and on the Trial Advocacy Faculty at Tulane University where she teaches an experiential course intended to prepare and train students in the art of advocacy. Prior to joining the firm, she served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice and as a Law Clerk at the 19th Judicial District Court. Lacrosha was a 2017-2018 White House Fellows Finalist and received her J.D. from Southern

University Law Center in 2013 and her B.S. in 2008 from Louisiana State University. Lachesha is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and volunteers bi-weekly at Lantern Light Ministry.



**Honorable Jason R. Williams** is a true example of a born leader. From an early age, his parents, Sidney Williams and Janice Rogers instilled in him the values of hard work and dedication. Throughout his youth, he attended the Woodward Academy. Upon returning to his hometown to attend Tulane University, he continued to demonstrate his leadership abilities, both on and off the football field. District Attorney Williams's serves the community with his tireless work ethic and commitment to excellence.



**Micah C. Zeno** is a civil litigator and trial attorney representing clients in a wide range of industries. He has a broad legal practice that includes complex litigation, appellate practice, civil procedure, property law, commercial litigation and risk management. A former banker, Micah also provides businesses with advice on a variety of issues including participation agreements, early termination clauses, remedies for breach of contract, and mitigation of repayment risk. Micah is also an arbitrator with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Micah is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee.

Before joining Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett, Micah served for two years as a law clerk for Chief Judge June Berry Darensburg of the 24th Judicial District Court. Micah is also former judicial intern for Deputy Chief Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Prior to practicing law, Micah worked for six years as a credit analyst and commercial banker at Regions Bank (formerly AmSouth). While at Regions Bank, Micah structured loans for commercial clients in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi with credit needs of up to \$1,500,000.00 and negotiated financing for multi-million dollar healthcare real estate projects. Micah is also a former Loaned Executive for the United Way.

Micah graduated from Tulane Law School Order of the Barristers and received the Tulane 34 Award and Tulane Student Crest Award. Micah was also a recipient of the Dean's Honor Scholarship and the Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association Scholarship. As a distinguished member of Tulane's Moot Court, Micah competed in the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition, the Louisiana State Bar Association Law School Mock Trial Competition, and placed first in the coveted Tulane 3L Intraschool Competition.



Micah's name is now forever inscribed on the marble tablets in The Wendell H. Gauthier Moot Court Room at Tulane Law.

Micah is an active member of the legal community. He is a member of the Louisiana Law Institute and has held various leadership positions with the Federal Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law Center

Southern University Law Center

Tulane University Law School

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Orleans Public Defenders Office

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Honorable Karen Wells Roby

Honorable D. Nicole Sheppard

Honorable Paula A. Brown

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENT WINNERS!***

**BEST WRITTEN MEMORANDUM WINNERS:**

Prosecution: Jasmin N. Kumar

Defense: Iyanna M. Snaer

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENT WINNERS!***

**BEST ORAL ARGUMENT WINNERS:**

Prosecution: Aidan C. Macaluso and Eryn A. Vance

Defense: Brooke P. Arcement and Amaya M. Windham

# 2023 Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program

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