

Focus on DIVERSITY

SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER LEGAL INSTITUTE AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program had another successful year, with 22 students completing the program. The three-week program was held June 9–27, 2025, and included abridged law school sessions, job shadowing opportunities at law firms, courts, and agencies, and tours of courts and agencies.

During the program, students prepared written memorandums to support their oral arguments. Oral arguments were presented on the last day of the program to a panel of judges at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Congratulations to the Suit Up 2025 winners for Best Oral Argument and Memorandum: Otto K. Massie (Best Defense Memorandum, Best Defense Oral Argument, Morning Session), Ja'Wayne A. White (Best Prosecution Memorandum), Emma L. Ladisky (Best Prosecution Oral Argument, Morning Session), Bailey I. Williams (Best Defense Oral Argument, Afternoon Session), and Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill (Best Prosecution Oral Argument, Afternoon Session).

The LSBA Suit Up for the Future program is an award-winning Diversity Pipeline program and a 2013 American Bar Association Partnership recipient.

The success of the Suit Up program would not be possible without dedicated volunteers:



Suit Up participants, Top Row (L-R): Adrienne A. Boutte, 2L, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge; Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill; Ja'Wayne A. White; Christopher H. Juge II; Otto K. Massie; Macy J. Hall. Middle Row: Mary C. Bowlin; Shelby D. Gordon; Abigail A. Schoen; Victoria G. Baez; Emma L. Ladisky; Bailey I. Williams; Makenzie R. Jackson; Sylvia C. Capiton; William T. David. Front Row: Benjamin B. So; Nhachi C. Vu; Selin G. Greer; Angelica H. Rodriguez; Ximena G. Vasquez; Estefania J. Antunez; Tyler D. Bickham; Danie M. Hamilton; Julianna A. Cunnikin. Middle Front: Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee Past Co-Chair, CNA Insurance, New Orleans; Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB) Coordinator, Magistrate Judge, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans; Tiffany L. Delery, Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair, Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes, L.L.P., New Orleans.

Diversity Committee, Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee members: Denia S. Aiyegbusi, Past Co-Chair, CNA Insurance, New Orleans; Tiffany L. Delery, Co-Chair, Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes, L.L.P., New Orleans.

Instructors: Professor Emily A. Bishop, Director of the Lawyering Program and Professor of Practice, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans; Professor Kenya J. H. Smith, Associate Law Professor, Byron R. Kantrow Endowed Professor of Law, Wedon T. Smith Endowed Professor in Civil Law #2, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge; Professor Angela



Denia S. Aiyegbusi, CNA Insurance, New Orleans; Hon. Karen Wells Roby, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans and Tiffany L. Delery, Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes, L.L.P., New Orleans.

A. Allen-Bell, B.K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge; Professor Jeffrey C. Brooks, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center,



Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill; Denia S. Aiyegbusi, CNA Insurance, New Orleans; Emma L. Ladisky; Edward J. Walters, Jr., LSBA President 2025–2026, Baton Rouge; Bailey I. Williams; and Tiffany L. Delery, Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes, L.L.P., New Orleans.



Suit Up Morning Judges (L-R): Hon. Ellen M. Hazeur, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division A, New Orleans; Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB) Coordinator, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans; Hon. Elroy A. James, First City Court of Orleans Parish, Section B, New Orleans



Suit Up Oral Argument and Memo Winners (L-R): Otto K. Massie, Best Defense Memorandum, Best Defense Oral Argument (Morning Session); Emma L. Ladisky, Best Prosecution Oral Argument (Morning Session); Bailey I. Williams, Best Defense Oral Argument (Afternoon Session); Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill, Best Prosecution Oral Argument (Afternoon Session); Ja'Wayne A. White, Best Prosecution Memorandum

Baton Rouge.

Job Shadowing Employers: 24th Judicial District Court (Hon. Lee V. Faulkner, Jr., Division P; Hon. Shayna B. Morvant, Division B); Adams and Reese, L.L.P.; Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo, Matherne & Bell, L.L.C.; Deutsch Kerrigan LLP; Entergy Services, LLC; Hair Shunnarah Trial Attorneys, LLC; Irwin, Fritchie, Urquhart, Moore & Daniels, L.L.C.; Kelly Hart Pitre; Matthews Law Office, LLC; Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office; Orleans Parish Civil District Court (Hon. Bernadette D'Souza, Division K); Phelps; Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, L.L.P.; Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C.

Judges' Panel: Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB) Coordinator, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans; Orleans Parish Civil District Court (Hon. Ellen M. Hazeur, Division A; Hon. Elroy A. James, Division B; Hon. Omar K. Mason, Division E; Hon. Lori W. Jupiter, Division I).

Tour Presenters: Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans (Kimberly Jones, JD, Associate Dean of Admissions; Allyson LaBruzza, Law Admissions Counselor); Tulane University Law School, New Orleans (Tracie N. Ransom, JD, Assistant Dean for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Julia M. Spencer, JD, Assistant Director of Admission; Emily Wojna-Hodnett, JD, Assistant Dean of Students).

Hon. Tracey E. Flemings-Davillier, Section B, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, New Orleans; Daniel L. Engelberg, Chief District Defender, Orleans Public Defender's Office, New Orleans; Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, New Orleans (Jason R. Williams, District Attorney; Micah Ince, Chief of Staff); Louisiana Supreme Court, New Orleans (Justice Piper D. Griffin, Louisiana Supreme Court, 7th District, New Orleans; Sara V. Pixon, Head of Public Services, Louisiana Supreme Court Library, New Orleans; Trina S. Vincent, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Community Relations, Louisiana Supreme Court, New Orleans); Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB) Coordinator, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans.

College and Law School Admission Presenters: Blair R. Boles, Assistant Director of Admissions at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Breleigh Bentivegna, Admissions Counselor, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond; Dylan G. Rhoton, 2022 Suit Up Alumnus, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Special thanks to our lunch sponsors: Tulane University Law School and Shake Shack Canal (Yunior Batista, General Manager; Anthony Paniagua, Assistant General Manager).

Interns: William T. David, 2023 Suit Up Alumnus, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA; Benjamin B. So, 2023 Suit Up Alumnus, Tulane University, New Orleans; Adrienne A. Boutte, 2L, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge.



Participating in the Legal Research & Writing Session (L-R) Tyler D. Bickham; Sylvia C. Capiton; Professor Emily A. Bishop, Director of the Lawyering Program and Professor of Practice, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans; Bailey I. Williams and Danie M. Hamilton.



Participating in the Contracts Session (L-R) Macy J. Hall; Emma L. Ladisky; Professor Kenya J. H. Smith, Associate Law Professor, Byron R. Kantrow Endowed Professor of Law, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge; Estefania J. Antunez; Abigail A. Schoen.



Participating in the Transitional Justice and Constitutional Law Session (L-R): Ximena G. Vasquez; Abigail A. Schoen; Professor Angela A. Allen-Bell, B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge; Angelica H. Rodriguez; Mary C. Bowlin.



Participating in the Oral Argument Workshop: How to Deliver an Oral Argument Session (L-R): Mary C. Bowlin; Estefania J. Antunez; Professor Jeffrey C. Brooks, Assistant Professor, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge; Cheyenne M. Lewis, Macy J. Hall.



Participating in a tour of the Louisiana Supreme Court (L-R): Benjamin B. So, Intern, 2023 Suit Up Alumnus, Tulane University, New Orleans; Emma L. Ladisky; Mary C. Bowlin; Estefania J. Antunez; Angelica H. Rodriguez; Selin G. Greer; Macy J. Hall; Sylvia C. Capiton; Tyler D. Bickham; Victoria G. Baez; Justice Piper D. Griffin, Louisiana Supreme Court, 7th District, New Orleans; Nhachi C. Vu; Makenzie R. Jackson; Bailey I. Williams; Cheyenne M. Lewis; Abigail A. Schoen; Shelby D. Gordon; Christopher H. Juge II; Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill; Julianna A. Cunnikin; Otto K. Massie; Danie M. Hamilton; Ja'Wayne A. White; William T. David, Intern, 2023 Suit Up Alumnus, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA.