

2025 Suit Up for the Future
High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program
June 9, 2025 – June 27, 2025
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 and Just the Beginning
New Orleans, Louisiana



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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.”

2025 SUMMER LEGAL INSTITUTE

SCHOLARS

Name	Grade	School
Estefania J. Antunez	11 th Grade	Antunez Classical Christian Academy
Victoria G. Baez	12 th Grade	Belle Chasse High School
Ja’Ryan D. Berryhill	11 th Grade	Edna Karr High School
Tyler D. Bickham	11 th Grade	Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy
Mary C. Bowlin	12 th Grade	St. Joseph's Academy
Sylvia C. Capiton	11 th Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Julianna A. Cunnikin	11 th Grade	Hahnville High School
Shelby D. Gordon	12 th Grade	McAdory High School
Selin G. Greer	11 th Grade	Mount Carmel Academy
Macy J. Hall	11 th Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Danie M. Hamilton	12 th Grade	Cabrini High School
Makenzie R. Jackson	11 th Grade	Archbishop Hannan High School
Christopher H. Juge II	11 th Grade	Jesuit High School
Emma L. Ladisky	12 th Grade	Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA)
Cheyenne M. Lewis	11 th Grade	Benjamin Franklin High School
Otto K. Massie	11 th Grade	University Liggett School
Angelica H. Rodriguez	11 th Grade	Thomas Jefferson High School
Abigail A. Schoen	11 th Grade	Mount Carmel Academy

2025 Suit Up for the Future Program Agenda

Week One

Monday, June 09, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in Suit Up Photo IDs
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome Presenter: Edward J. Walters, Jr., LSBA President 2025-2026
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Welcome Choose Law Video (American Young Lawyers Division) Presenter: Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB), Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Welcome Orientation/Program Overview Introduction of Interns Presenter: Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Past Co-chair Denia S. Aiyegbusi, CNA Insurance, New Orleans, LA; Co-Chair Tiffany L. Delery, Chehardy Sherman Williams Recile & Hayes, New Orleans, LA; Suit Up Interns
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break Suit Up Photo IDs
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Icebreaker Presenter: Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Past Co-chair Denia S. Aiyegbusi, CNA Insurance, New Orleans, LA; Co-Chair Tiffany L. Delery, Chehardy Sherman Williams Recile & Hayes, New Orleans, LA; Suit Up Interns
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Introduction of Mock Problem for Oral Argument Presenter: Members of the Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee, Past Co-chair Denia S. Aiyegbusi, CNA Insurance, New Orleans, LA; Co-chair Tiffany L. Delery, Chehardy Sherman Williams Recile & Hayes, New Orleans, LA; Suit Up Interns
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch Suit Up Photo IDs
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Legal Research and Writing

	Presenter: Professor Emily A. Bishop, Director of the Lawyering Program and Professor of Practice, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans, LA
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Mock Legal Problem/Questions, Mock Legal Argument Team Assignments; Suit Up Evaluation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Memorandum Outline Preparation Discussion of Mock Problem and Case Law Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Contracts Presenter: 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, LA
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Memorandum and Oral Argument Preparation Viewing of Past Oral Arguments Presenter: Suit Up Interns
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Memorandum Outline and Oral Argument Preparation Viewing of Past Oral Arguments Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Resume Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Memorandum Outline Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Thursday, June 12, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in MEMO OUTLINE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Law School Admission Preparation Workshop Presenter: Blair R. Boles, Assistant Director of Admissions, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Constitutional Law Presenter: Professor Angela A. Allen-Bell, B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	College Admission Preparation Workshop and Personal Statement Tips Presenter: Breleigh Bentivegna, Admissions Counselor, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA
12:00 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Oral Argument Workshop: How to Deliver an Oral Argument Presenter: Professor Jeffrey C. Brooks, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	Break
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Resume Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Friday, June 13, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in DRAFT OF RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE
9:00 am – 9:30 am	College Admission Session: How I Gained Admission to Harvard University Presenter: Dylan G. Rhoton, 2022 Suit Up Alumnus, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Memorandum Preparation

	Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Travel to the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, and Security Check (NOTE: Student ID REQUIRED/ MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED) Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., Courtroom B437, New Orleans, LA
1:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Federal Court Presentation, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Presenter: Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB), Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Memorandum Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Week Two

Monday, June 16, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in DRAFT OF MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE
9:00 am – 9:45 am	Travel to tour, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law 7214 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA
9:45 am – 10:00 am	Arrival and Check-in Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Presentation and Tour Presenter: Kimberly Jones, MS, JD, Associate Dean of Operations & Enrollment Management, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans, LA
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Travel to tour, Tulane University Law School 6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Lunch at Tulane University Law School Pizza, Sponsored by Tulane University Law School
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Tulane University Law School Presentation and Tour Presenter: Tracie N. Ransom, J.D., Assistant Dean for Community, Engagement & Opportunity, Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA; Julia M.

	Spencer, J.D., Associate Director of Admission, Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Job Shadowing Dessert Meet and Greet, Louisiana Bar Center (Invitation to attorneys, firms, courts, and agencies providing a job shadowing opportunity)
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Memorandum Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Job Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT report to the Louisiana Bar Center!) Go directly to assigned locations.
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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Job Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT report to the Louisiana Bar Center!) Go directly to assigned locations.
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Thursday, June 19, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in FINAL RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Memorandum Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Memorandum Preparation Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Friday, June 20, 2025

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Federal Holiday (Do NOT report to the Louisiana Bar Center!)
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Week Three

Monday, June 23, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in FINAL MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE
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9:00 am – 9:30 am	Travel to tour and Security Check: Orleans Parish Criminal District Court 2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA STUDENT ID REQUIRED/ MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED
9:30 am – 11:30 am	Orleans Parish Criminal District Court 2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA STUDENT ID REQUIRED/ MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED Presenter: Honorable Tracey E. Flemings-Davillier, Section B, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, New Orleans, LA
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Travel to tour, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office 619 S. White St., New Orleans, LA
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	District Attorney Presentation and Tour Presenter: Jason Williams, District Attorney, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Oral Argument Preparation
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Travel to tour and Security Check: Louisiana Supreme Court 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA STUDENT ID REQUIRED/ MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Tour of Louisiana Supreme Court, Library, and Museum Presenter: Justice Piper D. Griffin, Louisiana Supreme Court, District 7, New Orleans, LA; Sara V. Pixon, Head of Public Service, Louisiana Supreme Court, New Orleans, LA; Trina S. Vincent, Louisiana Supreme Court, Deputy Judicial Administrator, Community Relations Department, Louisiana Supreme Court, New Orleans, LA
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Travel to Louisiana Bar Center
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Oral Argument Preparation Individual Video Rehearsal
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Travel to tour, Orleans Parish Public Defenders' Office 2601 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Orleans Parish Public Defenders' Office Presentation and Tour Presenter: Daniel L. Engelberg, Chief Defender, Orleans Parish Public Defenders' Office, New Orleans, LA
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Suit Up Jeopardy - Defense versus Prosecution What is...How well do you know the Mock Legal Problem? Presenter: Suit Up Interns
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Suit Up Evaluation
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

Thursday, June 26, 2025

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

Friday, June 27, 2025

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-in
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Final Oral Argument Preparation
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Travel to the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED

10:00 am – 11:50 am	Oral Arguments Presentation United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Travel to the Louisiana Bar Center
12:00 pm – 12:35 pm	Lunch and Suit Up Evaluation, Louisiana Bar Center Deliberation by Judges
12:35 pm – 12:45 pm	Travel to the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Security Check Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED
12:45 pm – 2:40 pm	Oral Arguments Presentation United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA
2:40 pm – 3:10 pm	Deliberation by Judges Awards Ceremony (Judges' Overall Impressions of Oral Argument Presentations, Oral Argument Award(s), Memorandum Award(s), and Certificates of Completion)
3:10 pm – 3:25 pm	Sign Out and Transportation Arrival

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 Young Cho 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 Yin 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 1977, **Thomas Tang (Deceased)** became the first Chinese American to serve as a U.S. Court of Appeals judge when he was appointed to the Ninth Circuit.

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.

In 2010, **Denny Chin** became the first Asian American appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

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 Jolivet 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.

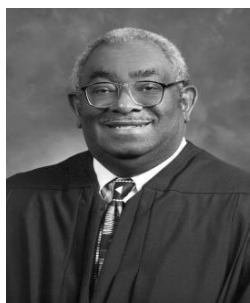
KAREN WELLS ROBY, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE



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.

Just the Beginning

Learn more about the JTB Judicial Externship Program by going to www.jtbf.org.



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

PROGRAM SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Angela A. Allen-Bell holds the B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professorship and is currently a full professor at Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Professor Bell is a respected local, national, and international legal scholar and expert on the interplay between race and justice. It was her research that catapulted the movement to end the use of non-unanimous juries in Louisiana. And she is one of the founding members of the advocacy team that led this effort to reform Louisiana's jury system through the adoption of legislation requiring unanimous juries in criminal trials in the state courts.

Prof. Bell has the distinction of having worked on several other historic advocacy campaigns, such as the 50th Commemoration of Students United and the 1972 Southern University student movement, the Angola 3 case, Soledad Brother John Clutchette's case, Vincent Simmons' case, and the case of Robert Holbrook. She has also spent years engaging in narrative change work on behalf of the Black Panther Party and has become a formidable authority on the group's history. When, in January 2022, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued a posthumous pardon to Homer Plessy, Professor Bell was selected to speak as the historian for the occasion. Professor Bell is also an author. She recently released a three-book series that begins with *"Under Indictment: Race, Juries and Justice in Louisiana."*

Professor Bell is an activist scholar who has made many media appearances and participated in many local, national, and international collaborations to discuss her scholarship and advocacy work, including *La Presse* (France), *Le Nouvel Observateur* (France), MSNBC (News Nation with Tamron Hall), CBS News, NBC Nightly News and National Public Radio (All Things Considered). She has twice submitted written testimony to the United States Senate's Judiciary Committee on the Constitution, and she has been published in or quoted in a range of print media sources, such as the Washington Post, Capital B News, Law 360, Russia Today TV, the New Yorker, the Huffington Post, and the Advocate.

She is a member of the National Black Lawyers-Top 100, an invitation-only society, and the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, an invitation-only society whose

membership is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. In January 2025, the Center for African and African American Studies at Southern University at New Orleans recognized her as its 2025 Living Legend Award recipient. In 2024, CIO Views Magazine named her one of the “Top 10 Most Influential Leaders Making an Impact in the Legal Industry.” Prior to this, the Girl Scouts Louisiana East named her a Woman of Distinction, the Drum Newspaper selected her as one of its “People for 2021,” she was named a Louisiana Leading Lady, she received the National Civil Rights Conference Civil Rights and Social Justice Award and, following a national search, she was selected as a member of the first cohort of the Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing (2022).

The Louisiana Senate has described her as a “beacon of hope” whose “indomitable spirit” has “left an enduring imprint on the community.” The House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has commended her “for her achievements as a legal scholar” and has recognized and recorded “the tremendous pride and honor that she brings” to the state of Louisiana. Jeremiah 5:1 says, “Give me one who seeks justice.” Professor Bell has adopted this call as her personal edict. Her signature traits are her never-ceasing desire to fight injustice and her tireless commitment to dismantling racial hierarchies and systems that harm.



Taylor Avery is a recent 2025 Loyola College of Law graduate. Before law school, Taylor received master's in business administration and upon law school graduation, received her juris doctorate with a specialization in law, technology, and entrepreneurship to further strengthen business acumen. While in law school, she served as a Rule XX Student Practitioner in the law clinic, President of the Black Law Students Association A.P. Tureaud

Chapter, Director of Corporate Relations for the Southwest Region of the Black Law Student Association, and competed in mock trial competitions with the trial advocacy center. Currently, Taylor (and her rescue dog Prince the Pit) is studying for the bar and welcome all prayers, encouragement, hugs, and coffee.



Emily A. 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 spent a summer interning 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 also served as the faculty advisor for Loyola’s ABA Moot Court Team, which competes annually in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition. Her article, “Avoiding ‘Ally Theater’ in Legal Writing Assignments,” was published in 2018 in the legal writing journal *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*. Her past service includes serving as a Managing Editor for *The Second Draft*, a publication of the Legal Writing Institute; as a member of the New Directors Committee for the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD); and as a member of the Conference Program Committee for ALWD.



Breleigh Bentivegna is originally from Paulina, Louisiana, and currently resides in Hammond, Louisiana. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies with a minor in Marketing from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2023.

During her time at Southeastern, Ms. Bentivegna was a dedicated member of the Lionettes Dance Team for five years, where she contributed to the team's success in capturing two national championships. Her experience reflects a strong commitment to teamwork, discipline, and school spirit.



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.



Adrienne Bouffe (Intern) is a rising second-year law student at Southern University Law Center, where she is actively involved in student leadership and academic excellence. A proud graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in Mass Communication and a concentration in Political Communication, Adrienne brings a strong foundation in advocacy, communication, and public service to her legal studies.

At SULC, Adrienne is a member of the Black Law Students Association, serves as a Student Ambassador, and was selected as a Summer Research Assistant to the Chancellor, assisting with legal and institutional initiatives. She has also secured a Summer Associate position at FormanWatkins in New Orleans, where she will gain hands-on experience in complex and commercial litigation.

Prior to law school, Adrienne worked as a Trial Assistant at the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office, where she supported prosecutors in trial preparation and courtroom proceedings, and as a Legal Assistant at a local Personal Injury Firm, where she participated in client meetings, depositions, and mediations. She has also been deeply engaged in diversity and equity initiatives, community service, and empowerment efforts.



Brandon Briscoe is a chief deputy to Clerk of Court Carol Michel. Before joining the Court, he practiced civil litigation for more than 12 years in state and federal courts. He earned degrees from The George Washington University Law School, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Notre Dame Seminary. In his free time, he volunteers on non-profit boards, coaches his children's sports teams, and leads tours of St. Louis Cathedral.



Jeffrey Brooks is a Professor of Professional Practice and the Director of Advocacy Programs at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Professor Brooks has been a member of LSU Law's faculty since 2010. He teaches courses in international law, evidence, and trial and appellate advocacy. He also directs LSU Law's highly competitive and successful moot court, mock trial, and dispute resolution programs. From 2010 to 2024, he was also the director of the Law Center's Field Placement program. Before joining the LSU Law faculty, Professor

Brooks practiced law as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Special Federal Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department, where he was a trial attorney representing the City of New York in complex federal civil rights cases. Professor Brooks received a Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University School of Law in 2006 and a B.A. in Geography-Anthropology from Vassar College in 2003. Professor Brooks is an active licensed member of the New York State Bar.



Marcus Brown is executive vice president and general counsel of Entergy, where he oversees the legal, ethics and compliance, corporate communications, external affairs, and corporate security and governance groups. He also provides legal counsel to the chair and CEO, board of directors, and senior management.

Brown leads a team committed to advancing Entergy's growth strategy while also utilizing sustainable business practices that integrate environmental, social, governance, and economic objectives and concerns.

Throughout his tenure, Brown has been instrumental in several community initiatives. Under his leadership, Entergy's legal department has significantly increased its pro bono commitments. Brown launched an initiative in 2012 that led company lawyers and paralegals to provide more than 22,000 hours of pro bono services by the end of 2024. In 2018, Entergy furthered this commitment by appointing its first full-time, in-house counsel role dedicated to pro bono legal assistance — among the first for Fortune 500 companies. This dedication earned the department several notable recognitions, including the Pro Bono Institute's 2025 Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award.

Before being named executive vice president in 2013, Brown served as senior vice president and general counsel and previously served as vice president and deputy general counsel. Before joining Entergy in 1995, Brown practiced with the New Orleans-based Stone Pigman law firm.

He served as chair of the New Orleans 2025 Super Bowl LIX Host Committee. He is on the board of directors for Tulane University and Energy Insurance Mutual, the advisory board of the Tulane Center for Energy Law, and the advisory council for the Laborde Energy Law Center at Louisiana State University. He is a frequent lecturer and publisher on topics impacting the utility industry and the legal profession.

Among his many accomplishments, The Financial Times named Brown one of the top in-house general counsels globally in 2020. The National Legal Aid and Defender Association honored him with the 2020 Exemplar Award. The United Way of Southeast Louisiana honored Brown with its 2021 Alexis de Tocqueville

Society Award for his career of community service and commitment to eradicating poverty. Additionally, the Louisiana State Bar Association presented Brown with its 2019 Distinguished Attorney Award, and the New Orleans Bar Association presented him with its President's Award in 2018, acknowledging his commitment to community service and high ethical standards.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Southern University A&M College and a Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center, where he was a member of the Law Review. He also received an MBA from the Tulane University A.B. Freeman School of Business.

Entergy produces, transmits, and distributes electricity to power life for 3 million customers through our operating companies in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. We're investing in growth and improved reliability and resilience of our energy system while working to keep energy rates affordable for our customers. We're also investing in cleaner energy generation like modern natural gas, nuclear, and renewable energy. A nationally recognized leader in sustainability and corporate citizenship, we deliver more than \$100 million in economic benefits each year to the communities we serve through philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy. Entergy is a Fortune 500 company headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has approximately 12,000 employees.



Hailey Cummiskey is a member of the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice Group, representing corporate clients in litigation and transactional matters on the state and federal levels.

Hailey has experience in all aspects of the litigation process, both in and out of the courtroom, from inception of any matter and consultation with clients, to the resolution of the case. A former Adams & Reese law clerk, Hailey has experience in several practice areas, including oil and gas, medical malpractice, labor and employment, maritime, and insurance coverage.

Hailey earned her J.D. from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she was a Development Editor for the Louisiana Law Review. She was a Hebert Scholar, a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, a research assistant for Professor William R. Corbett, and the Torts Academic Tutor. Hailey was also an extern in the

Chambers of United States Magistrate Judge, the Hon. Donna Phillips Currault, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Graduating from LSU, Hailey received her Bachelor of Arts in English. She served as Vice President of Membership and Recruitment, as well as Director of Social Media for the Louisiana Beta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women. A New Orleans native, Hailey graduated high school from Mount Carmel Academy.

Hailey is proud of her commitment to volunteerism and community service. She is a former volunteer for Read, Lead, Achieve, working with children to develop learning and reading skills, and organizing book drives for elementary schools in need.



William T. David (Intern) is a rising sophomore and a second-year student at Morehouse College, currently majoring in Finance. With a strong passion for helping people, William pursues a career in Social Justice to assist those wrongfully accused and offer protection to targeted groups.

William is a former alumnus of Suit Up for the Future, graduating from the program in 2023. This program has enabled him to be part of many organizations on campus, including the Spelhouse Pre-Law Society, the Morehouse Business Association, and Breaking the Cycle Global, Inc. William also enjoys participating in community service projects in his area, as well as serving at his church as a volunteer. William is very dedicated to making an impact on and off campus whenever he can.



Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier has served as a Louisiana State Court Judge since March 2010. She currently serves as Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, where she has presided as Judge in Section B since January 2013 and as Deputy Chief Judge from 2021–2023. As Chief Judge, in addition to managing a complex docket in an efficient and professional manner, Judge Flemings-Davillier oversees Court administration, operations, programs, and budgetary matters. She also serves as Judicial Liaison over Court Intervention Services, which encompasses several specialized programs, including Drug Court, Domestic Violence Monitoring Court, Mental Health Court, and Pretrial Services. She serves on the

Court's Rules, Pretrial Services, Legislative, Magistrate Oversight, and Finance Committees.

Judge Flemings-Davillier previously presided as Judge in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court from 2010 to 2012, where she served as Deputy Chief Judge in both 2011 and 2012.

Appointed by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson (retired), Judge Flemings-Davillier serves on the Louisiana Judicial College Governing Board, which develops and oversees educational and training programs for judges statewide. She has served on various judicial panels in connection with the Louisiana Judicial College and other organizations and recently served as Co-Chair of the 2025 Fall Judges Conference.

Judge Flemings-Davillier has been recently appointed to the Louisiana State Law Institute Council as the Representative of District Judges for the 2025–2029 term. She also serves as a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court District Court Advisory Committee, the Federal Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the City of New Orleans Blueprint for Safety, the City of New Orleans Criminal Justice Council, and the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Working Group.

Throughout her judicial career, Judge Flemings-Davillier has served on numerous criminal justice reform and judicial/legal panels and is an active member of several judicial, bar, and civic organizations, including the National Bar Association Judicial Council, Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana District Judges Association (Department of Public Safety & Corrections Committee and New Judges Committee), Executive Board of the Fourth Circuit Judges Association, Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., New Orleans Bar Association, Women's Leadership Academy at Loyola University (Cohort 3), and the Host Committee for the 2024 National Urban League Annual Conference.



Tiffany Delery Davis is a trial lawyer in the Chehardy Sherman Williams litigation section. She is also a qualified civil mediator and arbitrator. Tiffany has nearly 20 years of experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal court. Before joining the Trial Team at Chehardy Sherman Williams, Tiffany served as Managing Counsel at Ron Austin Law and was a Shareholder and Chief Diversity Officer at Liskow and Lewis.

Tiffany has represented clients in matters related to mass torts, personal injury, maritime and oilfield torts and contracts, insurance and indemnity, environmental cleanup, and property damage. She also has experience handling e-discovery, toxic tort litigation, and regulatory and transactional matters. She has spoken on issues relating to the nuances of Louisiana law, environmental litigation, insurance and indemnity, electronic discovery, the Medicare Secondary Payor Act, offshore drilling, DEI, and ADR. Tiffany maintains an active ADR practice. She is a member of the Panel of Neutrals at maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.) and was appointed by the Eastern District of Louisiana to serve on the Court's In re Ida Claims Streamlined Settlement Program Panel of Neutrals. She is also a member of the American Arbitration Association's Roster of Commercial Arbitrators. Tiffany was appointed to serve as the 2024 Chair of the Federal Bar Association ADR Section's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Tiffany graduated from Tulane Law School in 2005. Prior to beginning her legal career, Tiffany served for eight years as an Intelligence Analyst in the United States Marine Corps Reserve with over three years of decorated active-duty service at home and abroad. Tiffany is married to Brandon Davis, a Partner at Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Tiffany and Brandon are the proud parents of three children.

Tiffany is active in many professional and community organizations, often serving in Board positions. She has achieved a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating. She is also recognized in Best Lawyers in America, Louisiana Super Lawyers, and The National Black Lawyers "Top 100".



Endya Eames Delpit is a New Orleans native, and for over 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 customer agreements. Endya also serves as the primary legal contact on issues related to political activity throughout the Entergy system. She graduated from Howard University in 1992, with honors, and she is a 1995 Southern University Law Center (SULC) *magna cum laude* graduate.



Judge Bernadette G. D'Souza is the first Family Court Judge of Civil District Court New Orleans, and the first Asian-American Judge for the State of Louisiana. She was the Chief Judge of Civil District Court from 2021-2023. Judge D'Souza was previously a practicing attorney who dedicated her legal career to public interest law, representing poor clients in family law, housing, and domestic violence for over 18 years, as Managing Attorney of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

Judge D'Souza received her Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University Law School. After graduation, she spent time promoting awareness to domestic violence issues and educating law students. Judge D'Souza was an adjunct law professor at Tulane Law School and a frequent guest lecturer at Loyola University of Law. She is on the Faculty of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence and participates in numerous lectures for the Bar Associations. She was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to the Committee on Bar Admissions and to the Self-Represented Litigants Task Force. Judge D'Souza has served on many community and professional boards. She was the President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) in 2019-2020.

On an international level, she was a speaker at the "Role of Women in Justice" Conference in Yerevan, Armenia, and a panelist at the United Nations Convention in New York. At the invitation from His Holiness Pope Francis, Judge

D'Souza presented on Equal Access to Justice at the First Pan-American Judges Summit at the Vatican. In 2020, Judge D'Souza gave a Keynote address virtually, due to COVID-19, at the International Association of Women Judges Conference in New Zealand. She was a Keynote Speaker at a Human Rights Conference in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and at the Seoul Family Court International Conference in Korea. More recently, she was elected to the Board of the International Association of Women Judges.

Judge D'Souza has received several prominent awards for her professional and personal commitment to the community, being recognized as one of the City's Icon and Women of the Year Award. For her outstanding leadership in promoting the vision, core values, and mission of NAWJ, Judge D'Souza received the NAWJ Leadership Award.

Judge D'Souza was married to the late Dr. Terence D'Souza for 41 years. They are proud parents of three children and have four grandchildren.



Catherine R. Filippi focuses her practice in civil litigation, with particular emphasis on personal injury defense and residential construction cases. She is a passionate advocate for her clients and takes pride in helping them efficiently achieve favorable results. Before joining Deutsch Kerrigan, Catherine was the Knowledge Manager at a large local law firm, where her responsibilities ranged from business development to helping oversee the firm's growth initiatives.

During law school, Catherine had the unique opportunity to become a “certified legal intern” in the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. During her time in Miami, Catherine second-chaired several felony and misdemeanor jury trials in addition to arguing motions, communicating with incarcerated clients, and assisting with voir dire. Catherine credits her time in Miami for her patience and love of the fast-paced nature of litigation.

Outside of work, Catherine enjoys reading, listening to American history podcasts, watching (and singing along to) Broadway musicals, kayaking, and attending live musical performances and festivals in New Orleans.



Paige Franckiewicz is an Associate in the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice Group, assisting in state, federal, and administrative proceedings.

Based in New Orleans, Paige represents clients in diverse industries from case inception to resolution. Her litigation experience covers a variety of practice areas, including labor and employment, land use, insurance, and education.

Paige is a proud alumna of Loyola University New Orleans, where she received both her B.Acc. and J.D. During her time at Loyola, she was inducted into the Order of the Barristers and won the Harry Herman Award for Excellence in Advocacy.



Jordan Ginsberg has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Louisiana since 2009. He is Chief of the Office's Public Integrity Unit and the Chief of the Monetary Penalties and Recovery Unit (MPRU). He previously served as the Office's Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Coordinator. Mr. Ginsberg specializes in the prosecution of public corruption matters and other complex white-collar crimes, including cybercrimes, tax offenses, health care fraud, and child exploitation and trafficking. He has successfully charged and convicted numerous federal, state, and local public

officials and individuals involved in a variety of cyber-related offenses. Mr. Ginsberg has tried approximately 11 federal criminal matters, including the corruption prosecution of a thirty-year District Attorney and the first juvenile sex trafficking matter tried in the Eastern District of Louisiana. He has also argued before the Fifth and Seventh Circuit Courts of Appeals. Mr. Ginsberg has spoken at conferences nationally and internationally on topics including public corruption and cybercrimes. Jordan is 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.



John Jerry Glas is the Chair of the Civil Litigation Department at Deutsch Kerrigan. Jerry is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has tried 117 civil or criminal trials, including 79 jury trials. Jerry has been admitted pro hac vice in 10 states and has had success on both sides of the aisle. In 2021, as lead trial counsel for the plaintiff (Lindale Pipeline, LLC), Jerry obtained a \$26 million verdict in Houston. In 2012, as lead trial counsel for the defendant (TASER International, Inc.), Jerry

obtained a zero verdict in St. Louis, which was listed by Missouri Lawyers Weekly as one of that year's "Largest Defense Verdicts."

Jerry is the author of *The New Science of Trial Advocacy: The Waiter Pivot*, which was published by the American Bar Association (ABA Publishing) in 2023. The "Waiter Pivot" is an alternative approach to trial advocacy that embraces the recent paradigm shift in jury psychology and teaches attorneys how to surprise, disarm, and persuade modern jurors. Forget direct advocacy, conventional cross-examination, and bobblehead experts. Jerry encourages trial lawyers to rewrite the old trial playbook, reinvent themselves, and redefine their role in the courtroom.

Jerry's innovative approach to trial advocacy was highlighted on the cover of Louisiana Super Lawyers® in 2022, in a featured article titled "How Jerry Glas Develops His Rapport with Juries." And, in 2024, Jerry was inducted into the CityBusiness Leadership in Law Hall of Fame. He is a frequent presenter, having lectured locally and nationally on trial strategy, jury selection, cross-examination, expert witnesses, life care plans, and traumatic brain injury (TBI) cases.

Jerry enjoys the challenge of being retained as "rescue counsel," which requires him to parachute into cases months or weeks before trial. And he is often retained by national insurance companies to perform one of his "TBI triages" and assist local counsel with evaluating and defending against TBI claims.

Jerry has served on the Trial Advocacy Committee for Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center since 2020 and on the teaching faculty for the Trial Advocacy 3-Day Boot Camp since 2018. As an adjunct professor, Jerry previously enjoyed teaching a full-credit Trial Practice class at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (2009 to 2014).

Jerry considers Deutsch Kerrigan a “teaching hospital.” He firmly believes in the importance of mentoring and training lawyers. Jerry considers it a privilege to try cases with young lawyers, and he looks for opportunities to “get them their first witness.” The Civil Litigation Department includes many lawyers who have tried cases with (or against) Jerry. It reflects Jerry’s personal philosophy that every law firm needs a core group of scrappers who enjoy trying cases together. Because iron sharpens iron.

Jerry was born and raised in New Orleans. Before attending law school, he earned an M.A. in philosophy and taught religion at his alma mater, Jesuit High School. Before joining the firm in 1999, Jerry served as a Senior Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans. He has been married for more than 25 years and has two wonderful daughters and a spoiled Schnauzer.



A lifelong resident of New Orleans, **Justice Piper D. Griffin** graduated from Xavier University Preparatory School (currently St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory School), the University of Notre Dame, and Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Justice Griffin began her legal career practicing in the New Orleans area focusing on casualty litigation. In 2001, after 14 years as a practicing attorney, Justice Griffin was elected to the Orleans Parish Civil District Court and served as its Chief Judge from 2008 to 2010.

In 2020 Justice Griffin was elected to serve as an Associate Justice for District 7 representing portions of both Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, following in the footsteps of Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson and Justice Revius O. Ortique.

Prior to joining the Court, Justice Griffin was active with both the bench and bar, volunteering with many organizations including Juvenile Court’s Teen Court program; the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, serving as its treasurer and corresponding secretary; the New Orleans Bar Association, where she served as a board member and was elected the first African American Chair of the Young Lawyer’s Section. She additionally served as a member of the Louisiana Law & Civil Education Association.

Justice Griffin considers her appointment as the Constitutional Law Bar Examiner for the Louisiana Bar Exam by the Louisiana Supreme Court to be one of her crowning career achievements.

As a member of the bench, Justice Griffin's volunteerism has not stopped. She is the vice president of the Louisiana Judicial Council Foundation/National Bar Association and secretary of the American Judges Association. She is the immediate past president of the Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association. She has previously served as second vice president of the Louisiana Association of District Court Judges, president of the 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association. She is a frequent speaker for the Louisiana State Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, and the Louisiana Judicial College and has been featured on many other national and local programs.

Several years ago, Justice Griffin was appointed and continues to serve as a member of the Louisiana State Law Institute Council.

Justice Griffin lives a life dedicated to serving her community and her profession. As such, she has been and continues to be active in many professional and civic associations and has received numerous awards and certificates in recognition of her accomplishments and her commitment to the community. These include receipt of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) 2020 Thomas Jefferson Justice by the People Award; 2019 Sarah J. Harper Humanitarian Award, which is given during the annual Thurgood Marshall luncheon by the National Bar Association Judicial Council; 2019 First District Missionary Society Women's Department Woman of the Year Award; the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2003 Ernest N. Morial Judicial Pacesetter Award. She was recognized as a YWCA Role Model and also received the 2004 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Award for Exemplary Community Service; the 2003 Alliance for Good Government Civic Award; and the 2002-2003 Data News Weekly Scoop Jones Trailblazer Award.

Justice Griffin is an active member of her church, Second Baptist 6th District. She is a former foster mother and serves as a mentor and surrogate mother to many.



Judge Ellen M. Hazeur was born in New Orleans. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Xavier University in Music Liberal Arts with a minor in Business Administration and her Juris Doctor from Tulane University's School of Law.

Judge Hazeur has had a very diverse legal career. She has been a legislator, an administrator and now, a judge. She began her career in public service in 1994 when she was elected to represent District E on the New Orleans City Council.

As a council member, she was also a utility regulator for the City of New Orleans and oversaw Entergy New Orleans and Cox Communications.

In 2000, Judge Hazeur was elected Clerk of First City Court of New Orleans. As Clerk, she was the administrator of the clerical and processing branch of the First City Court of New Orleans. Her office was responsible for recording and safeguarding all transactions and records pertaining to First City Court cases. She effectively managed a staff of 25 plus employees and oversaw the filing of up to 25,000 cases per year.

As an attorney, Judge Hazeur served as a Deputy Special Master in the *In Re: New Orleans Train Car Leakage Fire Litigation*. This class action resulted in over \$2 billion dollars being distributed to 1,000 plus litigants.

In March of 2018, Judge Hazeur was elected to serve as Judge of Division A on the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. She ran for the position of judge because she realized that she wanted to play a more direct role in ensuring that true justice, efficiency, and access to justice are afforded to all people.

Judge Hazeur loves serving as a judge but also enjoys being active and visible in her community. She is married and is the mother of one son.



Judge Elroy A. James is Judge of First City Court for the Parish of Orleans, Section B. He was elected on August 10, 2023. Judge James previously served as an AAG for the Louisiana Department of Justice. He brings over 20 years of practicing law to the bench, having represented plaintiffs and defendants in complex civil litigation matters. His over 20-year legal career spans

both the private and public sectors. Judge James is a graduate of Southern University Law Center (JD) and was Articles Editor of the Law Review. He also earned a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation from Georgetown Law Center. Judge James is active in his community and is completing his seventh and final year as president of the most recognizable Mardi Gras organization in New Orleans and our state, the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Inc. He is also a proud life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.



Micah Ince serves as Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant District Attorney to District Attorney Jason Rogers Williams. She has held this role since he took office in January 2021, and oversees all financial, human resource, and administrative functions of the organization. Prior to this role, Micah served as Legislative Director to then-Council President Jason Williams at the New Orleans City Council.

Micah is a licensed Louisiana attorney with a broad legal background in criminal defense, personal injury, family law, and mass torts. She earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Indiana, her Master's in Public Administration and Criminology from Ball State University, and her Juris Doctor from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in October 2013.

She is an alumna of the Loyola University Institute of Politics and a former Affirmative Litigation Fellow with the Public Rights Project. Micah lives in uptown New Orleans with her husband, Mike, and their son, William.



Christy Kane, began her career as a class action litigator at Adams and Reese, LLP in New Orleans. While at the firm, she was on the Ethics and Conflicts Committee, the Recruiting Committee, and was the volunteer pro bono coordinator for her office. In 2007, she was named the ConocoPhillips/Adams and Reese Fellow for Louisiana Appleseed, splitting her time between her law practice and launching

the state-wide nonprofit, which engages professionals to do policy and advocacy-related pro bono work. While a partner at A&R, Ms. Kane won numerous pro bono awards, including 2008 Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year; she was also named a CityBusiness Woman of the Year in 2007. In late 2008, after

eleven years of private practice at A&R, Ms. Kane left the firm to become Louisiana Appleseed's full-time Executive Director. Then, after directing the nonprofit for eleven years, in 2018, she departed to become Entergy's first-ever Pro Bono Counsel. In her current role, she works closely with members of Entergy's Legal Department to develop and drive its pro bono program, supporting current initiatives and implementing new programs that grow, promote and advance the department's pro bono efforts and strategy.

She has a law degree from The George Washington University; her undergraduate degree is from Loyola University. Ms. Kane is a member of the Louisiana State and Federal Bar Associations. She is a Fellow of the Loyola Institute of Politics and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. Ms. Kane previously acted as co-chair of the FDIC Southeast Alliance for Economic Inclusion's Committee to Address Needs of the Unbanked and Underbanked. She has also served on the Louisiana Supreme Court's Pro Se Task Force, as well as the ABA's Language Access Standards Project. Ms. Kane has been an appointed member of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission since 2016.

In 2010, Ms. Kane was awarded Volunteer Advocate of the Year by ASI Federal Credit Union's A Shared Initiative, Inc. The following year, the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association awarded Ms. Kane the Camille Gravel Award for public service. In 2019, Louisiana Appleseed presented Ms. Kane with its 10-year Legacy Good Apple Award. Ms. Kane was also recognized as a Leader in Law in 2024 by CityBusiness.



Nisha Kate is the Division 'K' Law Clerk. She is originally from New Jersey. For her undergraduate degree, she attended Washington University in St. Louis.

She then attended Tulane Law School here in New Orleans. After spending three years, she decided to stay and practice in Louisiana. She enjoys the variety in her position in the domestic court and hopes to eventually practice in family law.



Robert Kerrigan has been representing clients in litigation for more than 45 years. Today, Robert defends insurers and other clients in personal injury and wrongful death litigation, including certified class actions and cases involving catastrophic events. He has experience handling cases involving explosions and other industrial accidents, toxic exposure, product defects, and aviation accidents, trucking accidents, and other transportation-related claims.

Among Robert's most notable results are the victories he obtained for insurers and insurance brokers in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In one case, he obtained dismissal of claims exceeding \$18 million in total value against an insurance broker by proving that the broker placed proper coverage. Robert also successfully represented Pan American Airlines and the U.S. Government as lead trial counsel in the defense of more than 200 claims arising out of the airline's fatal crash just outside of New Orleans, Louisiana in 1982.

Although initially Robert had not considered law school, witnessing his father's successful legal career as co-founder of Deutsch Kerrigan inspired him. He has since amassed extensive experience, handling a wide range of notable cases throughout his career. He remains deeply passionate about his practice and eagerly anticipates celebrating the firm's 100-year anniversary in 2026.

Continuously dedicated to his work, Robert actively mentors the firm's younger lawyers, encouraging them to adopt his methods while emphasizing the importance of individuality. He believes in teaching principles that resonate with each individual, recognizing that success comes not from emulation but from understanding and applying core principles effectively. He is proud to have played a vital role in shaping the firm's next generation of advocates and advisors.

Before attending law school, Robert completed basic Officer, Airborne & Ranger training in the U.S. Army's Infantry Branch. He retired from the U.S. Army as a Captain in 1973. Today he is actively involved in supporting and advocating for veteran rights.

In his free time, Robert enjoys spending time with his friends and family, hunting, golfing, and traveling.



Joining the Admissions Office in 2023, **Allyson LaBruzza** is a New Orleans native and alumna of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Allyson received her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy with Honors ('13) from the main campus after completing a thesis in bioethics with former University President Father Kevin Wildes. She then earned her Juris Doctor ('16) and a Health Law Certificate from Loyola Law before becoming a member of the Louisiana Bar later that year. During

her time at Loyola Law, Allyson was an oralist/brief writer for the First Amendment Moot Court Team, a Teaching and Research Assistant for the Lawyering I & II Courses, a Rule XX Clinic Student Practitioner, as well as a published member of the *Loyola Law Review*. After graduation, Allyson clerked for the Honorable Bernadette D'Souza in Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans before beginning private practice of her own in various areas of civil litigation. Most recently, Allyson worked for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in the Eviction Defense Department for Orleans Parish.

As Assistant Director, Allyson primarily concentrates on the application process as a whole—overseeing the receipt and flow of law applications throughout the admission cycle. She also represents Loyola Law across the nation at graduate fairs and law school forums. As a local alumna, she is thrilled to communicate her passion for Loyola Law and experience in New Orleans with law applicants.



Edwin Laizer is a member of the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice, assisting the group's attorneys in litigation matters at state and federal levels.

Grant was a structured finance intern for Ernst & Young, working on CLO audits with issuance sizes between \$450 million and \$1.5 billion, and following interest rate environments, particularly LIBOR, as well as market trends and their effects on CLO issuance. Grant earned his MBA from Loyola

University New Orleans College of Business.

Grant is a former summer associate for Adams & Reese, where he shadowed attorneys to gain experience in all aspects of the litigation process - from the inception of client consultation to resolution of the case and situation, all

specifically tailored to assist the legal needs of a business. In addition, he has experience in civil litigation research; drafting and view of legal memoranda, analyzing clients' potential claims and procedural avenues; and drafting petitions, motions to dismiss, and motions in *limine*, filed in federal and state courts throughout multiple jurisdictions.

Grant also gained experience through an internship and externship with The Hon. Jay C. Zainey (Section A) and The Hon. Jane Triche Milazzo (Section H), of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, respectively.

In 2024, Grant was appointed to serve as a Junior Council Member on the Louisiana State Law Institute.

Grant earned his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law where he graduated summa cum laude and earned the distinction of Crowe Scholar for ranking in the top 10% of his class. He was a member of the Loyola Law Review and Phi Delta Phi Honor Society. He also earned the "Law Excellent Award" for the highest grades in Obligations I, Property II, and Lawyering III (Ethics).

Graduating from LSU, Grant received a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Information Systems and Decisions Science. Grant received the award of University Medalist in Finance and was a recipient of the Baton Rouge Board of Realtors Frances R. Ingalls Scholarship. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

A New Orleans native, Grant is proud of his commitment to volunteerism and community service, formerly participating in the Best Buddies Program Baton Rouge, a charity organization that aids children and adults with disabilities.



Thuy Le is a graduate of Tulane Law School, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Tulane Environmental Law Journal and President of the Tulane Chapter of APALSA. After graduation, she worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy, during which time she published "Trust Issues: A Revisitation of Louisiana's Public Trust Doctrine," an exploration of the public trust doctrine in Louisiana and its use as a tool for environmental protection. Following her fellowship, she worked at Kanner & Whiteley as an Associate Attorney, focusing on natural resource damages on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. She is

currently a Law Clerk/Court Crier for Judge Bernadette D'Souza, Division K, at the New Orleans Civil District Court. She is also the current President of the Vietnamese American Bar Association and a Board Member for Teaching Responsible Earth Education (T.R.E.E.), a nonprofit helping children to learn about their environment and their relationship with the planet. Her passion is helping others, and her goal is to use her law degree to lift underserved communities.



Raymond C. Lewis represents clients in complex litigation and appeals. His practice focuses primarily on complex commercial and business litigation, products liability defense, insurance defense, and appellate work. He has successfully litigated complex commercial disputes for local and national clients, involving multi-million-dollar breach of contract claims, product liability claims, oil and gas disputes, and transportation casualty disputes. In his appellate practice, Ray has handled numerous

appeals before the Louisiana Supreme Court, Louisiana Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, with many cases resulting in published decisions favorable to his clients.

Ray is also a member of the firm's rescue counsel team. In this capacity, he works with the team's other members to take cases to trial on an emergency basis when other law firms are unprepared to do so.

Ray has been named by CityBusiness as a member of its "Ones to Watch: Law" on multiple occasions and has been voted to the Louisiana Super Lawyers List since 2014. He has written and lectured on trial and appellate practice and environmental law topics and is a frequent speaker for the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, the New Orleans Bar Association, and The Network of Trial Lawyers.

Though born in Louisiana, Ray grew up in Dallas, Texas. He returned to Louisiana to attend the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University (LSU), where he was a member of the Louisiana Law Review. After leaving law school, he served as law clerk to the Judges of the 23rd Judicial District Court.

While at LSU, he met his wife Jenny, a native of New Orleans. They have two young daughters who keep them very busy but also very happy. In his free time,

Ray enjoys playing basketball, coaching his daughters' sports teams, and spending time with his family.



Special Agent Canine Handler (SACH) **Matthew Lindberg** is with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) in New Orleans, Louisiana. SACH Lindberg has been working for ATF for 10 years and as a canine handler for the last year. Prior to ATF, he was a police officer in Washington, D.C.

SACH Lindberg's partner is K9 **Zeus**, a 2.5-year-old yellow lab. K9 Zeus is an explosive detection canine that is utilized for various scenarios, including, but not limited to, protective sweeps prior to large events and evidence recovery following a suspected crime. K9 Zeus can detect explosives, firearms, and ammunition. K9 Zeus is also able to work off-leash while being directed by hand and whistle commands up to approximately 100 yards away from SACH Lindberg.



Judge Omar K. Mason is the duly elected Judge of Orleans Parish Civil District Court, State of Louisiana, Division "E". Following the election in 2018, he was initially assigned to a Domestic Relations docket where he presided over family court matters ranging from divorce and custody to child support, domestic violence protection, and community property partition.

Upon re-election in 2020, Judge Mason moved to the general civil docket where he presides over matters involving motor vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, property disputes, contract disputes, business litigation, successions and probate, class actions and complex litigation, and more.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Mason enjoyed a 19-year career as an attorney, practicing law in a wide variety of areas, including plaintiff personal injury, class actions, complex litigation, and business litigation, in Louisiana and Texas. Immediately before becoming a judge, Judge Mason was a shareholder of Aaron & Gianna, PLC. His primary practice with Aaron & Gianna focused on business litigation and toxic tort (asbestos) litigation.

He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1999. He has been admitted to practice before all state and federal

courts in both Louisiana and Texas and the U.S. Supreme Court. As an attorney, Judge Mason was selected numerous times for inclusion and recognition in *Super Lawyers® Magazine* in the area of Business Litigation. He has also earned an AV® Preeminent Rating for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability from Martindale-Hubbell.

He has served as a Director on the Board of Directors for the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, from which, in 2018, he received the President's Award for his leadership of the chapter's Philanthropy/Community Outreach Committee. Judge Mason is a Past National Advocate (Chief Legal Advisor) of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. (a Fraternal Benefit Society of the Roman Catholic Church), a Past President of Young Men Illinois Club, Inc., a Past President of the Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and is a Member of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club.

He has served as a skills curriculum instructor at Loyola University College of Law and currently sits on the law school's Alumni Board of Directors. He has served as an adjunct faculty member of the trial advocacy program at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU and as an adjunct faculty member of trial advocacy and the civil litigation boot camp at Tulane University School of Law. He is a certified skills instructor with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, is the incoming President of the St. Thomas More Inn of Court, the Recording Secretary of the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, and the Parliamentarian of the Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association.

Judge Mason has served as the Disaster Recovery Committee Chair of the Civil District Court—overseeing the post-COVID-19 re-opening and continuity of operations of the Court—and is currently the Chair of the Judicial Building Commission charged with the planning and construction of a new civil courthouse.

He has been happily married to his wife, Carla, for more than 23 years, and he is the proud father of two lovely daughters, Jade and Sydney.



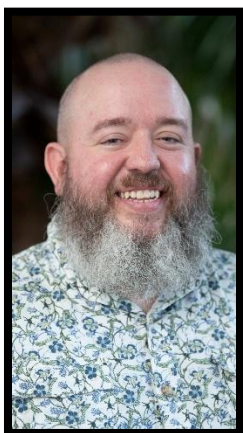
Jerome Matthews is a criminal defense attorney based in New Orleans, Louisiana. His practice focuses on drafting detailed motions and appellate briefs, as well as handling jury trials, suppression hearings, and preliminary examinations in criminal cases. Jerome emphasizes thorough legal research, strategic analysis, and dedicated advocacy. He regularly represents clients in complex criminal matters, striving to provide clear and effective defense at all stages of litigation.



Julia Meyer is a member of the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice. Based in the New Orleans office and licensed to practice in Louisiana, Julia advises companies in all litigious and civil law matters that may impact their business and represents clients, from inception to trial, through all stages of the litigation process.

Julia is a former law clerk at Adams & Reese, where she worked closely with attorneys across insurance, maritime, employment law, and civil procedure, gaining a better understanding on various issues of state and federal laws.

Julia earned her J.D. from Tulane University Law School, where she graduated *magna cum laude*, with the honors of Order of the Coif, the Civil Law Studies Award, and the Dean's Medal. Julia was a member of the *Tulane Law Review* and a student attorney for the Domestic Violence Clinic. Julia received her B.S., *cum laude*, from Texas A&M University.



Jonathan "JP" Patterson is a graduate of The University of Alabama, with a degree in Public Relations, and a two-time graduate of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity in Biblical Languages and a Ph.D. in Old Testament & Hebrew. Prior to joining the Admissions team at Loyola in the summer of 2024, JP served as Director of the Accelerated Program at NOBTS where he also taught classes in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew. He has also taught classes as an adjunct professor at the University of Mobile, Luther Rice College, and Baptist University of Florida.

A native of Alabama, JP moved to New Orleans in 2004 to continue his education and fell in love with the city. Though his wife took a little more convincing, with four kids all born in the city, New Orleans has definitely become home.

As an (extremely amateur) archaeologist, JP has spent numerous summers participating in excavations in Israel, including the Tel Gezer Water System Excavation and, more recently, the Tel Hadid Expedition with Tel Aviv University. When he's not digging in the dirt, JP can usually be found on the baseball diamond, the soccer pitch, or the basketball gym with at least one of his four kids. In addition to his roles as dad and coach, he also serves as a deacon and media team volunteer at his church.



Sara V. Pixon, Head of Public Services at the Law Library of Louisiana, a department of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Sara has been a librarian at the Court for 11 years, after previously practicing as a public interest attorney specializing in children/family and health law. Sara is a 2014 graduate of LSU with a Master's in Library and Information Science, a 2005 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, and a 2000 graduate of Smith College. Sara is active in the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) where she currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the

Government Law Libraries section. She was named an AALL "Emerging Leader" in 2020 and the Legal Education and Assistance Program that she helps coordinate was honored with an AALL "Excellence in Community Engagement" award in 2024.



Jack Pontin is a member of the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice. Based in the New Orleans office and licensed to practice in Louisiana, Jack represents corporate clients through all stages of the litigation process, including working with companies on dispute resolution measures and through any litigious issues affecting their business operations.

Jack was a former law clerk at Adams & Reese, and he clerked for both the Louisiana Department

of Justice – Attorney General's Office and the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. Through his clerkships, Jack gained experience both in and out of the courtroom – drafting motions for summary judgment; attending depositions, appellate arguments, federal and district court hearings, and civil proceedings; and authoring memos and motions.

Gaining experience in alcohol and hospitality law, Jack was a runner for ATG Licensing Consultants, filing applications with the New Orleans Alcohol and Tobacco Control office to attain permits for clients throughout the state, and working with the City of New Orleans Department of Revenue to amend occupational licenses.

A New Orleans native, Jack earned his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law. He received his B.B.A. in Finance, cum laude, from the University of Mississippi, where he was a Business School Ambassador.

In the community, Jack is a volunteer on his alma mater's alumni board at Jesuit High School in New Orleans, and he is a board member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana, Red Shoe Krewe.



Darleene D. Peters has been a practicing civil defense attorney for 26 years. In 1998, she simultaneously earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees from Loyola University College of Law and College of Business.

She is currently a Partner and the Chairperson of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee at Irwin Fritchie Urquhart Moore & Daniels in New Orleans.

When she began working at the firm, she was its first-ever African American Attorney. In 2022, she became its first African American female Partner.

She represents manufacturers of consumer products, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices in Products Liability matters, Railroad Corporations in accidents and employee lawsuits, and other corporations in environmental and occupational disease hazard cases.

She is also double certified in Health and Wellness Coaching and Nutrition Coaching. She is the Founder and CEO of Deep Wellness NOLA, her own holistic health and wellness coaching company, where she focuses on serving as a

resource for addressing health, wellness, and lifestyle issues from a holistic perspective. She has a special interest and passion for addressing the challenges facing legal professionals.

Darleene serves as a Wellness Advocate, Speaker, and Writer for various legal associations, organizations, and law firms and is committed to improving the Health and Well-Being of her fellow legal professionals.



Stephanie Poucher is a seasoned litigator who represents Fortune 100 companies and business leaders in complex employment and commercial disputes. With experience trying cases to verdict and arguing before state and federal courts, she guides clients through every stage of litigation—from pre-suit negotiations and compliance counseling to dispositive motions, trials, and appeals. Known for her clear, persuasive advocacy and collaborative approach, Stephanie helps resolve issues efficiently,

whether through strategic mediation or courtroom litigation. A former law clerk to three prominent federal judges, she brings deep procedural insight and a sharp focus on preserving appellate rights. Clients rely on her to navigate high-stakes matters involving Title VII, ADA, FMLA, PWFA, wage claims, contract disputes, and mass torts with clarity, composure, and confidence.



Tracie N. Ransom serves as the Assistant Dean for Community, Engagement & Opportunity at Tulane Law School. She leverages more than two decades of experience in the practice of law and the advancement of principles that build welcoming communities, equipping lawyers and law students with skills to effectively engage across differences and foster opportunities for all to

succeed and thrive in their careers.

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, a Fortune 500 investment and financial advisory firm headquartered in St. Louis. She also brings substantial experience and familiarity with higher

education, having taught courses and led intensive workshops for the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University and as a former Adjunct Professor at Washburn University School of Law.

Ransom has long been a champion of opportunity within higher education and our society. As a law student, she chaired BLSA's *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Committee and assisted administrators at the University of Illinois College of Law with programming in celebration of the same. Ten years later, she presented at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law's "Brown at 60" Symposium, sharing insights regarding the spirit of Brown, its purpose and the progress made as a nation, the existing legal and political landscape and the future of educational access and opportunity for all. She also previously served on a pro bono basis as Counsel of Record for a national Coalition of Black Male Achievement Initiatives in *Fisher v. University of Texas*, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2012 term. She assisted with the preparation of amicus briefs filed in the case at the Supreme Court and on remand to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Ransom's expertise and leadership in advancing these principles have been nationally recognized, including through her appointment to and nearly seven-year service on the Board of Directors for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, among other boards and commissions, as well as through her frequent invitations to serve as keynote speaker or workshop facilitator at multiple national conferences.

An honors graduate of the University of Alabama and the University of Illinois College of Law, she 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.



Honorable Karen Wells Roby is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana with twenty six (26) years of service. She is a founder of the LSBA Suit Up for the Future Program. She has had a variety of experiences in civil and criminal matters including mediating disputes and rendering reasoned legal decisions in complex matters. Formerly, she served as the Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District from 2017-2021.

Also, Judge Roby in 2012 served as the President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association ("FMJA"), 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. In May 2023, she received a Master's of Judicial Studies from Duke Law School. The Judge's thesis was on the use of technology in conducting detention hearings during COVID-19, which was published in the Georgia Journal of Criminal Law. Wells Roby, The Honorable Karen (2024) *"The Use of Virtual Technology in Federal Criminal Detention Proceedings During COVID-19,"* Georgia Criminal Law Review: Vol. 2: No. 2, Article 3.

Judge Roby served as an Adjunct Professor at Tulane Law School for over a decade, and she is a frequent speaker and thought leader in E-Discovery. She chaired the inaugural Tulane Law School's Black Alumni Reunion, which celebrated 50 years of graduating black law students in February 2019.



Dylan Rhoton is a rising sophomore at Harvard College studying History and Government. He is a 2022 Suit Up alumnus and a graduate of Brother Martin High School. Dylan is currently interning at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center, the nonprofit organization contracted by the state and federal governments to provide legal defense for indigent people charged with capital crimes. Additionally, he enjoys writing for the Harvard Undergraduate Law Review and serving as the Communications Director of the Institute of Politics' Harvard Public Opinion Project.



Karina Shareen defends insurance companies and their insureds in auto and trucking accidents, premises liability, professional liability, toxic tort, and other matters. She has experience in the areas of education and employment law as well.

Karina was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, but was raised in Metairie, Louisiana, and considers herself a Louisiana native. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at the local food banks and animal shelters, painting, traveling, and walking with her dog Beauregard.



Professor Kenya Smith joined the faculty of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2024. He has over 25 years of experience as an educator, executive, and attorney.

He previously taught Business Entities, Contracts, Obligations, and Special Problems in Business Law, among other courses, at Southern University Law Center. He has also taught at the University of Idaho College of Law, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Arizona Summit Law School, and St. Thomas University School of Law.

After earning his law degree at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Professor Smith returned to his native Louisiana to launch his legal career with Adams and Reese in New Orleans. As a member of the firm's transactions and corporate advisory services team, Smith represented clients in tax, real estate, energy, general commercial, and corporate governance matters. From 2003 to 2010, he served in several senior executive positions for the City of New Orleans, including Executive Counsel to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Relations, and Deputy Mayor for Community Development.

While serving the City of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Professor Smith worked with local agencies, the White House, and the U.S. Congress to secure emergency and long-term recovery funding for public, residential, and commercial infrastructure repairs and enhancements. He was also instrumental in the passage of the Go Zone Act and other economic development incentive programs. Immediately following his time in city government, he leveraged his crisis management and disaster recovery experience to serve as an advisor to BP's Gulf Coast Recovery Leadership team

in the two years following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. Professor Smith's scholarship focuses on the formation and taxation of business associations, constitutional law, and legislation, and has been published in the Louisiana Law Review, Marquette Law Review, Michigan Journal of Law Reform, University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law, Rutgers University Law Review, William & Mary Business Law Review, and Tulane Law Review.

Professor Smith earned his bachelor's degree cum laude from Southern University at New Orleans and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Benjamin So (Intern) is a rising sophomore at Tulane University, where he is majoring in Political Science and Economics. A 2023 Suit Up alumnus, he is interested in civic engagement and the role of law in shaping public life. He plans to attend law school after graduation and pursue a career as an attorney. As a bilingual speaker, Benjamin hopes to use his language skills to better serve diverse communities and improve access to legal support.



Taylor Phuong-Anh Smith is a member of the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice. Based in the New Orleans office and licensed to practice in Louisiana, Taylor represents corporate clients through all stages of the litigation process and advises them on any potential litigious disputes that may impact their business operations moving forward.

Taylor is a former law clerk at various law firms throughout the Greater New Orleans area, including at Adams & Reese, where she works closely with attorneys on a variety of complex substantive and procedural matters in support of litigation for maritime, insurance, labor and employment, and medical malpractice matters. Taylor is proficient in video production, enabling her to use her technological skills for clients in and out of the courtroom presentations.

Taylor earned her J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Taylor was chief of staff at the Loyola Journal of Public Interest and was the President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. She earned awards in legal

research and writing, and received a Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship certificate.

Taylor earned her B.S., magna cum laude, in Business Data Analytics from Arizona State University, W.P. Carey School of Business. Taylor minored in Statistics. She was a matching committee member for the Alpha Chi Omega Zeta Pi Chapter.

In the New Orleans community, Taylor volunteers for the St. Joseph Mission Vietnamese Church, where she assists with fundraising and parish events. A New Orleans native, Taylor graduated high school from Louise S. McGehee.



As Associate Director of Admissions, **Julia 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.



Harper Street is an associate in the Adams & Reese Litigation Practice Group.

As a third year associate in Adams & Reese's New Orleans office, Harper has experience in navigating every stage of the litigation process. Harper's practice includes a wide variety of civil matters, ranging from insurance defense to complex corporate law disputes and construction litigation. During his three years of practice, Harper developed skills in drafting pleadings, taking depositions, and delivering oral arguments in court for his clients. With an interest in client development and communications, Harper works tirelessly to ensure that his clients receive the best possible result in each case

Receiving his J.D. from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Harper graduated in the top5% of his class as a member of the Order of the Coif. He was a junior associate with the Louisiana Law Review, Volume 81, and later served as Development Editor for Volume 82. As a member of the Louisiana Law Review, Harper published two scholarly works. Harper also served as a judicial extern for Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Harper earned his B.A. in Political Communications, with a minor in Political Science, from Louisiana State University.



Payton G. Travis graduated *cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in May 2025 and will begin her legal career in the Juvenile Division of the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office following the bar exam. During law school, she served as Managing Editor of the *Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law*, where her article on mental health reform in the criminal justice system was published this past spring. Payton held several leadership roles, including Chair of the Alternative Dispute

Resolution Society, Exchequer and Historian of Phi Delta Phi, and Wellness Chair of the Student Bar Association. She also served as a Rule XX Student Practitioner in the Criminal Defense Clinic and gained additional experience as both a research assistant and teaching assistant.



Trina Shelmire Vincent serves as the Deputy Judicial Administrator for Community Relations at the Louisiana Supreme Court. Before taking on this role, she spent seven years as the Court's Public Information Specialist in the Community Relations Department (CRD), which acts as the outreach division of the Judicial Administrator's Office.

In her position, Ms. Vincent plays a vital role as the liaison between the court and the public. Together with a team of four, she manages court communications, organizes court tours, and coordinates meetings and events at the Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. Courthouse. She oversees public information and media relations by distributing press releases, responding to media inquiries, and producing court publications. Additionally, she provides video and photographic support. The primary goal of Ms. Vincent and the CRD is to use these outreach efforts to inform and enhance public understanding, trust, and confidence in the Louisiana judiciary.

A native of New Orleans, Ms. Vincent has built a 30-year career prior to joining the Louisiana Supreme Court staff, which includes experience in radio, television, and cable marketing, with a focus on promotions, production, and public relations. She has also worked in university and media relations at the collegiate level, emphasizing institutional advancement through recruitment, retention, and

fundraising. Ms. Vincent has received accolades such as the Public Relations Society of America Award and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Award. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications with a secondary study in Computer Science from Xavier University of Louisiana.



Casey B. Wendling defends clients in general negligence actions as well as commercial transportation, products liability, premises liability, and labor and employment cases. Casey also serves alongside Jerry Glas as “rescue trial counsel” for cases rapidly preparing for trial. She has experience in the area of education law as well. When advocating for her clients, she uses her time efficiently and prides herself on a persuasive and high-quality work product. One of the highlights of

her career came in 2023 when the Louisiana Supreme Court issued a per curiam opinion reversing the trial court's decision to reverse a motion for summary judgment that she had filed on behalf of one of her clients.

Casey was born and raised in New Orleans. Before returning to Louisiana for law school, Casey earned her bachelor's degree at Villanova University. As a law student, Casey served as the Production Editor for Volume 89 of the Louisiana Law Review and was nominated for membership in the Wex S. Malone American Inn of Court based on her oral argument at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law Center's annual Trial Advocacy Program.

Casey is married to her high school sweetheart, and together they have a beautiful baby boy. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, shopping, and swimming.

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FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM**

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Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center
Southeastern Louisiana University
Southern University Law Center
Tulane University Law School

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING COURTS AND AGENCIES FOR ALLOWING OUR
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Orleans District Attorney's Office
Orleans Public Defenders Office

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Honorable Shayna B. Morvant, Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court

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Tiffany L. Delery, Co-Chair

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STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM**

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Honorable Karen Wells Roby

Honorable Elroy A. James

Honorable Lori W. Jupiter

Honorable Ellen M. Hazeur

Honorable Omar K. Mason

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENT WINNERS!

BEST WRITTEN MEMORANDUM WINNERS:

Prosecution: Ja'Wayne A. White

Defense: Otto K. Massie

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENT WINNERS!

BEST ORAL ARGUMENT WINNERS:

Prosecution: Emma L. Ladisky and Ja'Ryan D. Berryhill

Defense: Otto K. Massie and Bailey I. Williams

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