

Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit www.lsba.org/diversity.

Nomination deadline Feb. 28 for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nomination deadlines are Feb. 28, 2020, for both awards.

For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go online: www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx. Click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." Or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards — the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period runs from October through February.

This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the first African-American chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer

or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current member of the LSBA's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential;
- ▶ ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach;
- ▶ commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession; and
- ▶ participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes non-profit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting.

The nomination period is October through February.

Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including non-profits and public interest organizations).

Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts:

- ▶ creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion in society;
- ▶ making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession;
- ▶ enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities;
- ▶ advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity;
- ▶ dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups; and
- ▶ proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion. 📱

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INCLUSION
PROFESSIONALISM**



**LSBA DIVERSITY
OUTREACH & INCLUSION**

For latest news on
diversity and inclusion
in the profession, visit
www.lsba.org/diversity

Become a signatory to the LSBA Statement of Diversity Principles!

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession asks all Louisiana law firms, law departments and courts to execute the voluntary Statement of Diversity Principles.

By executing the Statement, the leaders of a legal organization or court agree to use their best efforts to increase the diversity in their hiring, retention and promotion of attorneys and the elevation of attorneys to leadership positions within their organizations. They also agree to promote and participate in appropriate diversity awareness training programs as well as programs to measure their progress in the pursuit of the stated diversity principles.

To access the Statement online, go to: www.lsba.org/documents/Diversity/2018StatementofDiversity.pdf.

Signed forms may be returned to Tricia R. Pierre at diversity@lsba.org, by fax (504)566-0930 or by mail to 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404. 📧



Save the Dates and Register!

Registration is open for all events listed. Register online at www.lsba.org/cle or download registration forms.

Natchitoches Lights CLE Seminar

Friday, December 13, 2019

Chateau Saint Denis Hotel, 751 Second St., Natchitoches, LA

Hosted by the LSBA Diversity Committee's Specialty Bars Subcommittee

Register: www.lsba.org/goto/NatchitochesCLE2019.

Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA

Hosted by the LSBA Diversity Committee

Sessions: "LSBA: Who We Are and How We Serve Our Members" and "Women's Personal and Professional Development Workshop Series (Session I)"

Register online: www.lsba.org/MidyearMeeting.

Questions? Contact Member Outreach and Diversity team members by email at diversity@lsba.org.

Celebrating 55 Years of

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MARCH 27, 2020 • SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL • 500 CANAL ST., NEW ORLEANS, LA
13TH ANNUAL CONCLAVE ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The Conclave will examine the history and future of civil rights, paying homage to the trailblazers of the past and looking to the future. Highlights include:

► **Luncheon Panel:** "The 5th Circuit Four." Moderated by Hon. Brian A. Jackson, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana; with speakers Hon. Stephen A. Higginson, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals; Hon. Carl J. Stewart, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals; and Jack M. Weiss, Liskow & Lewis, APLC. The panel will explore the cost of enforcing the rule of law and reupdating racism during the turbulent Civil Rights period.

► **Breakout Sessions:** Two breakout sessions (Criminal Justice and Voting Rights) facilitated by highly credentialed speakers that will provoke discussions regarding the scope and meaning of inclusion, the state of the profession, and the case for a diverse and inclusive legal profession.

► **Civil Rights Sessions:** Two Civil Rights sessions featuring a panel of academics and Civil Rights pioneers. Charles Person, one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, will share insights on the Civil Rights movement.