

Focus on Diversity

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

Application Deadline is May 29 for the Leadership LSBA 2026-27 Class

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President-Elect Curtis R. Joseph, Jr. is currently seeking applications from young lawyers for the Leadership LSBA 2026–27 Class. The deadline for submission of applications is May 29.

The program, created in 2002 by then-LSBA President Larry Feldman, Jr., provides exposure to how the LSBA functions and to the pressing issues facing the association and the legal profession. Participants also receive information on the responsibilities of volunteer leaders. Beginning in 2008, classes have been required to organize an individual class project to address needs in the profession and the community at large. The goal of the class project is to further develop young attorneys' leadership skills and to provide them with opportunities for statewide networking.

Prior to applying, the candidate should consider the commitment required. The candidate should have the time and ability to participate and fulfill the class requirements. By the conclusion of the LSBA Fiscal Year 2026–27, class members will be required to:

- ▶ attend one meeting of the Board of Governors;
- ▶ attend one meeting of the House of Delegates;
- ▶ attend one meeting of the Young Lawyers Division Council;
- ▶ attend one Budget Committee meeting;



Submit your application and join the next Leadership class!

Pictured is the Leadership LSBA 2025–26 Class with LSBA leadership. First Row (Pictured L to R): Edward J. Walters Jr., 2025–26 LSBA President, Founder, Walters, Thomas, Cullens LLC, Baton Rouge; Zachary D. Berryman, Liskow & Lewis, APLC, New Orleans; Shana M. Robertson, Tina L. Suggs & Association, Metairie; Corrie R. Gallien, Attorney at Law, Lafayette; Christine E. Wells, Tanner and Justice, Baton Rouge; Lauren S. Bennett, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, New Orleans; Shiena Marie N. Burke, Kean Miller LLP, Baton Rouge; Erin N. Alpandinar, Jones Walker, LLP, Baton Rouge; Taquincia M. Jairles, Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes L.L.P., Metairie; Meghan E. Notariano, Parker Layrisson Law Firm, Ponchatoula; Garret W. Wick, Leadership LSBA 2025–26 Class Co-Chair, Clary Suba Neale, Baton Rouge. Second Row (Pictured L to R): Hannah K. Cobb, Long Law Firm, Baton Rouge; Sharita L. Spears, Attorney at Law, Zachary; Anna C. Tucker, Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts APLC, Shreveport; Curtis R. Joseph Jr., 2025–26 LSBA President–Elect, Partner, Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts APLC, Shreveport.

▶ attend one meeting of the Access to Justice Committee;

▶ attend one meeting of an LSBA committee of their choice;


▶ work with the class to develop and implement a class project with the help of staff; and

▶ commit to serve on an LSBA committee the year following completion of Leadership LSBA.

The class term begins in late August (orientation) and ends in June (Annual Meeting).

Expenses for attendance at meetings and activities will be reimbursed in accordance with LSBA policies.

Interested candidates should submit applications online by May 29. Go to: www.lsba.org/goto/LeadershipLSBA.

To learn more about the program, go to: www.lsba.org/members/LSBALeadershipclass.aspx. 

Save the dates!

18th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

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OUR STRENGTH
OUR STRENGTH

August 7, 2026 • Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans • New Orleans, LA

SPECIALTY BARS CONFERENCE

Hosted by Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee and Outreach Committee

Save the Date!

Date: October 23, 2026

Time: 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA



NATCHITOCHE LIGHTS CLE SEMINAR

Friday, December 10, 2026

Riverside Reserve • 104 Mill St., Natchitoches, LA

Save the Date:

Natchitoches Light CLE Seminar

Date: December 11, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Riverside Reserve, 14 Mill Street, Natchitoches, LA