

Focus on Diversity

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

Nomination Procedures Listed, Forms Online 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. Nominations for both awards opened on October 1, 2025, and remain open through February 27, 2026. For more information about the awards and to access nomination forms, visit <https://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx> and 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 that 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 that promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

LSBA 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 within the legal profession or the practice of law:

- ▶ Creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion;
- ▶ Making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession;
- ▶ Enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities in the legal profession;
- ▶ Advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity in the legal profession;
- ▶ Dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups in the legal profession; and
- ▶ Proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. ♦

18th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

OUR DIVERSITY
OUR DIVERSITY



OUR STRENGTH
OUR STRENGTH

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

Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Save
the
date!

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026 | 1–4:45 p.m.
Free • 3.25 CLE credit hours

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel
7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge

Lunch and Learn CLE Seminar: *Generational Differences*

April 15, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

Louisiana State Bar Association • 601 St. Charles Avenue • New Orleans, LA • 70130

Hosted by: LSBA's Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee

LSBA's Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee &
Art, Entertainment and Sports Law Section

ENTERTAINMENT LAW CLE SEMINAR

SAFEGUARDING THE SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 16-17, 2026 • 8 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. • LOUISIANA BAR CENTER

Online Application Portal Now Open for 2026 Suit Up Program

Do You Know Any High School Students Interested in the Legal Profession?

Applications are now being accepted for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program, scheduled for June 8–26, 2026.

The application deadline is May 4, 2026, for high school juniors, seniors, and students entering their first year of college in Fall 2026. Students may access the online application portal at www.lsba.org/goto/suitup.

The Louisiana State Bar Association, in collaboration with the Louisiana Supreme Court, Just the Beginning, and the Louisiana Law Schools, hosts an annual internship

program. This program is available to incoming high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates interested in the legal profession. Students participate in a three-week legal institute that incorporates the following: an abridged law school session with lectures by professors from area law schools; tours of law schools and courts; job shadowing at local law departments, courts, and agencies; the opportunity to research and draft a legal memorandum addressing a mock fact problem; and an actual oral argument before real judges. Students provide their own transportation and housing. Over the course of the three-week program, participants are introduced to lawyers, legal documents, and the legal system—all designed to help them



consider one important question: “Do I really want to be a lawyer?”

Attorney Job Shadowing Opportunities

Legal professionals are being asked to participate in job shadowing opportunities. During the program's second week (June 15–19, 2026), students will be provided with an opportunity to job shadow attorneys at firms, courts, and agencies. This is an opportunity for students to see what attorneys do daily and to spend one-on-one time with them in the workplace. Attorneys in the greater New Orleans area who are interested in hosting one or more students should contact the LSBA Member Outreach and Diversity team at diversity@lsba.org. ♦