

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 will open on October 1, 2025. Nomination deadlines are February 28, 2026, for both awards. For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go to <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 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
- ▶ Participation in community service activities which 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 and the legal profession
- ▶ Proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. ♦

SPECIALTY BARS CLE SEMINAR

Hosted by: Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee's Specialty Bars Subcommittee
and Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., Greater Lafayette Chapter

DECEMBER 18, 2025

DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER • 124 BUCHANAN ST. LAFAYETTE, LA 70501



NATCHITOCHE LIGHTS CLE SEMINAR

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mariner's Restaurant

5948 Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457



8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$175

CLE credit hours: 6.00

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

1.00 Prof. CLE credit

Session One – Access All the Way: Disability Rights and Legal Updates

J. Dalton Courson, Litigation Director • *Disability Rights Louisiana* • *New Orleans*

Kellie Jackson, Tulane Law Lutz Fellow • *Disability Rights Louisiana* • *New Orleans*

10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Two – Estate Planning and Successions:

What Every Louisiana Lawyer Should Know

Andrew B. Mims, Founder, Managing Attorney • *Oaks Grove Estate Planning* • *Lafayette*

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Three – What Every Louisiana Lawyer Should Know

about President Trump's Impact on U.S. Immigration Policy

Brandon E. Davis, Partner • *Phelps, LLP* • *New Orleans*

Laura N. Buck, Associate • *Phelps, LLP* • *New Orleans*

12:20 – 1:10 p.m.

Lunch (Provided by the LSBA)

1:10 – 2:10 p.m.

1.00 Ethics CLE credit

Session Four – Current Trends & Statistics in Ethics:

What Should a Lawyer Know—and Avoid?

Anderson O. Dotson III, Chief Disciplinary Counsel •

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board • *Baton Rouge*

2:20 – 3:10 p.m.

1.00 Prof. CLE credit

Session Five – Well-Being in the Legal Profession

Shelvia R. Davis, Founder • *Grant Davis Law, LLC* • *Shreveport*

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Six – Voir Dire from the Prosecutor's Perspective

Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., Assistant District Attorney •

Natchitoches Parish District Attorney's Office • *Natchitoches*

Monica D. Doss, Assistant District Attorney •

Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office • *Alexandria*

save
the
date!

Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026 | 1–4:45 p.m.

Free • 3.25 CLE credit hours

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel

7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge