

**2021 Suit Up for the Future High School Summer  
Legal Institute and Intern Program**

**June 14, 2021 – July 2, 2021**

*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,  
Just the Beginning, and Louisiana Bar Foundation  
A Diversity Pipeline Program  
New Orleans, Louisiana*



*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*



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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.”*

## 2021 SUMMER LEGAL INSTITUTE

### SCHOLARS

Name	Grade	School
Sage J. Allen	First-Year College	Lusher Charter School
Jaden S. Armond	11th Grade	Academy of Our Lady
Lauren S. Benn	First-Year College	Edna Karr High School
Jackie B. Breckenridge III	12th Grade	St. Augustine High School
Vernoica E. Camenzuli	12th Grade	Academy of the Sacred Heart
Kori L. Dupree	12th Grade	Edna Karr High School
Malcom X. Ferrouillet	11th Grade	St. Augustine High School
Emma R. Graff	11th Grade	Cabrini High School
Sania B. Islam	12th Grade	Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Aleia B. Johnson	First-Year College	Helen Cox High School
Isabella M. Lancaster	11th Grade	Mount Carmel Academy
Lauren A. Langley	First-Year College	Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Thomas A. Massey	12th Grade	Homeschool
Zoe K. Stamps	11th Grade	Academy of Our Lady

## 2021 Suit Up for the Future Program Agenda

### Week One

Monday, June 14, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b>
9:00 am – 9:15 am	<b>Welcome</b> Presenter: H. Minor Pipes III, LSBA President 2021-22
9:15 am – 9:45 am	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Choose Law Video (American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division)</b> <b>Orientation/Program Overview</b> <b>Introduction of Interns and Externs</b> Presenter: Hon. Karen Wells Roby, Just the Beginning (JTB)
9:45 am – 10:30 am	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Orientation/Program Overview</b> <b>Introduction of Interns and Externs</b> Presenter: Members of Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee: Co-Chair(s) Scherri N. Guidry, 15th JDC Public Defenders Office; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit; Suit Up Interns and Externs
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<b>Break</b> <b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b>
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>Icebreaker</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Members of Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee: Co-Chair(s) Scherri N. Guidry, 15th JDC Public Defenders Office; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit; Suit Up Interns and Externs
11:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>Introduction of Mock Problem for Oral Argument</b> Presenter: Members of Pipeline to Diversity and Outreach Subcommittee:

	Co-chair Scherri N. Guidry, 15th JDC Public Defenders Office; Janell M. McFarland-Forges, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b> <b>Suit Up Photo IDs</b>
12:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Legal Research and Writing</b> Presenter: Professor Emily A. Bishop, Westerfield Fellow, Writing Instructor and Lawyering Program Co-Director, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>Break</b>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Mock Legal Problem/Questions; Mock Legal Argument Team Assignments; Suit Up Evaluation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Tuesday, June 15, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>Memorandum Outline Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Criminal Law</b> Presenter: Professor Russell L. Jones, Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Endowed Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 16, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Career Path Session</b> Presenter:

	Hillary B. Rossman, Chief Division Counsel, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), New Orleans, LA and Michael S. Kelly, Applicant Coordinator/Recruiter
9:30 am – 11:30 am	<b>Memorandum and Oral Argument Preparation</b> <b>Viewing of 2019 Oral Arguments</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Career Path Session</b> Presenter: John Collins, Law Fellow, Innocence Project, New Orleans, LA
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Resume Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Outline Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

#### Thursday, June 17, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>MEMO OUTLINE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 10:45 am	<b>Oral Argument Workshop: How to Deliver an Oral Argument</b> Presenter: Professor Jeffrey C. Brooks, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Professor Danny Bosch, Advocacy Fellow, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Resume Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Outline Preparation</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>



**Friday, June 18, 2021**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>DRAFT OF RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Career Path Session</b> Presenter: Tavares A. Walker, Assistant Secretary, Office of Workforce Development, Louisiana Workforce Commission
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

**Week Two****Monday, June 21, 2021**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>DRAFT OF MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

**Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
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9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Job Shadowing Lunch, Louisiana Bar Center (Invitation to attorneys, firms, courts, and agencies providing a shadowing opportunity)</b>
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Travel to field trip: Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office 619 S. White St., New Orleans, LA</b>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>District Attorney Presentation and Tour</b> Presenter: Jason Williams, District Attorney and Emily Maw, Chief of Civil Rights, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 23, 2021

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<b>Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT come to the Louisiana Bar Center!)</b> Go directly to assigned locations.
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### Thursday, June 24, 2021

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<b>Shadow Placement Day (Do NOT come to the Louisiana Bar Center!)</b> Go directly to assigned locations.
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### Friday, June 25, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>FINAL RESUME ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Law School Admission Preparation Workshop</b> <b>College Admission Preparation Workshop: How to Navigate the Admissions Process and Prepare a Personal Statement</b> Presenter: Candice Dazet, Admissions Recruiter New Orleans Area, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Jaelaun Cavalier and Dejonique Carter, Admissions Counselor and Pre-Law Advisor, Dillard University; Morgan Jackson, Senior Administrative Program Coordinator for Student Life and Diversity Initiatives, Tulane University Law School; Daphne A. James, Director of Admissions, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law School; Jami Becnel, Regional Admission Recruiter, Louisiana Tech University; Juwaun Walker, Admissions Counselor, Southeastern University

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Memorandum Preparation (One-On-One Assistance)</b> Presenter: Matthew R. Slaughter, Phelps Dunbar LLP; Suit Up Interns and Externs
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Week Three

**Monday, June 28, 2021**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b> <b>FINAL MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Suit Up Jeopardy</b> Presenter: Suit Up Interns and Externs
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

**Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Travel to field trip and Security Check: Orleans Parish Criminal District Court</b> <b>2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>
9:30 am – 11:30 am	<b>Orleans Parish Criminal District Court</b> <b>2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b> Presenter: Honorable Tracey E. Flemings-Davillier, Section B, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Law School Admission Preparation Workshop</b>

	Presenter: Rick Bolte, Assistant Director of Law Admissions, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Wednesday, June 30, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Travel to field trip and Security Check: Louisiana Supreme Court and Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit</b> 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA <b>STUDENT ID REQUIRED/MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED</b>
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Viewing of Oral Arguments, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit</b> Presenter: Honorable Dale N. Atkins, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit; Honorable Tiffany G. Chase, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit; Honorable Rosemary Ledet, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> Presenter: Honorable Tiffany G. Chase, Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit; Justice Piper D. Griffin, Louisiana Supreme Court; Honorable Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Louisiana Supreme Court
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Tour of Louisiana Supreme Court, Library, and Museum</b> Presenter: Miriam D. Childs, Director, Louisiana Supreme Court Library; Robert Gunn, Louisiana Supreme Court, Deputy Judicial Administrator/Community Relations
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

### Thursday, July 01, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>

10:30 am – 11:00 am	<b>Travel to Lunch – Shake Shack, 3501 Veterans Memorial, Metairie, LA 70002</b>
11:00 am – 12:15 pm	<b>Lunch – Shake Shack, 3501 Veterans Memorial, Metairie, LA 70002</b> Presenter: Shake Shack, Metairie, Lunch Sponsor
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Federal Court Presentation, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> Presenter: Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Chief Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana; Maurice Lightfoot, Deputy U.S. Marshall, U.S. Marshalls Service, Eastern District of Louisiana; Jordan Ginsberg, Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Oral Argument Preparation</b>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Suit Up Evaluation</b>
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

#### Friday, July 02, 2021

8:45 am – 9:00 am	<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Final Oral Argument Preparation</b>
9:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>Travel to United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>(NOTE: STUDENT ID REQUIRED/ CELL PHONES NOT PERMITTED)</b>
10:00 am – 12:15 pm	<b>Oral Argument Presentation</b> <b>United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana</b> <b>Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b>
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	<b>Travel to Louisiana Bar Center</b>
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm	<b>Lunch and Suit Up Survey, Louisiana Bar Center</b> <b>Deliberation by Judges</b>
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Travel to United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA</b> <b>(NOTE: STUDENT ID REQUIRED/ CELL PHONES NOT PERMITTED)</b>
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Award Ceremony (Judges' Overall Impressions of Presentations, Oral Argument Award(s), Memorandum Award(s), and Certificates of Completion)</b>
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Sign Out and Transportation Arrival</b>

## 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.

### ***ASIAN JUDGES***

In 1971, **Herbert 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 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 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.

### ***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.

## DISTRICT COURT FIRSTS

In 1969, **Israel M. Augustine (Deceased)** became the first African American man to serve as judge in Louisiana and first to serve as judge on the Orleans Criminal District Court.

In 1974, **Alwine M. Ragland (Deceased)** became the first woman to serve as judge on the Sixth Judicial District Court.

In 1977, **Lionel R. Collins (Deceased)** became the first African American judge to serve on the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, and first elected to public office in Jefferson Parish.

In 1979, **Revius Ortique, Jr. (Deceased)** became the first African American to serve on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court and first African American to serve as a justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In 1979, **Hon. Suetta Fontenot (Deceased)** became the first woman to serve on the Fifteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1979, **Judge Paul Lynch (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve on the First Judicial District Court.

In 1985, **Bernette Joshua Johnson (Ret.)** became the first woman to serve on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court.

In 1987, **Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve on the Nineteenth Judicial District Court. He also served on the Baton Rouge City Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

In 1990, **Madeline Jasmine (Ret.)** became the first African American judge to serve on the Fortieth Judicial District Court.

In 1990, **F. Rae Swent (Ret.)** became the first woman to serve on the Ninth Judicial District Court.

In 1990, **Elizabeth A. Pickett** became the first woman to serve on the Eleventh Judicial District Court.

In 1991, **Felicia Toney Williams (Ret.)** became the first African American and woman to serve for the Sixth Judicial District. She was also the first African American woman to serve as Chief Judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal.



In 1991, **Jennifer Ward Clason** became the first woman to serve on the Second Judicial District Court.

In 1992, **Benjamin Jones (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve on the Fourth Judicial District Court.

In 1992, **Alcide Gray (Deceased)** became the first African American to serve on the Fourteenth Judicial District Court as judge and chief judge.

In 1992, **Sharah Harris (Ret.)** became the first African American woman to serve on the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Alonzo Harris (Ret.)** became the first African American judge and chief judge to serve on the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Donald T. Johnson (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve on the Ninth Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Edward D. Rubin (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve as judge on the Fifteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Charles L. Porter (Ret.)** became the first African American judge to serve on the Sixteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Janice Clark (Ret.)** became the first woman to serve as judge and chief judge on the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1993, **Curtis A. Calloway (Ret.)** became the first African American to serve as chief judge on the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

In 1994, **Alvin Turner, Jr.** became the first African American to serve on the Twenty-Third Judicial District Court.

In 1995, **Ramona Emanuel** became the first African American woman to serve as judge and chief judge on the First Judicial District Court.

In 1996, **Sharon K. Hunter (Ret.)** became the first African American woman to serve as judge on the Orleans Criminal District Court.

In 1996, **Kathy J. Johnson** became the first woman to serve as judge on the Seventh Judicial District Court.

In 2000, **Sharon Ingram Marchman (Ret.)** became the first woman to serve as judge on the Fourth Judicial District Court.

In 2003, **Alvin Batiste, Jr.** became the first African American male to serve on the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

In 2004, **Dee Ann Hawthorne (Ret.)** became the first woman to serve on the Tenth Judicial District Court.

In 2006, **June Berry Darensburg** became the first African American woman to serve as judge and chief judge on the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, and first in Jefferson Parish.

In 2008, **Keva Landrum (Ret.)** became the first African American woman to serve as chief judge on the Orleans Criminal District Court.

In 2014, **Juan W. Pickett** became the first African American judge and chief judge to serve on the Thirty-Second Judicial District Court.

In 2014, **Sharon D. Wilson** became the first African American woman to serve as judge and chief judge on the Fourteenth Judicial District Court.

In 2015, **Monique Rauls** became the first African American woman to serve on the Ninth Judicial District Court.

In 2021, **Valerie Gotch Garrett** became the first African American woman to serve on the Fifteenth Judicial District Court.

In 2021, **Ledricka Johnson Thierry** became the first woman to serve on the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court.

In 2021, **Vercell Fiffie** became the first African American man to serve on the Fortieth Judicial District Court.

## 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.

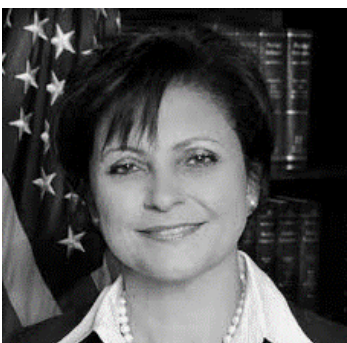
### **IVAN L. R. LEMELLE, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE - RETIRED**



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 Jolivette 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.

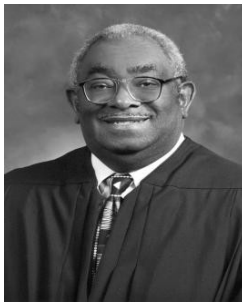
### **KAREN WELLS ROBY, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE**



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 - CHIEF 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.

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

Earl Warren

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## PROGRAM SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Denia S. Aiyegbusi** is a partner at Deutsch Kerrigan LLP. As part of the firm's civil litigation department, Ms. Aiyegbusi works on cases ranging anywhere from small property subrogation claims, all the way to multi-million dollar, traumatic, brain injury, personal injury cases.

Ms. Aiyegbusi has successfully argued motions in both state and federal courts throughout Louisiana. As an appellate lawyer, she has successfully argued in the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and briefed to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Ms. Aiyegbusi graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2007. In 2016 and 2017, she was on the “Louisiana Rising Star” list. She currently serves as co-chair on LSBA’s Diversity Committee and is also involved with the Minority Involvement Section.



**Honorable Dale N. Atkins** attended the University of Notre Dame on scholarship, where she received her B.A. degree in 1980 and was named as a Notre Dame Scholar. Upon graduation from Notre Dame, Judge Atkins attended the Southern Methodist University School of Law and received her J.D. degree in 1983.

Throughout her career, Judge Atkins has focused upon public service, which led to her successful campaign to be elected as the Clerk of Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans in 1989. Her historic win made her the first African American woman to be elected clerk of a district court in the State of Louisiana, and one of the youngest clerks elected in the state.

Judge Atkins’ commitment to the legal profession and to the community is extensive and long-standing. In addition to fulfilling the substantial duties of Clerk of Civil District Court for almost 30 years, Judge Atkins has served as a member of many professional and service organizations. Her commitment to the profession and leadership has been recognized by the Louisiana Supreme Court, which resulted in her appointment by Chief Justice Johnson (Ret.) to serve on the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission and Louisiana Supreme Court Costs Committee.

Judge Atkins’ commitment to the importance of education and the community is probably best reflected in her important work with her high school alma mater, Xavier Preparatory High School. When the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament made the decision in 2013 to close this landmark high school, which has educated thousands of African American female students in New Orleans, Judge Atkins was a founding member of the five-person alumni group which worked diligently to keep Xavier Prep open. Because of the tireless work and commitment of this

dedicated group of alumni, Xavier Prep reopened in the fall of 2013 under the name of St. Katherine Drexel Preparatory High School. Judge Atkins also serves on the Board of Directors for St. Katherine Drexel Prep.

In 1997, she was recognized on a national basis as one of the 50 most distinguished Black Alumni of the University of Notre Dame and named a Black Exemplar. She has also received the Louis A. Martinet Presidential Award, the Covenant House Volunteer Award, the New Orleans Chapter of the SCLC Rosa Parks Award for Community Service, and the YWCA Role Model Award.

Judge Atkins is a member of the New Home Full Gospel Church and serves on the Scholarship Committee at New Home as she continues to work to improve educational opportunities for young people in our community.



**Jami Becnel** graduated from Louisiana Tech in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in Marketing. Upon graduation, Ms. Becnel accepted a sales position with a Global 500 company promoting their products in various territories across the southeast United States. During her 16-year career with the company, she developed the communication and interpersonal skills necessary for success.

After her second child was born, Ms. Becnel and her husband decided it would be in the best interest of their family to assume the role of stay-at-home mom. Two years into this new adventure, the opportunity to become a regional recruiter for her beloved Alma mature presented itself.

In April of 2018, Ms. Becnel accepted the role of the New Orleans regional recruiter for Louisiana Tech University. Since then, she has enjoyed spreading the word about Louisiana Tech University and working with students to help them achieve their goals.



**Troy N. Bell** was admitted to practice law in 1990 and is admitted to practice before all federal and state courts in Louisiana. He received his B.A. from Loyola University in 1985 and his J.D. from Southern University Law Center 1990, where he was an Associate Editor of the Law Review. In addition to his varied litigation experience, he was privileged to serve as law clerk for the Honorable Revius Ortique Jr., Associate Justice, and the Honorable Felicia Toney Williams, Associate Justice *Pro Tempore* of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Mr. Bell has served as an Administrative Law Judge for the City of New Orleans and on national and regional trial teams for national clients. He has tried numerous cases throughout Louisiana and Mississippi, managed thousands of complex mass tort claims, and been appointed co-chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee.



**Adrija Bhattacharjee** is a rising sophomore from New Orleans, Louisiana double majoring in Political Science and Bioethics with a minor in Business at the University of Rochester in New York. She currently serves as the President of the Asian American Alliance, where she has led several events and discussions regarding the political and social climates surrounding the greater Asian community. She has been featured in news articles such as the Democrat & Chronicle and Spectator Rochester and has spoken in numerous diversity panels advocating for these issues. This past year she has served as the Legislative Advisor for the Students Association International Student Affairs and Campus Services committees, and she has recently been

elected as a Senator for her class and the Policy Chair in Active Minds for the upcoming school year. She plans to continue doing more work in bringing awareness to topics such as minority representation and stigmatized mental health and looks forward to exploring the relationship between health and the law with the hopes of attending law school after graduation.



**Professor 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 also has 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*. Currently, Professor Bishop serves as a Managing Editor for *The Second Draft*, a publication of the Legal Writing Institute.





**Daniel Bosch** graduated from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2020, where he earned a Juris Doctor and Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law (D.C.L.). He returned to the Law Center in 2020 as Advocacy Fellow, where he is involved in the coaching and administration of advocacy teams. As a law student, Mr. Bosch was inducted into the Order of the Barristers and served as Vice-President of Judicial Relations for the Board of Advocates. Mr. Bosch was an active participant in LSU Law's Advocacy Programs, placing as a National Semifinalist at the National Energy & Sustainability Law Moot Court Competition and as a Semifinalist in LSU Law's Tullis Moot Court Competition. He also served as the Senior Articles Editor for Volume VIII of the LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources and was an Academic Tutor for Professor Olivier Moréteau for first-year Legal Traditions & Systems.

Prior to his legal studies, Mr. Bosch earned a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University and worked for the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Secretary of State, and the United States Senate. Mr. Bosch is an actively licensed member of the Louisiana State Bar.

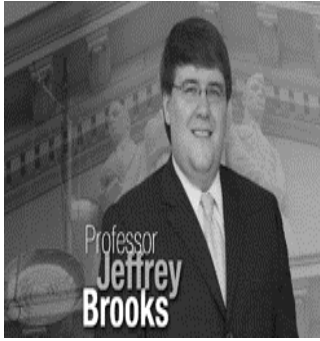


**Rick Bolte** serves as Assistant Director of Law Admissions at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. In this position, he is responsible for the recruitment and counseling of prospective law students.

Mr. Bolte is a 2013 graduate of Loyola, and practiced in the area of family and criminal defense before returning to the law school.



**Kelly Boudreaux** is the Criminal Docket Clerk for Division M. Mr. Boudreaux has been employed with the Clerk of Court for the Parish of Jefferson for thirty years. He handles court docket preparation and criminal minute entries.



**Professor Jeffrey Brooks** joined the LSU Law Center faculty in 2010. He is the faculty director of the Law Center’s Field Placement Program and of its moot court, mock trial, and alternative dispute resolution program (the Advocacy Program).

Prior to joining the Law Center 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 and the New York City Police Department in federal civil rights cases, particularly the complex litigation arising out of mass arrests made during the 2004 Republican National Convention.

Professor Brooks is a 2006 graduate of Tulane University Law School, where he was named to the Order of the Barristers. While at Tulane, he was the Senior Notes and Comments Editor of the *Journal of Law and Sexuality*, a Senior Justice on Tulane’s Moot Court Board, the President of its Public Interest Law Society, and a member of Tulane’s Jessup International Law Moot Court Team and National Environmental Law Moot Court Team. Professor Brooks received a B.A. in Geography-Anthropology from Vassar College in 2003.

Professor Brooks is highly active in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the world’s largest moot court competition, as a judge and administrator. He was the author of the 2017 Jessup Problem, the *Case Concerning the Sisters of the Sun*, and was the recipient of the competition’s 2016 Pamela Young Award and 2015 Steven M. Schneebaum Award.

Professor Brooks is an active licensed member of the New York State Bar.



**Brittany A. Carnes** is a recent graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Ms. Carnes joins Stone Pigman with legal experience from the New Orleans City Attorney’s Office and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has assisted legal teams in construction matters, arbitration awards and business disputes.

Ms. Carnes received her J.D. in 2020 from Loyola University Law School and her B.A. in English and Classical Studies in 2014 from Tulane University.



**De'Jonique Carter** serves as the Pre-Law Advisor for Dillard University's Pre-Law Program. A native of New Orleans, Ms. Carter is a graduate of Southern University at New Orleans, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. After earning her undergraduate degree, Ms. Carter enrolled in Tulane University for a Master's in Social Work. As a licensed Social Worker, Ms. Carter's work experiences include child support enforcement, child protection investigations, and women and infant services.

In May 2020, Ms. Carter earned her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Baton Rouge Law Center. While at Southern University Law Center, Ms. Carter earned the Cali Award in Legal Research and Law and Minorities for earning the highest grade in the class. As a law student, she clerked with Kean Miller and Brown Sims and served as an Access to Justice Fellow with the Louisiana Bar Association. Ms. Carter was a recipient of the National Association of Women Judges, Robin Rosche, Baton Bar Association, and the Jessie N. Stone scholarships. In September 2020, Ms. Carter was admitted to practice law in the State of Louisiana.



**Jaelaun Cavalier** is a native of Covington, LA and a 2017 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where he received his B.S. in Business Administration.

Mr. Cavalier currently works as an Admissions Counselor at the illustrious Dillard University located in the heart of Gentilly. Although his background is in business and marketing, Mr. Cavalier's passion is encouraging students to continue their education.

In his role, Mr. Cavalier has the privilege of informing individuals across the country on the benefits of pursuing higher education and presenting opportunities they may not have known were possible otherwise.



**Honorable Tiffany Gautier Chase** received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Loyola University and her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University School of Law.

Judge Chase began her legal career as a law clerk at the Louisiana Supreme Court. She served as a staff attorney, and then as a research attorney, to the Honorable Chet D. Traylor. Judge Chase also spent several years as an associate in the law firm of Martzell and Bickford. She previously served as Judge of Division A of Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. On October 14, 2017, Judge Chase was elected to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, where she currently serves as an Appellate Court Judge.



**Lauren E. Checki** is an attorney who has worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families. Her motto is “Leave the Hard Work to Us”, and that is her ultimate goal when meeting with each of her clients.

Ms. Checki is a New Jersey native, who had dreamed of living in New Orleans for her entire life. In 2005, that became a reality. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, MA and her juris doctor and her civil law certificate from Tulane University Law School in 2008.

Now, Ms. Checki serves as a consultant for Tulane University, as the Title IX Hearing Board and Appellate Board Chair, presiding over Title IX cases filed through the office of Student Affairs.

Ms. Checki is member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, is a qualified Notary in Louisiana, and is an active participant in the Tulane Law School Alumni Association. She additionally serves on several local boards. In her free time, she can be found playing at the dog park with her Labrador Retriever, Bella.



**Miriam Childs** has been the Director of the Law Library of Louisiana in New Orleans since May 2016. She started with the Law Library in 2003 as an assistant librarian responsible for serials and acquisitions. In 2006, Ms. Childs was promoted to Head of Technical Services, and then to Associate Director in 2013. During her tenure at the Law Library, Ms. Childs has been responsible for or provided support to all areas of library operations, including staff management and training; cataloging; database maintenance; reference and research services; government documents; and preservation.

Ms. Childs came to the library with a strong technical services background. Her previous positions include serials librarian at the University of New Orleans, reference and collection management librarian at Jefferson Parish Public Library, and assistant librarian at Exxon Chemical Baton Rouge. She received her B.A. in History from Louisiana State University in 1992 and her M.L.I.S. from Louisiana State University in 1993.



**John M. Collins** graduated from Southern University Law Center with a Juris Doctor in 2015. He also graduated from LSU in 2009 with a double major in English and African & African American Studies along with a minor in history. Prior to joining IPNO as an attorney, Mr. Collins spent ten years as a middle and high school English teacher in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana.



**J. Dalton Courson** focuses his practice on commercial and real estate litigation and insurance defense. He works with financial institutions, insurers, nonprofits, public agencies, and private companies in resolving complex and straightforward disputes, both inside and outside the courtroom.

Mr. Courson has extensive experience representing commercial real estate and other lenders forced to foreclose on hotels, commercial office buildings, and other collateral. He has also defended a major insurance company in first party catastrophe claims, including class-action litigation, arising from disputes following Hurricane Katrina. His other notable cases include defending an international media company in federal trademark and copyright litigation; representing both corporate and public entities in public bid and procurement controversies; and serving as the lead counsel for plaintiffs who successfully challenged Louisiana's unconstitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

He has been recognized as a "Top Lawyer" by *New Orleans Magazine* and he was a *New Orleans CityBusiness* Leadership in Law honoree. He received the LSBA's Trailblazer Award in 2015 and its Human Rights Award in 2013 for his efforts in promoting diversity in the legal profession. In 2012, the National LGBT Bar Association named him as one of the best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

Mr. Courson is an adjunct professor at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law and teaches constitutional law. He is a volunteer for the New Orleans Pro Bono Project and is the past Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of AIDS Law of Louisiana, Inc.

He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2003 and he received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1998.



**Craig M. Cousins** is a partner, who has practiced at Leake & Andersson since 1997 after a judicial clerkship in the 24th Judicial District Court. He began his career working in a business reorganization and bankruptcy practice. He maintains a practice in the areas of transportation and automobile litigation, commercial and retail litigation, insurance defense, premises liability, casualty, and bankruptcy.

Mr. Cousins has tried cases in both State and Federal Courts and arbitration forums. Mr. Cousins is a lifelong resident of New Orleans, who graduated from Tulane University in 1990 and Tulane Law School in 1993. He is admitted to practice in all Louisiana State and Federal District Courts and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of Louisiana, New Orleans and Jefferson Bar Associations, as well as the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and New Orleans Association of Defense Counsel.



**Honorable Donna Phillips Currault** serves as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Before joining the federal bench, she was a member of Gordon, Arata, Montgomery Barnett, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC in New Orleans, where she handled complex commercial litigation matters including class and collective actions, business disputes, and business torts. She regularly represented employers in defending claims brought under federal and state anti-discrimination statutes and advised clients on employment agreements and non-competition/non-solicitation issues, prepared employment policies and handbooks, and conducted training on employment matters. Before joining Gordon, Arata, she served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Morey L. Sear, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, from 1989-1990.

Judge Currault graduated *magna cum laude* from Tulane University School of Law in 1989 and was selected for Order of the Coif. While in law school, she was a Managing Editor and member of the Tulane Law Review. She also served as a Senior Fellow for Tulane Law School's Legal Research and Writing program.

Currently, Judge Currault is on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association. She is a Life Fellow of the Federal Bar and American Bar Foundations, and a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation and Litigation Counsel of America. She is a past Chair of the FBA's Labor & Employment Section (2015-16) and is currently President-Elect of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, where she has served as a Director since 2002.

While in private practice, Judge Currault was rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell and listed in Best Lawyers in America (Commercial Litigation and Employment Law), Chambers USA Leading Lawyers in Labor & Employment, SuperLawyers Louisiana (Top 25 Women Lawyers and Labor & Employment), Benchmark Top 250 Women in Litigation, and New Orleans "Top Lawyers" in Labor and Employment Law. New Orleans CityBusiness selected her as a 2020 Leader in the Law honoree.



On April 1, 2006, the **Honorable June Berry Darensburg** was elected Judge to the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division C, for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana. She was re-elected without opposition in July 2008, August 2014, and July 2020. Judge Darensburg is the first African-American female elected to a judgeship in Jefferson Parish.

Judge Darensburg is a 1980 graduate of Grace King High School. Pursuing her first career ambition, she enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana where she majored in Pharmacy. She received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Xavier in 1985.

While working as a Pharmacist, Judge Darensburg developed an interest in the law. She attended Loyola University College of Law full time, while working part time as a Pharmacist. In December 1994, Judge Darensburg graduated from Loyola. She worked in private practice, and was employed by the Jefferson Parish Indigent Defender Board providing legal services to those unable to afford representation. She was also employed as an Associate Attorney by The LeBlanc Butler Law Firm where she was a litigator in the areas of Products Liability and Insurance Defense.

Judge Darensburg is a member of the National Bar Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Association of Women Judges, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council-NBA, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Jefferson Bar Association, Louis A. Martinet Society and Louisiana Pharmacy Association.

She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Westwego Rotary Club, the Xavier University Investigational Review Board, Leadership Jefferson Task Force and Loyola Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Judge Darensburg presides over civil, criminal and domestic cases, and volunteers as an Intensive Probation Drug Court Judge. She currently serves as Chairwoman of the LJC/NBA and Treasurer of LJC/NBA. She served as Chief Judge of the 24th Judicial District Court from January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2015.



**Candice Dazet** is the Admissions Recruiter for the New Orleans Area at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is a native of Metairie, LA.

Ms. Dazet graduated from The University of Louisiana at Lafayette with her BA of Liberal Arts in Mass Communications, and she is currently getting her Masters Degree in Higher Education. Ms. Dazet is also the president for the New Orleans Ragin Cajun Alumni Club.



**United States Magistrate Judge Dana M. Douglas** currently serves in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Judge Douglas is a graduate of Miami University (Ohio) and attended Loyola University College of Law. Upon graduation, she served as a law clerk in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana to the Honorable Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Douglas practiced in the areas of energy, products liability, and intellectual property litigation in the state and federal courts of Louisiana and across a wide variety of industry sectors as shareholder (partner) in a regional law firm based here in New Orleans.

Judge Douglas has been committed to her community for her entire career. She is a Past President of both the New Orleans Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society. Judge Douglas also served as Chair of the 2017 Annual Justice For All Ball, a fundraiser that benefits The Pro Bono Project which provides pro bono civil legal aid services to the underserved in New Orleans. She also served as a Vice-Chair and Commissioner of the New Orleans Civil Service Commission. The Commission is the quasi-judicial and policy-making body that exercises oversight of activities of the city's Civil Service Department. She is also a Charter and Founding Member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Women's Energy Network.

Judge Douglas' service to the community has been formally recognized by many. In 2008, she was presented with the prestigious Louisiana State Bar Association ("LSBA") President's Award. She was also twice selected as a "Women of the Year" honoree by *New Orleans CityBusiness* and a recipient of the 2018 National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division Outstanding Minority Partner in Majority Firm Award. Judge Douglas is also a past recipient of the LSBA Crystal Gavel Award, the Federal Bar Association Camille Gavel Award, and the Loyola University School of Law Gillis Long Public Service Award.

Judge Dana Marie Douglas assumed her role as a United States Magistrate Judge on January 7, 2019.



**Alexandrea Flakes** is a rising junior at Loyola University New Orleans. She is majoring in History, Pre-Law. Ms. Flakes plans to graduate from law school and go on to practice in New Orleans. She aspires to work for the Public Defender's Office. Ms. Flakes is expanding upon her understanding of the French and Spanish languages and cultures, as she plans to leave the country to continue her career in a different part of the world.



**Honorable Tracey Flemings-Davillier** has served as a Louisiana State Court Judge since March 2010. She currently serves as a State Court Judge in Section "B" of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, where she has served since January 2013. She previously served on the bench in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court from 2010 through 2012.

Judge Flemings-Davillier serves as the Judicial Liaison. She was appointed by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson (ret.) to serve on the Louisiana Judicial College Governing Board and previously on the Louisiana Body Camera Task Force.



Judge Flemings-Davillier regularly participates in leadership/mentor programs geared toward working with high school students across the Metropolitan New Orleans area. In addition, she has participated in career days across the city, including at her Alma Mater, St Mary's Academy. She continuously opens her Court for observations by students in middle and high school, college and law school. Judge Flemings-Davillier believes in the professional development of law students.

In 1987, Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier graduated from St. Mary's Academy High School with honors. In 1991, Judge Flemings-Davillier graduated *Cum Laude* from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. Thereafter, she attended Loyola University New Orleans, College of Law on a full academic scholarship and received her Juris Doctorate in 1994. Prior to her election as a judge, she worked as an attorney at Phelps Dunbar, LLP for approximately 16 years.

In recognition for her service to the community, she has been awarded the City Business Leadership in Law Award; Crystal Gavel Award (Louisiana State Bar Association); Gillis Long Poverty Law Center Award (Loyola University School of Law); Woman of the Year, Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women; Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, New Orleans Chapter Mother of the Year Award; Distinguished Service as a Pro Bono Volunteer Award (2003, 2004 and 2006); and Young Leadership Award (Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.).



**Tracey Gant** is currently a Tulane University Law student who will be going into his 3L year starting in Fall 2021. He is from Oak Park, IL. Mr. Gant graduated from Howard University in the Fall 2014 with a B.A. in Sports Management and a minor in Business Administration.



**Jordan Ginsberg** is an Assistant United States District Attorney in the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Chief of the Office's Public Corruption Unit. He specializes in the prosecution of various complex white-collar and cybercrimes, including public corruption, computer intrusion/hacking, child exploitation and trafficking, and health care fraud. Mr. Ginsberg has successfully tried 10 federal jury trials, including complex public corruption cases 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 serves as the Office's Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) coordinator and has spoken at conferences nationally and internationally on a variety of topics. Mr. Ginsberg 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, Mr. Ginsberg served as a law clerk in the Northern District of Illinois for the Honorable Mark Filip and as an associate at Sidley Austin LLP.



**Darrell Gordon** is the Court's Bailiff for Division M. Deputy Gordon has forty-two years of law enforcement experience. As bailiff, he opens the court, maintains order in the courtroom and provides all safety measures and protocols.



A lifelong resident of New Orleans, **Justice Piper Griffin** graduated from Xavier University Preparatory School (currently St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory School), the University of Notre Dame and LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1987.

As a young lawyer 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 Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson and Justice Revius 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 (being elected as the first African American Chair of the Young Lawyer's Section and as a board member) as well as the Louisiana Law & Civil Education Association.

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



**Scherri N. Guidry** is a native of Opelousas and graduate of Lawtell High School. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from University of Louisiana-Lafayette (then University of Southwestern Louisiana) and went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center.

She is currently working as a Felony Attorney/Defense Attorney with the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC Drug Treatment Court. She previously served as Staff Attorney for the Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc. in Monroe, Louisiana where she handled a wide variety of civil cases. These included Family Law, Consumer Law, employment-related issues, landlord-tenant disputes, contract disputes, and issues involving elderly residents. Ms. Guidry previously practiced as a private attorney in Opelousas.

Prior to engaging in the full-time practice of law, Ms. Guidry was a counselor and mentor in the Upward Bound program at University of Louisiana-Lafayette, an academic enrichment program that prepares first-generation college students and students from economically disadvantaged families for the academic and social challenges of college.

Ms. Guidry is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society Lafayette Chapter, the Lafayette Parish Bar Association, Public Defender Association of Louisiana and the National Association of Public Defense Attorneys.



**Galen M. Hair** is licensed in multiple states and boasts clients from around the world. He has gained a reputation for getting the job done both inside and outside the court room early on in his career.

He focuses not only on the litigation in front of the client, but the long term personal and business effects that his clients' issues will cause. His clients are family to him, and it shows.

Mr. Hair is a best-selling author having written "Picking Up the Pieces: Surviving Your Property Insurance Claim" the authoritative handbook written for policyholders about property claims in easy-to-understand language.

He has received numerous accolades and awards including Super Lawyer Rising Star, Top Lawyer by New Orleans Magazine, Pro Bono Publico Award, Martindale Hubbel AV Rating (the highest rating possible), AVVO Client Choice and 10.0 ratings, National Trial Lawyers 40 Under 40, Top 10 Bad Faith Insurance Lawyers, and more.

Mr. Hair is frequently consulted by the media with interviews and articles with nearly every major media outlet. Recently, Inman, the number one real estate publication in the world, picked up an article by Mr. Hair to assist real estate agents in navigating real estate transactions where the building has been affected by a disaster.

Mr. Hair also stays active in non-profits and the community at large. He also is an Assistant Examiner for the Louisiana Bar Exam in Constitutional Law.



**Megan Haynes** is an associate with Leake & Andersson whose practice focuses primarily on casualty and insurance defense. Ms. Haynes was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated with honors receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Pre-Law from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2013. She then went on to attend Loyola University New Orleans College of Law graduating in 2016.

During her time at Loyola, she participated in the Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic for Family Law and served as a staff member for Moot Court and a member of the Black Law Student Association – A.P. Tureaud Chapter. Ms. Haynes began her career as a law clerk for Honorable E. Adrian Adams of the 24 Judicial District Court handling civil, criminal, and domestic disputes. She then became an Assistant City Attorney with the City Attorney’s Office in New Orleans, Louisiana where she practiced general litigation in state court, federal court, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Louisiana Supreme Court in addition to handling administrative appeals.

Ms. Haynes currently serves as the Vice President of Internal Communications for the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. Prior to holding this position, she served as the co-chair for the Community Service Committee for Martinet from August 2018 until September 2020. During her tenure as co-chair, she received a Certificate of Recognition by New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell, as well as the President’s Award issued by the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society in 2019 for her service to the community. Ms. Haynes concurrently serves as a Mentor for Dillard University’s L.E.A.D Mentorship program since January 2019. She is also a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the Jefferson Bar Association.



**Tasha W. Hebert** is a native New Orleanian who graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Loyola University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1995. In 1998, she graduated with her J.D. from Loyola Law School. During her time at Loyola, Ms. Hebert served as a teacher assistant for the Legal Research and Writing class for underclassmen. In addition, during her final year at Loyola, she was an extern to the Honorable U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Wilkinson in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Upon graduation from law school, she served as U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Wilkinson’s staff attorney. Thereafter, before entering private practice in 2000, she clerked for the Honorable Ross LaDart in the Twenty Fourth Judicial District Court. Ms. Hebert has a general civil litigation practice with an emphasis on insurance defense, casualty, premises liability, and transportation. She is licensed to practice in all Louisiana State and Federal Courts.

Ms. Hebert has received Martindale’s highest AV rating for Legal Ability and Ethical Standards. She is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Defense Attorneys, and New Orleans Bar Association.



**Jamie F. Hickey** is an associate with Leake & Andersson. Her practice focuses primarily on the areas of insurance defense, products liability, and transportation. Prior to joining Leake & Andersson, Ms. Hickey represented corporations and insurance companies in various areas of litigation including insurance defense, transportation, employment discrimination, and coverage. Additionally, she clerked for the 40th Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. John the Baptist where she handled civil, criminal, and domestic dockets.

Ms. Hickey earned her law degree from Tulane University Law School in 2018. While in law school, she served as the Editor in Chief of the Tulane Environmental Law Journal and received the Jackson-Ryan Pro Bono Advocate Award for completing 583 hours of pro bono work. Ms. Hickey also clerked for Hon. Charles J. Kahn, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for Northern District of Florida while in law school. Originally from Pensacola, FL, she is a long-term resident of New Orleans and has lived in the city since 2008. She currently lives Uptown with her husband, Jack, and their dog, Utah.



**Jessica V. Hidalgo** is an associate with Leake & Andersson. She joined the firm in 2021. Her practice primarily focuses on the areas of commercial litigation, insurance, labor and employment, and professional liability.

Ms. Hidalgo graduated *cum laude* in the Top 10 percent of her class at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, receiving both her Juris Doctor and a Certificate in Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship. While in law school, she served as the Managing Editor of Substance and Citation for the Loyola Law Review. She was also a staff member on the Loyola Moot Court, a Technology and Legal Innovation Clinic student, Treasurer of the Association of Women Law Students, a Writing Clinic tutor, a teaching assistant for Dean María M. Pabón, a research assistant for Professor Emeritus of Law Gerard A. Rault, Jr., and a member of the St. Thomas More Inn of Court.

Prior to law school, Ms. Hidalgo graduated *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans’ College of Business and University Honors Program, receiving her Bachelor in Business Administration.



**Morgan Jackson** assists in managing and supporting the programming and activities of Tulane Law School's student life and diversity initiatives departments. Ms. Jackson is a New Orleans native and received her J.D. in 2016 from Tulane Law School.

After graduating, Ms. Jackson worked as a Corporate Compliance Officer for a statewide non-profit. In December 2017, Ms. Jackson returned to Tulane University as a member of the Student Conduct Office, where she investigated cases of student misconduct. She is the youngest member of the Warren Easton Charter High School Board of Directors.

When Ms. Jackson is not assisting with student organizations and programs at Tulane Law School, she is participating in community activism and education.



**Daphne A. James** has over 20 years of experience in higher education. Currently, she is the Director of Admissions at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Originally an admissions counselor when she joined the LSU Law staff, Ms. James went on to become the assistant director and associate director prior to assuming her current role in 2020. As Director of Admissions, she manages and participates in all admissions activities, including marketing, recruitment, evaluation, counseling/advising, record management, data and statistical analysis, and planning. Ms. James also coordinates admissions and scholarships through a faculty committee and advises the Assistant Dean and Dean regarding issues related to admissions. She works closely with the LSU Law Ambassadors and several other law student organizations and is currently a member of the LSU System Council of Staff Advisors and a Lighthouse Advocate.

Ms. James earned both a B.A. and an M.A. in history. She began her higher education career at Southeastern Louisiana University serving as both admissions counselor and coordinator of scholarship services during her tenure.



**Alex B. Johnson** is an associate attorney at Leake & Andersson, LLP, where his practice focuses on general litigation and international trade and business matters, including international public policy and government relations. Before joining Leake & Andersson, Mr. Johnson served as an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish prosecuting a wide variety of criminal matters, including capital murders.

Mr. Johnson previously worked in Washington, DC, in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, first for the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and ultimately with the Small Business Committee.

Mr. Johnson grew up on a farm in northeast Georgia and studied history and international affairs at the University of Georgia. He earned his law degree at Tulane University. While studying law, he was published widely as a freelance journalist. Mr. Johnson lives in New Orleans with his wife and their son and dog.



**Sophia J. Johnson** is an experienced litigator who has devoted her career to advocating for victims across Louisiana and Texas. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish where she prosecuted violent crimes and other felonies. Since 2013, Ms. Johnson has exclusively represented plaintiffs in suits for serious bodily injuries, economic loss, and first party property casualty claims. In her decade-plus practicing law, she has tried over 35 jury trials and over 50 bench trials.

Ms. Johnson is a Chicago native who came to New Orleans to attend Tulane Law School where she was Senior Associate Editor of the Tulane Law Review. Prior to law school, she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Ukraine and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Russian at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is fluent in Russian and Ukrainian, and proficient in French.

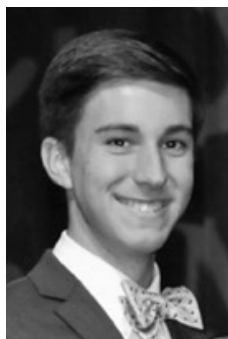
Ms. Johnson is licensed to practice law in Louisiana, Illinois, and Texas. She is also a proud member of the American Association for Justice, Louisiana Association for Justice, and the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.



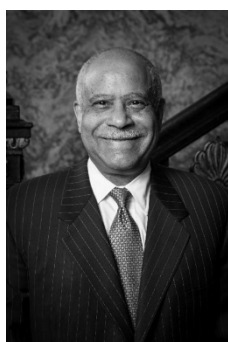
**Professor Russell L. Jones**, the Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Endowed Professor, was named Southern University Law Center (SULC) vice chancellor of academic affairs in 2007 and he served nine years in that position. He received a BA degree in 1974 from Northeast Louisiana University, his J.D. degree, *magna cum laude*, in 1982 from Southern University Law Center, and a LL.M. degree in 1992 from Georgetown University School of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1982.

Professor Jones was recognized as the 2010 Louisiana Bar Foundation Distinguished Professor. He also received the 2001 Louisiana Bar Journal Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award for best featured article. Professor Jones established the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at SULC in 2009. The Project's goal is to empower high school students by teaching civic literacy through the U.S. Constitution. Professor Jones is the co-author of two books: Harges and Jones, *Louisiana Evidence*, (Thomson-West Publishing Co., Lawyers Practice Series); and Harges and Jones, *Louisiana Evidence: Problems and Cases* (Esquire Books, 2011). He also has written several articles on Louisiana Evidence and the Fourth Amendment. He currently teaches Evidence, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, and is engaged in research for three articles relating to the Fourth Amendment: *Terry v. Ohio: Reasonableness and Racial Profiling*, *Utah v. Strieff: What is Attenuation and Causation?*, and *The Fourth Amendment and Deadly Force*.

Professor Jones is a member of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Louisiana Bar Foundation, and Director of the SULC Marshall-Brennan Project. Professor Jones was also the attorney coach for the Southern University Laboratory School mock trial team. The team represented the Louisiana State Bar Association Region VII in the State competition on three occasions. In the community, Professor Jones is a member of Greater New Guide Baptist Church where he is Chair of Christian education and a Sunday school teacher.



**Christian Lacoste** is a rising Senior at Louisiana State University. He is a New Orleans native and graduate of Jesuit High School. Mr. Lacoste is majoring in History with minors in Business Administration and Classical Civilizations. He participated in the 2018 Suit Up for the Future program, during which he won best oral argument.



**Wayne J. Lee** has spent the last 15 years focusing his practice on insurance and insurance class action lawsuits. He assists clients with legal matters such as coverage issues, bad faith claims, mold claims, regulatory issues, and class action claims with a myriad of substantive issues. Throughout his career, he has successfully represented numerous insurance companies in class action lawsuits that alleged improper handling of claims.

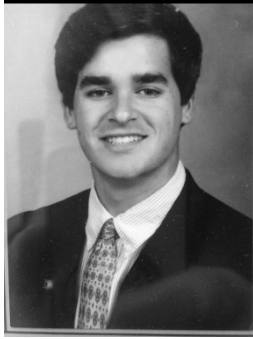
He has spent more than four decades at Stone Pigman and currently serves as chair of the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Mr. Lee also hosts diversity receptions at Stone Pigman where first-year law students are invited to meet a community of diverse judges and attorneys.

Mr. Lee has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers and Partners*, *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, and as a "Top Lawyer" by *New Orleans Magazine*. The Louisiana Bar Foundation's Board of Directors selected him as the 2006 Distinguished Attorney in Louisiana. In 2020, Benchmark Litigation recognized Wayne as a "Local Litigation Star."

He is a Past President and has held numerous other positions within the Louisiana State Bar Association. He has served as a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates (2003 – 2005), is a former member of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, and a member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary (2011 – 2014). He is a frequent speaker at legal seminars and is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Lee received his J.D. in 1974 from Tulane University Law School and his undergraduate degree in 1971 from Tulane University.





**Michael Ledet** was born in Metairie. He has found a second home in Baton Rouge where he attended Louisiana State University and LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Mr. Ledet was inspired to pursue a law degree from his legal studies class at Brother Martin.

In his free time, Mr. Ledet enjoys skiing and playing kendama. What he enjoys most about the law school path is the freedom it gives him to pursue diverse fields of study in undergraduate years.



**Honorable Rosemary Ledet** began her judicial career as a district court judge on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court where she served from October 1999 to December 31, 2011.

Judge Ledet was elected to the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit in July 2010 and began her term of service on January 1, 2012.

Judge Ledet graduated from Loyola University New Orleans in 1979 and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1985.



**Misha Logan-Johnson** is an associate with Leake & Andersson LLP who has handled a substantial caseload of insurance defense, transportation, and products/premises liability claims. She has continued to expand her skills and experience, working in areas such as intellectual property and construction. In 2015, she received her J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans – College of Law. During her time at Loyola, she served as a teaching assistant for the legal research and writing classes as well as evidence classes. Ms. Logan-Johnson also served as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association – A.P. Tureaud Chapter and a member of Loyola’s Journal of Public Interest and the Sports Law Moot Court team.

Ms. Logan-Johnson is licensed to practice in Louisiana and New York. She is an active member of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), New York State Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, DRI, and LSBA – Diversity Committee. Prior to her tenure on the LSBA Diversity Committee, Ms. Logan-Johnson was selected as a member of the LSBA Leadership Class. While attending Loyola, she developed a prototype app for a local pro bono clinic to determine qualifications for services and provide directions from the applicant’s location to the clinic. She also continues to work with the Justice and Accountability Center to expunge records within the New Orleans area. Ms. Logan-Johnson is most proud of serving as a mentor in the Legal Education Advancing Diversity Mentorship Program for pre-law students who attend the New Orleans area HBCUs. In addition to her mentorship endeavors, she is an active member of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. Through Martinet, Ms. Logan-Johnson has

served as a Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee and Chair of the Pathways and Pipelines to Success Program for law students.



**Heather S. Lonian** practices primarily in the areas of complex litigation, class action and mass litigation, and insurance. As Chief Diversity Officer and Chair of the Stone Pigman Diversity Committee, Ms. Lonian leads Stone Pigman's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies and assists clients with diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Her most notable cases include defending a public housing agency in class actions asserting fair housing, racial discrimination, and mold claims; representing a national insurance company in multiple class action lawsuits challenging policy provisions and claims handling procedures; representing a national computer equipment manufacturer in a complex dispute involving allegations of breach of contract and unfair trade practices (for which the plaintiff sought in excess of \$1 billion punitive and compensatory damages); and defending an international construction firm in class and mass actions arising from levee breaches.

Ms. Lonian is the Co-Chair of the Membership Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Class Actions & Derivative Suits Committee. Among her civic and charitable endeavors, she is the Secretary of the Vestry at Trinity Episcopal Church. Ms. Lonian has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* and as a Rising Star by *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.

Ms. Lonian is the Co-Chair of the Membership Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Class Actions & Derivative Suits Committee. Among her civic and charitable endeavors, she is the Secretary of the Vestry at Trinity Episcopal Church.

She received her J.D. in 2005 from Harvard Law School and her B.A. in History in 2002 from Yale University.



**Sowmya Mandava** is the Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable June Berry Darensburg at the Twenty Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana.

Outside of her work at the 24th JDC, Ms. Mandava is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, where she serves as a member on the House of Delegates. Ms. Mandava also serves on the LSBA Diversity Committee, the LSBA Children's Law Committee, the LSBA Continuing Legal Education Committee, and most recently as a member of the LSBA 2019-2020 Leadership class. Ms. Mandava is a member of the Jefferson Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division, where she is the current Secretary/Treasurer.

Prior to joining the 24th JDC, Ms. Mandava clerked for the Honorable Bernadette D'Souza at the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans; and, interned with the Honorable Lee V. Faulkner, Jr. at the Twenty Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana and the Honorable Fredericka Homberg Wicker at the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Prior to law school, she was a litigation assistant at Fishman Haygood, LLP in New Orleans.

Ms. Mandava received her Juris Doctor from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where she was the President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and a Student Practitioner in the Family Law Clinic. She received her Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Loyola University New Orleans and her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Kennesaw State University.

She is admitted to practice in Louisiana.



**Annie G. McBride** focuses her legal practice on commercial real estate transactional work, including commercial leasing, corporate and mergers and acquisitions work, government relations matters and energy work. She has experience assisting clients in everyday business matters such as privacy policies, licensing, use and subscription agreements.

Prior to joining Stone Pigman, Ms. McBride taught and tutored high school students in math and competed as an amateur boxer, winning a silver medal at the National Women's Golden Gloves.

Ms. McBride received the President's Award from the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association in 2018 for her service as Chair of the Younger Lawyers Division Philanthropy Committee and its Landmark Cases project. She has been recognized as a "Rising Star" in Business and Corporate Law by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* magazine and in *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*.

Ms. McBride is chair of the Association for Corporate Growth ("ACG") Louisiana, Young ACG Louisiana network and the ACG Louisiana's Women in Corporate Growth Committee chair. She is the former committee chair of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Committee. Ms. McBride served as a philanthropy committee member and planned the Chapter's very first career day for high school students at Crescent Leadership Academy.

She earned her J.D. from the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2015 and received her B.A. from Loyola University in 2007.



**Janell M. McFarland-Forges** is a Research Attorney at the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit. Ms. McFarland-Forges is a native of New Orleans. She graduated from McDonough 35 Senior High School and Loyola University of New Orleans. After graduating from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts degree, she attended Southern University Law Center, earning a Juris Doctor degree. While at Southern, she was a student practitioner in the Civil and Administrative Law Clinic. Prior to graduation, Ms. McFarland-Forges was a judicial extern for the Honorable Roland Belsome of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit.

After law school, she served as a teaching assistant and researcher at Xavier University of Louisiana to the Honorable Sandra C. Jenkins of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit. She has several years of experience in litigating matters in the areas of casualty and personal injury, products liability, premises liability, and commercial litigation.

Ms. McFarland-Forges is admitted to practice before all Louisiana state and federal courts. She is an active member of the American Bar Association, Louisiana Bar Association, New Orleans Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and the Jefferson Bar Association.



**Donald McKay** was born and raised in New Orleans, graduated from Louisiana State University in 1980 and received his Juris Doctor from Loyola University School of Law in 1984. Mr. McKay practiced initially as an associate with Hammett, Leake & Hammett, and has been with Leake & Andersson since its inception in 1987.

Mr. McKay has been “AV rated” by Martindale Hubbell (highest rating) since 1998. He was recently recognized as a Top Attorney in New Orleans by New Orleans Magazine and has been selected by his peers to be included in The Best Lawyers in America, 2011 through 2019. He has also been recognized for his volunteer work at the New Orleans Pro Bono Project and provides pro bono notary and legal consultation services through Project HELP (Homeless Outreach Project).

Mr. McKay was selected to be a 2016 CityBusiness Leader in Law. Honorees were selected based on their professionalism and community involvement and achievements that have contributed to the betterment of the community. Mr. McKay and Indie, his wife of 35 years, are the proud parents of three sons, Patrick, Sean, and Michael.



**Andrew D. Mendez** concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, complex litigation, family law, and bankruptcy. He has represented individuals, privately-held companies, and publicly-traded corporations in a wide variety of disputes as plaintiffs, defendants, debtors, and creditors.

Mr. Mendez began his career at the main office of a multi-national law firm before joining Stone Pigman. He has substantial experience defending product liability and toxic tort personal injury claims, including mass and class actions. He has also represented both shareholders and corporations in securities law cases. He has also represented parties involved in disputes over control of some of the most prominent business in the city and state.

Mr. Mendez is a board member of Bayou Rebirth, a local non-profit environmental organization. He has handled numerous matters for individuals through the New Orleans Pro Bono Project. He is active in the fathers' clubs of Academy of the Sacred Heart and St. Andrew's Episcopal School, and an officer of the local chapter of the University of Texas alumni association. Mr. Mendez has been recognized as a "Top Lawyer" by *New Orleans Magazine*.

He received his J.D. in 1996 from the University of Texas School of Law and his undergraduate degree in 1992 from the University of Maryland.



**Trinity Morale** received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, where she was a Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholar. She attended Yale Law School, where she co-directed the school's Critical Race Theory Conference and represented clients through the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. She later served as a law clerk to the Honorable Myron H. Thompson on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

Currently, Ms. Morale is a litigation associate at Liskow & Lewis in New Orleans, where she represents clients in a range of energy and environmental matters at the trial and appellate levels. In her pro bono practice, she has represented clients in civil rights and international child abduction cases. She is the recipient of Liskow's first annual Pro Bono Award.



**Honorable Shayna Beevers Morvant** was elected to the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court and took office in October 2020. Prior to her election, she was managing partner of the Gretna law firm of Beevers & Beevers, L.L.P. She received a B.S.M. degree in 2009 from Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business and her J.D. degree in 2012 from Tulane Law School.

During her time as a general practitioner, she gained extensive class action and civil litigation experience. Her practice areas included personal injury, criminal defense, family law, and representation of local law enforcement agencies. She is a member of the adjunct faculty at Tulane University Law School, teaching litigation skills for the Boot Camp and Trial Advocacy Programs.

Judge Beevers Morvant makes time to promote the interest of her community. She is a leader in Tulane's American Inn of Court, a national association that promotes ethics and professionalism in law. Additionally, she believes in promoting respect for law; as such she is currently the President of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and working on Chief Justice Weimer's Judges Imparting Knowledge, Education, & Skills Task Force.

A passion prior to assuming her duties on the bench was working with the Wills for Heroes Program where she prepared wills and trusts for first responders at no charge. She was a member of Bridging the Gap Legal Education Committee which assisted students transitioning into the practice of law. She was elected for two terms on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council as the District 2 Representative. She served on the LSBA's House of Delegates and was elected to the Nominating Committee for the years 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021. For several years she was the secretary of the Civil Law and Litigation Section and a regular contributor to the Louisiana Bar Journal. Additionally, she was a member of the 2015-2016 Leadership LSBA Class.

Judge Beevers Morvant has frequently been selected as instructor of continuing education since 2013, with a focus on social media, professionalism, and trial litigation. She has also presented CLE programs for the New Orleans Bar Association, the Jefferson Bar Association, and Tulane University Law School.

Apart from her legal related activities, she is a former chair of legislative affairs for the Junior League of New Orleans, and a Louisiana Children's Museum campaign leader. Judge Beevers Morvant and her husband, Wesley, are the proud parents of two children.



**Jared E. A. Nelson** is an energy litigator practicing in the Lafayette office of Liskow & Lewis, where he practices primarily in the areas of Energy Litigation.

Prior to joining Liskow & Lewis, Mr. Nelson served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General handling tort and civil rights litigation for the State of Louisiana. He has experience in multiple facets of litigation, including drafting motions, exceptions, demand and settlement letters, discovery requests and responses, and direct and cross examination questions.

Mr. Nelson serves on the firm's Diversity Committee and is active in several professional and community organizations.



**H. Minor Pipes III** is a founding member of the New Orleans firm of Pipes Miles Beckman, LLC. He received a BA degree in 1991 from Penn State University and his J.D. degree in 1996 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1996. Mr. Pipes served as Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) president-elect from 2020-21 and as treasurer from 2016-18. He represented the First District on the Board of Governors and has served in the House of Delegates. He has co-chaired the LSBA's Summer School for Lawyers. He was a member of the Leadership LSBA Class in 2002 and received the LSBA's President's Award in 2009. He served as 2015-16 president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

In his community, he volunteers his time with the Hogs for the Cause program, Kid Smart and Trinity Episcopal School.

He and his wife, Jill McKay Pipes, have been married for 22 years and are the parents of three children.



**Madison C. Pitre** is a Louisiana native and has amassed a wealth of experience in a short period of time. He first met firm founder, Galen Hair, before law school and clerked with him during law school. With offers from defense firms pending due to Mr. Pitre's unparalleled work ethic, and general willingness to do anything to win, he elected instead to represent victims of disasters. Today, Mr. Pitre has helped residents and large commercial property owners recover millions of dollars in insurance proceeds. He also has the honor of representing several large churches after losses. Mr. Pitre graduated from Tulane Law School.



**Honorable Karen Wells Roby** is the Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has served on the court for twenty-three (23) years where she serves on the court’s technology committee. She has been active in the American Bar Association during her tenure on the bench and has served in various leadership roles and was responsible for the success of the Diverse Leaders Academy and the Professional Success Summit (PSS). The PSS gathered diverse leaders for three (3) days to train future leaders in the areas of marketing, branding and networking.

Additionally, Judge Roby served in 2012 as 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. Currently, she is currently enrolled in the LLM Program at Duke Law School.

Judge Roby serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board of Tulane Law School and an Adjunct Professor. She teaches a course on E-Discovery and Digital Evidence. Judge Roby was the chair of the Tulane Law School’s Black Alumni Reunion held in February 2019. As chair of the reunion committee, Judge Roby also was the visionary for the Tulane’s BLA Newsletter, which was first launched after the reunion and now issues quarterly. Judge Roby recently joined other notables at the Georgetown Advanced E-Discovery Institute where she did an eDTalk on Diversity on the E-Team highlighting the importance of diversity on the E-Discovery.

Her commitment to the community is unsurpassed. She was integral in saving her high school, has served as the coordinating judge over a pipeline program in New Orleans for the last nine (9) years, and as a mentor to area young female lawyers where she hosts a quarterly round table to discuss issues of interest and dispenses sage advice on career goals and challenges.



**Hillary B. Rossman**, born and raised in South Florida, earned her B.A. in History from Cornell University and J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall School of Law). She interned for Miami State Attorney Janet Reno and practiced law as a litigation associate at White & Case, LLC’s Miami office before joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent in December 1996. She was assigned to the New Orleans FBI Field Office from 1997-2007 (working Public Corruption, Organized Crime & Drug, Intelligence, and Undercover matters, including an 18-month temporary duty in Washington, DC and a stint as an FBI Academy Class Counselor); the Phoenix FBI Field Office as Associate Division Counsel (ADC) from 2007-2014; and returned to the New Orleans FBI Field Office as Chief Division Counsel (CDC) in July 2014. From mid-January 2020 through mid-January 2021, Ms. Rossman returned to Washington, DC to advise the now Associate Deputy Director of the FBI.





**Bonnie Rousset** is the Administrative Assistant to Judge Beevers Morvant, Division M of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana. As a Legal Assistant with over 40 years of experience, Ms. Rousset has a thorough knowledge of civil law practices, procedures, court forms and legal terminology. She enjoys assisting the public, docket management, and general office duties.



**Honorable D. Nicole Sheppard** was elected to the Orleans Parish Civil District Court in November of 2017 and reelected without opposition in July of 2020. She is an alumna of Southern University of New Orleans and the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Judge Sheppard serves as a board member with the National Bar Association Judicial Council and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Judges Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association and A.P. Tureaud American Inns of Court. In addition to presiding over civil cases full time, and drawing upon her diverse experience in the private sector, she has also dedicated herself to the advancement of education and the improvement of the social justice system. Judge Sheppard teaches multiple CLE seminars yearly. She has also served as an adjunct professor of various local universities for more than 12 years.



**Rod Schouest** is the Civil Docket Clerk for Division M. Mr. Schouest has been employed with the Clerk of Court for the Parish of Jefferson for 41 years. He handles court docket preparation and civil minute entries.



**Stanton E. Shuler, Jr.** grew up in New Orleans and is a principal partner of Leake & Andersson in the firm's New Orleans office. He has considerable experience in handling complex individual, multi-party, class action and multi-district litigation matters in a variety of areas including products liability and environmental toxic tort cases.

Mr. Shuler graduated from Louisiana State University with Honors in 1984 and received his law degree from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1988. He worked as an associate at Leake & Andersson until he was made a principal partner in 1996. He has been recognized as a Top Attorney in New Orleans by New Orleans Magazine and has been listed in the Best Lawyers in America for several ongoing years.

Mr. Shuler is a member of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, the Federal Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the New Orleans Association of Defense Counsel, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and Defense Research Institute. He has been married to Jeanie Shanklin Shuler since 1986 and they are the proud parents of three wonderful children.



**Alexander Shunnarah** was born and raised in Birmingham, his parents risked everything they had bringing his family to the United States to take advantage of the American Dream.

He has an unwavering belief in the fairness and justice that our country offers. Being an attorney allows him to safeguard these freedoms, from economic and political freedoms to cultural and religious liberties. By offering his clients with the legal knowledge to achieve maximum recovery of their injuries, Mr. Shunnarah is providing them the rights and privileges that should be afforded to all Americans.

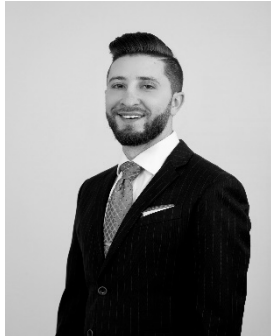
Mr. Shunnarah resides in Vestavia with his wife and three daughters. He is actively involved with Church of the Highlands. Mr. Shunnarah came to national notoriety recovering over a billion dollars for victims of accidents and other injuries.



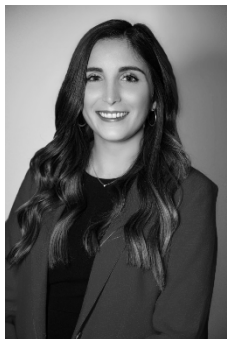
**Matthew R. Slaughter** is an associate at Phelps, LLP in New Orleans, Louisiana. He practices in the area of litigation and leverages his experience as a federal law clerk in handling a wide range of commercial litigation matters in both state and federal court, including general contracts, injunction proceedings, data privacy concerns and trade secrets matters. Mr. Slaughter has experience securing and defending against time-sensitive injunctive proceedings, managing complex discovery efforts, and frequently represents clients in a variety of tort

litigation matters. He also maintains an active pro bono practice which has received recognition from the Louisiana State Bar Association.

He served as a law clerk for the Hon. Robert G. James and Hon. Karen L. Hayes, both of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, and as a judicial extern for the Hon. Karen W. Roby of the Eastern District of Louisiana. Mr. Slaughter also currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Pro Bono Project.



**David C. Spinner** began his law career working for a plaintiff-oriented property casualty firm out of Metairie, Louisiana that claims to be the gold standard of property casualty law. While he learned a fair amount there, he also learned that things are not always what they seem and left to gain more direct experience advocating for clients. He saw what insurance companies did during Hurricane Sandy and he wanted to help victims. He then went on to work for several other top law firms in the Greater New Orleans area.



**Mary K. Taliancich** was born and raised on the bayou in Buras, Louisiana. She joined the Hair Shunnarah family as a law clerk in 2019 before becoming a full-time attorney with the firm in 2020. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk with the Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Taliancich graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law with a Certificate in Civil law. During law school, she served as a Loyola Maritime Journal associate.

Prior to law school, Ms. Taliancich attended Ursuline Academy in New Orleans and then graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she earned a degree in Business Administration.

Ms. Taliancich's practice is focused primarily on property casualty and commercial litigation. She is admitted to all Louisiana state and federal courts and is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association.

When Ms. Taliancich isn't tirelessly working to defend the rights of policyholders, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and can be found in the Superdome on Sundays screaming "Who Dat!"



**Alex P. Tilling** joined Leake & Andersson in 2009 and brought a wealth of litigation and alternative dispute resolution experience to the firm. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he handled a substantial caseload of commercial and residential property claims and helped to resolve complex legal issues that have changed the insurance landscape of the state and region.

A partner at L&A since December 2014, Mr. Tilling has continued to expand his skills and experience, working in areas such as employment, intellectual property, health care, data privacy, government contracting, construction, professional liability, and securities. Mr. Tilling also has significant appellate experience, having handled appeals in all Louisiana state circuit courts as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th and Federal Circuits.

Mr. Tilling has backgrounds in both sociology and biology, having earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from The Ohio State University and his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of New Orleans. He graduated from Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia in 2002. Mr. Tilling lives in Uptown New Orleans with his wife, Amy, daughter, Josephine, and son, Clark. He is proud to call New Orleans home.



**Kyle C. Usner** represents clients across the nation who have been injured by dangerous pharmaceutical drugs and defective medical devices.

A native of Louisiana, Mr. Usner completed his undergraduate degree at Louisiana College in 2012. Mr. Usner attended Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi, earning his Juris Doctor degree and Certificate in (Louisiana) Civil Law Studies in 2019. While in law school, he was an Executive Editor on the school's law review as well as a research and teaching assistant. He also interned for the Supreme Court of Mississippi and the United States Bankruptcy Court in Jackson, Mississippi.

Prior to law school, he worked as a paralegal for a mass torts law firm in Alexandria, Louisiana. When not working, Mr. Usner enjoys playing video games, cheering on the New Orleans Saints, and watching British murder mysteries with his wife.



**Serena Conosciani Vaughan** is the law clerk for Judge Shayna Beevers Morvant for Division “M” of the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson. Ms. Vaughan received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Louisiana State University in May of 1994. She attended law school at Loyola University where she obtained a juris doctor in May of 1997. Immediately after law school, Ms. Vaughan was an Assistant District Attorney for the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office.

After fulfilling her three-year commitment as an ADA, she practiced insurance defense litigation primarily in the area of asbestos litigation. Thereafter, Ms. Vaughan served as the En Banc Law Clerk for the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court. She was responsible for researching, analyzing, and preparing draft judgments for all the criminal post-conviction filings. Thereafter, she served as a Law Clerk for both Judge Michael Bagneris and Judge Monique Morial in Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. Before becoming the law clerk for Division “M,” Ms. Vaughan was a research attorney for the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal for eight years.



**Alexis Vegafria** is a rising 2L at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. She is interested in doing public interest law, specifically working with the underprivileged community. Currently, she is clerking at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services--a non-profit organization that provides free legal aid to low-income individuals-- working in the Housing Division which focuses on eviction prevention, landlord-tenant issues, and other habitability cases. At Loyola, Ms. Vegafria serves as a staff member on Loyola's moot court program, she is a mentor to law-interested students at Loyola's undergrad campus, and will be a Teacher's Assistant for incoming 1L's Legal Research

and Writing class in the upcoming semester. In her off time she likes to travel around New Orleans searching for the best chargrilled oysters in town and spend time with her two cats, Mumu and Oliver.



Prior to entering law school, **Andrew Vicknair** worked as a software engineer for a major medical manufacturer and as an electrical engineer for a major chemical manufacturer. Mr. Vicknair regularly uses his prior work experience as a part of his legal practice. He is now a partner in Shields | Mott.

His primary practice areas include all phases of intellectual property including litigation, prosecution, and transactional matters. Mr. Vicknair handles all aspects of patent, trademark, and copyright litigation; and prosecution of U.S. patent applications, trademark applications, and registration of copyrights with the United States Copyright Office.

Mr. Vicknair’s practice also focuses on commercial and construction litigation, including claims

related to construction defects, payment disputes, design issues, and general disputes among subcontractors, owners, and general contractors.

Mr. Vicknair lectures on multiple aspects of intellectual property and construction law topics.



**Trina Shelmire Vincent** serves as Public Information Specialist in the Community Relations Department (CRD) of the Louisiana Supreme Court. A program department of the Judicial Administrator's Office, CRD is the outreach division of the Supreme Court. Mrs. Vincent plays an integral role in communications and outreach to the public on behalf of the court. She is instrumental in coordinating court tours, meetings, and events to the Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. Courthouse, and disseminating public information through press releases, media relations, inquiries, and court publications. Additionally, she provides video and photographic support. Her primary focus and that of CRD, is to utilize these methods of outreach to inform, educate, and further public understanding of and public trust and confidence in the Louisiana judiciary.

Mrs. Vincent is a native of New Orleans. Prior to joining the staff at the Louisiana Supreme Court, she developed a 30-year career that includes radio, television, and cable marketing and promotions, production, and public relations. She has also worked at the collegiate level in university and media relations, recruitment, retention, and fundraising. A recipient of the Public Relations Society of America Award and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Award, Mrs. Vincent holds a BA in Communications with a secondary study in Computer Science from Xavier University of Louisiana.



**Raymond Waid** is a maritime lawyer and veteran naval officer focused on helping companies in the marine and energy sector. Mr. Waid represents clients through all phases of litigation and in government investigations. He also provides clients with legal advice on maritime and environmental regulations and assistance in transactional matters, such as vessel sales, charterparties, and service.

As a full-time maritime lawyer, Mr. Waid has successfully handled the gambit of cases, including collision, allision, cargo, pollution, salvage, and injury cases.

Mr. Waid is a graduate of Tulane University Law School. He is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Washington state.



**Jawaun Walker** serves as an Admissions Recruiter at Southeastern Louisiana University. Mr. Walker is a New Orleans native. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies from Southeastern Louisiana University in the fall of 2020.

Mr. Walker is currently a candidate for his Master of Arts degree in Strategic Communication. He graduated from John Ehret High School. In his free time, he enjoys shooting videos. Mr. Walker hopes to one day become a film maker.



**Tavares A. Walker** currently serves as the appointed Assistant Secretary for Workforce Development since August 2020. As Assistant Secretary, he provides executive leadership and management to the Office of Workforce Development within the Louisiana Department of Workforce Commission (LWC).

Prior to joining LWC, Mr. Walker served as the Associate General Counsel and Executive Director for Compliance & Ethics with the Southern University System. From 2011 to 2018, he was an administrator at Southern University Law Center. Prior to his university service, Mr. Walker has worked on the legal staff of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the 17th Judicial District Court Indigent Defender's Office, and Acadiana Legal Service Corporation. From 2011 to 2019, Mr. Walker was a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard, Judge Advocate General Corps at the rank of Captain with service as a Judge Advocate. His duty stations included the 225th Engineer Brigade, 399<sup>th</sup> Regional Trial Defense Team, and 256<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2005 from Louisiana State University and A&M College. Mr. Walker later earned a Juris Doctor in May 2008 from the Southern University Law Center. He also earned a Master in Public Administration from Southern University and A&M College in December 2020. He has been licensed to practice law since October 2008.

Mr. Walker is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and currently serves as the Louisiana District Legal Counsel. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, American Inns of Court, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, National Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society of Greater Baton Rouge. Mr. Walker was a member of the 2014-2015 Leadership Class of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and 2019 "Top 40 under 40" list for the Southern University System Alumni Federation.

Mr. Walker is a native of Donaldsonville, Louisiana and is located at the LWC headquarters in Baton Rouge.



**Katie Wollfarth** is a partner in the New Orleans office of Leake & Andersson LLP. Her civil litigation practice focuses on the defense of transportation, casualty, and insurance claims. She also has an extensive background in medical malpractice, medical board administrative procedure, and toxic tort defense.

Ms. Wollfarth is admitted to practice before all Louisiana State Courts as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Western and Middle Districts of Louisiana. She is currently a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and the St. Thomas More Inn of Court. She was previously a board member for the Young Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association.

Ms. Wollfarth received her undergraduate degree from Tulane University in New Orleans and then obtained her juris doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans – College of Law. Recently, Ms. Wollfarth co-authored “Medico-Legal Funding: The Winners and Losers,” The Transportation lawyer, October 2020, Volume 22, Number.



**Lacreasha D. Wilkerson** joined Simon Peragine Smith & Redfearn in 2018 as an associate with the firm’s civil litigation section. She previously served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice and as a law clerk at the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court.

In her practice, Ms. Wilkerson’s primary goal is to reduce the amount of liability her clients encounter. She is a strategic problem solver and an unwavering advocate for her clients.

Ms. Wilkerson is a founding member of the Charles Branch Kodiak Scholarship, whose mission is to provide a young leader who has demonstrated exemplary academic merit and public service in her hometown an opportunity to advance his or her professional career with an academic scholarship.



The Honorable **Jason R. Williams** was sworn in as District Attorney of Orleans Parish on January 11, 2021. He is a proud Tulane University Law School Alumni. After graduating law school, he started his own law practice focused on criminal defense, Jason Rogers Williams and Associates Law Firm.

After winning a series of high-profile criminal cases, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed Mr. Williams to serve as a judge in the New Orleans’ Criminal District Court. In 2014, he saw an opportunity to make government work for the people of New Orleans and ran for City Council. He was a



councilmember for six years, four of which he served as Council President, before being elected District Attorney on a promise of sweeping justice reforms. Mr. Williams is a proud and devoted father to three children: 2-year-old Xavier, 14-year-old Graham and 20-year-old Zoe. He lives in uptown New Orleans with his wife, Dr. Liz Marcell Williams, founder and CEO of the Center for Resilience, his two young sons, and a very lazy pit bull, Ignatius.

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LAW INSTITUTE**

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law Center

Southern University Law Center

Tulane University Law School

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Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish

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Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Marullo & Matherne, L.L.C.

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Hair Shunnarah Trial Attorneys

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Janell McFarland-Forges, Co-chair

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Honorable Dana M. Douglas

Honorable Karen Wells Roby

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUIT UP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENT WINNERS!***

**BEST ORAL ARGUMENT AND BEST WRITTEN MEMORANDUM WINNERS:**

*Prosecution: Jaden S. Armond*

*Defense: Kori L. Dupree*

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