

17th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

EMPOWERING VOICES • DRIVING IMPACT LEADING IN A NEW ERA

AWARD RECIPIENT



J. Dalton Courson

Litigation Director, Disability Rights Louisiana
New Orleans, LA

Dalton Courson serves as litigation director for Disability Rights Louisiana, where his practice focuses on civil rights litigation on behalf of individuals with disabilities. His work at the organization includes efforts to address discrimination based on disability and to improve conditions and services in prisons, state hospitals, schools and other institutional settings.

Courson previously served as Co-Chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Diversity Committee. He currently co-chairs the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's Justice for All Committee and has previously co-chaired the section's LGBT Litigator Committee and Civil Rights Litigation Committee. His bar association work has focused on continuing legal education presentations and initiatives related to access to justice, diversity in the profession and LGBTQ+ issues.

He has presented and written on topics including the intersection of LGBTQ+ and disability rights, best practices for pro bono partnerships between law firms and nonprofits, and the effects of implicit bias within the legal profession. Courson also teaches a course as an adjunct professor at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law on sexual orientation, gender identity and the law.

In recognition of his contributions, Courson received the LSBA Human Rights Award in 2013 and the Trailblazer Award in 2015. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Courson is committed to advancing a legal profession that is more inclusive, equitable and reflective of the diverse communities it serves. He is honored and grateful to receive the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession Award.