

Focus on Diversity

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

Nomination Procedures Listed, Forms Online for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nominations for both awards opened on Oct. 1, 2024. Nomination deadlines are Feb. 28, 2025, for both awards. For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go online: www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx and click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." Or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards – the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting. The nomination period runs from October through February. This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the first African American chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current



Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson
Trailblazer Award
Nomination Period Oct. – Feb. • Deadline to Apply: Feb. 28, 2025

Guardian of Diversity Award
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member of the LSBA's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential;
- ▶ ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach;
- ▶ commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession; and
- ▶ participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

LSBA Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes nonprofit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest

organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting. The nomination period is October through February. Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including nonprofits and public interest organizations). Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts within the legal profession or the practice of law:

- ▶ creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion;
- ▶ making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession;
- ▶ enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities in the legal profession;
- ▶ advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity in the legal profession;
- ▶ dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups in the legal profession; and
- ▶ proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. 📖

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

Applications are being accepted for the Louisiana State Bar Association Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program scheduled for June 9-27, 2025.

The application deadline is May 12, 2025 for high school juniors, seniors and students entering their first year of college in fall 2025. Students may access the online application portal for the Suit Up program at: www.lsba.org/goto/suitup.

The Louisiana State Bar Association, in partnership with the Louisiana Supreme Court, Just the Beginning, and the Louisiana law schools, hosts an annual internship program. This program is available to incoming high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates interested in the legal


profession. Students participate in a three-week legal institute that includes an abridged law school session, tours of law schools and courts, and an internship consisting of job shadowing at area law offices, courts, and agencies. Students provide their transportation and housing. Throughout the three-week program, students will be introduced to lawyers, legal documents, and the legal system all designed to assist them in pondering one important question, "Do I really want to be a lawyer?"

Attorney Job Shadowing Opportunities

Legal professionals are being asked to participate in job shadowing opportunities. During the program's second week (June 16 – 20, 2025), students will be provided

an opportunity to job shadow attorneys at firms, courts, and agencies. This is an opportunity for the students to see for themselves what attorneys do daily and to spend one-on-one time with attorneys in the workplace. Attorneys in the greater New Orleans area that are interested in providing a job shadowing opportunity for one or more students should email the Member Outreach and Diversity team at diversity@lsba.org.

Application Information

The program application deadline is May 12, 2025, for high school juniors, seniors, and students entering their first year of college in Fall 2025. Students may access the online application portal for the Suit Up Program at: www.lsba.org/goto/suitup. 

Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 | 1-4:45 p.m.

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel
7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge

SPECIALTY BARS CONFERENCE

Hosted by Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee and Outreach Committee
MAY 8, 2025 • 8:45 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

LOUISIANA BAR CENTER • 601 ST. CHARLES AVE., NEW ORLEANS, LA

**SAVE
the
DATE**

**17th Annual Conclave on Diversity
in the Legal Profession**

**August 8, 2025
Four Seasons New Orleans Hotel**