

17th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

EMPOWERING VOICES • DRIVING IMPACT LEADING IN A NEW ERA

CONCLAVE CO-CHAIR



Monica M. Vela-Vick

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Monica Vela-Vick is a complex litigation attorney at the Dugan Law Firm, where she serves on the class action team. She focuses primarily on high-stakes litigation involving health care antitrust and fraud. Her federal practice includes representing purchasers challenging the pharmaceutical industry's anticompetitive pricing, and analyzing sham patent filings, infringement litigation and pay-for-delay schemes. She has experience representing clients in all aspects of the litigation process, including writ practice and appeals. She has represented parties in litigation across a range of industries. Her attention to detail is particularly valuable in motions practice.

She earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School after receiving undergraduate degrees in women and gender studies and psychology from Rice University. She is licensed in Louisiana, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is admitted to the Federal Circuit; the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana; the Middle District of Pennsylvania; and the District of New Jersey. She has received two President's Awards from the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the 2017 Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association. Previously named to *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* for her work in commercial litigation and class action defense at a large defense firm, Vela-Vick now primarily represents plaintiff entities. She was recognized by *Best Lawyers* for commercial litigation in 2025.

She completed the Latina Executive Leadership Program through the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2024. She formerly served as deputy regional HNBA president for Louisiana (2022–24) and now serves as deputy for HNBA Region XII, covering Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma (2024–26). She is an alumna of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber Leadership Class and the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Vela-Vick is president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, co-chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee, and a fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. She also serves as president of her sons' Parent Teacher Organization and is a member of the Baton Rouge Alliance's Changemakers Alumni Board and the BREC Foundation.