

18th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

OUR DIVERSITY
OUR DIVERSITY



OUR STRENGTH
OUR STRENGTH

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AWARD RECIPIENT



Susan R. Laporte

Attorney at Law

New Orleans, LA

Susan R. Laporte is a native of New Orleans. Her commitment to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion took shape before she entered the legal profession. With friends, she ran “The Clothesline” clothing exchange for needy families, contributed to the New Orleans feminist newspaper, *The Distaff*, organized rallies in support of equal rights for women and supported services for individuals with AIDS. Professionally, she served the City of New Orleans as an Administrative Analyst in the Departments of Civil Service, Safety & Permits, and Fire.

She graduated with honors from Loyola Law School in 1989, and clerked for Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., of the Louisiana Supreme Court the following year. She was a partner in the woman- and minority-owned firm Kuchler, Polk, Weiner, LLC, and chaired Celebration, a statewide Louisiana LGBT conference, where she organized workshops and speakers on issues including marriage equality and legal and medical assistance for people with AIDS. She served as chairperson of the Forum for Equality, an LGBTQ+ organization dedicated to promoting good government and creating a society free from discrimination, and helped position it for long-term success by raising funds, hiring professional staff and securing permanent office space.

Laporte’s dedication to the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion led naturally to her volunteering for the LSBA’s Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession (the Diversity Committee), and she joined the Diversity Committee in August 2019. As chair and co-chair of Diversity Committee’s LGBT Subcommittee, she helped to compile resources to assist attorneys in providing legal services to members of the LGBT community. She also served as co-chair and chair of the Diversity Committee and the annual Conclave. In July 2025, she retired from the full-time practice of law. She continues to volunteer on behalf of the LGBT community and advocates for justice, diversity, equity and inclusion for all.