

17th Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



Chief Justice John L. Weimer

Louisiana Supreme Court

New Orleans, LA

Chief Justice John L. Weimer became the 26th Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court on Jan. 1, 2021. He began his service on the court in 2001, when he was elected to serve as an associate justice representing District 6, which includes the parishes of Assumption, Iberia, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne and a portion of the west bank of Jefferson Parish, including Grand Isle. He was re-elected to 10-year terms without opposition in 2002, 2012 and 2022. Justice Weimer may continue to serve until 2032.

Justice Weimer began his judicial career in 1993 as judge pro tempore of Division D of the 17th Judicial District Court, following an appointment by the Louisiana Supreme Court. He has been honored with the Outstanding Judicial Award from Victims and Citizens Against Crime and the Outstanding Jurist Award from Crimefighters Inc., both statewide organizations dedicated to crime victims. Additionally, he received an Award of Merit from Common Sense Against Crime and Crimefighters. In 2006, *The Law Dragon*, a national publication, named him one of the leading judges in America. He was also recognized for his contributions to establishing the Lafourche Parish Drug Treatment Court.

Justice Weimer formerly served on the board of directors of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. He frequently teaches in schools throughout the district and re-established and coordinates the Lafourche Parish Student Government Day Program. Before taking the bench, he was a full-time faculty member at Nicholls State University, where he taught law and ethics for 16 years. He received the Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence and was named to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He is a longtime volunteer with the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Company No. 1, and served for decades on the pastoral council at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church.

Born and raised in Lafourche Parish, he graduated from Thibodaux High School and was an academic honors and Hall of Fame graduate of Nicholls State University, where he twice served as student body president. He earned his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University. He is also an award-winning, self-taught amateur painter and has donated artwork that has raised thousands of dollars for various charities. His paintings have appeared on the cover of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* and were exhibited at the Historic New Orleans Collection. He is married to Penny Hymel Weimer, a former elementary school teacher from the River Parishes. They have three daughters: Jacqueline, Katherine and Emily.