

Louisiana State Bar Association

Young Lawyers Division

LSBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

2022 TOP 40

The inaugural TOP 40 award is given to Louisiana's top young lawyers who have made exceptional contributions to the legal profession and their community.

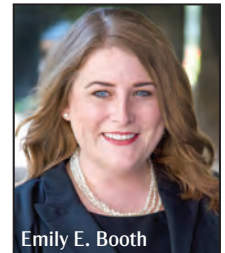
Whitney M. Antoine • New Orleans

Whitney M. Antoine practices in the areas of commercial litigation and insurance coverage and bad faith at Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC. After receiving her JD degree, magna cum laude, from Southern University Law Center and before joining the firm, she served as a law clerk to Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.



Emily E. Booth • New Orleans

Emily E. Booth, an associate in the firm of Wanek Kirsch Davies, LLC, in New Orleans, is a seasoned litigator whose practice focuses on all aspects of insurance law, including coverage litigation and defense of first-party claims. She is currently chair-elect of the Jefferson Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division board and will serve as 2024 chair. She also serves on the board of directors of the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center.



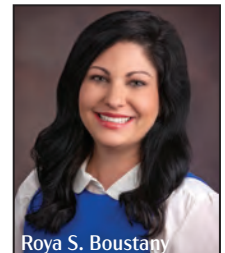
Brittany Bass Arvie • Shreveport

Brittany Bass Arvie is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College and Southern University Law Center. She is employed as an assistant district attorney in Caddo Parish for the 1st Judicial District Court.



Roya S. Boustany • Lafayette

Roya S. Boustany is employed as one of the chief felony prosecutors for the Lafayette Parish District Attorney's Office. She serves as president of the Lafayette Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and president-elect of the Junior League of Lafayette.



Katelyn E. Bayhi • Lafayette

Katelyn E. Bayhi is an associate at the NeunerPate law firm in Lafayette. Her primary practice areas include commercial litigation, toxic torts, environmental litigation, admiralty and maritime, and property disputes. She is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2017) and Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center (2020).



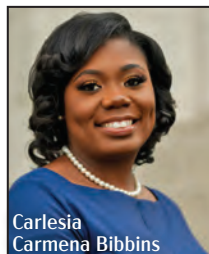
Camille R. Bryant • New Orleans

Camille R. Bryant, as a member (partner) on the Labor and Employment team for McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, guides employers through litigation and investigations. She has served as president of the New Orleans Association for Women Attorneys and the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and in board or committee leadership of other legal and community organizations.



Carlesia Carmena Bibbins • Zachary

Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, an attorney with the Louisiana Department of Health, grew up in Slaughter, La. She is fueled by her passion to be a voice for the voiceless and helping others combat the vicissitudes of life. She has demonstrated what a woman of intellect and commitment can accomplish through her professional endeavors and as an advocate for change in the legal profession.



Ashley M. Caruso • Baton Rouge

Ashley M. Caruso is an attorney with Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC, based in Baton Rouge. She primarily handles general personal and business litigation and representation, along with handling bankruptcies for businesses and bankruptcy adversary proceedings. She recently obtained her MBA from Mississippi State University.



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Joseph J. Cefalu III • Baton Rouge

Joseph J. (Joe) Cefalu III is a partner practicing in the Casualty Litigation section of the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, where he is also on the firm's recruiting, technology, and diversity and inclusion committees. He has served in various roles with the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the most recent being the editor-in-chief of *The Baton Rouge Lawyer*.



Joseph J. Cefalu III

Chloé M. Chetta • New Orleans

Chloé M. Chetta, a member in the New Orleans office of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC, is licensed in both Louisiana and Texas and practices in the areas of complex and commercial litigation, with a special emphasis on appellate issues. She regularly presents on issues of federal jurisdiction and procedure. Before private practice, she served as a law clerk to for Judge Sarah S. Vance of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation and for Judge Stephen A. Higginson of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.



Chloé M. Chetta

Casey C. DeReus • New Orleans

Casey C. DeReus is a New Orleans attorney who recently accepted a position at a national class action firm, Bragar, Egel & Squire. Her work includes initiating a class action against TikTok for privacy violations, which resulted in a \$92 million settlement. She founded and runs a local meetup group called Lady Lawyers to connect local lawyers and provide a space for open dialogue and networking.



Casey C. DeReus

Reed K. Ellis • Lafayette

Reed K. Ellis is an attorney in the firm of Broussard & David in Lafayette. Her practice focuses on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases involving 18-wheeler and automobile accidents, premises liability,

and general injury law. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and obtained her JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice and the American Inn of Court of Acadiana.



Reed K. Ellis

Valerie E. Fontenot • New Orleans

Valerie E. Fontenot is a partner at Frilot, LLC, and practices in the firm's medical malpractice and healthcare section. She is the firm's first black female partner. She serves on the board of DRI, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, the New Orleans Bar Association and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. (current president).



Valerie E. Fontenot

Amber Barlow Garcia • New Orleans

Amber Barlow Garcia is a partner with Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP's Toxic Tort and Environmental Group in New Orleans. She represents manufacturers, retailers, distributors and premise owners in complex litigation matters, including environmental litigation, toxic tort litigation, and premises and products liability.



Amber Barlow Garcia

Eugene G. Gouaux III • Lockport

Eugene G. (Gene) Gouaux III is an assistant professor of business law at Nicholls State University, teaching the Legal Environment of Business, Commercial Law, International Business Law and Intellectual Property. He was selected by the U.S. Department of State to the Fulbright Specialist Roster and has taught undergraduate and law students in Austria, China and Vietnam. He is a third-generation attorney practicing with his family's law firm in Lockport, La.



Eugene G. Gouaux III

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Kenneth P. Hebert • Lafayette

Kenneth P. Hebert is a founding partner at Beal & Hebert, LLC, in Lafayette. His practice focuses on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases involving 18-wheeler and automobile accidents, premises liability, general injury and a variety of civil litigation. He earned his JD degree in 2011 from Southern University Law Center. He serves on the board of directors for the Lafayette Bar Association and the LBA's Young Lawyers Section. He is a member of the Acadiana Inn of Court.



Kenneth P. Hebert

Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. • Monroe

Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. is a permanent attorney advisor for the Houston, Texas, Immigration Court for the U.S. Department of Justice and Executive Office for Immigration Review. He previously served as an attorney advisor and judicial law clerk for the Oakdale, La., Immigration Court through the Department of Justice's Attorney General's Honors Program, as well as a judicial law clerk for the 1st Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish in Shreveport. He obtained his BA degree in political science, with honors, from Southern University and A&M College; his master's in public administration degree, with a concentration in public policy, from Louisiana State University; and his JD degree, with honors, from Southern University Law Center.



Jimmie C. Herring, Jr.

Derek G. Hoffman • Lake Charles

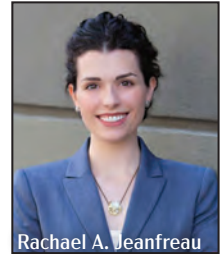
Derek G. Hoffman, an associate attorney at Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, LLP, in Lake Charles, completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Utah (2010) and graduated from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2018. His civil practice includes estate planning, succession and probate, and real estate transactions.



Derek G. Hoffman

Rachael A. Jeanfreau • New Orleans

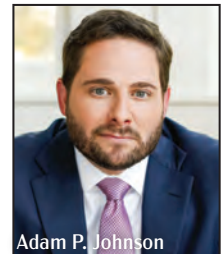
Rachael A. Jeanfreau, a partner in the New Orleans office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, practices in the areas of labor and employment law and commercial litigation. She received her JD degree, magna cum laude, in 2011 from Tulane University Law School (member of the Tulane Law Review). She was a member of the Leadership Jefferson 2018 class and graduated with the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute's 2022 Class.



Rachael A. Jeanfreau

Adam P. Johnson • Lake Charles

Adam P. Johnson, with his brother, Jonathan, owns The Johnson Firm in Lake Charles and focuses in family law, criminal defense and personal injury law. He received a BS degree in business management in 2006 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2009 from Southern University Law Center. He represents the Fourth Board District on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors. He was a member of the 2013-14 Leadership LSBA Class and co-chaired the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class.



Adam P. Johnson

Shermin S. Khan • New Orleans

Shermin S. Khan is a managing attorney in The Khan Law Firm, LLC, in New Orleans. She represents individual and corporate clients in complex civil litigation in the areas of property law, contractual obligations and personal injury. She received her JD degree in 2015 from Southern University Law Center. She is a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice and serves as in-house counsel for the non-profit BMANA: La. Chapter. She is co-chair for the Leadership LSBA Class of 2022-23.



Shermin S. Khan

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Hayden A. Moore • *Baton Rouge*

Hayden A. Moore is an attorney at Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC, and a graduate of Southern University Law Center. She serves on the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and is involved with its Bench Bar Conference and Gavel Gala events.



Sandra James Page • *Baton Rouge*

Sandra James Page is managing attorney for The Law Offices of Sandra James Page, LLC, in Baton Rouge. A solo practitioner from Shreveport, she practices in the areas of personal injury and criminal defense. She is a Trial Lawyers College graduate, a member of the American Association of Justice and is recognized as a Louisiana Super Lawyers' Rising Star for personal injury and criminal defense.



Ebony S. Morris • *New Orleans*

Ebony S. Morris is an associate attorney in the New Orleans litigation group of Phelps Dunbar LLP. She has extensive experience in insurance defense and general casualty matters. She is the immediate past president of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., chair of the Defense Research Institute's (DRI) first Women of Color Subcommittee and Steering Committee member of DRI's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.



Marcus J. Plaisance • *Baton Rouge*

Marcus J. Plaisance is an appellate and trial attorney in his 13th year of practice. He provides legal research and writing services and regularly handles appeals and writes before each of Louisiana's appellate courts, especially the 1st Circuit and the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Keith J. Naccari • *New Orleans*

Keith J. Naccari is the co-managing partner and co-founder of Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC. His practice primarily centers around mergers and acquisitions and tax law.



Courtney N. Ray • *Shreveport*

Courtney N. Ray received her BS degree from Northwestern State University and her JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. As an assistant district attorney in Caddo Parish, she handles felony crimes from charging through jury trial.



Rachel M. Naquin • *New Orleans*

Rachel M. Naquin, a partner at Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, LLC, focuses her practice on plaintiff's personal injury litigation. She is a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) and a board member of its Younger Lawyers Division. She helped organize Justice Camp, an academic program designed to impart civics education and advocacy skills to local high school students.



Audrius M. Reed • *Shreveport*

Audrius M. Reed, with Audrius M. Reed, Attorney at Law, LLC, in Shreveport, is a graduate of Southern University Law Center and is a solo practitioner in the areas of family law, criminal defense, personal injury and estate planning. She serves as the program attorney for the LRVDV (Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence) Program of the Shreveport Bar Foundation and the Northwest Louisiana Family Justice Center.



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Eric W. Sella • New Orleans

Eric W. Sella attended Tulane University and Tulane University Law School. He currently maintains a broad insurance practice as senior counsel at Plauche Maselli Parkerson, LLP. He serves on the boards of the New Orleans Bar Association (previously served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section).



Eric W. Sella

Phillip M. Smith • Lafayette

Phillip M. Smith is a partner at NeunerPate in Lafayette. His practice is focused on maritime law and personal injury litigation. He graduated Order of the Coif from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and served as executive senior editor of the Louisiana Law Review. He volunteers as a coach for his law school's admiralty moot court team and provides pro bono legal representation to survivors of domestic violence and unaccompanied immigrant children.



Phillip M. Smith

Z. Ambrose Stearns, Jr. • Lafayette

Z. Ambrose Stearns, Jr. is an associate in the Lafayette office of Kean Miller, LLP, focusing his practice on offshore energy and marine litigation, general casualty litigation, business and corporate law, and food and beverage law. He is an active member of the Lafayette Bar Association.



Z. Ambrose Stearns, Jr.

Scott L. Sternberg • New Orleans

Scott L. Sternberg is the managing partner of Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC, with offices in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, where he focuses on business, general litigation and media matters. He received his journalism and law de-



Scott L. Sternberg

grees from Louisiana State University. He is currently serving on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors and was the 2019-20 LSBA Young Lawyers Division chair. He founded and chaired the first Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference in 2019.

Reshonda W. Thompson • New Orleans

Reshonda W. Thompson is an associate attorney with Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP. She practices casualty litigation representing trucking companies and large retailers. She is a board member of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and the DRI Young Lawyers Committee.



Reshonda W. Thompson

Joseph T.D. Tran • Metairie

Joseph T.D. Tran is associate general counsel for LAMMICO, where he focuses on insurance, corporate law, data privacy, health-care risk management, intellectual property and contracts. He is a registered patent attorney and is certified by the IAPP as a certified information privacy professional. He is co-chair for the 2022-23 Leadership LSBA Class.



Joseph T.D. Tran

Vincent V. (Trey) Tumminello III • Baton Rouge

Vincent V. (Trey) Tumminello III, a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Taylor Porter, LLP, practices in the areas of commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions, sports law and real estate. He received a BA degree from the University of Notre Dame and his JD degree in 2013 from Vanderbilt University Law School. He serves on the board of directors of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and has received the Baton Rouge Bar's President's Award.



Vincent V. (Trey) Tumminello III

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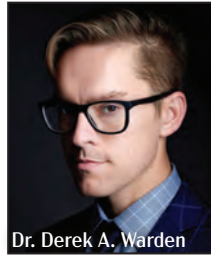
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Dr. Derek A. Warden • *New Orleans*

Dr. Derek A. Warden is a career law clerk to Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Piper D. Griffin. He graduated with his JD and GDCL degrees from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2016 and his LL.M. and SJD degrees from Tulane University Law School in 2020 and 2022, respectively.



Dr. Derek A. Warden

Graham H. Williams • *New Orleans*

Graham H. Williams is a thoughtful and tenacious litigator. In addition to his commercial and business litigation practice, he enjoys working on real estate matters, from construction disputes to nuanced land use, and has built a practice focused on helping clients cut through red tape and get results.



Graham H. Williams

Victoria T. Washington • *Shreveport*

Victoria T. Washington graduated from Southern University Law Center and clerked for Judge John D. Mosely and Judge Ramon Lafitte at the 1st Judicial District Court. She is employed by the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office.



Victoria T. Washington

Lauren A. Williams • *Mandeville*

Lauren A. Williams is a graduate of Louisiana State University Paul H. Hebert Law Center and an associate in the Greater New Orleans office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC. She is a strategic and creative litigator who focuses her practice on personal injury and property insurance matters.



Lauren A. Williams

Elizabeth E. Williams • *Marksville*

Elizabeth E. Williams is a juvenile prosecutor in Avoyelles Parish and a LIFT Fellow. She handles civil legal work for the Family Justice Center of Central Louisiana. She spearheaded the establishment of the Avoyelles Parish Juvenile Diversion Program this year.



Elizabeth E. Williams

Below: Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Top 40 honorees in attendance at the Young Lawyers Conference Awards Luncheon. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

