

Louisiana State Bar Association

Young Lawyers Division

LSBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

2024 TOP 40

The Top Young Lawyer Award is given to Louisiana's young lawyers who have made exceptional contributions to the legal profession.

Andrew M. Albritton • New Orleans

Andrew Albritton practices in the areas of labor and employment law, advising clients on policy development, labor/management relations, and compliance strategies. His work includes representing employers in a range of employment-related litigation in both state and federal courts, including matters involving discrimination claims and wage/hour collective actions. Albritton chairs the McGlinchey PRIDE LGBTQ+ resource group and is active in professional organizations, serving as co-chair of the LSBA's LGBTQ+ subcommittee and of the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. He is also involved in planning the Big Easy Bootcamp CLE program for new bar admittees, which has received recognition from the American Bar Association. In the community, Albritton serves on the board of directors for the New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center and volunteers with Project Lazarus, a transitional housing program for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the New Orleans area.



Andrew M. Albritton

Jason D. Asbill • Metairie

Jason D. Asbill serves as executive director and chief legal officer of Louisiana Guardianship Services Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides guardianship and advocacy services for individuals with developmental disabilities and incapacitated older adults across the state. He played a key role in establishing the Louisiana Guardianship Services Disability Pooled Trust, the first of its kind in Louisiana. Asbill is a two-term council member for the City of Harahan, where he has drafted and sponsored legislation focused on long-term municipal sustainability. He holds a law degree, cum laude, from Mississippi College School of Law, earned in 2014. He and his wife Tiffani are the parents of two children.



Jason D. Asbill

Kelsey L. Bonnaffons • New Orleans

Kelsey L. Bonnaffons, a native of New Orleans, earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and her JD from Tulane University School of Law. She is a director at Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith and is licensed to practice in both Louisiana and Texas. She also serves on the firm's Diversity Committee. Outside of her legal practice, Kelsey is active in community service. She serves on the board of directors for Boys Town Louisiana, an organization that supports children and families throughout the state, and leads her firm's Hogs for the Cause team, which raises funds for families of children with pediatric brain cancer.



Kelsey L. Bonnaffons

Danielle L. Borel • Baton Rouge

Dani Borel is an equity partner in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, where her practice focuses on commercial and healthcare litigation. She represents clients in matters involving healthcare provider licensing and payment disputes, trademark and copyright infringement, unfair trade practices, contract issues, and other commercial disputes. Borel currently serves as chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and is a past chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.



Danielle L. Borel

Chloé M. Chetta • New Orleans

Chloé M. Chetta is a member of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C., where her practice includes a broad range of complex and commercial litigation, with a particular focus on appellate matters. She is licensed to practice in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. Before entering private practice, Chetta served as a law clerk to Judge Sarah S. Vance of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and Judge Stephen Higginson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



Chloé M. Chetta

Jovontee J. Curlee • Baton Rouge

Jovontee Curlee is a civil litigator and founder of the Law Office of Jovontee Curlee, Esq., where she represents clients in civil rights, employment, entertainment, and Title IX matters. She also advises and defends medical and licensed professionals in disciplinary and licensure proceedings before regulatory boards, including the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. Curlee earned her undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University and her law degree from Southern University Law Center. In addition to her legal practice, she is the CEO of ONE Talent and Media, a company focused on supporting creatives and professionals through the intersection of advocacy, innovation and culture.



Jovontee J. Curlee

Shelvia R. Davis • Shreveport

Shelvia R. Davis is the managing attorney of Grant Davis Law, where her practice focuses on estate planning, successions and probate, and personal injury. She is a graduate of Spelman College and Southern University Law Center. Davis has previously served as a staff attorney for Legal Services of North Louisiana, an



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assistant city prosecutor for the City of Shreveport, and a project manager in Administration and Finance/Legal Affairs at LSU Health Shreveport. She is a member of the 2024 Louisiana State Bar Association Leadership Class and the Harry V. Booth—Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court.

Kelley R. Dick, Jr. • Baton Rouge

Kelley R. Dick Jr. is a founding partner of Mansfield Melancon Injury Lawyers. In his practice, Dick represents injured individuals throughout the state. He earned his undergraduate degree in construction management from Louisiana State University and his law degree from Southern University Law Center, where he graduated first in his class. Dick and his wife, Taylor, are the proud parents of two children.



Kelley R. Dick, Jr.

Alex J. Domingue • New Orleans

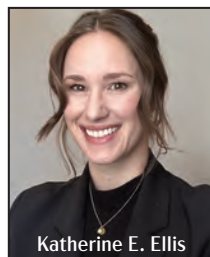
Alex Domingue is an associate at Mouldoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett in New Orleans. His practice focuses on the defense of employers and insurance carriers in matters arising under the Jones Act, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Defense Base Act, and War Hazards Compensation Act. Domingue is actively involved in several legal and community organizations.



Alex J. Domingue

Katherine E. Ellis • New Orleans

Katherine E. Ellis is an associate at Barry Rome & Scott, LLC, in New Orleans, where her practice focuses on insurance defense liability. She earned her undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and her JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Before transitioning to civil practice, Ellis spent five years handling criminal defense cases across southeast Louisiana, gaining extensive courtroom experience. She is a member of the Jefferson Parish Bar Association and a past board member of its Young Lawyers Division.



Katherine E. Ellis

Reed K. Ellis • Lafayette

Reed Kreger Ellis is an attorney at Broussard, David & Moroux, where her practice focuses on serious personal injury and wrongful death cases, including 18-wheeler and automobile accidents, industrial incidents, and premises liability matters. Ellis earned her undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Mississippi and her JD and DCL



Reed K. Ellis

from Louisiana State University. Prior to entering private practice, she clerked for Hon. Jason D. Meche of the 27th Judicial District Court.

Katherine E. Currie Fallas • Mandeville

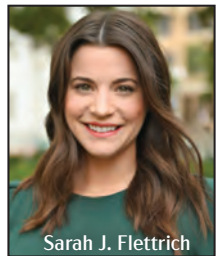
Katherine Fallas is an attorney at Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, where her practice focuses on transportation defense and general litigation. She also advises local governments on land use, permitting, public works, and public records matters. Fallas earned her J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2015 and her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2012. She is admitted to practice in Louisiana and before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Louisiana. Originally from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, she now lives in Mandeville with her husband and two toddler daughters.



Katherine E. Currie Fallas

Sarah J. Flettrich • New Orleans

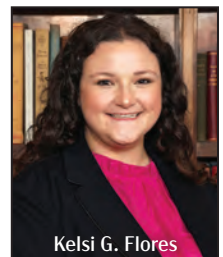
Sarah J. Flettrich is an associate at Hoffman Nguyen & Kuehl, where she practices family law, including matters involving divorce, child custody and support, property partitions, paternity, and estate planning. She also has experience in insurance defense and workers' compensation. She earned her JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2021. Flettrich is a member of the LSBA, New Orleans Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association, and the A.P. Tureaud Inn of Court. She volunteers with the New Orleans Pro Bono Project and has served on the board of the Jefferson Bar Association Young Lawyers Division since 2022.



Sarah J. Flettrich

Kelsi G. Flores • Lafayette

Kelsi G. Flores is an associate at Neuner-Pate in Lafayette, where her practice focuses on governmental liability defense, personal injury defense, workers' compensation, employment law, and civil rights defense. Flores earned her B.A. in English from Louisiana State University in 2019 and her JD and DCL from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2022. Following law school, she served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Brady O'Callaghan and Judge Donald Hathaway of the First Judicial District Court in Shreveport. Originally from New Iberia, Louisiana, she now resides in Lafayette.



Kelsi G. Flores

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Gerard J. Gaudet • New Orleans

Gerard J. Gaudet is an attorney at Adams and Reese LLP, where he advises clients in the maritime, energy, oil and gas, and construction industries. Gerard also has experience handling various class actions, including class actions involving consumer protection laws, data breaches and cybersecurity incidents, unfair/deceptive trade practices, negligence, and breach of contract. Gerard has also been involved in complex, multi-party litigation involving owners, general contractors, engineers, and architects in both the commercial and residential construction industry. He earned his JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2013 and his B.S. from Louisiana State University in 2009.



Gerard J. Gaudet

Cornelius Troy Hall • Baton Rouge

Cornelius Troy Hall is an associate attorney at the Lindsey Scott Law Firm, APLC, in Baton Rouge. He earned his JD from Southern University Law Center and his Master of Public Administration from Louisiana State University. Hall currently serves as Chair-Elect of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Council and is a member of the publication committee for The Baton Rouge Lawyer magazine. He is a recipient of the 2023 LSBA Pro Bono Publico Award and the Baton Rouge Bar Association's President Award in both 2023 and 2024.



Cornelius Troy Hall

Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. • Monroe

Jimmie C. Herring Jr. is an Assistant Chief Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security in Houston, Texas, where he represents the United States in federal immigration matters including asylum, removal, adjustment of status, and customs cases. Originally from Monroe, Louisiana, Herring earned his B.A. in political science from Southern University and A&M College, his Master of Public Administration with a concentration in public policy from Louisiana State University, and his J.D., with honors, from Southern University Law Center. His previous experience includes serving as a judicial law clerk for the First Judicial District Court of Caddo Parish and as a federal judicial law clerk for U.S. District Judge Jerry Edwards Jr. in the Western District of Louisiana. He also served as an Attorney Advisor through the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Honors Program and as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Shreveport.



Jimmie C. Herring, Jr.

Tú Thomas Hoàng • Gretna

Tú Thomas Hoàng is the founder of Hoàng Law Firm in New Orleans. After earning his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2013, he served as a hearing officer for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans before establishing his own practice. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Orleans. Originally from Vietnam, Hoàng emigrated to the United States as a political refugee after the Vietnam War. He is active in community service, volunteering with churches, nonprofits, and organizations that support youth development and leadership.



Tú Thomas Hoàng

Casey C. Hollins • Baton Rouge

Casey C. Hollins is an associate at Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins LLP, based in the firm's Baton Rouge office. Her practice focuses on civil litigation defense and governmental affairs. She was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 2021. Hollins earned her JD, cum laude, from Southern University Law Center in 2021 and holds a Bachelor of Science in philosophy from Louisiana State University. She is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association.



Casey C. Hollins

Mithun B. Kamath • New Orleans

Mithun Kamath is a civil and criminal litigator with experience in government and appellate matters. He previously served as Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant District Attorney for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. Kamath earned his B.A. from Tulane University and his JD from Columbia Law School. He is a member of the LSBA's Criminal Justice Committee and serves as an adjunct professor at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he teaches a course on the intersection of law, policy and politics. He also serves as a Louisiana Advocacy Ambassador for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and is a board member of the Committee for a Better New Orleans.



Mithun Kamath

Brittany D. LaCombe • Lafayette

Brittany LaCombe is an attorney based in Acadia Parish, where she serves the Acadiana region with a practice focused on family law and personal injury litigation. She is licensed to practice in all Louisiana state courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts



Brittany D. LaCombe

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of Louisiana. LaCombe earned her JD, magna cum laude, from Southern University Law Center, where she was a member of the Southern University Law Review. She holds a dual undergraduate degree in anthropology and political science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in May 2022 and while originally from Crowley, she now lives in Acadia Parish with her husband and children.

Soren T. Lannes • Houma

Soren T. Lannes is a staff attorney at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in the Houma office, and works primarily with domestic violence victims in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Lannes earned a JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2023, and completed an LLM in Healthcare Administration Law at Loyola in 2024. Prior to law school, Lannes earned an undergraduate degree in Mississippi and then spent three years teaching English in South Korea before returning to Louisiana to pursue a career in public service.



Soren T. Lannes

Hieu (Scott) T. Le • New Orleans

Hieu "Scott" Le is a second-generation Vietnamese American, born and raised in New Orleans. He graduated with a B.A. in political science from the University of New Orleans and obtained his JD from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey. He is an associate of Mouledoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett, providing defense for employers and insurance carriers in claims arising under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Defense Base Act, and War Hazards Compensation Act.



Hieu "Scott" Trung Le

Thuy N. Le • New Orleans

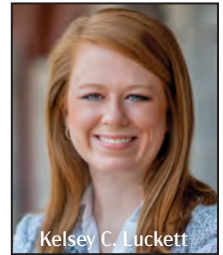
Thuy Le is a graduate of Tulane Law School, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Environmental Law Journal* and president of the Tulane Chapter of APALSA. After graduation, she worked as a senior research fellow at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy and then became an associate at Kanner & Whiteley, where she focuses on natural resource damages cases. Her passion is helping others and her goal is to use her law degree to lift underserved communities.



Thuy N. Le

Kelsey Clark Luckett • Baton Rouge

Kelsey Luckett is a Baton Rouge native who graduated from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2015. Upon graduation, Luckett began her legal career at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, and was made partner in 2020. She practices in the areas of casualty and commercial litigation.



Kelsey C. Luckett

Sree Harsha Mandava • Harvey

Sree Harsha Mandava, JD, MD, MHSA, MBA, is a prosecutor in the Juvenile Division of the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office and a qualified Civil Mediator in Louisiana. A 2022 graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, he previously practiced Family Law and Medical Malpractice Defense and served as a Rule XX participant in the Loyola Family Law Clinic. With a background in medicine, health administration and business, Dr. Mandava has published extensively in the fields of Men's Health and Uro-Oncology and remains active in the legal community as Chair of the Jefferson Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, Member of the Jefferson Parish Expungement Clinic and the St. Thomas More Inn of Court.



Sree H. Mandava

Justin T. Mannino • Baton Rouge

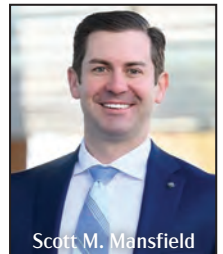
Justin Mannino is a partner at Taylor Porter. He represents individuals and businesses in the areas of federal, state, and local taxation; multigenerational estate planning; numerous business and corporate governance and ownership matters; successions; and trusts. Justin received his JD/DCL, cum laude, from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and his LLM in Taxation from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.



Justin T. Mannino

Scott M. Mansfield • New Orleans

Scott M. Mansfield is an experienced attorney with a strong background in personal injury, having argued in numerous Louisiana and federal courts and first chair jury trial experience. He co-founded Mansfield Melancon with a commitment to providing personalized attention and advocating for clients, particularly those injured through no fault of their own. Ranked as a Louisiana Rising Star from 2018-2024, Scott is also a Lifetime Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and serves on various professional committees, all while balancing his practice with family life and a love for outdoor activities.



Scott M. Mansfield

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Kolby P. Marchand • Baton Rouge

Kolby P. Marchand is an attorney at Porteous Hainkel & Johnson LLP in Baton Rouge, and is the current chair of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Marchand's practice is focused on insurance defense in state and federal courts and includes trial and appellate practice. Outside of the office, Marchand enjoys spending time with his two children, playing golf, and trying out local breweries.



Kolby P. Marchand

William P. Morrow • Opelousas

William "Will" P. Morrow, born and raised in Opelousas, Louisiana, has been practicing law in his hometown parish of St. Landry since 2015. He is a partner at Morrow Law Firm, LLC wherein he primarily practices personal injury litigation. When he is not helping clients, Morrow enjoys spending time with his wife, Angela, and son embracing the culture of Acadiana, as well as being outdoors hunting and fishing.



William P. Morrow

Gillian M. McCarroll • New Orleans

Gillian McCarroll is an attorney at McGlinchey Stafford in the Enterprise Litigation & Investigations group. Her practice focuses on products liability, asbestos litigation and insurance defense. She is a leader and top associate at her firm, and an active member of the LSBA, New Orleans Bar Association, and the A.P. Tureaud Inn of Court.



Gillian M. McCarroll

Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant • Gretna

Honorable Shayna Beevers Morvant was elected to the 24th Judicial District Court and took office in October 2020. In addition to the general jurisdiction duties, she volunteers as a Specialty Court Judge handling the Re-Entry Court and Swift and Certain Probation Programs for Jefferson Parish, while serving as the Chair of the Technology and Security Committee and on the Louisiana Judicial College. She remains active in her community coaching numerous recreation league teams each season. She and her husband, Wesley, are the proud parents of four children.



Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant

Michael K. Melucci • Metairie

Mike Melucci was born and raised in a small town in Massachusetts. He came to New Orleans in 2009 to do Hurricane Katrina rebuilding working with Habitat for Humanity as a building site manger/volunteer instructor for four years. Since 2017 Mike has been an active litigator focusing on serious injury and maritime cases. He earned his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2017 and holds a B.A. in history, magna cum laude, from Western New England University.



Michael K. Melucci

Myles H. Sonnier • Lafayette

Myles Sonnier is an associate at Gallo-way, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith in Lafayette, where his practice focuses on insurance and corporate defense litigation. He earned his J.D. and a graduate diploma in comparative law, magna cum laude, from LSU Law in 2020. Sonnier lives in Lafayette with his wife and son.



Myles H. Sonnier

Christina D. Moore • Monroe

Christina Moore is an attorney in the law office of J. Garland Smith & Associates, where she practices family law, immigration, personal injury, and probate/successions. She earned her JD from Southern University Law Center in 2022. Her goal is to open her own thriving law firm, and later in life, become a well-respected and fair judge in her community. She loves educating her clients and helping them transform their lives for the better.



Christina D. Moore

Virginia P. Stewart • New Orleans

Virginia Stewart is an associate at Phelps, where she represents clients in the education, real estate, and transportation industries in complex litigation matters. She also contributes to the firm's professional development efforts and provides pro bono legal services. Stewart earned her JD, cum laude, from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2021 and her B.A. in mass communication, summa cum laude, from Louisiana State University in 2018. She serves on the executive council of the New Orleans Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and has chaired several of its fundraising events, including the Bar and Grille, Cornhole Classic, and Big Easy Bootcamp.



Virginia P. Stewart

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Sean P. Sullivan • New Orleans

Sean P. Sullivan is an attorney with nearly 15 years of experience in insurance coverage and defense. His practice focuses on first-party property claims, including National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood insurance and homeowners insurance, in both federal and state courts. Sullivan serves on the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions, where he grades the torts and federal jurisdiction sections of the Louisiana Bar Exam. He has also been active with the Forum for Equality, Louisiana's LGBTQ+ human rights organization, for more than a decade.



tion Act, Defense Base Act, and Federal Employer Liability Act. He has extensive litigation experience, regularly appearing before agencies like the U.S. Department of Labor and Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation. Outside of his practice, Francis enjoys attending LSU sports events and exploring New Orleans' restaurant scene.



Katherine L. Swartout • New Orleans

Katherine L. Swartout is a civil litigation and trial attorney at Pipes Miles Beckman, with a wide array of experience representing national insurers, international product manufacturers, interstate carriers, national grocery chains, public entities, and construction and development companies. She has been recognized in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch and Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Stars and currently serves as chair of the New Orleans Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.



Gerald Waltman III • New Orleans

Gerald "Jess" Waltman III is a senior associate at Gordon Arata, where he litigates complex commercial disputes. He is admitted to practice in Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Waltman earned his JD from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2016. He is an active member of the New Orleans Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Federal Bar Association, and previously served as president of the Mississippi Bar's Young Lawyers Division.



Rebekka C. Veith • New Orleans

Rebekka Veith is a partner at Fishman Haygood, LLP in New Orleans, where her diverse practice includes appellate work, class actions/mass actions/MDLs, fraudulent transfer and specialized bankruptcy litigation, and insurance coverage cases. She is committed to educating the next generation of lawyers and regularly presents "Trial Skills" at Justice Camp hosted by the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, for which she serves on the board of the Younger Lawyers Division. Outside of work, Rebekka volunteers with a wide range of organizations and is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for HandsOn New Orleans, a nonprofit organization that creates and manages service projects relating to public school revitalization, youth recreation, neighborhood development, urban gardening, and environmental restoration.



Gary J. Williams II • Houston, TX

Gary Williams II is an Assistant Chief Counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where his practice focuses on immigration. He earned his undergraduate degree from Southern University and A&M College and his J.D. from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2019. Williams is a member of the American Bar Association, Houston Lawyers Association, and the Louisiana Federal Bar Association. He is also a member of the Leadership LSBA 2024-25 Class.



Haley Zhu-Butler • New Orleans

Haley Zhu-Butler is a versatile attorney at Lugenbuhl whose background sits at the intersection of law, technology and data privacy, while also encompassing strategic commercial financial dispute resolution for businesses and individuals. Zhu-Butler applies her analytic skillset to effectively resolve financial disputes for businesses and individuals of all sizes. Admitted to practice in Louisiana, Connecticut and the District of Columbia, she has particular experience guiding clients through pre-judgment recovery negotiations and post-judgment debt collections, delivering focused and efficient strategies that maximize recovery while minimizing risk.



Francis A. Waguespack, Jr. • New Orleans

Francis A. Waguespack, Jr. is an experienced attorney specializing in workers' compensation and maritime law, with a focus on cases under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.