

Bar Briefs

November 2025

Louisiana State Bar Association

Vol. 40, No. 6

Centola, Jones, Guzman Certified Elected for LSBA, YLD Leadership Positions; Contested Races on Ballot

Lawrence J. (Larry) Centola III of New Orleans and Carrie LeBlanc Jones of Baton Rouge have been certified elected for 2026-27 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) president-elect and 2026-28 LSBA treasurer, respectively, following the close of election qualifying on Oct. 13. Centola will automatically assume the presidency in 2027-28.

Centola is a Principal of Martell, Bickford & Centola in New Orleans. Jones is of counsel at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP in Baton Rouge.

Christina K. (Cristy) Guzman of Metairie has been certified elected for 2026-27 YLD secretary for the 2026-27 term. Current Secretary Rachal Cox Cassagne of Gretna will automatically assume the post of 2026-27 YLD chair-elect and then 2027-28 YLD chair. Cassagne is with the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Orleans and Guzman is with

Jeffrey Hufft Law Firm of Metairie.

Online Voting Open from Nov. 3-17.

First-round voting will begin on Nov. 3 for 7 contested leadership positions for the Board of Governors, Nominating Committee and Young Lawyers Division Council. Deadline for electronically casting votes is Monday, Nov. 17.

Balloting will be conducted electronically only, as approved by the LSBA Board of Governors and provided for in the Association's Articles of Incorporation. No paper ballots will be provided.

Listed below are candidates in **Contested Races** and members who have been **Certified Elected** for their races. Profiles on candidates in contested races are accessible online at: www.lsba.org/goto/elections.



Lawrence J.
"Larry" Centola III



Carrie LeBlanc Jones



Christina K.
"Cristy" Guzman



Rachal Cox Cassagne

ELECTIONS continued on page 2

Inside...

<i>Legal Specialization</i>	5, 8, 18
<i>LSBA Names Old Republic as New Endorsed Malpractice Insurance Provider</i>	7
<i>Elections: What Members Need to Know About Online Voting</i>	5
<i>Louisiana Act 352 Overhauls Court Filings</i>	8
<i>LSBA Leadership Vacancies</i>	9
<i>LSBA 50-, 60-, 70-year Member Recognition</i>	11-16
<i>MCLE Updates</i>	16, 18, 21
<i>LSBA Member Services</i>	19
<i>Young Lawyers Division</i>	10, 20
<i>Focus on Access to Justice</i>	22-23
<i>Focus on Diversity</i>	24-25
<i>Classifieds</i>	26
<i>Upcoming LSBA CLE Calendar</i>	27

ELECTIONS continued from page 1

CONTESTED RACES

Board of Governors (three-year term)

First Board District (1 position)

Thomas L. (Louis) Colletta, Jr.
J. Christopher (Chris) Zainey, Jr.

Fifth Board District (1 position)

Valerie Briggs Bargas
Clayton J. Borne IV
Steven J. Farber

Nominating Committee (one-year term)

District 1A (4 positions)

Kristen D. Amond
Barry H. Grodsky
H. Minor Pipes III
Graham H. Ryan
J. Christopher (Chris) Zainey, Jr.

District 2A (2 positions)

Hon. Kelly E. Balfour
Carrie LeBlanc Jones
David Abboud Thomas

District 3C (1 position)

Charles D. Elliott
Edward L. (Ed) Tarpley, Jr.

Young Lawyers Division Council (two-year term)

First Board District (1 position)

Monette M. (Mo) Davis
Tori M. Howze
Margaret L. Manning

Fifth Board District (1 position)

Manning P. Greene
Malika L. Howard

CERTIFIED ELECTED

LSBA Officers

► President-Elect 2026-27 (*ascends to presidency in 2027-28*): Lawrence J. (Larry) Centola III

► Treasurer 2026-28: Carrie LeBlanc Jones

Board of Governors

► Second Board District: Sandra K. Cosby

► Third Board District: Shannon Seiler Dartez

Nominating Committee

► District 1B: Kelly M. Rabalais

► District 2B: Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant & Hon. Raymond S. (Ray) Steib, Jr.

► District 2C: Paula A. Ates

► District 3A: Shannon Seiler Dartez

► District 3B: Hon. John L. (Lee) Hoffoss, Jr.

► District 3D: Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr.

► District 3E: C.A. (Hap) Martin III

LSBA House of Delegates

(Some districts have appointments pending.)

► First Judicial District: Valerie A. (Val) DeLatte, James L. (Jim) Fortson, Jr., W. James (Jim) Hill III, Kevin R. Molloy,

Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr., Scott R. Wolf, Paul L. Wood (7 appointments pending.)

► Second Judicial District: (3 appointments pending.)

► Third Judicial District: Lewis A. Jones, Tyler G. Storms (1 appointment pending.)

► Fourth Judicial District: Jimmie C. Herring, Jr., Kaleb M. (Morgan) Livingston, Spencer K. Moore, Ramsey L. Ogg, W. Michael (Mike) Street (5 appointments pending.)

► Fifth Judicial District: (3 appointments pending.)

► Sixth Judicial District: Kenneth A. (Andy) Brister (1 appointment pending.)

► Seventh Judicial District: (2 appointments pending.)

► Eighth Judicial District: (1 appointment pending.)

► Ninth Judicial District: Charles D. Elliott, Derrick J. Johnson, Amber L. LaBorde, Monique Y. Metoyer, Alainna R. Mire (2 appointments pending.)

► Tenth Judicial District: Howard E. Conday, Jr. (1 appointment pending.)

► Eleventh Judicial District: Joseph R. Stevens

► Twelfth Judicial District: (2 appointments pending.)

► Thirteenth Judicial District: Christopher M. Ludeau (1 appointment pending.)

ELECTIONS continued on page 3

Bar Briefs

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ELECTIONS continued from page 2

► Fourteenth Judicial District: Jonathan L. Johnson, Larry E. Pichon, Michael H. (Mike) Schwartzberg (7 appointments pending.)

► Fifteenth Judicial District: Robert K. Chevalier, Pamela A. Lemoins, Jared E. Nelson, Michael D. Skinner (8 appointments pending.)

► Sixteenth Judicial District: Adolph B. (Dolph) Curet III, Maggie T. Simar (6 appointments pending.)

► Seventeenth Judicial District: Eugene G. (Gene) Gouaux III, Brett M. Landry, George J. Ledet, Jr. (2 appointments pending.)

► Eighteenth Judicial District: Andretta Breaux Atkins, Stephen P. Jewell, Deidre D. Robert (1 appointment pending.)

► Nineteenth Judicial District: B. Scott Andrews, Jesse H. Bankston, Jr., Brandi A. Barze, Dana B. Brown, Susan W. Brown, Donald J. (Don) Cazayoux, Jr., Douglas J. Cochran, Renee C. Crasto, David Abboud Thomas (12 appointments pending.)

Young Lawyers Division Officers

► Chair-Elect 2026-27 (*ascends to chair in 2027-28*): Rachal Cox Cassagne.

► Secretary 2026-27 (*ascends to chair-elect in 2027-28*): Christina K. (Cristy) Guzman

Young Lawyers Division Council

► Second Board District: Lauren T. Kirichkow

► Third Board District: Jared E. Nelson

► Seventh Board District: Jana L. Robinson

American Bar Association

► House of Delegates: Paula A. Ates & Robert A. (Bob) Kutcher

► House of Delegates – YLD Representative: Amber L. LaBorde

For more information on the election procedures and the schedule, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/elections. ♦

House Resolution Deadline Dec. 15 for 2026 Midyear Meeting

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Midyear Meeting is scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 22–24, 2026, at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge. The deadline for submitting resolutions for the House of Delegates meeting is Monday, Dec. 15. (The House will meet on Jan. 24, 2026.)

Resolutions by House members and committee and section chairs should be mailed to LSBA Secretary Bradley J. Tate, c/o Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404. All resolutions proposed to be considered at the meeting must be received on or before Dec. 15. Resolutions must be signed by the author. Also, copies of all resolutions should be emailed (in MS Word format) to LSBA Governance Coordinator Jen France at jen.france@lsba.org. ♦

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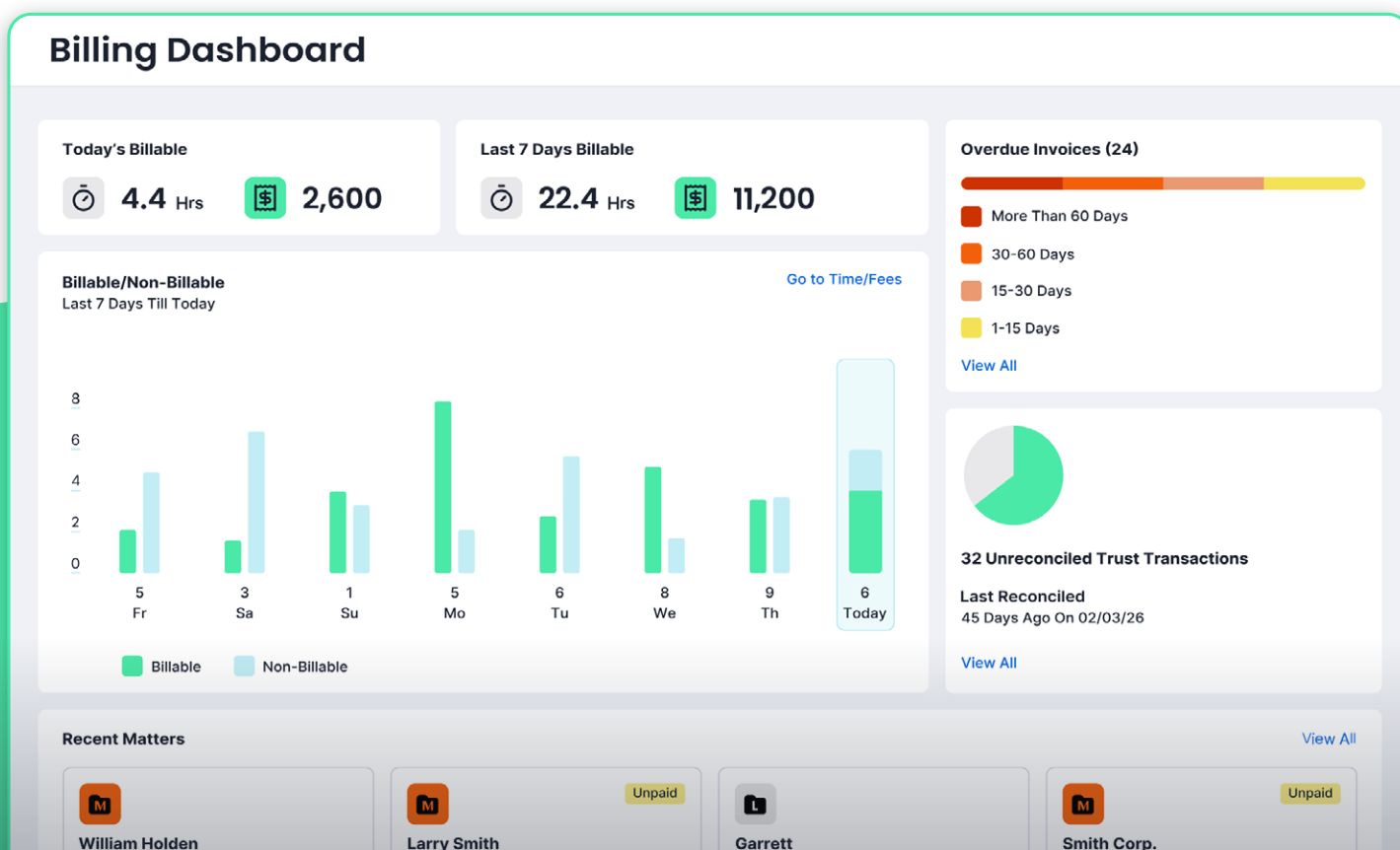
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LBLS Accepting Applications for Board Certification

The LBLS is accepting applications for board certification in seven (7) specializations — appellate practice, employment law, estate planning and administration, family law, health law, labor law, and tax law -- from November 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026. The LBLS is accepting applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law board certification from January 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026.

In accordance with the Plan of Legal Specialization, a Louisiana State Bar Association member in good standing who has been engaged in the practice of law on a full-time basis for a minimum of five (5) years may apply for board certification. Further requirements are that each year a minimum percentage of the attorney's practice must be devoted to the area of board certification sought, passing a written examination to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills and proficiency in the area for which board certification is sought

and five (5) favorable references. Peer review shall be used to determine that an applicant has achieved recognition as having a level of competence indicating proficient performance handling the usual matters in the specialty field. Please refer to the LBLS standards for the applicable specialty for a more detailed description of the requirements for application.

In addition to the above, applicants must meet a minimum CLE requirement for the year in which application is made and the examination is administered:

- ▶ Appellate Practice – 15 hours of appellate practice
- ▶ Employment Law – 15 hours of employment law
- ▶ Estate Planning and Administration — 18 hours of estate planning and administration
- ▶ Family Law — 15 hours of family law
- ▶ Health Law – 15 hours of health law
- ▶ Labor Law – 15 hours of labor law
- ▶ Tax Law — 18 hours of tax law

▶ Bankruptcy Law — CLE is regulated by the American Board of Certification, the testing agency.

Approved specialization CLE courses may be viewed on the LBLS Approved Course Calendar.

With regard to applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law board certification, although the written test(s) is administered by the American Board of Certification, attorneys should apply for approval of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization simultaneously with the testing agency in order to avoid delay of board certification by the LBLS. Information concerning the American Board of Certification will be provided with the application form(s).

Anyone interested in applying for board certification should contact LBLS Specialization Director, Mary Ann Wegmann, email maryann.wegmann@lsba.org, or call (504) 619-0128. ♦

Board Certified Specialists and 2025 Applicants: LASC Sets “Computer-Based CLE” Credits for 2025

For the 2025 compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2025, the Louisiana Supreme Court has set the limitation for “computer-based CLE” at 4.0 hours annually (as defined in Rule 3(d) of Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXX. “Computer-based CLE” includes interactive live webcasts, webinars and on-demand recordings.

Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) Estate Planning and Administration specialists and Tax Law specialists (and 2025 applicants for these specialties) may earn up to 4.0 hours of approved specialization “computer-based CLE” credits on or before Dec. 31, 2025. The remaining 14 hours of the required 18 hours should be “in person attendance.”

LBLS Appellate Practice specialists, Employment Law specialists, Family Law specialists, Health Law specialists and Labor Law specialists (and 2025 applicants for these specialties) may

earn up to 4.0 approved specialization “computer-based CLE” credits on or before Dec. 31, 2025. The remaining 11 hours of the required 15 hours should be “in person attendance.”

LBLS Business Bankruptcy Law specialists and Consumer Bankruptcy Law specialists must satisfy the continuing legal education requirements of the American Board of Certification.

To access the LBLS Approved Course Calendar, go to: www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S. Check off the specialization and click “Search Courses” to find approved CLE in that specialization. Review the “Total Hours” column to confirm how many CLE hours, if any, were approved for that specialization.

For more information, contact Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann at (504)619-0128, (800)421-5722, ext. 128, or email maryann.wegmann@lsba.org. ♦

Elections: What Members Need to Know About Online Voting

To make the online voting procedure as smooth as possible, here's what members need to know:

▶ Members will receive an email with their E-ballot on Monday, Nov. 3. The sender address will be “LSBA Election Admin” and the Subject Line will reference “Vote now in the LSBA 2025-2026 Election.”

▶ The email will include a link to the voting website. On the voting website, members must type in their 5-digit member ID number and birth date to access the ballot. Ballots will only include races for which the member may cast a vote.

▶ Eligible Members who do not have an email address, or members preferring to vote from the LSBA website, may log-in from the LSBA website to a special page and will be asked to enter the same credentials (5-digit member ID and birth date). The “Vote Now” icon will be active from Nov. 3 through the end of the voting period on Nov. 17. ♦

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LSBA Names Old Republic as New Endorsed Malpractice Insurance Provider

Enhanced coverage and new benefits for Louisiana lawyers begin January 2026

After a year-long review process, the LSBA has selected Old Republic Lawyers Specialty Insurance (ORLSI) as the Association's endorsed provider of lawyer's malpractice insurance, partnering with Gilsbar to manage and administer the program. The change marks a major enhancement to the LSBA Insurance Program, which now offers more flexible pricing, additional premium credits, and stronger risk management benefits designed to reward careful, claims-free practice.

The decision followed an extensive review by the LSBA Insurance Committee, chaired by Kevin C. O'Bryon, which solicited and evaluated proposals from multiple carriers. LSBA President Edward J. Walters, Jr. said the committee's work was instrumental in identifying the best fit for Louisiana lawyers. "The Committee has spent countless hours over the past year to solicit and review bids and meet with potential carriers on what they could offer LSBA members," Walters said. "I'm deeply grateful for their dedication and diligence on this important project and thrilled that we can now offer such an exceptional product to our members."

Under the new partnership, LSBA members will see several improvements to their professional liability coverage, including:

- ▶ Opportunities for a claims-free deductible;
- ▶ Additional deductible discounts for eligible policyholders;
- ▶ Premium credits for standalone cyber liability policies;
- ▶ Increased risk management credits; and
- ▶ Revised pricing criteria that offer more flexible rates for firms of all sizes.

Together, these enhancements aim to make malpractice coverage more affordable and comprehensive for Louisiana practitioners.

LSBA members currently insured through the program will receive notice of the updated coverage beginning with January 2026 policy effective dates. Attorneys interested in joining the program will also have access to quotes for the enhanced, LSBA-endorsed policy starting in January.

For the LSBA, the move underscores its continued commitment to supporting the business and professional needs of its members. "This partnership represents the best of what our Association can do, leveraging relationships and expertise to bring tangible value to our members," Walters said.

For more information about the LSBA's endorsed lawyers' malpractice insurance program, contact Gilsbar at (800)906-9654 or visit www.gilsbar.com/lsba-members-insurance-program. ♦

Participate in LSBA Mentoring Programs

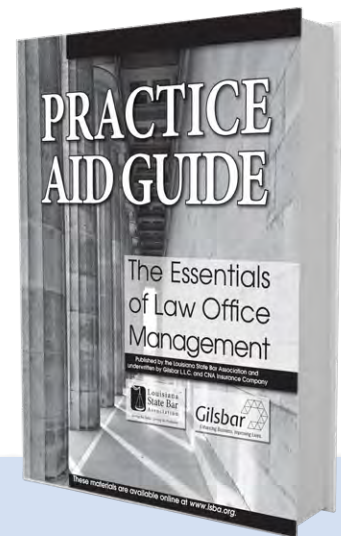
Take advantage of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) mentoring programs.

The LSBA Committee on the Profession's "Transition Into Practice" (TIP) mentor program provides new lawyers a great opportunity to gain practical experience and networking from seasoned lawyers. The program also offers experienced Bar members a chance to give back and to guide new lawyers in the right direction. Mentors and mentees will meet four times over the course of the program to discuss various well-defined and organized topics. These meetings can take place by Zoom or in-person. There is a handbook available which contains all the information mentors and mentees would need to cover the topics required by the program. Mentors are not required to do any independent preparation other than reviewing the handbook; most of the information shared will come from personal experience. Topics such as civility, professionalism, work/life balance, careers and career objectives, law school debt, conflicts, ethics issues, dealing with the "difficult" client, time

records, billing, fees and trust accounts are included. Register to be a mentor or mentee on the website.

The SPOT Mentoring Program is an on-demand mentoring opportunity for attorneys with two to seven years in practice. It gives young attorneys the chance to seek guidance, advice or information from a database of more than 700 mentors from a wide range of career fields. There is no need to sign up. Lawyers are eligible based on years of admission. The program can be accessed through members' LSBA accounts and questions can be posted in the secure system to the mentors. Examples of spot mentoring questions that can be posted might include career development, legal practice skills, professionalism, practice development, client service/management and family/work integration. This innovative program is a great resource and aid. Many young attorneys who have utilized the program have found it to be very beneficial and have always gotten a wealth of valuable advice from the database of mentors.

For more information on both programs, go to: www.lsba.org/Mentoring/. ♦



Practice Aid Guide: The Essentials of Law Office Management

Available for download or read for free online - peruse the form depository for a variety of useful forms, letters and checklists.

Find out more at
www.lsba.org/PracticeAidGuide

CLE Compliance Deadline is Dec. 31, 2025, for Board Certified Specialists; Preliminary Transcripts to be Emailed

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBSL), as set forth in the individual Specialty Standards for each field of legal specialization, board certified attorneys in a specific field of law must meet a minimum CLE requirement for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2025.

Preliminary transcripts are set to

be emailed in late November to all board certified specialists who are still delinquent in their specialization CLE hours for 2025. Specialists need to satisfy their specialization CLE requirements by Dec. 31, 2025, to avoid a penalty assessment.

For further information regarding CLE requirements for board certified specialists, refer to a letter from the LBSL

Chair, www.lbsa.org/Specialization/.

To access specialization transcripts, go to: www.lbsa.org/specialization/specializationtranscripts7.aspx.

For more information, contact LBSL Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann at (504)619-0128, (800)421-5722, ext. 128, or email maryann.wegmann@lsba.org. ♦

Louisiana Act 352 Overhauls Court Filings

Act 352 changes how Louisiana lawyers file court papers starting Jan. 1, 2026. After that date, attorney filings must be made either in person using paper or electronically through a clerk-approved e-filing system. For e-filings, a document is considered filed on the date and time shown on the system's acceptance confirmation. Approved e-filing systems include the parish courts' Louisiana Clerks' Remote Access Authority (LCRAA) portal and the independent filing systems of the five Courts of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Act applies across civil and criminal matters. In courts that accept e-filings, the electronic record will serve as the official record, with separate treatment for trial/hearing exhibits in criminal cases. Public access to electronically filed records follows the same access rules that apply to paper filings.

A key compliance change is privacy:

filers, not clerks, are responsible for ensuring that sensitive personal information is not included in public filings. Do not include Social Security numbers, driver's license or state ID numbers, financial account numbers, full dates of birth, tax IDs, or any information protected from disclosure by law. Firms should add redaction checks to templates and workflows and train staff accordingly.

Only a narrow set of "original documents" may still be sent by U.S. mail or courier: original wills/testaments; original promissory notes or other authentic-form instruments; motions for default judgment that do not require a hearing (with supporting documentation); and any document the law requires to be an original. Everything else must be filed in person or e-filed.

Louisiana practitioners are urged to start planning now by choosing your default filing mode, verify which courts require filings in which manner, create a

list of court or parish-specific platforms, update engagement letters and templates for redaction, and build a process to confirm e-filing acceptance near deadlines and train support staff on this change prior to the deadline on Jan. 1, 2026. Finally, as a general rule, attorneys should avoid waiting until the last minute to file papers. Most courts do not provide IT assistance for filers outside of regular court hours.

For more information, visit the Louisiana Legislature's site to read the full text of Act 352 (<https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1425958&utm>) or read the Louisiana 5th Circuit's notice regarding the Act ([https://www.fifthcircuit.org/PDF/ACT352\(2025\)FilingMethods.pdf?utm](https://www.fifthcircuit.org/PDF/ACT352(2025)FilingMethods.pdf?utm)) or find out more about the Louisiana Clerks Remote Access Authority on the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association website (<https://www.laclerksofcourt.org/lcraa/lcraa-overview?utm>). ♦

Send Your Professional News for Publication

The *Louisiana Bar Journal* would like to publish news and photos of your professional activities and accomplishments.

Email your items and photos to: publications@lsba.org. If you'd like to include a photo or headshot with the announcement, there is an additional fee of \$50 per photo. Please verify that any submitted photo is high-resolution, a headshot with a clear view of the face, and appropriate for printing.

Please note that we typically only print press releases supplied directly by LSBA members. Once submitted, we'll ensure your announcement is included in the next available issue.

Mail non-returnable submissions to *Louisiana Bar Journal*; 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404. ♦

Free Trust Accounting & Billing Software for LSBA Members

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Interested in an Appointed LSBA HOD Leadership Position?

Several Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) House of Delegates seats received no qualifiers by the Oct. 13, 2025 qualifying deadline. These positions will be filled by presidential appointment. Members interested in being considered for appointment to these positions should email LSBA Governance Coordinator Jen France at jen.france@lsba.org. Available positions are listed below.

LSBA House of Delegates (June 2026–June 2028 term)

- ▶ First Judicial District: 7 appointments pending.
- ▶ Second Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Third Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Fourth Judicial District: 5 appointments pending.
- ▶ Fifth Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Seventh Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Eighth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Ninth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Tenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twelfth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Thirteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Fourteenth Judicial District: 7 appointments pending.
- ▶ Fifteenth Judicial District: 8 appointments pending.

- ▶ Sixteenth Judicial District: 6 appointments pending.
- ▶ Seventeenth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Eighteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Nineteenth Judicial District: 12 appointments pending.

The following vacancies in the LSBA House of Delegates are also open for appointments.

LSBA House of Delegates (June 2025–June 2027 term)

- ▶ Twenty-First Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twenty-Third Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Twenty-Fifth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twenty-Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twenty-Seventh Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twenty-Eighth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirtieth Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Thirty-First Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Second Judicial District: 4 appointments pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Third Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Fourth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Seventh Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Ninth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending. ♦



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Law Practice Division

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TOP YOUNG LAWYERS

2025

LSBA Young Lawyers Division Award Nominations

Extended Deadline: November 26, 2025

Nominations are open for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) awards. To be eligible for consideration, individual nominees must be current members of the YLD (attorneys who had not yet reached the age of 40 or who had been admitted to the practice of

law for fewer than five years as of July 1, 2025) and who are in good standing. Prior winners of an individual award (Top 40 – now Top Young Lawyers, Outstanding Young Lawyer – now Young Lawyer of the Year, Pro Bono, Professionalism) are not eligible to be considered for that award

again. Prior finalists of individual awards are eligible to be nominated again.

The YLD Council selects award winners from recommendations made by a committee of young lawyers appointed from throughout the state.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

► **Top Young Lawyers Awards & Young Lawyer of the Year.** The Top Young Lawyers Awards, previously the Top 40 Award, is given to the state's top young lawyers. One lawyer will be recognized as the Young Lawyer of the Year, previously the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The Young Lawyer of the Year will be chosen from the applications for the Top Young Lawyers Awards and Young Lawyer of the Year. (Top Young Lawyers Awards applicants will automatically be considered for Young Lawyer of the Year and do not need to separately apply.) In making award determinations, the YLD will consider the nominee's professional accomplishments; the nominee's exceptional contributions to the community, bar associations and the legal profession; the nominee's leadership; and the nominee's display of character, professionalism and ethics. **Previous recipients of the Top 40 and Outstanding Young Lawyer Award are not eligible to receive the Top Young Lawyers and Young Lawyer of the Year, respectively.**

► **Hon. Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award.** This award is given to a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to upholding the quality and integrity of the legal profession and consideration towards peers and the general public. The YLD will consider the nominee's commitment to promoting respect for the legal system and profession by exhibiting the highest standards of competence, integrity, civility and ethics as well as a dedication to enhancing professionalism among lawyers.

► **YLD Pro Bono Award.** This award is given to a young lawyer for commitment and dedication to providing pro bono services in the community or the state beyond the nominee's primary job requirements. The YLD will consider the nominee's total number of pro bono hours per year; the impact of the nominee's pro bono work; and the nominee's ongoing contributions that have resulted in the increased access to legal services for Louisiana citizens.

► **Outstanding Local Affiliate.** This award is given to a local affiliate organization that has impacted the lives of young lawyers in an outstanding way. The YLD considers the organization's service to the public; the organization's service to the legal profession; the success of the organization's initiatives that serve the public and the profession; any challenges that the organization overcame; the organization's creative use of resources; the organization's efforts to involve young lawyers in programming and services; and the organization's commitment to inclusiveness and equity.

► **Program of the Year.** This award is given to an organization (bar association, firm or other entity) that has implemented an outstanding program or service that serves the public or the profession, enhances the lives of young lawyers, or was primarily planned by young lawyers. The YLD considers how the organization involves young lawyers; the organization's impact on the public and/or profession; and the organization's innovation, inclusiveness and success.

TO NOMINATE A YOUNG LAWYER

1. Fill out the LSBA Young Lawyers Division 2025 Awards Nomination Form by November 26, 2025. The form asks why the nominee should be considered for the award and specifically addresses the award criteria. Additional attachments for all nominations are encouraged, including résumés, newspaper clippings, letters of support, and other materials pertinent to the nomination. Nominations should be detailed and thorough, as award selections are based solely on the information provided in the nomination packets.

2. Any nomination packet that is incomplete or not received by November 26, 2025, will not be considered.

3. All finalists and winners will be recognized at the LSBA Young Lawyers Conference in Spring 2026.

For questions or more information, contact the Awards Committee Chair
Josef P. Ventulan at ventulanj@lsli.org or (225) 578-0202.

NOMINATE
ONLINE HERE



OR VISIT:
www.lsba.org/yld

LSBA 50-, 60-, 70-Year Members to Be Recognized at 2025 Midyear Meeting

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members who have reached half a century and beyond in their professional careers will be honored during the LSBA's Midyear Meeting in January 2026. The

reception is set for Friday, Jan. 23, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd. Family and friends of the members are invited to attend the reception.

For more information on the event,

contact LSBA Governance Coordinator Jen France at (504)619-0152, (800)421-5722, ext. 152, or email jen.france@lsba.org.

The following Bar members will be recognized.

70-Year Honorees Admitted in 1956

Adelaide W. Benjamin
New Orleans, LA

J. Joseph Blotner
Gretna, LA

James E. Diaz
Lafayette, LA

Alvin W. LaCoste
New Orleans, LA

Anne Lennan Simon
New Iberia, LA

Hon. James T. Trimble, Jr.
Alexandria, LA

W. Leonard Werner
Baton Rouge, LA

John S. White, Jr.
Baton Rouge, LA

Kenneth W. Campbell
Leesburg, FL

Donald T. Carmouche
Baton Rouge, LA

Maurice S. Cazaubon, Jr.
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Robert P. Charbonnet
New Orleans, LA

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West Palm Beach, FL

Joseph F. Ciolino
Fredericksburg, VA

Hon. Herman C. Clause
Carencro, LA

Philip Dev Claverie
New Orleans, LA

Carl E. Cooper
West Monroe, LA

Margaret A O Corroero
New Orleans, LA

James O. Ervin
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Doris Falkenheimer
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James M. Field
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Hugh Craig Forshner
Ridgeland, MS

Iva Macdonald Futrell
Arlington, VA

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Donald G. Kelly
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David Andrew Lang
Jackson, MS

Robert K. McCalla
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Daniel A. McGovern IV
Slidell, LA

Joseph R. McMahon, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

Lee R. Miller, Jr.
Baton Rouge, LA

Farris Mitchell
Richardson, TX

Alton T. Moran
Baton Rouge, LA

Dimitry M. Morvant, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

William Hugh Mouton
Lafayette, LA

Judith A. Nichols
Missouri City, TX

Antonio E. Papale, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

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Walla Walla, WA

Catherine L. Barter
The Woodlands, TX

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Lafayette, LA

Gordon P. Bienvenu
Metairie, LA

Donald E. Bradford
Clinton, LA

D. Scott Brown
Mansfield, LA

Hon. Henry N. Brown, Jr.
Bossier City, LA

Charles Emile Bruneau, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

Jere L. Crago
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Wilbert Oscar Crain, Jr.
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Baton Rouge, LA

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W Tisbury, MA

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Baton Rouge, LA

Richard J. Dodson
Baton Rouge, LA

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Lecompte, LA

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New Orleans, LA

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Suffield, CT

Alvis J. Roche
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Robert L. Roshto
Baton Rouge, LA

Gordon E. Rountree
Shreveport, LA

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Raymond G. Sexton
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Kenneth F. Sills
Baton Rouge, LA

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Crowley, LA

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Sulphur, LA

Phyllis M. Taylor
New Orleans, LA

Peter J. Vernaci
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William G. Yates
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Lon Kent Abney
Austin, TX

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Springfield, LA

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Plymouth, MA

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Douglas H. Allen
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George G. Angelus
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Donald J. Anzelmo
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Edward J. Armbruster III
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Shreveport, LA

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Metairie, LA

Philip A. Becnel III
New Orleans, LA

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Lafayette, LA

J. Hals Benhard
Palmetto, LA

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Hon. Paul A. Bonin
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Philip J. Boudousque
Metairie, LA

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Thibodaux, LA

Clifford A. Bradley, Jr.
Deridder, LA

C. William Bradley, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

Richard J. Brazan, Jr.
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Mitchell J. Hoffman New Orleans, LA	Jay H. Kern New Orleans, LA	Walter J. Leger, Jr. New Orleans, LA	Cpt. R Bryan McDaniel Baton Rouge, LA	Marvin Opotowsky Metairie, LA
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Harold Willard Isadore Baton Rouge, LA	Michael E. Kramer Winnsboro, LA	E. John Litchfield Metairie, LA	Michael J. McNulty III New Orleans, LA	Robert B. Phelps Fredericksburg, TX
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T. Haller Jackson III Shreveport, LA	George Bruce Kuehne Baton Rouge, LA	Lillian Shaw Loewenbaum Austin, TX	Michael J. Mestayer New Orleans, LA	Earl G. Pitre Baton Rouge, LA
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Denis P. Juge Metairie, LA	Sylvia Landry Metairie, LA	David A. Marion San Jose, CA	William R. Mullins III Baton Rouge, LA	Robert R. Panches Natchez, MS
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Admitted in 1976
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Susan Sumner Tungate
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Reminder: MCLE Compliance Deadline is Dec. 31, 2025

The deadline for earning mandatory continuing legal education credits is Dec. 31, 2025. The deadline for filing those credits or an exemption is Jan. 31, 2026. For the 2025 compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2025, the limitation for computer-based CLE credits is set at 4 hours annually (as defined in Rule 3(d) of LASC Rule XXX). This includes interactive live webcasts, webinars and on-demand recordings.

Louisiana State Bar Association members may review their transcripts online at the weblink below. Members

are encouraged to check their records throughout the year to keep track of their compliance needs. Compliance deadline email reminders will be sent periodically throughout the calendar year from the email address compliance@lsbamembership.com.

Attorneys who are experiencing undue hardship should email MCLE Director Mindi Hunter, mindi.hunter@lsba.org, about the mitigating circumstances. An attorney experiencing serious medical or other issues may qualify for a waiver or some degree of relevant assistance to help reach the compliance requirement

for the year.

Members who choose to take a course that is not already approved for Louisiana CLE credit should be certain that the sponsor of the course is able to verify attendance. There is no guarantee that the course will be approved for Louisiana credit.

To review transcripts online, to search for Louisiana-approved CLE courses and for more information on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, go to: <https://www.lsba.org/MCLE/> ♦



SCAN CODE FOR LINK

HELPFUL RESOURCE: LSBA REFERENCE CARD ON INTERDICTION PROCEDURES & LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVES

The LSBA recently published a reference card to educate the bench and the bar on the interdiction process and less restrictive alternatives, such as Supported Decision Making. An electronic version of the Reference Card can be accessed through the QR Code. Physical copies can be obtained at the Bar Center.

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Louisiana Supreme Court Revises MCLE Age-Based Exemption Effective Jan. 1, 2026

The Louisiana Supreme Court has amended Rule XXX of the Rules for Continuing Legal Education, modifying the long-standing age-based exemption for attorneys. The change, effective January 1, 2026, reflects the reality that many attorneys are practicing well past traditional retirement age, while also acknowledging the corresponding unique challenges faced by those attorneys.

Under the revised rule, attorneys who turn 65 on or after January 1, 2026 will be required to complete five hours of

CLE each year, including one hour of ethics and one hour of professionalism, until they reach age 75. These hours may be earned through online programming. Attorneys who attain age 75 will be fully exempt from MCLE requirements.

Attorneys who turned 65 before January 1, 2026 will remain covered by the current exemption and will not be subject to the new continuing education requirement. Read the full order from the Louisiana Supreme Court [here](#). ♦

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization Increased Annual Dues Effective Jan. 1, 2026

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (“LBLS”) voted to amend Rule 6.5(a) of its Rules and Regulations to increase annual dues for all board certified specialists from \$175.00 to \$200.00, effective January 1, 2026. This is the first time that LBLS annual dues have been increased since 1993. LBLS also amended Rule 6.6(d) to add

a penalty of \$50.00 for failure to pay the recertification fee by the due date. A copy of the amended LBLS Rules and Regulations may be downloaded from the [LBLS website](#). For more information or questions about these increases please contact LBLS Specialization Director, Mary Ann Wegmann, at maryann.wegmann@lsba.org. ♦

LSBA Encourages Notification About Deceased Members

As a means to keep the membership database accurate and up-to-date, the Louisiana State Bar Association is encouraging members to notify staff about deceased members (either from colleagues or the families of the deceased members). Members who become aware of a deceased colleague who may still be listed in the membership rolls as eligible are encouraged to email their colleague’s obit to the LSBA Membership Department at processing@lsba.org.



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LSBA Member Discounts – Business Services

ABA Retirement Funds Program

- ◆ abaretirement.com/welcome/louisiana
- ◆ (800)8268901

Built by lawyers - powered by pros, the ABA Retirement Funds Program has been providing flexible, tailored retirement plans exclusively to legal community, for nearly 60 years. Our structure allows your firm to focus on the success of the practice while we provide the highest standard of fiduciary protection afforded to an individual retirement plan, reducing your fiduciary risk. Through our purposeful innovation we provide an investment platform with options to allow for optimal choice and flexibility for your participants and a fully bundled service model, custom designed to meet the unique needs of your firm, to help you and your plan participants learn more, save more and worry less. And we offer all of this at a competitive price whether you are a solo practitioner or a large legal organization. Through the unique culture created between the ABA Retirement Funds and our service providers, it is the mission of the Program to help every law firm, lawyer and legal professional to and through retirement. Call us at 8008268901 for a free consultation or visit abaretirement.com for more information.

Gilsbar

- ◆ www.gilsbar.com ◆ (800)GILSBAR

As members of the legal profession, we all appreciate the importance of being properly insured. That's why LSBA has teamed up with Gilsbar, Inc. to offer a variety of insurance plans to our members, their employees and dependents. LSBA members and their families can have the peace of mind with major medical, term life, supplemental life, disability income, hospital indemnity, personal accident, business office protection and professional liability insurance. The LSBA can negotiate with various insurance carriers to secure the best coverage available at the most reasonable costs to you. Call Gilsbar at (504)5293505 or (800)GILSBAR to get covered.

ODP

- ◆ www.officediscounts.org/lsba
- ◆ (855) 3376811

LSBA members may take advantage of discounts on over 90,000 products and services through the LSBA's partnership with ONLINE ODP Business Solutions. Retail stores are no longer part of ODP BSD. LSBA members must register as an ODP Business Solutions customer and place their order online to obtain the maximum discount (Best Value) offered by ODP Business Solutions. This maximum discount can only be obtained by shopping ONLINE, NOT in the retail stores.



LSBA Member Discounts – Car Rentals

Avis Car Rental

- ◆ www.lsba.org/goto/avisLSBArentals
- ◆ (800) 3311212
- ◆ Discount # A536100

Louisiana State Bar Association Members can save up to 25% off Avis base rates when making a reservation with Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number A536100. Complete your reservation and receive instant online and email confirmation of your travel plans.

Budget RentACar

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For the most up-to-date list
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www.lsba.org/goto/MemberBenefits

Online Registration is Open for 2026 Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge

Online registration is open for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Midyear Meeting, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 22–24, 2026, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd.

Registration for the Midyear Meeting is free. Pre-registration is required for the free CLEs scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22.

During the three-day event, the Board of Governors, the House of Delegates and several committees and sections will conduct meetings. The Friday night reception will recognize the 50-, 60- and 70-year LSBA members.

Online registration is open at: www.lsba.org/midyearemeeting.

Meeting Highlights

All events are at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., unless otherwise noted.

► Free CLE seminars. The LSBA is offering free CLE seminars on Thursday, Jan. 22. To register for these seminars, participants must first complete the free Midyear Meeting registration. The CLE schedule will be available soon.

► Reception. The LSBA's 50-, 60- and 70-year members will be recognized at a reception on Friday, Jan. 23. To review the list of 50-, 60- and 70-year honorees, see pages 9–14.

► Free Photo Bar IDs. The LSBA is offering free photo Bar IDs to members who have not had one issued previously. Attorneys must

be in good standing to receive a photo Bar ID. Photo Bar IDs will be offered in the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel foyer from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, and from 8:30-10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. To view photo Bar ID rules, go to: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/CLE/Diversity/PhotoBarIDFlyer.pdf>.

Hotel Reservations

The LSBA has negotiated a starting room rate of \$147/night plus tax. Members may make reservations by calling the hotel at (225)215-7000 or call toll-free (866)469-5448 and stating that you are attending the "LSBA 2026 Midyear Meeting" or access the hotel booking website via www.lsba.org/midyearemeeting/Hotel.aspx. The room block will expire on Dec. 28, 2025. After that date, rooms may not be available, and the negotiated rate will not be honored.

Sponsors Sought for Reception

The LSBA is seeking sponsors for the 50-, 60- and 70-Year Members' Reception on Friday, Jan. 23, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge. The reception is in conjunction with the LSBA's 2026 Midyear Meeting. For information on sponsorship levels, contact LSBA Program Coordinator/Marketing and Sections Christine A. Richard at (504)619-0105, email crichard@lsba.org. ♦

Registration Open for LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Virtual Professional Development Seminar on Dec. 3

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division will present the virtual Professional Development CLE seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m.–noon. The seminar is open to young lawyers only for a cost of \$50. The program has applied for 4 hours of CLE credit (including 1 hour of ethics, 1 hour of professionalism and 1 hour of law practice management.)

Collin R. Melancon, LSBA Young Lawyers Division Chair, will open the program. The law practice management session will be led by Anna Dearmon Kornick of ADK Strategies, LLC, who will discuss "Three Steps to Design Your Winning Week". Next, "The Young Lawyer's Survival Guide: Ethics

Edition" will feature Steven A. Bell and Margaret L. Manning of Stanley, Reuter, Alford, Owen, Munson, and Paul, LLC, followed by a session titled "Own Your Narrative: Branding in the Modern Legal World," which will be led by representatives from the Baton Rouge Bar Association, Scott M. Mansfield of Mansfield Melancon, and Denise D. Trahan of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips. Finally, Hon. Brittany B. Arvie, Hon. Royale L. Colbert, Jr., Hon. Frederick D. Jones, and Hon. Roger P. Hamilton, Jr. will present "Bench to Bar: Judicial Advice for Building a Professional Reputation."

Register by Sunday, November 30, 2025, to secure your spot. Visit www.lsba.org/yld for more information. ♦

Young Lawyers Division: Committee Service Opportunities



The Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (YLD) invites young lawyers to apply for committee service in the coming year. There are a limited number of positions available on each committee, so interested applicants are encouraged to apply with their preference or qualifications.

Learn more on how to apply at www.lsba.org/YLD or contact YLD Chair, Collin R. Melancon. ♦

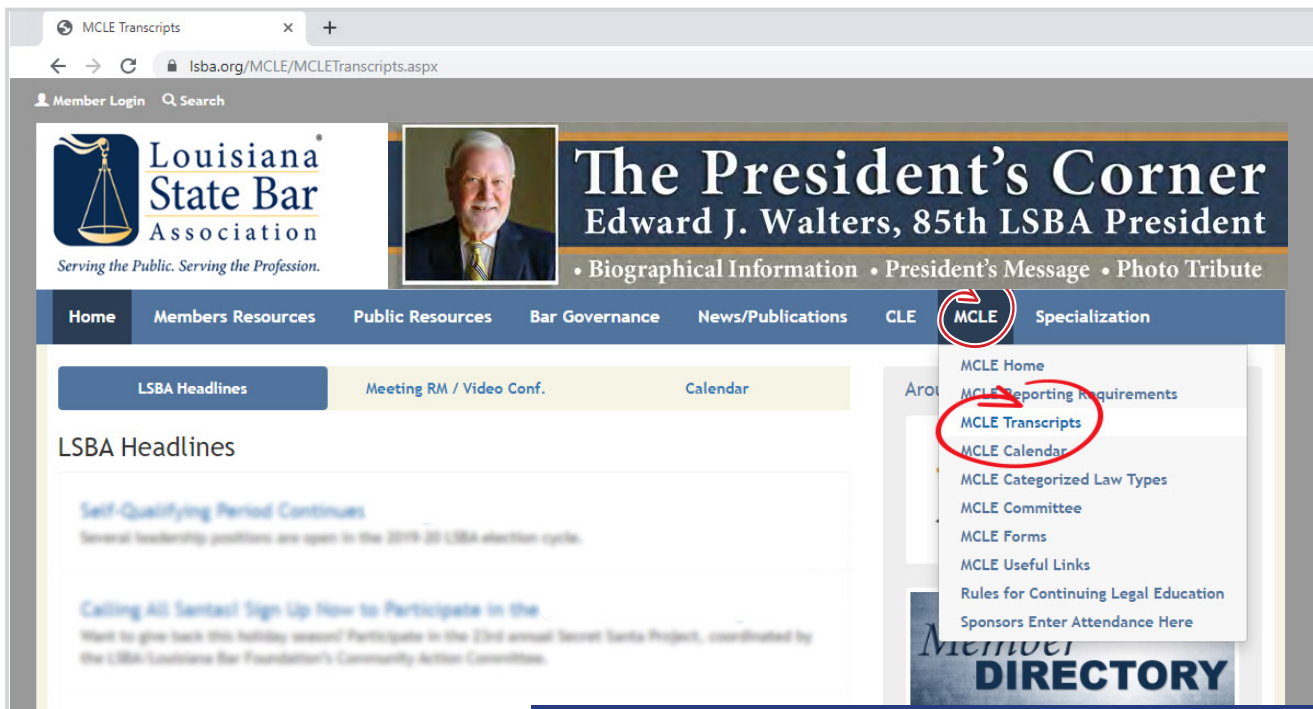
**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLE**

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Check your transcript
online now by logging into your
LSBA member account at www.lsba.org

First, select Member Login (top left of page) and login with your credentials.
Then select the MCLE tab and select MCLE transcripts to view your transcript.



Please contact mcle@lsba.org
for any transcript discrepancies.



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www.LSBA.org/MCLE

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Legal Education**

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Members must earn 12.5 hours of CLE credit per calendar year (including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism).
- All credit hours must be completed by December 31, 2025.
- Attorneys newly admitted in 2024, see Rules for Continuing Legal Education 3(b).
- For the 2025 compliance period ending December 31, 2025, the limitation for computer-based CLE is set at 4 hours annually (as defined in Rule 3(d) of LASC Rule XXX). This includes interactive live webcasts, webinars, and on-demand recordings.
- All 2025 CLE hours and exemption forms must be reported by January 31, 2026.
- If you need CLE hours, visit the MCLE course calendar: www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx

Focus on Access to Justice

For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

LIFT Honors Graduate for Advancing Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors

Ashley Johnson-Alford was recognized at the LA Justice Community Conference for completing the Legal Incubators For Tomorrow (LIFT) Domestic Violence Project. The LIFT Program is designed to equip new lawyers with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a sustainable, public-interest focused law firm. Ashley was a fellow in the Domestic Violence Project which was in collaboration with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) and focused on addressing the unmet civil legal needs of domestic violence survivors. As a LIFT Fellow, Ashley handled cases in New Orleans, Thibodaux, and Houma. Ashley is a strong advocate for domestic violence survivors. She also showed great entrepreneurial spirit by expanding her law practice to handle Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases and was a fierce advocate for her young clients. Ashley is a wonderful example of what the LIFT program can do for young attorneys that want to establish their own law firms. Ashley gained invaluable experience arguing cases in



court shortly after joining the program, and she took every opportunity to network and market her law firm. She attended various continuing legal education trainings and was able to complete over sixty hours of pro bono casework and volunteer at The Haven, a domestic violence shelter. Ashley's firm A.B. Johnson-Alford, LLC continues to flourish due to the affordable legal services that she is able to offer. ♦



A FREE ONLINE FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

Allows volunteers to:

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- Choose the question you answer and respond anonymously
- Receive training and access to resources
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For more info, contact

Rachael Mills

ATJ Projects Counsel

rachael.mills@lsba.org

or call 504.619.0104.

VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING



Snap the above with your mobile device or click to visit www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx

Rural Justice Legal Incubator Project: Now Accepting Applications for Second Cohort

The LIFT Rural Justice Legal Incubator Project is now accepting applications for its 2025 cohort. This innovative initiative supports new and early-career attorneys in launching solo practices with a public interest focus while expanding access to legal services for low- and moderate-income residents in some of Louisiana's most underserved rural communities.

Through the program, participating attorneys receive mentorship, training, and resources from seasoned attorneys at Acadiana Legal Service Corporation (ALSC). In return, they commit to serving clients in rural parishes where legal assistance is critically lacking.

Target Parishes Include: Avoyelles, Alexandria, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne,

Concordia, De Soto, East Carroll, West Carroll, Franklin, Grant, LaSalle, Madison, Monroe, Natchitoches, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, and Vernon.

Practice Areas May Include: Successions, Family Law, Expungements, Advanced Directives, Social Security/Disability, Child in Need of Care (CINC), and Housing and Consumer Issues.

This opportunity is ideal for attorneys seeking to make a meaningful impact while building sustainable, community-oriented law practices. To apply, go to www.lsba.org/LIFT. **Application Deadline:** December 5, 2025.

For more information, contact **Emily Belanger**, ATJ Projects Counsel, at emily.belanger@lsba.org. ♦



As we approach the end of the calendar year, there is still time to participate in the LSBA's 25 in 2025 pro bono campaign. This pro bono initiative kicked off in January 2025, encouraging attorneys to provide 25 hours of pro bono to those in need across the state. With only one civil legal aid attorney for every 11,250 Louisianans eligible for free civil legal aid through our state's civil legal aid network, pro bono attorneys are desperately needed across the state to help vulnerable Louisianans with their civil legal issues. The latest statistics from the Legal Services Corporation and their report titled "The Justice Gap" state that 92% of low-income Americans do not receive any or enough legal help for their civil legal problems.

Considering the sheer number of people across the state who need civil legal assistance, there are many ways to get connected to pro bono and give back. Pro bono programs, opportunities, and a calendar of events can be found on

LSBA's "25 in 2025" Initiative Inspires Year-End Momentum with LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org Clinic



A group photo of the Entergy attorneys and paralegals that paired with attorneys from Baker Donelson and law students from Loyola University College of Law to answer questions on LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org on Tuesday, October 21st

www.probono.net/la. Pro bono programs across the state have numerous projects that you can get involved in and that will fit your expertise and time constraints.

There is also the virtual pro bono platform called LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org, a site created by the ABA and administered locally by the LSBA ATJ Department. Low-income Louisianans can ask civil legal questions through the site, and volunteer attorneys then select the questions they would like to answer. It is a way to provide valuable legal information and advice to those in need without ever leaving your office or home.

As a part of National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, the 25 in 2025 campaign, and using the LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org platform, Entergy hosted a hybrid in person and virtual clinic with their in-house counsel, numerous law firms, paralegals, and law students to

answer questions across the Free Legal Answers platform in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Maryland. This was the fifth year of Entergy hosting a multi-state Free Legal Answers clinic.

In Louisiana, Entergy attorneys and paralegals paired with attorneys from Baker Donelson and law students from Loyola University College of Law answered 30 questions on the site, greatly reducing the number of open questions on the site.

Keep in mind, it does not have to be Celebrate Pro Bono Week to volunteer your time and services. Year-round opportunities to give back exist, and those programs would be happy to support you in your efforts to give. To learn more about pro bono opportunities in Louisiana, visit www.probono.net/la or contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, at Rachael.mills@lsba.org. ♦

EXPAND YOUR IMPACT. GROW YOUR PRACTICE. JOIN THE MODEST MEANS ONLINE LEGAL DIRECTORY TODAY

1.4 million Louisianans fall into the "justice gap"—they earn too much to qualify for free legal aid but cannot afford traditional legal fees. You can help. The LSBA Modest Means Directory connects these individuals with attorneys who provide affordable services, such as flat fees, sliding scale rates, limited scope representation, or other reduced-cost options. If you're in good standing and want to serve clients below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level, we invite you to join the Modest Means Directory where you can make a difference while expanding your client base.

FIND OUT MORE! CONTACT
 Emily Belanger, ATJ Projects Counsel
 at emily.belanger@lsba.org
 Or for more information online, visit
www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx

Focus on Diversity

For more information on items in this section, visit www.lsba.org/diversity.

Nomination Procedures Listed, Forms Online for Trailblazer Award, Guardian of Diversity Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Member Outreach and Diversity Department has announced the nomination periods and procedures for the Trailblazer Award and the Guardian of Diversity Award. Nominations for both awards will open on October 1, 2025. Nomination deadlines are February 28, 2026, for both awards. For more information on awards and to access nomination forms, go to <https://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx> and click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards" or email the Member Outreach and Diversity Department at diversity@lsba.org.

LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award

The LSBA Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award was established in 2016. It combined two previous diversity awards — the Trailblazer Award (established in 2013) and the Human Rights Award (established in 2010). The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award is awarded by the Association annually in June at the LSBA's Annual Meeting. The nomination period runs from October through February. This award recognizes individual attorneys and judges who champion the ideals set forth by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, the

first African American chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Nominees must be admitted to practice in Louisiana. Judges must have been elected or appointed to a state or federal court in Louisiana; the lawyer or judge can be on active or inactive status and from any practice setting; and the lawyer or judge cannot be a current member of the LSBA's Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award recipient should demonstrate a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts which include, but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Supporting and encouraging attorneys who are members of an unrepresented group within the legal profession to reach their career and personal potential
- ▶ Ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse people through mentoring efforts and diversity outreach
- ▶ Commitment to addressing issues of equality, fairness and injustice in the legal profession
- ▶ Participation in community service activities which promote and broaden the diversity pipeline to the legal profession.

LSBA Guardian of Diversity Award

The Guardian of Diversity Award, established in 2013, recognizes non-profit groups, local and specialty bar associations, and public interest organizations that implement and advance diversity programs to promote and support diversity in the legal community. It is presented at the LSBA's Annual Meeting. The nomination period is October through February. Nominees can be bar associations, courts, law firms/departments, or community organizations (including non-profits and public interest organizations). Recipients should demonstrate the following diversity and inclusion efforts within the legal profession or the practice of law:

- ▶ Creating and implementing innovative strategies to promote and advance the concept and spirit of diversity and inclusion
- ▶ Making a significant impact on diversity issues in the legal profession
- ▶ Enhancing access and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities in the legal profession
- ▶ Advocating and promoting an understanding and awareness of diversity in the legal profession
- ▶ Dedication to improving and bridging the relationship between diverse groups and the legal profession
- ▶ Proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. ♦

SPECIALTY BARS CLE SEMINAR

Hosted by: Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee's Specialty Bars Subcommittee
and Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., Greater Lafayette Chapter

DECEMBER 18, 2025

DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER • 124 BUCHANAN ST. LAFAYETTE, LA 70501



NATCHITOCHES LIGHTS CLE SEMINAR

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mariner's Restaurant

5948 Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457



8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$175

CLE credit hours: 6.00

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

1.00 Prof. CLE credit

Session One – Access All the Way: Disability Rights and Legal Updates

J. Dalton Courson, Litigation Director • *Disability Rights Louisiana* • New Orleans

Kellie Jackson, Tulane Law Lutz Fellow • *Disability Rights Louisiana* • New Orleans

10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Two – Estate Planning and Successions:

What Every Louisiana Lawyer Should Know

Andrew B. Mims, Founder, Managing Attorney • *Oaks Grove Estate Planning* • Lafayette

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Three – What Every Louisiana Lawyer Should Know

about President Trump's Impact on U.S. Immigration Policy

Brandon E. Davis, Partner • *Phelps, LLP* • New Orleans

Laura N. Buck, Associate • *Phelps, LLP* • New Orleans

12:20 – 1:10 p.m.

Lunch (Provided by the LSBA)

1:10 – 2:10 p.m.

1.00 Ethics CLE credit

Session Four – Current Trends & Statistics in Ethics:

What Should a Lawyer Know—and Avoid?

Anderson O. Dotson III, Chief Disciplinary Counsel •

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board • Baton Rouge

2:20 – 3:10 p.m.

1.00 Prof. CLE credit

Session Five – Well-Being in the Legal Profession

Shelvia R. Davis, Founder • *Grant Davis Law, LLC* • Shreveport

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

1.00 General CLE credit

Session Six – Voir Dire from the Prosecutor's Perspective

Cloyd Benjamin, Jr., Assistant District Attorney •

Natchitoches Parish District Attorney's Office • Natchitoches

Monica D. Doss, Assistant District Attorney •

Rapides Parish District Attorney's Office • Alexandria

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the
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Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026 | 1–4:45 p.m.

Free • 3.25 CLE credit hours

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel

7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge

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Want to take control of your practice?

Need a more flexible work schedule? We are a small civil defense firm in Baton Rouge looking for a full-time attorney with 3 or more years' experience to be part of our busy litigation practice. Some litigation experience required and strong critical thinking and writing skills are a must. Compensation is commensurate with experience and includes a full benefits package. Submit your resume and writing sample to legalrecruiting@protonmail.com. All inquiries kept strictly confidential.

Mayer, Smith & Roberts, LLP, a Shreveport, Louisiana law firm, with an emphasis in litigation and insurance defense is seeking experienced attorneys for associate or partnership positions. Please send all resumes to Colly Roberts, colly@msrlaw.com

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UPCOMING LSBA CLE OPPORTUNITIES



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SAVE
THE
DATE

Advanced Appellate Practice

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

Pursuit of Balance: Life & Law

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

Trial Practice

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

CLE Wrap Up!

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

Ethics & Professionalism: Watch Your P's & Q's

Friday, December 12, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

got CLE??

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

37th Annual Summer School Revisited

Thursday–Friday, December 18–19, 2025

*New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans*

New York, New York Multi-Topic CLE

Saturday, November 22– Tuesday, November 25, 2025

*InterContinental New York Times Square Hotel
300 West 44th St., New York, NY*

The LSBA is heading back to New York Nov. 22–25, 2025. Enjoy the quintessential New York City experience at the InterContinental New York Times Square. Attendees will be within walking distance to the Broadway Theatre District, extraordinary shopping and fabulous restaurants! Earn all of your CLE credits including ethics and professionalism!

We're Having "A Grand CLE" at The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama!

Friday, December 5–Sunday, December 7, 2025

The Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama

On the Gulf Coast of Alabama, surrounded by beautiful Mobile Bay, the Grand Hotel Resort & Spa is a hidden jewel, rich with stunning natural beauty, alive with activity, and overflowing with generous hospitality — an enchanted destination filled with gracious charm AND CLEs.

"Experience Charleston" - A Multi-Topic CLE

Monday, March 16–Wednesday, March 18, 2026

*The Charleston Place Hotel
205 Meeting St., Charleston, SC*

Through sumptuous accommodations, delicious food and drink, shopping, restorative wellness services, and warm, generous hospitality, The Charleston Place stirs the senses and lives forever in the minds and souls of all who gather.

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