Bar Briefs

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Schexnayder, Johnson, Ashworth Certified Elected for LSBA, YLD Leadership Positions; Contested Races on Ballot

Valerie T. Schexnayder of Baton Rouge and Adam P. Johnson of Lake Charles have been certified elected for 2027-28 LSBA president-elect and 2027-29 LSBA secretary, respectively, following the close of election qualifying on Oct. 12. Christina K. (Cristy) Chazan of Metairie has been certified elected for 2027-28 LSBA Young Lawyers Division chair-elect and Taylor B. Ashworth of Port Allen has been certified elected for 2027-28 LSBA Young Lawyers Division secretary.



Valerie T. Schexnayder



Adam P. Johnson



Taylor B. Ashworth



Christina K. (Cristy) Chazan

Online Voting Open from Nov. 2-16.

First-round voting began on Nov. 2 for nine contested leadership positions for the Board of Governors, Nominating Committee and Young Lawyers Division Council. Deadline for electronically casting votes is Monday, Nov. 16.

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.

For the full list of candidates in Contested Races and members who have been Certified Elected for their races, go to: *www.lsba.org/goto/elections*.

Profiles on candidates in contested races were accessible online on Nov. 2.

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CONTESTED RACES

Board of Governors (three-year term)
Seventh Board District (1 position)
W. Michael (Mike) Street
Justin A. Wooley
Eighth Board District (1 position)
Kristina F. Douglas
Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr.
Aaron R. Wilson

Nominating Committee (one-year term)
District 1A (4 positions)
Kristen D. Amond
Barry H. Grodsky
H. Minor Pipes III
Christopher J. (Chris) Sellers Jr.
Tori Howze Tanner
District 3D (1 position)
Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr.
Aaron R. Wilson
District 3E (1 position)
C.A. (Hap) Martin III
Christina D. Moore

Young Lawyers Division Council (two-year term)
First Board District (1 position)
Shiena Marie N. Burke
Monette M. (Mo) Davis
Alex J. Domingue
Michael A. Levatino, Jr.
Reagan H. Moody
Second Board District (1 position)
Jace C. Austin
Andrew A. (Andy) Maberry
Ariel E. Mitchell
Fifth Board District (1 position)
Hannah K. Cobb
Mary Catherine Joiner
Brett P. (Perc) Percle
Eighth Board District (1 position)
Jasmine C. Cooper
Trinity C. Goines

CERTIFIED ELECTED

LSBA Officers
President-Elect 2027-28 (*ascends to presidency in 2028-29*): Valerie T. Schexnayder
Secretary 2027-29: Adam P. Johnson

Board of Governors
Sixth Board District: Dona K. Renegar

Nominating Committee
District 1B: Brett P. (Perc) Percle
District 2A: Hon. Kelly E. Balfour & Collin R. Melancon
District 2B: Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant & Hon. Raymond S. (Ray) Steib, Jr.
District 3A: Jared E. Nelson
District 3B: Hon. John L. (Lee) Hoffoss, Jr.
District 3C: Charles D. Elliott

LSBA House of Delegates
Twenty-First Judicial District: Steven J. Farber, Robert W. Morgan
Twenty-Second Judicial District: Brett P. (Perc) Percle, Todd C. Taranto
Twenty-Fourth Judicial District: Dakota K. Chenevert, Patrick Flanigan, Robert A. (Bob) Kutcher, Robert L. Marrero, Colby F. Wenck, Tiffany Scot Wilken
Twenty-Sixth Judicial District: Ross E. Shacklette, Meredith Smith
Twenty-Seventh Judicial District: Scherri N. Guidry
Thirty-First Judicial District: Alexander J. Guinn
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District: Gregory J. Noto
Forty-First Judicial District – Orleans: Kristen D. Amond, Francis J. Barry, Jr., Evan J. Bergeron, Justin M. Chopin, Stephen G. Collura, Jr., William R. (Bill) Forrester, Jr., Barry H. Grodsky, Philip K. Jones, Jr., Christopher K. Ralston, Christopher J. (Chris) Sellers Jr., Louis G. Schott, Tori Howze Tanner

Young Lawyers Division
Chair-Elect 2027-28 (*ascends to chair in 2028-29*): Christina K. (Cristy) Chazan
Secretary 2027-28 (*ascends to chair-elect in 2028-29*): Taylor B. Ashworth
Fourth Board District: Micah O. Clemons

American Bar Association
House of Delegates: David F. Bienvenu, H. Minor Pipes III

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

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Online Registration is Open for 2027 Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge

Online registration is open for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Midyear Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 27-29, 2027, 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 Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2027.

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

Online registration is open at: *www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting*.

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 Wednesday, Jan. 27. 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 Thursday, Jan. 28. *To review the list of 50-, 60- and 70-year honorees, see pages 12-17.*

► **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 Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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 $151/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 2027 Midyear Meeting" or access the hotel booking website via *www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting/Hotel.aspx*. The room block will expire on Jan. 4, 2027. 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 Thursday, Jan. 28, 2027, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge. The reception is in conjunction with the LSBA's 2027 Midyear Meeting. For information on sponsorships, contact Christine A. Richard, LSBA Program Coordinator/Marketing and Sections, at (504) 619-0105, or at crichard@lsba.org.



LSBA Elections: Online Voting Open, Continuing Through Nov. 16

First-round voting is open for nine contested leadership positions within the LSBA Board of Governors, Nominating Committee and Young Lawyers Division Council. Members may cast their votes electronically through Monday, Nov. 16.

As approved by the LSBA Board of Governors and in accordance with the Association's Articles of Incorporation, all voting will be conducted electronically. Paper ballots will not be provided.

Please note: Access to the electronic voting site is limited to members who have a ballot for a contested race in the parish associated with their preferred mailing address. Additionally, members attempting to vote in a contested Young Lawyers (YL) Division race must be designated as a YL member to access the ballot. Members who do not meet these criteria will be unable to access the voting site and will receive an "Invalid Credentials" message.

For a complete list of candidates in contested races, as well as members who have been certified elected in their respective races, visit: *www.lsba.org/goto/elections*.

Candidate profiles for all contested races are also available at the link above.

Reminder: MCLE Compliance Deadline is Dec. 31, 2026

The deadline for earning mandatory continuing legal education credits is Dec. 31, 2026. The deadline for filing those credits or an exemption is Jan. 31, 2027.

For the 2026 compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2026, 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.

Members who turn 65 on or after Jan. 1, 2026, are now required to complete 5 hours of CLE each year, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism. All 5 hours may be earned through computer-based programming.

Louisiana State Bar Association members may review their transcripts online at *www.lsba.org/MCLE/*. 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. But 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: *www.lsba.org/MCLE/*.

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Interested in an Appointed LSBA Leadership Position?

Several Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) House of Delegates seats received no qualifiers by the 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: 4 appointments pending.
- ▶ Second Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Fourth Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Fifth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Eighth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Tenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Twelfth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Fourteenth Judicial District: 7 appointments pending.
- ▶ Fifteenth Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ▶ Sixteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Seventeenth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ▶ Nineteenth Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.

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

LSBA House of Delegates (terms end at the opening of the 2027 Annual Meeting)

- ▶ Twenty-First 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-Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Seventh Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Thirty-Ninth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ▶ Forty-Second Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.

House Resolution Deadline is Dec. 29 for 2027 Midyear Meeting

The LSBA's Midyear Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 27-29, 2027, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. The deadline for submitting resolutions for the House of Delegates meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 29. (The House will meet on Jan. 29, 2027, at 9 a.m.) 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. 29. 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.

LBF Seeking Nominations for 2027 Boisfontaine Award

The Louisiana Bar Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2027 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Nominations must be received in the LBF office by Friday, Feb. 12, 2027. The award will be presented at the LSBA Annual Meeting in Destin, Florida. The recipient will receive a plaque, and $1,000 will be donated in the recipient's name to a nonprofit, law-related program or association of their choice that provides services in Louisiana.

Nominations should include the nominee's name, contact information, a brief written statement on the background of the nominee and reasons why the nominee is proposed as the award recipient. Nominations should be forwarded to Dennette Young at the Louisiana Bar Foundation, 601 Poydras St., Ste. 1777, New Orleans, LA 70130, or email dennette@raisingthebar.org by the deadline.

This trial advocacy award was established through an endowment to the Louisiana Bar Foundation in memory of Curtis R. Boisfontaine, who served as president of the LSBA and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. Donations from Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel, LLP, the Boisfontaine family and friends established the fund.

The award is given to a Louisiana attorney who exhibits long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice and upholds the standards of ethics and consideration for the court, litigants and all counsel.

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Save the Date: Annual LBF Gala is April 16, 2027

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) will hold its 41st Annual Gala on Friday, April 16, 2027, at The Roosevelt New Orleans.

The event will recognize the 2026 Distinguished Honorees and the recipient of the Calogero Justice Award. The Gala, LBF's largest annual fundraiser, will begin with a Patron Party at 6:30 p.m., followed by the formal program.

A hotel room block is available for gala attendees. Sponsor, hotel and ticket information is available online at *raisingthebar.org/events-2/gala*.

Additional information is available at *raisingthebar.org* or by contacting the Louisiana Bar Foundation at (504) 561-1046 or gala@raisingthebar.org.

LBF Sets Application Deadlines for 2027-28 Programs

Applications for the 2027-28 Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) funding will be available online through Feb. 26, 2027. LRAP provides forgivable loans of up to $5,000 per year to attorneys working in a public interest position. For more information on LRAP, email Renee LeBoeuf at renee@raisingthebar.org or go online: *raisingthebar.org/loan-repayment-assistance-program/*.

Applications for the 2027-28 LBF Kids' Chance Scholarship Program will be accepted online through Feb. 26, 2027. LBF Kids' Chance Scholarships are for dependents of Louisiana workers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident compensable under a state or federal Workers' Compensation Act or law. For more information on Kids' Chance, email Renee LeBoeuf at renee@raisingthebar.org or go online: *raisingthebar.org/kids-chance-scholarship-program/*.

Professionalism Speakers' Workshop Set for Jan. 12

The LSBA Committee on the Profession's Professionalism Speakers' Workshop is 9-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2027, at the Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans.

The free, in-person workshop offers 2.5 hours of professionalism CLE credit and is designed to help lawyers become more effective speakers on topics involving professionalism in the practice of law.

The highly interactive program is open to anyone interested in strengthening their ability to present on professionalism-related topics. Registration is free, but space is limited.

For more information or to register, contact Connie Sabio at connies@lsba.org.

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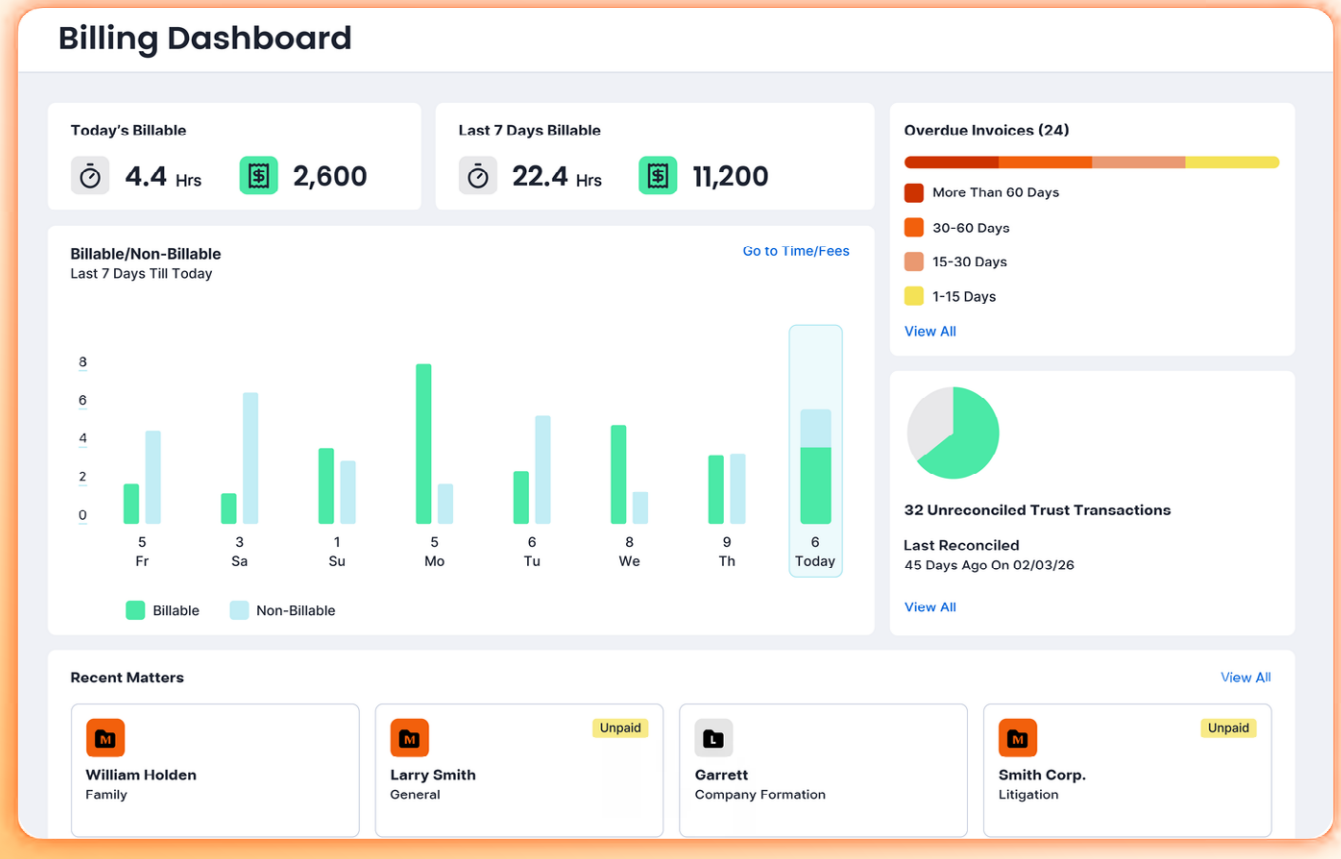
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EVENT DATA RECORDER (EDR) DOWNLOADS
CAR DEALER FRAUD LAWSUITS
COURT EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES
RESTORATION SHOP LAWSUITS
DTPA - DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT
MAGNUSON-MOSS WARRANTY CLAIMS
BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIMS
CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES
DEALERSHIP OUT OF BUSINESS ISSUES
CERTIFIED MEDIATOR & ARBITRATOR
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Kristen D. Amond Selected as U.S. Magistrate Judge

Kristen D. Amond, a former chair of the LSBA Young Lawyers Division, has been selected to serve as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Amond served as chair of the LSBA Young Lawyers Division in 2024-25 after previously serving as chair-elect, secretary and a District 1 representative on the YLD Council.

A New Orleans attorney, Amond has handled complex commercial and civil rights litigation in federal and Louisiana state courts and has served as outside general counsel to small businesses and nonprofit organizations. She also is a trained mediator and has accepted appointments through the civil pro bono panels of the Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana.

Amond earned her JD, magna cum laude, from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2016, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Law Review*. She previously clerked for U.S. District Judge Susie Morgan of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

U.S. magistrate judges handle a broad range of civil and criminal matters, including pretrial proceedings, evidentiary hearings, settlement conferences and preliminary proceedings in criminal cases. They also may preside over misdemeanor trials and, with the consent of the parties, conduct civil trials and enter judgments. Appointed by the district judges, full-time magistrate judges serve eight-year terms.

The LSBA congratulates Amond on her selection.

LSBA 2028 European River Cruise & CLE Program

The Louisiana State Bar Association is pleased to announce an exciting CLE opportunity while cruising the Seine River. Partnering with Vacations at Sea Travel, the LSBA program will be held Thursday, March 23 through Thursday, March 30, 2028, aboard the AmaLyra.

Five hours of CLE will be offered during the cruise, with scheduling around shore excursions and shipboard activities. Cost of the CLE will be $195 per attorney registrant. The LSBA will invoice registrants for this portion of the trip after they have booked the cruise portion with Vacations at Sea, but not until late 2027 or early 2028.

"We look forward to exploring the history, art, and culture of Normandy with our LSBA members. The CLEs will be tailored to the event. We hope you can join. Allons-y!" said 2027-2028 President Lawrence J. (Larry) Centola III.



For more information, go to: *www.lsba.org/goto/2028europeancruisecle* to review the preliminary itinerary and deck layouts. For more information, contact Roxanne Rose, Vacations At Sea, (504) 482-1572 or email roxanne@seavacations.com.



LSBA YLD Virtual Professional Development Seminar

The LSBA Young Lawyers Division will host its annual Professional Development Seminar on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2026, from 8 a.m. to noon. This virtual program is tailored specifically for young lawyers seeking to enhance their skills, build confidence and strengthen their legal practice.

The seminar will offer up to four hours of CLE credit (pending approval) and features a dynamic lineup of speakers and sessions addressing topics essential to early-career attorneys. Registration is $50 and includes webinar access and electronic course materials.

This event is open exclusively to young lawyers. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details on programming and registration at *www.lsba.org/YLD*.





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In 2026, Board Certified Specialists and Applicants Who Are 65 or Over May Earn All of Their Required Approved Specialization CLE Either in Person or Through "Computer-Based CLE" Credits

The Louisiana Supreme Court (LASC) amended Rule XXX of the Rules for Continuing Legal Education, modifying the long-standing age-based exemption for attorneys, by order dated Nov. 10, 2025. Under the revised rule, attorneys who turn 65 on or after Jan. 1, 2026, may earn all of their required CLE through computer-based programming. See the official notice at *www.lsba.org/documents/Publications/2025MCLEOrderReAgeMCLE.pdf*.

Considering the Nov. 10, 2025 order of the LASC, the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) approved board certified specialists and applicants, who are age 65 or older in 2026, earning their required hours of specialization CLE either in person or online in 2026. For the 2026 compliance period ending Dec. 31, 2026, board certified specialists and applicants, who are age 65 or older in 2026, are no longer subject to the limitation on "computer-based CLE" at four (4) hours annually. "Computer-based CLE" includes interactive live webcasts, webinars and on-demand recordings. The LBLS did not change any of the required number of specialization CLE hours for board certified specialists, no matter what their age. Board certified specialists and applicants, younger than 65 years old, remain subject to the limitation on "computer-based CLE" at four (4) hours annually.

For further information, 2025-26 LBLS Board Chair Robert G. Levy explains CLE requirements for board certified specialists in 2026 at *www.lsba.org/documents/Specialization/2026ApplicantsUnder65.pdf*. For more info visit *www.lsba.org/Specialization/*.

LSBA Seeks Volunteer Arbitrators for Fee Dispute Program

The LSBA is seeking volunteer attorney arbitrators for its Fee Dispute Arbitration Program, which has assisted the legal community in resolving fee disputes since the 1990s.

The program provides training for volunteer arbitrators, and all arbitration hearings are conducted by videoconference. Participating arbitrators are eligible to earn one hour of professionalism continuing legal education (CLE) credit.

Attorneys interested in volunteering can learn more about the Fee Dispute Arbitration Program at www.lsba.org. To apply, complete the attorney arbitrator data form and submit it by email to techcenter@lsba.org.

LBLS Board Certification Application Period Open Nov. 1

The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) will be accepting applications for board certification in seven (7) areas — appellate practice, employment law, estate planning and administration, family law, health law, labor law and tax law from Nov. 1, 2026 through Feb. 28, 2027.

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 certification. Further requirements are that each year a minimum percentage of the attorney's practice must be devoted to the area of certification sought, passing a written examination to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skills and proficiency in the area for which 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 at *www.lsba.org/documents/Specialization/PlanofLegalSpecialization2025.pdf* 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 at *www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S*.

With regard to applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law 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 certification should contact LBLS Specialization Director, Mary Ann Wegmann, email maryann.wegmann@lsba.org, or call (504) 619-0128 for an application packet. For more information, please go to the LBLS website at *www.lsba.org/Specialization/*.

TOP YOUNG LAWYERS 2027

LSBA Young Lawyers Division Award Nominations

Deadline: November 15, 2026

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, 2026) 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, are 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 submissions for the Top Young Lawyers Awards. (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 2027 Awards Nomination Form by Nov. 15, 2026. 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 Nov. 15, 2026, will not be considered.

3. All finalists and winners will be recognized at the LSBA Young Lawyers Conference in Spring 2027.

For questions or more information, contact the Awards Committee Chair Jana Robinson at Jana.Robinson@drax.com or (318) 372-0382.

NOMINATE ONLINE HERE

OR VISIT: www.lsba.org/yld

LSBA 50-, 60-, 70-Year Members to Be Recognized at 2027 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 2027. The reception is set for Thursday, Jan. 28, 2027, 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, visit *www.lsba.org/midyearmeeting* or 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.

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"Rise to the Challenge": CLE Recruits Volunteers for Local Pro Bono Programs

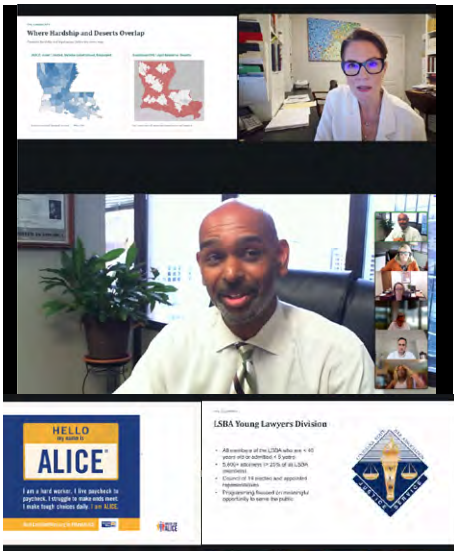
On Oct. 2, 2026, the LSBA Access to Justice Program hosted a virtual CLE focused on Louisiana's ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and the role pro bono attorneys play in closing the state's justice gap.

ALICE households earn above the federal poverty level but not enough to cover basic costs like housing, child care, food, transportation and healthcare. They are working individuals and families who may struggle to cover unexpected expenses, potentially leading to a crisis. When they face a legal problem, such as an eviction, a consumer debt dispute, a custody matter, or a benefits denial, they usually cannot afford a private attorney. Many also earn too much to qualify for traditional legal aid.

The need in Louisiana is especially urgent. The state has the highest rate of poverty in the nation, with 49% of households living below the ALICE threshold according to the 2026 State of ALICE report. Geography makes the problem worse. About 60% of Louisiana's land area lies within a civil legal resource desert, defined as an area more than 45 minutes from in-person civil legal help. Roughly 600,000 people living in these deserts may be eligible for legal aid, yet there is only one legal aid attorney for every 11,000 or more residents.

Curtis R. Joseph, Jr., LSBA 2026-27 President, Sarah H. Berthelot, Louisiana Association of United Ways and Christopher J. Sellers Jr., 2026-27 LSBA Young Lawyers Division Chair, were featured presenters who described ALICE households and the legal challenges they commonly face. They also explained how pro bono service expands access to affordable legal help for people who would otherwise go without it.

The program closed with four regional breakout sessions during which local pro bono organizations shared specific opportunities for attendees to get involved.



These included ways to volunteer that fit a range of practice areas, experience levels and schedules.

Get involved: Attorneys interested in pro bono opportunities in their region can go to *www.lsba.org/ProBono/*.

LSBA Ways to Get Involved

Barristers for Boards

Connecting young lawyers with nonprofit board service across the State.

High School Mock Trial

State competition where Louisiana students argue a case before real attorneys and judges.

Wills for Heroes

Free estate-planning documents for first responders, military members, and their significant others.

Free Legal Answers

An online pro bono program pairing volunteer attorneys with low-income Louisianans' civil legal questions.

Lawyers in Libraries

A statewide week of service each October — Ask-a-Lawyer sessions in libraries and by phone.

Modest Means Directory

Connects income-eligible Louisianans with attorneys offering sliding-scale, flat-fee, or limited-scope representation.

LSBA Access to Justice Participates in New LSU Law Course

This fall, the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center launched a new professional identity course for first-year law students (1L), and the LSBA Access to Justice (ATJ) Department participated.

John M. Church, a professor at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and a member of the LSBA Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Commission, designed this one-credit course that runs through the fall and spring semesters of the 1L year.

Church built the course on two pillars: "The first is career development: helping students think about their professional 'brand' and the choices that will shape their careers. The second is a lawyer's obligation to the profession and to the broader community." To deliver that second portion, he invited the Louisiana Access to Justice Program to take part.

In late August, LSBA's ATJ program gave a one-hour presentation to the full 1L class. They introduced core access to justice concepts, including civil legal resource deserts and the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) population: working households that earn above the federal poverty line but still cannot afford basic necessities. "Although the 1Ls are still focused on getting through their first year," Church said, "the session opened some eyes."

On Sept. 25, ATJ returned along with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services attorneys Talya J. Bergeron and Lykisha R. Vaughan for the course's second component. Students broke into small groups and worked through a hypothetical involving a self-represented litigant looking at the court system from the perspective of someone navigating it without a lawyer. Students walked away with an understanding of what people face when they try to represent themselves and where to turn for trusted and reliable public legal resources without using legal research tools.

The 1L course complements LSU's existing Apprenticeship Week course on access to justice. That weeklong program is held between the fall and spring semesters for about 20 upper-level students who choose to explore public interest work. Professor Church is also working with LSU's career services office to increase student awareness of practice opportunities in underserved and rural areas.



Professor John M. Church, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Amy E. Duncan, LSBA Access to Justice Director; Stephanie M. Beaugh, Access to Justice Court Liaison and Projects Counsel; Rachael M. Mills, Access to Justice Projects Counsel and Rebecca M. Collins, Access to Justice Training and Projects Counsel at the 1L presentation on access to justice and professional identity in August 2026 at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge.

These initiatives expose students to access to justice issues throughout their legal education, from the first year through advanced coursework and career exploration.

VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING
www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx

Recognizing 2026 Lawyers in Libraries Volunteers

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Lawyers in Libraries program was held during Pro Bono Week, Oct. 25-31, 2026. Volunteer attorneys provided free legal guidance through in-person consultations, telephone assistance and educational programs at public libraries throughout Louisiana.

This year's program included 156 volunteer attorneys who provided more than 413 hours of free legal guidance through 134 sessions, with in-person events held across 30 parishes. Fifty-seven volunteers also registered to provide on-call assistance in the event of last-minute cancellations. Several attorneys volunteered for more than one type of event.

The LSBA thanks the attorneys who volunteered their time, as well as the library staff, pro bono agencies, local bar associations, private practitioners and legal service providers who coordinated events in individual parishes.

Attorneys interested in pro bono opportunities near them can visit the LSBA's Access to Justice page at lsba.org or the statewide pro bono network at *probono.net/la*.

2026 Lawyers in Libraries Volunteer Attorneys

Janeane G. Abbott
Samuel J. (Sammy) Accardo, Jr.
Kaitlyn E. Adams
Lauren Ray Anderson
Andretta B. Atkins
Louis G. Authement
Erin C. Bagent
Stephanie M. Beaugh
Joe (McCaleb) Bilbro
Kenneth L. Blanchard, Jr.
Jane E. Booth
Elena P. Branzaru
Jacob A. Brister
Lakethia B. Bryant
David I. Burkett
John O. Cashen
Rachal C. Cassagne
Tanner M. Choate
Rebecca M. Collins
Shawn C. Collins
Jacquelyn D. Cook
Barry J. Cooper, Jr.
Keith M. Couture
Mekisha S. Creal
Adolph B. (Dolph) Curet III
Guy C. Curry
Andrew J. Cvitanovic
Monique I. Davis
Bobbi J. Davis
Marianna Knister Downer
Helen M. Dunaway
Lee C. Durio
Jeff D. Easley
Steven J. Farber
Huey Lagarto Rey Fischer Garcia
Kellie D. Fox
Jason M. Freas
Jamie C. Gary
Nicole F. Gil
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John C. Ginart
Deidra L. Godfrey
Rachel B. Godley
Eugene G. Gouaux, Jr.
Ryan M. Goudelocke
Ana Lynette Gregory
David B. Gross
Deon S. Guidry
John C. Guillet
Emily R. Hager
Pamela D. Hall
Felicia M. Hamilton
Laci N. Hamilton
Tanya M. Hamilton
John T. Harrington
Paula C. Haydel
Mary V. Hicks
Julhelene E. Jackson
Harry S. Johnson
Derrick J. Johnson
Savannah M. Johnson
Jonathan J. (Tripp) Jones
Sheral C. Kellar
Evelyn C. Kelly
Lila C. Kopplin
Arthur G. Laugand
Ross A. Ledet
Iriane B. Lee
Sarah A. Legendre
Andrew G. Legrand
Shannon C. Lindsey
Erin M. Lorio
Candace W. Losavio
James G. Maguire
Tabitha O. Mangano
Laura E. Marcantel
Lucas A. Marcello
Kenneth J. (Ken) Martinez
Nicholas C. Marzoni
Annie R. Matthews
L. B. (Beth) Matthews
Sharon McCoy
Peter M. Meisner
Brandon J. Melerine
Elizabeth S. Meneray
Ali Z. Meronek
Amanda W. Messa
Donecia Banks-Miley
Gregory A. Miller
Rachael M. Mills
Linda A. Mitchell
Chadwick J. Mollere
Monte T. Mollere
Jeremy M. Moody
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Sharon Lynn Morris
Darla N. Nguyen
Daniel W. Nodurft
John L. Norris IV
Alison M. Odermann
Abby E. Ohmstede
Corey J. Orgeron
Jean Paul P. Overton
Lisa M. Parker
Ashley Collins Patterson
Patrick W. Pendley
Claire R. Pitre
DeVonna M. Ponthieu
Christopher J. Purser
Betty A. Raglin
Michelle Elise Riviere
La Koshia R. Roberts
Stacy D. Saltzman
Wyatt P. Savant
Jovian V. Scafati
Cynthia F. Schmidt
Oliver J. (Jackson) Schrumpf
Daniel H. Schwarzenbach
Ronald K. Seastrunk
Christopher J. Sellers Jr.
Hailey A. Shore
Angela D. Sibley
Carla S. Sigler
Chacity C. Simmons
Sara Grace Sirera
Sarah M. Smith
William W. (Bill) Stagg
Felix J. Sternfels
Amanda L. Sullivan
Parris A. Taylor
Victoria V. Theriot
LaKeisha M. Thomas
A. Scott Tillery
Madison J. Tillery
Shaliza A. Tolliver
Tami Lynne Trim
Whitney S. Triplet
Alexis L. Tukes
Allyson D. Tuttle
Richard (Paul) Tuttle
Cherish D. Van Mullem
Brittanii L. Wade
Jonathan M. Walsh
Lesia Hulbert Warren
Jonathan D. Wasielewski
Thomas K. Watkins, Jr.
Pascale B. Watson
Davi L. Weber
Samantha G. Weidner
Anna E. Weldon
Ashley E. White
Jack K. Whitehead, Jr.
Christopher D. Wilson
Margaret E. Woodward
Joyce Duhe Young

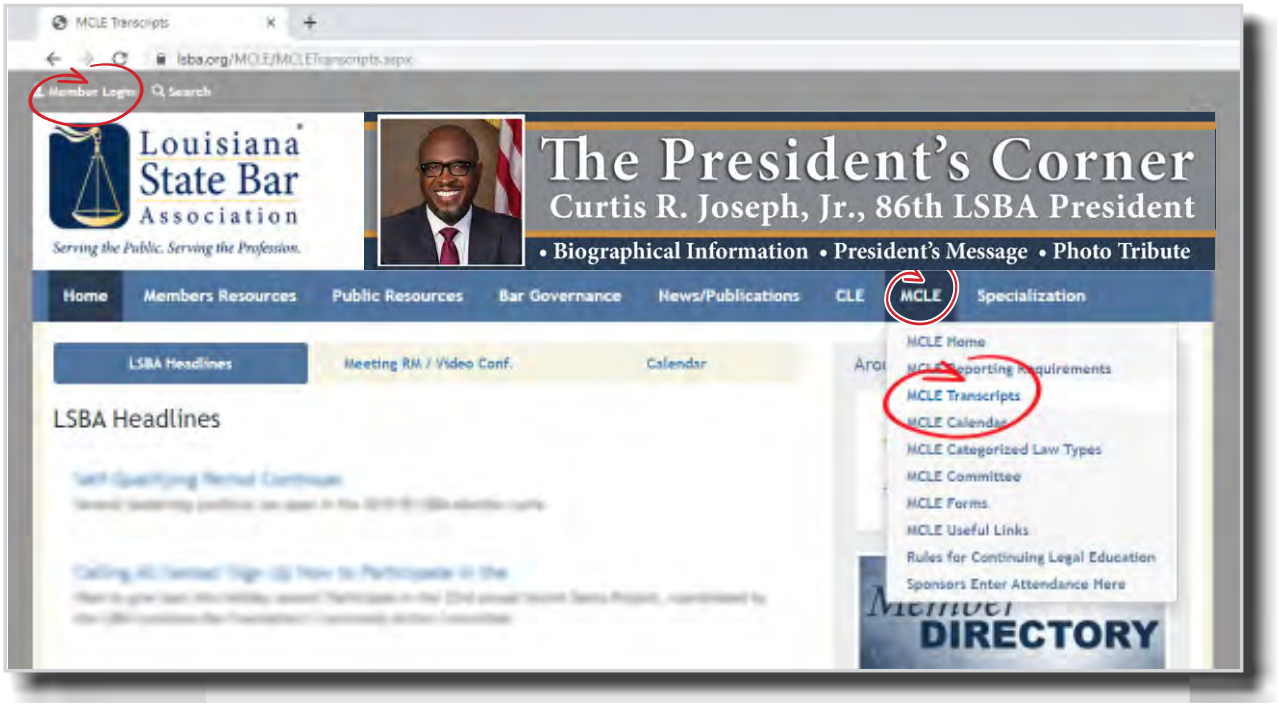
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HELPFUL INFORMATION

- 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, 2026.
- Attorneys newly admitted in 2025, see Rules for Continuing Legal Education 3(b).
- For the 2026 compliance period ending December 31, 2026, 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 2026 CLE hours and exemption forms must be reported by January 31, 2027.
- If you need CLE hours, visit the MCLE course calendar: *www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx*

Nomination Procedures and Forms Available Online for Trailblazer and Guardian of Diversity Awards

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 opened Oct. 1, 2026, and the deadline to submit is Feb. 26, 2027.

For more information about the awards and to access nomination forms, visit *www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx* and click on "Diversity and Inclusion Awards." You may also contact the Member Outreach and Diversity Department via email at diversity@lsba.org.

Nominations open from Oct. 1, 2026 to Feb. 26, 2027

www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx

Any questions? 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; and

► 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 in the legal profession; and

► proven commitment to creating a culture of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Save the dates for these upcoming events!

Midyear Meeting CLE Seminar

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2027 | 1:00–4:30 p.m. | Free Registration

Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel
7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge

Natchitoches Lights CLE Seminar

Save the date!

Thursday, December 10, 2026
Natchitoches, LA

Riverside Reserve, 100 Mill St., Natchitoches, LA
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Member Outreach and Diversity Department

LSBA Member Outreach CLE Seminar

Hosted by: The LSBA's Department of Member Outreach and Diversity
Co-hosted by: The Lafayette Bar Association

January 7, 2027

Lafayette Bar Association
2607 Johnston St. • Lafayette, LA 70503

LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. The LSBA offers many worthwhile programs and services designed to complement your career, the legal profession and the community.

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In the past several years, the legal profession has experienced many changes. The LSBA has kept up with those changes by maturing in structure and stature and becoming more diverse and competitive.

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"Perk Break" is the LSBA's weekly social media feature, posted every Wednesday, designed to spotlight the valuable benefits available to members. From practical tools and professional resources to exclusive discounts and lesser-known services, each post highlights something you can use right away. A "perk" of LSBA membership.

Whether you're looking to save time, cut costs or discover a resource you didn't know existed, Perk Break delivers quick, easy-to-digest insights, all in the time it takes to enjoy a cup of coffee.

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Advanced Appellate Practice
Co-sponsored by the LSBA Appellate Section - Appellate section members receive a discount!
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New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

Trial Practice
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2026
New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

The Pursuit of Balance: Life & Law
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2026 • 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

Ethics & Professionalism: Watch Your Ps & Qs
Friday, Dec. 11, 2026
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
2 Poydras St., New Orleans

got CLE?
Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026
New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District
859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

CLE Wrap Up!
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2026
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InterContinental New York Times Square
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