# Bar Briefs

September 2025 Louisiana State Bar Association Vol. 40, No. 5

# Centola, Jones, Guzman Nominated for LSBA, YLD Leadership Positions

awrence J. "Larry" Centola of New Orleans and Carrie LeBlanc Jones of Baton Rouge have been nominated for 2026–27 LSBA president-elect and 2026–28 LSBA treasurer, respectively. The president-elect 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.

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council nominated Christina K. "Cristy" Guzman of Metairie for YLD secretary for the 2026–27 term. Current Secretary Rachal Cox Cassagne of Gretna will automatically assume the post of 2025–26 YLD chair-elect.

Cassagne is with the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Orleans and Guzman is with Jeffrey Hufft Law Firm of Metairie.



Lawrence J.
"Larry" Centola



**Carrie LeBlanc Jones** 



Christina K.
"Cristy" Guzman



Rachal Cox Cassagne

#### Self-Qualifying Period Opens Sept. 15 and Ends Oct. 13

For the 2025–26 election cycle, 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.

On Monday, Sept. 15, notice of the action of the Nominating Committee and self-qualification forms for positions on the Board of Governors, LSBA House of Delegates, Nominating Committee, Young Lawyers Division and American Bar Association House of Delegates will be provided to the membership.

Deadline for return of nominations by petition and qualification forms is Monday, Oct. 13. First election ballots

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will be available to members on Monday, Nov. 3. Deadline for electronically casting votes is Monday, Nov. 17.

According to the president-elect rotation, the nominee must have his/her preferred mailing address in Nominating Committee District 1 (parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany). According to the treasurer rotation, the nominee must have his/her preferred mailing address in Nominating Committee District 2 (parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana).

#### **Other Positions Open**

Other positions to be filled in the 2025–26 elections are:

Board of Governors (three-year terms beginning at the adjournment of the 2026 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the 2029 LSBA Annual Meeting) — one member each from the First, Second, Third and Fifth Board Districts.

LSBA House of Delegates (two-year terms beginning at the commencement of the 2026 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the commencement of the 2028 LSBA Annual Meeting) — one delegate from each of the First through Nineteenth Judicial Districts, plus one additional delegate for every additional district judge in each district.

Nominating **Committee** members, one-year terms beginning at the adjournment of the 2026 LSBA Annual Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the 2027 LSBA Annual Meeting) — District 1A, Orleans Parish, four members; District 1B, parishes of Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany, one member; District 2A, East Baton Rouge Parish, two members; District 2B, Jefferson Parish, two members; District 2C, parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana, one member; District 3A, Lafayette Parish, one member; District 3B, parishes of Acadia, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion, one member; District 3C, parishes of Allen, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides,

Sabine, St. Landry and Vernon, one member; District 3D, parishes of Bossier and Caddo, one member; and District 3E, parishes of Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll and Winn, one member.

Young Lawyers Division Secretary (2026–27 term), nominee may be a resident of or actively practicing law in any parish of Louisiana based on preferred mailing address. Petitions for nomination must be signed by 15 members of the Young Lawyers Division. Also to be elected, one representative each from the First, Second, Third, Fifth and Seventh districts (two-year terms).

American Bar Association House of Delegates (must be members of the American Bar Association) — two delegates from the membership at large plus one young lawyer delegate. The delegates will serve a two-year term, beginning with the adjournment of the 2026 ABA Annual Meeting and expiring at the adjournment of the 2028 ABA Annual Meeting, as provided in Paragraph 6.4(e) of the ABA Constitution.

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

#### Bar Briefs

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#### House Resolution Deadline Dec. 15 for 2026 Midyear Meeting

he 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. •

#### Interested in an Appointed LSBA HOD Leadership Position?

everal Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) House of Delegates seats received no qualifiers by the Oct. 14, 2024 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 2025–June 2027 term)

- ► Twenty-First Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Twenty-Third Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ► Twenty-Fifth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Twenty-Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Twenty-Seventh Judicial District: 2 appointments 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.

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

#### LSBA House of Delegates (June 2024–June 2026 term)

- ► Second Judicial District: 3 appointments pending.
- ► Fifth Judicial District: 2 appointments pending.
- ► Sixth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Eighth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Twelfth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Thirteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- Sixteenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending.
- ► Seventeenth Judicial District: 1 appointment pending. ◆



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#### Reminder: MCLE Compliance Deadline Dec. 31, 2025

he 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 computerbased 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. 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/. ♦

#### Professionalism Speakers' Workshop Set for Oct. 16, 2025

**The LSBA Committee on the** Profession's Professionalism Speakers' Workshop is set for 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, October 16th, 2025, at the LSBA Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA. The Professionalism Speakers' Workshop is a free, in-person, 2.5 hour, Professionalism CLE designed to assist lawyers in becoming more prepared to speak on topics involving professionalism in the practice of law. Anyone interested in becoming a better speaker on professionalism topics should register for this free, highly interactive workshop. The CLE is free, but space is extremely limited. For more information or to register, contact Connie Sabio at connies@lsba.org. ◆

# New MCLE Rule Applies to Emeritus Status

ttornevs choosing utilize emeritus status under Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVIII, Section 3(B), are exempt from Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements, per Rule XXX, Section 2(9). This clarification comes as part of recent amendments to Rule XXX and will take effect January 1, 2026. Only those who have formally elected emeritus status will be excused from MCLE obligations after that date. To read the order, find out more information or for comment contact details, visit https://www.  $lasc.org/Court\ News?p=CALL$ FOR COMMENTS - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT RULE XXX-July2025. ♦



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#### Help Keep LSBA Records Current

To keep our records current, the LSBA asks members (and families) to notify us when a colleague has passed away. If you learn of a deceased member who may still appear as eligible, please email the obituary to the Membership Department at processing@lsba.org



THE CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY(CLS) has scheduled its national conference in New Orleans on October 9-12, 2025.

Review the agenda and speakers online at clsnet.org.

CLE credits can be earned for attendance at many of the workshops. The conference presents a great opportunity to network with Lawyers, Judges, Law Professors, and many other people engaged in the legal profession, throughout the world, who are seeking justice with the love of God (Micah 6:8).

This is a great vacation opportunity, with possible tax deductions, allowing those visiting New Orleans to incorporate attendance at the Red Mass and reception on October 6, 2025( see prior notice in the LSBA Journal) with the CLS conference.

#### LBLS Accepting Applications for Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law Certification through September 30, 2025

he Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) accepting applications for board certification in business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law through Sept. 30, 2025. With regard to applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law board certification, although the written test(s) administered by the American Board of Certification (ABC), attorneys should apply for LBLS approval simultaneously with the testing agency in order to avoid delay of board certification by LBLS.

Click or visit these links for further information regarding testing by the American Board of Certification on the LBLS website: Business Bankruptcy (https://www.lsba.org/ Specialization/BusinessBankruptcy. aspx?Area=Testing) and Consumer Bankruptcy (https://www.lsba.org/ Specialization/ConsumerBankruptcy. aspx?Area=Testing). To receive an application for board certification, contact Specialization Director Mary Ann Wegmann at (504)619-0128, (800)421-5722 or email maryann. wegmann@lsba.org. ♦

#### Board Certified Specialists and 2025 Applicants: LASC Sets "Computer-Based CLE" Credits for 2025

or 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 2024 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 <a href="https://www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S">https://www.lsba.org/MCLE/MCLECalendar.aspx?L=S</a>. Check off the specialization and click "Search Courses" to find approved CLEs in that specialization. Review the "Total Hours" column to confirm how many CLE hours, if any, were approved for that specialization.

To access your LBLS specialization transcript online, board certified specialists should go to Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization Transcripts (lsba.org).

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

# Amendments to LBLS Appellate Practice Standards are Approved by HOD and BOG at the LSBA Annual Meeting

he LSBA House of Delegates (HOD) at their June 5, 2025 annual meeting approved a Resolution of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS), that was presented by LBLS Vice Chair Richard K. Leefe. LBLS's Resolution amended the Appellate Practice Standards to clarify that an appellate matter is a single appeal or writ application, unless multiple appeals or writs are briefed and decided at approximately the same time. LBLS's Resolution also added a footnote that the LBLS Board may waive the requirement that one (1) of five (5) references be from a Board

Certified Appellate Practice Specialist until there are a sufficient number of Board Certified Appellate Practice Specialists.

By unanimous vote on June 6, 2025, the LSBA Board of Governors (BOG) ratified and approved the LBLS Resolution.

Copies of the amended LBLS Appellate Practice Standards may be downloaded from <a href="https://www.lsba.org/documents/HOD/June25res2.pdf">https://www.lsba.org/documents/HOD/June25res2.pdf</a>.

For more information contact LBLS Specialization Director, Mary Ann Wegmann by phone at (504)619-0128 or by email at maryann.wegmann@lsba.org. •

# The Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization Increased Annual Dues Effective January 1, 2026

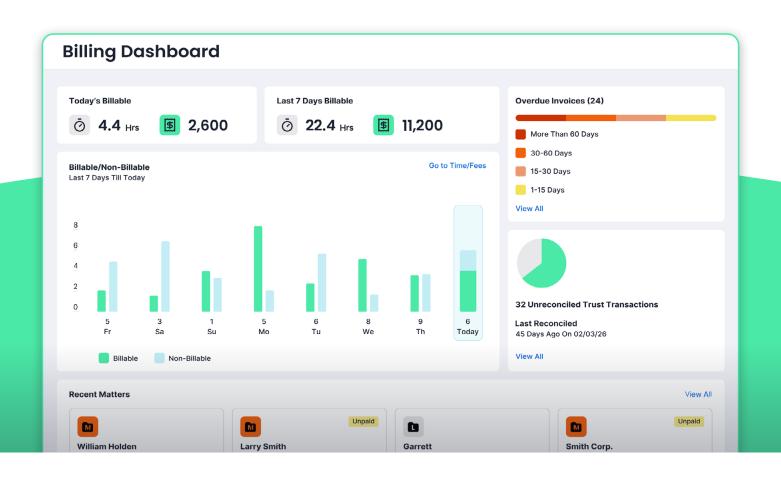
he Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (LBLS) voted to amend Rule 6.5(a) of its Rules and Regulations to increase annual dues for all board certified specialists from \$175.00 to \$200.00, effective January 1, 2026. This is the first time that LBLS annual dues have been increased since 1993. LBLS 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 website at RulesRegulationsofLegalSpecialization. pdf. For more information or questions about these increases, please contact LBLS Director, Mary Ann Wegmann by phone at (504)619-0128 or by email at maryann.wegmann@lsba.org. •





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### LBLS will accept applications for board certification beginning on November 1

The LBLS is 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, 2025 through Feb. 28, 2026. The LBLS is accepting applications for business bankruptcy law and consumer bankruptcy law certification from Jan.1, 2026 through Sept. 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 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 for the applicable specialty for a more detailed description of the requirements for application on the LBLS website at www.lsba.org/documents/Specialization/ LSBAPlanofLegalspecialization2017.pdf

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 **LBLS** should contact Specialization Director, Mary Wegmann, email maryann.wegmann@ lsba.org, or call (504) 619-0128, for an application packet. For more information, please go to the LBLS website, www.lsba. org/Specialization/ ♦



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#### Louisiana Act 352 Overhauls Court Filings

ct 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) 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). ◆

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 lindsi.cartmell@sonesta.com

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Booking Code: VUD ♦ Contact: Allison Crump

Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge

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Contact: Shelia Smith ♦ Corporate Code: #100381739

♦ Hampton Inn & Suites Baton Rouge Downtown (225) 382-2100 ♦ Email: <u>a.crump@hospitalityamerica.com</u>

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- Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel

(225) 388-5731 ♦ Email: <a href="mailto:acrump@renaissancebatonrouge.com">acrump@renaissancebatonrouge.com</a> Booking Code: VUD

**WATERMARK Baton Rouge** 

(225) 388-5731 ♦ Email: acrump@renaissancebatonrouge.com

Booking Code: VUD

#### **Covington Hotel**

Southern Hotel

(844) 866-1907 ♦ Email: guest services @southernhotel.com

#### **Lafayette Hotels**

- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Lafayette
   (337) 235-6111 ◆ Email: <u>Justin.Doucet@Hilton.com</u>
   Corp Account #: 0002831840
- Hilton Garden Inn Lafayette/Cajundome
   (337) 291-1977 Email: aylynn.eberhardt@hilton.com
   Corp Account #: 2742353
- SpringHill Suites Lafayette South at River Ranch (337) 981-5512 • Email: aylynn.eberhardt@hilton.com
   Booking Code: VUD

#### Shreveport Hotels

Hilton Shreveport

(318) 369-0580 • Email: katie.theriot@hilton.com Corporate Number: 2742353

#### **National Chains**

- American Bar Association Preferred Rate Hotel Program
   For special negotiated rates visit <u>www.americanbar.org</u>
- Holiday Inn (800)HOL-IDAY ◆ Corporate ID: 100381739
- La Quinta Inn & Suites
   (866) 725-1661 ◆ Corporate Code: LABAR

# Sharpen Your Skills at the 2025 YLD Virtual Professional Development Seminar

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division will host its annual Professional Development Seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon, delivered virtually for convenience and statewide access. Designed specifically for early-career attorneys, this half-day program focuses on practical, real-world skill-building to help young lawyers strengthen their practice and sharpen their professional toolkit.

Registration is \$50 and includes live webinar access and electronic course materials. The seminar is open to young lawyers only and is expected to offer 4.0 hours of CLE credit (pending approval). Speakers and full program details will be announced soon.

Login details and electronic materials will be emailed to registrants in advance of the program. Add the seminar to your calendar now to avoid conflicts during year-end scheduling. If you require accommodations to participate, please contact the LSBA in advance

This is a popular year-end program for young lawyers. Check your MCLE credits now and register early to secure your spot and ensure you complete your required MCLE before the close of the year. Visit www.lsba.org/YLD to find out more and register.



### LBF Appoints 2025-26 Fellows Chairs for LBF Initiatives

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) has announced 2025-26 appointments to chair its nine Community Partnership Panels and its standing committees and subcommittees. Edmund J. Giering IV, LBF president for 2025-26, made the appointments.

Community Partnership Panel chairs: Hon. Roya Boustany (Acadiana); Hon. Vanessa Guidry-Whipple (Bayou Region); Mark Barbre (Capital Area); Allie Nowlin (Central); Louis Colletta, Jr. (Greater Orleans); Stacie Guice (Northeast); Patricia Bonneau (Northshore); Allison Foster (Northwest); and Hon. Cynthia Clay-Guillory (Southwest).

Committee chairs: Colleen C. Jarrott (Communications and Education); Linda Law Clark (Communications and Education Subcommittee — Education);

Matthew Richards (Communications and Education Subcommittee - Kids' Chance); Adam Cossey (Communications Education Subcommittee Outreach); Hon. John C. Davidson (Ret.) (Development); Brooke Tigchelaar and Jonathan Johnson (Development Subcommittee — Gala); Monica Vela Vick (Development Subcommittee -Membership); Charles C. Bourque, Jr. (Finance); Hon. John C. Davidson (Ret.) (Governance); Mike Mestayer (Grants); Dave Ernest (Grantee Audit & Training); Charles C. Bourque, Jr. (Investment); Edmund J. Giering IV (Nominating and Executive); and Adrienne White (People, Culture & Impact).

Visit www.Raisingthebar.org 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. ◆

### The LBF is Popping Up in Your Area!

2 0 2 5 - 2 6
LBF President
Edmund J. Giering
IV is traveling
throughout the
state with the
Pop Up Tour to
educate everyone
about the LBF



and Civil Legal Aid. The LBF Pop Up Tour encompasses nine regions throughout Louisiana. This year, the Pop Up Tour will focus on the Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid. Each event includes a meal and 1 hour of CLE Professionalism.

The Justice Bus will pop up at the events in Alexandria, Shreveport, Monroe, Madisonville, New Orleans, and Houma. Come early and take a tour of the bus that delivers civil legal aid to the civil legal resource deserts in Louisiana.

#### Register for one in your area!

- ► Sept. 24, Central Pop Up, Alexandria
- ► Sept. 25, Northwest Pop Up, Shreveport
- ► Sept. 25, Northeast Pop Up, Monroe
- ► Oct. 22, Northshore Pop Up, Madisonville
- ► Oct. 22, Greater Orleans Pop Up, New Orleans
- ► Oct. 23, Bayou Pop Up, Houma
- ► Nov. 11, Southwest Pop Up, Lake Charles
- ► Nov. 12, Acadiana Pop Up, Lafayette
- ► Nov. 12, Capital Area, Baton Rouge

Visit www.Raisingthebar.org to register. ◆



#### **\$ 14.4 Million**

#### for Civil Justice Initiatives in 2025-26

Since 1989 the LBF has granted more than **\$148 Million** in grants to help people across a range of issues, including assistance for veterans and military families, domestic violence, senior and elderly services, child welfare services, housing, and unemployment.

The Louisiana Bar Foundation Board approved **\$14.4 Million** in grants for 2025-26 fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2025.

Building Capital Development	\$167,153
Acadiana Legal Service Corporation	\$50,000
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation	\$40,250
Shreveport Bar Foundation	\$26,903
The Wellspring Alliance for Families	\$50,000
Children's Legal Services	\$400,000
Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center	\$5,000
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Baton Rouge	\$50,000
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	\$65,000
Disability Rights Louisiana	\$55,000
Family and Youth Counseling Agency, Inc.	\$20,000
First Grace Community Alliance	\$70,000
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	\$55,000
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (Immigra	ation) \$15,000
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (Education	on) \$20,000
T.E.A.M.S.	\$45,000
Domestic Violence Programs	\$1,500,000
Beauregard Community Concerns	\$49,000
Chez Hope, Inc.	\$122,500
D.A.R.T (Domestic Abuse Resistant Team)	\$71,467
Faith House, Inc.	\$112,700
Family and Youth Counseling Agency, Inc.	\$15,000
Family Justice Center of Central Louisiana	\$147,000
Family Violence Program of St. Bernard	\$49,000
Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse	\$25,480
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy	\$93,100
Oasis A Safe Haven	\$49,000
Project Celebration, Inc.	\$126,420
Project SAVE	\$157,786
Safe Harbor	\$58,800
Southeast Spouse Abuse Program	\$126,787
The Haven, Inc.	\$122,500
The Wellspring Alliance For Families	\$173,460
Law-Related Education	\$275,000
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation	\$55,000
Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center	\$35,000
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Baton Rouge	\$52,500
Emergency Legal Responders	\$10,000
Family and Youth Counseling Agency, Inc.	\$5,000
Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education	\$57,500
Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division	
Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany	\$50,000

Legal Services Corporations Acadiana Legal Service Corporation Southeast Louisiana Legal Services	<b>\$4,000,000</b> \$1,985,624 \$2,014,376
My Community Cares Fostering Community Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Shreveport Bar Foundation The Extra Mile The Wellspring Alliance For Families	\$375,000 \$75,000 \$75,000 \$75,000 \$75,000 \$75,000
Other Legal Service Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Charities of North Louisiana Disability Rights Louisiana Frontline Legal Services, Inc. Innocence Project New Orleans Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana Louisiana Center for Children's Rights Louisiana Guardianship Services, Inc. NO/AIDS Task Force dba CrescentCare Southwest Louisiana Law Center St. Frances Cabrini Immigration Law Center STARC of La., Inc. The Ella Project Workplace Justice Project	\$845,000 \$133,655 \$125,000 \$75,000 \$75,000 \$100,000 \$100,000 \$38,591 \$30,000 \$90,382 \$30,000 \$80,000 \$7,500 \$18,000 \$31,872
Pro Bono Projects  Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project, Inc. Lafayette Bar Foundation Northeast Louisiana Bar Foundation Shreveport Bar Foundation Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation The Pro Bono Project	\$1,350,000 \$211,000 \$97,710 \$145,000 \$124,000 \$205,000 \$128,290 \$439,000
Access to Justice Fund Grants Disability Rights Louisiana Lagniappe Law Lab/Louisiana Appleseed The Pro Bono Project	<b>\$50,000</b> \$30,000 \$15,000 \$5,000
Kids' Chance Scholarships	\$34,750
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$86,626
Pro Hac Vice	\$100,000
Special Program and Project Grants Lagniappe Law Lab Louisiana Appleseed	<b>\$700,000</b> \$450,000 \$250,000
State of Louisiana Child in Need of Care and Adult Civil Legal Aid Services	\$4,084,853
Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants	\$500,000

# FOCUS ON Access to Justice For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

#### Attorney Volunteers Needed for Statewide Pro Bono Events in October

Volunteers needed for the LSBA's Lawyers in Libraries 2025 events, which are taking place October 20-25, 2025, in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week. During this week, libraries will be hosting 2-hour "Ask-a-Lawyer" sessions where patrons can ask legal questions in a one-on-one setting. These sessions will be offered in person at libraries across the state and by phone for those who may be unable to participate in person. Attorney volunteers are still needed for programs in several parishes, including: Ascension, Assumption, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Concordia, Franklin, Iberville, Jefferson. Lafayette, Lafourche. Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans. Ouachita. Plaquemines. Point Coupee, Rapides, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary,

St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Vernon, Washington, & West Baton Rouge.

"Ask-A-Lawyer" consultations are in 2-hour time slots. Individual events are scheduled based on attorney preference and library availability. To volunteer, go to <a href="https://lil.ivolunteer.com/2025">https://lil.ivolunteer.com/2025</a>. The deadline to register is Sept. 12, 2025.

INSTRUCTIONS: To volunteer, please select the library branch from the dropdown menu, then select date(s) and time(s) to volunteer, and provide the required information. If volunteering for a virtual event, please select the "Virtual Calendar" from the drop-down menu. Please note that additional library schedules are forthcoming. For more information, go to <a href="https://www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org">www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org</a>. or contact Bridget Berins at Bridget.Berins@lsba.org. ◆

#### VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING



Snap the above with your mobile device or click to visit

www.lsba.org/ProBono/ ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx

### OCTOBER 20-25, 2025

Make a real impact in just 2 hours.
Volunteer with Lawyers in Libraries to offer brief, one-on-one legal consultations to library patrons across Louisiana—either in person or by phone.

Bring Justice to Your Local Library! Sign up at lil.ivolunteer.



com/2025



#### Keep Going Strong: LSBA's "25 in 2025" Initiative

There are many ways to support the LSBA's 25 in 2025 pledge to complete 25 probono hours next year. Here are two:

Volunteer just 2 hours for Lawyers in Libraries, October 20–25: https://lil. ivolunteer.com/2025

Find a case or project at www.probono.net/la

Pro bono work strengthens communities, delivers access to justice, and offers personal and professional rewards—enhancing your legal skills, expanding your network, supporting your well-being, and elevating the legal profession. ◆



### FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

#### Allows volunteers to:

- Log in whenever/wherever
- Choose the question you answer and respond anonymously
- Receive training and access to resources
- Be covered by malpractice insurance

For more info, contact Rachael Mills ATJ Projects Counsel rachael.mills@lsba.org or call 504.619.0104.

### ORNEYS

### 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





#### Legal Symposium Commemorating Hurricane Katrina

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Legal Symposium Commemorating Hurricane Katrina was held at Entergy Headquarters to mark the 20th anniversary of the storm's devastating impact. Hosted by Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Entergy, The Pro Bono Project, and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Program, this landmark event convened legal professionals, policymakers, and community leaders to reflect on the storm's far-reaching

legal consequences. The well-attended program featured powerful keynote addresses, dynamic panel discussions, and moving community storytelling, all centered on the legal challenges, policy reforms, and resiliency efforts that have shaped the region in the two decades since Katrina. The symposium served as both a remembrance and a call to action, underscoring the continued importance of equitable legal access in the face of disaster. •



Greg Landry, Tamiko Chatman, Talya Bergeron, Monte Mollere, Dan Rees, Hailey Barnett, Laura Tuggle, Roxanne Newman, Douglas Carey (back), Shrushti Kothari



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer



Christy Kane, Entergy Pro Bono Counsel, and Marcus V. Brown, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Entergy



Edward J. Walters, Jr., LSBA President; Ronald S. Flagg, Legal Service Corporation; Frank X. Neuner, Legal Service Corporation Board; Monte T. Mollere, Louisiana State Bar Association; Veronica Sizer, Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

# 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 <a href="https://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx">https://www.lsba.org/Members/Awards.aspx</a> 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. ◆

Please join the LSBA in welcoming New Admittees to the Bar!

November 6, 2025 4:30-6:30 p.m. Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave.





#### Natchitoches light S 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. **Session One – Disability Rights** 

1.00 Prof. CLE credit 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. Session Two – Estate Planning and Successions:

1.00 General CLE credit 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. **Session Three – Immigration** 

1.00 General CLE credit What Every Louisiana Lawyer Should Know about President Trump's Impact on

**U.S. Immigration Policy** 

Brandon E. Davis, Partner • *Phelps Dunbar, LLP* • *New Orleans* Laura N. Buck, Associate • *Phelps Dunbar, LLP* • *New Orleans* 

12:20 – 1:10 p.m. Lunch (Provided by the LSBA)

1:10 – 2:10 p.m. Session Four – Current Trends & Statistics in Ethics:

1.00 Ethics CLE credit 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. Session Five – Well-Being in the Legal Profession

1.00 Prof. CLE credit Shelvia R. Davis, Founder • Grant Davis Law, LLC • Shreveport

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Session Six – Criminal Law

1.00 General CLE credit 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

# 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

#### Classified Advertisements

Standard classified advertising in our regular typeface and format may now be placed in "Bar Briefs" and on the LSBA Web site, *LSBA.org*. All requests for classified notices must be submitted in writing and are subject to approval. Copy must be typewritten and payment must accompany request. Our low rates for placement in both are as follows:

#### Rates

Non-members of LSBA \$85 per insertion of 50 words or less \$1 per each additional word \$20 for a C-Box number

Members of the LSBA \$60 per insertion for 50 words or less \$1 per each additional word No additional charge for a C-Box

Screens: \$25

Headings: \$15 for initial headings in

large type

#### Deadline

Payment and copy must be received by the first of the month before publication.

#### Send to:

Bar Briefs Classified Notices Louisiana State Bar Association 601 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, La. 70130

#### Responses

To respond to a box number, address your envelope to:

Bar Briefs C-Box No. \_\_\_\_ c/o Louisiana State Bar Association 601 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, La. 70130

#### **Positions Offered**

Gaudry, Ranson, Higgins & Gremillion, an established AV-rated firm in the GNO area, has immediate openings in its Gretna and Baton Rouge offices for associate attorneys. The attorney will primarily practice in the area of insurance defense in all phases of civil litigation. Please submit resume to cbrechtel@grhg.net for consideration.

#### **Real Estate**

Law Office space for rent in Arbor Walk Professional Center on Highway 21 just south of 1-12 in Madisonville, Louisiana. This is an established law office location perfect for a St. Tammany attorney or for a Northshore office for a Metairie/New Orleans attorney/law firm. There is a private parking lot. Office rent includes one attorney office, desk, hutch, matching wooden file cabinets, good storage area, use of large conference room, utilities except telephone, and kitchen. A great location and beautiful office. Call and ask for Kerry at 985-800-0910 to schedule an inspection.

#### **Services**

#### Briefs/Legal Research/Analysis of Unusual or Problem Cases

JD with honors, federal judicial clerk, graduate of top 10 law school, 25 years' experience federal and state litigation, creative legal thinker. Available for briefs, research, court appearances, analysis of unusual or problem cases. References on request. Catherine Leary, (504)436-9648, statewide services, registered office Jefferson Parish. Email CatherineLeary2021@gmail.com.

#### Classified ads are paid advertisements.

Publication of any advertisement or statement is not to be deemed a statement or an endorsement of the views expressed therein by the LSBA or any member of the LSBA. Views expressed are those of the advertisers only.



# 2026 EXPERT WITNESS, CONSULTANT AND LEGAL SERVICES

DIRECTORY

The Louisiana State Bar Association is publishing its Expert Witness, Consultant and Legal Services Directory. The supplement to the *Louisiana Bar Journal* will be printed separately and shrink-wrapped for mailing with the December 2025/January 2026 *Louisiana Bar Journal*. The directory is published annually, guaranteeing a year's worth of exposure in print and on the LSBA Web site.

- ► Reach 21,000+ practicing attorneys
- Listings indexed THREE ways: alphabetical, geographical & by category
- ➤ View last year's publication at www.lsba.org/expertwitness

#### **Technical Details**

- Display ads must be provided camera-ready in PDF format.
- ► For text/CV ads, supply text in an editable word-processing format.
- ► For CV ads, submit original or digital headshot photos separately from the text, in .jpg or .tif format (high-resolution digital photos of at least 300 dpi work best).
- ► E-mail or mail ads on a disk to the addresses provided below.
- ► DON'T FORGET TO PROVIDE YOUR 5 INDEXING CATEGORIES.

#### Contact Info, Deadlines & Pricing

To reserve space in the directory, mail and/or e-mail your display ad or text listing/photo, contact Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez via email at kbellanger@lsba.org and mail check (payable to the Louisiana State Bar Association) to:

Advertising & Communications Coordinator Krystal Bellanger Rodriguez

Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404

If you prefer to charge your listing (Visa, Mastercard or Discover only), please call (504)619-0131 or (800)421-5722, ext. 131.

ī	Early Bird Deadline Sept. 5, 2025	Final Deadline Oct. 17, 2025
½-page, black & white	\$425	\$500
½-page, color	\$475	\$760
Full-page, black & white	\$750	\$900
Full-page, color	\$850	\$1135

text listing in December
Louisiana Bar Journal
Service
Directory



EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL!

Book your ad by Sept. 5
& add FULL color for only
\$100/Full page or \$50/Half page

Contact Xrystal for details!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.lsba.org/expertwitness

# UPCOMING LSBA CLE OPPORTUNITIES



# SAVE

### T H E

### D A T E

#### Tax Law 2025: Going Beyond the Numbers

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge

#### 32nd Annual Admiralty Symposium

Friday, September 12, 2025 Hyatt Centric French Quarter Hotel 800 Iberville St., New Orleans

#### **Ethics & Professionalism**

Friday, September 19, 2025 New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel 859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

#### **Real Estate Law CLE**

Friday, September 26, 2025 New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel 859 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans

#### Calling All Law Clerks - Summary Judgment CLE

Friday, October 3, 2025

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

#### 65th Bi-Annual Bridging the Gap

Tuesday, October 21–Wednesday, October 22, 2025 Registration: 7:30–8:00 a.m.

Seminar: 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m

Fees: TIP - \$50 / 2025 New Admittees & YL - \$195 / All

Others - \$420

Learn practical information to fill in knowledge gaps in

your legal practice!

PLEASE NOTE: CLE credit will only be issued for the

FIRST time you attend "Bridging the Gap."

#### 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.

### WWW.LSBA.ORG/CLE