

2025-2026 Louisiana State Bar Association Officers and Board of Governors

Officers 2025-26

Edward J. Walters, Jr. President

Edward J. Walters, Jr. is a partner in the Baton Rouge firm of Walters, Thomas, Cullens, LLC. He received a BS degree in accounting in 1969 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 1975 from LSU Law Center.

Walters served as the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) secretary and editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* in 2012-13. He continues to serve on the *Louisiana Bar Journal* Editorial Board.

He and Michael A. (Mike) Patterson have taught a course titled "Advanced Trial and Evidence" at LSU Law Center for more than 30 years, and he has been a member of the faculty of the Law Center's yearly Trial Advocacy Program since its inception 25 years ago.

He was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana from 2017-21. He was the chair of the Commission for 2020.

Walters received the LSU Law Center's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2015, the LSBA's President's Award in 2011, the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Distinguished Attorney Award in 2008 and the Baton Rouge Bar Association's President's Award in 1995, 1998 and 2014.

He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the LSU Law Center Board of Trustees. He is board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

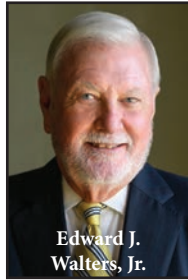
He is the author of the book *Ipsa Dixit: Ruminations on a Career at Law*.

Walters and his wife, Norma, have been married for 55 years and are the parents of two children. They have four grandchildren.

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Edward J. Walters, Jr.

Curtis R. Joseph, Jr. President-Elect

Curtis R. Joseph, Jr. is a partner in the Shreveport firm of Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, APLC. He handles defense and plaintiff-oriented litigation. He attended Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va., earning his BA degree in mass communications in 1993 and his JD degree in 1996.

While at Washington & Lee, he performed clinical work focusing on post-conviction relief for the inmates of the Federal Women's Prison Camp in Alderson, W.Va. He taught language arts, social studies and religion at Bishop Perry Middle School in New Orleans.

Joseph served on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors in 2021-24, representing the Eighth Board District. He also served in the LSBA's House of Delegates.



Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.

He serves on the boards of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, the Biomedical Research Foundation and Bonvenu Bank. He is the vice president of The Committee of One Hundred and serves as a member of the Air Force Global Strike Command Civic Leaders Program.

He is a recipient of the Dr. Jesse N. Stone Pioneer Award.

He is a founding member of Washington & Lee's chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a former president of the Shreveport Bar Association and the North Louisiana Jewish Federation. He is a former vice chair of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, a former chair of the Strategic Action Council and a former chair of the North Louisiana Holocaust Remembrance Service.

In his community, Joseph is a local jazz/blues drummer. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 22 years and are the parents of two children.

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Bradley J. Tate Secretary

Bradley J. Tate of New Orleans is an attorney at Sternberg, Naccari & White, LLC. He received a BS degree in accounting in 2005 from Southeastern Louisiana University, his JD degree in 2008 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and an LLM in taxation in 2012 from the University of Alabama. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2009.

Tate has served as chair, chair-elect, secretary and the District 5 representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council. He was a member of the 2011-12 Leadership LSBA Class and co-chaired the 2012-13 Leadership LSBA Class.

He has served on the Louisiana Bar Journal's Editorial Board and on the LSBA's Budget Committee, while also being a member of the House of Delegates and a member of several other committees over the years. Additionally, Tate has been on the board of directors of the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program and currently serves as its Secretary.

Tate has been recognized as a New Orleans CityBusiness Money Maker and a Biz New Orleans Financial Frontrunner.

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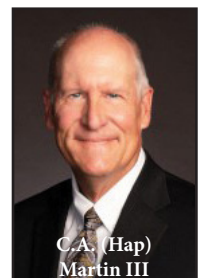
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Bradley J. Tate

C.A. (Hap) Martin III Treasurer

C.A. (Hap) Martin III is a member in the Monroe firm of Shotwell, Brown & Sperry, APLC. He received a BS degree in civil engineering in 1977 from Louisiana Tech University and his JD degree in 1980 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1980. He has been AV-rated by



C.A. (Hap) Martin III

Martindale-Hubbell for more than 30 years.

Martin served as the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) secretary and editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* from 2021-23. He served as the Seventh District representative on the LSBA's Board of Governors from 2015-18 and on the board of the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program from 2018-22. He currently serves on the *Louisiana Bar Journal* Editorial Board, the LSBA's Bar Governance Committee, the Mandatory CLE Committee and on the Governing Council of the Insurance, Tort, Workers' Compensation and Admiralty Law Section (former chair). He is a former member of the LSBA's House of Delegates from the Fourth Judicial District. He is a Master Emeritus of the Fred Fudickar American Inn of Court.

In his community, he is a lifelong Methodist and has held numerous leadership positions in his denomination on the local, district and conference levels. He served for many years as legal counsel volunteer with the Louisiana Purchase Council of the Boy Scouts of America (and its predecessor) and has coached teams in several youth sports organizations.

Martin and his wife, Diane Caraway Martin, have been married for 47 years and they have two sons and four grandchildren.

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Patrick A. Talley, Jr. Immediate Past President

Patrick A. Talley, Jr. is a partner in the New Orleans office of Phelps Dunbar, LLP. He received a BA degree in 1976 from Armstrong College (Georgia Southern University), his JD degree in 1982 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and an LLM in Energy and Environmental Law in 1993 from Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1980. He also is admitted in Texas.



Patrick A. Talley, Jr.

Talley served as president-elect of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) from 2023-24, as LSBA secretary and editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* from 2019-21 and as a member of the LSBA's Board of Governors from 2014-17 (First Board District). Prior to this service, he was a member of the LSBA's House of Delegates (since 1994) and was re-elected to the House in 2017. He also served on the *Louisiana Bar Journal's* Editorial Board.

He is a member of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He also is a member of the New Orleans, American, Federal, 5th Circuit and Baton Rouge bar associations, the State Bar of Texas, the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (secretary and Executive Committee member) and the Maritime Law Association of the United States.

He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized in several editions of *Best Lawyers in America*, including as the 2016 New Orleans Lawyer of the Year in Railroad Law. He also has been recognized in several editions of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* and in *New Orleans City Business's* "Leadership in Law."

In his community, Talley serves on the boards of the Louisiana Southeast Council Boy Scouts of America and Holy Name of Jesus School. He also was a member of the Louisiana Recovery Authority

(Environmental Task Force member), the New Orleans Charter Schools Foundation (vice president), Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (international president), the Carrollton Boosters, Inc. (president), the Louisiana Children's Museum, St. George Episcopal School and the Academy of the Sacred Heart (president).

He is married to Sharon Parker Talley and they have three children, a daughter-in-law and one grandson.

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Board of Governors 2025-26

Graham H. Ryan

First Board District

Graham H. Ryan is a partner in the New Orleans office of Jones Walker LLP, where he litigates complex commercial disputes in all stages of litigation, appeals, arbitration and regulatory proceedings. He advises clients in the technology, banking, energy, construction and healthcare industries in developing and executing litigation strategies designed to achieve client business objectives. He is nationally recognized in artificial intelligence (AI) law and Section 230, having been published in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology Digest*, featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and designated as an AI Governance Professional by the International Association of Privacy Professionals.



Graham H. Ryan

He graduated, *summa cum laude*, in business finance from Louisiana State University, received his law degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center (*Louisiana Law Review*), and is an alumnus of the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation. Before joining Jones Walker, he served as a judicial extern for the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Ryan has served on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors (2021-22) and the LSBA Young Lawyers Division's (YLD) Council (2015-23), also serving as chair of the LSBA YLD (2021-22) and as the delegate to the American Bar Association's (ABA) House of Delegates (2019-20). He was a member of the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class. He received the LSBA YLD Chair's Award in 2016 and 2018 and was named as a 2017 Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow for his role in leading various access-to-justice initiatives. He has served on the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee, MCLE Committee and CLE Committee, and was a council member for the Louisiana State Law Institute and a board member for the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education.

Ryan was named to the 2020 Leadership in Law Class by *New Orleans CityBusiness* and to the 2018 "40 Under 40" Class by *Gambit Weekly*. In 2018, he was honored by the ABA as a "Top 40 Young Lawyer" nationally. He also was named a Fellow of the Loyola Institute of Politics and is a graduate of Leadership Louisiana and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute.

In his community, Ryan is president of the Lakeview Crime Prevention District and a board member of Lakeview Civic. He is a former chair of HandsOn New Orleans, a nonprofit volunteer center founded after Hurricane Katrina that engaged more than 60,000 volunteers to rebuild south Louisiana. He serves on the United Way Campaign Cabinet. He is an attorney volunteer and

board member of the Pro Bono Project.

Ryan and his wife Erin are the parents of three children.
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Lindsey A. Cheek
First Board District

Lindsey A. Cheek is the founding attorney of The Cheek Law Firm LLC in New Orleans, where her practice focuses on mass torts, asbestos litigation, and complex personal injury matters. She earned a BBA degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Houston and received her JD from South Texas College of Law in 2009. She was admitted to practice law in Louisiana in 2012, Texas in 2009, and Pennsylvania in 2012.



Lindsey A. Cheek

She is a Fleur de Lis member of the New Orleans Bar Association, serves on the Board of Governors for the American Association for Justice, and is a member of the Federal Judiciary Committee.

Cheek is an adjunct professor at Tulane Law School and frequently speaks at national conferences on litigation and law practice management. She is also a regular speaker at the LSBA Annual Admiralty Symposium, the LSBA Complex Litigation Conference, and the LSBA Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession.

She has been recognized “Top 10 Best Asbestos Mesothelioma Trial Lawyer” by the National Trial Lawyers Association, “Super Lawyers - Louisiana Super Lawyer” by Thomson Reuters, “Top 25 National Women Trial Lawyer” by the National Trial Lawyers Association, “Top 10 Under 40 Attorney for Personal Injury” in Louisiana by the National Association of Personal Injury Attorneys, and “10 Best Attorneys in Louisiana” by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys.

In her community, Cheek was elected to the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC), serves as an advocacy leadership committee member of the Independent Women’s Organization (IWO), and is a permanent member of Cincinnati’s Club and the Legion of Mars krewes for veterans and law enforcement officers. Outside of her legal practice, Cheek holds a black belt in karate, and enjoys gardening, volunteering, hiking, and taking road trips with her dogs and siblings.

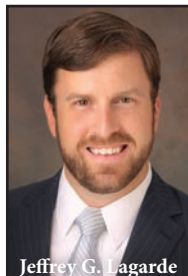
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Jeffrey G. Lagarde
Second Board District

Jeffrey G. Lagarde is an attorney in the Metairie office of Staines, Eppling & Kenney, LLC. His practice is focused on litigation, including products liability, redhibition, defense of excess carriers and maritime matters. He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Mississippi College School of Law (Dean’s List and AmJur Award for highest score in civil law property). He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2008.



Jeffrey G. Lagarde

Lagarde serves on the board of directors of St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis, Miss., has served on the St. Tammany advisory board for a regional credit union and has been active in the local Inns of Court chapter and local bar associations.

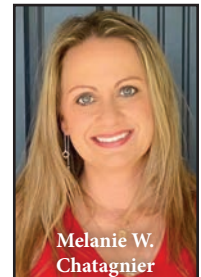
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Melanie W. Chatagnier
Third Board District

Melanie W. Chatagnier is the sole attorney and owner of Chatagnier Law Office in Thibodaux. She handles domestic matters, adoptions and property partitions in Lafourche Parish. She received a BS degree in psychology in 1999 from Northeast Louisiana University (University of Louisiana-Monroe) and her JD and BCL degrees in 2004 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2005.



Melanie W. Chatagnier

Chatagnier is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Family Law Section and served as a member of the LSBA Nominating Committee (District 2C).

She is a member of the Lafourche Parish Bar Association and a Lafourche district court-approved ad hoc counsel for contested custody and adoption suits.

In her community, she has been a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School PTC board since 2022. She is a sponsor of the Thibodaux Soccer Association and involved with other Thibodaux recreation activities.

She and her husband Jason have been married for 14 years and are the parents of three children.

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Todd S. Clemons
Fourth Board District

Todd S. Clemons is the founder of Todd Clemons & Associates in Lake Charles. His primary areas of practice are criminal defense, civil rights and civil litigation. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and his JD degree, *magna cum laude*, from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1987.



Todd S. Clemons

Clemons is a former assistant district attorney in Calcasieu Parish and a former federal prosecutor in the Western District of Louisiana. He also served as judge pro tempore in 14th Judicial District Court.

Clemons serves on the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board. Additionally, he formerly served on the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions as a Bar Examiner. He wrote and graded the criminal law, procedure and evidence portion of the exam.

Clemons is the president of the Sowela Foundation which raises funds for Sowela Community College in Lake Charles. He also served as president of the board of directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana. Clemons is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He formerly served as the Ninth District Representative (presiding over a four-state region). A life-

long member of Christian Baptist Church, Todd serves as the moderator and on the board of directors.

Todd and his wife, Stefanie Owens Clemons, have been married since 1987 and are the proud parents of two sons and they have three grandchildren.

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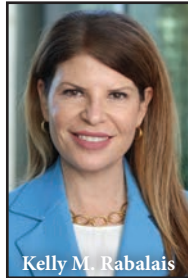
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Kelly M. Rabalais

Fifth Board District

Kelly M. Rabalais is vice president of communications and strategy for St. Tammany Health System. She received a BA degree in political science in 1996 from Louisiana State University, her JD degree in 1999 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and her master's degree in health administration from LSUS in 2022. In 2022, she became a health law specialist, certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and is certified by the Public Relations Society of America.



Kelly M. Rabalais

Rabalais was elected to the Louisiana State Bar Association's Nominating Committee in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 and is a member of the *Louisiana Bar Journal's* Editorial Board.

She served on the Lawyer Disciplinary Committee of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana from 2018-2024 and was Vice-Chair from 2023-2024. She served as 2017 and 2018 Women in Law chair and 2019 Community Outreach chair for the 22nd Judicial District Bar Association. She received the 2016 BGR (Bureau of Governmental Research) Excellence in Government Merit Award and the Louisiana State Bar Association 2021 Stephen T. Victory Memorial Award.

In her community, she is a member of the St. Scholastica Academy Advisory Board, and a member of the board of directors for the St. Tammany Chamber and the Youth Service Bureau. She is Vice-Chair of the Vizient Chief Strategy Officer's network.

She and her husband, J. Michael Rabalais, Jr., have been married for 28 years and are the parents of Anna-Kate (LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center class of 2027) and Brady.

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Christopher K. Jones

Fifth Board District

Christopher K. Jones is a partner with Keogh Cox and an experienced litigator who has represented both businesses and individuals in class action and complex commercial litigation matters across state and federal courts in Louisiana and throughout the country. He received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and earned his JD from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2002. He was admitted to practice law in Louisiana in 2002.



Christopher K. Jones

Jones served as the 2021 president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association / Baton Rouge Bar Foundation. He has served on the Board of Directors and is a current Foundation member. He

previously served on the LSBA Young Lawyers Section Council, the LSBA Leadership 2008-2009 Class and the Federal Bar Association's Baton Rouge Chapter Board of Directors, including a term as chapter president.

His honors include a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating (2014-present), selection as a Louisiana Super Lawyer in Class Action/Mass Torts (2018-2024), and inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions (2024-present). He received the LSBA Young Lawyers Section Pro Bono Award. He is also a past honoree of the Baton Rouge Business Report's Top Forty Under 40.

In his community, Jones currently serves on the board of directors for St. Joseph's Academy and the Baton Rouge Epicurean Society. He is a lifelong member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church and played on the baseball team during his undergrad years at Tulane University from 1995 to 1997. He has also volunteered for disaster legal services following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and the 2016 flood. Jones and his wife, Kathlyn "Kelley" Phillips Jones have been married for 29 years and are the parents of four children.

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Barry M. Barnett

Sixth Board District

Barry M. Barnett is a partner in the firm of LaCroix, Levy & Barnett, LLC, in Alexandria. He handles personal injury cases, with more than 30 years of experience in that practice area. He received his BS degree in business in 1981 from the University of New Orleans and his JD degree in 1986 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1986.



Barry M. Barnett

Barnett is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice and the Alexandria Bar Association (president, 2005-06).

He and his wife, Amanda Barnett, have been married for 39 years and are the parents of four children.

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Amy J. Miller

Seventh Board District

Amy J. Miller is an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana where she serves in the Civil Division and represents the government in tort, immigration, bankruptcy, and other matters. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Miller was in private practice for over ten years with experience in insurance defense, commercial litigation, banking, property and mineral rights, and successions. Miller also served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Third Judicial District where she prosecuted felony cases and advised local public bodies.



Amy J. Miller

Miller is a graduate of Louisiana State University-Shreveport and Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Arkansas. She is a former

member of the Louisiana State Bar Association House of Delegates where she represented the Third Judicial District and a current member of the Lincoln Parish Bar Association and Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

In her community, Miller has served on the Board of Control for the Lincoln Parish Library and the Board of Directors for the Junior League of Monroe. She is a member of Trinity Methodist Church and enjoys the small town life in Ruston with her husband and son.

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Senàe D. Hall **Eighth Board District**

Senàe D. Hall is an assistant district attorney in the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office in Shreveport. She is the Human Trafficking Victims Diversion coordinator. She also works with the STAR Court Program in Caddo Parish Juvenile Court to combat human trafficking issues. She received a BA degree in mass communications in 2008 from Dillard University and her JD degree in 2011 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011.



Hall served as the 2023-24 chair, the 2022-23 chair-elect, the 2021-22 secretary and as an at-large representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council. She is currently the YLD Council's immediate past chair. She was a member of the 2018-19 Leadership LSBA Class and served on the LSBA YLD Awards Committee for two years. She also volunteered as a mock trial competition judge from 2017-21.

She is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association (SBA), the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court. She is currently the at-large member for the SBA's Young Lawyers Section. She served as the Social Media chair from 2021-23 and the Law Week Chair for 2023 for the SBA's Young Lawyers Section and the treasurer for the SBA's Women's Section in 2022.

Hall was recognized as a 2021-2024 "Top Attorney" by *SB Magazine* and was selected for the 2020-21 Dillard University's "40 Under 40" list. She also was selected for the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's 2021 "40 Under 40" Class. Hall is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

In her community, she is a judge for the Volunteers for Youth Justice's Teen Court Program and volunteers for various community service projects. Every year, she organizes a service project or fundraiser for her birthday to give back to her community.

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Collin R. Melancon **Chair, Young Lawyers Division**

Collin R. Melancon is a partner and co-owner at Mansfield Melancon Personal Injury Lawyers in New Orleans, where he represents injured clients across Louisiana. His practice is particularly focused on advocating for crime victims who have suffered sexual abuse.

Melancon earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Louisiana State University in 2011, followed by his JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

in 2015. During law school, he was an active member of the *Loyola Law Review* and was selected to serve on its Editorial Board. He graduated with high honors, receiving Loyola's Spirit of St. Ignatius Award for Outstanding Law Graduate, the university's highest distinction for a graduating law student. Additionally, he was awarded the LSBA Civil Code Award for graduating first in his class in the Louisiana civil law division.



A dedicated leader in the legal community, Melancon has served as Secretary and District 1 Representative for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council and will serve as the chair. He previously represented the YLD on the Louisiana Judicial Council for six years. An active speaker, he has presented at numerous legal conferences and continuing legal education (CLE) programs, including the Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference and the LSBA Professionalism CLE Program.

Melancon is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, and the Louisiana Association for Justice. His exceptional work in personal injury law has earned him recognition as a Louisiana Super Lawyers "Rising Star" from 2020 to 2024.

He and his wife, Jillian Melancon, have been married for six years and are the proud parents of a son and a daughter.

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L. Bradley Hancock **At-Large Member**

L. Bradley Hancock is an equity partner, co-executive partner and practice group leader in the Houston, TX, office of Holland & Knight, LLP. He also practices in the firm's Austin, TX, office and is a member of the firm's litigation practice. He received his BA degree in history from Texas A&M University and his JD degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2001. He also is admitted in Texas and the District of Columbia.



Hancock is a life fellow of the Houston Young Lawyers Association and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Texas Tech Law School Foundation. He is a board member of the State Bar of Texas Corporate Counsel Section.

His honors include recognition in The Best Lawyers in America guide for Commercial Litigation (2024-2025), selection to Texas Super Lawyers magazine from 2016 to 2024, the President's Award from the Houston Young Lawyers Association, and the Outstanding Young Houstonian award presented by the Houston Jaycees.

In his community, Hancock volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, the National Committee (Philmont) and is an elder at First Presbyterian Church. Hancock has been married to his wife, India Chumney Hancock, for 23 years and they are the parents of four children.

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Tina L. Suggs
At-Large Member

Tina L. Suggs is the Managing Attorney at State Farm's Claims Litigation Counsel Office in Metairie, Louisiana. With over 16 years of experience at State Farm, she plays an active role in the company's national committees, contributing to legal strategy and industry best practices.

Suggs earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology in 1991 from the University of New Orleans and Louisiana State University School of Allied Health. She later pursued her passion for law, obtaining her JD from Loyola University College of Law in 2004 and gaining admission to the Louisiana Bar in 2005.

Suggs was recently re-appointed to the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors, where she serves as the Board's representative on the LSBA Budget committee. In addition, she serves on the LSBA's Committee on the Profession and Access to Justice Commission.

Suggs is deeply committed to legal diversity and community service. She is a Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) and serves as the Co-Chair and City Lead for the LCLD Alumni Chapter in Louisiana. Additionally, she is a dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., engaging in both local and international community service initiatives.

She has been married to Everett C. Suggs for 33 years and they are the proud parents of four children.

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Tina L. Suggs

Daniel A. Cavell
At-Large Member

Daniel A. Cavell is a partner in the Thibodaux firm of Morvant & Cavell, LLC. He received a BA degree in 1977 from Nicholls State University and his JD degree in 1980 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1980.

Cavell served as the at-large member on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors from 2011-2014 and again from 2017-2018. He also served in the House of Delegates as a member of the Nominating Committee and Budget Committee. He chaired the LSBA's and the Louisiana Supreme Court's (mandatory) Continuing Legal Education Committee.

He is a former president of the Lafourche Parish Bar Association and serves on the LSU Alumni Board of Trustees. He was named 2005 Thibodaux Citizen of the Year and was named Nicholls State University Outstanding Alumnus in 1985.

In his community, he is a member of the Rotary Club, a commissioner of the Thibodaux Regional Medical Center and a parishioner of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church. He was Grand Marshal of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department in 2022.

Cavell and his wife, Belinda, have been married for 46 years and are the parents of six children and four grandchildren.

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Daniel A. Cavell

John M. Church
Faculty, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

John M. Church is a professor of law at Louisiana State University (LSU) Paul M. Hebert Law Center and has been a member of the faculty since 1991. He received a BS degree in 1983 from Central Michigan University, an MS degree in economics in 1985 from the University of Illinois and his JD degree in 1988 from the University of Colorado. He was admitted to practice in Colorado in 1988 and clerked for the Hon. Robert H. McWilliam on the US 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and practiced law at Davis, Graham & Stubbs in Denver before joining the LSU Law faculty.

Church has served as LSU's representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Board of Governors 13 times between 1998-2024. He is a member of the American Law and Economics Association, the American Association of Wine Economists and the American Intellectual Property Association.

In his community, he is a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and is the President of the Advisory Board of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School. Church and his wife Karen have been married for twelve years. He is the father of four children.

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Ronald J. Scalise, Jr.
Faculty, Tulane University Law School

Ronald J. Scalise, Jr. is the John Minor Wisdom Professor of Civil Law at Tulane University Law School, where he has served on the faculty since 2009 and held the A.D. Freeman Professorship from 2009-18. He served as vice dean of the law school from 2012-16. From 2004-09, he served on the faculty of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; in 2007, he was awarded the McGlinchey Stafford Associate Professorship there and, in 2009, served as acting vice chancellor for academic affairs.

He received a BA degree in 1997 from Tulane University, his JD degree in 2000 from Tulane Law School (articles editor for the *Tulane Law Review*), and an LLM in 2003 from Cambridge University (Trinity College). He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2000.

Professor Scalise is a member of the American Law Institute, an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, the Treasurer of the American Society of Comparative Law, a Professeur Invité at the Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas, an academician in the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law, and an academic fellow to the American College of Trusts and Estates Counsel (ACTEC). He currently serves as Louisiana State Chair for ACTEC and as a member of the Board of Regents. He writes extensively on civil and comparative law topics, particularly the law of successions, donations, and trusts. He currently serves as the editor for Thomson Reuter's annual edition of the *Louisiana Civil Code* as well as the author for the annual updates for six volumes in the *Louisiana Civil Law Treatise* series on property, obligations, and trusts.

His awards include the "2015 Leadership in Law Award" by *New Orleans CityBusiness*, the Felix Frankfurter Award for law teaching in 2018 and 2024, and the 2018 John Minor Wisdom Award for the



Ronald J. Scalise, Jr.

best civil law article published in the *Tulane Law Review*. Professor Scalise has served on numerous law reform projects and on those related to the betterment of the legal profession on both the national and local level. He has previously served as the Reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Community Property Disposition at Death Act and currently serves as Reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Drafting Committee for an Act on Conflict of Trust and Estate Laws.

Professor Scalise has served as member of the Board of Governors of the LSBA on three separate occasions and as a member of the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization, including in positions as both Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. He currently serves as the Reporter for the Louisiana State Law Institute's Successions and Donations Committee, the Trust Code Committee, the Prescription Committee, and the Committee on Aleatory Contracts/Signification and as a member of the Council and over a dozen other subject-matter specific revision committees.

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G. Trippe Hawthorne **Louisiana State Law Institute**

G. Trippe Hawthorne is an attorney at Kean Miller in Baton Rouge, where he advises clients on all phases of construction development, dispute resolution, and general commercial litigation.

He currently serves on the Louisiana State Law Institute Council and previously served as General Counsel to the Louisiana State Licensing Board of Contractors.

Hawthorne has served as Special Advisor to the Louisiana Law Institute Security Devices Committee for the Private Works Act Revision Project and is a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, where he chairs the Construction Law Committee. He frequently presents on topics related to construction law, licensing law, procurement, public bid disputes, ADR, and diversity in the legal profession.

Hawthorne is a certified mediator and arbitrator with Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and is listed in the Louisiana Civil Mediator's Registry maintained by the LSBA's ADR Section. He is also on the Roster of Arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association and serves as the American College of Real Estate Lawyers' representative to the National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee. Additionally, he is a graduate of the NITA Advanced Trial Program and the Harvard Program on Negotiation Mediation Training.

Hawthorne began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge John V. Parker of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana (1995-96). Away from work, he enjoys triathlons, working on bicycles, supporting his church, and spending time with his wife and three daughters. He has received multiple awards recognizing his contributions to his community.

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Shannon Seiler Dartez

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Dartez served on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Board of Governors as the Third Board District representative from 2002-05 and 2017-20. She is a member of the LSBA House of Delegates and the LSBA's Insurance Committee, previously chairing the Group Insurance Committee. She is the recipient of the 2002 LSBA Young Lawyers Division's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

She is a former president of the Lafayette Bar Association (2021-22) and a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice and Louisiana Workers Advocates (WILG). She also is a member of the Louisiana Workers Comp Advisory Council.

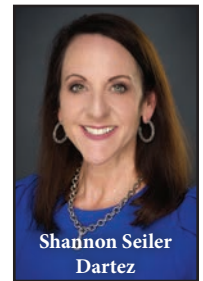
In her community, she is a graduate of the Leadership Institute of Acadiana's Leadership Lafayette, where she chaired the Junior Leadership program for two years. She is a former president of both the Junior League of Lafayette and Healing House, Hope for Grieving Children.

She is the mother of two children and has two grandchildren.

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Aaron R. Wilson is an attorney at Wilson & Wilson, APLC, in Bossier City. He received his JD degree from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016.

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Larry E. Pichon is a solo practitioner based in Lake Charles and practices as a contract attorney for the public defenders' office. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans and his JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1987. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1988.

Pichon serves as a member of the House of Delegates representing the 14th Judicial District. In his community, Pichon supports the Lake Charles Hobo Hotel for Cats and volunteers his time as treasurer for the Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council. In 2014, he was recognized as volunteer of the year for the Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council.

Pichon is the father of two children and, in his spare time, enjoys playing bingo and staying connected to his community.

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