

LSBA Events and Involvement: Heading into the Home Stretch



By Shayna L. Sonnier

It will soon be Spring, and we are heading into the home stretch of the Bar year.

I am pleased to report that we have just completed another successful Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge. Along with the usual schedule of meetings of the Board of Governors, the House of Delegates, the Young Lawyers Division, the Senior Lawyers Division, and several other groups and committees, we offered free CLE programs on topics including computer productivity, trust accounting and professional development. The Young Lawyers Division also held its annual Professional Development Seminar, open to young lawyers and offering networking opportunities and CLE hours on ethics, professionalism and law practice management.

Another of the Midyear Meeting stellar events was the ceremony recognizing the Bar's 50-, 60- and 70-year members, co-hosted by the LSBA and its Senior Lawyers Division. The turnout was phenomenal. There was a lot of successful experience, energy, and achievement contained in that one room, and I truly enjoyed personally greeting these legal professionals and congratulating them on all their accomplishments.

We have a lot of upcoming spring events, all culminating with the LSBA Annual Meeting and joint LSBA/Louisiana Judicial College Summer School set for June 2-7 in Destin, Fla. The Planning Committee has been working on programming for these events since the end of the Annual Meeting last year, and we will begin promoting the events soon. Be on the lookout for more

information in the Bar's print and online publications. Stay tuned!

On April 12, the LSBA Young Lawyers Division will host its annual Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference at the New Orleans Marriott Warehouse Arts District Hotel. This conference, geared to young lawyers, will offer a day of programming (and CLE hours) and a luncheon recognizing award winners, finalists and rising stars. More information on the conference will be provided via print and online publications.

Spring is also the time to get involved with your Bar via committees and sections. Committee assignment requests are now being accepted for the 2024-25 Bar year. The response deadline is April 10. To review all committees and to access and download the Committee Preferences Form, go to: www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/Committees.aspx.

The Section membership period will begin in mid-February and will run through April 15.

The Section application and brochure also will be available online by mid-February at: www.lsba.org/BarGovernance/Sections.aspx.

Also add to your calendar the LSBA's free CLE series called "Seven Points LA." The CLE program, which can earn up to 6.0 CLE credits (including ethics and professionalism), will be presented in seven locations — New Orleans, Feb. 27; Baton Rouge, Feb. 29; Thibodaux, March 6; Lafayette, March 7; Covington, March 19; Shreveport/Bossier City, March 26; and West Monroe, March 27. For more information and to register, go online to: www.lsba.org/CLE.

In a previous President's Message, I

reported that the LSBA was honored with the 2023 Harrison Tweed Award, presented by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. The LSBA was recognized for its creation of innovative Legal Help Access Points to significantly expand access to legal services in underserved areas of the state. Well, good news! The ribbon was cut in November 2023 on the fourth Legal Help Access Point in DeRidder. Read more on page 362 of this issue.

For the 10th year, the LSBA completed a successful Lawyers in Libraries Program (Oct. 23-28, 2023). During this week, many of our members volunteered their time and talent to present Ask-A-Lawyer consultation events (in person or by phone) or live presentations streamed through social media. We recap these events (and recognize these attorneys) on pages 308-310 of this issue.

In this home stretch, I plan to continue visiting around the state, meeting more members and promoting all the benefits offered by the LSBA. If I am in your area, I encourage you to find me for some conversation and feedback. I'm all about collaboration.

We have a strong and active Bar — with a variety of programs and projects that help members at every stage of their practices, those just starting out, or those just ending — and this can only be made stronger with the participation of more of our members across the state.

Shayna L. Sonnier