

Persevering Through the Challenges of Our “New Normal”



By Alainna R. Mire

We are all living in what is being called “our new normal,” brought on this time by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Bar (and as Louisiana citizens), we have heard this phrase too many times before. Yes, the LSBA has faced challenges before and we will prevail over this one, too. The LSBA’s resilience, ability to adapt and reinvent, and determination in overcoming hurdles, as quickly, efficiently and lasting as possible, are the common threads that will propel us to the light at the end of this tunnel.

Our LSBA leadership structure is set up to provide a seamless line of governance. And governance will go on in this “new normal” world.

So far this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled most of our major events and projects (the Annual Meeting/Summer School, the Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession, to name just two). But as the pandemic closed the physical doors of the Louisiana Bar Center, the LSBA’s day-to-day business progressed with staff working remotely and with the impressive acceleration of free COVID- and practice-related webinars. The pandemic forced our Bar to rethink, retool and reassess some of

our programming, all the while planning for new methods and procedures to handle our basic functions for the rest of the year.

For my term as president, I will continue these efforts at innovation and connection with our members. My focus is to engage the entire membership in areas outside of the state’s major metropolitan areas. An attorney who was born and raised in Scott, attended college and law school in Baton Rouge and moved to Alexandria to practice law, I know firsthand the difference in resources throughout the state. The creation of the interstate transportation system connected the entire state by making it logistically easier to get from one end to the other, but it did not connect the people. People are our greatest resource as a profession, yet there is a disconnect between those in our profession. The disconnect is based on resources and areas of practice. My goal is to bring together all members of our profession to create a more cohesive LSBA by bringing LSBA resources to smaller communities with few than 50,000 people.

As we have learned during this pandemic, technology is truly the way to bridge the gap between all people. I will encourage more LSBA and statewide

CLE programs, either in-person or virtually. My focus is not only on diversity in its traditional terms of gender and race but on locale as well.

Our plans for the year will continue in some form or fashion. That’s my commitment to you, the members who have placed their trust in me to continue working for the betterment of the legal profession and, in turn, for the residents we serve.

You may notice that this June/July *Journal* is different. Normally, we would have introduced our incoming Bar leadership on the cover and in interviews, profiles and photos. But the pandemic altered that as well. As we are planning a ceremony for the Bar leadership to be formally installed in August (barring any further pandemic-related developments), it was decided to introduce everyone in the August/September *Journal* instead.

This issue of the *Journal* includes several COVID-related features which we hope you find timely and informative.

Until we meet again, stay safe and healthy, persevere in your daily lives and law practices, and believe that we will all see the other side of this pandemic soon. The LSBA will always be here to help you during this challenge and beyond.

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