



By Alainna R. Mire

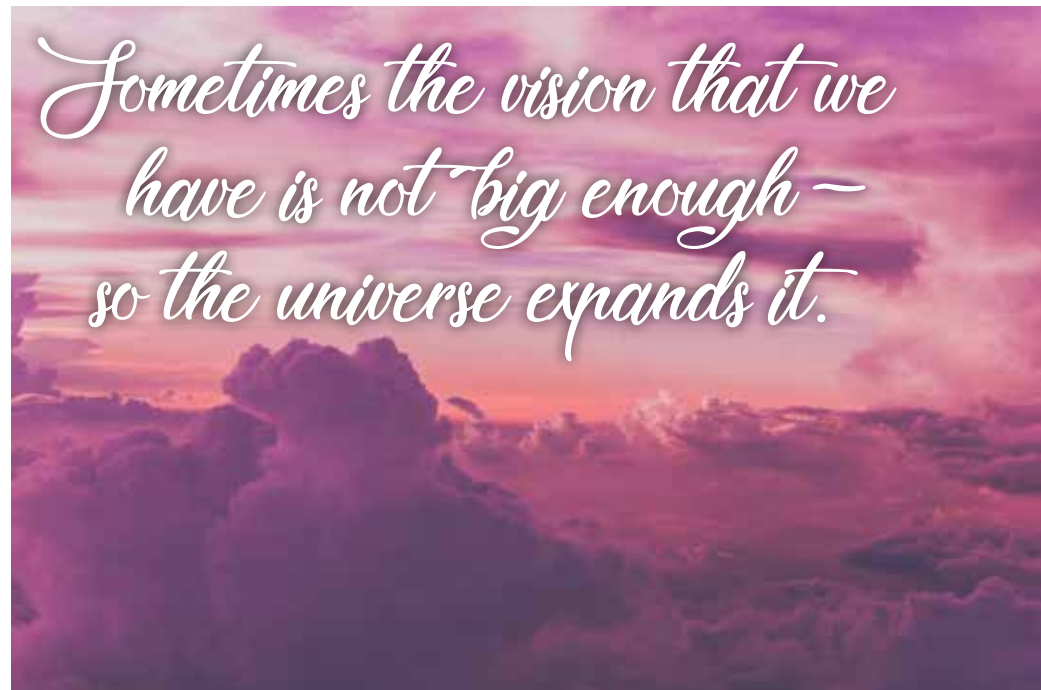
2020: A Vision for the Future

Yes, you read that headline correctly. The headline is actually my theme for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Needless to say, the Annual Meeting never happened. It was cancelled, along with many other events planned for the year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As disappointing as cancellations were, the well-being of all of our members comes before any one person's individual needs and wants.

Do I think about the Annual Meeting programming that was being scheduled, the swearing in ceremony and the genuine camaraderie that could have been? Yes. I would be lying if I said I did not, especially since this appears to be one of the few times, or maybe the only time, the Annual Meeting was ever cancelled.

Like many of you, I have struggled with my feelings during this time. For example, am I being selfish by acknowledging my disappointment in not being able to experience events that I have excitedly had on my calendar for years? Is it wrong to not want to close down certain aspects of the economy and worry about individuals losing their jobs or homes? Well, I've decided that all of our feelings are valid, no matter what other people may think of them.

But, there were some positive aspects of the year 2020. This year commemorated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. I have been fortunate enough to assist in two CLEs commemorating this amazing time in American history. At first, I wondered if this milestone would receive the recognition it deserved with everything going on in the world today, and I soon realized that it would. With the election of Joe Biden as president-elect of



the United States, Kamala Harris will be the first female vice president — and not only the first female, but the first female of color representing African-Americans and Asian-Americans.

I thought that the vision I had for 2020 wouldn't be manifested, but I was wrong. Sometimes the vision that we have is not big enough so the universe expands it.

This year, I was able to join Judy Perry Martinez (American Bar Association president, 2019-2020), Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson (who is retiring at the end of December) and, now, Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris as a female leader during a time of uncertainty in all of our lives. I am honored to serve alongside such amazing women.

To quote Chief Judge Nannette Jolivet Brown during "The Centennial of the 19th Amendment" CLE: "Why be afraid of a

culture of women?" I'm not. Are you?

Also, on behalf of the Louisiana State Bar Association, I would like to offer my best wishes and highest regards to Chief Justice Johnson on her retirement. Her contributions to the legal profession spanned decades and her influence on the profession will be felt for many decades to come. *(Read the Chief Justice's interview starting on page 242 of this issue.)*

Finally, in a normal year, I would end this message with some type of holiday greeting. But as many of us are still dealing with COVID, hurricane cleanup and any number of other disruptions this year, I will leave you with this instead. Stay safe and healthy, persevere in your daily lives and law practices as best as you can, and believe that our resilience will get us through all these crises. The LSBA will always be here to help you during these challenges.