

President's Message

Sparking Change for Civil Legal Aid

By 2019-20 President Amanda W. Barnett

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF). For 30 years, this organization has been a reliable source of funding for civil legal aid helping the most vulnerable Louisiana citizens acquire housing, gain healthcare, find employment, win protective orders against domestic abusers, and keep families together. As the poverty levels rise and the funding for civil legal aid decreases, the LBF is dedicated to finding new sources of funding for civil legal aid. This year, the LBF leadership has focused on raising civil

legal aid awareness and education benefiting Louisiana's legal aid network.

I am happy to report that the LBF has engaged a strategic communication partner, Spitfire Strategies, to help us increase the visibility and understanding of the need for basic civil legal aid services for those who cannot afford them. Spitfire Strategies, an agency committed to society's most



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complex issues, has a long history of working with advocacy organizations and foundations and brings decades of policy, nonprofit and foundation leadership experience and insight. Based in Washington, D.C., Spitfire's client list includes Equal Justice Works, Annie E. Casey Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation, among many other social- and justice-focused organizations.

Together, we plan to spark change for the entire Louisiana civil legal aid network. Please keep up with us on social media for updates, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and raisingthebar.org.

LBF Annual Fellows Gala Set for April 3

By Patrick A. Talley, Jr., Gala Chair

Join the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) on Friday, April 3, for the LBF's 34th Annual Fellows Gala at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. The gala begins at 7 p.m. and includes a silent auction and 365 Days of Justice, an interactive fundraiser featuring the 365 days of the year, each available for purchase.

This year at the Gala, the LBF is honoring the 2019 Distinguished Jurist Robert H. Morrison III; Distinguished Attorney Marcus V. Brown; Distinguished Attorney Mary Terrell Joseph; Distinguished Professor John M. Church; and Calogero Justice Award recipient Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson. This event brings together lawyers, judges and professors from across the state to support the LBF's mission.

Support this fundraising event by becoming a sponsor. Proceeds raised will help strengthen the programs supported and provided by the LBF. Sponsorships are available at the following levels — Pinnacle, Benefactor, Cornerstone, Capital, Pillar and Foundation. Learn

more about the levels at www.raisingthebar.org/gala.

Individual tickets to the gala are \$200. Young lawyer individual gala tickets are \$150. Gala tickets can be purchased by credit card at www.raisingthebar.org/gala. For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email laura@raisingthebar.org.

A special thank you is extended to the 2020 Gala Committee — Travis A. Beaton, Alexander N. Breckinridge V, Tiffany Delery Davis, Steven F. Griffith, Jr., Colleen C. Jarrott, W. Brett Mason, John C. Nickelson, Deidre Deculus Robert, Brooke C. Tigchelaar, Jason P. Waguespack, Ta-Tanisha T. Youngblood and board liaison Alan G. Brackett.

Discounted rooms are available at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Thursday, April 2, and Friday, April 3, at \$259 a night. To make a reservation, call the Hyatt at 1(800)233-1234 and reference the "Louisiana Bar Foundation" or go to www.raisingthebar.org/gala. Reservations must be made before Friday, March 13.

LBF Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation welcomes the following new Fellows:

- Catherine M. Ashy..... Lafayette
- Elizabeth B. Bloch..... Lafayette
- Avery E. Bond..... Shreveport
- Breshatta M. Davis..... Monroe
- Nicholas L. Elefante..... New Orleans
- Darrinsha Gray..... New Orleans
- Kiara N. Heath..... DeRidder
- Milton J. Hernandez IV..... Washington, DC
- Jimmie C. Herring, Jr. Bossier City
- Deisha K. LaGarde..... Houma
- Brittany Jené Long..... Monroe
- Allison Paige Nowlin..... Alexandria
- A'Niya S. Robinson..... New Orleans
- Andre D. Robinson..... Metairie
- Zebediah Ambrose Stearns, Jr. Lafayette
- Hon. Mitchell R. Theriot..... Baton Rouge