

President’s Message

The Most Inspiring Ideal of Our Society

By 2021-22 President Christopher K. Ralston

“Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. . . . It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.” — Justice Lewis Powell, Jr.

“The Louisiana Bar Foundation does so much for so many who have so little. The Foundation is altruistic, demonstrating that the bar and the bench are very willing to serve others with their time, their talent and their treasure.” — Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer

While every American has a constitutional right to an attorney in criminal matters, when it comes to civil matters, access to an attorney is not a fundamental right. Civil legal aid helps close the gap in our justice system and ensures equal justice and representation for all. Civil legal aid is free legal assistance provided to help low-income people with non-criminal, civil legal needs. The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is the single statewide funder that is fully committed to ensuring that Louisiana’s civil justice system is accessible to all, no matter their economic status. Through grants, we partner with a trusted network of more than 70 grantees and work with hundreds of volunteers from the bench and the bar that are leading community-driven efforts to help low-income families in need.

We are proud of the increasing number of Judicial Fellows who are actively involved with the Foundation’s committees, programs, success stories and board of directors. Their leadership is critical to our goal of ensuring that all

Louisianans — regardless of their zip code, background or income level — have access to the civil legal services they need.

The following judges have been named to the LBF’s 2021-22 board of directors — Hon. John C. Davidson, 9th Judicial District Court; Hon. Guy E. Bradberry, 14th Judicial District Court; Hon. Dana M. Douglas, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana; Hon. Cynthia Clay Guillory, 14th Judicial District Court; and Hon. Raymond S. Steib, Jr., 24th Judicial District Court.

Additionally, the following judges are actively engaged on one or more committees and panels that work to carry out the mission and objectives of the LBF — Hon. Barry W. Ashe, Hon. Paula A. Brown, Hon. Charlotte A.L. Bushnell (Ret.), Hon. Jeffrey Charles Cashe, Hon. Marilyn C. Castle, Hon. Sylvia R. Cooks, Hon. Suzanne M. DeMahy, Hon. Valerie Gotch Garrett, Hon. Piper D. Griffin, Hon. Vanessa Guidry-Whipple, Hon. Lowell Christopher Hazel, Hon.



Christopher K. Ralston

Veronica E. Henry, Hon. Benjamin Jones (Ret.), Hon. William J. (Rusty) Knight (Ret.), Hon. Patricia Evans Koch, Hon. Nancy Amato Konrad (Ret.), Hon. Walter I. Lanier III, Hon. Elizabeth C. Lanier, Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle, Hon. Harry T. Lemmon (Ret.), Hon. Mary Ann Vial Lemmon, Hon. M. Lauren Lemmon, Hon. C. Wendell Manning, Hon. Page McClendon, Hon. Marla Elizabeth Mitchell Abel; Hon. Susie Morgan, Hon. Joseph H.L. Perez-Montes, Hon. Candyce G. Perret, Hon. Kerry L. Spruill, Hon. Max N. Tobias, Jr. (Ret.), Hon. Cynthia Tregle Woodard (Ret.) and Hon. Robert L. Wyatt.

If you are a Fellow, I thank you for your commitment. If you are not, it is my honor and pleasure to extend an invitation to you to become a Fellow. We hope you will accept and join this most distinguished group of bench and bar members. Please note that, in 2015, the Louisiana Supreme Court clarified that LBF Judicial Fellow dues may be paid through the judicial expense fund.

We invite you to visit the LBF website at www.raisingthebar.org and become a Fellow today. Should you have any questions, contact Danielle Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email danielle@raisingthebar.org.

LBF Welcomes New 2021 Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation welcomed the following new Fellows:

- Erica E. Cicero.....Mandeville
- Cornelius Troy Hall.....Baton Rouge
- Lawrence K. HolcombEdwardsville, IL
- Prof. Donald W. North.....Zachary
- Benjamin de Seingalt.....New Orleans
- Alberto Enrique Silva.....New Orleans