

President's Message

Why Do I Give?

By 2021-22 President Christopher K. Ralston

Why do I give?

When I tell people I'm the president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF), I get two follow-up questions. The first is usually, what is the Louisiana Bar Foundation? This is the easier one. The Louisiana Bar Foundation is the state's largest funder of civil legal aid. We partner with a trusted network of more than 70 organizations that lead community-driven efforts to help families facing non-criminal, civil legal challenges. Our goal is to make sure that all Louisianans, regardless of their background, zip code or income level, have access to civil legal services that they need.

After hearing about our impressive impact, for me, it logically follows to support the LBF. My dedication to this cause comes from a firm belief in the need for a fair and equal justice system, regardless of income or status. I believe in the power of the legal profession to help those who might otherwise be abandoned by the system. I understand that not everyone comes to that decision so easily.

Without fail, the second question always includes the "why." Why do I give? Why should anyone care? Why LBF over

any other organization? Especially during the season of giving, we're approached by many deserving causes and organizations. The truth of the matter is our civil justice system is in crisis. As a high-poverty state with a lack of resources, Louisiana has a pressing need for increased investments in civil legal aid. Now is the time to expand our investments and establish a robust civil justice system we can all be proud of.

I believe in the LBF as a community stakeholder. For more than 30 years, the LBF has been a trusted authority on civil legal aid funding. Our decades of experience as a responsible steward of funds, along with our well-established partnerships, have allowed us to help hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents gain access to the legal system.

I ask that you all consider getting involved with the work of the LBF by



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Ralston

making your gift today. There are plenty of ways to give, but one easy option is to choose the Louisiana Bar Foundation as your preferred organization through Amazon Smile. A portion of every purchase is dedicated directly to our organization when using Amazon Smile. You also may make your gift online at www.raisingthebar.org/YearEnd or mail directly to the LBF, Ste. 1000, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112. If you have any questions, contact our Grants and Gifts Associate Haley Mack at Haley@raisingthebar.org.

So, why do I give? I give because I want to ensure all Louisianans have equal access to the justice system. I give because I trust the Louisiana Bar Foundation as an integral part of the civil legal aid community. I give because I believe our community and our state are better and stronger when people have hope and opportunity rather than despair and futility. I give because together we can meet the legal needs of our state's most vulnerable people. Please consider giving to the Louisiana Bar Foundation today.

LBF Seeking Nominations for 2022 Boisfontaine Award

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is seeking nominations for the 2022 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Nominations must be received in the LBF office by Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. The award will be presented at the Louisiana State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Destin, Fla., in June. The recipient will receive a plaque and \$1,000 will be donated in the recipient's name to a non-profit, law-related program or association of the recipient's choice that provides services in Louisiana.

Nominations should include nominee's name, contact information, a brief written statement on the background of the nominee, as well as reasons why the nominee is proposed as the award recipient. Nominations should be forwarded to Danielle Jordan Marshall, Donor Services Manager, Louisiana Bar Foundation, Ste. 1000, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, or email to danielle@raisingthebar.org by the deadline.

This trial advocacy award was established through an endowment to the Louisiana Bar Foundation in memory

of Curtis R. Boisfontaine, who served as president of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. Generous donations from Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel, LLP, the Boisfontaine Family and friends established the fund.

The award is given to a Louisiana attorney who exhibits long standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice and upholds the standards of ethics and consideration for the court, litigants and all counsel.