

## President's Message

# Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid

By President Hon. C. Wendell Manning

**M**y focus as Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) president is to build on the initiative unveiled earlier this year by raising awareness of the indigent population's civil legal aid needs and increasing the resources available to address those needs. Nearly 20 percent of Louisiana citizens live in poverty. We rank among the highest in the nation. If we are going to improve the lives of children and families, we must recognize that civil legal aid is an essential component of philanthropic efforts to improve the economic, social and health conditions for low-income people and their communities.

Sometimes, legal aid is the only thing standing between a family's ability to be self-sufficient and poverty. For many Louisiana citizens facing crisis, an effective and powerful response must include civil legal aid. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a

whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems. We know that increased funding for civil legal aid will have a ripple effect, impacting not only families served, but the community at large.

The LBF has united with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and other key stakeholders to launch the Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid. The goal is to raise funds for civil legal aid and increase awareness of the growing civil legal needs of our citizens. The campaign is modeled after similar statewide campaigns in Washington, Oregon, California and Texas. These campaigns are making a big impact in supporting the services provided by their legal aid networks.

For many months, the campaign com-



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mittee has been busy meeting and planning this initiative. In January, a resolution supporting the campaign was passed by the LSBA House of Delegates. With the state Bar's much needed formal support, the committee is now making plans to roll out the campaign across the state through local and specialty bar associations and other legal organizations. Once we have the support of the bench and bar, the committee will then bring the campaign to the private sector and the public at large.

We want everyone to get involved in the campaign. Volunteer to be on the committee, help us identify legal organizations we can present campaign information to and/or make a donation. We need your help and hope you will join us. I extend a special thanks to the many dedicated volunteers serving on the campaign committee. If you would like to get involved, contact LBF Development Director Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046.

## Awards Presented at LBF's 4th Annual Assembly

Several awards were presented during the Louisiana Bar Foundation's (LBF) 28th Annual Fellows Gala, the culminating event of its fourth Annual Assembly in April. Among those receiving awards were Distinguished Jurist Carl E. Stewart, Distinguished Attorney Frank X. Neuner, Jr., Distinguished Professors William R. Corbett and Robert Force, and the Calogero Justice Award recipient Hon. Robert H. Morrison III.

The President's Award and the Horn Blower Award were presented during the LBF Annual Fellows Membership Meeting.

LBF President Leo C. Hamilton presented the **President's Award** to Bennett L. Politz and E. Jane Sherman. The President's Award recognizes outstanding support, volunteer service and dedication and advancement of the LBF's mission and goals. Sherman and Politz have co-chaired the LBF Development Committee, leading the efforts of the "Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid."



Louisiana Bar Foundation President Leo C. Hamilton, left, presented the President's Award to E. Jane Sherman. Also honored with the award was Bennett L. Politz. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

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