

THE PROMULGATOR

The Official Magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association



TURNING THE PAGE
FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 1



GALLOWAY

Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith

Family Law

Protecting What Matters Most

PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS • DIVORCE
CHILD SUPPORT • SPOUSAL SUPPORT • CHILD CUSTODY
COMMUNITY PROPERTY PARTITIONS



Lindsay Meador Young
Director

lmeador@gallowaylawfirm.com

Lafayette Office: 337-735-1760

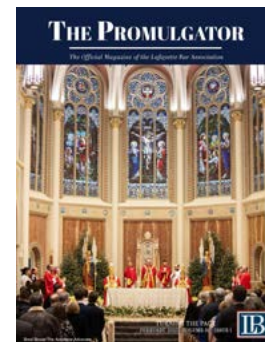
THE ATTORNEY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AD IS LINDSAY MEADOR YOUNG
3861 Ambassador Caffrey Pkwy, Suite 300, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503



LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION is to serve the profession, its members and the community by promoting professional excellence, respect for the rule of law and fellowship among attorneys and the court.

THE PROMULGATOR is the official magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association, and is published six times per year. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Committee.



ON THE COVER

In this 2025 February issue of The Promulgator we cover our upcoming events, a recap of Court Opening, and Red Mass and a look back on the LBA!

Enjoy some photos and a little bit of history about the Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation on pages 12-13.

ARTICLES

President's Message	4
Executive Director's Message.....	5
Foundation Chair Update.....	6
LBA History.....	12-13
Family Law Section Update.....	16
Young Lawyers Section Update.....	17

FEATURES

Ask Anything.....	8
Lawyers Who Care.....	18-19
Networking That Works.....	20-21

stay connected

Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/lafayettebar

See us on Instagram
@lba_lafayettebar

Follow us on Twitter
@Lafayette_bar

Visit us online
www.lafayettebar.org

To register for events, visit
lafayettebar.org or call (337) 237-4700.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOCK TRIAL

Federal Courthouse
February 15th

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Wetlands
April 4th

RUNNING IN HEELS

LBA Office
May 16th

BENCH BAR

The Grand - Point Clear, AL
August 21st - 23rd

ASSOCIATION BOARD

- Stuart Breaux, President
- Trey Hightower, President-Elect
- Andrew Quackenbos, Secretary/Treasurer
- Lindsay Meador Young, Imm. Past President
- Dean Cole, Foundation Chair
- Jennifer Ardoin
- Lesley Beam
- Paige Beyt
- Roya Boustany
- Tamiko Chatman
- Reed Ellis
- Kenneth Hebert
- Jason Matt
- Rickey Miniex
- Jerome Moroux
- Cameron Pontiff
- Jamie Rhymes
- Steven Ramos
- Maggie Simar
- Mandy Simon
- Joshua Sins
- Dwazendra Smith
- Jonathan Woods

FOUNDATION BOARD

- Dean Cole, Foundation Chair
- Kenny Oliver, Vice Chair
- Kyle Gideon, Secretary/Treasurer
- Greg Tonore, Imm. Past Chair
- Blake David
- Thomas R. Hightower, Jr.
- Jonathan Jarrett
- Miles Matt
- Lindsay Meador Young
- Stuart Breaux
- Maggie Simar

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

- Clare Roubion, Editor

LAFAYETTE BAR STAFF

- Jan Swift
Executive Director
- Marilyn Lopez
Director of Pro Bono Services
- Bailey Moyer
Events Coordinator
- Catherine Vincent
Marketing Coordinator
- Cheryl Robichaux
Administrative Assistant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! After a whirlwind finish to 2024, we are off to a fast start in 2025. I am happy to report that 2024 ended on a very high note with another highly successful CLE By The Hour Program. This program is one of our primary sources of income and allows us to continue providing all of the services that our members know and love. Thanks to all who participated! Thanks also to our wonderful staff for putting in the long hours to make it a success!

January 10 marked the Red Mass and Court Opening. Thanks to all who attended these special ceremonies marking the start of a new judicial year. Special thanks to Broussard, David & Moroux for continuing to sponsor the reception following the Red Mass, and for continuing to provide us all with delicious Gumbo! Thank you also to Davidson Meaux, Gordon Arata, The Law Offices of Kenneth Dejean, Liskow Lewis, and Mahtook & Lafleur, who generously sponsored the reception following the Court Opening. The events were well-attended and appreciated by all who did attend.

Coming up next is the annual Mock Trial Competition, which provides local high schoolers the opportunity to showcase their trial advocacy chops. The competition, put on by our Young Lawyers Section, will be held on February 15 at the federal courthouse downtown. Please consider volunteering as a judge or timekeeper! The experience is always rewarding.

Also, mark your calendars for the annual Birdie With The Bar Golf Tournament. This beloved event, hosted by our Young Lawyers Section, raises funds for the Lafayette Bar Foundation and pro bono programs, which are so critical to the effort to ensure equal access to justice. The event will be held on April 4. More details to follow.

If you haven't already, please try looking into signing up for our Bench Bar Quarterly Lunches, where a small group of young lawyers and experienced lawyers have an informal lunch with one of our local judges. It's a truly rewarding and enlightening experience.

Finally, we're happy to announce that the annual Bench Bar conference will be returning to the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, AL. Please make plans to join us from August 21-23 for fun, fellowship and CLE as we celebrate 25 years of Bench Bar!



Stuart Breaux

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As your new Executive Director, I've quickly learned why our association is considered top-notch throughout Louisiana. Our talented staff collaborates seamlessly, and in times of pressure, they exemplify grace and determination. As Marilyn Lopez, our pro bono director reminds us, "Stay calm and carry on."

December was marked by the resounding success of our CLE by the Hour series. Spanning ten days, it became our best attended event yet—a testament to your unwavering support for our association as it is our biggest fundraiser each year. Thank you for making it a triumph!

January began with meaningful tradition and reflection. The Red Mass, supported by Bishop Douglas Deshotel, was an inspiring ecumenical celebration with participation from Rev. John Cannon (Asbury UMC), Rev. Michael Bordelon (St. Barnabas Episcopal), and Pastor Leigh Rachel (First Presbyterian). St. John Cathedral was packed with attendees and saw a significant increase of participation from previous years. Later at the Court Opening, we honored 11 esteemed attorneys who died in the past year, remembering their impactful legacies while we also welcomed newly sworn-in members of the Bar to our community.

We're excited for the start of the Bench Bar Quarterly series led by Jamie Rhymes and Jerome Moroux, beginning January 30 via Zoom with Hon. Dana Douglas of the 5th Circuit. February brings the Regional Mock Trial Competition on the 15th, co-chaired by Ani Boudreaux and Reed Ellis, and followed up by the State Mock Trial Competition on March 29.

For Mardi Gras on March 4, our office will be open, offering food, beverages, and parking for members who register. Safety will be ensured with on-site security. We'll also offer passes for onsite parking for other parade events. Stay tuned for emails from us so you can register.

Save the date for Running in Heels on May 16, chaired by Jennifer Ardoin and Roya Boustany. Mark your calendars for the 2025 Bench Bar Conference at The Grand in Point Clear, AL, August 21–23.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve. Together, we continue to make the Lafayette Bar Association thrive.



Jan Swift



LBA office, a source of beauty and tranquility, on January 23, 2025.



**THERESA DE BÈCHE
& ASSOCIATES**

Theresa de Bèche, RN, MN, INC
Legal Nurse Consultant

107 Shinnecock Hills Drive
Broussard, LA 70518

Cell: 337-781-0335
theresa.debeche@gmail.com

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

*Recipient of Social Security Disability Leadership Award:
National Top 100 Social Security Disability Law Firms*

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited", "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function under SS 12.05C", "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner", "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Hearings", "An Unsolved Mess: Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers".

(337) 534-4049



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A report of the Lafayette Bar Foundation, provided by Foundation Chair Dean Cole



We are off and running in 2025 at the Lafayette Bar Foundation! Opportunities abound for all members of the bar to provide legal services to people desperate for representation and advice.

I especially invite newly admitted and semi-retired lawyers to participate in our various pro bono programs we have to offer at the Lafayette Bar Foundation. The Lafayette Bar Foundation has volunteer opportunities for any level of participation, ranging from one hour a week to full civil cases.

Did you know that pro bono attorneys are generally elevated to the top of the docket at hearings?

- That support and guidance are offered to novice volunteer attorneys.
- ALSC will co-counsel on cases when needed.
- All cases are covered by the Professional Liability Insurance of either ALSC or the Lafayette Bar Foundation.
- You can use the Lafayette Bar Association meeting rooms to meet with your pro bono client.
- You can also receive awards based on the number of cases and hours you volunteer.
- You can also obtain 1 hour of CLE credit for 5 hours of pro bono representation, up to a maximum of 3 hours CLE for each calendar year.
- You are providing a valuable service to the community and helping someone less fortunate
- Taking pro bono cases provides career development and trial experience. It can also show a different side of yourself to potential employers and clients.

Here are some real-life examples of how local attorneys have made a difference through the Lafayette Bar Foundation:

1. After years of mental, physical, and sexual abuse a mother with young children sought to escape her abusive husband through the Lafayette Bar Foundation Protective Order Panel program. Our volunteer attorney represented her in a Title 46 Protective Order proceeding and successfully obtained an 18-month Protective Order for the client. In addition to the 18-month order, the defendant was ordered to complete the Better Choices Program through The Family Tree Counseling Center

and was admitted into a drug treatment program. Our client was also awarded temporary sole custody of the minor children and use of the family home. This attorney ensured that the client could focus on healing and providing a safe, nurturing environment for her children without the constant threat of her abuser's presence or interference.

2. Our client, a mother of two, had been living in a temporary shelter with her children after tragically losing their home to a fire. Through our H.E.L.P. program, our client obtained certified copies of her and her children's birth certificates. This was the last documentation needed for the client and her children to secure government housing, allowing them to move out of the shelter.

3. After years of separation from her husband, the client made the decision to seek the expert guidance of a volunteer attorney to finally pursue the divorce she had long contemplated. The volunteer attorney compassionately assisted the client to navigate the legal process and move forward to the next chapter of her life, gaining a much-needed fresh start that she had longed for quite some time.

The Lafayette Bar Foundation is excited to announce again this year its partnership with Faith House of Acadiana this Easter season to bring joy and hope to children in need. The Foundation is collecting donations of items to fill Easter baskets for each child residing at Faith House. Suggested items to contribute include small toys, coloring books, art supplies like crayons and markers, toothbrushes, candy, children's bibles, and Easter baskets. For added convenience, law firms and other organizations are welcome to donate pre-assembled Easter baskets if they prefer. Through this charitable initiative, the Lafayette Bar Foundation aims to brighten the lives of these children who have faced difficult circumstances, letting them know that their community cares about them and wants to make their Easter special despite the challenges they have endured.

Finally, save the date for the 17th Annual Birdie with the Bar Golf Tournament hosted by the Lafayette Bar Association Young Lawyers to benefit the Lafayette Bar Foundation which will be held Friday, April 4, 2025, at The Wetlands Golf Course. By supporting "Birdie with the Bar," you are allowing the Lafayette Bar Foundation to continue its mission of serving the underprivileged in our community.

As always those interested in volunteering with the Lafayette Bar Foundation, email Marilyn at Marilyn@lafayettebar.org.

Court Opening

JANUARY 10, 2025

LAFAYETTE PARISH COURTHOUSE



To the newly admitted attorneys:

Congratulations on your recent admission to the bar! As you begin this exciting chapter of your legal career, we encourage you to get involved with the Lafayette Bar Association. We offer a variety of opportunities for you to connect with your peers and grow professionally, including our monthly Young Lawyers Section meetings, quarterly social events, CLE classes, and volunteer opportunities. It's a great way to build relationships, stay engaged, and make a positive impact on our community.

We look forward to supporting you as you grow in your practice and contribute to the continued success of our legal community!



Ask Anything: What's the Best Way to Handle a Difficult Client?



Dealing with difficult clients is a universal experience in the legal profession. No matter how skilled or prepared you are, at some point, you'll face a client who tests your patience or professionalism. Whether it's the client who calls 15 times a day, the one who's never satisfied, or the one who ignores your advice but expects miracles, knowing how to handle these situations can save your sanity—and your reputation. Here's some practical advice to navigate these challenges.

01.

Set Clear Boundaries

Boundaries are essential. From the outset, establish expectations about communication, timelines, and outcomes. Let your client know how often they can expect updates and the best way to reach you. For example, let them know, "I'll respond to emails within 48 hours unless it's an emergency." If a client's behavior starts to push the limits, gently remind them of these boundaries. For instance, respond to excessive emails with: "Thank you for your message. I'll review this during our scheduled update."

02.

Practice Active Listening

Sometimes, difficult clients just want to feel heard. Take a deep breath and let them vent. Use empathetic phrases like, "I understand why you're frustrated," or "Let me make sure I'm understanding you correctly." Once they've had their say, redirect the conversation back to the legal matter at hand. Empathy doesn't mean agreeing with unreasonable demands; it's about making the client feel respected and valued.

03.

Document Everything

When dealing with a difficult client, documentation is your safety net. Follow up every phone call or meeting with a summary email: "Per our conversation, here's what we discussed and agreed upon." Not only does this create a clear record, but it also helps clarify misunderstandings before they spiral out of control. If the client's behavior becomes particularly troublesome, detailed documentation can serve as evidence if you need to withdraw from representation or respond to a bar complaint.

04.

Know When to Walk Away

Not every client relationship can or should be salvaged. If a client's behavior becomes abusive, unethical, or detrimental to your well-being, it's time to consider withdrawal. The Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, for example, allows withdrawal if the client insists on taking action that the lawyer finds repugnant or fundamentally disagrees with. If you're losing sleep because your client insists on suing their neighbor's cat, it's okay to bow out.

05.

Focus on What You Can Control

When dealing with a challenging client, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Focus on what you can control—your communication, your professionalism, and your boundaries. Remind yourself that you're providing your expertise and doing your best within the confines of the law and ethical practice. Some clients may never be fully satisfied, but your responsibility is to offer competent and diligent representation. Reflecting on the positives of your work, like the clients who do appreciate you, can help keep things in perspective.

Dealing with difficult clients is never easy, but it's an opportunity to strengthen your communication and problem-solving skills. By setting clear boundaries, documenting interactions, and knowing when to step away, you can navigate these relationships professionally. Remember, even the toughest clients can teach valuable lessons that will benefit your practice in the long run.

Services Offered

MEDICAL SERVICES
CHIROPRACTIC CARE
REHAB SERVICES
TBI DIAGNOSTICS
TRANSPORTATION
SE HABLE ESPANOL

3 LOCATIONS

Lafayette
401 E Verot School Rd
Lafayette, LA 70508
337.232.3353

New Iberia
1833 E Main St
New Iberia, LA 70560
337.367.7463

Pineville
1135 Expressway Dr Suite 200
Pineville, LA 71360
318.793.7910



THE GRAPEVINE



Congratulations to J.P. Graf for being elected as a member of Gordon Arata!



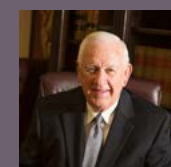
Congratulations to Chris Orte for being appointed an administrative court Judge by Crowley City Council!



Congratulations to the one of the newest attorneys at Domengeaux Wright Roy, Ross Roubion!



Kevin and Reed Ellis welcomed a new baby boy, Charlie Ellis, in November 2024. Congratulations!



The LBA would like to offer our condolences to the family, colleagues, and friends of Patrick A. Juneau Jr.

Do you have a new member at your firm, a new edition to your family, or just any life updates that you'd like to share? Submit it for The Grapevine and you'll be featured in our next Promulgator! Email your submission to marketing@lafayettebar.org

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR LBA MEMBERSHIP?

Your annual membership grants you access to benefits such as opportunities to network with business contacts, free and discounted CLEs, invitations to exclusive events, involvement in community service projects and leadership opportunities.

If you have questions regarding your benefits or for help with your membership renewal, please reach out to events@lafayettebar.org

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every Lawyer Has a Story to Tell!

Want to see your name in print (and not just on court filings)? The Promulgator is looking for fresh voices and compelling stories from our local legal community! Whether you've got practice tips that could save a colleague's day, insights on emerging legal trends, or that fascinating case that still makes you smile – we want to hear from you.

Our goal? To make each issue a must-read that brings our legal community closer together. No fancy academic credentials required – just your unique perspective and a story to tell.

Join us in making our journal the talk of the courthouse!

Clare Roubion
Louisiana Legal Ethics

Our Lafayette Office has Moved!

Dr. Brett Venable



• Official Chiropractor of the Louisiana Ragin Cajuns

Board Certified Neuromusculoskeletal Specialist (DIANM)

Only a handful of chiropractors in the state can legally identify as specialists. Any chiropractor can testify as an expert, but only a DIANM chiropractor is recognized as an expert among chiropractors and within the VA healthcare system.

• Multidisciplinary clinic with on-site Collaborative Medical Care

• Tulane Board member for school of Professional Advancement

• Spanish speaking staff

Lafayette | New Iberia | Opelousas | Luling | Kenner



P: 337-988-2188 | F: 337-988-2187 WWW.RECOVERYCHIROMED.COM



Conveniently located in River Ranch in the Hancock Whitney Building

1301 Camellia Blvd, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70508

YOUR AD FITS HERE!

Think about advertising in this magazine! The Promulgator is published six times per year by the Lafayette Bar Association. It serves as the premier legal magazine providing substantive and topical information to the legal community. The Promulgator has an audience of over 1,000 member attorneys and judiciary (including paralegals, legal secretaries, office managers and staff). If you're interested in advertising, please contact marketing@lafayettebar.org!



Are your clients still paying INTEREST?

Let's talk about it!

JMF / PROVE Partners

Medical Funding for your clients with NO Interest & NO Personal Guarantee from the Attorney! Case Manager to support you and your clients needs.

Serving is the culture,
Helping is the mission.

JMF is powered by PROVE Partners...Ask me about Legal Funding!



Hi, I'm
Jodi Zaunbrecher
I am here in Acadiana to help with all your medical funding needs.
(225) 505-2041



Baton Rouge
225-389-9899

Lafayette
337-905-3128

New Orleans
504-544-9899

PerryDampf.com

FOUNDING MOMENTS IN THE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Lafayette Bar Association (LBA) has a rich history rooted in service and a commitment to justice. What began as an informal group of attorneys in the late 1960s quickly evolved into a formal organization dedicated to supporting its members and the community. Here are some of the key milestones that shaped the association into what it is today.

The Beginning: Formalizing the LBA

In 1969, a loosely knit group of attorneys practicing in Lafayette Parish decided to formalize their collaboration. By filing a charter signed by all 83 lawyers practicing in the parish, they officially established the Lafayette Parish Bar Association. Within just five years, membership almost doubled to 151 members, demonstrating the growing need for a unified organization to support the legal community.

A composite photograph of the association's members, created in 1973 and displayed prominently at the courthouse, highlights the rapid growth and features 18 members who would later be inducted into the LBA Hall of Fame.

Volunteerism Takes Root

The LBA has long been inspired by the principle of justice for all, including the indigent members of the community. The first formal record of volunteerism came in 1985 with the establishment of the Pro Bono Committee. By 1987, with the assistance of Acadiana Legal Services, the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers (LVL) program was born, providing free legal assistance to those in need. That same year, the association hired its first staff member, signaling a new era of organizational development.

A Voice for the Bar: The Promulgator

In July 1988, the LBA began publishing a newsletter to communicate with its members and highlight its achievements. By October of that year, the newsletter was named The Promulgator. Over time, it evolved from a simple newsletter into a glossy, professional magazine published bimonthly, providing a platform for legal insights, member updates, and association news.



Establishing a Foundation

In October 1989, the LBA established the Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation, a charitable entity to oversee its public service programs. The foundation solidified the association's commitment to community service and provided a structure to support its growing initiatives.

A Home for the Association

The LBA's physical presence has also grown over the years. Initially housed in the old Moss Pharmacy building at the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion Streets, the association moved in 1991 to larger quarters in the FNB Towers. This new space accommodated the Lafayette Law Library and three staff members, reflecting the association's expanding needs.

In 2007, recognizing the need for a modern and spacious facility, the Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation purchased a highly visible building on Johnston Street, one of Lafayette's major thoroughfares. After extensive renovations, the association moved into the new building in 2008. The facility now boasts five offices, six conference rooms, a law library, and a fully equipped kitchen. That same year, the organization updated its name to the Lafayette Bar Association to better reflect its growth and reach.

Visual Identity: The Evolution of the LBA Logo

The association's visual identity has undergone several changes. In the 1990s, the LBA adopted a circular logo featuring the scales of justice and the Acadian Flag. In 2008, with the name change, the logo was updated to incorporate a fleur-de-lis and the scales of justice, often accompanied by the motto, "Motivated by Justice, Inspired by Service." In 2017, the association and its foundation adopted a unified emblem to represent their combined programs and services. This single logo symbolizes the LBA's commitment to both its members and the community.

Continuing the Legacy

From its humble beginnings to its current role as a cornerstone of Lafayette's legal community, the Lafayette Bar Association has remained steadfast in its mission. With a history defined by growth, service, and innovation, the LBA continues to honor its founding principles while evolving to meet the needs of its members and the community it serves.

The Promulgator

LAFAYETTE PARISH BAR ASSOCIATION

LPBA Establishes Charitable Foundation

The Board of Directors has established the Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation which will serve as a legal entity separate from the association and which will serve as the umbrella organization for public service programs of LPBA.

The foundation has been incorporated and 501(c)(3) status has been applied for. This status will make donations to the foundation tax-deductible. By law, the funds of the foundation must be used for the purposes set out in its charter, and no part of the funds may be used for the private inurement of any individual.

As of 10/1/89, the foundation has received contributions from the following attorneys: [List of names]

The foundation will be a charitable organization under the laws of the State of Louisiana. It will be organized to carry out the purposes set out in its charter. The foundation will be a non-profit organization and its assets will be held in trust for the purposes set out in its charter.

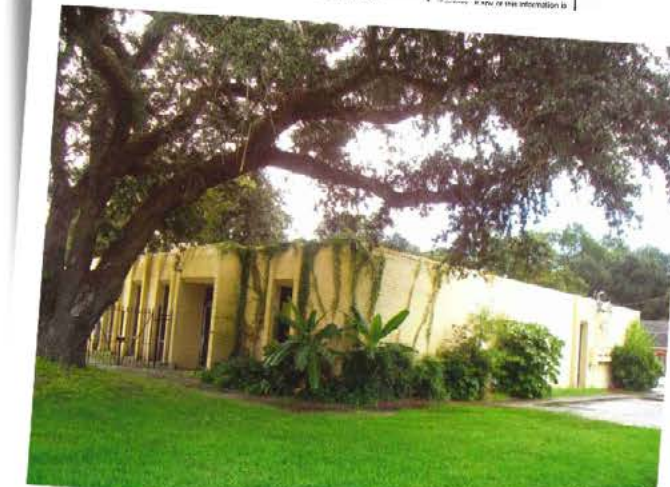
The foundation will be a charitable organization under the laws of the State of Louisiana. It will be organized to carry out the purposes set out in its charter. The foundation will be a non-profit organization and its assets will be held in trust for the purposes set out in its charter.

Foundation Golf Tournament Planned

All golfers take heed: a Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, November 10th (legal holiday) at the FNB Towers. The tournament will be held at the FNB Towers Golf Course. The tournament will be held at the FNB Towers Golf Course. The tournament will be held at the FNB Towers Golf Course.

INSTALLATION BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 25

The LPBA's members' guests will gather for the installation banquet at the FNB Towers on Friday, October 25th at the FNB Towers. The banquet will be held at the FNB Towers. The banquet will be held at the FNB Towers.



Volunteering at St. Joseph's



Champions of Justice



Lawyers in Libraries



Wills for Heroes



LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

Kean Miller is pleased to announce that Mark Stipe, in our Lafayette office, is now providing mediation services!

With over 30 years of experience litigating in both state and federal court, pursuing claims for both plaintiffs and defendants, and overseeing litigation on behalf of companies and governmental entities, he brings to the negotiation table a wide range of experience. Whether business or tort litigation, Mark has dealt extensively with the mediation and resolution of claims providing a mutually beneficial compromise for all parties. Mark is uniquely qualified to serve as your mediator in your clients' matters.



Contact Mark to Schedule an Appointment

337.422.3648 | mark.stipe@keanmiller.com

KEAN | MILLER

LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE BATON ROUGE
LAKE CHARLES NEW ORLEANS SHREVEPORT
TEXAS HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS
KEANMILLER.COM

WHAT HAPPENED?

Complex questions answered

From code compliance to injury causation, you can count on us to uncover the facts.

RIMKUS

Consultants. Experts. Innovators.™

rimkus.com
+1 800 580 3228



RED MASS

JANUARY 10, 2025

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



BROUSSARD
DAVID &
MOROUX

INJURY LAW

The Lafayette Bar Association hosted its annual Red Mass celebration on January 10, 2025, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Lafayette, gathering to invoke the Holy Spirit for Peace and Justice. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel, featured a homily from the Most Reverend Edward Mark Lohse, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Later that day, the 15th Judicial District Court held its Court Opening Ceremony at the Lafayette Parish Courthouse, honoring local judges, welcoming new Bar members, and recognizing recently deceased members of the legal community.





FAMILY LAW SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT
LESLEY BEAM

Happy New Year, all – I hope everybody’s 2025 is off to a terrific start. So many of us may still make New Year’s resolutions – and some of you may still be trying to adhere to them even when this article comes out. I personally have not taken the time on New Years Eve to reflect about what resolutions I should make in a number of years – probably because I am not too sure that I believe in them. If you make a resolution that you are going to get to the gym three times each week, does that mean your resolution is broken and obsolete the first week you can’t make that happen? I prefer the idea of changing focus and shifting effort. What can I give a little more too this winter? Where is that energy and time going to come from? What is lacking? Where am I overabundant? What needs better balance? So, this year I am going to try and shift effort from activities that are not giving me joy, or love, better physical health or professional satisfaction, and put that to catching up on files that need nurturing and adding a little more family time where I can. Is this different than a resolution?

Maybe not – but I think it gives a little more grace to me to be human. Here’s to giving yourself grace when you can.

As to the family law section, we had our annual Christmas party on December 14, 2024. Maggie Simar very graciously hosted the party at her home. It was a really lovely night, and on behalf of the section, I thank Maggie again for her tremendous effort and thoughtful hospitality. We hosted a three hour CLE on January 17, 2025, bring in three speakers over a variety of topics. On behalf of the family law section, we would like to give tremendous thanks to Brad Felder, Jason MacMorran and Lindsay Council (on behalf of Karla Smith) for their time and effort. Our next CLE is a one-hour CLE on Friday, March 21, 2025. Meeting and lunch at 12:30; CLE beginning at 1 pm – the speaker is still TBD at the time I am writing this article, but we expect it provide an ethics credit. As always, feel free to reach out to me or any other members of the executive committee if you have any questions.



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT
KENNY HEBERT

I hope everyone has been well and more importantly had a great time playing in the snow since our last publication.

It has already been such a unique and incredible 2025 and we have so much time left in the year for many more memories. The Young Lawyer Section has already enjoyed a phenomenal Court Opening wherein we saw several new Young Lawyers introduced to our legal community in front of our esteemed judiciary.

And thanks to our entire Bar Association, we were able to take advantage of our section’s Holiday Giving Project and made several donations to Foster the Love Louisiana. Again, their mission is to encourage and support foster and adoptive families; to empower and support children, youth and families affected by trauma; and to educate the community on the needs of the foster system. With all of your help, we were able to serve the various caregivers of the children in the foster care system. I applaud each and everyone of you for your support and donations.

As always, the Young Lawyer Section still has more on the horizon! We have a jury selection CLE and social coming up this month. As usual, everyone is invited and is encouraged to attend. Details should be coming soon from the Bar Association so watch your emails! We are also preparing for our annual golf tournament so start getting your teams together for another entertaining year of trying to be good at golf!

Thank you all so much for your involvement in all of our events, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

2025 BIRDIE WITH THE BAR
17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, April 4, 2025
THE WETLANDS

REGISTER TODAY!

For more information : events@lafayettebar.org

THE WETLANDS GOLF COURSE
2129 N University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70507

DAVID S. COOK
MEDIATOR

Mediator since 1993 • AV Rated since 1995
Over 2,500 Mediations

No charge for travel throughout the State of Louisiana
Check and reserve available dates at www.nadn.org/david-sherman-cook

LAWYERS GIVING TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES TO THEIR COMMUNITY

While the impact of our roles as lawyers/attorneys/counselors is well known, it is important to recognize that our broader community contributions usually go unnoticed. Our fellow attorneys are in the trenches daily, actively enriching our communities and the profession by generously donating their time, skills, and resources to worthy causes. Patrick Ottinger is one such attorney whose contributions are woven throughout the legal profession and the community.



Patrick (Pat) S. Ottinger

As an Acadiana lawyer who serves, Patrick (Pat) S. Ottinger's giving spirit is channeled through his legal practice, academic pursuits, mentorship, and charitable contributions. He humorously jokes that "when you go to a program, [and] it says, 'anonymous,' that's usually me." A graduate of Lafayette High School, Pat was born in Lake Charles; he was raised in Lafayette due to his father relocating the family for work in the oil and gas industry. Following in his father's footsteps, he has carved his niche in the oil and gas industry. While Pat does not care to be in the limelight and usually opts out of participating in civic clubs and organizations, his giving spirit infiltrates his everyday life, making him a beacon of service in the Acadiana area's legal community.

Pat's path to law was not a conventional one. After completing his undergraduate studies at the former University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette), he found himself in a lackluster job market in the Lafayette area. It was during this time that he and a few friends, in a bold move, decided to try their luck at law school. While his friends did not find their calling in law, Pat did. Graduating from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University, led to a five-decade-long legal career, a testament to Pat's passion and dedication. Reflecting on his 50 years as an attorney, Pat expresses pride in prioritizing his clients, maintaining a professional and ethical practice, and serving as the president of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association and later as president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (1998-99). For his distinguished work and service, he has received awards and recognition, such as the Louisiana State Bar Association Friend of Pro Bono Award, the Distinguished Achievement Honoree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, and the Lafayette Bar Association Hall of Fame, to name a few. Receiving the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 2018 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award is an attestation of Pat's "long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice" and "upholding the standards of ethics and consideration for the courts, litigants, and all counsel." Further, he treasures the opportunity to interact with fellow colleagues, professors, and judges in his practice area and is humbled to be among the few individuals who have held such prestigious positions and honors.

Pat's love for the law extends beyond his practice; he remains passionately dedicated to the world of academia. Despite the challenge of commuting from Lafayette to Baton Rouge, he has been sharing his passion with students as an adjunct professor at LSU Law School since 1996. At the law school, he also serves as a reporter for the Mineral Law Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute and is involved with the John P. Laborde Energy Law Center. He previously served as Chair of the Advisory Council of the Mineral Law Institute. On March 31, 2022, Mr. Ottinger received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mineral Law Institute in recognition of his "dedication in teaching oil and gas law courses, his years of invaluable service to the Mineral Law Institute, and his wise counsel to LSU's John P. Laborde Energy Law Center." In presenting this award, it was stated, "No practicing lawyer has contributed more to mineral law education in Louisiana than Pat Ottinger."



Mineral Law Institute Director Keith Hall presents Adjunct Professor Patrick Ottinger with the LSU Mineral Law Institute Distinguished Service Award.

Credit: LSU Law

Licensed in Louisiana and Texas, he shares his oil and gas expertise with his colleagues in Texas and throughout Louisiana with CLE presentations. A testament to his commitment to knowledge dissemination, Pat has published a comprehensive treatise on mineral leases entitled *Louisiana Mineral Leases: A Treatise* and has authored multiple academic and substantive materials on oil and gas law. His diverse academic portfolio reflects his dedication to professional development within the legal community.

Pat's altruism extends to the mentorship of new lawyers, a testament to his empathy and support for the next generation of attorneys. He proudly shares his participation in the State Bar's Transition Into Practice "TIP" Program, a mentorship program that guides new lawyers through their transition into practice, particularly during the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. He notes that participation was mandatory for new lawyers but not required for senior lawyers, which he found regrettable. Despite this, he engaged in the program and found it highly rewarding. Encouraging attorneys to participate, he underscores the importance of supporting and guiding new lawyers as they navigate the complexities of the legal profession.

Pat expresses concern about the decline in civility in professional relationships over the years. He recalls a time when the legal practice was more collegial, and agreements were often made verbally without requiring written confirmation. This year, Pat shifted his role from an oil and gas attorney to Lafayette City-Parish Attorney, marking his return to a position he had previously held 20 years ago. Now, he takes proactive steps as a City-Parish Attorney, implementing measures to instill professionalism and community service among legal practitioners. In this role, he has implemented measures aligned with his concerns by insisting that newly hired Assistant City-Parish Attorneys re-sign the Oath of Professionalism. Additionally, he strongly encourages participation in the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Program and/or donating the equivalent of one hour of their monthly billing rate to the Share the Light Program, which assists individuals in paying their electrical bills. While he does not strictly enforce these requirements, he firmly advocates for their adoption, trusting that attorneys will fulfill these commitments voluntarily. His commitment to highlighting community service and professional conduct in the legal profession is a personal passion Pat recognizes as necessary in fostering a sense of responsibility and service among lawyers.

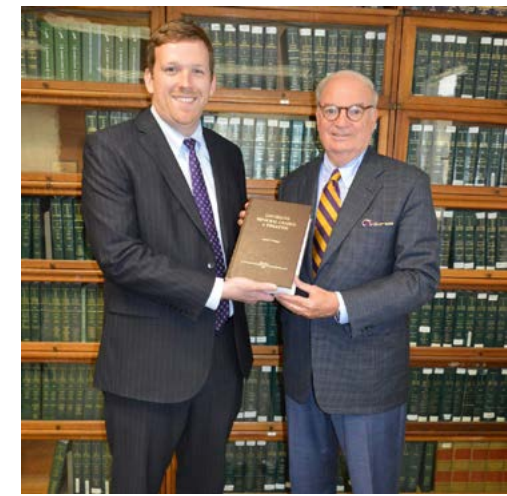
Privately, his philanthropy knows no bounds, recognizing the importance of contributing to essential efforts within the community. He supports causes dear to his heart, from poverty relief to Alzheimer's research to local cancer services. Pat has supported the Share the Light program for over 20 years. Seeing the horror of hunger, Pat does his part to combat it by supporting food bank initiatives through Second Harvest and our local United Way. Driven by his mother's passing due to Alzheimer's disease, Pat donates 100% of the royalties from the sale of his comprehensive treatise to the Alzheimer's Association. Additionally, he supports Miles Perret Cancer Services, inspired by his wife's experience with the organization five years ago.

Regarding advice for new lawyers entering the oil and gas field or law students aspiring to specialize in this legal realm, Pat emphasizes the importance of finding one's niche. He encourages new lawyers to focus on one or two crucial aspects within the broad scope of their chosen area of the law and dedicate themselves to mastering them. However, he stresses the broader principle of pursuing what one enjoys. While he acknowledges the practicalities young lawyers may face, such as financial obligations and family responsibilities, he ultimately advises following one's passion for the law and striving to advance the legal profession. He emphasizes the significance of upholding the highest ethical and moral standards, believing that success will naturally follow.

Patrick S. Ottinger's narrative is a beautiful tapestry of dedication, integrity, and service—a testament to a lifetime spent not just practicing law but positively shaping the legal community's future and its image in the Acadiana community.



Written by:
Tamiko Chatman, Deputy Director, Acadiana Legal Services
tchatman@la-law.org | (337)237-4320



Brian C. Flanagan, Associate at Blanchard Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, is one of two reviewing editors for Professor Patrick S. Ottinger's *Louisiana Mineral Leases: A Treatise*.

Credit: Blanchard Walker

Networking That Works: A Lawyer's Guide

Networking is more than a buzzword in the legal profession; it's a critical skill that can shape your career and practice. Whether you're seeking referrals, looking to expand your client base, or aiming to establish a strong professional reputation, effective networking can make the difference. Yet, for many lawyers, networking feels uncomfortable or forced. The key is to approach it with authenticity and strategy. This guide will provide practical tips to help you network effectively while managing risks and maintaining professionalism.

Key Takeaways

- Build genuine connections, not just contacts.
- Use networking to create mutual value, not just self-promotion.
- Focus on consistent follow-up to maintain relationships.
- Leverage technology and social media to enhance your networking efforts.



01 Shift Your Mindset: Networking as Relationship-Building

The first step in successful networking is changing how you view it. Networking isn't about handing out business cards or collecting LinkedIn connections. It's about building meaningful relationships over time. Treat networking as an opportunity to listen and learn from others, not just promote yourself.

Start by identifying your goals. Are you looking to meet potential referral sources? Do you want to learn from more experienced attorneys? Having clear objectives helps you focus your efforts and make genuine connections. When you attend an event, approach people with curiosity and a willingness to engage, not just to pitch your services.

Be Intentional About Where You Network 02

Networking opportunities abound, but not all are created equal. Being strategic about where and how you network can save you time and increase your effectiveness. Focus on settings that align with your goals and values. For instance:

- **Professional Organizations:** Join your local bar association or practice-area-specific groups. These organizations offer events, panels, and volunteer opportunities that connect you with peers and potential clients.
- **Community Events:** Engage in events outside the legal profession that match your interests, such as charity fundraisers or industry conferences.
- **Online Communities:** LinkedIn groups or legal forums are great for sharing insights and connecting with professionals in your niche.

By choosing environments where you're most comfortable and likely to find common ground, you'll naturally build rapport with others.

03 Master the Art of the Follow-Up

Meeting someone is only the first step. Maintaining and growing the relationship requires consistent follow-up. After an event, send a personalized email or message referencing your conversation. For example: "It was great to meet you at the bar association mixer. I'd love to continue our conversation about mediation techniques."

Keep the lines of communication open by sharing relevant articles, inviting them to events, or even scheduling a coffee meeting. Regular touchpoints help you stay top of mind without appearing pushy. The goal is to nurture the connection so it evolves into a mutually beneficial relationship.

Leverage Social Media for Networking 04

In today's digital age, social media is an indispensable networking tool. Platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter, and even Instagram can help you expand your network and showcase your expertise.

On LinkedIn, keep your profile professional and updated. Post thoughtful content related to your practice area, engage with others' posts, and participate in discussions. Twitter can be used to follow industry leaders and share insights. Just remember to keep your social media presence consistent with your professional image. Avoid controversial or overly personal posts that could damage your reputation.

05 Avoid Common Networking Pitfalls

Networking mistakes can undermine your efforts and even harm your reputation. Here are some pitfalls to watch out for:

- **Being Overly Transactional:** Don't treat networking as a one-way street. Focus on giving as much as you receive by offering help or sharing valuable information.
- **Neglecting Boundaries:** Be mindful of how and when you approach people. Respect their time and personal space.
- **Failing to Prepare:** Do some homework before attending events. Knowing who will be there and what they're interested in can help you start meaningful conversations.

Incorporate Networking into Your Daily Routine 06

The best networking doesn't happen only at formal events; it's an ongoing process. Incorporate networking into your daily activities. This could mean checking in with former colleagues, engaging with clients on social media, or sending a quick thank-you note to someone who provided helpful advice.

Developing a habit of networking ensures that it becomes a natural part of your professional life rather than a daunting task. Over time, you'll build a strong and reliable network that can support you in your career.

07 Network with Ethics and Integrity

As lawyers, we're held to high ethical standards, and networking is no exception. Avoid making exaggerated claims about your skills or accomplishments. Be transparent about your intentions and always respect confidentiality when discussing cases or clients. Ethical networking builds trust and safeguards your professional reputation.

Measure Your Networking Success 08

Finally, take time to evaluate your networking efforts. Are you meeting your goals? Are the relationships you're building leading to referrals, knowledge sharing, or new opportunities? Reflecting on what's working and what isn't helps you refine your strategy and maximize your results.

Networking is an essential skill for every lawyer, but it doesn't have to feel forced or overwhelming. By focusing on building genuine relationships, following up consistently, and using tools like social media, you can create a network that supports your professional growth. Remember, networking is about quality, not quantity. A few strong connections can have a greater impact on your career than dozens of superficial ones. With intentionality and integrity, you can turn networking into one of the most valuable tools in your legal practice.



An Update from the Lafayette Bar Foundation

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL

The following attorneys have volunteered with the Lafayette Bar Foundation in the past two months through various pro bono programs.

Joshua Barnhill
The Law Office Of Joshua S. Barnhill, LLC

Jeremy Garcia
Landgrave Garcia Injury Attorneys

Brandon Bradley
Bradley Moreau Title

Ryan Goudelocke
Goudelocke Law

Christopher Castro
Castro Law Firm, LLC

David Kaufman
David M. Kaufman, APLC, Attorney-Mediator

Tyler Frederick
Dudley DeBosier Injury Lawyers

Mark Owens
Owens Law

Dyan Schnaars
Schnaars Law Firm, LLC

We need a hero!



Our Counsel on Call Program provides an opportunity for self-represented litigants to privately discuss legal matters with volunteer attorneys. This service helps fill a critical gap in the community, offering guidance to those who cannot afford traditional legal fees and whose income is just above the threshold for free legal assistance from our partners at ALSC. This program is offered every Friday from 9:00-10:00 am at the Lafayette Bar Office. We are seeking 2-3 volunteer attorneys each week to provide free 15-minute consultations on civil matters. Each attorney volunteer will help up to 4 participants in the hour. Your help in supporting this valuable community resource would be greatly appreciated. Don't wait another moment to unleash your inner superhero - click the link below to see the available dates. Your community needs you, and your pro bono powers are ready to be activated!

Click here to volunteer!



Forensic ACCOUNTING

LITIGATION SERVICES | BUSINESS VALUATION

Forensic accounting includes two crucial areas: Investigation Services and Litigation Services. A much more concentrated investigation methodology is required in order to detect falsified records and other financial wrongdoing. Forensic accountants must bring to bear a unique blend of education and expertise. They employ accounting, auditing and investigative skills to determine truth, form expert opinions, and assist with investigations.

As your forensic accountant, Chad M. Garland can help resolve disputes before they reach the courtroom. However, in cases where the dispute does go to court, as your forensic accountant, he can be called upon by attorneys and their clients to provide "expert witness" testimony in any given case.

Engaging the right "expert" is crucial. Gathering facts, reaching accurate conclusions and presenting findings in a way comprehensible to the jury is key. Chad is that expert and he's a phone call away.

318 220.4416

900 PIERREMONT RD, STE 120
SHREVEPORT, LA 71106

CHADGARLANDCPA.COM



MILLIONS in fees earned by
our referral counsel annually.
Often monthly.



Need tried and trusted co-counsel?

Nationally renowned in personal injury law, the attorneys of Broussard, David & Moroux are proven trial lawyers who work hand in hand with referral co-counsel. If you're considering counsel for major injury and death cases involving trucking, maritime, offshore, aviation, industrial, railroad, or product liability incidents – call us today.

*Past results are no guarantee of future results.
No recovery, no costs, no expense, free consultation.*

**BROUSSARD
DAVID &
MOROUX**

Call (337) 233-2323
www.BDM.Law

Lafayette • New Orleans • Northshore
L to R: Blake R. David & Jerome H. Moroux LA-23-16190