

THE PROMULGATOR

The Official Magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association



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AUGUST 2025 | VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 4



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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

Thanks to Jimmy Domengeaux for capturing our lovely 100-year old live oak tree in front of our building. The generosity of many attorneys back in 2007 resulted in the relocation of the LBA to a permanent home at 2607 Johnston Street. Read more on page 9!

ARTICLES

President's Message	4
Executive Director's Message	5
Foundation Chair Update	6
Family Law Section Update	7
Young Lawyers Section Update	7

FEATURES

CARS Program Expands in Louisiana	8
Come Visit Your LBA Office	9
Jonathan Jarrett	14-15
Professionalism in the Age of Emojis	17

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BENCH BAR

The Grand - Point Clear, AL
August 21-23

YLS Pickleball Tournament and Clinic

Lafayette Pickleball Club
September 12 at 1:00 PM

Clay Shoot Tournament

October 17, 2025

Installation

November 6, 2025

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

Interested in serving on the 2024-2025 LBA Board of Directors?

Please email Jan Swift at
jan@lafayettebar.org for an application.

We offer several committees to serve
on with varying levels of commitment.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now fully into the “dog days” of summer, the pace of life has slowed a bit, but the LBA is very much alive with activity.

On June 16, LBA Executive Director Jan Swift and LBA Member and past president John Swift graciously opened their lovely home for a past presidents’ dinner. Held in conjunction with our strategic plan update, we engaged in a lively and productive discussion regarding the state of the LBA and how we can position the organization for continued success going forward. The discussion generated lots of ideas, and I look forward to those ideas being implemented in the future. Thanks to Jan and John, all in attendance enjoyed the event. They truly went above and beyond!

At this point in the summer, all attention is focused on the upcoming Bench Bar conference to be held August 21-23 at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear, AL. This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Bench Bar conference, and it may very well be our best ever! The incredible schedule of speakers has now been released. It includes presentations by Chief Justice John L. Weimer, a panel of federal judges, Secretary of State Nancy Landry, Dr. David Barczyk, Dr. Jason Cormier, Steven Bradley, Jason Matt and Jonathan Jarrett, Andrew Quackenbos and Lindsay Meador Young, Tommy Hightower and Dean Cole, and Clare Roubion. The ever-popular judicial roundtable, offering an opportunity for direct, informal engagement between lawyers and judges, will also be

returning. And this will all be held against the backdrop of the beautiful Grand Hotel! Please join us for this fantastic event!

I would like to thank our fantastic Bench Bar Committee for planning this awesome event, to our staff for all their hard work in executing, and to all our generous sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible. In particular, a very sincere thank you goes to our Friday Sponsor and Platinum Sponsor, Barczyk Spine & Joint; our Platinum Sponsor, Beal & Hebert, LLC; our Shrimp Boil Sponsors and Platinum Sponsors, HMR and Interventional Pain Specialists; our Gold Sponsors, First Horizon Bank and goDEPO, a Veritext Company; our Beer Law CLE Sponsor, Lafayette Bone and Joint; our Silver Sponsors, Retrev Legal and RizeUp Media; our Bronze Sponsors, Chad M. Garland, CPA, LLC, Recovery ChiroMED, and Soberlink; our Tech Sponsor, Our Family Wizard; Large Law Firm Sponsor, Kean Miller; and Small Law Firm Sponsors, Anderson Blanda & Saltzman, and The Law Offices of Kenneth W. DeJean. Thank you for all you do for the LBA!

Register by July 30 to receive our discounted hotel rate. We sincerely hope to see you there!



Stuart Breaux

THERESA DE BÊCHE & ASSOCIATES

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Legal Nurse Consultant

107 Shinnecock Hills Drive
Broussard, LA 70518



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Celebrating 25 Years of Bench Bar Excellence in Beautiful Point Clear, Alabama

*By Jan Swift, Executive Director,
Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation*

We are thrilled to invite our members and colleagues to join us and celebrate the 25th Annual Bench Bar Conference, set in the stunning surroundings of Point Clear, Alabama. This milestone event promises not only an enriching legal experience but also a chance to celebrate a quarter-century of camaraderie, collaboration, and continuing legal excellence.

This year's Bench Bar is shaping up to be one of our best yet. We're honored to welcome an impressive lineup of speakers, including Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Weimer, who will be sharing their insights and perspectives on the evolving legal and judicial landscape of our state.

The agenda is packed with timely, thought-provoking sessions that offer up to 12.5 CLE credits, including ethics and professionalism. It's a fantastic

opportunity to stay informed, sharpen your legal acumen, and earn valuable credits—all while networking with judges, attorneys, and legal professionals from across Louisiana.

Whether you've attended many Bench Bars or this will be your first, there's no better time to take part in this cherished tradition. The setting in Point Clear offers a relaxing escape with beautiful scenery, top-tier accommodations, and the perfect atmosphere to foster meaningful connections and professional growth.

It's not too late to register! Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this special anniversary year, celebrating 25 incredible years of Bench Bar.

For more details and to register, visit our Events tab at <https://lafayettebar.org/events>.



Jan Swift

The advertisement features a background image of a law library with tall wooden bookshelves filled with books and a large, dark leather armchair in the foreground. On the left, there is a dark blue diagonal banner containing the 'LB' logo in a white square with a red border. Below the logo, the text 'MEDIATION CENTER' is written in white. A list of services is provided in white text. In the top right corner of the banner, a white box with a red border contains the text 'STARTING AT \$100 PER ROOM'. The Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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



We have certainly entered the dog days of summer! It is (almost) too hot to even enjoy the golf course, fishing boat or tennis court. It's certainly too hot to do anything else away from the air conditioner. So, this is the perfect time to provide critical legal support to the less fortunate in our community. I reread the mission statement for the Bar Foundation and think it is important for everyone to be reminded of the commitment of the Lafayette Bar Foundation to provide critical services. It reads as follows:

The LPBF exists to advance and improve the administration of justice; foster confidence in the law, lawyers and the judiciary; encourage altruism among the legal profession and the general public; support worthy causes of a charitable nature related to the legal profession; and remove barriers and provide access to the civil justice system regardless of mental or physical condition, economic status, religion, sex, age or race of the person in need.

The Lafayette Bar Foundation is focused on enhancing the administration of justice and cultivating public trust in the legal system, which encompasses lawyers and the judiciary. Its mission includes promoting altruism within the legal community and the general public, as well as supporting charitable endeavors that resonate with the values of the legal profession. Additionally, the Foundation is devoted to eliminating barriers that obstruct access to the civil justice system, ensuring that individuals can seek justice regardless of their mental or physical condition, economic status, religion, gender, age, or race. This commitment is particularly essential in times of uncertainty, when the necessity for equitable access to legal resources becomes more apparent. As we navigate these challenging times, the Foundation calls on all members of the legal community to respond to this critical need for support. Your engagement can play a pivotal role in fostering a more just and accessible legal system for everyone.

We have a number of ways for every lawyer to contribute:

- **Counsel on Call program** - Providing free 15-minute legal advice on any civil issue to participants.
- **H.E.L.P.** - Helping the homeless population obtain certified copies of birth certificates to prove their identity for employment, housing, a State ID, and citizenship
- **Elder Wills** - Assisting senior citizens with drafting their last will and testament
- **Protective Order Panel** - Assisting domestic abuse survivors in obtaining a protective order against their abusers
- **ALSC referred cases** - This program offers representation of clients through referrals from Acadiana Legal Service Corporation (ALSC), mainly in the area of Family Law.
- **Seminars for the public**: Providing one hour of legal education on various topics, such as family law issues, wills, expungements, immigration, landlord-tenant issues, etc.

Tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2025, the Lafayette Bar Foundation will hold a free Lunch and Learn CLE for members who have volunteered with the Foundation over the past year, as well as for anyone willing to accept a pro bono case in the upcoming three months. The seminar will focus on tax-related matters in divorce, including tax credits, filing status, innocent spouse claims, property settlements, and similar topics. Be on the lookout for more information in our weekly email newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who took advantage of the opportunity I mentioned in the last Promulgator regarding representation of family and friends through the Lafayette Bar Foundation and Acadiana Legal Services. As a reminder, provide Marilyn Lopez at the foundation with the details of the case, and she will help fast track it through Acadiana Legal Services.



FAMILY LAW SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT

LESLEY BEAM

The FLS has taken some downtime this summer to take care of our families, our practices, and ourselves. As a working mom with school-age children, I can personally attest to a strange dichotomy of summer – how it is supposed to be this break for our family where we can and hopefully do find time to have fun, but yet we are also balancing completely chaotic schedules with school out, various camps or babysitting in, trying to make sure we are caught up and ahead before we leave the office for vacation, and trying to catch right back up when we get back behind our desk. For all of us, with or without small children, I hope everybody has had time to find as many value-based moments as possible.

Our next CLE/membership meeting will be a 3-hour meeting on August 15, 2025, beginning at 10 am. Lunch will be served at noon, with a quick break for the member meeting before we resume the CLE. Topics are going to include the intersectionality of juvenile and family law; usage of AI in the legal field; and relocation. Please keep an eye on your emails, the LBA website, and the Family Law Section's Facebook page for updates. As a reminder, you do not have to be a member of the FLS to come to the meeting and get some CLE credits – we would love to have you!

The Section is taking a little time to evaluate ways that the section can grow and strengthen. If you are no longer a member of the section or have not joined the section, but practice family law, I would ask you to please feel free to reach out to me or Logan Istre or Brittany Lacombe and let us know what it is you would like to get out of the section in order for you to be a member, and/or what the section has not been able to give you in the past that would help you in your practice. Your input is greatly appreciated. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions and we hope to see everybody at our next meeting!



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT

KENNY HEBERT

I hope everyone has been well and has had an incredible summer.

As usual, the Young Lawyers' Section and the Bar Association have been busy with events and planning exciting events for the fall. To start, Bench Bar 2025 in Point Clear, Alabama is going to the highlight of the year for the Lafayette Bar Association, so I hope to see many of you there.

The Young Lawyer Section also has our annual Pickleball Tournament scheduled for Friday, September 12 at the Lafayette Pickleball Club. Deadline to register is September 5th so please go to the Lafayette Bar Association's website and register soon. It's a fantastic time and technically I think it's exercise too!

The YLS will also be hosting another CLE and Social in late September (Date TBD), so be on the lookout for details on another great social event.

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

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(337) 534-4049

CARS Program Expands in Louisiana:

A Behavioral Health Screening Tool for DUI and DWI Cases

In Louisiana, where the cultural celebrations of festivals, nightlife, and social gatherings often intersect with high rates of impaired driving, the need for structured, evidence-based interventions to address those individuals charged with DWIs are critical. In response, the Computerized Assessment and Referral System (CARS) is being implemented across the state as a tool to improve how courts and legal professionals respond to these individuals by offering a standardized, research-informed approach to identifying behavioral health issues that often underlie repeat impaired driving offenses.

The Louisiana CARS Project began as an effort championed by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) with program design and implementation support from Dr. T. Scott Smith, then affiliated with Louisiana State University. From 2021



Dr. Scott Smith

to 2022, the CARS Project was piloted in the 15th Judicial District Court, serving Lafayette, Vermilion, and Acadia

parishes. During its initial two-year run, the program demonstrated positive outcomes in improving court decision-making and promoting targeted referrals to mental health and substance use treatment.

In September 2024, renewed grant support from the LHSC allowed for the relaunch of the program, with an emphasis on statewide education and implementation. At present, the program is led by Dr. T. Scott Smith, who is working in collaboration with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His academic partners include Dr. Xiaoduan Sun, Endowed Professor of

Transportation Engineering in Civil Engineering. The current focus is on expanding awareness and adoption of DUI and DWI behavioral health screening, particularly within the Acadiana region.



Dr. Xiaoduan Sun

“The LHSC and its highway safety partners advocate for uniform and strict enforcement, prosecution, and adjudication of impaired driving laws across Louisiana. However, we also recognize that impaired driving is frequently a symptom of a larger alcohol and other drug problem. By supporting the “upstream” concepts of conducting appropriate substance use disorder assessments and evaluations supported by brief positive interventions and even referrals to treatment for DWI offenders, we know these offenders are much less likely to repeat these crimes,” said Lisa Freeman, Governor’s Highway Safety Representative and Executive Director of LHSC.

Unlike many tools developed for national use, CARS has been tailored to reflect Louisiana’s judicial practices and behavioral health infrastructure. What makes the tool especially useful in Louisiana’s court system is its accessibility—it is designed for use by non-clinicians. This means judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and court staff can administer the tool without requiring mental health credentials. CARS produces an immediate report with potential behavioral health diagnoses and refers users to relevant treatment providers within their local area.

The program has already demonstrated value in identifying co-occurring

mental health and substance use disorders among repeat DUI/DWI offenders, including conditions such as depression, anxiety, trauma, and dependency. These underlying factors are often missed during standard legal processing but are critical to understanding risk for recidivism. By integrating CARS into legal decisions—whether during trial, pretrial diversion, or sentencing—Louisiana’s judicial officers can make better-informed choices that support both public safety and individual rehabilitation.

This initiative aims to foster widespread recognition among judges, district attorneys, defense attorneys, and probation officials of the practical utility and evidentiary value of mental health screening. It is not merely a clinical exercise but a vital part of ensuring that interventions address the root causes of criminal behavior. The project leadership hopes that consistent use of CARS will support a more balanced and responsive justice system statewide.

To learn more about the Louisiana CARS Project, interested individuals can visit **louisianacarsproject.com** or email **louisianacarsproject@gmail.com**. Dr. T. Scott Smith is available for consultation and questions at **(337) 501-2104**.

As Louisiana continues to address its disproportionately high rates of DUI and DWI offenses, the expansion of the CARS program marks a timely and thoughtful shift toward comprehensive, informed interventions. The Louisiana CARS Project is grateful to the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for its financial support of this important program.



Farooq Azam Khanzada, M.S.

COME VISIT YOUR LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICE

A PLACE BUILT FOR OUR LEGAL COMMUNITY

Have you been to the Lafayette Bar Association office lately? If not, now is the perfect time to stop by and see the beautiful improvements we've made! From a fresh coat of paint on the exterior to upcoming plans for refinishing the outdoor patio floor, the building continues to evolve, always with our members in mind.

We're proud to showcase our office in the stunning cover photo taken by none other than the talented Jimmy Domengeaux, attorney and photographer.

The building has a special history with the legal community. Back in 2007, the Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation purchased the former Royal Standard property for \$480,000, with an appraised value at the time of \$600,000. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, donations and pledges exceeded \$650,000, helping fund the purchase and a substantial \$450,000 remodel.



From the start, the project was a true collaboration as members of the Bar Association & Foundation, dedicated staff, and consulting architects all contributed ideas to the final vision. Ziler Architects brought those ideas to life with thoughtful design and detailed construction drawings, and BEO Contractors, Inc. was chosen through a competitive bid process to build the space we now enjoy.

One of the unique features of our building is its dual function as a mediation venue. Designed with flexibility in mind, the office includes rooms suited



Sudie Mann meeting with a client at the Bar Association office

for small or large mediations, arbitrations, and mock trials. Attorneys and clients appreciate access to amenities like the kitchen and printing services—all available for a daily rental fee of just \$100.00 per room. Interested in booking a room? Contact Cheryl Robichaux at office@lafayettebar.org for more details.

We're especially proud of the Past Presidents Room, which honors the legacy of our leadership with commemorative plaques for each President of the Bar Association. It is truly a quiet reminder of the strength and tradition of our legal community.

The office is a hub of activity throughout the year. It hosts board and section meetings, serves as a vibrant location for social and professional events, and becomes a bustling center each December during our ten-day CLE series—when the house is truly “packed to the gills!”

A special thanks goes to Miles Matt, whose leadership during the design and construction phase helped bring this project to fruition. To this day, Miles continues to support the Bar Association by overseeing repairs and renovations, ensuring the building remains a welcoming and functional space for all.

We invite you—whether you're a longtime member or new to the Bar—to come visit, reconnect, and experience the space built for you. Your Lafayette Bar Association home awaits!



THE GRAPEVINE

Chambers USA recognized nine Gordon Arata attorneys, including **Michael E. Botnick, Bob J. Duplantis, Ewell "Tim" E. Eagan, C. Peck Hayne, Jr., Terrence K. Knister, Armistead M. Long, Cynthia A. Nicholson, Scott A. O'Connor,** and **Marion W. Weinstock** in its 2025 legal guide. *Chambers* ranked four of the firm's practice areas: Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, Litigation: General Commercial, and Real Estate.

Gordon Arata congratulates attorneys **Armistead 'Army' Long** and **John Philip 'J.P.' Graf** on their selection to the 2025 Lawdragon guides—*500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers* and *500 X – The Next Generation*, respectively.

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.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Clare Roubion, Louisiana Legal Ethics

Friends,

Do you know what makes this magazine truly shine? It's you—the lawyers reading between hearings, the judges catching up over morning coffee, the paralegals browsing while on hold.

Each issue, I'm inspired by the stories, insights, and occasional legal humor our members share. And I'd love to bring even more of your voices into these pages.

Have a memorable courtroom moment (without client secrets, of course)? An interesting perspective on a recent case? Tips for managing a hectic

trial schedule—or even a go-to recipe that helps you stay sane during busy weeks? I'd love to hear about it.

We're also always looking for fresh takes on professionalism and ethics, including lighter topics. Maybe you've got thoughts for pieces like "Confessions of a Lawyer Who Loves Checklists," or "How Not to Email Opposing Counsel When Hangry."

Consider this your invitation to pitch an idea, share an experience, or even volunteer to be interviewed for a future story. Whether your contribution is long or short, serious or lighthearted, I'd be thrilled to

help share it with our readers.

Drop me a line anytime. Let's keep making this magazine a true reflection of the vibrant, thoughtful, and slightly over-caffeinated folks who make up our bar.

Best,

Clare Svendsen Roubion
337-258-0101
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Legends of Service:

Jonathan Jarrett

Dedicated to his family and his profession, Jonathan Jarrett is certain that “the most satisfying days you’ll ever have as a lawyer are days when you’ve helped someone.” After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in linguistics from the University of Mississippi in 2007, Jonathan was awarded his Juris Doctorate and Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) from Louisiana State University’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Admitted to practice in 2012, he began working for an insurance defense firm and later chose to pursue a solo practice. Opening his private practice in 2013, he focuses on assisting clients in the areas of family law, criminal law, and personal injury.

Jonathan firmly believes that everyone has the skills and talents to offer in service to their communities and our fellow humans. He believes that lawyers,

especially, are privileged with the skills, training, knowledge, work ethic, and abilities that should be used in service to the community and others. He says, “If we only use those privileges for personal financial gain, we lose sight of what is the most central aspect of being a lawyer - helping people.” Thus, Jonathan is motivated and driven to give back to the legal community and the community-at-large by prioritizing service to organizations that benefit the community’s youth and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Since 2014, Jonathan has contributed approximately 50-75 hours per year to the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Program and continues to do so. He serves as pro bono legal counsel for Hearts of Hope and Faith House, securing protective orders for those in need. He graciously participates in the Hearts of Hope and Sexual Abuse Response Center’s fundraisers *Take Back the Night*, *Studs in Stilettos*, and *Vagina Monologues*. Through the pro bono program, Jonathan also drafts powers of attorney documents for teachers and veterans in the Acadiana area. He has also volunteered for Lawyers in Libraries and Lawyers in the Classroom.

Jonathan says that the challenge of being a good lawyer is striking a balance. He believes in working diligently to fulfill all professional responsibilities



while also making time for quality family life and serving others. He admits that this is no easy task; he occasionally achieves this delicate balance by doing his best to be a good and present family member. He enjoys the musical culture of the Acadiana community and is proud that two of his children are musicians. A drummer himself, Jonathan performs occasionally with local rock bands. His passion for the musical arts allows him to spend quality family time enjoying his son’s performances while sharing his musical passion





with others in the community.

As the father of three children, he treasures every opportunity to help other children reach their full potential. He takes advantage of volunteer opportunities that allow him to work with young people within the local school districts. Spending most of the last six years as a track dad, Jonathan has volunteered for local track meets and donates to local track programs. And for many years, he has utilized his trial skills to serve as a mock trial coach at Carencro High School. He has served as a judge for high school speech and debate competitions. He has also joyfully allowed many high school and college students to shadow him in his daily practice.

Since entering the legal profession, Jonathan has been an active member of the legal community. He is a member and serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Bar Association and Foundation. He is a former member and served on the board of directors of the Louisiana

Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts. He is a past president and past vice-president of the Paula M. Woodruff Family Law Section of the Lafayette Bar Association. He is also a past board member of Avec Les Enfants. Jonathan also shares his knowledge with fellow attorneys as a CLE presenter on topics such as solo practice, protective orders, trial skills, custody and divorce issues, and a variety of other topics. He truly has personified his firmly held belief since the start of his legal career.

Jonathan's volunteer service in the legal community has been recognized at both the local and state levels. From the Lafayette Bar, he is the recipient of the

Pro Bono Publico Award (2021, 2016) and the Louisiana State Bar Association Century Award (2016).

Jonathan admits that the work of an attorney can be arduous and often goes unnoticed or unappreciated. He notes that helping someone without the ability to pay is an entirely different experience from being paid for your services. He says that "the most satisfying days any of us ever have as lawyers are days [when] we help someone." He proposes that we all are tasked with finding ways to utilize our skills and talents in the service of others, without always expecting anything in return. However, he does acknowledge that when people say "thank you" and

"Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." - Booker T. Washington

Tammy Derouen Service to the Bar Award (2024); President's Award for Outstanding Service to the Bar (2024); Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers, Outstanding Attorney Award (2015-2022); and Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers, Outstanding Protective Order Award (2017, 2018, 2020, 2021). The Louisiana State Bar Association awarded Jonathan with the Louisiana State Bar Association

recognize your service, it can be a truly uplifting moment. Jonathan Jarrett, who is committed to sharing his time, talent, and treasures to uplift youth and survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the community, is an excellent example of an Acadiana attorney who serves.



Written by:

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

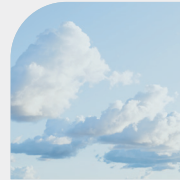


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PROFESSIONALISM

IN THE AGE OF EMOJIS:

THE NEW FRONTIER OF LAWYER COMMUNICATION

Once upon a time, lawyer communications were all crisp letters, solemn memos, and the rhythmic clack of typewriter keys. Fast-forward to today, and you'll find us firing off emails, pinging text messages—and yes, even dropping the occasional emoji into professional conversations.

But here's the question: can a smiley face ever truly coexist with our duties of professionalism and ethical clarity?

Emojis can add warmth or humor, but they're also little ticking time bombs of ambiguity. A thumbs-up might mean "Sounds good!"—or "Whatever you say." A winky face could be seen as playful—or wildly inappropriate, depending on the recipient and the context.

And let's not forget: every one of these digital missives could end up as Exhibit A someday.

Under Rule 1.4, lawyers are obligated to communicate clearly with clients.

Professionalism also demands decorum—even in quick texts or Slack chats. So before you hit send on that party-hat emoji, consider a few rules of thumb:

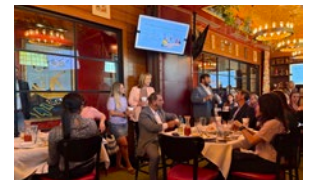
- Avoid emojis in client or opposing counsel communications unless you're absolutely certain of their appropriateness.
- When in doubt, stick to plain language.
- Remember that texts and emails may end up in court records.
- Keep personal expressions out of professional contexts.

Technology may keep evolving, but professionalism—and the need for precise, ethical communication—remains timeless. So next time you're tempted to send a cheerful emoji to a client, ask yourself: Will this age well if it ends up in the record?

So lawyers, keep your writing clear, your boundaries firm—and think twice before hitting send on that winky face. 😏



June Social & CLE



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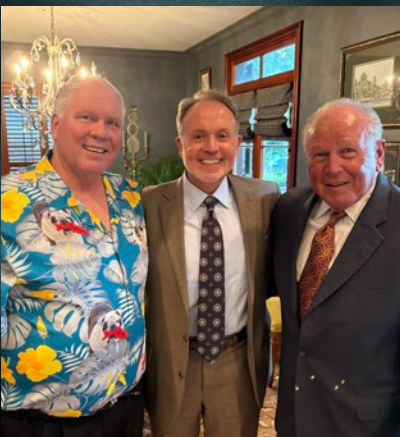
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PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER

The Bar Association enjoyed a gathering of Past Presidents on June 26th at the home of John and Jan Swift. We were thrilled to welcome 24 past presidents who shared their thoughts on how to ensure a successful future of the Association, as well as to assess what activities worked in the past. Thanks to all who joined us!



Bench Bar 2025

(Schedule is tentative and subject to change.)

Thursday, August 21, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Chief Justice John L. Weimer <i>Opening Lecture</i> (1.25)
5:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Jonathan Jarrett & Jason Matt <i>Beer Law</i> (1.25)
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Shrimp Boil

Friday, August 22, 2025 (Cont.)

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Dr. Jason Cormier (0.75)
1:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Judicial Roundtable <i>Professionalism</i> (2.0)
3:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Free time
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Dinner

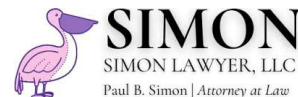
Friday, August 22, 2025

8:00 AM - 9:05 AM	Federal Judicial Panel (1.0)
9:05 AM - 10:05 AM	Steven Bradley (1.0)
10:05 AM - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Secretary of State Nancy Landry <i>Closed Party Primaries & Election Law Updates</i> (1.0)
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Dr. David Barczyk (0.75)
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch

Saturday, August 23, 2025

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Andrew Quackenbos & Lindsay Meador Young (1.25)
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Tommy Hightower & Dean Cole (1.0)
10:45 AM - 10:55 AM	Break
10:55 AM - 11:55 AM	Clare Roubion <i>Ethics</i> (1.0)
11:55 AM	Adjourn

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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*

Antwon Bloxson

Law Office of Antwon Bloxson, LLC

Jacob Caldwell

NeunerPate

Christopher Castro

Castro Law Firm LLC

Dean Cole

NeunerPate

Dean Doherty

The Law Office of Dean A. Doherty

Karly Dorr

NeunerPate

Kelsi Flores

NeunerPate

Tyler Frederick

Dudley DeBoiser Injury Lawyers

Ryan Goudelocke

Goudelocke Law

Halie Guidry

Ayla LLC

Robert Guidry

NeunerPate

Mike Hill

Attorney at Law

David Kaufman

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

Greg Landry

Attorney at Law

Jason Matt

Law Offices of Matt & Allen

Frank Neuner

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Kenny Oliver

Oliver & Way

Mark Owens

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Taneisha Riggs

Law Office of Taneisha W. Riggs

Dyan Schnaars

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Maggie Simar

*Hearing officer,
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L. Shaun Trahan

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***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 - use the code below to see the available dates. Your community needs you, and your pro bono powers are ready to be activated!

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